

March 2004

Issue No. 619

Peace House • P.O. Box 524, Ashland OR 97520 • (541) 482-9625 • Since 1982

## Pete Seda Friend of Peace

Pete Seda, a true friend of peace and long time advocate for tolerance in the Rogue Valley, has become the subject of a Patriot Act investigation. Pete has been under intense legal pressure since 9/11. As a result, his business, family and life have been severely disrupted and he has left the country, becoming essentially a refugee in the United Arab Emirates. The sad irony is that Pete Seda came to the United States as a refugee from Iran in the 1970's and has been promoting peace and understanding of the Islamic faith for many years. He was an eloquent presenter at inter-faith gatherings and published a booklet explaining the tenets of Islam. Local high school classes were invited to learn about Islam, and Pete's camel was a favorite in July 4th parades.

A Federal search warrant of Pete Seda's property outside Ashland on February 18th was covered by national news media. The assets of his nonprofit Oregon Al-Haramain charity were frozen under provisions of the Patriot Act. These events are connected with a Federal Grand Jury investigation concerned with the finances of the organization, but no actual charges have been filed so far. The government is using provisions of the Patriot Act to characterize Islamic charities as terrorist supporters because of their Palestinian and Chechen relief efforts. In addition to the Federal investigation, Pete is also named in a trillion dollar civil suit filed by grandstanding attorneys for the victims of 9/11. Incredibly, the civil suit lumps Pete in with Osama Bin Laden and a long list of Islamic organizations as responsible parties for the 9/11 attack.

Pete Seda is the victim of the hysteria that we are in a "war" between Western values and "evil" Islamic extremists. In Southern Oregon, Pete showed us a very different truth about Islam. We will honor Pete Seda if we remember his lessons and work to bring him home again.

Paul Copeland



## Women's History Month "A Celebration of Women's Creativity"

March is Women's History Month, and to celebrate it, the SOU Women's Resource Center and RiverRising Productions are co-sponsoring an exciting multi-media evening to "Celebrate the Creativity of Women." This event will include an exciting variety of performers and artists from our region. The evening will feature creative presentations from females of all ages, including songs by teenage songwriters and a presentation by a well-known elder in our community. The musical part of the evening will feature original music by Windsong and Kat del Rio with their Band performing positive upbeat roots-style songs, also Shoba Grace & friends, with her inspirational mystic acoustic music, and Country FAUX. Krista Sonenshine and Allegra Lovely, our teenage songwriters, will do a unique and comical version of country. Monique Barker will perform a dance with her unusual masks, accompanied by Nancy Bloom. The dancers, "Shekinah Grace," Brook Turner and Rachel Aquino, will be performing on several special songs with the Windsong and Kat del Rio Band.

There will be an inspirational presentation by a true Peaceful Warrior and elder in our community, Dot Fisher-Smith.

See **Women**, page 8

## Fire and Forests Road Show With Oxygen Collective (Photo Above)

This April, the Oxygen Collective will be traveling the West Coast aboard our forty-foot biodiesel bus for a three week Fire & Forests Roadshow. We will be stopping at ten universities along the way to educate about, and raise resistance to, the Bush Administration's plan to cut the largest timber sale in modern history: the Biscuit Salvage logging proposal in the Rogue-Kalmiopsis. See [www.o2collective.org](http://www.o2collective.org) for more information about the tour.

SOU Media Collective and the Ecology Center of the Siskiyou Present:

## IRAQ: One Year Later

An Evening with Dana Visalli  
On his return from Iraq

THURSDAY MARCH 11  
7:30pm  
Rogue River Room SOU Stevenson Union

Thanks to Support from Peace House  
For more information,  
call 552-8764  
or 482-9625

DANA VISALLI:  
A 33 year-old biologist from Northern Washington, Visalli spent a month in Iraq last winter with United in the 90's. He returned this winter for two weeks, and he will share photos and stories from his travels. Visalli teaches natural history at the North Cascades Institute and directs a summer ecology camp for children.

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## Letters:

### A Veteran's Message

When I entered the army in March 1969, I was naive and afraid - naïve about our government's motives behind the Vietnam War and afraid that the consequences of avoiding the draft were more unspeakable than perhaps giving my life for some nebulous ideal. Further, my family would have disowned me.

I was neither gung-ho patriotic nor a flower child. Nor was I any longer an adolescent, but I certainly didn't feel like a full blown adult. I was simply in the middle of one of the most traumatic transitions that a youth has to face. The government knows full well of this vulnerability and is capable of taking full advantage of it. I didn't want to be in school. I didn't know what I wanted

## Welcome Our New Peace House Staff

The Peace House Board of Directors is thrilled to announce our new staff, Linda Richards, Co-Director (Administrative), Grady Boyd, Co-Director (Programs), and Stuart O'Neill, Administrative Assistant.

Grady, Stu and Linda created a decentralized model of leadership based on consensus decision-making and community led actions and aspirations. The new structural direction continues the development of Peace House as a resource center that is campaign-driven and engaged in the work of community activism. Their aim is to engage and educate the community by addressing issues of racism, gender, class and how they interlock with all social justice issues. Supporting community-led action through teaching skills in non-violence, media, campaign planning and affinity group models are high on a long list of staff priorities. Creating a strategic partnership with regional Peace & Rights Groups and a collaborative network with indigenous, environmental and human justice organizations is a part of the vision they have for the future of Peace House.

**Linda Richards**, a former educator for Ashland School District, has been a student of nuclear issues and non-violence since she was a child raised in a military family. Focusing on the overall health and sustainability of Peace House as a trusted source to teach consensus, campaign planning, compassionate communication and conflict resolution is a responsibility that Linda truly believes in. Linda has lived in Ashland and had a relationship with Peace House for 17 years. Her honesty, dedication, fairness, inclusiveness and life-commitment to non-violent communication will revive our movement by welcoming all who venture through the Peace House doors.

**Grady Boyd** is a 22 year old community activist from rural Idaho. She brings to Peace House a feminist perspective, a dedication to addressing the root causes of violence and much needed vital energy for programs that concentrate on interlocking oppression issues. Grady is a kitchen diva with Seeds of Peace, a radical trainers collective that travels across the country organizing and

supporting indigenous sovereignty, nuclear abolition, forest defense, women's choice, anti-globalization and animal rights struggles. Her experience in legal and policy research, press release writing, non-violence direct action trainings, mediation / conflict resolution and consensus decision-making will fortify her strategy to bring people together to use their collective power to accomplish their goals. With her vivacity and vision, she will guarantee that the daily business of Peace House is sustainable and fun.

**Stuart O'Neill** has a background in small business and community organizing. He co-founded Heartsong Chai, a small organic brewing company doing business in the Rogue Valley. His experiences in the world of small business helped him develop a leadership style which creates a positive and empowering environment that includes input from everyone involved. Stu is also a founding member of the Oxygen Collective, an organization that combines art, education, music, theatre and direct action to inspire participation in the global movement for democracy, justice and ecological sustainability. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, a local forest watch group that monitors four million acres of public forest lands in southwestern Oregon and northwestern California. He believes that fundamental structural change is the cornerstone of any political and social change campaign desiring to create a world that is wholly different than the way society operates currently. His skills in listening, tech support, strategy and writing will support the efforts of Peace House and the greater community of activists.

Welcome Linda, Grady and Stuart. We will support you and co-create methods to empower your strengths and visions.

And to all who desire to work towards peace and justice, we want to encourage you to join our incredibly competent staff in Peace House's 2004 projects and campaigns. The doors are open!

**Tina Friemuth**

become reminders of what happens to the individual during war. As veterans, do we remember the killing? The maiming? The loss of personal integrity? That we were fighting for freedom...the freedom to be at peace!

It is time we, as veterans of war, begin speaking out, especially to our youth. We must speak the truth about how our leaders, many of whom have never fired a shot in war, many of whom have never participated in combat, about how our leaders will tell us anything in order to convince us that we should give up "our" lives for causes that often have nothing to do with freedom or the end result of attaining peace. We must speak the truth about what war is really like and what it really does to us as individuals, to our families, to our way of life.

Peace House can offer us a way to speak out. Currently, there are opportunities to get



A publication of Peace House

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Linda Richards

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Stuart O'Neill

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[letters@peacehouse.net](mailto:letters@peacehouse.net)

**Deadline for submissions March 18**  
**Visit [www.peacehouse.net](http://www.peacehouse.net)**

involved in counter-recruitment activities. Can you talk to students about your experiences in the service? Can you tell them about war and peace? What did you really gain from being in the military during war time? Can you write an editorial? Can you donate money? Can you march in peaceful protest?

If we as war time veterans only sit around and reflect privately, if we sit in front of the tube and complain about our government's actions, if we keep inside what we know to be the truths of what war is about, war will continue to return. For me, I've seen enough. I went to war to end war. I hope you will join me in making sure our children will not be led into future wars by taking action, by speaking out, and by becoming active in any way you can that will promote what we really went to war for - peace on earth.

**Tom Pattee**

## Angela Davis Spoke to Us

Angela Davis, professor in The History of Consciousness at UC Santa Cruz and author of six books including her most recent, *Are Prisons Obsolete?*, was brought to Southern Oregon University on Friday February 6, 2004 by the Black Student Union as the keynote speaker for Black History Month. She spoke about the attention that we all need to pay to history and the need to have a keen memory in order to truly see the picture of our society as it evolves.

"There is a major crisis in and around civil rights and human rights in this country today," said Davis. For instance, George W. Bush, while waging war in Iraq and voting against affirmative action, 'honored' Martin Luther King's grave despite the protests of the black community. Today's color blindness only hides a racism that has never died. Social and economic structures of racism still exist in covert forms, and those insulated from the worst injustices have lost the ability to identify racism. Those who are comfortable, assume things have gotten better, said Davis, but that is not true for everyone.

Davis explored the theme of a science fiction story called "Space Traders." In the story, aliens will provide earthlings with all they need - the things progress promised in exchange for all the blacks being delivered into the alien spaceships to be used as slaves. This story serves as an allegory for the logic in American capitalism of putting economically depressed blacks into prisons. The international corporate apparatus sells the idea of the removal and disappearance of so many blacks into the profitable punishment industry. Prisoners suffer civil death, the loss of civil rights, and the 13th amendment legalizes this slavery for those convicted of crimes.

Davis went on to explain that, 200 years ago, the death penalty was abolished, except for the crime of murder for only whites. Slaves could still be killed for over 70 offenses. Statistics show how disproportionately blacks are sentenced today. Reparations for the system of slavery might indeed be possible by changing the legacy of penal slavery and providing blacks with equal opportunity. Aware Americans must create a continuous movement for equality, and to build lasting communities of struggle, we must be far more complex, wide reaching, and historically minded in our analysis. We must, she concluded, find a collective voice for justice.

**Pavani Marden**

## Marguerite Craig's NGO Sampler

### Food First

Raj Patel is a policy analyst at the Institute for Food and Development Policy, also known as Food First, based in Oakland. "Farm policy is food policy is poverty policy. In every country, the poorest people are those who live and work in agricultural communities. Policy that affects farming is necessarily policy that affects poverty. The world has been dragged toward an export model of agriculture — an industrial system in which crops are grown with machines and chemicals, without regard to the health of the soil, the farmers who grow it, or the rural communities that support them. And because U. S. industrial farm policy has been imposed in the developing world through the World Bank and International Monetary fund, rural America's malaise has spread worldwide." He points out that large agricultural corporations have been buying political will in Washington for decades. "The majority of the 2002 farm bill's \$180 billion appropriation is earmarked for corporations and wealthy landowners, in defiance of economic or good sense." This is why the farmers of the world, including many in rural American farms, protested the FTAA (Free Trade Agreement of the Americas) in Miami, and organized against the Central America Free Trade Area (CAFTA). Food First has produced educational materials that demonstrate how CAFTA will hurt poor people even more than NAFTA does. Food First also took the lead in organizing civil society organizations in Geneva, where World Trade Organization delegates were discussing international trade talks. Their demand is that the WTO stay out of the food and agriculture sectors. To order Food First's books, such as "Shafted: Free Trade and America's Working Poor," visit [www.foodfirst.org](http://www.foodfirst.org) or call (510) 654-4400.

### Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

At the top of an ambitious list of programs for 2004, The Oregon division of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) lists plans for a healthy and sustainable environment. They are providing ongoing support of the Josiah Hill III free lead screening clinic; advocating to protect the Clean Air Act from Bush's so-called "Clear Skies" initiative, and encouraging Governor Kulongowski to begin implementing the Pesticide Right to Know law in Oregon. The Oregon PSR are moving into active response to the EPA's

dangerous mercury ruling, and fighting against the delivery of yet more waste at Hanford, already considered the most contaminated nuclear site in the western hemisphere. They are fighting attempts to eliminate product liability for gun manufacturers and advocating continuation of the assault weapons ban. At the top of a list of five programs toward creating a more peaceful world is a "SMART Security Platform" which seeks an alternative response to terrorism by strengthening international treaties, preventing the development of new weapons of mass destruction, and shifting spending from military to humanitarian programs. For a copy of their current newsletter titled "The Folded Crane" call or write PSR at 921 SW Morrison, Suite 206, Portland, OR 97205. Phone 503-274-2720. E-mail [info@OregonPSR.org](mailto:info@OregonPSR.org).

### The Abraham Fund Initiatives

This non-profit foundation based in New York works globally to advance coexistence, equality and cooperation between Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. They operate major regional education programs that are introducing entire communities to the concepts of cooperation, coexistence and conflict resolution. They involve parents, teachers, students, and local civic, educational and religious leaders in ethnically mixed areas, bringing them together to seek solutions to local conflict situations. Currently, they are supporting 50 grassroots projects operating all over Israel. They have launched a Coexistence Network of nearly 100 coexistence organizations focusing on professional support and cooperation. In every corner of Israel members are working together to advance the cause of coexistence. You can reach The Abraham Fund Initiatives at 477 Madison Avenue, New York 10022 - 212-303-9421, e-mail: [info@abrahamfund.org](mailto:info@abrahamfund.org).

Website: [www.abrahamfund.org](http://www.abrahamfund.org). In Ashland, Carol Hwoschinsky has been in Israel several times, taking groups to meet with Israelis and Arabs in a program called Compassionate Listening - Listening with the Heart. Her outstanding handbook for this work is applicable to any community and may be purchased through MidEast Citizen Diplomacy, P.O. Box 17, Indianola, WA 98342. (360) 297-2280. [www.mideastdiplomacy.org](http://www.mideastdiplomacy.org). e-mail: [office@mideastdiplomacy.org](mailto:office@mideastdiplomacy.org). Cost is \$22.50 for single copies.

**Marguerite Craig**



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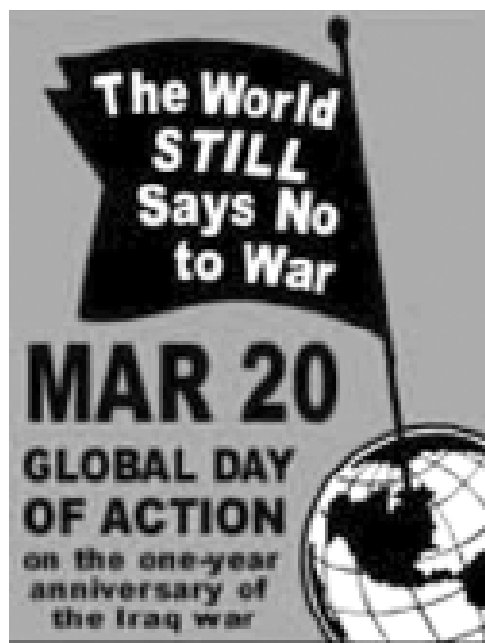
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### International Day of Action Against War and Occupation

Momentum is building around the world for the Global Day of Action against War and Occupation on March 20, the one-year anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. On that day, people on every continent will take to the streets to say YES to peace and NO to pre-emptive war and occupation. Joining with growing numbers of military families and soldiers, we will call for an end to the occupation of Iraq and Bush's militaristic foreign policies, and highlight the linkages between the occupations of Iraq and Palestine. March 20 will be the first time the world's "other superpower," as The New York Times described us, will take center stage since February 15, when more than 15 million people across the globe expressed their opposition to Bush's looming war on Iraq.

In southern Oregon, plans are underway for actions and marches in Medford, Ashland and Grants Pass. Contact Peace House (482-9625) to connect with others participating in this important day of action.

[www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)  
[www.bringthemhomenow.org](http://www.bringthemhomenow.org)  
[www.uslaboragainstawar.org](http://www.uslaboragainstawar.org)  
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[www.actagainstawar.org](http://www.actagainstawar.org)  
[www.internationalanswer.org](http://www.internationalanswer.org)

## War on Earth

### Bush Administration Strikes at Defenseless Species

*War On Earth is a new column to be a regular feature in Clear Actions. Lesley Adams is Outreach Coordinator for Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, bringing to light the current issues in our environment-at-risk.*

Our government appears to be coping with loss by way of ignoring it, whether it is the loss of jobs, the loss of environmental protection or the loss of life. The month of March will mark the end of Survey and Manage rules, a significant step in the Bush Administration's systematic dismantling of legal protections for threatened and endangered species. This will open thousands of acres of the public's last old-growth to logging. No longer will the government look before it logs old-growth forests.

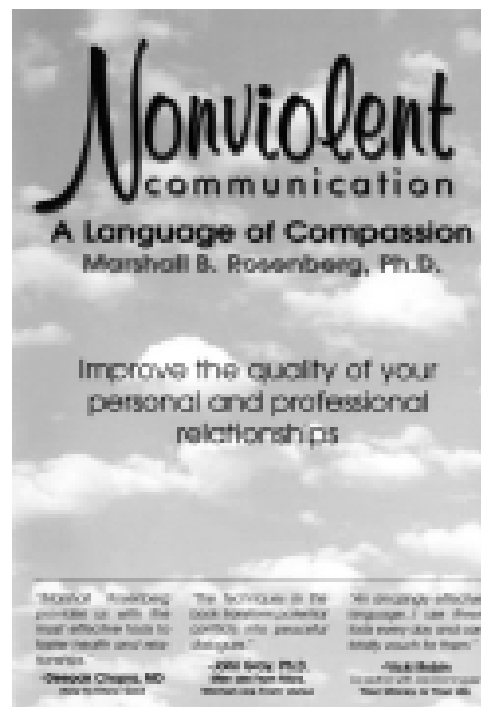
Survey and Manage, a little-known component of the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP), was put in place to protect hundreds of rare, threatened and sensitive species. Forest conservationists have used the Survey and Manage to hold federal land managers accountable and stop old-growth logging. Their success has become a major annoyance to timber sale planners eager to get the cut out, so the Bush administration decided to remove this portion of the NFP.

The administration has steadily eroded the forest safeguards that took decades of struggle to put in place. The Aquatic Conservation Strategy, intended to protect aquatic species like endangered salmon runs, is also heading out the door. The National Forest Management Act is being rewritten and the Clinton-era Roadless Rule has been suspended. Bush's Healthy Forests Initiative is a cruel twist of rhetoric that is an insult to authentic restoration foresters.

These changes in federal law will have tangible and immediate impacts in our local bioregion. The lower Rogue River flows through the Zane Grey Roadless Area, the largest forested Bureau of Land

See *War on Earth*, page 8

# Book Review



### Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Compassion

Marshall B. Rosenberg, Ph.D.  
 ©1999, Del Mar, CA, PuddleDancer Press

Language matters; our words are crucial.

How could something that looks so easy turn out to be so darn difficult? All the way through Nonviolent Language, I kept thinking, "This is too obvious ... it's so simple it's simplistic ... anyone coulda/shoulda/woulda figured this out!" By the end, however, I discovered that speaking in "nonviolent language" is anything but easy. It's hard work to re-think your whole culture of communication and even harder to re-examine your whole culture of self.

The subtitle of Marshall Rosenberg's book is *A Language of Compassion* and this is the key understanding. He begins with these words: "Believing that it is our nature to enjoy giving and receiving in a compassionate manner, I have been preoccupied most of my life with two questions. What happens to disconnect us from our compassionate nature, leading us to behave violently and exploitatively? And conversely, what allows some people to stay connected to their compassionate nature under even the most trying circumstances?" He continues later, "While studying the factors that affect our ability to stay compassionate, I was struck by the crucial role of language and our use of words."

We make evaluations, he says, rather than neutral observations. We speak in judgments, but rarely express our emotions, our feelings. We find it easier to condemn, ignore, or punish than to specify what we really want and why. If we could change these habits of speech—and the thought patterns behind them—we could change our own lives and indeed, change the world.

#### Focus on four areas

His model asks us to "focus the light of

consciousness" on four areas—observations, feelings, needs, requests. This model, he says, is appropriate in disputes and conflicts of any nature, at any level. It works in both directions, speaker to listener and listener to speaker.

- The first job in nonviolent communication (NVC) is to separate observation from evaluation. Evaluation: Hank Smith is a poor soccer player. Observation: Hank Smith has not scored a goal in 20 games.

- Second, develop a vocabulary of feelings. Distinguish between words that describe actual feelings and words that describe thoughts, assessments, and interpretations. Assessment: I feel inadequate as a guitar player. Feeling: I feel disappointed in myself as a guitar player.

- Third, acknowledge the needs behind your feelings. "What others say and do may be the stimulus, but never the cause, of our feelings."

- Fourth, express a clear request, what you would like the other person to do if he or she is willing.

If you are the speaker, the basic NVC formula is: "When I see \_\_\_\_ (observation), I feel \_\_\_\_ (feeling) because I \_\_\_\_ (need), so if you are willing, I would like you to \_\_\_\_ (request)." If you are the listener, it works pretty much the same way in reverse: empty your mind and listen for all these elements.

#### No shortcuts

While this kind of statement may sound absurdly awkward and artificial, it is in fact remarkably efficient and respectful. Instead of accusing, griping, or stuffing, you offer all the information required for the other person to understand you with empathy, and you also offer a path toward solution. It may well be there is no shortcut.

Rosenberg cites an environmental confrontation as example. "If we want to protect the environment and we go to a corporate executive with the attitude, 'You know, you are really a killer of the planet, you have no right to abuse the land in this way,' we have severely impaired our chances of getting our needs met. It is a rare human being who can maintain focus on our needs when we are expressing them through images of their wrongness." Try imagining the conversation in NVC form.

There's a lot more, including four simple exercises at the end that will make you think and think again. Rosenberg will not let us off the hook. We have to listen to ourselves and others well enough to recognize it all—the problem, how we feel about it and why and, absolutely necessary, the solution.

Find Dr. Rosenberg's Center for Nonviolent Communication on the web at [www.cnvc.org](http://www.cnvc.org). Jackson County Library has the book.

**Nancy Golden**



Feb 23 at Medford Federal Building. Mourners Mark the loss of threatened and sensitive species due to the end of Survey and Manage.

## Radical Bookshelf

Many thanks to George Shoom from Cave Junction for graciously donating books from Common Courage Press to our Radical Bookshelf project at the Ashland Public Library.

Peace House is soliciting independent publishing companies and YOU for books on globalization, eco-feminism, nuclear activism, indigenous sovereignty, racial justice, economic justice, environment, gender politics and peace. Feel free to donate funds to purchase books. Contact Grady Boyd at Peace House, (541) 482-9625, recruit@peacehouse.net

Here's a list of the books we've collected:

*The Death Game; Capital Punishment and the Luck of the Draw*

*Bleeding the Patient; the Consequences of Corporate Health Care*

*A Job to Die For; Why so many Americans are killed, injured or made ill at work and what to do about it*

*Fat Cats and Running Dogs; The Enron Stage of Capitalism*

*Steal This Book; and Get Life Without Parole*

*Profits Pending; How Life Patents Represent the Biggest Swindle of the 21st Century*

*The War Against Oblivion; The Zapatista Chronicles*

*Portraits of Empire; Unmasking Imperial Illusions from the "American Century" to the "War on Terror"*

*The Open Sore of a Continent; A Personal Narrative of the Nigerian Crisis*

*Killing Hope; U.S. Military and C.I.A. Interventions since WW2*

*Rogue State; A Guide to the World's Only Superpower*

*Citizen Muckraking; How to Investigate and Right Wrongs in Your Community*

*The Habits of Highly Deceptive Media; Decoding Spin and Lies in Mainstream News*

*Killing Time; An Investigation into the Death Row Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal*

*Race for Justice; Mumia Abu-Jamal's Fight Against the Death Penalty*

*Oil, Power and Empire; Iraq and the U.S. Global Agenda*

*Tinderbox; U.S. Middle East Policy and the Roots of Terrorism*

*Cunt: A Declaration of Independence, 2nd Edition*

*Strangely Like War; The Global Assault on Forests*

*Communion; The Female Search for Love*

"I do not allow myself to be overcome by hopelessness, no matter how tough the situation. I believe that if you just do your little bit without thinking of the bigness of what you stand against, if you turn to the largement of your own capacities, just that in itself creates new potential."

- Vandana Shiva, India  
Activist and Author



### In Honor of Rachel Corrie

Wide Awake Film Forum presents, *Jenin Jenin* Saturday, March 13 at 7:00 pm at Evo's Javahouse, 376 E. Main Street, Ashland. *Jenin Jenin* is an award winning documentary film that shows the extent to which prolonged oppression has affected the state of mind of the Palestinian inhabitants of the Jenin refugee camp. The film was banned in Israel.

One year ago, on March 16, Rachel Corrie was murdered in the Gaza Strip by a US-made Israeli bulldozer while protesting destruction of Palestinian homes by the Israeli Army. Her work lives on in the efforts of all who are engaged in non-violent struggle to defend the dignity of humanity in the face of occupation, repression and violence. Join us in honoring the memory of Rachel.

## The Women's Edge Coalition Advocacy Spurs Assessment of CAFTA's Impact on Women Workers; Uncovers Ways the Trade Agreement Could Benefit or Harm Women

Washington, D.C., January 26, 2004

In a victory for the women of Central America, the Women's Edge Coalition successfully worked with members of Congress to ensure that the United States Trade Representative (USTR) looks at how Central American women's and men's employment, wages, and working conditions may be affected by the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). This will enable the U.S. and participating Central American countries to craft policies that will help even the poorest women.

Under the Trade Promotion Authority Act passed in 2001, the USTR is required to conduct an assessment of how trade agreements will affect the employment of workers in the U.S. and the other countries involved. The separate assessment of women's and men's employment will be done within this analysis.

For example, the U.S. recently concluded negotiations to include Costa Rica, where 76 percent of women work in the service industry. The Women's Edge Coalition would like to see the employment analysis assess how the opening up of the services industry will affect women's wages, working conditions and opportunities in areas such as this.

To advocate for the assessment, the Women's Edge Coalition worked with Representatives Jim McGovern (D-MA), Hilda Solis (D-CA), and Louise Slaughter

(D-NY) to initiate a "Dear Colleague" letter that over 40 members of Congress signed and sent to Robert Zoellick, the United States Trade Representative. The letter asked the USTR to look not only at employment but also at the terms and work conditions for women in Central America, as women make-up 88 percent of the workers in maquilas in El Salvador, and 80 percent in Honduras and Nicaragua.

The Women's Edge Coalition also initiated an organizational sign-on letter to Robert Zoellick that was signed by several of its coalition members including, the Hunger Project, Oxfam America, Pact, CEDPA, Lutheran World Relief, the International Labor Rights Fund, and the Women's Environment and Development Organization.

"The vast majority of the poor in Central America are women, and if a primary goal of CAFTA is to pull the poor out of poverty, then it must address women or it will fail in its mission," said Elise Smith, Co-Founder and Board President, Women's Edge Coalition. "We are pleased that the USTR recognizes this and is taking steps to ensure that women are not left behind."

In July 2003, the Women's Edge's Coalition also successfully advocated for the U.S.-Chile agreement to include an assessment of men's and women's employment, however, the final version of the analysis reduced the assessment to a mere two paragraphs, making it virtually ineffective.

"By including an assessment of women's

employment in CAFTA, the USTR is making the right decision, however, it should not end up on the cutting room floor as it did for the U.S.-Chile agreement," added Ritu Sharma, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Women's Edge Coalition. "We cannot condemn more women to an unending cycle of poverty when a simple assessment could easily uncover ways women could benefit from the global economy. We are asking the U.S. government to conduct this review so that trade works for women."

The Women's Edge Coalition is now working to ensure that a comprehensive assessment of how trade agreements affect poor women and men is required for every trade agreement the U.S. signs.

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

## Clear Actions

### Call For Submissions

Clear Actions is accepting article submissions from writers willing to serve on the newsletter committee. Help us get out the latest word on peace, justice, nonviolence and the environment. Email Grady at info@peacehouse.net or Ann at hubcake@hotmail.com



## MERCURY DESIGN



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## MRG Foundation Sponsoring Two Events in Ashland

An Evening of American Indian Storytelling with Esther Stutzman, Kalapuya Elder - Thursday, March 25, 7 - 9 pm. Ashland Springs Hotel, 212 East Main Street, Ashland. Esther Stutzman is a native Oregonian and traditional American Indian storyteller of Kalapuya/Coos heritage. She learned the stories from her grandmothers and she has been telling stories of the ancient ways for over forty years. She is a descendant of the Headman Camafeema (Halo) of the Yonkalla/Kalapuya and is currently writing culturally correct Kalapuya curriculum for use in schools. Esther works with Title VI Indian Education programs and Arts in Education Programs throughout the state of Oregon as a cultural resource specialist with children as well as teacher in-service programs. She is the primary storyteller for the American Indian theatre group, Mother Earth's Children, that has performed for school assemblies and a variety of events and conferences for the past 27 years. Cost: \$5 - \$10 donation requested.

Introduction to Estate Planning - Saturday, March 27, 2004 10 am - 1 pm. Trainer: Judy Uherbelau, Attorney at Law. (Location to be determined) Estate Planning is important for everyone, regardless of how much money you have. From medical directives to designating a guardian for your children to writing a will, estate planning is critical. This workshop is designed for those who want to review their plans and for those who have not put together their estate plans. Materials provided. Cost: \$10 - \$20 donation requested. Please register by March 24, 2004 by email or phone. (503-289-1517 sheryl@mrgfoundation.org)

MRG Foundation is a community-supported foundation that funds the efforts of Oregonians working to build the progressive movement in Oregon. We fund projects that promote environmental, economic and social justice in Oregon. MRG Foundation provides seed funding to newly emerging groups and supports cutting-edge organizing projects that might not otherwise attract support. Sheryl Sackman, Development Director, MRG Foundation 2705 E. Burnside, Suite 210 Portland, Oregon 97214 503-289-1517 [www.mrgfoundation.org](http://www.mrgfoundation.org)



Image From "A Great Wonder"

### Local Filmmaker with Human Rights Film in Ashland Independent Film Festival

The Ashland premiere of a documentary made by Kim Shelton will show during the Ashland Independent Film Festival, April 1-5. *A Great Wonder* traces the extraordinary journey of Martha, Santino, and Abraham, three orphans whose families were massacred in war-torn Sudan. The film follows these young people for 18 months as they struggle to assimilate into American culture and cope with brutal memories of war. (See web site for times of the screenings: [www.ashlandfilm.org](http://www.ashlandfilm.org))

This is a heartbreaking story but it is also remarkably full of hope. Not only have the

Sudanese endured hardship and deprivation for most of their lives, they have embraced the chance to make a life where none was expected. *A Great Wonder* explores the concepts of loss, faith, family and freedom as we bear witness to the indomitable spirit that drives these young people to rebuild their lives.

*A Great Wonder* tied for Best Documentary at the Seattle International Film Festival and it has been screened worldwide in festivals since it was completed last June. Kim Shelton, a resident of Ashland, has been a documentary filmmaker for 20 years. Her films have been broadcast nationally and internationally: PBS, National Geographic, Discovery, and stations in Europe, Canada, Australia and So. Africa.

### Library Anniversary

Ruch Library celebrates its first anniversary by dedicating a wall mural in ceramics, a mosaic with work by many people from the area, assembled and mounted by Marvin and Lilli Anne Rosenberg. Saturday, March 20, beginning at 3 PM.

A week before the celebration is *History and Mystery of Trees*. Editor, booklover, and gardener Nancy Appling will present her popular program Sunday, March 14 at 3 p.m. If you don't know what language had a 25 letter alphabet with fourteen letters named for trees or why ash trees are planted in cemeteries or what tree was first planted by Elvis, you'll have the answers and explanations from Ms. Appling. She will also talk about the many dimensional role trees have played in Oregon's history.

### Fabric of Race in America

The art show "Fabric of Race in America" is in the tradition of nonviolent action because the show makes the invisible visible.

The installation is created by Renee Billingslea, a multi-media artist whose work includes photography, fabric, and found objects.

Her work explores the terrifying yet unacknowledged history of lynchings in American life as a tactile educational experience. The show is installed at The Gallery at Stevenson Union at Southern Oregon University, 1250 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland.

Be sure to see the show before it closes on March 11. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 9 pm.

For more information call 541-552-6465.

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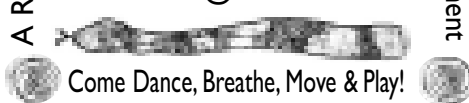


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more info ☎ ken 301.5006  
email: [ken@safeworld.com](mailto:ken@safeworld.com)



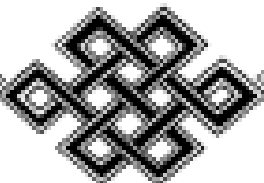
Come Dance, Breathe, Move & Play!

## Making Friends With Yourself

*Through Body Awareness  
and Personal Inquiry  
Discover Who  
You Really Are*

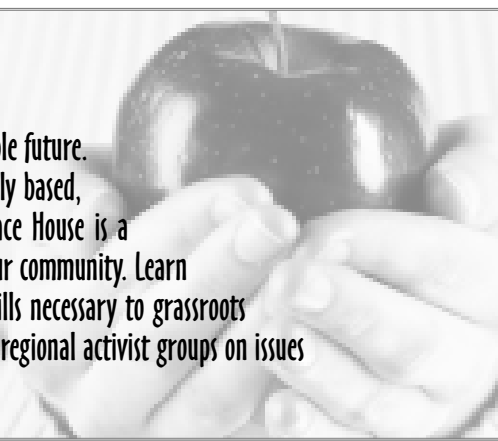
- Heal Guilt and Shame
- Life Patterns and Relationships
- Integrate Spiritual Awakening
- Educators' Support Group
- Understand Roots of Suffering

**Andy Bayliss 482-4324**



## 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.



# Peace Community Calendar

## Learn from the Burn: Biscuit Wildfire Hikes

Every Saturday 9am

Fun for the whole family! We will carpool from Evo's Javahouse (next door to the Ashland Public Library) every Saturday morning, leaving at 9am and returning around 6 pm. Bring water, warm clothes, rain gear, hiking boots and camera or binocs. Sponsored by Friends of the Rogue-Kalmiopsis. Contact: 482-2640 forkmail04@yahoo.com

## Wide Awake Film Forum

**\* NOW SATURDAY NIGHTS \***

Saturday's at 7pm at Evo's Java House.

March 6th *Boys Don't Cry* is brilliant but dark. It is both poignant and depressing, exploring love, sexuality, violence and the need for tolerance. You should prepare yourself for a heart-wrenching and soul-searching experience.

March 13th

In Honor of Rachel Corrie

A Special Wide Awake Film Forum Screening of *Jenin*,  
*Jenin*

See page 5 for more information



## Imagine Awards for Community Peacemaking Brunch

Sunday, March 7, Noon

Come honor the four recipients of the Imagine Awards and celebrate with Mediation Works. This year's honorees include: Ike Apodaca and John Statler, Honored Peacemakers; Kari Bassett, Young Peacemaker; and Marjorie Kellogg, Lifetime Achievement Award. Special guest speaker: Dr. Jean Houston. M.C.: JPR's Jeff Golden. With entertainment by Dave Marston, Jana Kolsbun and Reverend Ernestine Lee. Delicious food! Medford's Rogue Valley Country Club. Tickets: \$35. Call 770-2468 or go to [www.mediation-works.org](http://www.mediation-works.org)

*Editor's Note: Marjorie Kellogg's lifetime of work includes providing Peace House's home at 543 South Mountain in Ashland.*

## International Women's Day

March 8th commemorates the 1908 Women's March for Suffrage & Against Child Labor in NY City. Give thanks to the older women in your life; support the younger women around you.

## Iraq: One Year Later

March 11th at 7:30pm in the Rogue River Room at SOU.

An Evening with Dana Visalli on his Return from Iraq. Sponsored by the SOU Media Collective and ECOS. See page 1 for more info

## Women's History Month Event

Friday, March 12th the SOU Women's Resource Center and RiverRising Productions are co-sponsoring an exciting multi-media evening to "Celebrate the Creativity of Women." Please join us at the MOBIUS 281 4th ST. in Ashland. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. The presentations begin at 7:00 p.m. See article on page 1.

## Counter Recruitment Meeting

March 15th meeting topic: Developing connections with veterans, students, parents, teachers and community members around alternatives to youth targeted for recruitment by the military. Every Third Monday at 7:00pm at Peace House

## Southern Oregon Friends of Cuba

Meets every 3rd Wednesday; 7:00 pm at Peace House

SOFC is preparing for the Pastors for Peace caravan to Cuba in July. We want to educate Ashland about US Trade policy, host a film forum, get funds for a bus to carry aid across the border and engage the community in solidarity events.

## International Day of Action Against War and Occupation

March 20th, The World Still Says NO To War

See article on page 4. Contact Peace House 482-9625

## A Force More Powerful: A Century of Nonviolent Conflict and Success

March 23rd Chile 1983-88, S. Africa 1984-86, (third film in series)

Place: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Oakdale and 5th, Medford

Time: Film at 7pm - discussion following. Citizens for Peace and Justice meet every Tuesday 6:30-8:00 pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Call 541-772-2780 for info.

## KS Wild Spring Film Series

March 26 at 7:00 pm. *Wake Up Call: Saving the Songbirds*, and *"Inuit Observations on Climate Change"*. Headwaters Environmental Center, 84 Fourth St. in Ashland.

For more information contact [lesley@kswild.org](mailto:lesley@kswild.org)

## 25th Anniversary of Three Mile Island Meltdown

NO NUKES! Vigil to commemorate the casualties of nuclear disasters

Sunday, March 28th at sunset we will meet at the Ashland Library

1979 was the beginning of the end for nuclear power. The Three Mile Island partial core meltdown in Harrisburg, PA rocked confidence in nuclear power and mobilized millions to fight nuclear pollution. Call 482-9625 for more details

## Clear Actions Mailing Party

March 31st 10:00a.m. at Peace House

Lots of fun!! Volunteers are always needed.

## Earth Day at SOU

April 22, SOU Courtyard. 10 am to 3 pm. Come see a hybrid car, theater by Sticks and Stones, speakers, tabling for the earth, and music!

## Earth Day 2004 ~ Be a Piece of the Solution

Saturday, April 24, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at North Mountain Park in Ashland

Celebrate Earth Day at North Mountain Park and learn about actions that you can take to create an earth-friendly lifestyle. From green building materials and locally grown food, to natural cleaning products and renewable energy, dozens of exhibits will demonstrate ways that you can "Be a Piece of the Solution." Lively entertainment, hands-on activities for kids, and delicious organic food will make this Earth Day festival fun for all ages. For more details, call the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 488-6606.

## March for Women's Lives

April 25, Washington D.C.

Millions will gather in Washington D.C. for the March for Women's Lives. The Group for Reproductive Rights and Peace House will be traveling from Ashland to D.C. and we're seeking your support. We've been making buttons and t-shirts, tabling, organizing fundraisers and our goal of raising \$5,000 is still not met. If you are able to donate any money to sponsor our trip, please contact Heather at the Women's Resource Center 552-6216.

## An Evening of American Indian Storytelling

*With Esther Stutzman, Kalapuya Elder*

Thursday, March 25, 7 - 9 pm. Ashland Springs Hotel, 212 East Main Street, Ashland. Please join us for an evening of American Indian Storytelling. See article on page 6.

## Ashland Independent Film Festival Includes a Human Rights Film

April 1-5, Varsity Theater. The Ashland premiere of *A Great Wonder*, a documentary made by Kim Shelton, will show during the Ashland Independent Film Festival. See article on page 5.

## Act For the Earth: A Bioregional Ecology Conference and Skills Training

April 30 - May 2. SOU Stevenson Union.

Peace House, ECOS and OSPIRG are hosting a weekend of trainings, workshops and community dialogue. Contact Peace House 482-9625 for more information.

## War on Earth

Continued from page 4

Management (BLM) roadless area in the country. The 46,000-acre Zane Grey roadless area is threatened by the Kelsey-Whisky timber sale. After a majority of people commented against the project, the BLM increased its logging plans in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

The red tree vole is one species that the BLM was required to survey. The vole, a major food source for the northern spotted owl, is a particularly important small creature that lives almost exclusively in the canopy of old growth trees. BLM surveyors found one vole nest in the Kelsey-Whisky sale. This prompted the Northwest Ecosystem Survey Team (NEST), a citizens' survey group, to donate its time to search for vole nests in Kelsey-Whisky and other BLM old growth sales. In a matter of weeks, NEST citizen-surveyors found 16 nests in the same Kelsey-Whisky unit that the BLM found one.

This was presented to the BLM as evidence that they have not done a thorough job of implementing the rules of Survey and Manage. The BLM has denied confirmation of these additional 15 nests at Kelsey-Whisky. Environmentalists across Cascadia have successfully stopped timber sales, charging the BLM and the US Forest Service with failure to implement Survey and Manage. It is easier to proceed with timber sales by ignoring environmental laws and weakening or eliminating procedures

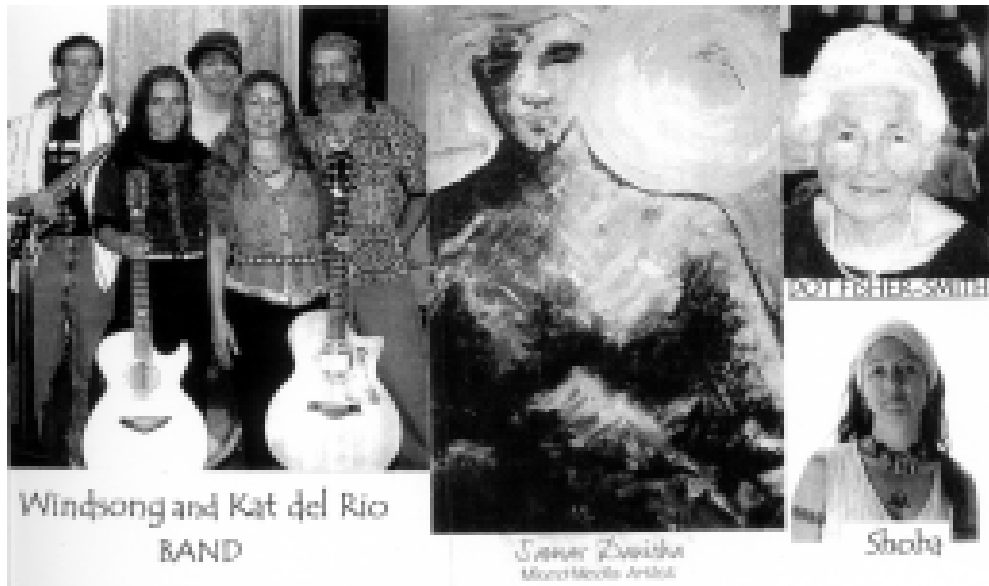
designed to protect species and their habitat. The wild forests of Kelsey-Whisky are set to be auctioned by the BLM in mid-May.

The ability to ignore the consequences of aggressive resource extraction is a dangerous mind-set to perpetuate. The cumulative impacts of industrial forestry are irreversibly changing the landscape around us. Yet the rhetoric would make one think that federal land managers are acting solely to benefit the health of the forest. This coping mechanism is reminiscent of U.S. foreign policy that allows our government to justify war because it is good for people, at home and abroad. In reality, these actions are good for a corporate-favored economy and its governmental representatives, not living beings.

This blatant disregard for the consequences of exploitation and domination is a dangerous precedent being advanced in all branches of our government. The same mentality that would not bother counting the number of Iraqi dead does not want to be bothered with finding what species may be decimated by proposed logging projects. Our job is to create a political cost. That includes talking about what others are not talking about, educating ourselves about issues, exploring solutions and taking action.

Sign up for KS eNews to stay tuned - contact [lesley@kswild.org](mailto:lesley@kswild.org)

**Lesley Adams**



## Women

Continued from page 1

Dot will be sharing stories with us about her very interesting life. A presentation on "Being Radical" will include stories of many years actively working for peace and protection of the environment.

To further delight the senses, the beauty of these stage presentations will be surrounded by a roomful of visual art displayed by local and regional female artists. This will include the paintings of Samar Dawisha, an artist and art teacher in our community, the hand-woven Tibetan rugs and creative masks of Monique Barker of Williams, Oregon, and multi-media wall hangings by Dot Fisher-Smith.

Delicious Chai will be on sale, provided by the Chai Mama herself, Liz Bretko of Heart-Song Chai. Please join us on Friday, March 12th, at the MOBIUS - 281 4TH ST. in Ashland. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. The presentations begin at 7:00 p.m. Please arrive early to get seating! Adults (sliding scale) \$10-\$25, Students \$8, Children (under 10) \$5. Advance Ticket sales at SoundPeace located at 199 E. Main St. in Ashland, 488-3633. For more information regarding the show, call: 541-488-3569.



**Photos of Iraqi Children by Dana Visalli**

*"This photo is of a young pauper who approached us at an outdoor market in Baghdad, hoping to sell us a plastic bag for a penny or so. He was an incredibly beautiful child."*

See Dana Visalli as he shares stories and pictures from his trip to Iraq. Event March 11. See Calendar for more info.

## Help the Hungry

### Tuesdays

Each Tuesday, 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 (no need to call) and help with food prep at 2pm or with serving and cleanup from 4:30 to 6:30pm. Come to help and eat a good dinner too! It's fun and fulfilling to see Peace in Action. Anyone is welcome, in the spirit of a true community dinner.

Uncle Food's Diner is serving at United Methodist Church, in the Wesley Hall at 175 N. Main, on the corner of N. Main and Laurel. 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.

### Note

Beeson's Open House in Talent is temporarily closed. Call Peace House for more information: 482-9625.

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**- Elie Wiesel**

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