

Letters From The Front

Astroturf Letters

When the administration launched its "P.R. Offensive" a few weeks ago, eleven different newspapers had unwittingly published identical five-paragraph letters from soldiers in Iraq. (the Mail Tribune published one Sept 21st).

Lt Col Dominic Caraccilo, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 508th Infantry, took the initiative to draft the letter in order to counteract negative reporting and share the "good news associated with our work in Kirkuk." He declared that "the majority of the city has welcomed our presence with open arms," and "that the quality of life and security for the citizens has been largely restored." He said he showed it to some soldiers who said they generally agreed with the contents, but most never saw or wrote the almost 500 letters, which were sent to the soldiers' families and hometown newspapers. Hence the term "astroturf letters" which refers to a "grassroots" campaign without the roots.

Col Caraccilo did not apologize. The Military has no plans to discipline him because in its view his intentions were "honorable." The real issue is a major abuse of command. Falsifying sources for dissemination is propaganda and illegal under the Military Code of Justice. The White House dismissed it as "probably not a good idea," and one "participant" likened it to "cheating."

It Seems Like We've Been Here Forever

This incident is all but forgotten now as events in Iraq have taken such a serious turn and the "offensive" has become defensive.. But it led me to search for genuine nonastroturf letters from the front.

One source is from JAG officer Lt Col Rob Douglas, 46, who has written weekly letters to his home town newspaper, the Rockford Register Star, for five months. Col Douglas, who is a lawyer, is neither overly positive or negative. His letters deal with mundane matters (dehydration, mortar attacks and malaria), successful missions and failures caused by cultural differences, inadequate training and poor command decisions.

May 29: "It has been a sad couple days

with the news that we have lost eight guys. We are not really safe here and have to be on guard all the time outside the wire.... On the one hand we have to fully protect ourselves and our buddies. We go everywhere in full battle rattle. On the other hand, the civilians we work with see us come into town like Rambo and wonder why we don't trust them."

I don't know if Col. Douglas knew just how unsafe it would become. The latest decision to strike back at the insurgents with "Operation Iron Hammer" will only add to the distrust on both sides. A CIA report stated that the more aggressive we become, the more disenchanted will be the Iraqis. Dropping 500 pound bombs in neighborhoods of "suspected terrorists" will not only destroy the infrastructure we are trying to rebuild, but kill and maim civilians who get in the way.

June 19: "I will start with the bad news the new V Corps general, Sanchez, has effectively banned all calls home from Iraq. Once again I will say this is the worst soldier support I have ever seen in a military operation."

Capt Joshua Byers wrote on July 18:

"Life here continues to be challenging, but we're all hanging in there. We got a blow to our morale when the corps commander visited us. He said there was no way we were going home in less than nine to 12 months. Man, that's going to suck. We're working on month No. 4 and already it seems like we've been here forever."

When Col Douglas's unit was told of extended deployment on Sept. 9, he wrote:

"The news rocked our unit like a punch in the gut. Reaction by some of the soldiers was so severe that we had a stress management team come in and give us a talk this morning. They haven't taken anyone's ammunition away, so I guess we're not in too bad a shape."

A Stars and Stripes survey taken in early October reported the army on the whole indeed was in bad shape with a serious morale problem. One third of those interviewed said the mission lacked clear definition and characterized the war as of "little or no value". 40% said the jobs they

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Medford peace rally and anti-war demonstration - Photo by Rico Herrera

Significant Win for the Afghan Women

In a victory for Afghan women, the House of Representatives voted October 30 to include \$65 million for Afghan women's programs in the \$87 billion supplemental for Iraq and Afghanistan reconstruction. The Senate is expected to approve the bill and then send it to the President.

The President's original request for the supplemental made no mention of women's programs for reconstruction efforts. In response, Congress specifically included funding for women's programs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We are extremely pleased that the Congress is following through on its commitment to Afghan women and girls," said Ritu Sharma, Executive Director of the Women's Edge Coalition. "This is monumental for them. Two years after the war in Afghanistan, we finally have a serious down-payment for Afghan women's advancement."

The bill ensures that \$60 million will go to programs for Afghan women and girls such as education, help for victims of sexual abuse and trafficking, assistance for war widows and support for women led Afghan non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The remaining \$5 million will go to the Human Rights Commission in Afghanistan.

The specific Afghan women's programs are based on the Access for Afghan Women Act, the first bill ever written to provide the U.S. government with a blueprint on how to

integrate Afghan women and girls into development and reconstruction activities. The Women's Edge Coalition and several Afghan women's groups collaborated with Members of Congress to create the Act and ensure funding for Afghanistan in the supplemental bill.

The inclusion of women's programs into the supplemental was originally introduced by Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) on the House floor in early October. Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) then worked on the specific guidelines that would integrate women's programs into U.S. reconstruction activities in Afghanistan. While the funding for women's programs faced resistance in debate, Senators Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Patty Murray (D-WA), and Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY) diligently worked to ensure the final bill included the Afghan women's programs. Ms. Lowey also led the effort to include \$10 million in the final bill for Iraqi women programs.

About Women's Edge Coalition

The Women's Edge Coalition, created in 1998, advocates with the U.S. government for international economic and human right policies that support women worldwide in ending poverty in their lives, communities and nations. The organization pushes for

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Peace House



From The Director: End of the Year 2003

Oh me, oh my, it's both encouraging and tiring to look back at the Peace House activities and accomplishments for this unique-in-all-of-history year. Here are just the highlights:

Peace House co-hosted Daniel Sheehan in Grants Pass and Ashland. We worked with the Patriot Act group and City Council. There was the Peace Rally banner and Walk to Medford. We placed signature ads against invasion and regarding Depleted Uranium. We sponsored author and journalist Reese Erlich in Klamath Falls and in Ashland.

The Waging Peace forum; Day of Action; March to Medford Rally and Hearts for Peace Concert. Women in Black began in Ashland and Medford. The Women for Peace Concert; Children for Peace Concert; Children for Peace Walk. There was tabling for peace at events and at grocery stores. We supported buses to SF rallies. We brought David Barsamian to Ashland, Cave Junction and Mt Shasta.

April Hurley, MD, Voices in the Wilderness, came after her time in Bagdad and spoke in Ashland and Klamath Falls. We held non-violent training; attended the United for Peace & Justice Conference and the War Resisters League Conference.

Peace House organized Hiroshima/Nagasaki remembrance vigils, hosted Peggy Law and Corbin Harney, tabled at the Multi-Cultural Fair in Medford and the Peace Justice & Equality Conference in Eugene, and hosted the first annual Lifetime Activist Honoring Dinner.

A year of effort brought us Molly Ivins!! and Medea Benjamin w/ Gypsy Soul!

We hosted Mario Africa, CCCO and attended the Bioneers Conference. All of this plus: Uncle Foods Diner, gatherings with the new groups in Grants Pass, Medford, K Falls, Mt Shasta/Yreka, publishing Clear Actions monthly (isn't CA looking fine!),

and Action Committee Meetings. Counter military recruitment organizing in all areas of the state of Jefferson have educated our youth on military recruiters' misinformation.

There have been many glad times – marching together, gathering at the Medford Armory and remembering that we're not alone. And sad times - when invasion happened anyway and Washington never listens. Peace House had to contend with much loss of income and three weeks of hate calls over a flag burning we had nothing to do with., plus other crabbiness over what we did or didn't do. And more glad times when new volunteers and groups have appeared – thanks Grace and others – to carry part of the load. Many new voices in the community have become involved and supportive.

The end of the year shows nationally and internationally that we have made a difference – more invasions have not happened. True tales are beginning to be told as cracks grow larger in the White House propaganda. Patriot Act II is stymied. And we are connecting and working together to make a true and lasting movement.

To continue its high level of organizing, Peace House has been blessed to hire Linda Richards as bookkeeper, office manager and volunteer coordinator, and Grady Boyd as intern coordinator and co-coordinator of counter-military recruiting.

Make your New Year's resolution to be a stronger part of Peace House – join the Board of Directors, be on the Program, Media, Counter Military, Letter Writing, Grant Writing, or Uncle Foods Diner committees. Send big checks. Help table. No part of our local, national, or international crises have changed – only by continuing to take our responsibilities for these will our country and our world continue in a good way.

Blessings to All,

Justine Cooper

Selection of Ashland Police Chief

Final selection of the next Ashland Police Chief is underway. After a careful national search, whoever is selected will be the very best that Ashland can find for this job!

It is very important to contact City Administrator Gino Grimaldi and Mayor Alan DeBoer to express your viewpoint. I've talked with a number of people who went to the public reception for the candidates. I have also spoken at length with nationally prominent retired attorney Ralph Temple (lead attorney for ACLU in Washington DC for many years) who participated in the candidate interviews. Here are my thoughts on the four candidates:

1) Frank Manson - Not a good fit for Ashland. Comes across with "tough-cop, support the troops" kinds of attitudes.

2) James Zoll - Does not stand out as a clear winner for Ashland. Does not seem fully committed to broad based community involvement in police issues. Lukewarm at best on Citizen Police Review boards. Does not understand the roots of the homeless problem. Does not understand how to deal with political demonstrations effectively and might escalate confrontations with protesters.

3) Mike Bianca - Lieutenant Bianca is a known quantity in Ashland. Understands local issues. Demonstrated good listener. Mike is committed to public safety and law enforcement. If anybody can do it, I think Bianca can grow into the challenge of bringing the police department together and improving police-community relations.

4) Alan Pepin - Has some plusses and minuses. Hard to say how he would fit into the Ashland community. Does not understand the homeless issue.

That's my assessment in a nutshell. Please let your city leaders know you care about this selection!

Paul Copeland



A publication of Peace House

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"To announce that there must be no criticism of the President or that we are to stand by the President right or wrong is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public." – Theodore Roosevelt

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Contact Justine Cooper at (541) 482-9625 about leaving a bequest to Peace House.

Spiritual Activism for Peace

"Awakening a Global Vision: Collective Wisdom and Spiritual Activism" was the theme of the recent 30th anniversary conference of the Institute of Noetic Sciences. Co-sponsoring the Conference was the Association for Global New Thought, which included Unity churches, United Church of Religious Science, and 10 other religious organizations. Media and general sponsors also included Spirit in Business, ReVision, New Dimensions Radio, EarthLight, Utne Reader, the Foundation for Conscious Evolution, and several other organizations. Over 3,500 people participated in five days of presentations, workshops, award ceremonies, and special events to promote on-going group connections and spiritual activism.

James O'Dea, new president of the Institute, began the conference by stating, "If we want peace we must be peace at the level of Being. We are all one. They are we. God is a circle whose center is everywhere."

The hour is late for planet earth, and a statement by J. Krishnamurti's is a potent reminder of the focus we need: "What you are, the world is. And without your transformation, there can be no transformation of the world."

Dean Radin, PhD. reminds us, "The physical sciences have revealed that the universe is deeply interconnected. Research on consciousness over the past century has revealed with increasing certainty that our minds also are deeply interconnected, even beyond the usual boundaries of space and time." Brian Swimme, PhD, claims "The central challenge to the evolution of human consciousness during the 21st century will be learning to live as a unified energy that has already been blossoming with beauty for 13.7 billion years." Possibilities for cooperation lie in these energetic connections between humans, other species, and nature itself. Our failure to strive for these leaps into the future can spell the collapse of this potential for global

cooperation and plunge us into deeper levels of war, greed, anger, and exploitation. Dr. Michael Beckwith, DD, sees consciousness as the First Cause of all being. He outlined ways we may apply the spiritual science of co-creation to accelerate our individual and collective evolution.

Lois Barber sees possibilities for peace emerging from the new World Future Council, a permanent forum linking wisdom, activism and policy making. Here the world's ethical and moral leaders will engage with citizens and policy makers to identify and implement ethical solutions to the world's most critical problems and protect the future well-being of the planet.

Outgoing president of the Institute, Winston Franklin, said "The concept of spiritual activism challenges us more directly than perhaps any other aspect of our lives to fully integrate our inner and outer lives—no small task! Our activism must arise from our deepest, most spiritual source within if it is to have the authenticity required." John Hagelin, claims that scientific discovery of higher states of consciousness, and the widespread availability of practical means to attain these enlightened states provide a foundation for a global transformation. The scientific truth of unity then becomes the primary organizing principal guiding human behavior and international relations.

Thirty years ago when astronaut Edgar Mitchell walked on the moon the sight of the boundaryless shining blue ball of earth floating below him moved him to communicate his vision and inspire action toward peace and understanding between nations and peoples. He and dedicated others co-created the non-profit Institute of Noetic Sciences to generate dialog between scientists and explorers in the realms of spirit and consciousness. For more information, www.noetic.org.

Marguerite Craig

Guidelines To Avoid Pesticides In Food

The Environmental Working Group created the following lists based on the results of more than 100,000 tests on pesticides in produce conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Fruits and vegetables MOST likely to have pesticide residue: Studies show that eating these 'dirty dozen' organically rather than conventionally grown can reduce your pesticide exposure by 90%: strawberries, raspberries, apples, peppers of all kinds, peaches, nectarines, pears, cherries, imported grapes, spinach, celery, and potatoes.

Fruits and vegetables LEAST likely to have pesticide residue: sweet corn, avocado, cauliflower, asparagus, onions, peas, broccoli, pineapples, mangoes, bananas, kiwi and papaya.

Some thoughts on meat, poultry and fish: Non-organic fish, meat, poultry and dairy products are a major source of pesticides, hormones, and other chemicals in our diet.

Many of the toxins in our environment are fat soluble and accumulate in body fat. These contaminants are passed from organism to organism up the food chain and their concentration is magnified as they go.

This means that when we eat animal products, we consume the toxins in that animal as well as the toxins in the plants and animals that animal has eaten, and so on.

Choose organic meat and dairy products, and, when possible, avoid farmed fish. A number of recent studies have found high levels of PCB's in farmed fish. In addition they are treated with antibiotics and dyed with petroleum-based dyes.

They also contain lower amounts of the omega-3 fatty acids that make fish a nutritional champ. Choose wild fish low in mercury, like salmon and sardines.

For more information on toxins in fish go to www.ewg.org. For more information on USDA tests, go to www.foodnews.org.

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Look for Medea Article in Next Issue



Peace House proudly presented Medea Benjamin at SOU on November 17



Medea Benjamin and Peace House Director Justine Cooper - Photos by Helga Motley

Derrick Jensen

A Benefit for the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center with Author and Activist

Monday, January 5 • Carpenter Hall, 44 South Pioneer., Ashland • Doors open at 7pm
Program begins at 7:30pm • Sliding scale \$3-\$30 • Desserts and beverages available.

Activist and award-winning author and Derrick Jensen will visit Ashland to discuss his new book *Strangely Like War: The Global Assault on Forests* at a benefit for the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild), a local non-profit organization that works to protect the biological diversity of forests in northern California and southern Oregon.

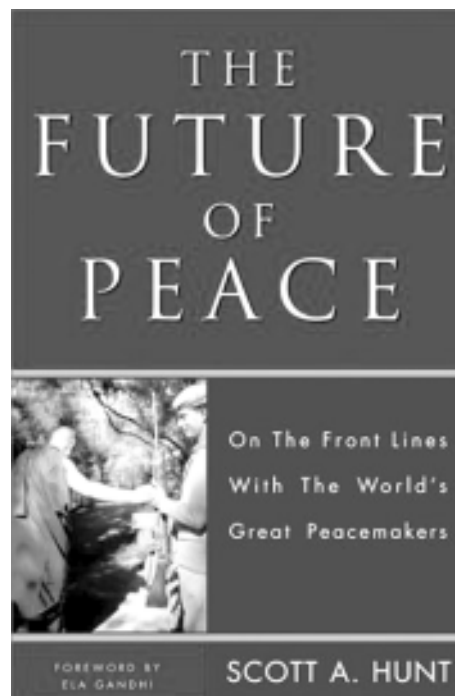
“Strangely Like War” is the second book that Jensen has co-authored with corporate researcher George Draffan. Their first book, “Railroads and Clearcuts,” exposes the federal railroad land grant policy that has become the cause of many of today’s economic, political, and environmental problems, including deforestation, toxic waste, and taxpayer subsidies.

“Strangely Like War,” which features a preface by the internationally renowned environmentalist Vandana Shiva, exposes the destructive impact of industrial forestry and the escalating global war on trees. In this short, hard-hitting expose, the authors detail the activities of an industrial forestry system increasingly globalized, operating outside of any local or even national controls, and now threatening the basic life support systems of the planet itself. The book is certain to have global implications and to appeal to readers internationally who are concerned about unchecked corporate power and the fate of the planet.

Derrick Jensen is the author of *The Culture of Make Believe, A Language Older than Words, Listening to the Land: Conversations about Nature, Culture, and Eros*, a USA Today Critics Choice for one of the best nature books of 1995, and *Railroads and Clearcuts*. He writes for *The New York Times Magazine*, *Audubon*, and *The Sun Magazine*, among many others.

For more information about this event, call 541-488-5789 or email lesley@kswild.org

Book Review



Scott A. Hunt

The Future of Peace: On the Front Lines with the World's Great Peacemakers

©2002, HarperCollins, NY

If it was one of you reading this now who first told me about this book, I thank you. Here under one set of covers is a compelling mix of history, inspiration, and living biography.

In his epilogue, Hunt says “What we must do at long last is take the promise of lasting peace seriously,” and that is exactly what he does throughout this book. Rather than predicting the future of peace, he paints telling pictures of a handful of people who have taken peace so seriously that they have dedicated their lives completely to the process of making it happen, with or without hope, often in isolation, suffering privation, discouragement, and pain, all with compassion, implacable patience, and amazing humor. The implication is that having endured with hope intact for so many years, they will prevail—and with them, the future of peace. Can we do less?

Hunt sets the scene for each interview with a concise history of the peacemaker’s country and how it arrived in its situation of crisis. He also sketches in enough biography to provide a personal context. The interviews follow, all fascinating, with many verbatim passages and little interpretation.

The chapter headings identify his subjects in all their rich variety—Aung San Sun Kyi: Triumph of the Spirit; The Dalai Lama and the Power of Compassion; The Peacemakers of Israel and Palestine; Thich Quang Do: Vietnam’s Champion of Hope; Oscar Arias; Central America’s Ambassador of Peace; Maha Ghosananda: The Gandhi of Cambodia; Jane Goodall and the Fight for the Planet. Their conversations touch on every aspect of peacemaking you can imagine.

Hunt says of the people he chose to interview, “From some of the most horrendous chapters in human history, these great leaders have emerged to show us a different path, proving not only that the cessation of war is possible, but that the removal of hatred and violence from our hearts is possible as well ... they show us that the promise of peace remains intact ... It is to these people that we can turn in order to replenish our encouragement, hope, and inspiration.”

Hunt uses their lives as a call to action: “Because of our innate compassion, we can never truly be happy and enjoy our lives when we know that we could help alleviate suffering but choose not to instead. No matter how much we try to turn away from suffering, when we know our fellow beings are in pain, it affects our conscience. In our inaction, we will not be at ease, and we certainly will not have a sense of inner serenity or fulfillment. Only by aligning with and expressing our innate compassion through helpful actions can we feel the sense of inner peace and satisfaction that we so fundamentally desire.”

Hunt graduated from Harvard University with a degree in government, specializing in political philosophy. He currently teaches Buddhism in UC Berkeley’s continuing education program.

The Future of Peace is available in the Jackson County Library System.

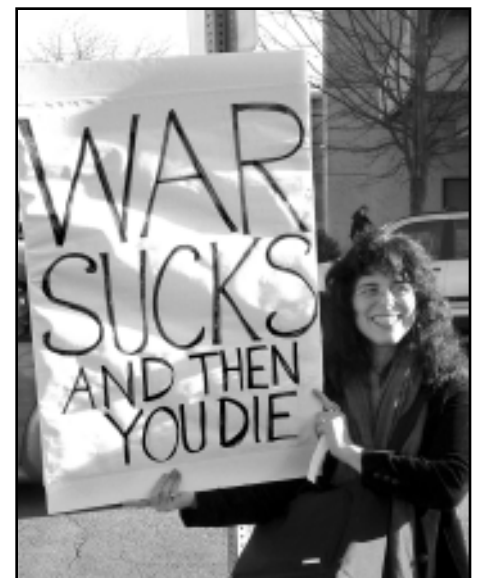
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Celebrating Women's Ways

Excerpts from Nina Simons address,
Bioneers Conference

I find myself appreciating women - and valuing what we bring to the world. In this writhing frightening change-time, more every day. And I so deeply admire you men who are learning from women's ways, becoming better listeners, rotating leadership, and staying connected to others - even while you stay true to your own purposes. Remembering the value of beauty, relatedness, flexibility and reflection. I am reassured by the ancient prophesies that predicted this would be a time for the return of the Feminine - a time for rebalancing the world.

Perhaps I seek reassurance from our ancestors, for what I already know, deep in my bones, is true and needed and right. These days, I'm discovering aspects of myself as a woman that I'd largely abandoned, ones that are larger than I've let myself be, parts that are fierce, fiery and feisty, and also playful, sure-footed and wise. Before, I imagined them too dangerous to reveal. Now, I feel called to bring all of me to bear - from the place of my own commitment, from the place of my deep love for people and nature and culture. My fear pales in comparison with what's at stake.

A friend reminded me that we teach young women to be good by following the rules, coloring inside the lines, and not making waves. We're taught to keep our heads low - to avoid conflict. To be good at caring for others, and knowing what they need - often well ahead of our selves. But we tell young boys growing up to rebel. To find their own identity, they're encouraged to defy the norm, stand firm in their convictions, and step out on their own. Many of us are learning, now, to turn that caring and nurturance inward as well, and to toss out some of our good-girl conditioning, to step out and fulfill our purposes in creative, risky and authentic ways. How encouraging it is to find women emerging everywhere, stepping out of our safety-zones, mirroring and complementing each others' strength and

vulnerability - which is the 'power through,' not 'power over' that is the essence of power being redefined by women everywhere.

What I love most about women, as reminders for us all in this transitional time, is when women interact intimately, there's a lot more going on than an exchange of ideas. We absorb each other's textures, scents and colors. We inhale each other's bearing, intuiting undercurrents of childhood, gleaning molecules of emotion - our bodies trade a hundred unspoken cues. As women enter deeper relational waters, our enthusiasms become infectious, our beginnings and endings blur, seamlessly. Our bodies and the moon instruct us to recognize the cyclic nature of change. We understand innately that the destruction and death all around us also involves a birth. And each of us, men and women alike, are being asked to assist in this labor. To deliver the profound, fierce, single-focused commitment to life that must accompany any successful birth. As women we attentively attune to our bodies, relishing the deep knowing that comes from our bellies. Together, we knit dimensional patterns of our laughter, fury, sadness, and the holy water of our tears. We yearn to mend the shattered fragments, to turn our anger into compassionate action. To integrate the painful, frightening, enraged hot beauty and the flows of laughter, unity and celebration into dancing a new world into being.

Nina Simons is Executive Director of Bioneers and co-producer of the Bioneers Conference; formerly marketing director and later president of Seeds of Change; regional marketing director for Odwalla; named as Utne Reader "Visionary" in 1996; cofounded Unreasonable Women for the Earth in 2002 which in turn helped to launch Code Pink: Women for Peace. Nina speaks widely on women's leadership, environmental entrepreneurship and organizations as living systems.



Medford peace rally and anti-war demonstration - Photos by Rico Herrera

Peace House Seeks Interns!

Peace House is a multi-issue regional resource for organizing, education, action and creating a sustainable future. We are seeking interns to work with an established nonprofit for possible college credit. We are a locally based, community supported organization operated by a small staff and volunteers. An internship with Peace House is a terrific way to learn about local and global peace, justice and environmental issues and engage with your community. Learn about conflict resolution, the consensus process and nonviolent communication, as well as technical skills necessary to grassroots organizing and activism. Working with Peace House provides the opportunity to work with a variety of regional activist groups on issues affecting the environment and global community. Call Peace House for more information: 482-9625.

Clear Actions

Call For Submissions

Clear Actions is accepting article submissions from writers willing to serve on the newsletter committee. Help us get the latest word on peace and justice out to the State of Jefferson.

Email Justine, info@peacehouse.net and Ann, hubcake@hotmail.com.



Of the many ecological alarm bells that resounded at the October Bioneers Conference, for me none was more compelling to action than the talk by Maude Barlow, national chairperson of the Council of Canadians, and author of *Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop Corporate Theft of the World's Water*, coauthored by Tony Clarke.

The same fresh water we drink daily has been on earth since dinosaurs first drank here. Falling water recycles by evaporation into the sky and back through rain and snow. The other major source is ground water, stored just below the surface and deeper in aquifers. To be available over time these storages must be replenished at a rate equal to their extraction. They are not. With exploding population growth and rapidly increasing use of fresh water in industry, global consumption of water is doubling every 20 years, at more than twice the rate of human population growth.

Even with people in the Western world using far more water than they need, Barlow said households and municipalities account for only 10 percent of water use. Industry claims 20 to 25 percent. Its demands are dramatically increasing and predicted to double by 2025. She said it takes 105,000 gallons of water to make one car. Each year the computer and high tech industries will soon be using over 396 billion gallons of water and dumping over 79 billion gallons of wastewater.

She said irrigation for crop production claims the remaining 65 to 70 percent of all water used by humans. Small farms in the Third World use some of this water, but industrial farms are using most and they “notoriously overuse and waste water.” Another major threat is the “massive pollution of the world’s surface water systems through deforestation, destruction of wetlands, dumping of pesticides and fertilizers into waterways, and global warming.” Large dams are another source of pollution, being linked to unsafe concentrations of mercury and waterborne diseases. In 1950 there were just 5,000 large dams; today there are more than 40,000.

Water in the world's great rivers is over-exploited. She cites the Nile, the Ganges, the Yellow River, and the Colorado River as so "dammed, diverted or overtapped that little or no fresh water reaches its final destination for significant stretches of time." The water

Israel and Palestine have so depleted their aquifers that salt water is contaminating them. The aquifer deficit in Israel alone is predicted to be about 12 billion cubic feet by 2010

India has the highest volume of annual groundwater overdraft of any nation in the world. Many aquifers have run dry and wells are being dug ever deeper, up to 99 feet in Tamil Nadu. Hundreds of farmers in both India and China have committed suicide.

“According to the United Nations, 31 countries in the world are currently facing water stress and scarcity. Over one billion people have no access to clean drinking water and almost three billion have no access to sanitation services. By the year 2025 demand for water will exceed availability by 56 percent.” And, she said, that at current rates of use the industrialized countries of the north will be facing water shortages as well.

In her book, and at the Conference, Barlow describes a movement to guarantee a water-secure future based on conservation, equity and the public good. She describes many places in the world where

In *Blue Gold* Barlow describes ten steps for an international watersecurity movement agenda to protect water and to defend it from commercial exploitation. Her notes following the final chapter list many national and international organizations already working on water scarcity's major threat to global peace and survival. One of about a hundred useful citations is the United Nations Human Development Report, which measures human well-being in many areas including access to water and sanitation. Many national NGO's in the USA and abroad are working on water issues and welcome volunteers.

For more information check the Council of Canadians.com website. Another resource is a 22 page booklet by Ruth Caplan titled *Trading Away Our Water: How Trade Agreements Promote Corporate Water Profiteering And What Citizens Can Do to Stop the Corporate Attack*.

A check for \$5 to the Alliance for Democracy, 3407 34th Place NW, Washington DC 20016 will bring you a copy.

Marguerite Craig

Let's Reduce Our Oil Dependence!

Here are a few more “helpful hints” for saving some energy (oil and gas are used to generate almost 20% of the electricity used in the USA. (see November’s “Clear Actions” for other suggestions)

Consider an attached greenhouse or sunroom along the south side of house. This will help heat the house when it's sunny out, and will provide a tempered space along this side of house, helping to reduce your heating bills, even at night and during inclement weather. Waste heat from the house will help keep this space warm, as well. Heat that would normally "go away" is trapped in the sun space.

Check with your power company to investigate low or no interest loans and grants to weather proof your house. My daughter and her hubby recently spent a few hundred bucks to add insulation to their attic space; the payments on the loan were actually less than the savings on their power bill, and their house is noticeably more

comfortable. Build, or buy, a solar water heater; hot water is typically your second biggest energy cost.

If you have a good source of firewood, consider the installation of a high efficiency wood heater. Firewood is actually a kind of energy storage battery for solar power! Even high efficiency woodstoves produce some woodsmoke, but is this really worse than the smoke from an oil fired power plant?

Consider installing a “geothermal” (ground source) heat pump. These are as much as 400% efficient! They are expensive to buy, but the payback can be fairly short, depending on your individual situation.

If you have a “regular” heat pump, it’s important to have a programmable thermostat. This thermostat can make your heat pump operate without the resistance heating element, saving lots of electricity.

Malcolm Drake

Dance Dance Dance Dance Dance Dance Dance Dance
 COME CELEBRATE!
SpiritDance
 Community Dance Jam!
 Dance for Peace!
 w/Ken Becker
 aka DJKennyB!
 Dance Move & Play!
 Come Dance to the finest blend of World Fusion
 Dance Music! Including: World Beat, Funk, Soul,
 R & B, Devotional, Hip-Hop, Acid Jazz, Reggae, Rap,
 Contemplative, Rock, Ambient & More!
 When: **1st & 3rd Saturday Nights:** 8:00pm 'til 11:00pm
 Where: The Dance Space, 280 East Hersey, #B-10, Ashland
 Wear: Comfy Clothes - No Street Shoes on Dance Floor.
 Cost: \$5.00 per person. Please No Perfume/Scents!
 ?'s: Call Ken at 301.5006 or Katie 535-3227
 email: spiritdance@safeworld.com
 Dance Dance Dance Dance Dance Dance Dance Dance

Pastors for Peace Update



X'oyep, Chiapas. Photo by Bill Hackwell

Peace House staff and supporters assembled a bountiful potluck breakfast to greet the Pastors for Peace caravan to Chiapas, Honduras and Nicaragua, on Saturday November 15. Jen Pierce, a social activist from Canada who has previous experience in Central America, and Bill Hackwell, a photographer whose specialty is social documentaries, provided us with background on Pastors for Peace and the organization's philosophy of expressing solidarity, rather than charity, through the caravan's presence and donations of material aid.

This caravan focuses on two issues: the 10th anniversary of the Zapatista uprising against the Mexican government, and the mounting opposition to the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, with the destructive effects it will have on society and living conditions throughout Latin America. Bill's slide show gave us a vivid picture of life in the indigenous communities of Chiapas. This state of Mexico has 250 military installations, and the army wages a continual low-intensity war against the residents. Troops burn fields and destroy water systems, harass the people, and break up families by killing, arresting and threatening the men of the community. As a result women have taken the struggle for survival into their own hands, in one case even forcing the military out of the village.

In the highlands, where much of the indigenous population has fled, seeking medical attention forces people to take the risk of going out on roads patrolled by soldiers. Medical care is severely limited, resulting in an infant mortality rate of 66 per 1,000, one of the highest in the Western Hemisphere. The infamous Acteal massacre of 1998, when 45 defenseless men, women and children were slaughtered, was carried out by the paramilitary, trained by the Mexican army, who in turn have been trained at the School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, Georgia. So we U.S. citizens bear some direct responsibility for the conditions in Chiapas.

Hackwell documented in detail the Zapatista protest march from San Cristobal, Chiapas to Mexico City in the spring of 2001. All along their more than 200-mile route, crowds of indigenous people greeted them and plied them with food.

The marchers made three demands of the government: to get the army out, to free the political prisoners, and to give self-determination to the indigenous peoples. Asked whether Mexico actually met these demands, Hackwell replied that the government backed off a little, but that this low-intensity war continues as before.

We sent the caravan on its way with hugs and thanks for including us in their journey.

Mary Ann Jones

Holiday Ornament!

Illahe Tileworks has once again designed and created an original porcelain holiday ornament to benefit Peace House. The cost of the ornaments is \$7 with \$3 from each going to Peace House. This money directly assists Peace House in providing food for people throughout the year. The ornaments can be purchased at Peace House M-F, 10-4 before December 15 - see calendar.

Calendar

Free Fall Film Series All showings begin at 7pm

Sponsored by KS Wild and the Siskiyou Project

Friday, December 12 Unitarian Fellowship, 87 4th street, Ashland

Shamans Apprentice & Disenchanted Forest: Beautifully filmed, Disenchanted Forest is set deep in the Bornean rainforest where hundreds of orangutans are rescued and released into a protected rainforest. Shaman's Apprentice masterfully interweaves the luminous rainforest world of phenomena and mythical, dream-like folktales with western science and the grim realities of rampant habitat destruction and extinction. For more information, contact lesley@kswild.org or 488-5789.

January 23, 2004 GPHS Performing Arts Center Grants Pass

Keynote Speaker Judy Shepard, Matthew Shepard's Mother

The Laramie Project: A brilliant play about the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard. It's about a community becoming aware. It's about the courage to forgive. By Moises Kaufman and the members of the Tectonic Theater Project. Directed by Bobbi Kidder.

February 20th and 21st at 8:00pm, February 22nd at 2:00pm

Rogue Community College

February 25, at 8:00pm Craterian Ginger Rogers Theatre.

For more information call 541-476-7434

Roe vs. Wade Commemorative Event

Is being planned now for **January 22, 2004** as well as trip to Washington DC on April 25, 2004 to the March on Washington for Reproductive Rights. Protect women's right to choose by participating in planning these events! Call the Women's Resource Center (WRC) in Stevenson Union at SOU for meeting times and place, 552-6216

The Peace House office will be closed

From December 13th through January 5th. This of course, doesn't mean that we'll stop working, we'll just be working from our homes. Have a magical solstice!

Active Resistance!

Training in late January or February! Peace House is organizing a weekend of trainings, workshops, and community dialogue to create alliances and teach skills. The Active Resistance! weekend focus will include Satyagraha (non-violence training), local campaign planning, direct action skills and strategies, guerrilla media, anti-oppression and gender issues discussions, and much more. Meeting to Plan Training!!!

December 13, Saturday, at 12:00pm at Evo's Java House. Please contact Linda or Grady if you would like to participate in planning or have skills to offer for this event. 482-9625

Deep Peace, a movement workshop

With Robin Bryant Dec 7, Peace starts with ourselves and expresses itself outward. 1:30 - 4:45 pm Sliding scale: \$35 - \$50/person Call Robin 488-9504

Women In Black

Meet at Vogel Plaza in Medford at noon on the first Wednesday of every month. In Ashland, meet at the Plaza downtown, also on the first Wednesdays. Peace House has **Women In Black T-shirts** for sale, \$10. They're black! With original design by Darnell Designs. Pick one up from Peace House, at the corner of Mountain and Ashland Streets, above SOU campus before December 15 or after January 4.

The Charter Wilderness School Presents: Bioneers Film Series

Selected videos from the 2003 Bioneers Conference will be shown including: Percy Schmeiser, Maude Barlow, David Orr and others.

Ashland High School

Thursday evenings at 7pm on Jan. 22, Jan 29 and Feb. 5.

An evening with author and activist Derrick Jensen

A benefit for the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center

Monday, January 5, 2003. Carpenter Hall, 44 South Pioneer St., Ashland

Doors open at 7pm, program begins at 7:30pm. Sliding scale \$3-\$30

Desserts and beverages will be available.

For more information about this event,

contact KS Wild at 541-488-5789 or lesley@kswild.org

Letters

Continued from page 1

were doing “ had little or nothing to do with their training.” 50% said they would not reenlist.

On July 13, Col Douglas led a military escort for five medical workers who were to help out at a local clinic. Because the Iraqis believe the American doctors have some superior powers, 187 showed up at the door.

We told them to take a number and wait, but this was too difficult a concept in their culture. After a few minutes of protest, they all rushed into the room, men placing women in front because they knew US soldiers were told not to touch women. They pushed us against a wall. A miniriot ensued. We told them we were leaving because of their inability to follow instructions. We were only able to process 20 patients.

Sept. 30 Our teams are being split up. All the contacts and groundwork that we have laid and all the goodwill we have garnered over the last five months is gone. It will take the new units two months to get up to speed. Two months of frustration on the part of the Iraqis. Two months for their anger to build while essential services are not completely back on line.

Cultural difference and misunderstanding are critical. Iraqis do not act and think like our military. There are centuries of ethnic, tribal and religious loyalties that have to be accommodated, as well as a deepseated distrust of our intentions.

A NeoCon Pipedream

Earlier this year two peace volunteers who were in Iraq before the war told a group of us here in Ashland that the Iraqi people will not just forget that a large part of the misery they suffered the past 12 years was caused by U.S. sanctions and the First Gulf War. There would be no welcome with “flowers and open arms.” Our troops, who believed this, are the victims of this deception. The army is trained to fight conventional battles, not to occupy and police. It is like sending out a crack crew of fire fighters to quell a forest fire and then telling them they had to stay out there for another six months and plant trees.

This invasion has been planned for years. It’s turned out to be a neocon pipe dream: A quick military victory. Plunk down Ahmad Chalabi and his US friendly National Iraqi Congress as a provisional government, secure oil production and get out. Rumsfeld would then brag about the amazingly “few” U.S. combat deaths. That was the plan. There was no “plan B”.

Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

If you think the big reasons to oppose this war/occupation are not enough, here are four huge reasons. These are excerpts from “*Final Letters Home*” published in the New York Times, Nov. 11th.

Mom and Dad,
(June 20) It seems that I’ve been here for so much longer than I have. My life away from here seems so far away. In some ways, I don’t think I’ll ever have it back completely.

I think war takes certain things from you. I love being in command. I love taking care of my men and accomplishing our missions. I am blessed.
(July 21) I love you both with all my heart! I’m working very hard here adding honor to our country and to our family name. Love, Josh

Army Capt. Joshua T. Byers, 29, was killed July 23 when a bomb detonated under his vehicle.

Dear Mom,
I got the first package, and the letter you sent me. Sorry I haven’t been writing so much. I pull 12 hour guard shifts from 7 at night to 7 in the morning. I go on patrols and when I’m not doing that I am sleeping.
Someone shot at us last night. I was getting ready to go to sleep and I hear pop, pop, and then bullets ricocheted off the building right outside the window I was standing in front of . . . It kinda sucks when all you can think about is there’s someone out there trying to kill you or your buddy next to you and all you can do is hope you kill them first.”
I got to stay the night in Saddam’s wife’s palace. That thing is huge. I took some pictures, hopefully they’ll turn out. We’ve had random gunfire within a 100 meter radius all night, every night. It kinda scares you the first couple of nights, but you get used to it.
Well, Mom, I gotta go. Tell everyone I love them and miss them very much.
Love always and forever, Robby

Army pvt. Robert Franz, 19, was killed on June 17 by a grenade.

Hey Baby,
I do enjoy planning for the future. It gives me a lot of hope to be able to plan for our success. I think after we get these bills settled and get on track this winter with the property and the house, next Spring I am going to get us another boat. We had a lot of fun when we had a boat.
I love you very much. I can’t wait to get on with our lives. I really look forward to our future together.
Kevin

Army Master Sgt. Kevin N. Morehead, 33, was killed on Sept 12.

(Oct. 14) I’m doing fine Mom. Yes, I did get into a sort of accident, if that’s what you call it. We are hit by an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) or a RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade) which set our truck on fire. My neck and shoulder were pretty banged up for 2 weeks. I lost my hearing in my left ear for a few weeks. My hearing in general isn’t good at all anymore.
It’s still pretty warm during the day, but gets chilly at night. Could you try and find one of my. hooded sweatshirts to send to me?”
(Oct 20) I’m doing great this week. I’ve dodged lots of bullets and such, gotten little sleep and eaten nasty food, but I’m doing great.
I got to DRIVE a tank today! I was tooth

from ear to ear.
Eighteen days to my birthday. I can’t wait! No one probably even knows when it is over here. Well, bye for now ... I love you, Rachel

Army Pfc. Rachel Bosvelt, 19, was killed in a mortar attack on Oct. 26, 12 days before her 20t’ birthday.

War is a terrible waste. This war should have been avoided. If it had, this young women who was so full of life and wonder would be alive today to share her love and enthusiasm with her family and, in a way, all of us.

Col Douglas’s letters can be found in their entirety in rrstar.com

Carl Bondinell

“In the final analysis it doesn’t really matter what the political system is . . . We don’t need perfect political systems; we need perfect participation.”

- Cesar Chavez

Afghan Women

Continued from page 1

pioneering development aid programs and offers positive alternatives to current trade policies that benefit and empower the poorest women. The Women’s Edge Coalition has researched and developed several initiatives including the GAINS for Women and Girls Act and the Trade Impact Review.

For more information, contact:

Ana Rahona
Women’s Edge Coalition
202.884.8399
arahona@womensedge.org

Help the Hungry
Tuesdays

Uncle Food’s Diner provides free meals for the hungry with food donated by Ashland Food Coop, S.O.U., and P.C. Market of Choice. Come as a volunteer and help with food prep from 3 to 5pm, or with serving and cleanup from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Come to help and eat a good dinner, too! It’s fun and fulfilling.

Uncle Food’s Diner has been serving at Trinity Church, but due to their remodeling, the location has changed for approximately two months. Call Sue Ward for more information 482-2653.

Wednesdays

Caring Friends serves every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30pm at Pioneer Hall on Winburn Way. Volunteers are encouraged to show up around 4:30 to help prep and serve.

Thursdays

In Talent, Beeson’s Open House serves from 5:30 to 7pm on Thursdays at the Talent United Methodist Church, 206 W. Wagner. They too welcome volunteer help. Call Ginger Rilling to sign up, 535-8531

Yes!

I Support the Work of Peace House.

Here is my: ☐ Contribution ☐ Pledge for:
☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500

☐ Check Enclosed \$ _____

☐ I will pay my \$ _____ pledge by ____/____/____

☐ Bill my credit card: ☐ One-Time Payment ☐ Monthly

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____ Signature _____