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POPULATION DECREASE: SOLUTION TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION?

Declining Mexican fertility rates may soothe the concerns of some, but a serious long-term labor shortage in the US could be the result

BY DOMENICO MACERI

In the 1960s my father moved from southern Italy to Switzerland looking for work. In the meantime, things improved in Italy and instead of producing immigrants, Italy now receives immigrants looking for work. Italy's economy has expanded but its population would recently be decreasing if it were not for the influx of immigrants. Will the same thing happen to Mexico in the near future, thereby solving the immigration "problem" the US faces?

Population changes seem to point that way. According to the World Bank's Annual Development Indicators, fertility rates in Mexican women decreased from 5.7 children per woman in 1976 to 2.1 in 2006. The recent figure matches the fertility rate in the US for 2005. That means close to a zero population growth in both countries.

A number of years ago it was predicted that the population of Mexico would reach 150 million within a few decades. That is not going to happen. In fact, Mexico's population is on track to become stable in the not-too-distant future. That means a significant reduction in available labor. Competition for jobs in Mexico will therefore decrease and will tend to keep more workers at home.

This will reverse the trend of the last twenty years which has seen significant emigration from Mexico to the US. Mexicans moved north primarily because their country was not able to provide them with employment opportunities. In part it was due to NAFTA, which created competition for agricultural products and made Mexican crops no longer viable since imports became cheaper. Some estimates say that 15% of the Mexican labor force is in the US.

To a significant extent this exodus has been beneficial to both countries. Mexico "solved" some of its economic problems by exporting workers and at the same time receiving significant benefits in remittances. Last year more than 20 billion dollars were sent by Mexicans abroad to their relatives living at home.

The benefits to the US have come about because the vast majority of Mexicans in the country tend to be young and accept work Americans stay away

see Illegal Immigration on page 6

inside...

CHE: THE BICYCLE DIARIES
made love, got war

\$80,000 for wearing a T-shirt
MUCH ADO ABOUT
CHINESE PRODUCTS

Nobel Prize winner says,
"End fluoridation now!"

thank you, Mary Poppins

You might notice that our masthead at the top of this page is different this issue. That's because of rate increases at the post office, which have made pre-sorted (bulk) mail just as expensive as first class mail, at least for our size of a publication. So beginning this issue, we've designed the front page to take a regular first-class mailing stamp. Because mailing is now more expensive for the paper, please donate and subscribe to help keep the boat of progressive journalism afloat. Thanks!

NORTHWEST & BEYOND

COMPILED BY SHARLYNN COBAUGH
& DOUG COLLINS

UPDATE ON TACOMA AND OLYMPIA PORT RESISTANCE CASES

The case against the Olympia 22 protesters was dismissed in June. The "Oly 22" were arrested in May 2006 as part of a successful resistance against military shipments through the Port of Olympia. The judge in that case faulted the government for "gross negligence" in failing to provide important discovery material.

The case of the related Tacoma protests, which occurred in March 2007, may be following a similar path.

In a pretrial hearing involving dozens of the Port of Tacoma protesters, Tacoma Municipal Court Judge Pro Tem Karl D. Haugh ordered city attorneys to stop withholding video surveillance footage and the names of those officers who were in charge of the riot police during the March protests by the Port Militarization Resistance at the Port of Tacoma. It is unclear why the names of the officers were redacted from court documents, but according to the judge, "Defendants do have a right to command structure and rules of engagement. If it's a human being, or rules or procedures, I do think it's discoverable."

Defense attorney Lawrence A. Hildes of Bellingham insisted that this is a crucial piece of evidence in the case against the protesters. He said, "These people have been arrested for violating rules of engagement which do not exist in writing, and the names of those who would know were redacted".

Other documents that were released to defendants reveal that the Tacoma Police Department used undercover officers to spy on activists in Olympia. A report by Lt. Alan Roberts shows that officers were reporting on activist movements in the Olympia/Tacoma area, although in the reports the activists were referred to as "anarchists". The civil suits against the City of Tacoma are expected to take issue with the police surveillance of the citizens, as the citizens were acting within their constitutional rights.

Many of the protesters were arrested for reasons such as simply carrying backpacks or for standing in an

see NW & Beyond on page 10



Global warming

Watch out for the 'uber-tech' solution

OPINION BY DOUG COLLINS

One of the biggest shifts in American society in the past year is that the mainstream media and the business sector—with the exception of petroleum interests—have begun to support the notion of human-induced climate change. Progressives are no longer alone in calling attention to the dangers and dislocations that may lie ahead.

But with the support of business and media leaders, other problems arise.

For example, a lot of "solutions" that are being proposed are geared toward high-tech profitability, at least for the companies that are patenting them. Mining companies are proposing renewed exploitation of coal in a "clean" process using undersea and underground "carbon sequestration," the long-term consequences of which are anyone's guess.

Other techies are proposing to launch maneuverable disks into space to partially block out the Sun's rays. This scenario is open to massive potential abuse: whoever controls such space disks, of course, could selectively control the climate for any region on earth. And just imagine all the atmospheric pollution (and carbon emissions) involved in launching and maintaining massive numbers of these space oddities.

These proposed solutions are not just high-tech, they are uber-tech. They come from the same sort of ethos of applying technology to fulfill every immediate need or desire, only with still worse side-effects. More "gee-whiz" inventions are really just an extension of the problem that has gotten us to this precarious point in the first place: a disregard for future consequences. Space disks and car-

see Global Warming on page 4

Where did July and August go?

You might have noticed that the WA Free Press skipped an issue. Because of a move in physical office location, it was too busy around here to print a July/August issue and still maintain a legal amount of sanity. We've extended all current subscriptions by two months to make up for it. Sorry for the lapse! Our mailing address remains the same, so if you recently sent us anything by US mail, it should get here.

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READER MAIL

BUSH AND BRIDGES

Bush visited the site of a bridge that collapsed in Minneapolis. He and Cheney and Congress have spent \$488 billion on the illegal occupation of Iraq, which works out to \$10.7 billion from Minnesota, or \$1.2 billion from Minneapolis and St. Paul. Think you could fix a bridge with that? These are the most conservative possible figures, excluding future costs already budgeted, excluding interest on debt created, excluding lost benefits of having put these funds to positive use. Most estimates of the cost of this occupation fall between 1 and 2 trillion dollars. Also excluded is the cost in human life and the greater peril this occupation has put all of us in.

That being said, here are some suggested slogans for posters, banners, ads behind airplanes, etc:

Fund Bridges, not Wars

We Want Our Billion Dollars and Our Troops Back

Build This Country, Stop Bombing Others

New York, New Orleans, and Minneapolis Thank Bush and Cheney

This Is Your Nation With Impeachment off the Table

Impeach Bush for Blowing the Job

Get Tough on Crime: Impeach W and Dick

Now Can We Impeach?

Impeach Cheney and Bush

Business Before Pleasure: Impeach Cheney First

Rule of Law or Rule of Cheney: Time to Choose

Impeach the Son of a Bush

Regime Change Begins at Home

The End Is Near: Article II, Section 4

Nixon Ignored Subpoenas Too

Impeach for Peace

Impeachment Is the Only Exit Strategy

Benching Bush Is the Only Benchmark

David Swanson

NOT JUST BUSH

Congress fiddles while our Constitution burns! Call it cowardice, complicity, self-service or dithering, the result is the same. Congress has aided and abetted the Bush administration in gutting our Constitution, engaging in the illegal invasion of another third-world country, disgracing America before the world and generally endangering the welfare of the world's humanity by canceling and ignoring international treaties.

Contempt for international treaty obligations, illegal wire-tapping and other electronic surveillance of U.S. citizens, torture and extraordinary rendition of captives, violations of US criminal law, signing documents and the little noticed re-entry of the US and Russia in a dangerous "cold war." The list goes on and on.

Don't the above crimes warrant at least a congressional investigation as a prelude to impeachment? Well, you wouldn't think so listening to the limp arguments from our "courageous" democrats. Pelosi: "impeachment is off the table", end of story; Larsen: the American people want legislation, not impeachment; Cantwell and Murray: the Bush activities have not reached the level of high crimes and misdemeanors. What a shameful lot. It would be forgivable if it wasn't so unconscionable.

The Democrats are simply another wing of the Republican party, part of the same elite, if you will. The Democrats practice the same deceptive methods and are equally beholden to the military industrial complex.

We need to change the ground rules in order to change the outcome and one of the reforms we can all support is publicly supported campaigns to take the money out of politics.

Howard Pellett
PS: Peace is Healthy

I know Georgie has been a really bad boy, but...

...there are many other important and intriguing problems and issues.

A lot of the letters we receive are focused on how awful George W. Bush is. I personally agree, but it would be great to see more letters on other issues as well.

Have you got any responses to or feelings about articles that appear in this issue, or other original ideas you'd like to air? If so, please email us a quick letter to the editor at WAFreepress@gmail.com. *Editor*

free thoughts

THE DECLINE OF THE AMERICAN FLAG LAPEL PIN

BY JIM SULLIVAN

American Flag Lapel Pin wearing in this country is finally waning. You don't see as many as before on men's suits and sports coats on the street or on TV. Thank goodness! Many Americans, including myself, are just plain worn out and sore from being poked in the eye, so to speak, with those pins. Conservatives, by and large, and the odd Liberal, have been wearing them to imply, seemingly, that they're in full support of the Iraq War, President Bush, and the American way.

Who did those people, mainly Republicans, think they were impressing? Perhaps themselves? The lapel pin certainly didn't impress liberals or progressives. And those pins surely didn't shame us into going along with this administration's inane war policies! The pins did, however, irritate us with their implications.

When you come down to it, aren't almost all of us Americans here in the US? Do we need a flag on our lapel to prove it? I don't think so. Admittedly, if you're a member of, say, the Elk's Club, the Lion's Club, or the Rotary Club, all fine organizations to which I don't happen to belong, then it makes sense and is fine with me if you wear your membership lapel pin. Not everyone, of course, is a member. Therefore, wearing the pin is one way to tell the world that you belong.

However, if almost everyone is part of the same group, like Americans, then what's the point of wearing a membership pin? Is it to let others know that you're a "superpatriot"? If so, then keep in mind what Samuel Johnson, the English dictionary writer and author, once famously said, "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel!"

In my opinion, the conservatives arrogantly flaunting the American flag on their lapels is dividing our nation. Oh, it isn't the only thing that's causing the rift between left and right on the political spectrum, but it certainly is a major factor. That's because it implies that the wearer is a better American than a non-wearer.

By the way, if those conservatives are so much in agreement with the current US chief executive, they why don't the superpatriots wear their flag pins around the world? I haven't seen any statistics about it but I'm willing to bet that few conservatives wear their emblems outside of our borders. And they'd be wise not to. Thanks to the Iraq War, Americans aren't too popular overseas these days.

Finally, instead of wearing something like a lapel pin flag to show others that you're a true-blue, red-blooded American, why not do something worthwhile and meaningful for the country to indicate how you really feel? You could do any of several things: join the Army, pay more taxes to the federal government, or increase your savings to balance out our debt-ridden economy.

This essay was originally published in The Frontiersman.



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Tiny is beautiful

Some zippy micro motors are finally driving our way, but I'm still waiting for the right one.

BY DOUG COLLINS

Last issue, I wrote about the lightweight "kei-cars" common in Japan, which average around 50 miles per gallon (mpg) on 660cc gasoline engines and are ridiculously affordable. They make a MiniCooper seem like an overweight SUV.

Shortly after writing that article, I noticed that the alternative vehicle retailer Zap has started to sell DaimlerChrysler's two-seater Smart Car in the US, with a similarly sized 700cc engine.

According to Green Car Congress, the Smart Car is now the most fuel-efficient non-hybrid car sold in the US.

Unfortunately, converting the European-made Smart Car to US standards has resulted in a drop from 52mpg to 40mpg, even though the US version is the same size as the European version. Part of lowered fuel efficiency is due to the added weight of structural reinforcements required by US safety standards, and part is due to US emissions equipment that must be added, according to various sources.

Wait a minute. This demands some critical thinking.

If US emissions equipment result in fewer miles per gallon on the same car, then that means US cars have to use more gasoline to go the same distance as European cars of the same model.

Sure, our catalytic converters and such might be reducing the toxicity of fumes per gallon of gas burned, but if we have to burn more gallons of gas to go the same distance, is the emissions equipment doing anything useful at all, other than costing us more gas and more money? Readers knowledgeable in the matter are encouraged to write or email me. It should be noted that American emissions add-ons do nothing to lessen the amount of carbon that is emitted into the atmosphere.

Furthermore, if structural safety requirements are weighing down American-sold cars and contributing to dramatically lower gas-mileage, should we then reconsider our idea of "safety"? After all, the tiniest cars with the best gas mileage are a whole lot safer in terms of potential global warming.

Hopefully the same decline in gas mileage will not be seen in the anticipated 2008 US introduction of a diesel version of the Smart Car. In Europe it is currently getting an astounding 71mpg. (for more info on the Smart Car, see www.greencarcongress.com/2006/03/zaps_americaniz.html)

Unfortunately, the cost of the two-seat Smart Car is not as light as its fuel use. Current versions sold in the US are purported to cost around \$15,000, about twice the price of typical Japanese kei-cars, which are also made by name brands such as Honda and Subaru, and which typically have four seats instead of two.

Zap has also been marketing the more affordable Xebra, an all-electric three-wheeler in sedan or pickup models. The Xebra is designed for a maximum speed of 40 miles per hour and a typical range of 25 miles, somewhat faster and farther than the golf-cart-like Neighborhood Electric Vehicles that were road-legalized in many US states a few years ago. The Xebra is classified as a three-wheel motorcycle and has the currently unfortunate distinction of being the first Chinese-made production vehicle sold in the United States. As of mid 2007, some 500 have been ordered in the US, and I just saw one zip by me today.

One irony that I notice about the limited range all-electric vehicles is that they seem most suited to short urban commutes, exactly where public transport is also most useful. As a bus-riding urban commuter myself, I feel little need for something like the Xebra. I instead would like a clean vehicle suited for medium-distance shopping (without being worried about running out of juice) and occasional longer-distance weekend jaunts.

Better battery technology—which I hope will be affordable soon—may solve the range problem of



the MiniCAT: zero-emission "Air Car"

electric vehicles. But there's another longer-range technology that is coming out of the blue—or out of the air, I should say.

I've seen reports in Newsweek and the Idaho Observer about the slow but steady progress of the French company Moteur Developpement International (MDI) in its refinement of cars powered by compressed air. That's right, the same natural nontoxic substance that powers the tools in your car mechanic's fix-it shop. MDI has produced various zero-emission models in anticipation of mass production, including a novel three-seater called the MiniCAT. Dubbed the "Air Cars," MDI prototypes can operate at highway speeds and have ranges in excess of 100 miles. MDI recently signed an agreement with the Indian car manufacturer Tata for applying MDI's technology in Tata engines. (see www.theaircar.com) And if anywhere needs zero-emissions vehicles, it is India. Smog is like a constant fog in the big cities there. Just living in Bombay is roughly equivalent to smoking two packs a day, according to local lore.

One beauty of the Air Cars is that they can be "refueled" with compressed air in your own home—or practically anywhere for that matter—with an air compressor powered by standard electricity or alternative energy. It occurred to me that one could use a windmill to electrically or mechanically operate a air compressor, thus having a car that is in fact completely powered by air. MDI's founder has patented the technology for air compression stations powered by riverside turbines, which would be equally clean.



above: the all-electric Xebra three-wheeler
below: the Smart Car two-seater



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Che Guevarra: The Bicycle Diaries

It's a little-known fact that Che Guevarra, after taking a motorcycle tour of South America and writing *The Motorcycle Diaries*, went to Japan to take a bicycle tour, which became the basis of *The Bicycle Diaries*. It has never been hitherto published.

Much ahead of his time, Guevarra went through a "Green" eco-minded phase soon after his "Red" phase as a devotee of Marxism. Needless to say, he received little encouragement from Fidel Castro for his Green thought, but now that Fidel is no longer in charge, the veil has lifted on this unique history. One note of particular importance is that Guevarra appears to have conceived of the notion of carbon offset markets decades before Kyoto.

Below is an excerpt from *The Bicycle Diaries* provided to us by Guevarra's friend and confidant Raul Castro, as well as some original photos from Guevarra's scrap-book.

houses, and both of which have such convenient bicycle-friendly parking for hundreds of bikes, right outside the entrances. It was so heartening to see local residence come and buy their necessities in such a clean and non-polluting manner. Small children are transported on bicycles, sometimes two or even three children on one bike, driven by one 95-pound mommy! In all confidence, this makes me question Stalin's emphasis on heavy industry. Is not light, clean industry the proper path of development?

July 29

Dear Diary, I have some so exciting matters to tell you today! First, I took the Bullet Train and took a whirlwind round trip practically all across Japan and back, just in one day. It's incredible to be traveling close to 200 miles per hour, so smoothly and with absolutely no car-

see **Bicycle Diaries on page 10**

solar cells, yet on a recent visit there I saw not one. What a huge waste!

But more than clean technology, what society most needs to address global warming is a return to good old-fashioned, simple, reliable social solutions. People solutions. These can be enacted voluntarily or by law. Some examples:

1. Don't buy so many things. Look for solutions in things and people that are already around you. The production and shipping of the goods we buy is by far the biggest carbon contributor.
2. When you do buy things, as much as possible buy things that are second-hand or produced nearby.
3. Use less energy. Downsize. Simplify. Smaller houses or apartments are generally much more energy efficient.
4. Travel less. Live near your work. Live near the people you love.

These four tips can be summarized by the following: people need to overcome the self-destructive notion that money buys you happiness. There are so many things, activities and people in your neighborhood that you can be interested in. You don't need a trip to Katmandu or a huge fully air-conditioned house to feel fulfilled. Quite the contrary. Unfortunately, this message of mindful simplicity does not get much airtime in mass commercial media. It should get a lot more.

There is one last problem resulting from the recent mainstream support for the notion of global warming, but it's a bit sensitive to explain. It's basically the bandwagon mentality. A stream of affirming mass-media messages on global warming can quickly turn into a flood. Critical voices and valid counterpoints can easily be drowned out in such an environment.

A recent Newsweek article repeatedly condemned scientists that are skeptical of human-induced global warming as "deniers." Although I don't doubt for a minute that many such skeptics have received money from petroleum interests (this is America, after all), I don't think that blanket ostracism is a very productive or ethical effort.

I have studied the global warming issue more closely than most, and though I feel fairly convinced that humans are causing climate change, I'm not certain to what extent. There are intriguing anomalies that do cause doubt about the extent of human impact.

The fact that de-glaciation was apparently occurring more quickly before mass industrialization is one (see www.wafreepress.org/85/070120CLL.shtml). Also, astronomers have recently noted warming on Mars, Pluto, Jupiter and Neptune's moon Triton. I have yet to be convinced that this is entirely a coincidence (for a good discussion of the planetary warmings, see the article and ensuing discussion at www.realclimate.org/index.php?p=192).

Even while I have some doubts, I also find it positive that many people—including many businesspeople—are actually now concerned about the health of our environment. Even before the fear of global warming, I was in favor of alternative energy and seeking a non-polluting lifestyle. Now, it seems that many other people are becoming increasingly in favor of these too, and working to make them real.

So if global warming turns out—against the odds—to be just a temporary solar variance unrelated to human activities, then maybe we'll just thank the Sun for finally tricking us into doing what we always should have been doing in the first place.

In the meantime, things are probably going to get warm, so we might as well try to be nice to each other. •

LIFE ON EARTH

by Ham



July 25

What a great day to be alive! What a great time to be in Japan! It feels wonderful to be in a land where most workers are shunning the vile internal combustion engine and riding bicycles and public transportation to and from work. Even most capitalists are bicycling as well. It's like a worker-capitalist eco-paradise here! Oh how I now regret all my carbon emissions riding that awful motorcycle! I must think of a way to atone for that.

July 26

Today I made sure to get up early and join the morning bicycle commute. I tried to organize my bicycling comrades into breaking free of the bicycle lane on the side of the road and riding in the middle of the road, in order to stop car traffic. I got a lot of blank stares but lit-



tle interest. After the rush hour, I found some kids bicycling in the neighborhood and they were glad to join me in this endeavor. It's just too bad that there were no cars at that time to hamper the progress of. But when I look into the gleeful eyes of these kids I realize that there is such hope for a Green future!

July 27

Went near the train station today and saw a sea of bicycles parked in a secure bicycle park-and-ride lot. I ask myself, what sort of political philosophy can I really offer these beautiful people here? Don't they already know much more than I?

July 28

I hope future readers of this—if there will be any—will not disbelieve me, but today in the afternoon I visited two department stores in dense urban areas, both of which were in easy foot or bicycle distance from all surrounding

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Global Warming from p 1

bon sequestration are not just risky, they are a foolish gamble with our only climate.

It's almost as though the uber-techies are intent on hooking a whole planet on addictive drugs, with no concern for the long-term side-effects. But many Americans are discussing such uber-tech proposals as realistic solutions.

I guess that's no coincidence, since we ourselves have become largely a nation addicted to pharmaceuticals. It's our quest for the easy pop-a-pill magical solution that has warped our imagination into a commercial nightmare factory. At the core, this type of solution is very lazy. The pipedream is that we can just go on living like we are living, and then have a technological quick-fix when problems arise. We don't need to change the way we think or—God forbid—change our behavior.

On the other hand, some technological solutions could be great. Our inventive minds should definitely be active in clean energy technology and small-scale home-produced energy, so that we become not just cleaner but also more independent from the controlling strings of corporations and governments.

Natural energy is all around us. I'd guess that a city like Phoenix could power itself many times over with

STADIUM-FINANCING FOE WINS AGAIN IN COURT

But how many King County residents will ever know the real history of the stadium deals?

BY DOUG COLLINS

In the decade-long legal struggle between Armen Yousoufian and King County, Yousoufian has so far been the clear and consistent winner.

Yousoufian originally sued over lack of adequate public disclosure for documents he originally requested in May 1997 regarding government deals surrounding the new proposed football stadium. He was trying to get to the bottom of the corporate welfare schemes behind the demise of the old Seattle Kingdome (which was demolished in 2000) and the public financing of the new private stadium for the Seahawks football team.

Since then, Yousoufian eventually got many of the documents he was requesting (though not all), but has also racked up a huge award against King County for its gross negligence in complying with public disclosure laws, chiefly due to extraordinary delays. In fact, this is the biggest public disclosure award in US history. Though most of the money would go to Yousoufian's lawyer, the current award is close to a half million dollars, assuming it is not reversed or reduced in other decisions. And the award may still become larger.

In the most recent decision in his case, issued in February 2007, the Washington Court of Appeals found that the award given Yousoufian by the trial court was insufficient, and remanded the case to the trial court for an "appropriate penalty." King County has petitioned the state Supreme Court to review this appeals decision. There is a good chance that the Supreme Court will refuse to hear the case, but in any event a remand hearing will be delayed, potentially until even late 2009.

Because of his victories thus far, you might think Yousoufian would be happy about the case. Instead, Yousoufian is plagued by "this ongoing concern about why the major papers have never told this story."

Sure, the Seattle Times and P-I have reported many times on his monetary awards in the case, but, as Yousoufian puts it in his website, "The major Seattle papers have never told the story I feel the documents I obtained reveal: namely, that then (and still) King County Executive Ron Sims was involved in ordering what I feel were rigged studies to support misrepresentations to the public to influence the public vote at the June 17, 1997 special election on public financing of the football stadium."

In short, Yousoufian has wound up with a lot of documents and large monetary awards, but few reporters interested in touching the evidence of multimillion-dollar misdoing that he has uncovered.

(For the most detailed reports, see Rick Anderson's February 12, 2003 article in the Seattle Weekly at www.seattleweekly.com/news/0307/anderson2.php also my interview with Yousoufian in this paper last year at www.wafreepress.org/82/whyNotFrontPage.shtml.)

Yousoufian also has mixed feelings about the legal process he's experienced, which he characterizes as "our tax dollars at work, as King County spares no expense to drag this out and run up the legal bills on both sides—with both sides being paid for by the taxpayer if I win—but, once again, sending a message to [public disclosure] requesters that if you have to sue to get documents, this is what you could be in for—more years of litigation on top of the ten plus years that have already elapsed."

Although Yousoufian is somewhat glum, there are a couple things he should be optimistic about.

First, he's played a major part in creating the political will to say "no" to public financing for a new Sonics basketball arena. Seattle's new-found resistance to corporate welfare for pro sports teams is reverberating around the country. Second, by pressing the public disclosure laws to their limits, Yousoufian has exposed their weaknesses and limitations. There are still many in the press—as well as generally concerned citizens—who value open government and who would like to see the King County government get a stiff kick for its cloak-and-dagger behavior. But it would seem more fitting if the penalties were to be paid by the responsible county officials, rather than from the county coffers.



Armen Yousoufian



George Jartzos

"My football program is being investigated again."

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law

WEAR A T-SHIRT, EARN \$80,000

(But must put up with a lot of hassle)

FROM THE ACLU

The American Civil Liberties Union today announced a successful resolution of the case of Jeffery and Nicole Rank, the young Texas couple arrested on the West Virginia capitol grounds on July 4, 2004 for peacefully expressing their opposition to President Bush. According to the settlement agreement, the United States government will pay the Ranks \$80,000.

The Ranks, who wanted to attend the President's Fourth of July address without being mistaken for supporters of his policies, wore homemade t-shirts bearing the international "no" symbol (a circle with a diagonal line across it) superimposed over the word "Bush." One t-shirt said "Love America, Hate Bush" on the back and the other said "Regime Change Starts At Home."

Event staff and law enforcement ordered them either to leave the event or remove or cover their shirts. The couple responded by insisting they had a First Amendment right to remain and express their views. The two were arrested for trespassing, handcuffed, and hauled away in a police van. The charges against them were later dismissed and the City of Charleston, not a defendant in the case, apologized for the incident.

"We couldn't believe what was happening to us," said Nicole Rank. "We tried to tell them we had a right to express our opinion in a peaceful way, but they wouldn't listen to us."

The ACLU filed a lawsuit in federal court on behalf of the Ranks, alleging that the defendants' actions violated their rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution. With the emergence of a heavily redacted "Presidential Advance Manual" it became clear that the government had a policy of excluding dissenters from public presidential appearances. Among other things, the manual asserts that proper ticket distribution is vital to "detering potential protesters from attending events" and outlines procedures for minimizing demonstrators and shielding them from the press. "As a last resort," the policy says, "security should remove the demonstrators from the event."

"Although I disagreed with President Bush, I was a Republican before this incident, so it's rather ironic that event organizers are advised to use college/young republican organizations as part of 'rally squads' to oppose messages like ours at presidential appearances," remarked Jeffery Rank, who has since changed his party affiliation.

"This settlement is a real victory not only for our clients but for the First Amendment. The outcome of the case speaks for itself," said Andrew Schneider, Executive Director of the ACLU of West Virginia. "As a result of the Ranks' courageous stand, public officials will think twice before they eject peaceful protesters from public events for exercising their right to dissent."

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Illegal Immigration from p 1

from. This is particularly true in agriculture where the vast majority of workers are undocumented. In some states such as Colorado, which passed harsh anti-immigrant laws, workers have left in large numbers and the state has piloted a program to use convicts to pick fruits and vegetable.

Labor shortages have already been occurring in other states, even in states where there are already a lot of Mexican workers, such as California. Agriculture is especially sensitive since crops must be picked as soon as they ripen.

As Mexico's population becomes stable it's likely that emigration will slow down to a trickle and that Mexican wages will inevitably rise as the supply of workers diminishes. The gap in wages between Mexico and the US will likewise be reduced and the urge to risk one's life crossing the border for economic improvement will start to disappear.

Demographic changes will also happen in the US. American baby boomers will retire and—absent the current amount of Mexican workers—the likelihood of labor shortages is realistic.

If Mexican immigration dries up, the US could perhaps look to other Latin American countries to provide us with guest workers. But the same kind of demographic changes happening in Mexico are also occurring elsewhere.

One not-so-negative effect of globalism is that women are becoming less likely to have many children, even in developing countries.

An American friend of mine is learning Spanish because she thinks it will come in handy in communicating with caregivers in her golden years. Maybe she needs to learn another language?

Domenico Maceri (dmaceri@gmail.com), PhD, UC Santa Barbara, teaches foreign languages at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, CA. His articles have appeared in many newspapers and some have won awards from the National Association of Hispanic Publications.

John Jonik looks at tobacco



End fluoridation, say 600 doctors, dentists, scientists and environmentalists

FROM FLUORIDE ACTION NETWORK

In a statement released August 9, over 600 professionals have urged Congress to stop water fluoridation until Congressional hearings are conducted. They cite new scientific evidence that fluoridation, long promoted to fight tooth decay, is ineffective and has serious health risks.

Signers include a Nobel Prize winner, three members of the prestigious 2006 National Research Council (NRC) panel that reported on fluoride's toxicology, two officers in the Union representing professionals at EPA headquarters, the President of the International Society of Doctors for the Environment, and hundreds of medical, dental, academic, scientific and environmental professionals, worldwide.

Signer Dr. Arvid Carlsson, winner of the 2000 Nobel Prize for Medicine, says, "Fluoridation is against all principles of modern pharmacology. It's really obsolete."

Paul Connett, PhD, Executive Director of the Fluoride Action Network (FAN), announced that an Online Action Petition to Congress in support of the Professionals' Statement will soon be available at FAN's web site, www.fluorideaction.org.

"The NRC report dramatically changed scientific understanding of fluoride's health risks," says Connett. "Government officials who continue to promote fluoridation must testify under oath as to why they are ignoring the powerful evidence of harm in the NRC report," he added.

An Assistant NY State Attorney General calls the report "the most up-to-date expert authority on the health effects of fluoride exposure."

The Professionals' Statement also references:

- The new American Dental Association policy recommending infant formula NOT be prepared with fluoridated water.
- The CDC's concession that the predominant benefit of fluoride is topical not systemic.
- CDC data showing that dental fluorosis, caused by fluoride over-exposure, now impacts one third of American children.
- Major research indicating little difference in decay rates between fluoridated and non-fluoridated communities.
- A Harvard study indicating a possible link between fluoridation and bone cancer.
- The silicofluoride chemicals used for fluoridation are contaminated industrial waste and have never been FDA-approved for human ingestion.

The Environmental Working Group (EWG), a DC watchdog, revealed that a Harvard professor concealed the fluoridation/bone cancer connection for three years. EWG President Ken Cook states, "It is time for the US to recognize that fluoridation has serious risks that far outweigh any minor benefits, and unlike many other environmental issues, it's as easy to end as turning off a valve at the water plant."

Contacts: Dr. Paul Connett 802-338-5577, paul@fluoridealert.org, www.FluorideAction.Net

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George Jantos

NOTABLE QUOTES

"Profit and democracy are so contrary that there is no scope for comment. The aim of democracy is to leave people free to decide how they live and to make any political choices concerning them. Making a profit is a disease in our society, based on specific organizations. A decent, ethical society would pay only marginal attention to profits."

Noam Chomsky

"It is dangerous to be right when the government is wrong."

Voltaire

"The modern Conservative is engaged in one of man's oldest exercises in moral philosophy; that is, the search for a superior moral justification for selfishness."

John Kenneth Galbraith

"Nobody ever went broke underestimating the taste of the American public."

HL Mencken

We Need Fishmongers

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PHARMACIES MUST FILL VALID PRESCRIPTIONS

Patients, physician, and concerned women seek to join lawsuit to defend access to medicines

FROM THE ACLU OF WA

Patients, a physician, and concerned women from across Washington state today announced they are seeking to join the state government in a suit to defend new rules requiring pharmacies to fill valid prescriptions and provide medications without discrimination or delay. The intervenors want to protect their own rights and the rights of others to have access to medicines.

Representing the intervenors jointly are the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, the Northwest Women's Law Center, Planned Parenthood of Western Washington and the law firm Heller Ehrman.

After a lengthy rulemaking process, including numerous public hearings, the state Board of Pharmacy issued the new rules (WAC 246-869-010 and WAC 246-863-095), which protect a patient's right to access health care without discrimination or delay, and make clear that a pharmacy is responsible for filling all valid prescriptions. Under the rules, pharmacies must dispense medications regardless of pharmacists' personal feelings about a particular medicine. Pharmacists may ask another pharmacist on duty to provide the medicine, but in all cases the pharmacy must fill the prescription in a timely manner.

On July 26, 2007, the day the rules took effect, two individual pharmacists and a pharmacy owner (Stormans, Inc.) sued the State of Washington, challenging the new rules on constitutional grounds. The plaintiffs want pharmacies to be allowed to refuse to fill customers' requests for valid prescriptions that conflict with personal beliefs. In court papers filed yesterday, the intervenors explained that the issue is a public health matter that involves the rights of patients to promptly obtain the medications their doctors prescribe. In many parts of the state, when a pharmacy refuses to fill a prescription, the next-nearest pharmacy is many miles away.

The intervenors are:

- Judy Billings, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who is HIV-positive and has advocated for the rights of HIV and AIDS patients for 10 years. Ms. Billings noted, "Timely access to HIV medication is extremely important, because going without for even a short time can raise my resistance not only to the particular drug, but to the entire class of drugs. This makes the managing the HIV virus much more difficult. If I could not get timely access to these medications it would expose me to serious health risks."

- Rhiannon Andreini, a student at Western Washington University, who was refused access to emergency contraception by a pharmacy in Mukilteo. She sought to obtain emergency contraception after a condom tore during intercourse. "I might need and choose to use emergency contraception in the future. I would like to participate in this litigation to help ensure that I, and all women in Washington, can get timely access to emergency contraception to prevent an unintended pregnancy without harassment or hostility," she said.

- Dr. Jeff Schouten, a professor of surgery at the University of Washington and a primary care provider at Harborview Hospital, who stated, "As an HIV care provider, I am aware that some people associate HIV with what they perceive as lifestyle choices with which they do not agree. I am concerned that this poses a risk to people who need access to HIV medication, in that they might face denial or harassment when attempting to fill prescriptions."

- Molly Harmon, a married small business operator in Seattle. She experienced harassment when she sought to fill a prescription for emergency contraception. "I want to ensure that I and others can get timely access to emergency and other contraception to prevent an unintended pregnancy," Harmon said.

- Catherine Rosman, a married graduate student living in Spokane, a member of the Methodist Church and a member of Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom. She has heard numerous

accounts of pharmacists who refuse to fill emergency contraception prescriptions, or otherwise act in a hostile or harassing manner to those seeking such prescriptions. "I want to ensure that women are treated with respect when seeking medications," said Rosman.

- Emily Schmidt, a single graduate student from Wenatchee, who was refused Plan B by three different pharmacies in Wenatchee. "I would like to participate in this litigation to help ensure that I, and all women in Washington, can get timely access to emergency contraception to prevent an unintended pregnancy without harassment and hostility," she said.

- Tami Garrard, a single woman from Seattle. If her current method of birth control failed, she would likely use Plan B to prevent an unintended pregnancy. "I want to ensure that I, and other women in Washington, can get timely access to emergency contraception to prevent an unintended pregnancy if the need were to arise," Garrard said.

"Denying medication to any patient creates an unacceptable barrier to health care. It should not be tolerated," said Lisa Stone, Executive Director of the Northwest Women's Law Center.

"Patients should be able to get needed medications without discrimination or delay. These rules ensure just that," said Kelly Reese, Director of the Legal Advance Team of Planned Parenthood of Western Washington.

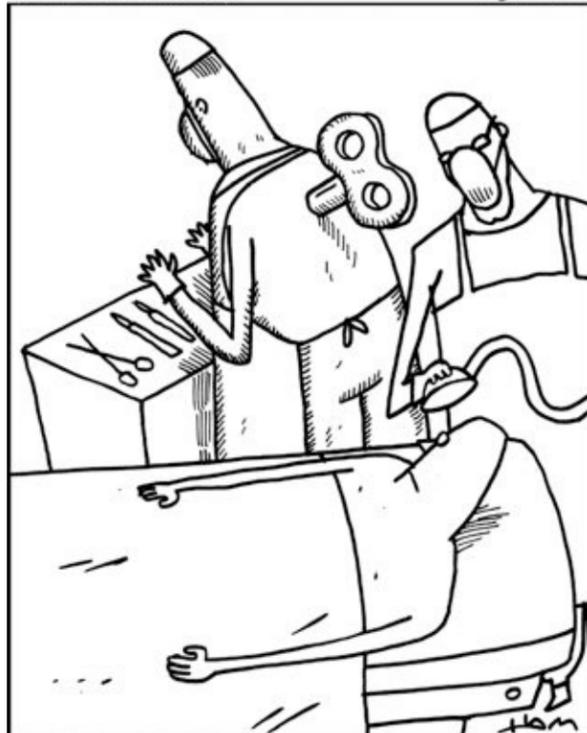
"The Pharmacy Board has struck the appropriate balance between patients' rights of access to medication and pharmacists' individual rights. Patients are now assured that they can get prescriptions filled for HIV medication, emergency contraceptives, and other medications," said Sarah Dunne, Legal Director of the ACLU of Washington.

The Washington State Pharmacy Association, which represents the pharmacy profession, participated in the rulemaking and supports the new rule. More than 70 organizations, including Senior Services of Seattle/King County the American Academy of Pediatrics - Washington Chapter, Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, and Lifelong AIDS Alliance, also support the rules.

Handling the case for the intervenors are Rima Alaily and Molly Terwilliger of the firm Heller Ehrman LLP; Sarah Dunne and Aaron Caplan of the ACLU of Washington; Lisa Stone and Nancy Sapiro of the Northwest Women's Law Center; and Kelly Reese of Planned Parenthood Federation of Western Washington.

The Honorable Ronald B. Leighton of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington will preside over the case.

LIFE ON EARTH by Ham



health

Thank you, Mary Poppins

King County bans trans fats

BY DOUG COLLINS

There is some good news for public health. According to the King County website, the first phase of the new trans fat ban applies to fry oils and shortenings and goes into effect May 1, 2008. Restaurants must find alternatives for margarine and all other products containing trans fats by February 1st, 2009. Many restaurants have already made the switch to trans fat free alternatives, but the new rules will ensure that the remaining restaurants will make the change as well.

Trans fats are unnatural fats created by hydrogenating vegetable oils to make them solid at room temperature, a quality which has various advantages for cooking and storage. Trans fats are found in margarines and vegetable shortenings, and have been increasingly recognized as a major cause—perhaps the major cause—of heart disease.

For years, many of us were skipping the burgers and just eating the fries at the fast food joints, because we thought the fries would be more heart-healthy. It turns out those fries were about the worst thing possi-

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ble for our hearts. The FDA has stated that there is no healthy level of consumption of trans fats, which, when you think about it, is a pretty damning statement.

The tragedy is that the FDA and other agencies also officially promoted these hydrogenated trans fats for years as "healthy" substitutes for what appear to be relatively harmless—or probably beneficial—traditional natural fats such as butter. The error resulted because hydrogenated oils for years were simply classified with all other vegetable oils. Big mistake.

I suppose the lessons we can learn about this are (1) to just generally avoid unnatural and non-traditional processed foods and ingredients, and (2) to take any official dietary recommendation with a grain of salt, unless of course you have high blood pressure. (Bad joke, I know.)

But what will restaurants use in place of trans fats? A few restaurants may gravitate to traditional natural cooking fats such as palm and coconut shortening, peanut oil, or good old real butter. Those are the restaurants I'd personally prefer to go to. But most restaurants seem to be adopting canola oil or soy oil for frying. Although canola and soy are widely promoted as "healthy," these are non-traditional vegetable oils that have a variety of possibly negative health effects. For example, in China modern use of canola oil for frying has been linked with lung cancer and emphysema. (For a good overview of health concerns regarding these oils, see www.rmhiherbal.org/review/2000-4.html).

Still, the trans-fat ban is a great step forward. Because many of the hydrogenated shortenings have for years been made of canola or soy oil anyway, eliminating the trans fats from these can only help.

Although I can understand that local governments are sometimes criticized for acting like a "nanny state" with regard to diet or behavior, I find this trans-fat ban a complete blessing. Thank you, Mary Poppins! These hydrogenated oils should never have been made in the first place, and we were all pretty stupid to have been munching on such artificial quasi-foods for years.

The only problem now is that I have to wait until 2009 to be fairly sure that I'm not further clogging my arteries when I go out to eat, at least in King County. But what about the rest of the state?•

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WTC janitor calls attention to multiple explosions

William Rodriguez in Seattle November 7 as part of his "Last Man Out" Tour.

BY RODGER HERBST

William Rodriguez, 44, worked at the World Trade Center for 20 years as a janitor. He was in an office on sub-level 1 of the North Tower when it was attacked—according to the official story—by hijackers on Flight 11 on 9/11/2001.

"When I heard the sound of the explosion, the floor



William Rodriguez, 9/11 "Last Man Out", was initially hailed by George Bush as a hero, but soon became persona-non-grata after he refused to accept the official explanation for the 9/11 attacks.

beneath my feet vibrated, the walls started cracking and everything started shaking," said Rodriguez, who was huddled together with at least 14 other people in the office. "Seconds after... I hear another explosion from way above," said Rodriguez. "Although I was unaware at the time, this was the airplane hitting the tower."

Subsequently Rodriguez helped to save the lives of hundreds of people trapped in the North tower, by opening doors with a master key for fire fighters before he was finally turned back at the 39th floor. Rodriguez ran from the tower and dove under a fire truck as the building collapsed. He was buried under rubble for an hour before being rescued.

For his efforts, he received the National Hero Award from the Senate of Puerto Rico. Although initially considered a hero in official US circles, he soon lost favor after he continued to assert what he had experienced: that the explosions occurring before Flight 11 hit the tower proved the towers were brought down by controlled demolition.

He spent hours testifying before the 9-11 Commission behind closed doors, but his testimony as an eyewitness does not appear anywhere in the 576 page report. He contacted the National Institute of Safety and Technology (NIST) four times but received no response. (The government-funded NIST report on 9-11 eventually explained the structural collapses as solely an outcome of the aircraft, but stopped short of providing physical models for how the buildings could finally collapse at near free-fall speed, an omission which has left the NIST report vulnerable to much criticism.)

Rodriguez also contacted the FBI, which never followed up. The media was hardly interested. CNN spent a day filming him at his home but then heavily edited the final interview. After numerous threatening innuendoes, he said "I am living on borrowed time since I probably should be dead anyway." (2)

As of 2005, he was being represented by Attorney Phil Berg in a RICO law suit against President Bush and his administration. In summer of 2005 Rodriguez and Phil Berg joined millionaire Jimmy Walter in an international 9/11 truth tour to stir interest in an international

commission to investigate the attacks. Since then Rodriguez has continued his tours, both nationally and internationally.

Rodriguez will be at the Seattle Center Lopez room on Tuesday November 7, at 7:00pm, to recount his chilling and provocative story. (3)

Citations

- (1) <http://patriotsquestion911.com/survivors.html>
- (2) <http://killtown.911review.org/oddsities/911.html> (search for keyword "Rodriguez")
- (3) See www.brownpapertickets.com/event/19563 to order tickets.

See www.seattle911visibilityproject.org or www.911truthseattle.org for local 9-11 information.

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LET'S FACE IT: THE WARFARE STATE IS PART OF US

Media Beat

BY NORMAN SOLOMON

The USA's military spending is now close to \$2 billion a day. This fall, the country will begin its seventh year of continuous war, with no end in sight.

On the horizon is the very real threat of a massive air assault on Iran. And few in Congress seem willing or able to articulate a rejection of the warfare state.

While the Bush-Cheney administration is the most dangerous of our lifetimes—and ousting Republicans from the White House is imperative—such truths are apt to smooth the way for progressive evasions. We hear that “the people must take back the government,” but how can “the people” take back what they never really had? And when rhetoric calls for “returning to a foreign policy based on human rights and democracy,” we're encouraged to be nostalgic for good old days that never existed.

The warfare state didn't suddenly arrive in 2001, and it won't disappear when the current lunatic in the Oval Office moves on.

Born 50 years before George W. Bush became president, I have always lived in a warfare state. Each man in the Oval Office has presided over an arsenal of weapons designed to destroy human life en masse. In recent decades, our self-proclaimed protectors have been able—and willing—to destroy all of humanity.

We've accommodated ourselves to this insanity. And I do mean “we”—including those of us who fret aloud that the impact of our peace-loving wisdom is circumscribed because our voices don't carry much farther than the choir. We may carry around an inflated sense of our own resistance to a system that is poised to incinerate and irradiate the planet.

Maybe it's too unpleasant to acknowledge that we've been living in a warfare state for so long. And maybe it's even more unpleasant to acknowledge that the warfare state is not just “out there.” It's also internalized; at least to the extent that we pass up countless opportunities to resist it.

Like millions of other young Americans, I grew into awakening as the Vietnam War escalated. Slogans like “make love, not war”—and, a bit later, “the personal is political”—really spoke to us. But over the decades we generally learned, or relearned, to compartmentalize: as if personal and national histories weren't interwoven in our pasts, presents and futures.

One day in 1969, a biologist named George Wald, who had won a Nobel Prize, visited the Massachusetts Institute of Technology—the biggest military contractor in academia—and gave a speech. “Our government has become preoccupied with death,” he said, “with the business of killing and being killed.”

That preoccupation has fluctuated, but in essence it has persisted. While speaking of a far-off war and a nuclear arsenal certain to remain in place after the war's end, Wald pointed out: “We are under repeated pressure to accept things that are presented to us as settled—decisions that have been made.”

Today, in similar ways, our government is preoccupied and we are pressurized. The grisly commerce of killing—whether through carnage in Iraq and Afghanistan or through the deadly shredding of social safety-nets at home—thrives on aggressive war and on the perverse realpolitik of “national security” that brandishes the Pentagon's weaponry against the world. At least tacitly, we accept so much that threatens to destroy anything and everything.

As it happened, for reasons both “personal” and “political”—more accurately, for reasons indistinguishable between the two—my own life fell apart and began to reassemble itself during the same season of 1969 when George Wald gave his speech, which he called “A Generation in Search of a Future.”

Political and personal histories are usually kept separate—in how we're taught, how we speak and even how we think. But I've become very skeptical of the categories. They may not be much more than illusions we've been conned into going through the motions of believing.

We actually live in concentric spheres, and “politics” suffuses households as well as what Martin Luther King Jr. called “The World House.” Under that heading, he wrote in 1967: “When scientific power out-

runs moral power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men. When we foolishly minimize the internal of our lives and maximize the external, we sign the warrant for our own day of doom. Our hope for creative living in this world house that we have inherited lies in our ability to re-establish the moral ends of our lives in personal character and social justice. Without this spiritual and moral reawakening we shall destroy ourselves in the misuse of our own instruments.”

While trying to understand the essence of what so many Americans have witnessed over the last half century, I worked on a book (titled *Made Love, Got War*) that sifts through the last 50 years of the warfare state... and, in the process, through my own life. I haven't learned as much as I would have liked, but some pat-

see **Warfare State on page 10**



IRAQI DEATHS EXCEED ONE MILLION

FROM JUSTFOREIGNPOLICY.ORG

As of August 30, the estimated number of Iraqi deaths due to the US occupation is 1,028,360. The number is shocking and sobering.

It is at least ten times greater than most estimates cited in the US media, yet it is based on the only scientifically valid study of violent Iraqi deaths caused by the US-led invasion of March 2003.

That study, published in prestigious medical journal *The Lancet*, estimated that over 600,000 Iraqis had been killed as a result of the invasion as of July 2006, based on comparing death rates before and after the invasion. Iraqis have continued to be killed since then. The figure above provides a rough daily update of this number based on current death rates.

This devastating human toll demands greater recognition. It eclipses the Rwandan genocide and our leaders are directly responsible. Little wonder they do not publicly cite it.

Readers are invited to sign the petition at www.justforeignpolicy.org/iraq/iraqdeaths.html telling Congress that now more than a million Iraqis have likely been killed and urging them to end this war now. A large number of signatures on this and other petitions is a compelling way to keep pressure on Congress as there will be more votes on the war.

There are other ways you can help. Write a letter to the Editor. Letters are one of the most frequently-read sections of a newspaper. Tell your friends about this estimate of Iraqi deaths.

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what
should
I get
him?



Thoughtful Gift Idea



for people who like to think

FROM MARTHA SKEWART

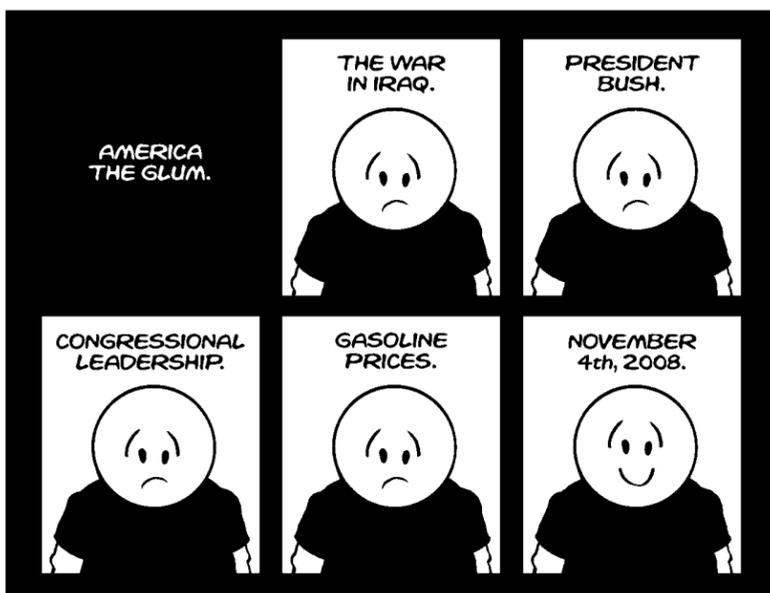
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SEATTLE TAX BURDEN FOR IRAQ WAR NOW \$1 BILLION

FROM MOVEON SEATTLE

Since the Iraq war began, Congress has spent almost a half-trillion dollars on an unwinnable civil war. The cost of the war to residents of Seattle has been approximately \$1 billion.

“Every day the war goes on means more of our hard earned tax dollars are wasted on an endless religious civil war that can't be won,” said Richard Borkowski, local MoveOn member. “In Seattle that money should be spent where we really need it—solving the viaduct problem and other roads and bridges, providing health insurance, better pay for good K-12 teachers and university professors. We've had enough! Let Rep. Jim McDermott know he has our strong support when the Congress votes in September to end this war and bring our troops home,” concluded Borkowski.

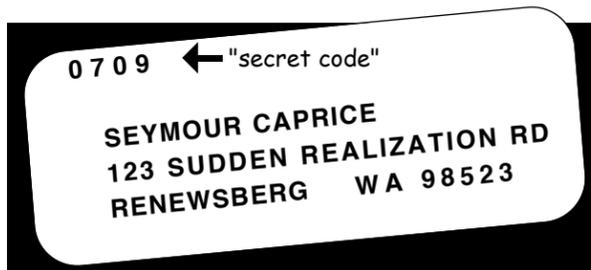


Andrew Wahl

Andy 07
offthewahl.com

We depend on **you, the reader** to keep progressive journalism alive. Please subscribe to the *WA Free Press* on page 3.

Seymour, I think it's time to renew!



Dear Subscribers,

Please notice the "secret code" number on the top of your mailing label. That indicates the year and month you'll receive the last issue of your current subscription.

For example, the numbers "0709" would mean that your last issue will be received in 2007 (the "07") in September (the "09"), which means that you're due for a renewal! If your label says "0709" then you're—ahem—going to be missing out on some pretty interesting news and ideas, unless of course you renew soon.

We do send renewal letters to subscribers a few times a year, but if you can, please help save the paper, postage, and limited volunteer time by renewing in advance of your expiration. You can use the cut-out form on page 3. We really appreciate it!

Thanks for supporting volunteer-produced, non-profit news.

Warfare State from p9

terns emerged—persistent and pervasive since the middle of the 20th century.

The warfare state doesn't come and go. It can't be defeated on Election Day. Like it or not, it's at the core of the United States—and it has infiltrated our very being.

What we've tolerated has become part of us. What we accept, however reluctantly, seeps inward. In the long run, passivity can easily ratify even what we may condemn. And meanwhile, in the words of Thomas Merton, "It is the sane ones, the well-adapted ones, who can without qualms and without nausea aim the missiles and press the buttons that will initiate the great festival of destruction that they, *the sane ones*, have prepared."

The triumph of the warfare state degrades and suppresses us all. Even before the weapons perform as guaranteed.

Norman Solomon's book *"Made Love, Got War: Close Encounters with America's Warfare State"* will be published in early fall. The foreword is by Daniel Ellsberg. For more information, go to: www.MadeLoveGotWar.com.

Bicycle Diaries from p4

bon emissions. Then somebody told me that the electricity for the train is largely generated with the incineration of garbage. I started feeling guilty and sorry about what I had done, and then a thought struck me like lightning: would it not be wonderful if there were a method to encourage cleaner, Greener sources of energy, by creating a market in which the reduction of emissions had an actual value? I know it's a crazy idea, but I can't get it out of my mind.

July 30

I must confess I came to Japan with the intent of inciting armed rebellion against the fume-spouting automobile and the "infernal" combustion engine. But I realize now that Japanese people really don't like guns, so my earlier goal was just out of the question. I also must confess that I am tempted to just settle down in this clean and tranquil land, and perhaps build solar collectors. But mine is a life of revolution. My proper role now in life is to inspire the ecological consciousness of others as I "pass through town."

July 31

My experiences in Japan have convinced me that when I grow up, er, I mean when I get a steady job, I'd really like to be an urban planner. Maybe get involved in some sort of five-year plan that is not centered on quantity of production, but on quality of the life of the worker, and quality of the air and water. It would be great, for example to take the idea to Cuba of having convenient department stores located within easy distance of every household in every dense urban area, so that people never have to use cars, and thereby get more exercise. We could create such a revolution in Cuba, then carry it to the United States, that gasoline-crazy monster. I'll have a chat with Fidel when I get back home, but somehow I'm not optimistic. •

NW & Beyond from p1

already cleared street, arbitrary rules that the Tacoma Police had applied.

(Works in Progress, May and July 2007)

LEGISLATURE FUNDS HEALTHY FOOD AND FARMS FOR 2007

Washington State University's Biological and Organic Agriculture (BIOAg) program got a big boost from the state legislature this year. This program helps Washington growers take advantage of the phenomenal growth in the organic food market, providing the research and training they need to switch to organic. The program has been in place for several years, but received its first legislative funding in 2006. This year, Washington State University (WSU) received some \$6 million in funding for the program

The budget specifies that \$400,000 go to a competitive grants pool for biologically intensive and organic research; the budget also adds several new staff positions that are part of the Biological and Organic program, supporting value-added agricultural product research and economically and environmentally sustainable food production.

Rep. Kelli Linville (D-Bellingham)—a champion for the funding—said, "I am glad that we're making a concerted effort to fund one of the fastest-growing segments of our agricultural economy."

In the past year, WSU received funding to support research in organic grain production, alternative crops, winter organic vegetable production, and providing information to ranchers on sustainable rangeland management for livestock.

Dennis Nicholson, an orchardist from Peshastin, has converted his family orchard to organic. "Going organic can help keep farmers in business, but they need support to be successful with new production practices that they're not experienced with. We need to find biological solutions to pest and weed management. The BIOAg research program is a critical source of information for farmers that want to grow organic and sustainable produce."

"The Washington Cattlemen's Association is happy to see the funding for the BIOAg program this year," said Jack Field, executive vice president of that organization. "Our membership directly benefited from last year's program by attending a rangeland monitoring workshop which was an excellent experience for a number of cattlemen and one we hope to duplicate in the future."

Supporters of the funding include the Washington Sustainable Food and Farming Network, PCC Natural Markets, the Washington Cattlemen's Association, the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington, the Washington Toxics Coalition, Tilth Producers, and dozens of growers, farmers markets, chefs, and other organizations and businesses.

Paul Benz, director of the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington, led the Olympia lobbying for the funding. "Funding the BIOAg program helps local farmers stay farming. Research is needed to provide the solutions that will keep them viable in today's agricultural economy."

(from Washington Toxics Coalition, June 2007)

COVERT ATTACKS ON LIBERAL CHURCHES

A new conspiracy is emerging in a surprising place: American churches. Its impacts are far reaching and are a very real threat to the integrity of congregations and the peace and justice movement within liberal congregations.

The threat is coming from an organization known as the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD). The IRD is no small threat. Its 4-year budget for activities is \$3.6 million dollars and it is backed by powerful conservative allies like the Adolph Coors Foundation, and the Scaife Family Foundation.

The IRD trains and coaches its staff to go into churches to divide and conquer, not in the open, but secretly and under the cover of "just another church-goer." Its tactics often focus on wedge issues. Activists are engaged to keep pushing buttons, fomenting dissent, and tying up congregational, judicatory, and denominational leaders in one argument after another as a way to weaken churches that are interested in social justice. A commonly submitted resolution is to ask the church to amend its bylaws so that if the church sells, closes or leaves the denomination, its assets will not revert back to the larger church body.

According to Reverend Dr. John Dorhauer, it took a long time for the common threads of these attacks to emerge, or for any concrete proof of organized activities to be leaked out of the IRD, but once they did it was obvious that this attack went beyond one congrega-

tion, and beyond one denomination. After a time, pastors of attacked churches began to compare notes and discover that the propaganda being distributed by critics was too similar to be a coincidence.

Unfortunately, the IRD has been quite successful in its efforts, and claims to have reached over 500,000 households. The IRD is allied with another group known as the Association for Church Renewal, a coalition of 30 or more groups promoting conservative theology.

Churches have been hit hard, but as they learn that they are fighting a national, cross denominational organization bent on their destruction, they are learning how to defend themselves. One of the most successful defense measures once an attack is underway has been to coach congregants to speak openly about secret meetings held without a board or pastor's knowledge. Proactive strengthening of a church is also effective, by modeling congregational dialogue and debate, to show that a congregation can have difficult discussions and not be torn apart.

(The Public Eye, Spring 2007)

LIBBY MEETS MANHATTAN

A strange link exists between the asbestos-afflicted town of Libby, Montana, and the 9-11 attack on Manhattan. Much of the asbestos dust that spread out over Manhattan after the attack came from the vermiculite mines near Libby.

Before 9-11, the EPA had recently adopted a zero-tolerance policy regarding airborne asbestos. Much of this policy came as a result of years of human suffering and litigation centered on Libby.

But after the 9-11 attack, asbestos dust permeated Manhattan's air, and the EPA created new rules of acceptable levels of airborne asbestos. The EPA and New York City governments even assured New Yorkers that the air was safe, but many soon after discovered they had symptoms of asbestosis.

Recently the EPA has been backtracking on its earlier Libby policies, and has attempted to use the post 9-11 tolerances as the new measure for public safety in Montana. Locals, who appealed to the EPA inspector general have so far forced the EPA to rescind the Manhattan tolerances for Libby, but Manhattanites are apparently still subject to "safe" levels.

(The Missoula Independent, 8/2/07)

OREGON AFL/CIO REJECTS KYOTO

Oregon union leaders in August voted against a resolution to support the international Kyoto Protocol on global warming. This echoes the 1997 rejection of Kyoto by the national AFL/CIO. According to a recent statement from the AFL/CIO legislative director, "the federation opposes extreme measures that would undermine economic growth, harm particular sectors, or place the US at a disadvantage to other nations."

(NW Labor Press, 8/17/07)

Editor's note: Extreme measures? Give me a break! The Kyoto Protocol is like a tiny baby step toward lowering carbon emissions. Was there any consideration of the vast opportunities (and employment) in new clean-energy technologies?

PRISONS: DISEASE INCUBATORS

American prisons may be contributing to growing public health problems. Drug-resistant TB affects 4.6% of the population in the US, but 90% of those cases are among current or former prisoners. Past efforts to curb the spread of the disease among prisoners have largely been ineffective, resulting in new CDC guidelines in 2006.

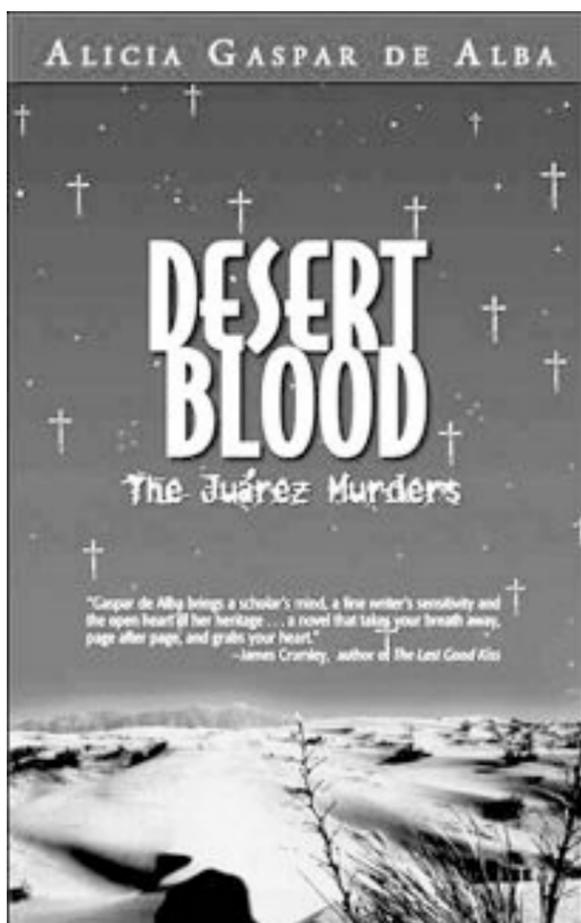
HIV and Hepatitis now afflict some 40% of the prison population, according to 2003 CDC figures. Drug-resistant staph infections are also on the rise, often caught from unsanitary mattresses. A number of deaths in prisons and jails around the country have been attributable to these, including two deaths linked to the King County in 2004.

Other diseases that have been sweeping various prisons around the country include the Norovirus, Chickenpox, a fungal infection called Valley Fever, and bacterial meningitis. There have even two recent east-coast prisons with outbreaks of Legionnaire's Disease.

Chief factors in the extent of these diseases are prison overcrowding and poor medical care.

The US continues to have about 25% of the world's total prisoners, though it has only 5% of the world's population. Each year some 650,000 prisoners cycle back into the community, and millions cycle through the jail systems each year. The prisons are therefore acting as a breeding ground for outbreaks in the non-prison population.

(Prison Legal News 8/07)



Desert Blood: The Juárez Murders

by Alicia Gaspar de Alba

REVIEW BY CHRISTINA LÓPEZ

Desert Blood spotlights the ongoing, real-life epidemic killings of women during a period of more than 15 years in Ciudad Juárez, a Mexican border town just across from El Paso, Texas.

The story begins as the main character, Ivon Villa, is traveling from Los Angeles to a family reunion in El Paso. While on a plane she reads, for the first time, about the mass murders of young female factory workers in Juárez. She becomes outraged that she was unaware of this tragedy taking place so near her own hometown. As the plot unfolds, Ivon must enter a dangerous world where women mysteriously disappear and are later found tortured, raped and murdered.

True to reality, the author makes clear the abject indifference of law enforcement and elected officials on both sides of the border to this femicide. She shows their collusion with the big factory owners who have callously done nothing to protect their employees.

The culture that a “liberalized” economy has engendered in Mexico is aptly described by Gaspar de Alba as well.

The shocking homicides in Juárez began just as the North American Free Trade Agreement was implemented for the benefit of US corporations. The treaty has wreaked havoc on communities in southern Mexico, creating widespread poverty that forces many Mexicanas to move north to make a living at one of the multinational assembly factories proliferating in cities like Juárez.

Once there, the maquiladora workers become expendable. Super-exploited, low-waged, brown-skinned and female, their lives become so devalued that little is done when they turn up murdered by the hundreds.

Although this horror has received some notice and awareness has increased, bodies of women still continue to be discovered and ignored. In *Desert Blood*, Gaspar de Alba strongly indicts the mainstream press for remaining silent. She is outspoken about her goal of using her novel to bring attention to these unnoticed deaths, which are echoed unhappily in Guatemala as well.

Finishing this book left me frustrated. With all that Gaspar de Alba manages to incorporate into it, the book is virtually silent on the collective feminist fight against these terrible murders, a fight in which the author herself is active.

Mothers and families of the victims have risen up to spearhead a fervent grass-roots movement. They

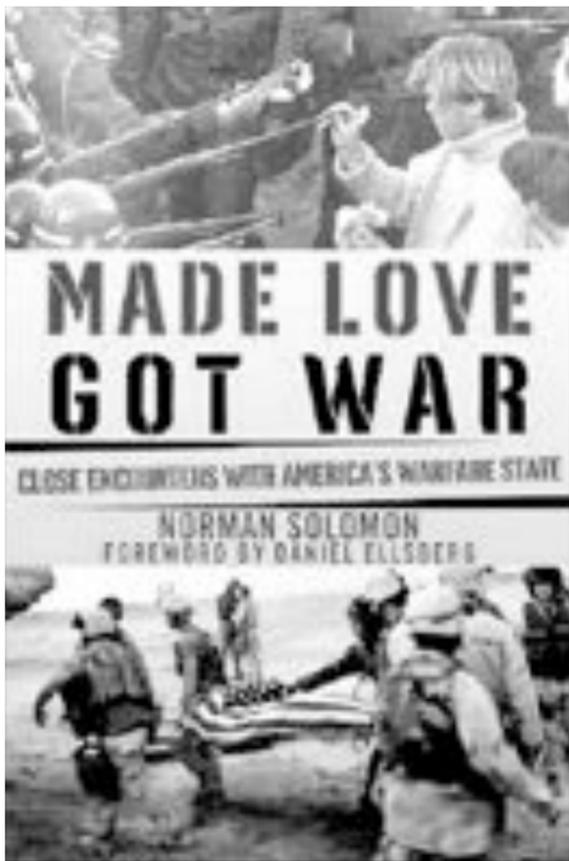
have made black crosses on a pink background the symbol of the slain women, galvanized people all over the world, organized marches and rallies, and pressured officials to do something about ending the atrocities. And, while doing all that, these stalwart women are politically defining their movement by connecting this struggle for justice to the fight against corporate globalization.

And they are not alone in their display of leadership. In the years since “free trade” became the capitalist mantra, women internationally have been crucial to the mobilization against it. This is just as true in the United States, where immigrant Latinas are playing a major role, as it is anywhere.

One such inspiring woman is Elvira Arellano, an undocumented immigrant with a US-born son who boldly defied a deportation order and took sanctuary at a Chicago church. By going public with her resistance, she helped to focus defenders of immigrants on the ICE raids, lit a spark for a developing sanctuary movement, and roused international support.

Women pay the highest price for capitalist oppression. But this is also the spur that gives us the strength to demand a new kind of society, in which our lives count for something, whether we live in Juárez or Yakima, Lagos or Kabul. In other words, the strength to be leaders. And this is something that no amount of persecution and repression can ever erase or silence.

Seattle Radical Women Organizer Christina López, a native of Arizona, plays a key feminist and unifying role in the Northwest fight for immigrant rights. She can be reached at cglopez@mindspring.com. A longer version of this article was originally published in the Freedom Socialist newspaper, Vol. 28, No. 4, see www.socialism.com.



Made Love, Got War

by Norman Solomon

REVIEW BY DAVID SWANSON

“Made Love, Got War” is the title of Norman Solomon’s latest book, an autobiographical account of the peace and disarmament movements in the United States over the past half century. Better than his other books, this one achieves the level of artistic composition found in Solomon’s brilliant and frequent editorial columns.

But the value of “Made Love, Not War” lies in the lessons it provides for current and future activism, the accounts of pitfalls and seductive detours encountered in the past, all as told by one of the most morally decent people we are privileged to live alongside today.

“I was born in 1931,” Daniel Ellsberg writes in the foreword, “and my generation had to reorient itself to the unprecedented threat of planetary nuclear suicide-murder. Norman Solomon was born twenty years later, and his generation has never lived under any other circumstance.”

Yes, but few in Solomon’s generation have

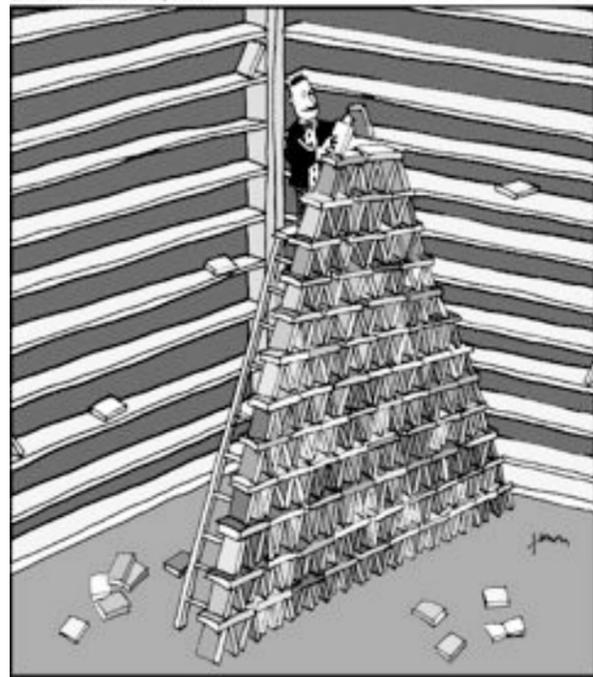
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE BOOK? WRITE ABOUT IT!

Is there a book that has just *grabbed* you for years? Do you find yourself frequently talking about a certain book to friends and people you meet? What book do you wish many other people would read?

Please submit a review including (1) a description of such a book, and (2) an explanation of why you like it so much. Some ground rules: please no personal or commercial connection to the publisher or writer of the book, and please make your article not more than about 800 words long.

Submit electronically to WAFreepress@gmail.com along with your name and phone number (we will not use your contacts for solicitation). Writing in the *Washington Free Press* is volunteer. We also encourage you to subscribe to the paper.

LIFE ON EARTH by Ham



remained not only constantly aware of that fact but also devoted to changing it.

Solomon has refused his entire life to forget that we are dangerously close to nuclear oblivion, and wishing others would also stop forgetting, he inevitably became something that most peace activists do not: a media critic.

In a section toward the end of the book, Solomon writes:

“Today is my fifty-fifth birthday, and the feeling that despite all the changes so little has changed really torments me. Turn on a television and there’s the president, giving hypocrisy a bad name, and this is normal. Always has been in my lifetime. Turn on the TV when I was fifteen and there’s the president, some kind of perverse fount of lies. That was when I started to get it and not get over it. If I’d been born ten years earlier, it would have started with Ike instead of LBJ.”

Solomon’s other recent book, “War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death,”—which has also been made into a documentary film—exposes the similar lies all recent presidents have told about wars.

His new book touches on the same theme, but here we learn not just what Solomon thinks of these lies today, but what he thought of Kennedy as a young man growing up in the suburbs, what he thought of Johnson as a teenager in full rebellion, and how he viewed the world as an activist through turbulent decades.

The story he tells is of his own activism but also of trends in the movement. One point of frustration is reached around 1970, with unsuccessful saviors of the world beginning to advocate self-absorbed dedication to personal liberation rather than structural political change.

“The idea that ‘consciousness’—or, for that matter, culture—can fundamentally change as swiftly as hats,” Solomon writes, “was to cause enormous confusion, shallow posturing, and bitter disappointment

see *Made Love, Got War* on page 14

DO SOMETHING!

Get active, not radioactive!

Use this Do Something! Directory to decide how you'd like to make the world a better place.



ACTIVIST CALENDAR

The calendar entries below have mostly been chosen from Jean Buskin's email Peace and Justice Calendar. To post activism events on her email/web version, send event notices to Jean Buskin at bb369@scn.org. To receive updates of the complete calendar, have Ms Buskin add you to her email list by contacting her at the same address, or view her full calendar anytime at www.scn.org/activism/calendar.

OTHER NW REGIONAL PROGRESSIVE WEB CALENDARS

SEATTLE www.seattleactivism.org/ and www.snowCoalition.org, **TACOMA** www.tacomajh.org, **OLYMPIA** <http://olynetwork.com> and www.OlyFOR.org, **PUGET SOUND**, Women in Black Vigils (various cities) www.scn.org/womeninblack, **BELLINGHAM** www.bellinghampeace.org or www.revolutionz.org, **EUGENE** Oregon www.planeteugene.com/peace-events, **MONTANA** www.montanapeaceseekers.org, **TRI-CITIES** www.tcfn.org/wcp, Lots of **NEIGHBORHOOD PEACE GROUPS**, see below and www.snowCoalition.org/contact.php

WEDS SEPT 12, 7:30 pm, at the KBCS studios, **Bellevue**; RADIO JOURNALISM WORKSHOP covers the basics of radio journalism. We'll go over our approach to media in community radio, ethical standards, libel, the first amendment, and the elements of a good story. Directions at www.kbcs.fm, RSVP to Joaquin Uy 425-564-6195, or juy@bcc.ctc.edu

THURSDAYS SEPT 13 - OCT 18, 6 sessions, 6 - 7:30 pm, at Greenwood Branch, Seattle Public Library, 8016 Greenwood Ave. N, **Seattle**; DEMOCRACY CONVERSATIONS, A CIVICS BOOK CLUB on the Book: The Assault on Reason, by Al Gore. info Cecile Andrews cecile@simplicitycircles.com or 206-783-1152

THURS SEPT 13, 6 - 9 p.m., at Community Activity Center, Magnuson Park, 6344 NE 74th Street, Building 406, across from Building 30/EarthCorps, **Seattle**; EARTHCORPS WORLD NIGHT! Enjoy free music, performances and plenty of delicious foods from the countries and cultures of EarthCorps' international participants! Refreshments, displays, music: 6 - 6:45 pm, Performances & program: 6:45-8:45 pm. info Mark Howard 206-322-9296 x224 or mark@earthcorps.org

SEPT 14 - 21, Declaration Of Peace. Days Of Decision. A week of nationwide coordinated, dramatic nonviolent actions in every Congressional District across the United States to DEFUND THE U.S. WAR ON IRAQ and to Establish a COMPREHENSIVE PEACE PLAN for Iraq. info <http://declarationofpeace.org>

FRI SEPT 14, 7:30 pm, at Lincoln Theatre, 712 South First Street, **Mount Vernon**; Jim Page Live at the Lincoln celebrating the 5th anniversary of PEOPLE FOR A PEACEABLE PLANET. \$16.50 general admission (festival seating); \$11.50 students and seniors. Hosted by People for a Peaceable Planet and KSVR Radio

SEPT 15 - 22, everywhere; CAMPUS ANTIWAR NETWORK CAN's week of protest against the occupation. protest themes: "No Money for Occupation" & "End Campus Complicity with the War!" info www.campusantiwar.net, CAN@campusantiwar.net

SAT SEPT 15, 7 am, **Mercer Island**; **Arlington** Northwest, a display of crosses and other GRAVE MARKERS REPRESENTING US MILITARY MEMBERS KILLED IN IRAQ. Please mark your calendar and plan to help with the set up and/or take down. info Judith Shattuck judith_shattuck@hotmail.com

SAT SEPT 15, 10 am, at Fireplace Room, University Temple United Methodist Church, 1415 NE 43rd Street, University District, **Seattle**; UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION Seattle Program & Annual Meeting "Sharing Wisdom about PEACE AND RECONCILIATION: An African Journey". Following the presentation the United Nations Association Metropolitan Seattle Chapter will convene its annual meeting to elect members, and officers as necessary. All persons are invited to attend. info 206-568-1959 or www.unaseattle.org or info@unaseattle.org

SEPT 17 - 19, at Yakima Convention Center, **Yakima**, WA; Office of CRIME VICTIMS ADVOCACY Conference "Every Victim, Everywhere". info www.ocva.wa.gov or Yvonne Kibler yvonnek@cted.wa.gov or 1-866-857-9889 or www.cted.wa.gov/site/246/default.aspx

TUES SEPT 18, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm, at Grace

Lutheran Church, 22975 24th Ave South, **Des Moines**; The conference, seventh in a series of "CREATING THE POLITICAL WILL TO END HOMELESSNESS" events, will include breakout sessions on current 10-Year Plan initiatives, gentrification, South County issues, disproportionality, affordable housing, and faith community strategies. info Church Council 206-525-1213

WEDS SEPT 19, 8 am - 5 pm, at Qwest Field, **Seattle**; CLEAN VEHICLES NOW! - a national clean vehicles conference. King County and non-profit West Start company will host. Terry Tamminen, former Cal-EPA director is keynote speaker.

SEPT 20 - 24, in **Olympia**, with free shuttle to Seattle; Design for a Loving Future Conference - LINK Symposium. The Annual International LOVE, IMAGINE, NETWORK AND KINDNESS (LINK) Symposium 2007 is a PERMACULTURE, PEAK OIL, HEALTHCARE DESIGN AND MULTICULTURAL community symposium! info www.blueskylink.org

THURS SEPT 20, 7:30 pm, at Town Hall **Seattle**, 8th & Seneca, **Seattle**; Robert Reich; Supercapitalism: The Transformation of BUSINESS, DEMOCRACY, AND EVERYDAY LIFE, is an examination of how mid-twentieth-century capitalism has become super-charged, resulting in a both a larger economic pie and widening inequalities of income and wealth. Tickets are \$5 at the door. info www.townhallseattle.org

FRI SEPT 21, 6 pm, at Maritime Heritage Park, 7 - 9 pm, at First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, **Bellingham**; Whatcom Peace & Justice Center 4th Annual Celebration of INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE. Starts with a short rally and anti-war march to the Church for the 7 pm program featuring speakers, The Kulshan Chorus, a simultaneous Childrens PeaceArt Program, and the Howard Harris Lifetime Peacemaker Award. info www.WhatcomPJC.org or 360-734-0217

SEPT 22 - 29, in **Washington D.C.**; Troops Out Now Coalition Encampment in front of Congress pt Cut off the War funds and Build a People Peace Congress. info www.troopsoutnow.org/, info Jim McMahan 206-621-1925 or jim@action-mail.org

MON & TUES SEPT 24 & 25, at the University of Washington campus, **Seattle**; The CONFERENCE ON EARLY LEARNING. Registration form and info www.engr.washington.edu/epp/earlylearning/

TUES SEPT 25, 7 - 9 pm, at Group Health Headquarters, 320 Westlake Ave. N., **Seattle**; Washington PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY Forum PUBLIC HEALTH EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING in the Pacific Northwest and Beyond Featuring Ann Marie Kimball, MD

THURS SEPT 27, 7:30 pm, at Town Hall **Seattle**, 8th & Seneca, **Seattle**; Naomi Klein on 'The Shock Doctrine.' Klein believes that global economy resulting from the embrace of Friedman's work CAPITALIZES ON CRISES CREATED BY NATURE OR WAR and has created a disaster-capitalism complex. Tickets are \$5 at the door only. info www.townhallseattle.org

FRI SEPT 28, in **Vancouver, BC**; Double Trouble: The HEALTH IMPACTS OF GLOBAL WARMING AND GLOBAL WARRING. All Day Teach-In, Co-sponsored by the Liu Institute for Global Issues and Physicians for Global Survival (PGS). info www.pgs.ca/

SAT SEPT 29, in **Seattle**; The 21st Annual SEATTLE AIDS WALK! Please join Lifelong AIDS Alliance to honor our loved ones by continuing the fight against HIV/AIDS. We need to raise \$800,000 this year to continue providing critical services. Walk at the event, join or create your own walk team, sponsor a friend who is walking, or volunteer. info and Sign up www.lifelongaidsalliance.org/

SAT & SUN SEPT 29 & 30, Sustainable **Ballard** presents the 4th Annual BALLARD SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL. info <http://sustainableballard.org>

SAT SEPT 29, 10 am - 5 pm, at Peace Arch Park in **Blaine**, WA; PEACE WITHOUT BORDERS.

This exciting event, endorsed and co-sponsored by United for Peace and Justice, will consist of workshops and planning discussions in the morning, followed by an afternoon of networking and music. There will be carpools going up from Whatcom County. info <http://WhatcomPJC.org> or WhatcomPJC@fidalgo.net, info and carpools from Bellingham 360-734-0217

SAT SEPT 29, 7:30 pm, at New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S., **Seattle**; CHÉ GUEVARA: UNCONQUERABLE REVOLUTIONARY. A public forum honoring his life on the 40th anniversary of his death in Bolivia. A Latin American dinner will be served at 6 pm. Door donation \$2. Dinner donation \$8.50. Sponsored by Freedom Socialist Party. info, rides or childcare, 206-722-2453 or FSPseattle@mindspring.com in advance

SAT SEPT 29, 8 pm, at the Carlson Theater on the campus of **Bellevue** Community College; KBCS 91.3 FM presents a special FUNDRAISING CONCERT with the celebrated Trakija Ensemble. info www.kbcs.fm

SAT SEPT 29, 9 am - 1 pm, in Central **Seattle**; 4th annual series of MULTI-RACIAL DIALOGUES, Weaving Webs of Color. Conversations About Race. Under the guidance of a diverse team of skilled facilitators, we will use stories, visual images, film, and poetry. \$25, scholarships available. Advance registration and payment required. Register with Washington Courage & Renewal 206-633-2888 or info@wacouragerenewal.org or www.wacouragerenewal.org

TUES OCT 2, 5:30 - 9:30 pm, at Treehouse Building, 2100 24th Ave S, **Seattle**; COMMUNITY FOR YOUTH MENTOR ORIENTATION: This orientation will introduce you to our program, some of the curriculum we use, and even some of our current students and mentors. Snacks and dinner will be provided. Registration or info www.communityforyouth.org or 206-325-8480

WEDS OCT 3, 7:30 pm, at the KBCS studios, **Bellevue**; COMMUNITY RADIO VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION. KBCS is growing a volunteer-powered and social justice-focused newsroom, where reporters and producers are community members committed to skill sharing and facilitating media making of, by, and for our communities. To get involved, come to one of our monthly public affairs volunteer orientations. The workshops are free, but we do ask you commit to using your newfound skills to help make community journalism happen at KBCS. Directions at www.kbcs.fm, RSVP to Joaquin Uy 425-564-6195, or juy@bcc.ctc.edu

OCT 4 - 7, in **Olympia**, with free shuttle to Seattle; Design for a Loving Future Conference -LINK Symposium. The Annual International LOVE, IMAGINE, NETWORK AND KINDNESS (LINK) Symposium 2007 is a PERMACULTURE, PEAK OIL, HEALTHCARE DESIGN AND MULTICULTURAL community symposium! Early Bird discounts. info www.blueskylink.org

SUN OCT 7, 1 pm, beginning at the Alki Congregational UCC and follow the beautiful Alki beach shoreline, **West Seattle**; Seattle's City-Wide CROP WALK TO FIGHT HUNGER AND POVERTY here in King County and around the world. info www.cropwalk.org or Church World Service 206-988-1622

SUN OCT 7, 4 - 5 p.m., at the intersection of Park St. & **North Bend** Blvd. SNOQUALMIE/NORTH BEND CITIZENS FOR CHANGE will hold a PEACE VIGIL to honor our troops in Iraq and to encourage their safe return home. info rubin51@comcast.net

OCT 11 - 14, near **Washington, DC**; PFLAG PARENTS FRIENDS AND FAMILIES OF LESBIANS AND GAYS National Convention. info 202-467-8180 ext. 226 or rschlittler@pflag.org or www.pflag.org

OCT 18 - 20, in **Denver, Colorado**; Network for Academic Renewal Conference 'Civic Learning at the Intersections: U.S. DIVERSITY, GLOBAL EDUCATION, AND DEMOCRACY'S UNFINISHED WORK'. info www.aacu.org/meetings/civic/index.cfm

see more Calendar on page 15

FREE-TRADE PACTS: JOB LOSS TO LOST SOVEREIGNTY TO POLICE STATE

CARTOON AND ESSAY BY DAN MERICA

The formerly great United States has been de-industrialized by free-trade globalization. How many products stamped “made in America” have you seen lately in the stores? Ramifications include our cities being eroded by the mass exodus of their industrial base and our dependence on the rest of the world for our needed goods, a fact which has national security implications.

But it's even more crucial for Americans to become aware that free-trade pacts also undermine American sovereignty. In the case of the WTO, Congress is prohibited from passing legislation that violates its bylaws. In other words, our agreement with the WTO curtails what laws Congress is allowed to pass.

WTO requirements include:

- Congress must change US laws to conform to WTO statutes.
- All decisions will be determined by the votes of WTO members.
- The WTO will settle all trade disputes, monitor national responses and enforce its decisions. WTO rulings are final. The WTO can impose trade sanctions and fines on the US if we don't comply. If the US loses a WTO dispute, plaintiff nations may select which US industries will be sanctioned.
- All WTO members are subject to amendments voted for by two-thirds of the members.

China is a special case in point. Its unchecked flooding of our markets with cheaply made goods has created 26% of the US \$725.8 billion trade deficit. The Economic



Policy Institute reported that, between 1997 and 2006, the massive US/China trade imbalance took 2,166,000 US jobs, the bulk of which (1.8 million) were lost after China joined the WTO in 2001. Proponents of this affiliation wrongly claimed that China's trade surplus would decline and US employment would bounce back.

China subsequently bought up vast quantities of US government securities with the dollar profits from their trade imbalance. As a result, they have attained the ability to blackmail the US. A quick sell-off of these government securities would send interest rates spiraling up, possibly crash the dollar and spark a recession.

But it's not just a problem for the US. The WTO and other “free-trade” pacts are developing into a virtual shadow governments with the authority to hamstring any nation's ability to protect the most basic health and human rights of its citizens. An example is Bush strong-arming Iraq's puppet government to cede 70% of Iraqi oil for privatization by the oil companies.

Soon, there may be no more democratic countries and the corporate elite will rule the world. A major step for globalization proponents will be to transform the three sovereign nations in the North American continent into one super-regional North American Union, which—I fear—has the potential to be an enormous despotic police state with anti-terrorism, as usual, as the ruse.

intent on causing international stock market fluctuations, though that would certainly be hard to prove.

It might also be just that our mass news media tend to obsess about a particular juicy issue until that issue has been squeezed dry and the public is bored with it. In the meantime, “shoddy Chinese goods” is an epithet that sells papers and keeps people from picking up the TV remote control.

I've long thought that the US dependence on imports—from China as well as elsewhere—is unhealthy. It's unhealthy not just for purely economic reasons but also for political and strategic reasons. The Trojan Horse was an import, please remember, and Troy did not exactly benefit from it.

At the same time, it's unhealthy to find malevolence where none actually exists. The toxic materials uncovered in Chinese goods might be the product of sleazy cost-cutting business practices, but they do not reflect international malevolence. The real danger of this recent media feeding frenzy is that it might actually produce international malevolence where none existed before.

The people of China tend—in my opinion—to be much more nationalistic than Americans (I lived there for two years and have some degree of insight into it). The recent criticism of China certainly stings there, probably much more than most Americans realize.

Instead of pointing the finger at China so much, we could see if the finger might just as well be pointed at ourselves. Where were the US import inspectors, who should have been catching lead paint decades ago, or the quality control managers at the US companies that retail these products?

Where were the public health officials who could have years ago warned us about lead paint on kids' toys,



'Operation Shop USA'

FROM BUYDIRECTUSA.COM

Editor's note: the following is from a commercially-oriented press release, but it is well-related to articles on this page, so I decided to include it.

Since its inception, North Carolina-based BuyDirectUSA.com's sole purpose has been to promote American Made products and services. In an effort to increase awareness of American made products BuyDirectUSA.com has launched a special program to help retailers and manufactures promote their products to the general public dubbed “Operation Shop USA.”

Operation Shop USA will allow retailers who promote and sell USA-made products and USA manufactures an opportunity to advertise in the BuyDirectUSA.com directory for half price. BuyDirectUSA.com will be matching dollar for dollar up to five hundred dollars on any AdLinks or Directory ads through September 30, 2007.

“Our Goal is simply to provide consumers with products Made in the USA,” said Owner Danielle Csekits. “Our traffic has quadrupled with all of the China Made recalls that have been in the news recently. “Consumers are starting to demand American-made and we want to help them find it,” Csekits said.

Manufacturers and retailers can contact BuyDirectUSA.com at support@buydirectusa.com for more information on advertising with BuyDirectUSA. This is a perfect way to bring your products to consumers who are tired of shopping at the big box stores for products made with dangerous chemicals and substances.

Consumers can visit www.buydirectusa.com to shop online at our web store or browse the directory to find USA manufactures or other retailers who offer USA-made products.

Contact: Jim Palmer, support@buydirectusa.com, 828-668-0545. BuyDirectUSA.com was created in 2004 specifically for US manufacturers to list their company information. This provides them with an opportunity to be located by retailers and consumers who are consciously seeking USA Made products. We hope that this helps to slow down the huge migration of American Jobs to foreign countries.

or for that matter the phthalates and flame retardants present in many toys and baby products, which are perhaps just as harmful as lead?

We've been too busy spending all our money and blood pummeling Iraq and Afghanistan to even notice things like product safety.

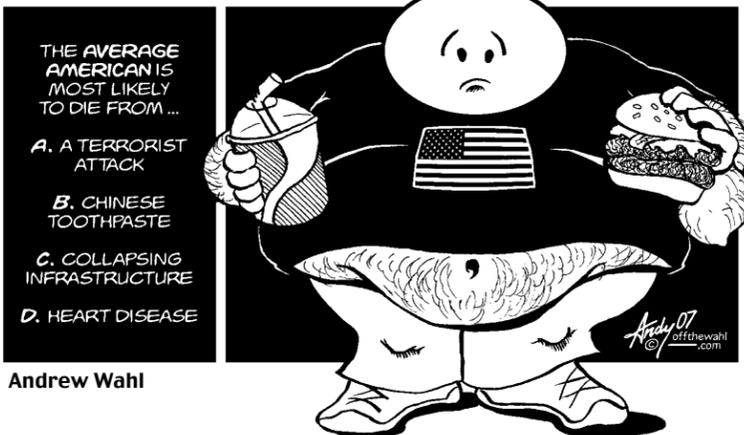
The fact is, many toys sold today—regardless of country of manufacture—are hardly good for kids, much less for putting in their mouths.

And where were the sensible US politicians, who for decades could easily have seen the long-term vulnerabilities to our country due to our horribly unbalanced trade relations and loss of domestic production?

While I appreciate that recent events—including the relative international decline in value of the US dollar—may encourage domestic American manufacturing, I think it is a big mistake that the price for this may be international ill-will with racial overtones. Let's remember that the US is no stranger to sleazy business practices.



Styx Mundstock



Andrew Wahl

A Counterpoint to 'shoddy Chinese goods'

BY DOUG COLLINS

Recently, people have heard a lot in the media about shoddy Chinese goods: toxic pet food, toothpaste, lead paint on toys, etc. Certainly these are problems that need to be fixed. On the other hand, I find the timing of the media coverage quite odd.

For nearly two decades, we've been swamped with Chinese imports in discount stores. During those years, the quality of Chinese goods has gotten dramatically better, not worse. The fact is that Chinese companies have become on average far more consumer-responsive in recent years. Have they been using unhealthy substances in manufacturing for years? Certainly they have, but I would guess much less now than two decades ago.

So why the flood of media coverage on this issue now?

Part of the media frenzy could be caused by a search for a convenient scapegoat.

For one, the Mattel toy company has—intentionally or not—unfairly amplified the anti-Chinese sentiment. Mattel recently recalled a number of Chinese-made toys, most on account of unsafe magnets. The magnets were a design problem, but the design of the toys was done here, not in China. The timing of Mattel's recall tended to deflect public criticism away from its domestic designers and toward the recently besmirched Chinese manufactures.

Other possible instigators for the media feeding frenzy on Chinese goods might involve market manipulators

Robert Pavlik looks at family games of yore



Made Love, Got War from p11

in the 1970s and beyond.”

(As a parallel, Solomon describes the efforts of various people in 2006 to save the world by growing organic crops.)

In the meantime, the Vietnam war was being declared officially on the way out. Air strikes were replacing ground fighting, meaning fewer US casualties, but more Vietnamese. And a pundit, whom Solomon quotes, commented: “The American majority is against the war. To oppose it involves no risk: the only risk is in trying to stop it.”

Likewise, the summer of 2007 has witnessed endless “anti-war” rallies outside the offices of Republican congress members, and TV advertisements to the same effect have funneled progressive dollars into the media war machine. But no similarly funded effort has urged the Democratic leadership to actually end the occupation.

Solomon’s goal is not just to make us aware of what the US military state is doing, but to stop it. Paradoxically, he offers no hope that we can, instead arguing that the demand that we be ever optimistic is another assumption imposed on us by the media, and something we can get along without.

That may be largely true, as there is no need to be optimistic about the current “surge” in Iraq. But clearly optimism—when it is rightly placed—could breed activism and the likelihood of success in ending the war.

And the fact that Solomon has done what he’s done, seen what he’s seen, and continues to insist on sanity and disarmament, should provide us at least with inspiration. That’s a good enough substitute for optimism in my mind, so who am I to say it won’t do for others as well?•

THE WANDERINGS AND THOUGHTS OF KIP KELLOGG

BY VINCENT SPADA #10

Kip Kellogg had trouble sleeping. Kip could never fall asleep. He’d lay there for a spell, just thinking, then Kip would get right up. He’d pull on his pants, find his dirty sneakers, and go wandering into the night. Trying to find that something, that something that would make real sense.

Kip wandered over a couple of streets, then came to a magazine stand. He wasn’t all that interested in buying one, but he figured he’d have a peek anyway. Kip looked through the first few, but all he saw were pictures of celebrities. So he took a few from the back row, and gave those a glance, but they were the same as the others. Just articles and stories about famous individuals or movie stars or whatever. Then Kip realized that every magazine on the rack was pretty much the same thing, and that didn’t make sense to him. It made him think that people were more interested in other people’s lives than they were about living their own. So Kip put the magazines back and continued on his walk. He preferred that to Hollywood.

Kip walked a few more minutes, then took a break and leaned up against a wall. As he was standing there, he suddenly heard the roar of an engine, and then a car came flying by, full of teenagers who were screaming and yelling. One of them leaned out the window, and fired a beer bottle right at Kip’s head. Kip managed to duck right before it hit him, and the bottle smashed up against the wall. Kip was covered with beer, and there was glass all over the sidewalk. The kid driving honked his horn over and over again, and they sped off down the road. Kip got up off the ground, and wiped the beer and glass off his coat. Then he looked over in the direction of the speeding car, and he just shook his head. In a way, he actually felt sorry for them. Odds were they’d be in real trouble by the end of the night, or maybe even worse. It was always the same with teenagers, figured Kip. They all think they’re going to live forever.

Kip was pretty upset after that, so he bought some bread to see if he could feed the ducks in the little pond he always visited. The ducks were still there, and Kip was still surprised to see them out so late. He tossed them the food, and watched as they swam over and gobbled it up.

Kip always liked animals. There was something about them that made him feel calm. Maybe it was because animals were innocent, and didn’t judge you or look down at you. Maybe it was because they didn’t want anything from you, or try to use you or take things from you.

Whatever the reason was, Kip felt better when he was around them. They always made him see things in a much better light, and he always appreciated them for that.

Kip finished feeding the ducks, and thanked them for calming him down. Then he wandered across the street and walked past a mailbox. As he did he noticed an old man, who was trying to mail a package that was way too big for the mailbox. Kip stopped him and told him that he needed to go to the Post Office. The old man seemed confused, and just stared at him. So Kip explained that the package wouldn’t fit inside the mailbox, and that it had to be sent in a special way by the people at the Post Office.

This time the man seemed to understand, and he walked off very slowly. Kip felt sorry for the old timer, and figured his mind might be going.

It reminded Kip of another old guy he had once known, several years back. His name was Mr. Rotenzi, and he used to run the corner store next to where Kip went to school. He was a nice guy, and used to talk to Kip all the time. But then, his wife died, and he had trouble speaking after that. He’d just stay inside the store all the

right
brain

time, sitting behind the counter. It was a very sad thing, but what happened next was even worse.

One night the store got robbed, and because Mr. Rotenzi had trouble speaking, he didn’t tell them where the safe was, so they shot him six times. Kip had cried when he heard about Mr. Rotenzi being dead. It was something he wouldn’t forget. It was a terrible thing they had done to him. They shot an old man just because he was too sad to talk.

Kip now felt worse again, so he wandered back into the city to see if anything would cheer him up. He looked in through several store windows, but nothing seemed to work. He really wanted to end the night on a good thought, but it didn’t look like it was going to happen. Kip even thought about feeding the ducks again, but figured they had gone to sleep by now anyway. He just couldn’t stop thinking about Mr. Rotenzi, so he couldn’t cheer up. Kip had pretty much decided to go home at that point, but before he did he passed a store selling television sets. As he did he saw a commercial that had an old couple holding hands, and it made Kip think about Mr. Rotenzi and his wife. Maybe, thought Kip, that was them right now. Maybe, if there was a heaven, they were together again at last. Kip didn’t know if it was true, but he certainly hoped it. There may not be fairness in this world, but maybe there was another place where it existed for everyone. If that was the case, it made sense to Kip. In fact, it made real sense. He just hoped that heaven truly existed. He really hoped it wasn’t just a dream.

Finally Kip went home, undressed and went to bed. He closed his eyes against his pillow, and tried to sleep like the rest of the world.

But sadly, Kip couldn’t sleep. Like always, he was wide awake.

You can contact Vincent Spada at cemetery76@yahoo.com. He is interested in further publishing of his work.

Next Time

BY BOB MARKEY

My in-town condo abuts a wooded ravine. It lacks trails and is often cluttered with plastic grocery bags, even shopping carts! It’s unkempt.

But a creek runs through it, also deer. Last summer it was home to a doe and two fawn ...and Ol’ Gnarly, the apple tree outside my window, bears fruit.

A homeless couple once spent the night. Later, bedrolls on their backs, I saw them at the freeway ramp up the block, flashing hand lettered signs.

If I was half the Christian I purport to be, I’d have asked them in for coffee, or tea... something hot.

But I did not. A household chore demanded my attention.

Would a more principled, caring person have found some time, a Muslim maybe, or Jew, a Secular Humanist?

Or me? Next time for sure! ...next time...

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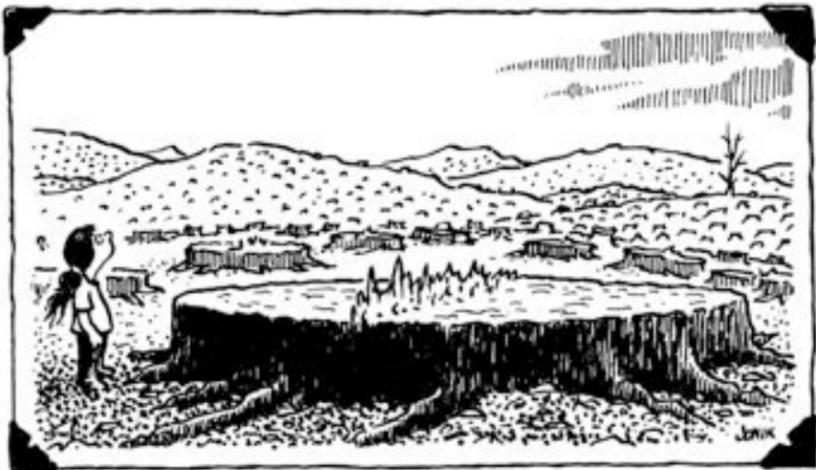
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TOON-O-PHOBIA

CARTOONS AND ART

TO HELP READERS OVERCOME FEAR OF PROGRESSIVE POLITICS

this issue featuring John Jonik, George Jartos, Andrew Wahl, and Ham Khan



"It was a great dinner. Too bad we couldn't agree on anything."



JARTOS

LIFE ON EARTH

by Ham



Donation checks benefiting the WA Free Press of \$100 or larger are tax-deductible if made separately to Earth on the Air Independent Media, a 501(c)3 media umbrella group. See page 4 for details.

Calendar from p12

OCT 19 - 21, in **Seattle**; Bioneers Conference - Revolution from the Heart of Nature. The Bioneers are an inspiring collection of problem-solvers, with practical and visionary solutions for many of our most pressing environmental and social challenges. info www.bioneers.org

SAT OCT 20, at South Lake Union Naval Reserve Building, **Seattle**; NARAL PRO-CHOICE WASHINGTON's 27th Annual Liberty Ball Auction. info or to make a donation 206-624-1990

OCT 21 -23, in **Washington DC** or your own community; NO WAR. NO WARMING. Join a global movement rising up against war and global warming by participating in a massive intervention . info <http://nowarnowarming.org>

MON OCT 22, at Town Hall **Seattle**, 8th & Seneca, Seattle; FUTURE OF HEALTH lecture series with Helen Caldicott. info www.townhallseattle.org

THURS NOV 1, 7:30 pm, at Town Hall **Seattle**, 8th & Seneca, Seattle; Economist Paul Krugman. In his new volume, The Great Unraveling, Krugman studies the past eighty years of American history- from the reforms that tamed the inequalities of the Gilded Age to the reemergence of immense economic and political inequality. Tickets \$5 at the door only. info www.townhallseattle.org

FRI NOV 9, in **Kitsap**; TEACHING ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST: A Seminar for Educators. Workshops will include "The Rise of the Nazi Party," "Rescue and Resistance." Registration will be open in August. info [Washington State Holocaust Education Center ikennedy@wsherc.org](mailto:ikennedy@wsherc.org)

NOV 15 - 18, on **Bainbridge Island**; TEEN TALKING CIRCLE FACILITATOR TRAINING with Linda Wolf and daughter, Genevieve Smeeth. info <http://novembertraining07.eventbrite.com/> or www.teentalkingcircles.org or diva@teentalkingcircles.org or 206-842-3

NOV 16 - 17, at Lewis and Clark College, **Portland OR**; Hope in a Time of Violence: Developing Strategies for Today's Schools. Join a group of educators, scholars, school counselors and mental health professionals to examine causes and develop STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS. info www.lclark.edu/dept/ccps/hope.html or 503-768-6040 or ccps@lclark.edu

FRI NOV 16, **everywhere**; YOUTH AGAINST WAR AND RACISM is organizing a STUDENT WALK-OUT. info kristinebelingg@yahoo.com or 425-802-2185 or www.yawr.org or http://myspace.com/yawr_seattle

SAT NOV 17, at **Bellevue** City Hall; UNITE TO END HOMELESSNESS: It All Starts at Home. The conference will focus on tools congregations can use to provide housing and service to people who are homeless. info Church Council 206-525-1213

FRI NOV 23, BUY NOTHING DAY, traditionally the busiest shopping day of the year. An annual celebration of non-consumerism, info <http://adbusters.org>

THIS IS CHIP SANDERSON, REPORTING FOR THE FOXY NEWS NETWORK.



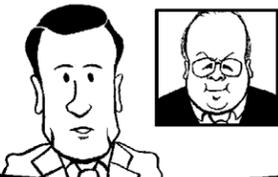
OUR TOP STORY: LIFE AFTER KARL ROVE.



YUP, KARL'S STEPPING DOWN. RESIGNING.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE THERE IS TO SAY.



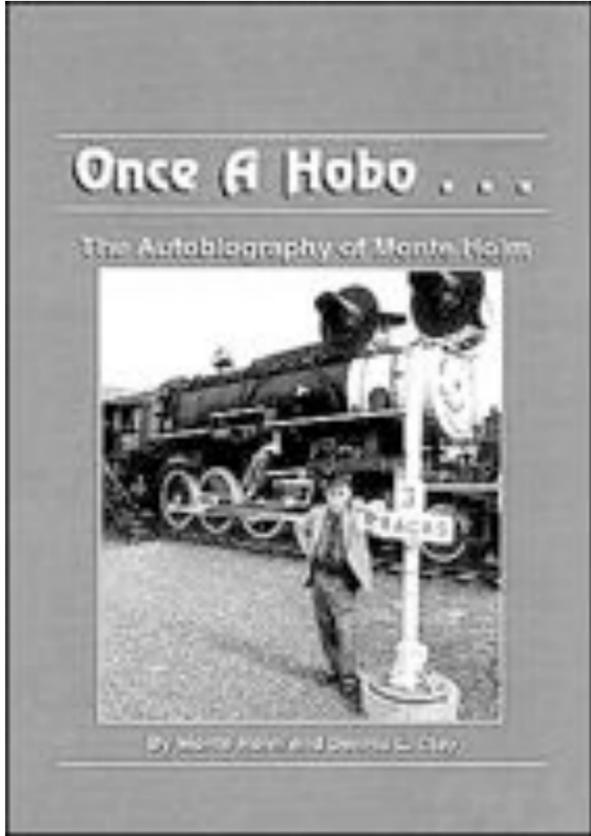
NO, REALLY.



WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED NEW TALKING POINTS SINCE LAST WEEK.



Andrew 07
offthetwahl.com



Once a Hobo: The Autobiography of Monte Holm

by Monte Holm and Dennis L. Clay

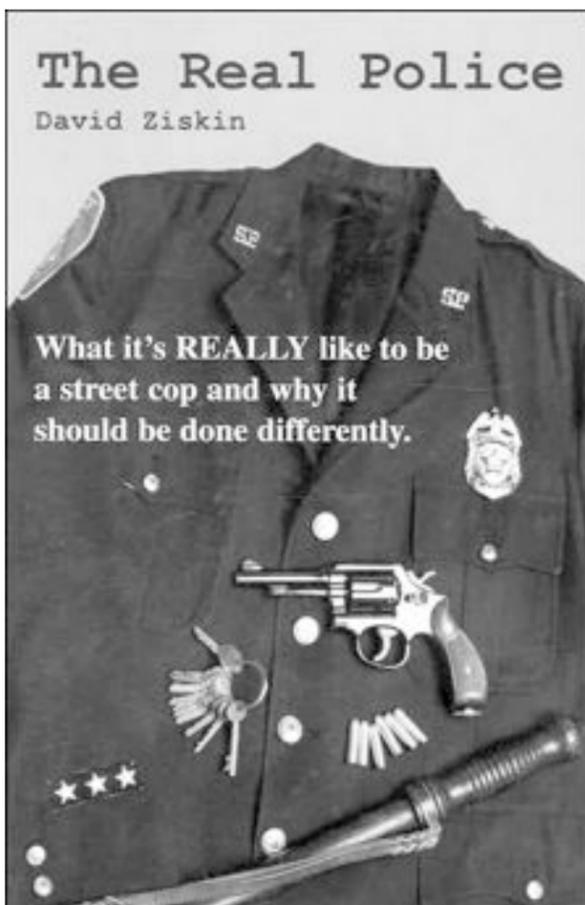
Monte Holm, scrap-metal baron of Moses Lake, WA, had a life much different from that of most people. Forced by family circumstances and the Great Depression to hit the road, he started his collection of funny and dangerous adventures as a hobo at the tender age of 13.

Most of his recollections are set in Washington State, (for example an account of spending the night in the Edmonds jail as a teenager). Monte eventually settled in the Moses Lake area and made a family and fortune, as well as a reputation as a local philanthropist with a good sense of humor. In Moses Lake, he started the House of Poverty Museum, containing a collection of various conversation pieces he amassed over the years, including hobo-related artefacts as well as actual train cars.

Holm collaborated with Moses Lake journalist Dennis Clay to write this rags-to-riches autobiography. Of course, the riches are more of the spiritual kind.

Monte Holm died in 2006, but his book remains as a fascinating personal view of Washington state history.

review by Doug Collins



The Real Police:

by David Ziskin

The Real Police is a wonderful read. Former Seattle officer David Ziskin is an insightful and literate cop's cop; a twenty-year street vet who has seen the best and worst of urban life. Witty, wise and full of stories the police usually tell only to one another, the book puts forth an uncommon view of the police world told with force and insider perspective. Part memoir and part social commentary, Ziskin takes the reader on a tour of Seattle's always changing Skid Road with a sharp eye for character and place. The writing is crisp, amusing and rests on the moral authority of one who knows his beat. If ever one wanted to know the argument for the continuing relevance of old fashioned beat policing in today's mobile and transitory world, David Ziskin lays it out sharply in these pages.

*review by John Van Maanen
Erwin Schell Professor of Organization Studies, MIT
Author of Tales of the Field*

see more Books on p11

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