

connections

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SAVE THE DATES

**THRU OCT 14
MEXICAN ART SHOW
(SYMPOSIUM ON
SEPT 29) 11**

**TUESDAYS
MEXICAN & FRENCH
FILM SERIES 20**

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Friends gather to celebrate 20 years of Connections

Scores of people gathered at Oak Park on September 9 to celebrate *Connections*' 20 years as San Joaquin County's alternative newspaper. Participants enjoyed a feast of barbecued veggies and potluck, found old friends and new, and listened to illustrious speakers. Pictured here are (clockwise) Mayor Ed Chavez; UOP student volunteers preparing veggie kabobs; an attentive crowd; and *Connections* editors present and past Bruce Giudici, Laurie Litman, and Marj Fries. More photos on page 20.



Peter Phillips, Director of Project Censored, addresses the crowd at the 20th anniversary celebration of Connections. The unwillingness of the traditional media to cover critical news (see article below) underscores the vital importance of alternative media such as Connections.



Ten most censored stories

Project Censored, a research group from Sonoma State University that identifies significant news unreported by the traditional media, has released the annual list of the 25 most censored stories for 2006. The top 10 are:

1. Feds and the media muddy the debate over internet freedom

The Supreme Court ruled that giant cable companies aren't required to share their wires with other Internet service providers. The issue was misleadingly framed as an argument over

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Hope is on the way

Bruce Giudici

Hope is on the way—if you are willing to vote for it: it's election time. There are some mighty important State initiatives on the ballot this November 7, as well every seat in the US House and State Assembly, Feinstein in the US Senate, and some statewide positions, governor and such. We have some information on these in this issue—with more to come in November.

Election time. In this particular political season, you might remember pledges to ease poverty in the wake of the Katrina scandal or to stop corruption after the Abramoff scandal—or pledges to be out of Iraq within a year and to not torture prisoners.

Pledges schmedges, I say. When you look at pledges, you are looking back. And we all have a problem looking back. That's where the Florida and Ohio elections are, the denials of global warming, budget deficits and Abu Gharib. Bummer. When you're a hard-working, forward-thinking Congress that put in 79 days of gruelling labor last year (fewest on record), you need to spend time on what's important: flag burning, Mexican walls, and the eating of horsemeat. Or we can look forward with our President.

Blemished not by putting the nation right where we are now, our President is fecklessly moving us into the future, blaming appeasing backward-looking Defeatocrats with proposing surrender. Right

now, the bankrupt economy looks pretty good and Republicans can still keep power, if the media can keep it together for two more months. So far, so good.

And after the election, what a future we will have. Some recent manifestations: a ditch (read: moat) around Baghdad, walls around Israel, and a 700-mile fence on the Mexican border, a Pope quoting Medieval texts and a President advocating torture by his Central Inquisition Agency. Wow, it's like *deja vu*—like the future resembles the Middle Ages. Now, all we need is a Crusade ... oops. Sectarian violence, religious warfare...I guess it's time to prey.

It's election time, 9-11 time, Katrina time—for me, it's Miller time. Looking forward, and before

Bruce Giudici



you move one more step further, you should ask yourself a question: "Are you better off today than you were...6 years ago, 2 years ago, or even yesterday? Well, are you, punk?" Maybe it's time to check the score and see which team has us losing on every front. And if the current team has us in a hole, maybe it's time to stop digging. Trade the team for a new one. It's time to vote.

Endnote: Word has it that President Bush will be in town October 3. Anyone interested in giving a big Stockton howdy to the Executer in Chief can call the Center at 467-4455 for organizing times and places.

Feedback

Air pollution: all the news that fits, we print

[Following is a letter submitted to The Record on Aug. 29 and published on Sept. 5. The portions not published are shown in italics.]

To the Editor:

Sunday's paper reported a bill being debated in the state legislature on global warming. The same carbon dioxide which contributes to global warming also taints our air and causes a more immediate health hazard to valley residents. The incidence of asthma is at a record high in the valley, and concerted efforts to improve our air quality have had limited effects.

Specific targeted activities listed in the bill are coal-fired power plants, trucking, seaports, agriculture, and cement industry. Four of those five activities are found *in one business*—at the Port of Stockton.

On July 7, The Record carried a story about cargo ships, which are a leading source of sulfur dioxide, particulates, and nitrogen oxides. It related that almost 5,800 ships called at long beach and los angeles last year releasing about 14,000 tons of air pollutants. That averages out to 2.4 Tons of

pollutants per ship call.

The Port of Stockton plans to increase the ships calling at Rough & Ready Island from 20 per year to 120. Those 100 additional ships will introduce *two hundred or more tons of pollutants* into our already unhealthy air. Our unique geographical and atmospheric condtons trap pollutants which cannot escape, *and can only increase the numbers of children and adults affected.* Connecting the ships to shore power could *substantially* reduce the harmful emissions, but the port resists it as economically unfeasible.

Along with those extra ships will come *the tens of thousands of trucks*—which also are heavy polluters—*to carry cargo to or from the ships, muliplying the harmful emissions into our air.*

The cement industry is another major offender. The published log of ship traffic reflects *that over 30% of the cargo ships calling at Stockton in the coming month will carry cement.*

Recently constructed on Rough & Ready Island is another targeted offender—a coal-fired power plant, one of very few in the State.

At risk is the health of valley residents. What price are we willing to pay in asthmatic children and deaths connected with respiratory ailments?

A.M.Chargin

Open letter to County Board of Supervisor Steve Gutierrez

Thank you Steve, for taking a moment to speak with me at the Peace and Justice Network 20th Anniversary picnic in Oak Park last Saturday afternoon.

As I mentioned, I was disappointed at not receiving a response or phone call from my July 17th letter addressed to the Board of Supervisors in San Joaquin Co. Hearing that many, if not most of the Board members are not acknowledging or accepting the idea of climate change/global warming, is disheartening and frankly, foolhardy on their part. As you seem to be more receptive toward dialogue on how San Joaquin County should be preparing for and dealing with issues and consequences surrounding climate change, I'm hopeful you can open an avenue for this possibility.

As my letter indicated, I've offered up the suggestion of forming a climate-response planning team with goals of outlining ways to reduce our county's greenhouse gas-emissions (particularly at dairies), determining how climate change may affect life here in the Valley, and providing suggested responses to those challenges. Other counties are addressing these issues, while some are

taking a wait-and-see approach. I certainly hope San Joaquin County doesn't wait until they see breached levees, crop failures from heavy rains and/or drought conditions, fresh and ground water seriously imperiled, spikes in human illnesses directly caused from climate change conditions, and many other unhappy conditions in our area, to then try and do something about it.

Let's take a pro-active approach instead. Let's try to do "our part" to stem the flow of greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for what's coming in the next decade or two; most likely sooner. Let's work together in this endeavor to make it possible right here in S.J. County.

As William Ruckelshaus (U.S. EPA) says, "Preparing the county to cope with climate change is exactly what leaders are for..." Please take the lead and begin investigating how we can do this. Thanks.

Sally Galiste

The violence connection

So much strife and violence in our world, but many perceive it to be only a cause of radical fundamentalism. "Violence" isn't over there; it is everywhere. Before you cast stones worlds away, try seeing the origins of most violence: home. Trivializing,

(continued page 17)

Connections

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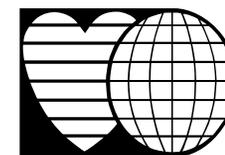
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Arnold stops universal health care in California

Carol Bailey

In a historic vote, the California Assembly voted to support a universal, public-financed health care system, the California Health Insurance Reliability Act (CHIRA), to guarantee health coverage to all Californians, with comprehensive benefits, and the right to choose one's own doctor, and save on health care costs.

The Governor has announced that he will veto SB 840, CHIRA. His reasoning? He has a better plan, which he will let us know about in January 2007. What will his plan look like? We can only guess.

Will the Governor's plan be funded by drawing in current public spending and replacing all premiums, co-pays and deductibles paid to insurance companies with premiums paid to the system? SB 840 creates a blue ribbon panel of health, finance and technical experts to lay out the mechanics for an affordable premium structure using information gathered in available funding studies, including the Lewin Report. This report shows major savings to individuals, businesses and the government.

SB 840 saves the state of California, businesses and working families nearly \$8 billion in the first year, through a streamlined claims and reimbursement system reducing administrative costs, and using the state's combined purchasing power to negotiate better rates for prescription drugs and durable medical equipment.

Will the Governor's plan remotely match this savings? Or will the Governor's plan support the billion dollar insurance industry whose profits increase at alarming rates while the number of uninsured and underinsured California residents increases at alarming rates?

Despite the potential veto by Governor Schwarzenegger, the vote is historic in having both houses of the California legislature go on record in support of a universal healthcare system, and for the desired direction of our health care system. The California

legislature has voted on and passed other major health care coverage expansions in recent years, most notably with an expansion of employer-based coverage in 2003 (SB2) which was narrowly repealed by referendum and a full expansion of coverage to nearly all children in 2005 (SB774), which was vetoed. With the vote on SB840, the California legislature has continued to make health care coverage a priority, puts forward a vision, and sets an even higher marker for the coming debate next year.

Do you know how your legislators voted? Sadly, for San Joaquin County and the San Joaquin Valley, not one Assemblymember, not Matthews, not Aghazarian, not Nakanishi, cared enough about the people they represent to vote for SB 840. In fact, Assemblywoman Barbara Matthews, D-Tracy, was the only Democrat to vote against the measure. Assemblymember Greg Aghazarian railed against a "government-run" health care system. Eric Grunder of the *Stockton Record* referred to Aghazarian's comment as a "knee-jerk" reaction.

In meetings held with Matthews, Aghazarian and Nakanishi over the past two years, it was evident that these members themselves did not appear to have read the bill nor to give SB 840 any credence. What a sad statement of their care for their constituents and the residents of California.

In the Assembly Health Committee, of which Aghazarian is co-chair, he was observed leaving, not even staying in the Committee room while the bill was being heard. When Aghazarian was in the hearing room, he was seen talking and laughing with the Republican analyst throughout the SB 840 hearing. Aghazarian's behavior, we thought, was an embarrassment to his constituents.

On the Senate side, Senator Michael Machado voted "aye" in committee and on the floor.

And so we fear the alternative to one of the best-developed, most comprehensive plans for providing health care for all Californians. We can assume that the "alternative"

to this legislation is one that will rely on the insurance industry and "privatization"

Be prepared for "skinny policies" with low premiums and up to \$10,000 deductibles per family, per year. Be prepared for the Health Savings Accounts, which not only keeps the insurance company between you and your medical care, it introduces your local credit union, bank and/or investment advisor to handle your health care money. As long as you stay healthy and the stock market stays steady (or your third-party investor invests wisely), you'll probably be OK. Otherwise, you lose not only all of your health savings, but likely your retirement, too.

Stay informed—SB 840 will not go away. It may be a new legislative number; it may be a voter initiative; it may take directions of which we are yet unaware.

Stay involved—whatever direction it takes, it will take people, it will take effort, it will take energy to keep healthy residents a universal right, not just the right of the privileged few.

Vote Smart—in the November elections. A healthy nation is at stake at both the state and federal levels. Know your candidates; know their intent. At this point, we know that the following state candidates favor a universal health care system although not all have formally endorsed legislation at this point: Angelides (Governor), Garamendi (Lt. Governor), and Jim Cook (Assembly seat held by Nakanishi) and at the federal level, McNerney (Congress seat now held by Pombo).

Adapted from the Health Access Update of August 28, 2006



Governor's 7 lame reasons for killing health care bill

Roger Speed

The Governor vetoed the only comprehensive universal health care bill ever to pass the California State Legislature. In his veto message, he made the following (false) points:

1. SB 840 would be socialized medicine.
2. SB 840 would require a large redirection of public and private funds
3. SB 840 would create a vast new bureaucracy
4. SB 840 won't solve affordability
5. SB 840 relied on old paradigm of government doing it all
6. SB 840 would reduce choice. and
7. He stated he wants affordability, shared responsibility and promotion of healthy living

The reality of SB 840, which he vetoed, counters every point made:

1. Socialized medicine is government run health care. SB 840 is government run insurance. Just as Medicare is. The administrative costs of Medicare are less than 5%. Today your premiums are paying for a 30% administrative overhead for private insurance companies.
2. The only redirection would be from the bloated bureaucracy of corporate insurance companies with multimillion dollar salaries for CEOs, who first keep people off medical insurance by denying them coverage for pre-existing conditions. The second way they earn their profits is by not paying physicians but delaying payments and forcing physicians to rebill many times to receive payment for services rendered to patients. SB 840 would have guaranteed payment to providers within 30 days.
3. The new bureaucracy would be publicly transparent, open to appeal and selected by elected officials—not so now with private insurance companies beholden only to shareholders.
4. Affordability is the main reason the bill was proposed, reducing most people's health premiums by a substantial amount, perhaps as high as 30%.
5. There is no reliance on an old paradigm in this bill. There is nothing like it in the United States which has no comprehensive, universal health care in any state. Medicare for seniors is the closest that would come to it and seniors are not clamoring to get rid of Medicare.
6. Probably the most egregious falsehood in the Governor's veto message is that it would reduce choice. Right now under the current patchwork system, your choice is limited by the network set up by your insurance company. Under SB 840, you would choose any provider you wanted for your treatment.
7. Everything the Governor said he wants to address in health care reform was addressed in SB 840. The insurance industry has spent much time and money lobbying against it. They succeeded temporarily this time to slow the reform. The Governor drank the kool-aid that insurance companies offered. Now we will be back with a ballot initiative to take back from the insurance companies what the Governor so thoughtlessly gave them.

Top 10 censored stories *(continued from page 1)*

regulation, when it's really a case of the Federal Communications Commission and Congress talking about giving cable and telephone companies the freedom to control supply and content—a decision that could have them playing favorites and forcing consumers to pay to get information and services that currently are free.

Source: "Web of Deceit: How Internet Freedom Got the Federal Ax, and Why Corporate News Censored the Story," Elliot D. Cohen, BuzzFlash.com, July 18, 2005.

2. Halliburton charged with selling nuclear technology to Iran

Halliburton, the notorious U.S. energy company, sold key nuclear-reactor components to a private Iranian oil company called Oriental Oil Kish as recently as 2005, using offshore subsidiaries to circumvent U.S. sanctions. The story is particularly juicy because Vice President Dick Cheney, who now claims to want to stop Iran from getting nukes, was president of Halliburton in the mid-1990s, at which time he may have advocated business dealings with Iran, in violation of U.S. law.

Source: "Halliburton Secretly Doing Business with Key Member of Iran's Nuclear Team," Jason Leopold, GlobalResearch.ca, Aug. 5, 2005.



3. World oceans in extreme danger

Governments deny global warming is happening as they rush to map the ocean floor in the hopes of claiming rights to oil, gas, gold, diamonds, copper, zinc and the planet's last pristine fishing grounds. Researchers at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 2005 found "the first clear evidence that the world ocean

is growing warmer," including the discovery "that the top half-mile of the ocean has warmed dramatically in the past 40 years as the result of human-induced greenhouse gases."

Source: "The Fate of the Ocean," Julia Whitty, Mother Jones, March-April 2006.

4. Hunger and homelessness increasing in the United States

As hunger and homelessness rise in the United States, the Bush administration plans to get rid of a data source that supports this embarrassing reality, a survey that's been used to improve state and federal programs for retired and low-income Americans. In 2003, the Bush Administration tried to whack the Bureau of Labor Statistics report on mass layoffs and in 2004 and 2005 attempted to drop the bureau's questions on the hiring and firing of women from its employment data.

Sources: "New Report Shows Increase in Urban Hunger, Homelessness," Brendan Coyne, New Standard, December 2005; "U.S. Plan to Eliminate Survey of Needy Families Draws Fire," Abid Aslam, OneWorld.net, March 2006.

5. High-tech genocide in Congo

If you believe the corporate media, then the ongoing genocide in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is all just a case of ugly tribal warfare. But that is a superficial, simplistic explanation that fails to connect this terrible suffering with the immense fortunes that stand to be made from manufacturing cell phones, laptop computers and other high-tech equipment. What's really at stake in this bloodbath is control of natural resources such as diamonds, tin, and copper, as well as cobalt—which is essential for the nuclear, chemical, aerospace, and defense industries—and coltan and niobium, which is most important for the high-tech industries.

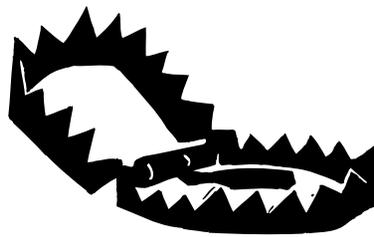
Sources: "The World's Most Neglected Emergency: Phil Taylor talks to Keith Harmon Snow," The Taylor Report, March 28, 2005; "High-Tech Genocide," Sprocket, Earth First! Journal, August 2005; "Behind the Numbers: Untold Suffering in the

Congo," Keith Harmon Snow and David Barouski, Z Magazine, March 1, 2006.

6. Federal whistleblower protection in jeopardy

Though record numbers of federal workers have been sounding the alarm on waste, fraud, and other financial abuse since George W. Bush became president, the agency charged with defending government whistleblowers has reportedly been throwing out hundreds of cases—and advancing almost none. Statistics released at the end of 2005 by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility led to claims that special counsel Scott Bloch, who was appointed by Bush in 2004, is overseeing the systematic elimination of whistleblower rights.

Sources: "Whistleblowers Get Help from Bush Administration," Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) Web site, Dec. 5, 2005; "Long-Delayed Investigation of Special Counsel Finally Begins," PEER Web site, Oct. 18, 2005; "Back Door Rollback of Federal Whistleblower Protections," PEER Web site, Sept. 22, 2005.



7. US operatives torture detainees to death in Afghanistan and Iraq

While reports of torture aren't new, the documents are evidence of using torture as a policy, raising a whole bunch of uncomfortable questions, such as: Who authorized such techniques? And why have the resulting deaths been covered up? Of the 44 death reports released under ACLU's FOIA request, 21 were homicides and eight appear to have been the result of these abusive torture techniques.

Sources: "U.S. Operatives Killed Detainees During Interrogations in Afghanistan and Iraq," American Civil Liberties Union Web site, Oct. 24, 2005; "Tracing the Trail of Torture: Embedding Torture as Policy from Guantanamo to Iraq," Dahr Jamail, TomDispatch.com, March 5, 2006.

8. Pentagon exempt from Freedom of Information Act

In 2005, the Department of Defense pushed for and was granted exemption from Freedom of Information Act requests, a crucial law that allows journalists and watchdogs access to federal documents. The ruling could hamper the efforts of groups like the ACLU, which relied on FOIA to uncover more than 30,000 documents on the US military's torture of detainees in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Guantanamo Bay, including the Abu Ghraib torture scandal.

Sources: "Pentagon Seeks Greater Immunity from Freedom of Information," Michelle Chen, New Standard, May 6, 2005; "FOIA Exemption Granted to Federal Agency," Newspaper Association of America Web site, posted December 2005.

9. World Bank funds Israel-Palestine wall

In 2004, the International Court of Justice ruled that the wall Israel is building deep into Palestinian territory should be torn down. Instead, construction of this cement barrier, which annexes Israeli settlements and breaks the continuity of Palestinian territory, has accelerated. In the interim, the World Bank has come up with a framework for a Middle Eastern Free Trade Area, which would be financed by the World Bank and built on Palestinian land around the wall to encourage export-oriented economic development. But with Israel ineligible for World Bank loans, the plan seems to translate into Palestinians paying for the modernization of checkpoints around a wall that

they've always opposed, a wall that will help lock in and exploit their labor.

Sources: "Cementing Israeli Apartheid: The Role of World Bank," Jamal Juma', Left Turn, issue 18; "U.S. Free Trade Agreements Split Arab Opinion," Linda Heard, Aljazeera, March 9, 2005.



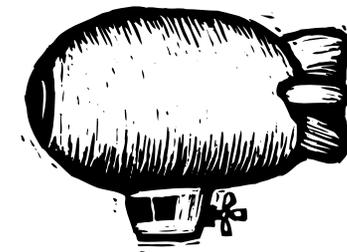
10. Expanded air war in Iraq kills more civilians

At the end of 2005, U.S. Central Command Air Force statistics showed an increase in American air missions, a trend that was accompanied by a rise in civilian deaths thanks to increased bombing of Iraqi cities.

Sources: "Up in the Air," Seymour M. Hersh, New Yorker, December 2005; "An Increasingly Aerial Occupation," Dahr Jamail, TomDispatch.com, December 2005 SFBG.

—this listing adapted from an article by Thomas Kostigen in the Bay Guardian.

Project Censored compiles an annual list of 25 news stories of social significance that have been overlooked, underreported or self-censored by the country's major national news media. For the whole list and more information, see www.projectcensored.org.



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Princeton vote-stealing program works on San Joaquin County Diebold machines

A group of Princeton computer scientists said they created demonstration vote-stealing software that can be installed within a minute on a common electronic voting machine. The software can fraudulently change vote counts without being detected.

"We have created and analyzed the code in the spirit of helping to guide public officials so that they can make wise decisions about how to secure elections," said Edward Felten, the director of the Center for Information Technology Policy, a new center at Princeton University that addresses crucial issues at the intersection of society and computer technology. The paper appears on the Web site for the Center for Information Technology Policy. The researchers obtained the machine, a Diebold AccuVote-TS, from a private party in May. (The AccuVote-TS is commonly used across the country, along with a newer model, the AccuVote-TSx, currently used by San Joaquin County. While Felten wasn't able to test the new machine, he said he thought much of what he found would still apply.) They spent the summer analyzing the machine and developing the vote-stealing demonstration.

"We found that the machine is vulnerable to a number of extremely serious attacks that undermine the accuracy and credibility of the vote counts it produces," wrote Felten and his co-authors, graduate students Ariel Feldman and Alex Halderman. In a 10-minute video on their Web site, the researchers demonstrate how the vote-stealing software works. The video shows the software sabotaging a mock presidential election between George Washington and Benedict Arnold. Arnold is reported as the winner even though Washington gets more votes.

The researchers also demonstrate how the machines "are susceptible to computer viruses that can spread themselves automatically and invisibly from machine to machine during normal pre- and post-election activity."

Felten said that policy-makers should be concerned about malicious software infecting the Diebold AccuVote-TS and machines like it, from Diebold and other companies. "We studied these machines because they were available to us," the researchers wrote in their Web posting. "If we had gotten access to another kind of machine, we probably would have studied it instead."

Felten said, "There is reason for concern about other machines as well, even though our paper doesn't directly evaluate them. Jurisdictions using these machines should think seriously about finding a backup system in time for the November elections."

Felten, a professor of computer science and public affairs who is known for his groundbreaking work in computer security, said that some of the problems discussed in the paper cannot be fixed without completely redesigning the machine. Other problems can be fixed by addressing software or electronic procedures. "But time is short before the next election," he said.

According to the researchers' paper, the Diebold machine they examined and another newer version are scheduled to be used in 357 U.S. counties representing nearly 10 percent of all registered voters. About half those counties, including all Maryland and Georgia, will use the exact machine examined by Felten's group. Felten said that, out of security concerns, the Diebold machine infected with the vote-stealing software has been kept under lock and key in a secret location.

"Unfortunately election fraud has a rich history from ballot stuffing to dead people voting," he said. "We want to make sure this doesn't fall into the wrong hands. We also want to make sure that policy-makers stay a step ahead of those who might create similar software with ill intent."

Princeton's Center for Information Technology Policy includes members from diverse departments, including computer science, economics, electrical engineering, operations research and financial engineering, sociology and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. More information can be found on the Princeton Engineering News website.

Source: truthout | Press Release 9/14/06 For the full paper, go to <http://www.truthout.org/5.091406ts-paper.pdf>.

Main Findings

The main findings of the Princeton study are:

1. Malicious software running on a single voting machine can steal votes with little if any risk of detection. The malicious software can modify all of the records, audit logs, and counters kept by the voting machine, so that even careful forensic examination of these records will find nothing amiss. We have constructed demonstration software that carries out this vote-stealing attack.
2. Anyone who has physical access to a voting machine, or to a memory card that will later be inserted into a machine, can install said malicious software using a simple method that takes as little as one minute. In practice, poll workers and others often have unsupervised access to the machines.
3. AccuVote-TS machines are susceptible to voting-machine viruses, computer viruses that can spread malicious software automatically and invisibly from machine to machine during normal pre- and postelection activity. We have constructed a demonstration virus that spreads in this way, installing our demonstration vote-stealing program on every machine it infects.
4. While some of these problems can be eliminated by improving Diebold's software, others cannot be remedied without replacing the machines' hardware. Changes to election procedures would also be required to ensure security.

Of election security and transparency

A majority of Americans—61%—are aware of news reports of flaws in electronic voting machines and want members of the general public to be able to watch votes be counted following an election, a new Zogby International poll shows. The telephone survey of 1,018 likely voters was conducted Aug. 1-15, 2006. It carries a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points. Asked whether Americans have the right to view and obtain information about how elections officials count votes, 92% of respondents concurred.

"The 92% support for the public's right to view vote counting and obtain information about it is a very strong political value of transparency and against secret vote counting outside the observation of the public," said Paul Lehto, a lawyer and sponsor of the survey. "To put this figure in context, support for election

transparency exceeds the support for tax cuts, exceeds the approval of Pres. Bush immediately after 9-11, and virtually all other political values being measured." Mr. Lehto is counsel in the 50th Congressional District election contest in California.

Most of those surveyed—80%—said they want votes to be counted in front of observers representing the public, and that elections officials should not rely solely on the proprietary software that operates electronic voting machines that are presently being installed all over the United States. In some models, the electronic machines tabulate votes cast on that machine and saves them to a computer memory card.

Results from those cards are then added together to obtain results of an election.

Source: <http://www.zogby.com/methodology/readmeth.dbm?ID=11348/23/2006>

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Remembering Hiroshima from the ends of the earth

John Morearty

On a bright Sunday afternoon, August 6, a hundred people gathered on the lawn of Central United Methodist Church across from UOP, in memory of those who died under the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki 61 years ago, and in memory of all the dead on all sides in that terrible War in the Pacific. The big interfaith peace action ("atheists welcome") was a first for Stockton, but not the last. Rich cooperation made it possible-coordinated by Jim Walsh and John Morearty, under the sponsorship of the Peace and Justice Network, the Interfaith Council of S.J. County, and Freedom from War.

Disk jockey Joseph Lionheart, immigrant from Zimbabwe, played gathering music. John Morearty spoke of the horrors of that 1945 August morning, and played his Japanese bamboo flute. Gwenn Browne, honored UOP professor and one-time Air Force staff sergeant, was master of ceremonies. The Rev. Dave Bennett of the host congregation spoke of the steadfast peace advocacy of the United Methodist Church. The Rev. Charles Hasegawa of Stockton Buddhist Temple, born in Hiroshima in 1940, did Buddhist chanting and prayed "that all beings be happy."

Soprano Renata Bricka, Czech immigrant, shivered our bones with "You'll Never Walk Alone." Rev. Rick Nafzinger of the Circle of the Feminine Divine and President of



Father John Armistead addresses the crowd.

the Interfaith Council, tended a sacred fire, and invoked the Hindu Goddess of peace. Monsignor John Armistead of the Catholic Cathedral compared the two "icons" of August 6: Jesus transfigured in light on the mountain, image of life, and the flash and mushroom cloud of Hiroshima, image of death.

Renata led the singing of "Let There be Peace on Earth." Barre Stadtner, local peace activist since he was fifteen, honored the miracle of reunion with his Jewish relatives in Russia, and was confident that humankind's present troubles will last only a generation or two, till we "study war no more." Muslim Osman Zarif quoted Admiral William Leahy, chief of staff to Roosevelt and Truman, that the use of the bomb was "the barbarism of the Dark Ages." Osman said Islam teaches that Allah created all the various tribes and nations "so that we can get to know each other."

Keynote speaker David Dionisi, founder of Freedom from War and

author of American Hiroshima, drew on his background as a former military intelligence officer and former corporate executive to lay out his dire analysis of the present moment: the U.S. is preparing to roll the dice on a full-scale war in the Middle East-involving Iran, which may have nuclear weapons, and Israel, which certainly has at least a few hundred. Peace-loving people must wake up, he said, and take nonviolent direct action.

Then everyone sang "When the saints go marching in...when the bombs no longer fall...when the generals talk together...when the poor have food to eat...when our children learn together...when the people all hold hands, oh how I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in." Singing, they came forward to lay flowers at an improvised shrine: a poster which read "Peace" in the iconography of many faith traditions, and two statues-Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of music and learning, and Saint Francis of Assisi.



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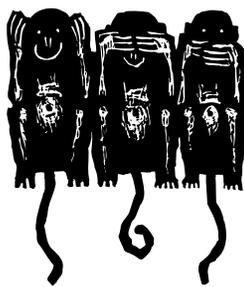
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Bush desperate need: immunity for torture



Legislation proposed by the Bush administration would decriminalize the use of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by civilian interrogators. This would rewrite the standards of basic humane treatment that have guided U.S. policy since the Second World War.

“The last thing the U.S. needs is for public attention to focus on the unfairness of Khalid Sheikh Mohammad’s trial rather than the seriousness of his alleged crimes,” said Jennifer Daskal, U.S. advocacy director at Human Rights Watch. “The U.S. should be seeking justice—not preordained convictions.”

On September 6, the Bush administration announced that it had transferred 14 CIA detainees—including Khalid Sheikh Mohammad—to Guantánamo Bay, and said it planned to prosecute them in military commissions.

But the legislation proposed by the administration and introduced in Congress that day violates almost all of the basic norms of fair justice highlighted by the Supreme Court in Hamdan.

If passed into law, a defendant could be convicted and executed based on coerced evidence that he has never seen. A case could go forward based exclusively on second- or third-hand summaries of evidence, even if the evidence was obtained through the use of cruel and inhuman interrogation techniques. And the only automatic right of appeal would be to an entirely new appellate court of military commission review, with all of the judges appointed by and under the chain of command of the Secretary of Defense.

The administration has claimed that these provisions are needed to protect legitimate intelligence sources and methods, and also to deal with the difficulty of gathering evidence during an armed conflict. But, as leading military lawyers have testified before Congress, the existing court-martial system provides ample leeway to protect military operations and intelligence gathering. In recent hearings

before the Senate Armed Services Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee, each committee endorsed the view that it would be unfair to convict a defendant based on evidence that they have never seen, that commissions should not rely on coerced evidence, and that the court-martial system—with its deep reservoir of rules and precedents—should serve as the starting point for any military commissions authorized by Congress.

In contrast, the administration’s proposal would create an entirely new court system that appears designed to hide its use of torture and other interrogation abuses. A detainee could face conviction and even execution on the basis of such secondhand summaries of a witness’s statements, despite having no opportunity to question the witness about the voluntariness or accuracy of any statement. And in some cases, the defendant could be prevented from seeing even these secondhand summaries. If Congress were to pass this legislation into law, public attention could turn to the unfairness of the proceedings rather than to the alleged crimes of the suspect.

“The jurisdictional reach of these proposed commissions is breathtaking,” said Daskal. “The administration is asking Congress to rubberstamp a law that would undermine some of our most basic criminal justice rights.” The legislation would also decriminalize cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of detainees, thereby immunizing from prosecution civilian administration officials and interrogators who approved and engaged in practices such as the use of snarling dogs, forced nudity and sexual humiliation, extended sleep deprivation, and prolonged use of painful stress positions. It does this by amending the War Crimes Act, limiting the list of prosecutable acts to an extremely narrowly drawn list.

In fact, the administration’s definition of prohibited “cruel or inhuman treatment” is almost identical to its prohibition against

“torture,” meaning that cruel and inhuman conduct that does not amount to the administration’s narrow definition of torture will no longer be prosecutable offenses. At hearings before the United Nations Committee against Torture in May, U.S. officials even refused to concede that waterboarding—a form of mock drowning—constitutes torture.

Moreover, the legislation would abandon the absolute standards of humane treatment required by Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions and replace them with a balancing test, under which the definition of inhumane treatment would vary according to the perceived need of the detaining power. The legislation would tie the definition of the relevant terms in Common Article 3 to the definition of “cruel, inhuman and degrading” under the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005. The administration has interpreted this as imposing a relative, rather than absolute, standard of humane treatment, arguing that virtually any form of inhumane treatment might be acceptable if national security demands obtaining information from a detainee.

Common Article 3, on the other hand, has always been interpreted by the United States and the international community as establishing an absolute standard, providing a bright-line rule that protects all combatants and civilians, including U.S. soldiers. The U.S. military has respected that standard for some 60 years, including in the midst of waging wars and serious threats to national security. The proposed rewriting of the Geneva Conventions would make the United States the first country in the world to attempt formally to limit this minimum standard of humane treatment, and would provide an example that other countries would be all too willing to mimic.

Source: Human rights watch release 9/7/06, hrwpress@hrw.org

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As others see the US—the "war on terror"

Norman Solomon

The USA's mass media constantly tell us how Americans see the "war on terror." But the same outlets rarely tell us much about how the rest of the world sees it.

Five years after 9/11, the gap between perceptions is enormous. Countless polls confirm the overall chasm. Yet, day to day, the media messages that surround us in the United States simply recycle American views for American viewers, listeners and readers.

But there are exceptions. A recent one aired on "PRI's The World," a co-production of Public Radio International, WGBH in Boston and the BBC World Service. "We decided to check in with people in different parts of the globe to get their perspectives on the White House's war on terror," the anchor said on the September 5 broadcast.

And for the next six minutes, the American audience got an earful—from four speakers who were not just expressing their own views. Crucially, they were summing up the dominant outlooks in huge regions of the planet.

Netherlands

The most sympathetic view of the US "war on terrorism" came from a senior manager with Ernst & Young Security and Integrity Services, based in the Netherlands. He said: "The Europeans are still somewhat confused about what the focus of the war is. They see a lack of clarity from the United States as to what the goals of this conflict are, as to what the strategy is, as to what the standards are that the US applies, and as to what the controls are that the US has placed on itself in waging this war."

By US media standards, that's about the extent of mainstream critiques of the "war on terror." But outside the United States, that's about the mildest criticism you're likely to find.

Singapore

Consider the assessment that aired on the radio program from Rohan Gunaratna, author of

the widely praised book *Inside al Qaeda: Global Network of Terror*. Based in Singapore, he was principal investigator for the United Nations' Terrorism Prevention Branch.

In Asia, said Gunaratna, "the vast majority of the Muslims believe that President Bush's campaign against terrorism has in fact increased the threat of terrorism and extremism very significantly after 9/11. With regard to Iraq, what they're saying is that the terrorists have recruited more people, radicalized more people, and raised funds from Muslims just by projecting US invasion and occupation of Iraq as an attack against Islam and as an attack against the Muslims."

Kenya

Then came the assessment from Frank Njenga, a psychiatrist in Nairobi, who is president of the African Association of Psychiatrists and Allied Professionals. "The White House war on terrorism is generally viewed here in Kenya as a futile exercise that is exacerbating the insecurity across the world," Dr. Njenga said. "It is perceived from this end that the major perpetrators of terrorism in the world are the inequities that exist in the world—economic, social and political. Those people who believe that they are downtrodden will continue to perpetuate acts of terrorism."

And, Dr. Njenga added, "It is generally perceived that America has a major role to play in this inequitable distribution of resources across the world. In fact, the general perception is that the average American has no understanding, has no intention, has no will to understand anything that happens outside of the United States—and for that reason their war on terrorism is a total misconception without any relevance to the real world where the majority of the people live."

Lebanon

What about the predominant view from the Middle East? Rami G. Khouri is director of the Issam

Fares Institute at the American University of Beirut and editor-at-large at the Daily Star newspaper, which is published throughout the region. On the radio segment, he said: "The American war on terror is perceived in Lebanon and much of the Middle East as a sign of the combination of arrogance and confusion that is driving American policy, not only in the Middle East but I think in much of the world."

What Khouri had to say, few American pundits seem to want to hear: "While there's agreement that terror is a problem that must be fought—and we have suffered from it much more than the United States has, we in this region in the Middle East—there's also a sense that the United States has misdiagnosed the nature of the terror problem, exaggerated its threat, confused hopelessly a whole range of different groups—some of which are terrorists, some of which are doing legitimate resistance to occupation—and basically tried to come up with a new formula that substitutes for the Cold War."

Lest there be any misunderstanding, Khouri added: "The United States calls 'terrorists' anybody that it doesn't like or that Israel doesn't like, because people like Hezbollah and Hamas who are fighting a war of resistance against Israeli occupation are labeled as 'terrorists,' while most of the world sees them as legitimate resistance fighters when they're fighting the Israeli army."

Such views are routinely expressed in news media almost everywhere in the world. But in the United States, our media insulation about the "war on terror" is extreme—and dangerously self-deluding.

The paperback edition of Norman Solomon's latest book, War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death, was published this summer. For information, go to: WarMadeEasy.com <<http://www.WarMadeEasy.com>>.

Source: *truthout | Perspective* 9/8/06 <http://www.truthout.org>

Education key to the future of the Middle East

Wendy Kaufmyn

"The future of Palestine rests with the children and our ability to give them a good education with a health, happy childhood."

These words came from Deeb Kamal, the organizer of a summer camp in the West Bank of Palestine at which I had the privilege of volunteering. The year was 2002. The place was a small village nestled in the hills west of Ramallah called Deir Ibzi'a. The situation was dire. The Israeli military had just carried out a full scale invasion of the West Bank in which human rights organizations Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch believed war crimes had been committed. Deir Ibzi'a was one of 40 villages that had been under siege for more than four months. Deeb had looked around and noticed that the children of the village were traumatized and depressed. He decided that they needed some fun, siege or not, and organized a summer camp for them. He requested accompaniment from Internationals because he feared interference from the Israeli military. Hence, my opportunity to participate in what turned out to be a wonderful, chaotic and joyful experience for both children and adults alike.

The camp was indeed a welcome respite for the children of the village. Tragically, it was only that. A short breathing space from the sadness and trauma of their daily lives. That same summer, USA Today ran a front

"Israelis and Palestinians alike are deeply worried about the long-term effects on the region's young. There is a special concern that even very young Palestinians are so angry and frustrated by the hardships and humiliations of life under army occupation that they are being radicalized."

page article chronicling the fact that the children of Palestine are severely traumatized from years of war and occupation. It reported that psychological disorders were common in West Bank children, ranging from bedwetting and trembling to pulling out their own hair and tantrums. The article went on,

"Israelis and Palestinians alike are deeply worried about the long-term effects on the region's young. There is a special concern that even very young Palestinians are so angry and frustrated by the hardships and humiliations of life under army occupation that they are being radicalized."

Today, four years later, the occupation continues, the violence has escalated and the children of the West Bank are more traumatized than ever. The situation in Gaza is even more desperate. And tragically, the children of Lebanon are now facing the same fate as

nearly half of the million refugees from the Israeli onslaught last summer are children.

How can we help to create a good future for these children and hence, for the Middle East? I can only go back to my friend Deeb's wise words. We must give them a healthy, happy childhood. We must educate them.

Inspired by Deeb, myself and five other Bay Area activists who had volunteered in his camp started a small non-profit to raise money for scholarships. We call ourselves The Friends of Deir Ibzi'a, and we are currently funding four university students and one middle school student. We are immensely proud that our first scholarship recipient, Sadam Al-Taweel, graduated last June. He finished his business degree in three years, which normally takes four. When we met him at the summer camp in 2002, he was driving a taxi. However, he too, was inspired

by Deeb and decided to return to school. Of course, his future looks bleak as there are no jobs in the devastated West Bank economy.

So what else would help to insure a future for Sadam? For the children of the Middle East? I return once again to Deeb's words: A hopeful future demands education. I believe that the real education needs to happen here, in the United States. U.S. taxpayers

need to learn that three billion tax dollars per year supports one of the most destructive terrorist organization in the region: the Israeli military. While they may not be the only terrorist organization in the region, as the 5th most powerful military in the world, they are the most destructive. I am confident when Americans learn more about the conflict, they will withdraw their support from this funding. I believe that this is truly the first step that needs to be taken towards a bright and hopeful future for the children of the Middle East.

Wendy Kaufmyn is a Jewish American educator who has traveled to Palestine in the summers of 2002, 2003 and 2005. She is co-founder of Friends of Deir Ibzi'a (www.deiribzi.org) and a member of Jewish Voice for Peace. She is available to give educational presentations about Palestine. She can be contacted at Kaufmyn@aol.com



"The Road Map to Peace"

Back to 1982—Lebanon

Then: The war was prepared well in advance.
This time: The same.

Then: We went to war only to protect "the Peace of Galilee."
This time: We go to war to protect Haifa and Afula, too.

Then: We waited for a provocation (the attempt on the life of Ambassador Argov).
This time: We waited for a provocation (the capture of two soldiers).

Then: "We shall advance only 40 KM in order to eliminate the Katyushas."
This time: "We shall advance only a few kilometers in order to eliminate the rockets."

Then: Sharon acted behind the back of the cabinet.
This time: Olmert-Peretz-Halutz act behind the back of the ministers.

Then: We destroyed Lebanon.
This time: We are destroying Lebanon.

Then: Only the PLO profited from the war. A few years later they returned to Palestine.
This time: Only Hezbollah will profit from the war. Their prestige in the Arab world increases every day.

Then: We were stuck in the quagmire for 18 years.
For how long shall we be stuck this time?

—Gush Shalom, *The Israeli Peace Block*

Source: <http://www.commondreams.org/views06/0726-25.htm>

Prop 87: New Fuels Now

The oil companies opposing Proposition 87 made a combined \$78 billion in profit last year. In Louisiana, Alaska and even Texas, they pay billions in oil drilling fees each year, yet they pay almost nothing in California. In fact, California takes in more revenue from hunting and fishing licenses than it does from oil drilling fees. Prop. 87 makes the oil companies finally pay their fair share and will make California a leader in the development of cleaner, cheaper alternative fuels.

Problem: Californians pay, oil companies profit

- Oil companies that oppose Prop 87 posted record-setting profits in the last five consecutive quarters —\$78.3B in 2005 and \$20.5B in the first quarter alone of this year. Oil company profits are so high that Exxon gave its former CEO Lee Raymond a \$400 million dollar retirement package.
- CA is the third largest oil-producing state, but the only one where the oil companies don't pay oil drilling fees like they do in other states.
- Oil companies are gouging California consumers at the pumps with the highest prices in the nation.
- California is #1 in the nation in oil use and is too dependent on foreign oil, with nearly 50% of our imported oil coming from Saudi Arabia and Iraq.
- Oil companies are blocking our access to cleaner, cheaper fuels.
- CA's air quality is the second worst in the nation; pollution from cars, trucks and buses that run on gas and diesel is responsible for asthma, lung disease, and cancer.

Solution: Make oil companies pay their fair share

- * Make the oil companies pay oil drilling fees—just like they do in every other oil-producing state.
- * Make it illegal for oil companies to raise gas prices to pass the cost along to consumers.
- * Reduce gasoline and diesel usage by 25% over 10 years.
- * Reduce pollution that leads to asthma, lung disease and cancer; improves air quality & public health.
- * Provide consumer rebates for cars and trucks that run on alternative fuels.
- * Require strict accountability; nonpartisan, expert oversight and no new bureaucracy.
- * Create thousands of new jobs and economic growth.

Proposition 87 will make oil companies pay the same fees they already pay in other states. California deserves its fair share and the oil companies can afford to pay it. But the opposition is lining up, contributing millions of dollars to spin, scare and deceive voters. Learn the truth about our opposition here. <<http://yeson87.org/index-tmp.php/pages/opposition>>

Full text of Prop 87, go to the California Secretary of State webpage <http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm>.

For a Prop 87 fact sheet, go to <<http://www.yeson87.org/page/-/redesign/Proposition87FactSheet.pdf>>

Source: YES on 87, Californians for Clean Energy, P.O. Box 67205, Los Angeles, CA 90067

Prop 90: The right to pollute

Taxpayer, homeowner, police and fire, education, business, environmental, local government and community groups are opposing a deceptive initiative on California's November ballot, which proponents say is about eminent domain reform. But Proposition 90 is more about compensating property owners for any potential use imaginable, due to far-reaching provisions that will cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

Proposition 90 would:

- Cost all taxpayers billions. Prop. 90 will require billions of dollars in new payouts any time a law or regulation is passed to protect our neighborhoods, control development, protect air and water quality, restrict undesirable businesses or enact new consumer protection laws. That's because the measure contains a hidden provision that allows virtually anyone to sue claiming a new law or regulation has impacted the value of their property or business —no matter how far-fetched the claim—and taxpayers will be on the hook to pay the bill.
- Result in thousands of frivolous lawsuits and more bureaucracy and red tape. Prop. 90 encourages frivolous lawsuits and new layers of bureaucracy and red tape. Virtually any speculative landowner or business looking for a windfall can file a lawsuit under this measure, claiming even the most minor new law has impacted the value of their property. After a somewhat similar law was recently passed in Oregon (a much smaller state), nearly 2,000 claims were filed—seeking \$3.8 billion in payments that taxpayers of that state could ultimately have to pay.
- Drive up the cost of infrastructure projects like schools, traffic relief and flood control. Prop. 90 requires new and unreasonable payouts whenever agencies acquire property for public works. These provisions will drive up the cost of infrastructure projects, cause delays, or even halt work on much-needed community projects. Taxpayers pay, or citizens lose out on the congestion relief, road repairs, schools, utility services and other infrastructure projects we need.

- Prevent voters and state and local agencies from enacting environmental protections. Prop. 90's provisions would severely restrict the ability of voters and local and state agencies to enact and enforce basic laws that protect our coastline, preserve open spaces and farmland, protect air and water quality, and protect environmentally sensitive areas. The measure makes pollution a property right, forcing the taxpayers to pay to stop pollution.

- Jeopardize funds for police, fire and other critical local services and make it more difficult to enact new consumer protection and even anti-crime laws. Prop. 90 would dramatically reduce resources available for local police and fire protection, emergency response and other critical local services by forcing local governments to pay billions of dollars to enact measures that protect communities. It will also discourage new consumer protection and criminal laws from being enacted. For example, the initiative could require new taxpayer payouts for laws protecting consumers from identity theft, fraud and other crimes if the offending business makes a claim that such laws "damage" their business—payouts that could make these laws too costly to enact.
- Undermine the authority of local communities and local voters. Prop. 90 will undermine the ability of local communities and even local voters to decide what types of projects get built in their neighborhoods, the businesses that locate in a neighborhood, and how a community decides to grow.

Major provisions of Proposition 90

The bait:

Prohibits use of eminent domain unless the property acquired is owned and occupied by a governmental agency. This provision is the bait in the taxpayer trap. Everyone agrees some reform is needed, but Prop. 90 goes beyond reform and would prevent construction of new schools, transit systems, infrastructure and parks.

The trap:

Authorizes new lawsuits that will severely and negatively impact state & local governments' ability to enact and enforce environmental, land use, consumer protection and housing laws and regulations. Prop. 90 authorizes lawsuits for any government action that someone claims will result in economic loss to property —no matter how unreasonable that claim. This "trap" would result in frivolous lawsuits, huge payouts to wealthy landowners and corporations, and increased administrative costs at taxpayers' expense. For example:

- If voters act to limit the size of a development for environmental concerns to 100 houses, and the developer claims the property could hold 200 houses, this initiative allows the developer to sue to force taxpayers to pay his company the value for the 100 houses he wasn't allowed to build. Taxpayers would be on the hook for the value of the property at the denser level, even though the community could not handle or did not want such a development.
- If the state enacts a new law restricting certain telemarketing practices, under this initiative, the telemarketers could file a lawsuit to obtain massive taxpayer payouts for the purported impact of these laws on their business.

Redefines "just compensation" and greatly increases the cost of all property acquisitions by state and local agencies for needed infrastructure like schools, parks, roads, levees, and other public works. Prop. 90 changes the current standard which requires compensation at "fair market value", and requires new levels of inflated payouts based on the value of the property as the government intends to use it. This "trap" would result in windfall payouts to a few property owners—at the expense of common taxpayers—or make infrastructure projects so prohibitively expensive that many will simply not be done.

For more information, contact: info@noprop90.org 1-800-628-9075

Source: Californians Against the Taxpayer Trap/ No on 90, a committee of taxpayers, educators, business, environmentalists, local government and public safety



Paso Del Norte grand gala opening a huge success

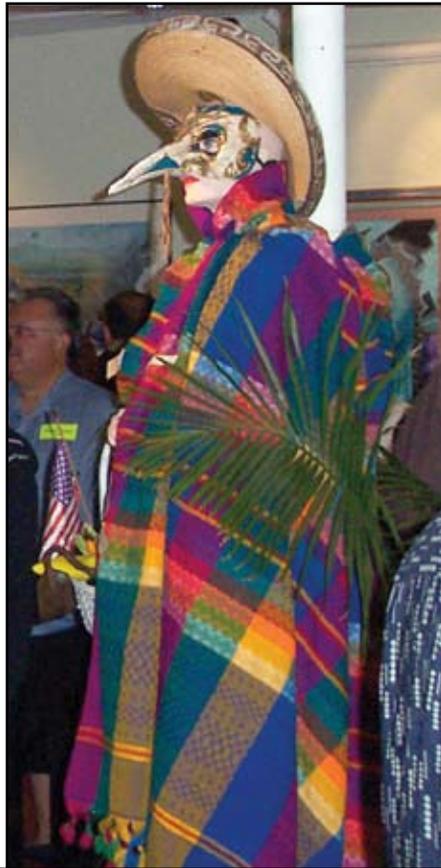
"Paso Del Norte," an artist's perspective on immigration, is on display at the Peace and Justice Center through Oct 14.

Hundreds of people turned out for the grand gala opening on September 16 that included food, music, and great art. There was also a ceremony celebrating Mexican Independence Day led by San Joaquin County Supervisor Steve Gutierrez and a representative from the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento.

Artists represented at the exhibit include Juan Gonzales, Lus Lua, Roberto Radrihan, Isabel Ramirez, Raoul Mora, Rodolfo Garcia, Manual Payar, Jorge Elizalde, Emilio Soltero, Miguel Guerrero, Albert Ramirez and Richard Rios.

On Friday, September 29, there will be a "Meet the Artist" symposium at the Peace and Justice Center with music, poetry and speakers. The symposium is from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

The exhibit, sponsored by display at the Peace and Justice Center through October 16. The exhibit, sponsored by the Mexican Heritage Center, Artistas Del Valle, and the Peace and Justice Network, will run until October 14 at the Peace and Justice Center, 231 Bedford in Stockton. The center will be open 1-6 Monday through Friday. For more information call 467-4455.



Supervisor Steve Gutierrez, above on the left, led the Mexican Independence Day celebration as part of the Paso Del Norte exhibit opening.



"Paso Del Norte" Thru Oct 14

Symposium: Friday, Sept 29th 7:00 ~ 9:00 pm
Meet The Artists • Music • Poetry • Speakers

Mexican Film Series (see page 20)
September 26: Mojadas—Through The Night
October 3: Streets Of Mexico City

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Eating green in San Joaquin

Book Review: The Way We Eat: Why Our Food Choices Matter

Tory Sonstroem

Have you ever read a review of a book that you know well and think to yourself, “I think this clown didn’t even finish the book jacket!” That’s how I felt about a gripe I read recently regarding *The Way We Eat: Why Our Food Choices Matter* by Peter Singer and Jim Mason (Rodale, 2006).

Basically, the review opined (in a smarmy tone) something like: “This high-horse book says we should all go vegan in order to save the Earth. Well, just give me my Niman Ranch meat, local produce, and all the good things I’m already doing, and go lecture somewhere else! Your standards are too high for a regular person.”

Au contraire! This was, to me, one of the most useful, well-documented, even-handed, non-preachy, non-sentimental treatments of the topic of food production I have read. Singer, an Australian-born professor of ethics at Princeton University, and Mason, a lawyer with Midwestern farming roots, have, alone and together, written about global poverty, animal welfare, and modern agriculture for over 30 years.

In this new book, there’s not one gooey reference to some “sad eyed, wailing Mama Cow being led away from her spindly legged, mewling, newborn Fuzzyboy.” (Sure, as a mom, stories like that tug at me too, but these guys, most assuredly, are professionals.)

Certain insights about how our food choices affect others, supported by up-to-the-minute research and advice about changes a consumer can make, crushed old assumptions I had held as “a regular person.” Enough from me: Here are some surprising points from the book.

* On gourmet salmon versus common fish sticks:

“Tests carried out for *The New York Times* in March 2005 showed that six out of eight New York City stores, including gourmet haven Dean & DeLuca, were selling farmed salmon labeled—and priced—as the far



more expensive wild salmon. The difference can be detected in the laboratory by the presence of artificial coloring fed to farmed fish to turn their otherwise grayish flesh pink...Norwegian salmon, an intensively farmed fish... pollutes the fjords in which it is farmed, spreads parasites to wild salmon, and because it must eat fishmeal, requires fishing fleets to catch three times a salmon’s own weight in fish...Wild salmon have been overfished to the point that 300 farmed fish are sold for every one caught swimming freely. Most shoppers don’t know this—and it is hard to blame them for their ignorance.” (pp. 122 and 134)

“How do Gorton’s ‘breaded fish fillets’ measure up...? The fillets are made from pollock, a cousin of the cod that swims the icy waters of the Bering Sea. Despite the vast number of fish caught by the U.S. fishing fleet (3.3 billion pounds per year,) pollock fishing seems to do relatively little damage to the marine environment of the northern Pacific. Seafood Watch, a program of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, gives pollock a ‘best’ rating.” (p. 115)

* On eating “locally”:

“If air freight is the most energy-extravagant way of moving food, sending it by sea or rail are the most economical ways. Rice is grown in California, under irrigation, but it takes a lot of energy to grow it there—about 15 to 25 times as much energy as it

takes to grow rice by low-energy input methods in Bangladesh... The energy used in shipping a ton of rice from Bangladesh to San Francisco is less than the difference between the amount of energy it takes to grow it in California and in Bangladesh, so if you live in San Francisco, you would save energy by buying rice that has traveled thousands of miles by sea, rather than locally-grown rice... Moreover, although it is certainly good to...support local communities, we also have an obligation to support some of the world’s poorest farmers, and under fair trading conditions, the best way to support them can be to buy the food they produce.” (pp. 148 and 150)

* On breakfast versus Prius:

“...the typical U.S. diet, about 28 percent of which comes from animal sources, generates the equivalent of nearly 1.5 tons more carbon dioxide per person per year than a vegan diet with the same number of calories. By comparison, an average driver switching from a typical American car to one of the more fuel-efficient hybrids would save 1 ton of carbon dioxide per year—making the switch to a vegan diet a more effective way of reducing one’s contribution to climate change. (Though it would, of course, be better still to do both.)” (p. 240)

In closing, Singer and Mason
(continued next page)

California makes history— global warming law a reality

The Planning and Conservation League is delighted that AB 32 has passed both the Senate and the Assembly, and that the Governor has pledged to sign it into law. The passage of AB 32 puts California on the road to making real reductions in global warming pollution. And as California leads, so the nation is likely to follow. Global warming is a problem that demands a disciplined and determined response on a national level, but leadership hasn't come from the federal government. With the passage of AB 32, California is stepping up to provide much needed national leadership, and PCL is convinced that this new law is going to make a substantial difference not only in California, but throughout the nation and the world.

The most important provision of AB 32 is found in its commitment to carry out an effective and substantial rollback of the current emissions that cause global warming. The implementation of AB 32 will mean that Californians will be emitting substantially less global warming pollution in the year 2020 than they do today, despite the future growth and

development of the California economy. One of the most effective environmental agencies in the nation, the California State Air Resources Board, has been given lead responsibility to make sure that we achieve the goals that AB 32 sets. It's a difficult and challenging assignment, but AB 32 provides the ARB with the tools it needs to do the job, without causing new pollution that will adversely affect low income and minority communities, and without causing significant economic and business disruption. In fact, one of the many benefits of AB 32 is likely to be the stimulus it provides to the California economy.

Speaker of the Assembly Nuñez, and Assembly Member Pavley, the main authors of the bill, are to be congratulated for their perseverance and insistence that AB 32 be more than a symbolic statement. Thanks to their leadership, this bill can be the foundation for the changes our nation must make to confront the threat of global warming. Senator Perata, President Pro Tem of the Senate, deserves thanks for his own leadership, in making sure

that a strong bill passed his house. Environmental Defense and the Natural Resources Defense Council acted as sponsors and chief environmental negotiators on AB 32, and their effective leadership on behalf of the environment is evident in the legislation ultimately enacted. The thousands of PCL members and other environmentalists who lobbied on the bill, letting their legislators and the Governor know of their support, also played a vital role in the passage of AB 32. Finally, Governor Schwarzenegger should be congratulated, as well, in advance, for his promised signature on this path breaking law.

No one should think that AB 32 will be "self-implementing." Success will be achieved only if the same kind of dedication and persistence that brought the enactment of AB 32 is maintained in the implementation phase. PCL is already gearing up to play a leading role in helping to mobilize the public to make sure that AB 32 realizes its full promise.

Source: Planning and Conservation League release 9/7/06

Eating green *(continued from previous page)*

remind us that:

"No other human activity has had as great an impact on our planet as agriculture. When we buy food we are taking part in a vast global industry. Americans spend more than a trillion dollars on food every year. That's more than double what they spend on motor vehicles, and also more than double what the government spends on defense. We are all consumers of food, and we are all affected to some degree by the pollution that the food industry produces. In addition to its impact on over six billion humans, the food industry also directly affects more than fifty billion nonhuman land animals a year. For many

of them, it controls almost every aspect of their lives, causing them to be brought into existence, reared in totally artificial, factory-style production units and then slaughtered... Through the chemicals and hormones it puts into the rivers and seas and the spread of diseases like avian influenza, agriculture indirectly affects all living creatures. All of this happens because of our choices about what we eat. We can make better choices." (p. 284.)

If there is anything missing from this excellent book, it would be the impact that our food choices make—not on one's own health (duh)—but on the health of one's families, schools,



and communities. But that is outside the scope of Singer's and Mason's thesis. You may hear from me about that issue in a future column.

Readers: Do you like this new column "Eating Green in San Joaquin"? Do you want to help write for it or contribute ideas? Please contact Tory Sonstroem at sjvegans@hotmail.com.



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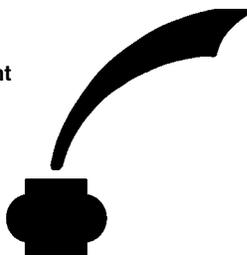
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World power 101

William Moore

Two useful definitions:

Sa-trap (1.) A governor of a province in ancient Persia. (2.) A ruler of a dependency, often a despotic, subordinate official; a petty tyrant.

Sa-trap-y (1.) The government or authority of a satrap. (2.) A nation, state, territory, or area controlled as if by a satrap.

— Webster's New World Dictionary

American foreign policy is to raid and rule the world through a network of satraps. That was the policy of the Roman Empire and the British Colonial Empire. King Herod, in the Bible, was a Roman satrap. Governor-General Lord Dalhousie was a British satrap. Dalhousie was a corporate officer of the British East India Company who single-handedly governed all of what is now India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Bhutan in the name of the crown. The Iranian Shah Pahlavi was an American satrap. In the United States, we called Pahlavi "The Shah of Iran." The Iranians called him "The American Shah." By the time of the Iranian revolution, there wasn't a family in Iran that hadn't lost a father, a son, an uncle, a brother, or a cousin to the Shah's police.

There are political power struggles going on in every corner of the world. American global strategy is to pick losers and make

them winners. In any country which has resources that Wall Street wants, the United States picks a political aspirant in the power struggle who couldn't win on his (or her) own power. We provide that aspirant with money and guns to set up a "friendly" government. We often set up phony "elections" in countries that never had elections, and of course our candidates always win in "democratic" elections. They have the money and guns. That government is then dependant upon American money and guns to keep itself in power. Those satrap governments are then compelled to sell out their country's resources to American businesses and donate their citizens to American supported armies.

There is a flaw in this policy. Satrapies always generate home-rule movements. The basic political power struggle in the world never ends. Just because an American satrap gains the upper hand in a power struggle, that doesn't mean the struggle ends. In a power struggle in which there is no outside interference, whoever is on top can stay on top only by serving the interests of a broad enough power base inside the country to stay in power.

A satrap government that is serving the interests of an outside power doesn't have to build and serve a broad power base inside the country. It will inevitably come up against conflicts of interest. In order to stay in power,

the satrapy will have to sacrifice domestic interests to serve foreign interests. That is what a satrapy does. That is why it was set up in the first place. While all of this is going on, the power struggle is still going on. The aspirants in the power struggle who have political power bases inside the country feel cheated. They resist the satrapy, and even use it for propaganda leverage to build up their power base.

As resistance to the foreign satrapy increases, the government has to crack down harder and harder on dissidents. You see this going on all over the world. That is what the "war on terror" is about. We're cracking down harder and harder on dissidents, and the crack-down is creating more dissidents. Any satrapy government becomes the enemy of the people. It is a foreign force; it's easy to demonize it. The government gets blamed for every thing that goes wrong in the country, of which there is always plenty. Eventually, every satrapy becomes the most unifying force in the country. It unites every disparate force in the country against itself

We're the highjackers who have highjacked Middle Eastern governments. Through its network of satraps, the United States is in the process of uniting disparate forces all over the world against itself. We can't win the war on terror. We're creating it faster than we're winning it.

Iraq to increase deficit \$1.3 trillion in 10 years

Today, the Congressional Budget Office released its budget projections, estimating the deficit will rise to \$286 billion in fiscal 2007, up from this year's \$260 billion projected deficit. Moreover, the long-term outlook remains bleak; total deficits over the next decade are estimated at \$1.7 trillion.

The CBO offers an analysis of the impact that the Iraq war will

have on future deficit numbers based on different policy options we could pursue. The numbers make for a strong economic argument for redeployment or withdrawal. A phased withdrawal would save \$416 billion on the deficit over the next four years and \$1.28 trillion over the next decade. On the other hand, a strategy of "stay the course" will increase the deficit by \$313 billion



over the next four years and \$1.3 trillion over the next decade.

Source: ThinkProgress.org 8/17/06

9/11 Commission Report: Omissions & distortions

by David Ray Griffin, Olive Branch Press, 2005 www.interlinkbooks.com

review by John Morearty

I tried to read the 9/11 Commission Report—too much for me. Too long, too complex, and I don't know enough about the massive research that's been done on that horrible event, which has been used as the all-justifying excuse for America's bloodthirsty foreign policy these past four years.

But David Ray Griffin knows enough. He's a trained scholar (Professor Emeritus at Claremont School of Theology), he's written 25 books, and he's waded through mounds of material about 9/11—both the official stories (there are three of them), and the counter-researchers who have presented evidence that the Bush administration either was part of the plot, or allowed the plot to proceed because it gave the administration, as they said, “opportunities.”

Here are a few highlights, as Griffin summarizes them:

The Commission ignored reports that at least six of the “hijackers” are still alive. It ignored the fact that flight manifests have never been produced to show the nineteen were on the planes; it ignored reports that supposed Flight 77 pilot Mani Hanjour did not have the piloting skills to perform the complex maneuvers required to crash into the Pentagon.

The Commission ignored that fire has never before brought down steel-frame high rise buildings, that the fires were not very big, hot, or long-lasting, and that the wrong tower fell first. They ignored Mayor Rudy Giuliani's statement to Peter Jennings that he was told to get out of the towers, they were going to collapse. Who told him? The Commission's theory of the collapse denied the towers' most important feature, 47 massive steel columns at their core. They ignored completely the collapse of Building 7, which was never hit by a plane. They failed to discuss the fact that the

collapses of all three buildings exemplified ten standard features of controlled demolitions. They failed to mention that Bush's brother Marvin and his cousin Wirt Walker III were principals in the company that handled security for the World Trade Center; Walker was CEO from 1999 till 2002. And they failed to discuss the quick removal of the wrecked steel beams and columns (shipped to China and Korea), although this removal of evidence from a crime scene would normally be a federal crime.

The Commission failed to discuss the fact that the façade of the Pentagon's west wing did not collapse for half an hour after allegedly being hit by a Boeing 757 going several hundred miles per hour; that the entrance hole was big enough only for the nose of a 757; that the wreckage of a Boeing airliner was visible neither outside nor inside the Pentagon; and that the government, besides not releasing videos proving it was a Boeing airliner, had the security camera video from a nearby gas station confiscated.

The Commission dealt only superficially with the question, why did President Bush and the Secret Service show such lack of fear during the first hour?

The Commission's Report omitted any discussion of the advance warnings reportedly received by Attorney General Ashcroft, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, and several Pentagon officials. It failed to mention various FBI agents, who said they knew the date and targets of the attacks long in advance. And it denied that the notorious stock market manipulation (betting on the fall of American and United stock prices) was based on insider trading, by simply begging the question.

The Commission ignored evidence that Osama bin Laden had spent time shortly before 9/11 in an American hospital in the Middle East, where he was visited by an FBI agent; evidence that Osama had not really been disowned by his family and by the Saudi royal family; and evidence

that the effort to capture him in Afghanistan was a charade.

It ignored evidence that some 300 Saudis left the U.S. in the days after the attacks, and that Bush's personal friend Ambassador Prince Bandar was heavily involved in arranging the Saudi flights.

It ignored accusations, by FBI agents Robert Wright and Colleen Rowley and FBI translator Sibel Edmonds, of high-level FBI obstructionism and sabotage.

It ignored evidence of involvement in the attacks by Pakistani intelligence.

If the Bush administration was part of the plot, what was their motivation? The Commission's report ignores the statement by the Project for a New American Century (including Wolfowitz, Rumsfeld, John Bolton and Richard Perle) that “a new Pearl Harbor” would be helpful for transforming the U.S. military. The Commission ignores the fact that Rumsfeld, General Richard Myers and General Ralph Eberhart, who were in charge of the air defense of America on 9/11, were enthusiastic promoters of the US Space Command, for which Rumsfeld obtained increased funding on the basis of the 9/11 attacks. It ignores evidence that the war in Afghanistan was about gas, oil, and increased military presence in Central Asia. It ignores the fact that Rumsfeld wrote a memo saying he wanted to attack Iraq whether it was involved in 9/11 or not.

Smell rotten fish? Check out the book yourself—either at the library or a bookstore (18 bucks).

The charade continues. On June 23, it was officially announced that skyscrapers will now be built to new standards, to avoid Twin Towers type collapse.

Meanwhile, all through May and June this year, the White House has refused to discuss the infamous Downing Street memo, in which Tony Blair's government says that Bush's people told them

eight months beforehand that the U.S. was determined to attack Iraq, and that “the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy. There was little discussion in Washington of the aftermath after military action,” says the memo.

Representative John Conyers presented the White House with more than half a million signatures

demanding an explanation; none so far. Impeachment is being proposed. Where do Pombo and Cardoza stand?

I see hope in the fact that, in order to pursue their bloodthirsty policies, the Bush government has to lie to the people—because they know we are mostly good at heart. So be willing to face the truth—and pass it on!



Nukes aren't cheap

The Bush Administration and nuclear power industry have asserted that new nuclear reactors—unlike the current generation—would be built at competitive prices and on schedule. The Nuclear Energy Institute, for example, has made repeated claims that new power reactors can be built for about \$1,500-\$2,000/kw. This means a standard 1,000 MW reactor could be built for about \$1.5-\$2.0 billion; a large 1,500 MW reactor would be expected to cost about \$2-\$2.25 billion.

Current real-world experience shows that these claims are just pipedreams.

*On July 11, 2006, the Finnish government reported that the construction schedule for its new EPR (European Pressurized Reactor) already has slipped by a full 12 months—and construction of this reactor began only 15 months ago, in April 2005. Cost for this 1,600 MW reactor is estimated to be three billion Euros, or about \$3.7 billion dollars, and that is with extremely favorable loan interest rates that wouldn't be available to private US utilities. Several US utilities, such as Constellation Energy, have expressed interest in the EPR design.

*In June 2006, Toshiba purchased the world's largest manufacturer of atomic reactors: Westinghouse. The company heralded the purchase by asserting

that Westinghouse could expect 20 or more new reactor orders in the next several years. Industry analysts quoted by Reuters said each reactor order would be worth \$2.6 billion to Toshiba, a price already above the NEI's stated cost goal. Since Toshiba only supplies the reactors and doesn't perform the construction, nor much of the non-nuclear side of the plant, actual prices for a fully-constructed Westinghouse reactor can be expected to reach at least the range of the EPR, and probably even higher. On the other hand, the cost of the EPR can be expected to increase as further construction delays are experienced.

In short, anyone thinking a new generation of atomic power reactors can be built at competitive prices should think again—and think hard.

One more quick news item: in July 2006, it was reported that uranium prices have risen some 600% over the past five years: from \$7.25/pound in January 2001 to \$45.50/pound in June 2006. Continued price rises would threaten nuclear power's traditional operating cost advantage over some other fuel sources (coal, gas), making nuclear's economics outlook even bleaker.

Source: Nuclear information and resource service (NIRS) release 7/28/06, 6930 Carroll Ave, Suite 340, Takoma Park, MD 20912 www.nirs.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>

Conservative case vs. Bush

Mickey McGuire

President Bush isn't just losing support, he's losing it from traditional conservatives who think he's extended the executive branch's grasp far beyond the intent of the Founding Fathers. The Bush administration's poll numbers have fallen precipitously during the past year. Surprisingly, much of the recent decline is among groups that think of themselves as true conservatives.

The president retains support from what might be called NFL conservatives (there are NFL liberals, too). NFL conservatives will support their team no matter what — policies, principles, philosophy be damned! One group of true conservatives is the libertarians who dislike government, love free markets and will oppose anyone that grows the former and restrains the latter. They also believe that those who would trade liberty for security deserve neither.

The Cato Institute is the country's pre-eminent source of libertarian thought. Two Cato scholars, Gene Healy and Timothy Lynch, have recently completed an examination of President Bush's extensions of power at the expense of the Congress, the Supreme Court, the states and Americans. The analysis, "Power Surge: The Constitutional Record of George Bush," follows previous critiques of the Clinton administration's record.

Healy and Lynch claim Bush's constitutional vision is "sharply at odds with the text, history and structure of our Constitution, which authorizes a government of limited powers." The president's view of executive power, according to them, says that "in time of war, the president is the law, and no treaty, no statute, no coordinate branch of the U.S. government can stand in the president's way."

One example they cite is what have come to be known as "the Torture Memos" written in 2002 and 2003. These memos allowed the administration to ignore the U.N. Convention against Torture, signed in 1988, the U.S. military code and statutes passed by Congress.

Other extensions of executive

power derived from the Bush administration's theory are that "Congress is powerless to prevent the president from starting a war" and that "Congress is powerless to prevent the president from doing whatever he believes to be necessary to win." Included among those "necessary to win" powers, say Healy and Lynch, are "the ability to detain American citizens without charges or trial, and the ability to wiretap American citizens outside the statutory framework set up by Congress."

Another area of concern to civil libertarians has to do with the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures. The Cato scholars accuse the president of undermining the Fourth Amendment in three ways. First, "President Bush has asserted the authority to exclude the judiciary from the warrant application process." Second, the president has sought to dilute the "probable cause" standard for a search to mere "suspicion." Finally, the government has been using an obscure statute, the "material witness law," to detain people in a manner never intended by Congress.

Congress set up a special court to expedite phone taps, which, by most accounts worked fairly well. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales argues that the president no longer needs to seek authority for a search warrant from the court system because the entire world, including all U.S. territory, is a battlefield, so the president's commander-in-chief authority suffices.

The "Power Surge" authors feel that the most egregious violation of civil liberties is the denial of a writ of habeas corpus, the right of every American to either be taken before a judge to be charged or to be released from custody. The Supreme Court reminded the president that he does not have the independent power to deprive any American he chooses of their civil rights. Retired-Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote, "We have long since made clear that a state of war is not a blank check for the president when it comes to the rights of the nation's citizens." Justice Anton Scalia agreed, "The very core of liberty—has



been freedom from indefinite imprisonment at the will of the executive."

Healy and Lynch also criticize the Bush administration over violations of freedom of speech and trial by jury protections. They focus extensively, however, on the issue of federalism and states' rights. They charge, "Throughout his tenure, President Bush has repeatedly intruded into areas constitutionally reserved to the states." They cite such examples as the attempts to repeal Oregon's 1994 Death with Dignity Act and California's Compassionate Use Act legalizing medical marijuana and the strategy to countermand decisions of doctors and state courts in Florida about Terri Schiavo. Other areas of encroachment by the federal government on states' rights include the effort to impose a federal curriculum on the nation's schools through No Child Left Behind and the attempt to legislate against same sex marriage at the federal level.

One may agree with each of the administration's positions on these matters yet still appreciate the fact that they are subjects that are properly reserved to the states. The Cato scholars conclude that the Bush constitutional record is "overwhelmingly one of contempt for constitutional limits. It is a vision, in short, unimagined by our Constitution's framers."



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 Emperor

John Morearty

It isn't usually mentioned in polite company, but sixty-one years ago on a bright August morning, a uranium sun (built in New Mexico by American scientists) exploded over Hiroshima, a mid-sized city in Japan. Children on their way to school, men walking to work, women buying vegetables and fish were vaporized, their shadows etched on walls. Farther from the explosion people wandered for a while, their skin falling off, throwing themselves in the river to allay the terrible thirst.

Three days later a plutonium sun exploded over Nagasaki, with similar results.

On June 21 brave American troops, in bloody hand-to-hand combat against brave defenders, captured Okinawa, the last of the Japanese empire's island outposts. On May 8 Nazi Germany had surrendered in Europe, and the victorious Soviet Union (which had suffered twenty million dead against Germany) promised to declare war on Japan three months later, in early August. All spring and summer American bombers, ignoring the now feeble Japanese air force, had been pounding Japanese cities and military installations with high explosives and incendiary bombs; a fiery raid on the wooden houses of Tokyo on March 9-10 killed at least 100,000 people, and by August most of Japan's important industrial cities had been destroyed.

As two suns were bursting in air the U.S. Navy was blockading Japan, and American troops were sailing from Europe to the Pacific, preparing for a ground invasion of the home islands. It would be savage, their officers warned, because the notorious Japanese army would fight to the death defending the Divine Emperor. "Remember Pearl Harbor, those bastards; write your letters home, and be prepared to kill or die."

No one mentioned to the troops that the first small invasion would not be till November, and the

main attack not till spring 1946. No one told them that the maximum U.S. estimate of American dead in a successful invasion was forty-six thousand.

So when they heard of the explosions over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, they shouted with joy. "We're not going to die! The war is over, we're going home!" Back home, some fifty million family members wept; a million lives saved, they said, and believed it. Who wouldn't?

No one told the American people that the U.S. had broken the Japanese radio code, and knew the Japanese were trying to surrender, if only they could keep their Emperor. No one told them that almost all of President Truman's advisors were urging him to explain that "unconditional surrender" meant the Emperor would be preserved. But the one advisor Truman listened to, his old mentor and new Secretary of State, James Byrnes, said no, and Truman deleted "safety for the Emperor" from the Potsdam Declaration in July. No one told Americans that Truman and Byrnes wanted The Big Bomb "on their hip," to threaten the Russians in Eastern Europe. No one told them that Truman had prolonged the war (and tried to keep the Russians out of it) from mid-July when the first atomic bomb was tested, till August 6 and 9 when the two bombs fell—and then the next day, when the Japanese surrendered, Truman allowed them to keep the Sacred Emperor after all. No one told the American people all this for decades, until documents began emerging from secret archives.

The bomb was dropped "on Hiroshima, a military base," Truman announced. It saved "a quarter of a million of our young manhood," he said four months later. In 1959, he told students at Columbia University that "the dropping of the bombs stopped

the war, saved millions of lives."

Who wouldn't believe it?

Still, in the year after the war, a murmur of criticism began in America against the decision to drop the bomb; some bomb scientists, some on the left, some religious groups began speaking out, questioning the morality of dropping the bombs.

James B. Conant, president of Harvard University, had been one of Truman's advisers on Bomb policy; at the time of World War One he'd made his scientific reputation (and fortune) in the manufacture of poison gas. In the fall of 1946 Conant decided it was necessary to silence "the Monday morning quarterbacks... the sentimental and verbally minded." The true and honorable Story of the Bomb needed to be told to the American people, and he recruited the most believable of revered elder statesmen to tell that story: Republican Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War to both Roosevelt and Truman. He also recruited brilliant young McGeorge Bundy, whose father Harvey had been a major Bomb advisor, to write an article with Stimson, for Harper's magazine—"a mere recital of the facts." (McGeorge Bundy later became National Security Advisor to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.)

Stimson and McGeorge Bundy submitted their first draft to Conant, and the Harvard president proposed quite a few changes, which Stimson accepted. The article appeared in the February 1947 issue of Harper's Magazine, and created a sensation. It was widely reprinted everywhere from the New York Times to Time, the Omaha World Herald, the Infantry Journal and Reader's Digest (Harper's charged no reprint fee),

it was read on ABC radio, and editorial writers praised it to the skies.

McGeorge Bundy (whose name did not appear as co-author, nor did Conant's) wrote to Stimson: "I think we deserve some sort of medal for reducing these particular chatters to silence."

"At the heart of Stimson's essay," writes Gar Alperovitz in his massive study *The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb and the Architecture of an American Myth*, "is the contention that there was simply no other acceptable way to end the war. Its theme is that the only alternative available—other than the use of atomic bomb (targeted specifically against a city)—would have been an invasion which would likely have cost the United States alone over a million casualties."

Stimson's immensely popular article does not mention the arguments against the decision. It omits any mention of Secretary of State Byrnes' desire for hasty use of the Bomb, so that "Russia will not get in so much on the kill." It barely touches the issue of why Truman (against massive advice) refused to say beforehand that the Emperor could keep his throne—and then changed his mind instantly the day after Nagasaki.

No wonder so many American people believed the fable. But truth hunts us out, like a lover in the forest.

In the midst of untruth, truth persists. —Gandhi

Like traumatized people, we have been cut off from the knowledge of our past. Like traumatized people, we need to understand the past in order to reclaim the present and the future. —Judith Lewis Herman

It is my opinion that the use

Feedback

(continued from page 2)

ignoring, bullying, or animal-cruelty will feed that growing cancer. A child growing up in a poisoned environment will be infected.

Parenting requires responsible behavior, even from those with depraved "hobbies" contrary to moral decency. Step 1: stop exposing your children to behavior that promotes violence. A child born into domestic abuse learns to fight for his very existence. A child exposed to dog-fighting or cock-fighting learns that animal cruelty and illegal gambling are OK—when you're not caught. Parents and mentors: break the violence connection. Keep your children safe, from yourself if needed. Respect them and think of them first.

And for that local individual that mentioned his rooster-raising/fighting ring, and bragged how well it's hidden, know this: you may never get caught, but you are a parent. Children do know what is going on. Think beyond savage, barbaric illegal "fun" and be a responsible parent. Parenting is not just bringing home a paycheck.

S. E. Mears

of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender.... My own feeling was that in being the first to use it, we had adopted an ethical standard common to the barbarians of the Dark Ages. I was not taught to make war in that fashion, and wars cannot be won by destroying women and children.

—Five Star Admiral William D. Leahy, head of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, chief of staff to President Roosevelt from 1942-45 and to President Truman 1945-49.

It wasn't necessary to hit them with that awful thing....

—President Dwight Eisenhower

SOURCES: Gar Alperovitz's book, above; *Hiroshima in America: Fifty Years of Denial*, by Robert Jay Lifton and Greg Mitchell.

(c) John Morearty 2006



An Inconvenient Truth: free in Modesto & Stockton

For the benefit of any who missed recent showings of former Vice President Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*, or any who wish to see it again, a free public showing with discussion is set for 7 pm Thursday, October 5 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stanislaus County, 2172 Kiernan Avenue north of Modesto. This will mark the meeting of Liberal Voices.

The film, which documents the imminent global warming catastrophe closing in on our planet, enjoyed runs at both the State and commercial theaters, but

so far there have been few local responses in keeping with the late Mayor Peggy Mensinger's slogan to "think globally but act locally." Liberal Voices hopes to change that. Call (209) 522-1571.

A Stockton showing will happen at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton, on Thursday, October 19, 2006, at 7:00 pm in the church sanctuary. The public is invited and we will have discussion groups afterwards.

[*An Inconvenient Truth* is also showing at Pacific Theater, UOP, on Oct 1 at 3pm. See p. 19]

Levee risk workshop

A Workshop on California Delta and Levee Risk, Now and in the Future: Identifying the Research Needs will be held in Sacramento on September 28-29 at the UC Center, 1130 K Street, Lower Level (LL22), Sac. This forum will:

- Identify current vulnerabilities facing the levees, such as structural failure, seismic loading, flooding, terrorism;
- Consider longer term challenges such as climate change, sea level rise and water supply implications; and
- Define research requirements to fill gaps in knowledge and reduce uncertainties in hazard assessments.

For further info and to register, contact Restore the Delta Coalition <http://www.restorethedelta.org>

War powers series at Delta College

As part of the 2006 U.S. Constitution Symposium, a War Powers Lecture Series will take place Wednesdays from 12 pm to 1 pm in Atherton Auditorium on Delta campus. (see calendar, p. 19)

Sept. 27—Presidential Abuse of Powers, Larry Berman

Oct. 4—Torture, Jumana Musa

Oct. 11—Wrap Up, Faculty Panel

Night School from your own home

Learn the skills to take back our democracy

Democracy for America (DFA) offers superb courses to help you become a better activist. Night School couples a conference call with an online pdf presentation by nationally recognized experts who share their tips and tricks.

September 26: Winning with Social Networks—Karen Hicks, who directed Howard Dean's house meeting program during the 2004 New Hampshire primary, will train you in the power of social networking and how it can help your community.

October 3: Voting Early, Voting Easily & Voting Safely—Deb Markowitz, Vermont's Secretary of State, will advise you on early voting, voting by mail, and absentee balloting.

October 10: Getting Out The Vote—Robby Mook, a veteran of local, state and presidential GOTV operations, will help you put the final touches on your Get Out The Vote plans.

Sign up at <http://www.democracyforamerica.com/fall>

Friends of Chamber Music

Friends of Chamber Music is offering a season of five concerts by international artists at University of the Pacific, including a trio of former Stocktonians.

Hungary's renowned Takacs Quartet opens the series on October 1, and the Peabody Trio will follow on November 5. On December 1, Strata will make its Stockton debut with three former Stocktonians: James Stern on violin, Audrey Andrist on piano, and Nathan Williams on clarinet. The Streicher Trio, featuring a harpsichordist and dancer, will perform on February 18, and the series ends on March 24 with the Ying Quartet, the world's only sibling quartet.

All concerts are at 2:30 p.m. in the Faye Spanos Concert Hall except the 7:30 p.m. Ying concert. Season tickets are \$100. Tickets at the door are \$25. Students with ID are free, as are children five and above accompanied by a parent. For a subscription brochure, to volunteer, or for more information about the series and FOCM, call 209-946-0540 or 931-4243.

Campaign for Common Ground endorsements

On August 21, 2006, Campaign for Common Ground (CCG) hosted a candidates night. All candidates for City Council races attended. Moderator Ann Johnston asked each a number of questions regarding their positions on growth, development, transportation, sprawl, preserving our farmlands, greenbelts between cities in San Joaquin Co, and other land use issues.

CCG participants evaluated each candidates responses as to whom we felt would best support the positions of CCG and the Citizens Alternative General Plan Policies we presented to the Planning Commission and City Council. It was the majority consensus that the following candidates receive our endorsement:

District 1. Steve Bestolarides

District 3. Carol Murphy

District 5. Susan Talamantes Eggman

CCG has also endorsed Celeste Garamendi for Mayor of Tracy and Susan Hitchcock for Lodi City Council, based on their past support of our positions on growth.

For info and to review the CCG's Citizens Alternative General Plan Policies go to <http://campaignforcommonground.org>.

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.



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.]

Through Sept 30

Henry Paine photography and David Hopman glasswork. M-F 10-5, Sat 11-3 Tidewater Gallery, 223 E. Weber Ave, Stockton. 463-4033.

Through Oct 14

Artistas del Valle "Paso del Norte" art show, M-F 6-9 pm P&J Center, 231 Bedford Rd. 467-4455. (see p. 11)

Thur-Sun, Sept 21-Oct 1

Stockton Civic Theatre presents *Everything in the Garden*. Thurs 7:30 pm, Fri/Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. 2312 Rose Marie Lane, Stockton. \$22 adult, \$18 senior, \$15 students. 473-2424.

Sat, Sept 23

Family Day at the Park . 9:30 am - 3:30 pm University Park, 612 E. Magnolia, Stockton. AKA Literacy and Book Fair, a free day of fun. 612-5478.

Mon, Sept 25

Islam 101: Understanding the Basics, 5:30 pm, Pacific Theater, UOP, 3601 Pacific Ave. Free. 946-2474

Mon, Sept 26

Candlelight prayer vigil for peace, Annunciation Catholic Cathedral, Lincoln/Rose, 7 pm. Bring a candle, bring a friend. All welcome! Sponsored by Pax Christi. 462-3340, 464-3326.

Reading Rocks Rally, 10 am-12 noon, Chavez Library, 605 N El Dorado, Stockton. 5th & 6th graders celebrate reading through hop hop dancing, music, soccer and more. 937-8384.

Wed, Sept 27

Delta College War Powers Lecture Series: Presidential Abuse of Powers with Larry Berman 12 noon - 1 pm, Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Avenue, Stockton.

Thur, Sept 28

Toot that Horn! Bang that Drum! 6 pm, Cesar Chavez Central Library, 605 N El Dorado St, Stockton. Lynn Sampson of Music First helps children try out instruments. 937-8221.

Fri, Sept 29

Paso del Norte art exhibit symposium. Meet the artists; with music, poetry and speakers. 7-9 pm PJ Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. Music, food, celebration. 467-4455. (see p. 11)

Sat, Sept 30

UOP Symphony Orchestra concert. Haydn, Varese, and Schubert. 7:30 pm, Concert Hall, UOP.

Wed, Oct 4

Delta College War Powers Lecture Series: Torture with Jumana Musa. 12 noon-1 pm, Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Avenue, Stockton.

Thur, Oct 5

Peace & Justice Center meeting, P&J Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. 6 pm. All welcome. 467-4455

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

Sat, Oct 7

Youth Expressing Sights and Sounds—YESS Festival, 10 am, Weber Point Event Center, 221 N Center St. SUSD and Stockton Arts Commission hosts a day of free music, dance, and drama by students, local area artists and organizations. Food, refreshments, fun. 933-7030

Wed, Oct 11

Delta College War Powers Lecture Series: National security faculty roundtable. 12 noon - 1 pm, Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Avenue.

Thur, Oct 12

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

Thurs & Sat, Oct 12 & 14

Stockton Sympony with Yi-Jia Susanne Hou, violin, 8 pm Atherton Auditorium, 5151 Pacific Ave, Stockton. \$15-44. 951-0196.

Fri, Oct 13

UOP Symphonic Wind Ensemble with Douglas Hunt, tuba. 7:30 pm, Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP campus.

Sat/Sun, Oct 14-15

Open Studios Tour, 10 am-5 pm at 16 artist's studios. See how artists work, view and purchase artworks. Tickets at Tidewater and Goodwin Galleries and the Stockton Arts Commission office. \$20 for two. 937-7488.

Sun, Oct 15

San Joaquin Vegans monthly potluck, 5:30, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd, Stockton. \$2 with food, \$9 without food. Please bring your own table service and enough food for 8. All are welcome. RSVP to vsonstroem@deltacollege.edu. For more information on SJ Vegans or to receive email announcements about other veg events in the area, contact Bobbie at sjvegans@aol.com.

Wed, Oct 18

Delta College Fall Festival of Bands Concert, 7:30 pm, Atherton Auditorium. \$5-7.50. 954-5510

Thurs, Oct 19

An Inconvenient Truth showing free at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 2737 Pacific Ave at 7:00 pm. (see p. 18)

Fri, Oct 20

UOP Jazz Ensemble concert. 7:30 pm, Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP.

Sun, Oct 22

Pacific Singers concert. Time Travel: 500 years in 50 minutes. 2:30 pm, Faye Spanos Concert Hall, UOP.

Tue, Oct 24

Candlelight prayer vigil for peace, Annunciation Catholic cathedral, Lincoln/Rose, 7 pm. Bring a candle. All are welcome! Sponsored by Pax Christi. 462-3340, 464-3326.

Thur, Oct 26

Peace demonstration, Delta College lawn by Pacific Avenue, just north of Yokuts. 5-6:30 pm. Bring signs, banners, etc. Sponsored by Freedom from War and Peace and Justice Network. Jim Walsh, 981-0544.

Second Sundays

Vegan potluck, Peace & Justice Center, 231 Bedford Rd. sjvegans@hotmail.com. (see Oct 13)

Third Mondays

Hispanics for Political Action - HEPA meets 6 pm at Archie, s Café, 334 S. Hwy 99 (near Arch Road) For info, call Louis Gonzales 464-9205

Pacific Theater 2006 Fall Film Schedule

Sept. 21, 22, 23—Syriana

Sept. 28—City of God

Sept. 29, 30—Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada (Ind.)

Sept. 29, 30—An Inconvenient Truth (5:00pm)

Oct. 1—An Inconvenient Truth (3:00pm)

Oct. 12—Maurice

Oct. 13, 14—The DaVinci Code

Oct. 19—The Merchant of Venice (Shakespeare)

Oct. 20, 21—Walk the Line

Oct. 26, 27—Scary Movie 4

Oct. 28—Night of the Living Dead (8:00pm)

Oct. 28—Silent Hill (10:00pm)

Oct. 28—Rocky Horror Picture Show (12:00 midnight)

Nov. 2 —Breakfast on Pluto (Foreign, Irish)

Nov. 3, 4—Click

Nov. 9—Cache (Foreign, French)

Nov. 10, 11—Brick

Nov. 10—A Clockwork Orange (Late Movie, 10:00pm)

Nov. 16, 17, 18—Superman Returns

Nov. 30—Untold Scandal (Foreign, South Korea)

Dec. 1, 2—X-Men 3

Dec. 7, 8, 9—Talladega Nights

Dec. 14, 15, 16—Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men's Chest

Dec. 15—TBA (Tiger Nights Late Movie, 10:00pm)

Showtime: 8:00pm unless noted; doors open 7:30

Pacific Students: FREE

Pacific Staff / Faculty / Alumni: \$3

General Admission: \$5

Call (209) 946-2025 for show recording

Pacific Theatre, UOP, 3601 Pacific Ave., Stockton

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.

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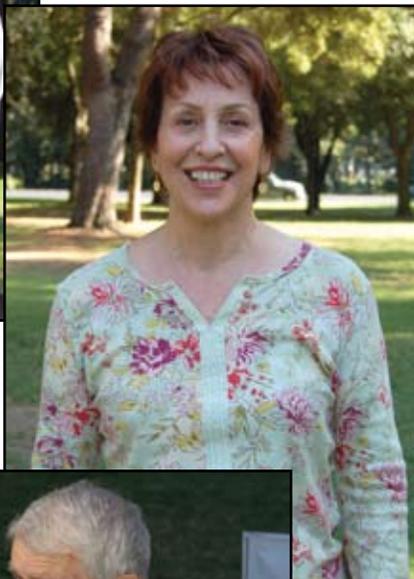
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It's All Happening At the P&J Center

More from *Connections*' 20th



(clockwise from left) Anne Baird presents a commendation for *Connections* from State Senator Machado to PJN co-chair Christie Kelley; Maria Flumiani, invaluable and much-appreciated PJN coordinator; Reid Cerney, political pundit; John Morearty with his new hip.



Thank you, Darlene Brown and Herburger Publications!

A very special thanks to Darlene Brown, Ed Rios, and all our friends at Herburger Publications in Galt. We couldn't ask for a better printer. Darlene has overseen every issue of *Connections*, from the funky cut-and-paste days to our current cutting-edge publication. Her support and friendship, and infinite patience, has been crucial to our success. The color in this issue is a special gift from Herburger. We thank them for these 20 years and look forward to the next 20.

Mexican and French Films at the P&J Center

September 26 6:30

Mojadas—Through the Night

Director Tommy Davis tags along with four migrants from a small village in Mexico as they leave their families and embark on a 120 mile trek across the deserts of Texas, attempting to evade the U.S. Border Patrol. They must overcome dehydration, hypothermia and come face to face with death.

October 3 6:30

Streets of Mexico City

The stories of nine diverse characters intertwine to weave a complex tale of humanity on the streets of Mexico City, the world's largest and most populous urban center. The protagonists that drive the drama (including Jaime Camil, Martha Higareda and Lumi Cavazos) have one thing in common: a passion to survive their trying circumstances.

October 17

Le Retour de Martin Guerre (The Return of Martin Guerre)

Directed by Daniel Vigne, 1983. In a small village near Toulouse, young Martin Guerre marries Bertrande de Rols, they have a child and then, suddenly, Martin leaves for war. Though given up for dead, a man calling himself Martin Guerre (Gerard Depardieu) returns eight years later to an astonished family and a suspicious village. He resumes his former life, the marriage to Bertrande (Nathalie Baye) is better than ever, yet doubts linger about his identity. 123 minutes of medieval mystery, English subtitles.

October 24

Pickpocket

Directed by Robert Bresson, 1959. Dostoevsky meets Camus in this minimalist drama about a compulsive pickpocket who prowls Paris in search of feeling as much as money. Michel (Martin LaSalle) exists in an emotional void. Though his neighbor Jeanne (Marika Green) loves him, Michel is more emotionally excited by theft than her love. 75 minutes of unrated existential angst, in black & white with English subtitles.

October 31: Halloween! No film tonight. Next film: November 7.

connections

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Urgent! We need money!

The Peace & Justice Center is a great asset to our community but we need your financial help to keep it going. PLEASE:

- Send a generous donation now.
- Become a monthly sustainer.
- Rent the Center for your meetings or other events.
- Work with us to raise funds.