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Getting Centered

by Elizabeth Stinson, Director

The Peace & Justice Center has become a resource as well as a referral source for active duty military seeking separation from the military. Four years ago, when we talked about demilitarization work, people questioned the possibility. Now, we are actively facilitating the necessary communication between active duty military, legal counsel and the GI rights knowledge needed to get through the separation process. When the "stop loss" act denied reservists an end to countless rotations, the Center was there to support them. We will continue to provide the necessary support to all who weave their way into our network. From the 19 year reservist, school principal who has been told he will be charged if he does not report for deployment and worries about the impact on his students if they see him arrested to the young man who has been hospitalized with a body rash from asbestos exposure during basic training and is in constant pain. These calls and e-mails come from all over the country. Somehow they find the Center. Often, the first question is, "Where is Santa Rosa?" Usually, the second question is, "Who are you guys?"

Alice Waco has been an active voice on the board for support for enlisted as well as youth, and a major organizer of this year's Peace Makers Conference and I thank her for her consistency throughout a very difficult year.

The invitations into local high schools are increasing as teachers and administrators seek a balanced atmosphere for their students in the face of increased recruiter presence. We will continue to prioritize the outreach to the youth of northern California.

The DEP delayed enlistment contract: The same contract recruiters take onto high school campuses all over California continues to be a challenge. All of you reading this column know someone, a cousin, a neighbor's child, someone down the street, who has signed a DEP and is being actively pressured to be part of some recruiter's quota.

Within your activist tool box—you should know. If this young recruit, sometimes your own child, is questioning their own decision to enter the military, a separation is possible, even simple.

Step 1- Send a letter to the **Command** telling them your reasons for change of plans—example: Needed at home, continuing education, life change(address is listed on the DEP contract. Send your letter registered, with receipt required...) **Do not send this separation request to the recruiter.**

Step 2- Discontinue all contact with recruiter. They will only try to re-recruit you.

Step 3- Know that they will tell you there is no way out. But they are wrong. You are on your way out. Relax and call us if you need us or if you want to speak to someone who has gone through the same process.

On March 1, 2005 a “Lawsuit Against Donald Rumsfeld Over US Torture Policies” was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld bears direct responsibility for the torture and abuse of detainees in US military custody, the ACLU and Human Rights First charged in the first federal court lawsuit to name a top US official in the ongoing torture scandal in Iraq and Afghanistan that has tarnished America's reputation.

This lawsuit was filed in federal court in Illinois on behalf of eight men who were subjected to torture and abuse at the hands of US forces under Secretary Rumsfeld's command. Secretary Rumsfeld was charged with violations of the US Constitution and international law, which prohibit torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment.

Torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading punishment—these are not undocumented, unsubstantiated, or unproven allegations. We must continue to protest, to object and to be a loud dissenting voice. This inhumane treatment, under the guise of a “war against terror,” is itself terror, cruel and inhumane, impacting civilian populations—in our name.

Let your representatives know how you feel about the charges, support your local and national ACLU. Have international impact. Work to stop the abuse. Peace takes work.

Framing Elephants

by Shirley Johnston

In his recent book, *Don't Think of an Elephant*, George Lakoff, a distinguished linguist, urges re-framing debate as a crucial first step toward social change. “Do not use their language,” he writes. “Their language picks out a frame—and it won't be the frame you want.”

While this is an astute recognition on Lakoff's part, a simple decision to change the terms of the debate is never enough. Changing frames requires power and resources to broadcast the message.

Anyone who doubts the role of power in setting the terms of debate should engage in a simple thought experiment. Consider for a moment substituting “freedom

fighter” for “terrorist” in the statement “The freedom fighters who flew hijacked airplanes into the World Trade Center...”

At the least the reader might regard the above sentence as tasteless, at worst, dangerous. People have lost their jobs and even their liberty for that very act of reframing. While the actions of the suicide bombers who destroyed the World Trade Center have a strong bearing on this state of affairs, consider what the world might be like if the actions of the hijackers had been framed as “criminal.” As Lakoff correctly points out, the terms “terrorist,” “criminal” and “freedom fighter” evoke a constellation of images and values that make particular courses of action seem inevitable.

The neoconservative right has long understood the power of images and has invested an enormous amount of money to make sure everyone hears its terms over and over again until the alternatives may become literally unthinkable.

Conservative foundations provide funds to think tanks to support writers to produce books, which are promoted and quoted as authority by right-wing internet news services and blogs. The quotes provide ammunition for conservative TV pundits and radio personalities and the books, or at least their titles, are cited by newspaper columnists and magazine writers. These are in turn quoted, often without attribution, by those in a position to shape public policy, until such dubious ideas as the “Left’s near monopoly over the institutions of opinion and information” becomes common knowledge to the man on the street.

A crucial first step is books.

“We have the conviction that most of the other media are derivative from books,” Michael Joyce, the former president of the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, told Eric Alterman. “It follows that if you want to have an influence on the world of ideas, books are where you put your money,” Alterman quotes Joyce in *What Liberal Media?* In the late 1990s Joyce compiled a list of more than 400 books that the Bradley Foundation had supported.

Also in the late 1990s David Horowitz, a self-described former radical leftist turned neoconservative pundit (not to be confused with the consumer advocate of the same name), solicited Joyce to fund a new publishing company. Horowitz, and his longtime co-writer and associate Peter Collier, had been published by the Free Press, a New York based publisher of conservative writers including Robert Bork, Harold Bloom, and Dinesh D’Souza, whose *Illiberal Education* established the term “political correctness” in the political lexicon. The Free Press had rejected Horowitz’s book, *Hating Whitey*, and although he had later placed it with Spence, a publisher in Texas, Horowitz proposed that the Free Press, having been acquired by Simon & Schuster, could no longer be relied upon to publish material truly representative of the conservative viewpoint.

The Bradley Foundation put up \$3.5 million to establish Encounter Books. Peter Collier was installed as editor. In March 2000 Encounter Books issued their first title, *Creating Equal*, by Ward Connerly, the UC regent who successfully lobbied to dismantle UC’s affirmative action admissions policy. Other titles followed including, *The World According to Gore*, by Debra Saunders. The blurb begins, “When Al Gore took credit for helping invent the internet, it was not the first story he told.” Debra Saunders is a columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle. Her columns are posted on the conservative

website, townhall.com, news arm of the Heritage Foundation, a foundation-funded conservative think tank.

Encounter Books has also published *The Hillary Trap: Looking for Power in All the Wrong Places* by right-wing TV and radio personality Laura Ingraham.

Encounter Books acquired the paperback reprint rights to a string of old-line anti-communist war-horses, and all of the editor's out-of-print books. The most commercially valuable property was the paperback rights to *The Dream and the Nightmare: the Sixties Legacy to the Underclass* written in 1993 by Myron Magnet. President George W. Bush was said to have credited that book with inspiring his "compassionate-conservative" philosophy.

In an article written for the conservative Manhattan Institute's City Journal, posted on his old associate David Horowitz' website, frontpagemag.com, Peter Collier claimed that Encounter Books would make \$3 million in profits in 2003. This is impossible to verify. According to sourcewatch.org, in 2003 the Bradley Foundation gave Encounter Books \$1.15 million as part of its "Intellectual Infrastructure" program. Encounter books was by far the largest single recipient in this program which also supported conservative scholars, think tanks, and media outlets, receiving well over 15% of the total (\$6,699,000 in 2003). In 2002, mediatransparency.org documents the Bradley Foundation funding 13 separate grants to Encounter Books "to support an educational book project" i.e. advances. Typical advances were \$50,000. A couple were as high as \$125,000, and a grant in late 2001 was for \$35,000.

Unfettered by commercial considerations, Encounter Books, like its older counterpart Regnery, can publish titles that are too specialized to be commercially viable or too sloppily researched and written to pass peer review at an academic press. Many of the books are marred by errors that reveal hasty writing and minimal editorial oversight. The books are not intended to be read so much as talked about. A cover and a blurb to provide sound-bites to bolster right-wing frames are often as important as the actual content.

Last August Regnery published *Unfit for Command* trashing John Kerry's Vietnam War service, just in time to make SwiftBoat a buzz word in the 2004 elections.

Because the books do not need to actually sell, Encounter spends minimal money on advertising, focusing on book signing and word of mouth. Word of mouth is enhanced by strategic internet postings and planted news stories, supplemented by talk radio and television appearances, notably on Fox News and C-Span. This serves to advertise the buzz words represented by these books as much as the books themselves.

In September 2004 Encounter Books published *Stealing Elections: How Voter Fraud Threatens our Democracy* by Wall Street Journal writer John Fund. Presumably if George W. Bush had by some inadvertence managed to lose re-election, the right-wing media "echo chamber" (Eric Alterman's term) would have used this book to trumpet allegations of a stolen election, as they are doing in Washington State. Since Bush won, the book may quietly fade into the backlist, although right-wing commentators will continue to ridicule and distort any attempts to uncover actual fraud on the part of the Bush campaign.

In January 2005 *The Secret Wars of Judi Bari*, framed as the left's airing of its dirty laundry, was published by Encounter Books. It is currently the lead book on Encounter Book's website.

Shirley Johnston is a writer and long-time activist with particular interest in the role of media and rhetoric in shaping public policy.

Glass Ceiling for Graft

by Shirley Johnston

Another currently featured Encounter Books title, *Taking Sex Differences Seriously*, by Steven Rhoads provides a case study of the way in which the right-wing media amplifies a target message, and the deeply tangled relationship between grant-supported conservative think tanks and blogs and the GOP and Bush administration. Steven Rhoads is a professor of politics at the University of Virginia. His graduate students have been supported by modest (\$15,000) Bradley Foundation grants for years. He is not a biologist. His area of expertise is public policy. His most substantial publication, *Incomparable Worth*, asserting that market forces are responsible for the gender gap in pay, was published by Cambridge University Press in 1993.

The Encounter Books blurb states, in part, "In *Taking Sex Differences Seriously* [Rhoads] assembles a wealth of scientific evidence showing that [sex] differences are 'hardwired' into our biology. They range from subtle (women instinctively carry babies on their left side, near the maternal heartbeat) to the profound (women with higher testosterone levels are more promiscuous, more competitive, and more conflicted about having children.)"

From an evolutionary biology standpoint this statement is ludicrous, although it may sound plausible because it taps into a number of cultural myths about sex and motherhood. The target audience may not believe in evolution anyway, while showing a touching faith in the explanatory power of "biology."

In October 2004, in a posting on nationalreview.com, the internet version of the old-line conservative magazine, Steven Rhoads wrote of the then-recent vice-presidential debate, "Edwards' indignation appeared weak in a boyish man speaking an octave higher than Cheney. A deep voice is an indicator of high testosterone and thus manly strength." Rhoads' authority for this statement was his authorship of the book *Taking Sex Differences Seriously*.

In April 2004 Maggie Gallagher, writing for townhall.com, the conservative Heritage Foundation's news and opinion website, cited Rhoads', at that time upcoming, book in her article "Bush's Testosterone Problem." "'Testosterone [Rhoads writes] creates a 'loner profile.' "Animal studies," Gallagher, still quoting Rhoads, continues, "find the 'tremendous increase in oxytocin at puberty drives both sexual behavior and attachment in females [but] it increases sexual drive without increasing the drive for pair bonding in males.' Differences in men and women in aggression and in response to threat of violence are ubiquitous. '[M]en see aggression as functional, while women see

it as problematic. For women the relationship's costs seem too high, and they are more likely to fear retaliation.' Moreover, 'sex differences in fear of physical danger are pervasive.'"

Innate female timidity, Gallagher implies, is why women aren't supporting Bush's war in Iraq.

"But human beings—male and female—are more than our hormones," Gallagher continues. "Rational judgments have their place, however diminishingly small, in how we respond to political policies...." "For better or for worse," Maggie Gallagher concludes, "Most Americans continue to agree with the President."

The absurdity of the above statement is beyond comment.

Maggie Gallagher is a journalist, who sometimes claims to be a sociologist with an expertise in marriage. She presents herself as the president of the Institute for Marriage and Public Policy, an institution that seems to exist primarily as a page on the website marriage Debate.org of which she is the editor. The website is a blog attacking same-sex marriage and pushing traditional marriage and gender relations.

In her bio for 21st Century Speaker's Bureau, Gallagher claims that her most recent book, *The Case for Marriage* co-authored by University of Chicago professor Linda Waite, was published by University of Harvard Press in 1999. However, a search on Amazon reveals that the book was actually published by Doubleday, a commercial press, in October 2000. The speaker's bureau website is date-stamped Feb. 2005. Gallagher has had ample time to update her profile.

In addition to townhall.com and National Review Online, Gallagher claims a number of other writing credits including *Newsday*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times* and *Cosmopolitan*. She claims to have been an editor for *National Review* and a founding editor of the conservative think tank Manhattan Institute's *City Journal*. This claim is impossible to verify. The *City Journal* website does list about five relatively lightweight articles written by Gallagher dating back to 1991. The current editor of the *City Journal* is Myron Magnet, the author of the book said to have inspired President Bush's "compassionate conservatism."

On Jan. 26, 2005 Howard Kurtz reported in the *Washington Post* that in 2002 Maggie Gallagher had written articles for nationalreview.com praising President Bush's Defense of Marriage initiative without revealing that she had received \$21,500 from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to promote the president's proposal. According to Kurtz, Gallagher's work under the contract included ghostwriting a magazine article for HHS assistant secretary for children and families, Wade Horn.

In the article Gallagher wrote for Wade Horn, which appeared under Horn's name in *Crisis*, a conservative Catholic publication then edited by Deal Hudson who was also working for Bush's re-election campaign. Gallagher cites her own book, *The Case for Marriage* as an authority.

Hudson is the GOP operative who suggested that Kerry should be denied communion because he is pro-choice. Charges of sexual harassment later forced him to resign both his editorship and his position with the Bush campaign.

Gallagher received another \$20,000 from the Justice Department in 2002 and 2003 for writing a report titled, "Can Government Strengthen Marriage?" for the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI). Before Wade Horn became an assistant secretary at HHS on July 30, 2001, he was the head of that putatively private advocacy group.

The NFI was established in 1994 with a \$40,000 start-up grant from the Scaife Foundation, soon followed by two grants of \$100,000 each from the Bradley Foundation. From 1994-2003 NFI has received \$3.2 million in foundation grants, most consistently from the Bradley Foundation with occasional strong infusions of cash from Scaife. In early 2000, Wade Horn received \$49,830 from the Smith Richardson Foundation to “direct an effort to examine how fathers are depicted on prime time television programs.”

Earlier in Jan. 2005, USA Today reported that Armstrong Williams, a conservative radio and TV commentator, had been paid by Bush’s Education Department to push No Child Left Behind. The money was funneled through Ketchum, the same public relations firm which produced fake news broadcasts promoting NCLB and Bush’s Medicare drug plan with taxpayer money.

For this Armstrong was paid \$241,000. Maggie Gallagher reportedly only got \$41,000 to promote Bush’s Marriage Initiative. Apparently, the glass ceiling is in place, even for graft.

Shirley Johnston is a writer and long-time activist with particular interest in the role of media and rhetoric in shaping public policy. She also loves reading about monkey sex.

The Wolfowitz Doctrine

by Rebel Fagin

In October of 1989 the Berlin Wall fell, symbolizing the end of the Cold War. While many saw this as an opportunity for world peace, others saw it as a victory for America and a chance to build an American empire. For war manufacturers like the Carlyle Group, with which the Bush family is heavily invested, peace is a disaster. Within a year of the Cold War, President George H.W. Bush announced a new war on terror. On September 11, 1991 he spoke of the need to build a “New World Order.” An over-reaching plan to use US military superiority to absolutely control the world’s resources was first suggested during Reagan’s second term by a group of radical Republicans who called themselves the Neo-Conservatives. Among this group are Jeb Bush, Lewis Libby, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld and Paul Wolfowitz. Paul Wolfowitz was the guy who made grooming history in *Fahrenheit 911* by sucking on his comb before running it through his hair. Don’t make the mistake of writing this guy off as some kind of clown. He is the intellectual philosopher of the action plans of the Bush Administration.

In 1992 Paul Wolfowitz wrote out their policy designs in a document called *Defense Planning Guidance* or the Wolfowitz Doctrine. The Wolfowitz Doctrine proposes are that military spending should be increased by \$100 million and the US should use its military superiority to strike anywhere in the world. The US should act unilaterally in its own best self (read Wall Street) interest to secure resources or eliminate economic competition, especially in the Persian Gulf; all treaties are optional.

The purpose of military strikes should be total dominance and massive terror. This could mean targeting civilian population centers to frighten them into submission. State secrecy, including lying to the American people, might be necessary. The American people must be kept fearful and dependent on their government for their perceived safety. Wolfowitz advocated piling up massive debt as an excuse to eliminate all government services not necessary for empire building and the granting of tax breaks to the wealthiest 2%, in order to promote business-friendly legislation, as we shift into a warfare economy.

These ideas were rejected in 1992 as being too radical. But by 2000 the Neo-Cons had formalized them in to the Project for a New American Century. Now they said all they needed was a new, Pearl Harbor-type event for the American people to get behind these ideas.

On September 11, 2001, they got just that.

Sources: *New Pearl Harbor* by David Ray Griffin © 2004. *The Grand Chessboard* by Zbigniew Brzezinski © 1997. *Project for a New American Century* © 2000. Video: *Hijacking Conspiracy* © 2004.

Rebel Fagin is a long-time peace and justice activist as well as a proud member of Radical Ions and the Progressive Club.

The Origins of the Secret Government

by Rebel Fagin

Shortly after the attacks of September 11th, I was startled to hear that Dick Cheney had been placed in charge of the secret government. I had absolutely no memory of voting for a secret government in this, our representative democracy. So I did a little research. I was shocked by what I found.

The origins of the secret government are in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). We think of FEMA as those nice people who help out in floods and earthquakes, which indeed they do. Their primary objective, however, is continuation of government.

It all began during the cold War. FEMA was created under Nixon in 1969 so that government could continue if the Soviets struck Washington, D.C. with an atomic bomb. It was strengthened under Reagan. In the last thirty years Executive orders, such as Executive order 11051, have given FEMA absolute power over all modes of transportation, total control over the highways, seaports, airports, aircraft, the national media, all electrical power, gas, petroleum, fuels, minerals, all food resources, and farms, should the President declare a national state of emergency.

During a national state of emergency FEMA would have total power over all health, education, and welfare functions. If need be, they could take over factories and stores while controlling wages, salaries, credit and all flow of capital in any US financial institution.

The president alone has the power to declare the national state of emergency that would trigger these responses. Executive Order 11310 requires that the justice Department enforce any and all powers granted FEMA during a national state of emergency. Executive Order 11921 declares that when a state of emergency is declared by the President, Congress cannot review his actions for six months.

There are fifteen Executive Orders that pertain to FEMA's acquisitions and concentration of power in the cases of a national state of emergency. Some of these provisions could be used to cancel a national election.

This concentration of power into the hands of the Executive Branch would destroy the separation of powers that is at the core of our limited government. It would eliminate any checks and balances necessary to keep the Executive Branch from dominating government. During a national state of emergency, all the power of government would be granted to the head of FEMA.

In May of 2001 FEMA was placed under the direct control of Vice President Dick Cheney.

Source: Crossing the Rubicon by Michael Ruppert @2004. Bush on the Couch @2004.

Rebel Fagin is a long-time peace and justice activist as well as a proud member of Radical Ions and the Progressive Club.

Patriotic Poop

by Susan Lamont

There it was again, another pile of dog poop sitting on my front walk. It had been that way every morning since about a month before the 2004 election. Since 2000, the signs on my house and the bumper stickers on my car have made it quite clear how I feel about George W. Bush. I guess one of my neighbors had just about had it with me. But imagine training your dog, a very big dog, to poop on command just to defend the honor of your president!

I considered putting a sign in my yard apologizing to those who walked by. It would most likely have read, "I'm sorry for the mess on the sidewalk. This is not from my dogs, but from some very inconsiderate passer-by. I assume he/she is a Republican, but you can draw your own conclusions."

Then a small article appeared in my e-mail. Someone in Germany has placed 2-3,000 small American flags in dog poop found on sidewalks and in parks. Eureka! So one evening when I drove up to my house to find another pile of poop, I jumped back into my car, headed for the Dollar Store, and bought a package of flags, 4 for \$1.

I stuck one of the flags in the pile of poop and proudly it waved.

And it did a great community service. It warned people to watch their step. That flag stayed in place for almost a week before someone kicked the poop in the gutter and placed the flag in my yard. Almost immediately another pile of poop appeared. In went

another flag. This one lasted a week, as well. This time someone cleaned up the poop and, again, placed the flag in my yard.

And there hasn't been a pile of poop in front of my house for a week and a half. Keep your fingers crossed.

Susan Lamont is a member of Not in Our Names Sonoma County. NIONSC meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at the Peace and Justice Center.

Armed with Knowledge: Free Mind Media's Grand Opening

by Abby Wing

You may have seen us around Sonoma County and the Bay area... Armed with knowledge, Free Mind Media has been tabling with alternative media books, cds, videos, stickers, zines and t-shirts at numerous cultural and political events for the past three years.

We are now open at 546 Pacific Ave. near Mendocino Ave. in Santa Rosa. Yes, the former peace and justice center's "left wing". Look for our grand opening celebrations and stop by our new community space as we will have a variety of merchandise by suggested donation and great events and workshops soon to come.

Free Mind Media began with a vision that Sonoma County needs a place for alternative, leftist and post-leftist media to exist and flourish and a space for traditionally silenced voices to be celebrated and heard. Our vision also includes a space for radical people to come together and create what they want to see in the world, learn from each other, share information, inspiration and get support in day-to-day relative struggle.

The goal of Free Mind Media since the beginning has been to open and run a radical political bookstore/infospace in Santa Rosa. Free Mind plans to have workshops, music shows, free computer access. DIY (do it yourself) skillshares, and to provide meeting and event space for community groups and a lending library in our new space. Due to the current and historical fascist political climate of U\$ domestic and foreign policy, there has been a sincere sense of urgency to open the door. Finding a storefront rental in high-rent Santa Rosa—where the group is committed to opening because of highest accessibility—has been challenging, so our opening at 546 Pacific Ave. is a long-awaited success. The commitment to become a longstanding community institution has kept the group working to build their name by word of mouth and action.

Free Mind Media brings workshops to the community such as the 2nd annual Anti-Racist Training for global justice activists, presented by the Catalyst Project of San Francisco. Free Mind also hosts Thursday night events at the peace and justice center, twice a month, beginning with the success of "The Zapatista Struggle Continues".

Essentially, Free Mind Media is "a place to find radical media". What it becomes, to and for the community, is up to those that support it.

Free Mind currently has books and merchandise on consignment at Moxie Boutique, 300 South A Street, Santa Rosa, and at Subculture, 323 Santa Rosa. Both are close to Julliard Park.

We need your donations of used books, money \$\$\$\$, office furnishings, supplies and support.

Free Mind has recently become a 501c3 non-profit, which means all donations are tax-deductible.

Please contact us if you would like Free Mind Media to table at your local community event or show. Free Mind Media www.fmmg.org 707 824-1207 or write PO Box 5134, Santa Rosa Ca 95402.

Abby Wing invites you to check out Free Mind Media and to become an active member of the Peace & Justice center, and encourages you to smash the patriarchy.

Poverty is Genocide

by Abby Wing

On February 10th, 50 people packed the Peace and Justice center to hear about the genocide practiced against the indigenous people of Chiapas.

Ramon Penate Diaz, a human rights defender from the Chol-speaking community of Emilio Zapata, touring with the Chiapas Support Committee, spoke to the crowd in Spanish with English translation, of the grave human rights violations carried out by the Mexican government's paramilitary groups in his village. He told of how the government has offered women in his village of 250 a stipend of 310 pesos (U\$ 31) per month in return for a trip to Mexico City for sterilization. Only 12 families have yet to make their decision, the rest of the women in the village have taken the bribe. The people in his village are desperately poor and 310 pesos is a lot of money.

Mr. Penate Diaz shared powerful stories of the day-to-day repression faced by the indigenous people of Chiapas. There are no functioning clinics and not enough teachers in the school. Liquor stores are opening with the encouragement of the government and more children and adults are abusing alcohol.

The people of Chiapas can no longer survive by growing corn as their ancestors have done for generations, because of the devastating effects of NAFTA (North American free trade agreement) which went into effect in 1994. Corn grown in the U\$ is heavily subsidized by U\$ tax payers (government). So it is cheaper to buy U\$ corn in Mexico than to buy their local corn. This undermines both the culture and economy of these communities. Also, genetically engineered corn seed has been found growing in Chiapas. No one can accurately predict the effects because GMO's has not been safely tested.

Many people are forced to leave their country in search of work, which in turn creates the high influx of Mexicans seeking work in the U\$. So NAFTA has created "Operation Wall of Fascism" a.k.a. "Operation Gatekeeper," killing these people who need to work in the U\$ in order to feed their families. 4000 people have died as a result of the harsh conditions at the border since NAFTA went into effect and that is only the identified dead.

The Indigenous of Chiapas as well as indigenous people around the world are victims of strategic genocide for the profit of capitalism. Miguel Pickard, an investigator with Ciepac (The Center For Economic and Political Investigations for Community Action) spoke more to this point. The Zapatista Army foresaw the far-reaching destruction NAFTA would cause as they declared their autonomy in '94. Now FTAA (free trade agreement of the Americas) has built NAFTA up further and with proposed legislation of CAFTA (Central American free trade agreement) which will destroy the economies of Central America, the horror continues to spread. If you want to go to Chiapas as a human right observer, the Chiapas support committee will train you; they will also accept \$ donations to fund the local work they presently support in Chiapas. (chiapasupportcommittee.org)

We, the Justice and Peace community, should not continue to normalize the reality that hundreds of Latino day laborers wait at intersections all over this state to obtain work, without getting basic social services or the recognition of being both human and a large part of this country's economy, as are most underpaid and exploited domestic workers. This is a situation the government of this country has created, signed into law by Clinton.

To speak of illegal immigration is a smokescreen. This is occupied territory. Except for the Indigenous, all people in this country are "Illegal".

It is not a question of anyone taking jobs from anyone else but more a job of figuring out how to have basic needs met for everyone and how we can effectively struggle for collective liberation. Call the UFW (united farm workers), CHA (California Homemakers Association), Graton Day Labor Center and if nothing else, engage others in dialogue and work to be an ally.

Abby Wing invites you to check out Free Mind Media and to become an active member of the Peace & Justice center and work to overthrow this fascist regime.

The Chiapas Support Committee urges us to take action. Members of their organization certify international human rights observers, organize delegations, and fund autonomous projects in Chiapas. Visit www.chiapas-support.org for information on how to volunteer or make donations. Other suggestions: Write your senators and representatives in support of abolishing the North American "Free Trade" Agreement, and to disavow approval of CAFTA, the Central American version. Boycott corporations that do not promote free trade. Support small local businesses that do promote free trade, like Kindred, in Santa Rosa. Visit www.stopgatekeeper.com to learn how to oppose the dangerous practices that kill people as they try to cross our borders. Adopt-an-Activist from our own community as they supported efforts in Cancun. —Debra Birkinshaw

Why is a tiger salamander worth so much?

by Brad Morrison

I have read a lot of back and forth in the *Press Democrat* from readers and local officials about the tiger salamander and the cost to protect the habitat in which the tiger salamander lives in Sonoma County.

Many readers have seen the \$400 million estimate as the cost of not developing 4000 acres of land where tiger salamanders currently reside. Some may have wondered why one species is worth so much money when they have trouble paying their bills. It depends on how you look at the situation. You could say that those developers are going to build homes that would house many families and the overall environment would still seem to stay capable of supporting humans. You could also say that each species (even each being) is important, deserves to live, and that this development would be one more step towards environmental collapse.

It is hard, but we have to think of the larger picture. 20,000 to 30,000 species are going extinct each year (conservatively estimated by Dr. Edward O. Wilson of Harvard University), 95% of America's original forests are gone, we are pouring ever more pollution into the air, and the piles of non-biodegradable trash are growing tremendously. Global climate change and habitat destruction are two more unavoidable problems.

But does the tiger salamander matter in those national and global terms. Probably not, but then again, do most of us? Does that make you or your loved ones any less important?

Can the Iroquois belief that "In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations" be applied to this issue? Can that principle be applied to modern life?

Think about it carefully and make up your own mind.

Brad volunteers at the Center, but says that he is basically just passing through on his way to Uruguay.

Dear George:

by Brian Boldt

In this poem
no families are set on
fire in Fallujah

in this poem
no one is
dragged off screaming
naked into the night

in this poem
no one is smeared with menstrual blood
and forced to masturbate
in a Baghdad prison cell

in this poem
all those tens of thousands
of blasted civilians
and soldiers still live

in this poem
the earth does not
shudder and convulse
at the very sight of you

in this poem
an angry Jesus has driven
you out of the White House

in this poem
your words abort and
clot like blood

in this poem
you and your mad cabinet have been dragged
to a war crimes tribunal in chains

this poem is a gift
this poem is yours.

PJC articles

The Peace Press is a community newsletter. We welcome articles about local events and issues and articles that put our common struggle into a national and international perspective. Notices about events should run 300-500 words. Articles can be up to 750 words, although we may consider longer pieces. We are looking for well-written, timely, locally produced work. The editors reserve the right to edit all material for clarity and length. We strive to maintain and strengthen the author's unique voice in editing.

Send article and notices of events to Peace & Justice Center, 467 Sebastopol Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401, ATTN: Peace Press or e-mail: peacentr@sonic.net

Peace Makers Conference: Foundation for a Warless Future

The Peace and Justice Center will be hosting the annual California Peace Centers Conference, **April 8,9,10**. The focus of this year's conference will be "Creating Political Will."

A series of powerful workshops will provide organizers with the tools they need to generate excitement in their communities to address the problems created by war and social injustice.

Karen Topakian, Executive Director of the Agape Foundation, will lead a workshop on "Revolutionary Grant-making" providing us with grass-root tools to counter the grant-writers of the right. Medea Benjamin, Code Pink, will address "Direct Action: the Nuts and Bolts."

Harold Jordan of the National Coalition of Education Activists and Elizabeth Stinson, H.O.P.E., will separately address the militarization of our schools under No Child Left Behind. Elizabeth Stinson will focus on "Counter-recruitment and Service Learning Options." "Military Law and Counseling" will be the focus of a workshop by Marti and Luke Hiken of National Lawyer's Guild's Military Law Task Force.

Joey Crottogini, Food Not Bombs, will lead "Taking it to the Streets: Outreach with Diverse Populations." Other workshops will focus on Iraq, Palestine and anti-nuclear issues.

The conference will begin Friday evening April 8 with a social buffet at the Peace and Justice Center.

Saturday, April 9 conference sessions will kick off with a 9am breakfast at the Finley Community Center, 2060 West College Ave., Santa Rosa. Workshops will start at 10am. The all-day sessions will conclude with a community networking dinner at 5pm.

The \$40 registration fee includes workshops, Friday night dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and the community networking dinner as well as Sunday breakfast. *The Sunday session is expected to be broadcast live on KPFA Sunday Salon with Larry Bensky.*

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Register at: peaceandjusticesonomaco.org.

Peace Center Needs New Furnace

Please contact the Center if you have a connection for a furnace and/or labor that could be donated or supplied at a reduced rate or call Gary 887-9732.

Peace Makers Conference: Local Housing and Volunteers Needed

The Peace and Justice Center is hosting the California peace groups conference the weekend of April 8-10. If you can help by hosting someone in your home Friday and/or Saturday night or would like to help at the conference please call us at 707-575-8902.

Confessions of an Economic Hit Man: book review

by Harrell Schultz

John Perkin's *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* is a must read. The author tells of his own inner journey from willing servant of empire to impassioned advocate for the rights of oppressed people throughout the Third World.

He was covertly recruited by the U.S. National Security Agency, and on the payroll of an international consulting firm. He traveled the world—to Indonesia, Panama, Ecuador, Columbia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and many other strategically important countries. His job was to implement policies that promoted the interests of the U.S. corporatocracy (a coalition of government, banks, and corporations) while professing to alleviate poverty—policies that alienated many nations and ultimately led to 9-11 and growing anti-Americanism.

His story shows just how far he and his colleagues—self-described as economic hit men—were willing to go. He explains, for instance, how he helped to implement a secret scheme that funneled billions of Saudi petrodollars back into the U.S. economy, and that further cemented the intimate relationship between the Islamic fundamentalist House of Saud and a succession of U.S. administrations. He reveals the hidden mechanics of imperial control behind some of the most dramatic events in recent history, such as the fall of the Shah of Iran, the death of Panamanian president Omar Torrijos, and the U.S. invasions of Panama and Iraq.

Confessions of an Economic Hit Man, which many people warned Perkins not to write, exposes the little-known inner workings of a system that fosters globalization and leads to the impoverishment of millions of people across the planet.

Because of Economic Hit Man (EHM) projects, Ecuador, for example, is awash in foreign debt and must devote an inordinate share of its national budget to paying this off, instead of using its capital to help the millions of its impoverished citizens. The only way Ecuador can buy down its foreign obligations is by selling its rain forests to the oil companies. Indeed, one of the reasons the EHMs sets their sights on Ecuador in the first place was because of the sea of oil beneath its Amazon region is believed to rival the oil fields of the Middle East. The global empire demands its pound of flesh in the form of oil concessions.

“However—and this is a very large caveat—if we fail, an even more sinister breed steps in, ones we EHMs refer to as the jackals, men who trace their heritage directly to those earlier empires. The jackals are always there, lurking in the shadows. When they emerge, heads of state are overthrown or die in violent ‘accidents.’ And if by chance the jackals fail, as they failed in Afghanistan and Iraq, then the old models surface. And the ‘humanitarian intervention’ begins.”

Followed of course by lots of body bags filled with working class bodies!

Confessions of an Economic Hit Man is now available at the Center's lending library.

We Are All Paying for War As We Protest in the Streets

by Eszter Freeman

For the third straight year, the Bush Administration has continued its deceptive practice of omitting the cost of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan from the US budget. This cover-up, along with the ban on taking photos of military coffins returning to the US and the refusal to provide the number of civilians killed by the US, shows that truth is, once again, a casualty of war. While some may claim that the era of “big government” is over, it is clear that many corporations continue to profit from the volatile mix of big government and war.

War tax resisters refuse to pay some or all of federal taxes used for war. Individuals take many roads to war tax resistance: some are protesting a particular war; some find it against their religious convictions to knowingly support war; some are horrified by massive US military spending while human needs go unmet; some are or would be conscientious objectors if called to military service and, therefore, feel they cannot in good conscious pay for something they would refuse to do themselves. Most war tax resisters are motivated by a combination of reasons such as these, and actively work for peace in many other ways too.

There are many ways to resist war taxes:

1. Write letters of protest to your legislators and the press.
2. Support the Peace Tax Fund Bill, which would allow conscientious objector status of taxpayers.
3. Use all available deductions to reduce your taxes.
4. Reduce your taxes by living simply or earning below a taxable level.
5. Attach a letter of protest to your tax return.
6. Withhold the federal tax on your phone bill.
7. Withhold a symbolic \$10.40 or a larger amount from your taxes.
8. Declare extra allowances on your W-4 to reduce federal tax withholding.
9. Redirect your resisted tax dollars to social programs instead of the military.

Sonoma County Taxes for Peace is part of a coalition of groups from across the US that provides information and support to people involved in or considering some form of war tax resistance. Through the redirection of our tax dollars, we contribute directly to the struggle for peace and justice for all. We promote war tax resistance within the context of a broad range of nonviolent strategies for social change that are firmly embedded in the peace movement.

Everyone is warmly welcomed to bring their war tax questions to our monthly pot luck meetings. We gather at the Peace Center on the first Sunday of each month at 6:30 pm. Please call 823-9203 for information about the above strategies or any other questions.

Freed on May Day

by Eric Boehm

Please come to the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County, to pick up one or more “by donation only to the P & J Center” copies of *Freed On May Day* by Jeff Boehm. It is his story, written in 1950, of 13 months in a German prisoner of war camp at the end of WWII and of being liberated by Russian partisan fighters on May Day 1945. The booklets are for your use—as an individual or for your group, or to give to friends, relatives, high school students, military enlistees who doubt, refuse or question their role in the military, or anyone else who may be interested. Today marks the one year anniversary of the passing of Bill McGee and nearly one month shy of five years since the passing of Jeff Boehm, both fervent and compassionate peace and justice warriors. Today also, we note that a U.S. Federal Appellate Court, 4th Circuit judge ruled Monday, 2/28/05 on the case of “enemy combatant” and U.S. citizen Jose Padilla who has been incarcerated in a U.S. military brig for over 2 and one-half years without formal charges: “The court finds that the President has no power, neither express nor implied, neither constitutional nor statutory, to hold petitioner as an enemy combatant” and declared that Jose Padilla must be freed or charged within 45 days. Note also the recent lawsuit filed on behalf of 84 immigrants including 5 Israeli Jews detained without formal charges, a suspension of U.S. Constitutional rights, when they were picked up randomly and incarcerated in New York City’s Metropolitan Detention Center immediately post 9/11. “What would Bill McGee do?”

Community articles

ACLU Annual Dinner to Honor Michael Robinson

The ACLU of Sonoma County’s Awards Ceremony & Annual Dinner will be Thursday, April 14th at the Sebastopol Veterans Memorial Auditorium at 5:30pm. Rabbi Michael Robinson will receive the 2005 Jack Green Civil Liberties Award. Senator Carole Migden will deliver the keynote address.

Rabbi Robinson has dedicated his life to promoting justice and seeking peace and reconciliation in social conflicts such as the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, the Nicaraguan Contra War, and the Israel-Palestine Conflict. A charismatic agitator and untiring advocate, Rabbi Robertson has advanced civil rights in Sonoma County through work on the Sonoma County Task Force on the Homeless, Children’s Village, the Living Wage Coalition, Habitat for Humanity, the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County, and the Sonoma Land Trust.

Newly elected State Senator Migden, previously Assemblywoman for the 13th State District, authored legislation to create California’s landmark domestic partner registry law as well as legislation preserving the old growth Headwaters Forest,

protecting consumers from energy price manipulation, and promoting the use of emergency contraception.

The annual dinner is a fun event and the public is invited to attend. Carole Migden is a funny, powerful speaker and should not be missed. Help the chapter by becoming a sponsor, placing a business card ad or contributing to the silent auction. To donate a gift, service, wine, etc., call Neva Turer at 539-1220.

The Pasta King Art Ibleto is preparing a great meal of lasagna and pesto pasta. Reservations (which are held at the door) are \$25 (\$15 low income) before April 7th, \$30 (\$20 low income) thereafter. A no host bar and silent auction starts at 5:30 p.m. For your advance reservation, send your check to ACLU of Sonoma County, PO Box 14181, Santa Rosa 95402.

Never been an ACLU member? Come to the dinner for free! Join at the regular rate or higher and dinner is on us. Buy a gift membership and take a friend to dinner! Couples that join at the joint rate or higher get 2 free meals. Community groups are invited to table, please call our hotline at 765-5005. For information visit www.aclusonoma.org or call 765-5005. The event is wheelchair accessible.

The Peace or War Wall

by Lilith Rogers

The Peace or War Wall (POWW) is a sculpture project conceived by Deborah LeSueur in response to war around the globe. We are creating the first structure here in west Sonoma County and have plans to spread the concept around the rest of Sonoma County, the country, and world.

POWW consists of two walls, six feet high, joined by an arch, creating a tunnel. The walls consist of a simple metal framework holding square plaques of clay, with the masks of the various adults and children who created them mounted on the walls. One wall will show feelings about peace, and the other war, as expressed in the clay masks each person makes.

The walls will be free-standing and can be added onto as more masks are created. The eyes in the masks are open to allow light inside the tunnel. Viewers can enter the sculpture and place their faces in the masks in order to feel more intimately the intent of each creator and to view the world outside through "another's eyes." Inside, there will also be a place for graffiti.

We are seeking a public site for our first wall. Due to its visibility and subject matter, and the participatory nature of the project, the Peace or War Wall will be a wonderful addition to Sonoma County. If you have any ideas about sites, please contact Deborah at 823-8405 or PiscesMar@aol.com.

The Future of Food

There will be a free showing of the acclaimed documentary "The Future of Food," exposing the dangers of genetic engineering, on April 1st at Flying Goat Coffee, 324 Center Street, Healdsburg.

This documentary is a must-see for Sonoma County voters as they will be asked to vote on a county wide, 10 year ban of genetically engineered farm products on the November 2005 ballot.

Dave Henson, the anti-GMO initiative author and Executive Director of the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, said, "Our goal is to protect our farms and ecosystems from the genetic pollution that would be caused by GE contamination. Once the GE genie is out of the bottle, there is no putting it back. We have just this one chance, right now, to keep our beautiful Sonoma County clean and green."

For more info: Daniel Solnit, Campaign Director, 823-4410.

The Legacy of Cesar Chavez Continues

March for Legalization! AgJob Bill! A just contract for Gallo Farm Workers!
The United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, invite you and your family to celebrate with us the life and work of Cesar Chavez!

Sunday, April 3. Meet at 665 Sebastopol Road, Santa Rosa, at 11am and march to Courthouse Square (3rd & Santa Rosa Ave.) for a rally and music. Bring the family!

For more information: (707) 528-3039

Youth Activist Convergence 2005

Saturday, April 23, 9:30am-4:30pm, Chop's Teen Center, 509 Adams Street, Santa Rosa.

This youth summit is organized by youth for youth. Workshop presenters, sponsors, supporters and youth participants needed!

Highlights: Stellar Speakers, Workshops on Hot teen Topics, Resource Fair, Youth Speak Out to officials, Slammin' After party. Focusing on issues within the broader context of social, political, economic and environmental justice, this free full day event will bring together young activists to engage in workshops, speakers, creative presentations and skills trainings, enjoy live music, and network with other concerned youth. Local community-based organizations will also provide resource tables and information.

Contact: 707-565-6617 or 707-284-CHOPS x 12