



Merrimack Valley People For Peace

Serving the communities of the Merrimack Valley

Merrimack Valley People for Peace, Inc. works for a sustainable future for all life on our planet. Our members commit themselves to the interrelated activities of education for peace and justice, the prevention of war, an end to arms sales, the abolition of nuclear weapons, and protection of the environment.

October 2005

Merrimack Valley People for Peace joins the United Nations and peacemakers around the world in proclaiming the years 2001-2010 to be the "International Decade for the Culture of Peace."

GOOD NEWS

compiled with the help of Boryana Tacconi

Pat Scanlon, our songwriter/singer/friend/MVPP member/recycler extraordinaire/and a founder of Crossroads Coffeehouse, has just released a new CD called "Blue State Liberal." He wrote the title song two days after the 2004 Presidential elections "as a way to lift the spirits of discouraged progressive liberals." Pat now has an official web site: www.patscanlon.com, and he invites anyone who visits the site to accept the song as a free download. Let's encourage folks everywhere to take a listen. Call your favorite folk program. Pass it on; pass it on!

The CD has already been distributed to over 500 college and public radio stations across the country. There are some great other songs on it too, even a few cuts with some pretty fair, background choruses that include a few MVPP songsters!

Well over 300,000 people took to the streets of Washington D.C., on September 24th to protest the ongoing war and occupation of Iraq. It was the largest anti-war protest in the capital since the invasion and the first in a decade that was allowed to go past the White House. More than 250 military families, hundreds of veterans and even some active-duty soldiers recently returned from overseas joined the three days of protest, at the end of which nearly 400 protesters, including Cindy Sheehan, were arrested for peaceful civil disobedience. Major protests were also held in other U.S. cities and around the world including London, Rome, Toronto, and San Francisco. (See p.2 for news of MVPP participation in D.C.)

Charges of conspiracy against the "St. Patrick's Four"-- Daniel Burns, Peter De Mott, Clare Grady and Theresa Grady from Ithaca, N.Y.--were dropped at their September 26th trial. A 12-member jury convicted the Four on two misdemeanor-level counts of trespassing and damaging federal property. They might be sentenced each to up to one year in federal prison.

The four protesters had entered a recruitment office on March 17, 2003, to protest the war in Iraq. They had spilled their blood on the walls, floor, door, and windows and on an American flag and other items in the office. A recruiter testified that some blood ended up on one of his hands.

The jury found the four protesters, who represented themselves in court, not guilty of conspiring to impede a federal officer. A conviction on that count could have resulted in jail sentences for up to six years. This was the first conspiracy charge against war protesters since the Viet Nam War.

The Senate delivered a serious rebuke to the Bush administration on October 5th, voting 90-9 to define and limit the interrogation techniques used against detainees at U.S.-run prison camps. Following the lead of Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 46 Republicans joined with Democrats to add to a \$440 billion military spending bill specific language preventing "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons under custody or control of the United States government." The 90 senators voted in defiance of a White House threat to veto the whole bill if the anti-torture language were attached.

In the first regional agreement of its kind in the U.S., nine northeastern states are on the brink of a declaration of environmental independence with the introduction of mandatory controls on greenhouse gas emissions of the kind rejected by the Bush administration. *New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Delaware* are expected to announce a plan to freeze carbon dioxide emissions from big power stations by 2009 and then reduce them by 10% by 2020. *Pennsylvania and Maryland* have signed on as observers and are considering joining at a later date. On the other side of the continent, *California, Oregon, Washington, New Mexico, and Arizona* are exploring similar agreements. All of this signals a clear break between state governments and the federal administration over global warming.

Woodbury County, Iowa, is the first local government in the U.S. to start providing property tax rebates to farmers who switch from conventional to organic production. The action will grant \$50,000 a year for five years to those who make the conversion. The program would help build a thriving organic

MVPP Monthly Meeting – North Parish Church – Tuesday, October 25, 2005, 7:30 PM *Printed on recycled paper*
<http://www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org/>

Weekly Vigils

Andover: Sunday, noon-1 pm; Shawsheen Square, Junction of Routes 133 and 28; Lawrence Friends Meeting/ Shawsheen Peace Witness; Allan Sifferlen, asifferlen@sbra.com.

Andover: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7-8 pm; Saturday, 10:45 am-noon (in good weather, 10-noon); Old Town Hall, 20 Main St.; Merrimack Valley People for Peace; Lou Bernieri, lbernieri@andover.edu.

Andover: Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 am; in front of Raytheon plant near Routes 133 and 93; Raytheon Peacemakers; Arthur Brien, 978-686-4418.

Gloucester: Saturday, noon-1 pm; Grant Circle.

Gloucester: Tuesday, 7-8 pm; Fisherman's Wives Memorial.

Ipswich: Saturday, 11-noon; at the bottom of Town Hill (Junction of Route 133).

Lawrence: Saturday, noon-1 pm; Broadway and Essex Streets; Lawrence Peace Coalition; Martina Cruz, martina_m_cruz@yahoo.com.

Marblehead: Wednesday, 5-7 pm; at the Peace Pole, Memorial Park (by the YMCA); Tom Gale, 781-631-1218.

Newburyport: Sunday, noon-1 pm; Market Square; Niki Rosen, 978-463-3208.

Reading: 2nd Saturday/each month, 11 am-noon; Reading Square; Reading People for Peace; Bob Connor, bobconnor1@yahoo.com.

Rockport: Wednesday, noon-1 pm; First Congregational Church (silent for peace).

Salem, MA: Saturday, 11-noon; Riley Plaza (by the Post Office).

You can buy Rainbow Peace Flags, buttons, bumperstickers, etc. at Saturday vigils in Andover.

farming industry that could attract organic food processors and other businesses to the area. Organic farming might save smaller family farms by offering lower startup costs and encouraging potential young farmers to stay in farming.

MVPP's counter-recruitment packet entitled "Think Before You Enlist: A Reality Check," with its accompanying DVD, "Iraq Veterans Speak Out," has been widely distributed during the past month. So far, in addition to our regional distributions in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, we have filled requests for copies from 18 other states--Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Missouri, Montana, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Texas, Wisconsin--and D.C. Please continue to contact either Bobbie Goldman (bg@comcast.net) or Don Abbott (bdabbott@comcast.net) with names and addresses for additional packets. National counter-recruitment efforts are building momentum and are really paying off, and MVPP wants to maximize its assistance and participation.

GOOD HEADLINES

Posted in the streets of Washington, September 24-26, 2005

College Not Combat
Make Levees, Not War
A War Budget Leaves Every Child Behind
Who Dies? Who Pays? Who Profits?
Make Levees, Not Humvees
BUCK FUSH
Money for Human Need Not War Profit
Lying King
Greater Sorrow Has No Parent Than to Have Given Their
Child's Life for a Lie
Iraqi Children Are Children Too!
We Must Be the Change We Wish to See
Iraq Is Arabic for Vietnam
Iraq Is Bush's Blue Dress
Pittsburgh Chicks Say Just Pull Out
The Difference between Iraq & Viet Nam: Bush Had a Plan to
Get out of Nam
How Many Soldiers per Gallon Does Your SUV Get?
"Thanks for the Money. Sorry about Katrina"--Halliburton

The Crusades Were a Bad Idea the First Time
An Eye for an Eye Makes the Whole World Blind
Greed Isn't Noble

Bush Lied. People Died. Mothers Cried.

Practice Compassionate Impeachment

No Iraqis Left Me on a Roof to Die

The Ones Who Call the Shots Are Not Shot

Quagmire Accomplished

Ignorance Is a Weapon of Mass Destruction

Preemptive Impeachment

I Will Not Raise My Child to Kill Your Child

God Bless Forgive America

Shock and Awe in Baghdad. Shocking and Awful in the Bayou

Ignorance Is Not an Excuse for High Crimes and Treason

Mother Bush, Now I Understand Your Son's Indifference

You Can Bomb the World to Pieces, but You Can't Bomb It to

Peace

Liberate Our Gulf, Not Theirs

War Is the Fruit of a Bitter Bush

Stop Bitching and Start a Revolution

I Never Thought I'd Miss Nixon

Human Need, Not Corporate Greed

End the Occupation

Mobilizing in Washington to End the War and Bring Them Home; September 24-26

Several members of MVPP attended the major mobilization that was so successful in D.C. last month, including Don Abbott, Becci Backman, Paul Brailsford, Barbara Haack, Pat Scanlon, Jim Todd, Mary Todd, and Anne Wiehe. Veterans and military families were visibly at the head of the march and leading the resistance. The throng was huge and diverse in every way. Many people we met were participating for the first time in such a public protest, from all over the country. The message was unified. The mood was peaceful but resistant, purposeful and hopeful. Mary's reflections follow.

Reflections on the Mobilization

by Mary Todd

Jim and I attended the weekend to "End the War" in Washington, DC. The estimated protesters numbered between over 300,000 (organizers' estimates; Washington Post too) and 600,000 (C-Span). When we crossed the finish line, people were still starting the march. We were impressed with how many young people were there and how many families with young children in strollers attended. Wide streets, with 20 or more people across, carried signs and protests for more than 25 blocks. The route took at least three hours to walk. In addition, many people lined the streets voicing their support. The veterans groups against the war were also very prominent--Military Families Speak Out, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace--as was Camp Casey and Cindy Sheehan. It was energizing to be with people from across the country all saying, "Get Out Now." We met people from Wisconsin had traveled more than 24 hours by bus to attend the march. Others, from as far away as California, Oregon and Washington State, were there.

Tents were set up on the Washington Monument grounds that provided information and resources as well as places for us to meet others working on similar issues across the country. We attended Sunday morning workshops on Counter-Recruitment 101 and Counter-Recruitment Strategy. Both provided helpful information and suggestions. Suggestions from youth were particularly so: "Don't call us kids! That feels demeaning. Call us students"... "Talk with student newspaper editors or supportive teachers"... "Have college kids join with you"... "Don't use words we don't understand or talk down to us."

Sunday afternoon, there was a strategy session for meeting with our Congressional reps and Senators. Members from the Center for Policy Studies were especially helpful. The purpose was to have a unified voice the next day on Capitol Hill: "Get out of Iraq now, don't fund any more supplemental budgets for the war, provide compensation for the damage caused by the war, prohibit the construction of permanent U.S. military bases, and require parents to 'opt-in' rather than to opt-out."

An Interfaith Service was sponsored by Clergy and Laity Concerned about Iraq (CLCI), along with Faith Voices for the Common Good and other organizations. The gathering of religious people from many faith traditions was inspiring, especially as they quoted from each others' sacred writings, traditions and beliefs. A Buddhist monk sang "Go Down Moses." Cornel West, Honorary Co-Chair of CLCI, greeted him with hands folded, bowing in a "Namaste" greeting: "I honor the divine within you." It was a special moment. Muslim, Jewish, feminist and Christian clergy and lay people were passionate in their call to end the war. It was a hopeful sign that faithful people are speaking out. It's about time!

During lobbying activity on Monday, four members of Marty Meehan's district, representing Lawrence, Concord and Acton, met with a staff assistant in his office. We thanked him for co-sponsoring several important bills related to the war. We pushed him hard about co-sponsoring legislation to prohibit the construction of permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq. We urged him not to vote for any more supplemental budget requests for the war, but to provide funding to Iraq as compensation for the damage our country has caused. The aide said Meehan has another white paper to be published in November. Our fifteen minutes was all too short!

A group of 45 people from Massachusetts met with staffers from both Kennedy and Kerry's office. At Kennedy's office we acknowledged his past and present resistance to the war but said it was not enough. We pleaded for him to use his influence to call senators into his office and use the current anti-war momentum to take a strong stand as a group against the war. We also pleaded with him to provide a forum for returning veterans and veterans' families to voice their concerns about this war. We suggested that he bring in Lakoff as a consultant to help the democrats re-frame the questions surrounding the war. While there, we learned that that bunker buster legislation had just been defeated.

The group then met with a Kerry aide in charge of Defense and Foreign Policy. We asked him to convey to Senator Kerry our appreciation for his work on nuclear legislation. However, the group was angry about Kerry's pro-war stances, and we voiced that anger loudly. Kerry will not call for withdrawal. He will continue to support funding for the war effort. He will not support removal of bases being built. He will not support the Feingold Amendment, calling for a time table for troop withdrawal. Many people felt betrayed. The aide reported that the Senator would not change his position because of his deeply held beliefs. We asked, "Where is the aide who is in charge of Peace and Foreign Policy?" Some of the comments we expressed: "If this war is illegal, how can Kerry be part of this crime?"... "I wish we had a liberal in this office who would stand up!"... "We have a democratic Bush supporter."... "It's time to say we've made a terrible mistake and we're not going to go on killing--not our own soldiers or the Iraqi people!"... "I'm tired of hearing Kerry say it is incredibly frustrating and complicated! We get out by getting out! Period!" (applause)... "We represent the best part of America. Please tell Senator Kerry to find that young man inside himself! He is the one that is sending the last person to die for a mistake."... "Many of us worked in Kerry's campaign. We telephoned; we gave money; we went door-to-door to get him elected. We feel betrayed. We will not support him again. In fact, we will do all in our power to defeat him." We were frustrated and discouraged. Senator Kerry will not step forward and provide leadership against this war. Please voice your opinion to him in writing or with a phone call!

We returned exhausted and energized for the work ahead. The tide is turning. We are all part of the solution.

Curbside Chatter

Screaming Lady, driving by: "Why aren't you fighting for your country?"

Vigiler: "That's what I'm doin', ma'am!"

Pedestrian, stopping by: "Thanks for being there. But I wish that did any good."

Vigiler: "It's up to all of us."

Pedestrian: "I live on the Cape, and in one year I've gotten just two people to change their minds."

Vigiler: "Good. That's two more than there were before."

2005 Nobel Laureates for Peace and Literature

Witnesses to What's Hidden in Plain Sight

Commentary by Don Abbott

When Mohamed ElBaradei, Egyptian lawyer, and Harold Pinter, British playwright and poet, recently received Nobel Prizes, for Peace and for Literature respectively, the world was given a straightforward opportunity to view reality through prisms of honesty. Each laureate has individually used candid language, both written and spoken, to say the truth as they see and understand it, often against accepted conventions and prevailing powers.

The Nobel Peace Prize: In announcing that the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize was to be shared equally by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its Director General, the Nobel Committee cited ElBaradei as one who "has stood out as an unafraid advocate of new measures to strengthen" nuclear non-proliferation efforts. It further stated, "At a time when the threat of nuclear arms is again increasing, the Norwegian Nobel Committee wishes to underline that this threat must be met through the broadest possible international cooperation."

Could there be a more timely affirmation of the principle of multilateralism, given the U.S.'s unilateral aggression in Iraq, justified in part by the Bush administration's insistence that Iraq had restarted its nuclear weapons program, a claim adamantly and correctly refuted by ElBaradei and the IAEA? Could the time be more propitious than in the 60th anniversary year of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, when countries like North Korea and Iran appear poised soon to join the "nuclear club?" Could the message be any clearer than just months after the abject failure of the U.N. last June to strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?

After the announcement of the award, ElBaradei said, "The prize recognizes the role of multilateralism in resolving all of the issues we are facing today. It will strengthen my resolve and that of my colleagues to continue to speak truth to power." He added, "It has always been my belief that the road to international peace and security lies through multilateralism--the collective search by people of all racial, religious, ethnic, and national backgrounds to find a common ground based not on intimidation or rivalry but on understanding and human solidarity."

The Nobel Prize for Literature: In its citation of Harold Pinter, the Nobel Committee honored the playwright as the "foremost representative of British drama in the second half of the 20th century...(who) uncovers the precipice under everyday prattle and forces entry into oppression's closed rooms...Pinter restored theatre to its basic elements: an enclosed space and unpredictable dialogue, where people are at the mercy of each other and pretence crumbles." It added, "...the continuity of his work is remarkable, and his political themes can be seen as a development of the early Pinter's analyzing of threat and injustice."

Pinter told reporters: "I've been writing plays for about fifty years and I'm also pretty politically engaged. And I'm not at all sure to what extent that fact...had anything to do with this...I am both deeply engaged in art and deeply engaged in politics and

sometimes those two meet and sometimes they don't. It's all going to be very interesting."

Robert Barr of the Associated Press has written, "The Nobel Committee has a penchant for rewarding writers who stand against power..." He references Alexander Solzhenitsyn in 1970, Elfriede Jelinek in 2004, Guenther Grass in 1999, Nadine Gordimer in 1991, Naguib Mahfouz in 1988. Pinter has long been an outspoken advocate for human rights and a fulminating critic of oppression and aggression. A cancer survivor, he said in 2002, upon receiving an honorary doctorate at Turin University in Italy, "I found that to emerge from a personal nightmare was to enter an infinitely more pervasive public nightmare--the nightmare of American hysteria, ignorance, arrogance, stupidity and belligerence; the most powerful nation the world has ever known effectively waging war against the rest of the world."

Controversy within the Prizes: Not surprisingly, the popular awards provoke a range of responses. To refer to ElBaradei as fearless and to say that the IAEA is "incalculably" important are diplomatic rebukes of the U.S.'s claims prior to its invasion of Iraq and to the Bush administration's recent efforts to have ElBaradei removed from his position as Director General of the IAEA. At the same time, some activist and environmental groups assert that the IAEA hastens the global spread of nuclear weapons by promoting "peaceful" nuclear technology, and The Boston Globe's lead editorial on October 8th criticizes "the contradiction at the core of the IAEA's twofold mission: to promote civil nuclear energy while stopping the spread of nuclear weapons." In simplified terms, these counter-voices say that "there is no such thing as a peaceful nuke."

In Pinter's case, his attacks on President Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair have been so scathing that some of his literary admirers do not happily abide his way of making politics and art persistently interact. And he has been blatantly outspoken about America's brutality for some time. In 1994, he wrote, "The great difference between the ruthless foreign policy of the U.S. and other equally ruthless policies (he cites Hitler, Stalin, and Mao) is that U.S. propaganda is infinitely cleverer and the Western media wonderfully compliant." Yet, others praise him as a preeminent example of an artist whose use of language consistently peels away the hypocrisy that devours our private and public lives, and they applaud his courage to enliven the tradition of Wilfred Owen, the famous English War Poet, killed in one of the final battles of World War I. (See Pinter's speech on p.5).

Making the Obvious Clear: From where I stand, I am heartened by the witness of these men, each of whom has his own way of naming the truth. As a "weapons inspector", a multilateralist, a diplomatic advocate for nuclear non-proliferation, ElBaradei has gone head to head with the greatest superpower and told the truth about its deception and pretence and, by extension, the fallacy inherent in its arrogant unilateralism. As an essential writer of our times, Pinter asks the most fundamental questions. What is true and what is false? What is real and unreal? He lays bare the abuse of state power and the banality of humanity, and he questions accepted truths in both life and art.

Each pays attention to what is hidden in plain sight in front of them. What better examples for American peace activists, embattled by the distortions of corporate/state media and propaganda on all sides, than two individuals who see what's really going on and then, with candid courage, tell us about it?

Harold Pinter's Speech Accepting the Wilfred Owen Award

March 18, 2005

Editor's comment: Pinter also was a recent recipient of the Wilfred Owen Award for Poetry, one of the highest accolades for a modern writer on war, given biennially to a writer seen as continuing the tradition of England's most celebrated war poet. A previous winner is Seamus Heaney, Irish Nobel laureate. Pinter received this honor in recognition of his lifelong literary contributions, but most specifically for his 2003 collection of poetry entitled WAR.

"This is a true honour. Wilfred Owen was a great poet. He articulated the tragedy, the horror and indeed the pity--of war--in a way no other poet has. Yet we have learnt nothing. Nearly 100 years after his death the world has become more savage, more brutal, more pitiless.

"But the 'free world' we are told (as embodied in the United States and Great Britain) is different to the rest of the world since our actions are dictated and sanctioned by a moral authority and a moral passion condoned by someone called God. Some people may find this difficult to comprehend but Osama Bin Laden finds it easy.

"What would Wilfred Owen make of the invasion of Iraq? A bandit act, an act of blatant state terrorism, demonstrating absolute contempt for the concept of International Law. An arbitrary military action inspired by a series of lies upon lies and gross manipulation of the media and therefore of the public. An act intended to consolidate American military and economic control of the Middle East masquerading--as a last resort (all other justifications having failed to justify themselves)--as liberation. A formidable assertion of military force responsible for the death and mutilation of thousands upon thousands of innocent people...

"...We have brought torture, cluster bombs, depleted uranium, innumerable acts of random murder, misery and degradation to the Iraqi people and call it 'bringing freedom and democracy to the Middle East.' But, as we all know, we have not been welcomed with the predicted flowers. What we have unleashed is a ferocious and unremitting resistance, mayhem and chaos.

"You may say at this point: what about the Iraqi elections? Well President Bush himself answered this question only the other day when he said, 'We cannot accept that there can be free democratic elections in a country under foreign military occupation.'

"I had to read that statement twice before I realised that he was talking about Lebanon and Syria.

"What do Bush and Blair actually see when they look at themselves in the mirror?

"I believe Wilfred Owen would share our contempt, our revulsion, our nausea and our shame at both the language and the actions of the American and British governments."

A New Abolitionist Movement

"No Country Shall Have Nuclear Weapons": An Interreligious Network's Appeal to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons

Editor's comment: We commend the following appeal for immediate action and advocacy. Its principal author is the Rev. William Sloan Coffin. This new, urgent declaration is now being issued across the U.S. and as we go to press, it was scheduled for public introduction locally by Coffin at a major event at MIT, October 22: "**Nonproliferation and Disarmament: The Way Forward.**" See <http://www.nuclearlockdown.org/html/appeal.html>. This appeal works in concert with the revised UrgentCall led by Randall Forsberg at the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies (<http://www.urgentcall.org/php/petition.php#1>).

An Appeal to the Religious Communities of America

"The warhorse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save." (Psalm 33)

Nuclear weapons merit unequivocal and unhesitating condemnation. The 30,000 around the globe have more than 100,000 times the explosive power of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These are doomsday arms—genocidal, ecocidal and suicidal.

It is our belief that only God has the authority to end all life on the planet; all we have is the power, and it is past time to surrender it. To live in a world within minutes of possible annihilation is to defy God's will, not to do God's will. Therefore, we turn to you, our fellow believers. We want, we need your help to end this deadly peril to humanity and its habitat.

Some important history. When the Cold War ended, many thought the nuclear danger had ended with it. It did not, and now, having assumed a more sinister shape, it is mounting again. Scores of admirals and generals from many countries have come to believe that nuclear weapons invite far more than they deter catastrophic conflict. Recently, Robert McNamara described them as "illegal, immoral, militarily unnecessary, and dreadfully dangerous." Among other Americans who agree are General Andrew Goodpaster, former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe; and General Lee Butler, once Commander-in-Chief of the Strategic Air Command (SAC). To these military leaders it is clear beyond denial that the possession of nuclear weapons by some states is the strongest incentive for other states to acquire them. They are also painfully aware that nuclear weapons, while most useful to terrorists, are utterly useless against them. Consequently, these leaders now advocate, as do we, the abolition of all nuclear arsenals. As General Butler declared five years ago, "A world free of the threat of nuclear weapons is necessarily a world devoid of nuclear weapons."

All Americans should know that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was a grand design struck in 1970. Since that time, over one hundred eighty non-nuclear countries have promised to forego nuclear weapons provided the nuclear powers abolished theirs. In other words—and this is crucial—*non-proliferation was, from the beginning, inextricably linked to nuclear disarmament*. But instead of honoring their obligations under Article VI of the treaty, the nuclear powers have substituted a double standard for the single one intended. For 35 years, they have prac-

ted nuclear apartheid, arrogating to themselves the right to build, deploy, and threaten to use nuclear weapons, while policing the rest of the world against their production. It was a policy too blatantly unjust to be politically sustainable.

There was a hopeful moment in 2000, when the five initial nuclear powers, including the United States, pledged “an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.” But our government today refuses to honor this and other past pledges. As a result, the Non-Proliferation Treaty is unraveling. Other countries may soon follow the lead of North Korea, which withdrew from the treaty in 2003.

A perilous situation now confronts humanity. The possibility of abolishing nuclear weapons is an opportunity we must seize, for time is running out. The tyranny of the urgent is today’s reality.

A world free of nuclear weapons would represent a giant step towards the ultimate goal of a world free of war. People would become much less fearful, far more peace-minded, and the change would be reflected in military budgets. It is dispiriting to learn that, led by the United States, global military spending last year rose by six percent to top one trillion dollars. As a result, this year millions of people in the Third World will continue not only to be killed in wars but also to die in greater numbers from preventable and treatable diseases, while the children of the poor in America will continue to have their medical and educational needs untended. It is heartbreaking.

Therefore, on this 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, leaders from several religious traditions are forming an ‘Interreligious Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons.’ The aim is to work with all Americans—and people abroad—who agree with the statement:

“No country shall have nuclear weapons.”

We call on all members of America's religious communities, as a testament of our common faith, to sign this appeal and take the concrete steps suggested in the accompanying addendum.

Fellow believers, we know how often justice appears a weary way off, peace a little further. But if we give up on justice, if we give up on peace, we give up on God. So let us resolve to labor mightily for what we pray for fervently, confident in the poet’s contention that “we are only undefeated because we go on trying” and in the vision of the prophet that “the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea.”

Addendum: Taking Action

We invite you to join the Interreligious Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons by signing onto this appeal and joining in the following actions.

1. Demand that the President and the Secretary of State frame and publish a plan outlining the steps whereby the American unequivocal commitment to eliminate nuclear arms can be realized. This plan would be preparatory to convening a conference of nuclear powers to set landmarks and deadlines by which, again under the most stringent international control, all nuclear weapons will be eliminated from the face of the earth. We reason that by building momentum now, we may make possible tomorrow what may seem improbable today.

2. Circulate and study the educational and organizing materials that the Interreligious Network will send to all seminaries in America for distribution among their students and graduates. As part of this effort, we will also circulate an Urgent Call outlining steps to elimination, as well as statements and information from members of the medical, legal, and environmental communities.

3. Encourage religious peoples to lobby Congress to stop funding any more nuclear weapons projects, specifically the Administration’s designs for “bunker-busters” and for the further weaponization of outer space. It is demeaning to our democracy that Congress keeps postponing or repressing public debate on a subject as morally compelling as our nuclear weapons policy.

4. Meet with members of Congress, hold public meetings, meet with editors, reporters, columnists, and talk show hosts – do everything possible to remind Americans that we are all in the race of our lives and we are not running fast enough.

To sign on or request information, please contact:

Jessica Wilbanks; sign-on@nuclearlockdown.org; 202-587-5232; or write to:
Interreligious Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons
c/o The Fourth Freedom Forum
803 North Main Street
Goshen, IN 46528

*The Crucified Planet Earth,
should it find a voice and a sense of irony,
might now well say
of our abuse of it,
“Forgive them, Father.
They know not what they do.”
The irony would be
that we know what
we are doing...*

--Kurt Vonnegut

Will We Heed the Warnings in Our Faces?

911 in New Orleans

excerpted from an opinion piece (9/05/05) by Paul Rogat Loeb
<http://www.nthposition.com/911inneworleans.php>

“...So what are the lessons of New Orleans? We may call hurricanes acts of God, but Katrina was a level 1 storm, the lowest, until blistering temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico supercharged it to level 5. The storm's virulence was related to global climate warming just as surely as the recent forest fires that ravaged Southern California, floods that covered much of Bangladesh, and European heat waves that killed 35,000 people two summers ago. Ironically, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour played a key role, as an energy lobbyist, in convincing the Bush administration to break its campaign promise to support limits on the carbon dioxide emissions that fuel global warming.

“This disaster was fueled by more than global climate change. Engineers and software writers talk of “common mode failures,” where one mistake magnifies another and the cumulative impact is greater than all the separate parts. The New Orleans levees might never have been breached had the Bush administration not

To continue to receive this newsletter... **We Invite You to Join /Rejoin Us**

\$20.00 Individual
\$10.00 Student/Senior
\$30.00 Family

Circle One

\$50.00 Supporting
\$75.00 Sustaining
\$100.00 Peacemaker

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____ Date _____

Return to
P.O. Box 573
North Andover, MA 01845-0573

MVPP is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to MVPP are tax deductible. **Membership renewals continue to arrive, but slowly. Members owe dues if mailing labels do not say "2006."** Last year, approximately one-third of our members joined/renewed at higher than the basic rate.

Check here [] if you prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail.

reversed Clinton administration policies prohibiting development of coastal wetlands that once buffered the impact of storms. The levees might have been buttressed and repaired had the administration responded to a 2001 FEMA study warning that a hurricane striking New Orleans was one of the three most likely disasters in the US. But instead of honoring the Army Corps of Engineers' request to strengthen and renovate levees and pumping stations, the Bush administration cut the flood control budget of the New Orleans Corps of Engineers by \$71 million, 44 percent of its budget. They needed the money for the Iraq war and to give \$130 billion a year of tax cuts to a tiny group of wealthy Americans.

"Finally, this catastrophe built on the slow-burn disaster that's been hitting America's poorest communities for decades. The wealthy and comfortable could evacuate New Orleans and did, though their lives were severely disrupted. But in one of the nation's poorest cities, vast numbers of citizens had nowhere to go, no transportation or money with which to leave, and no friends or relatives with extra space to house them. They are the people left desperately trying to get out, while the helicopters and resources of a third of the Louisiana National Guard are deployed in Iraq. And they will be the ones most damaged and most forgotten when the floodwaters eventually recede.

"We're told we had to change in the wake of 911 or face future terrorist attacks. I suspect there will still be more attacks on American soil, following London and Madrid, and that our Iraqi invasion makes this far more likely. But it's also probable that unless we change, New Orleans will not be the last of America's great cities to collapse in desperation and ruin. Immediate relief efforts are critical, but we also need to address root crises: global warming, runaway development, deterioration of critical infrastructure, and a malign neglect that leaves more and more Americans poor and desperate.

"A year ago, the world's second largest reinsurance company, Swiss Re, warned that the economic costs of climate-related disasters threatened to reach \$150 billion a year within ten years. We're already seeing storms of exceptional virulence accompanying the heating of our oceans by a single degree. What will be the level of destruction as global temperatures continue to increase?

"The development patterns that destroyed Louisiana wetlands are being repeated throughout America, with the support of an administration intent on removing all limits on private economic activity. The aging levees are part of a deteriorating national infrastructure that will take billions of dollars to address. The

poverty that leaves people helpless to respond to disasters of whatever kind continues to grow, accelerated by government policies that transfer resources away from the poorest.

"911 may have indeed changed our world forever, though I think we've drawn the wrong lessons. We now have a chance to heed those of New Orleans and Katrina, with consequences potentially far worse if we don't. It's up to us how we respond to the power of this warning."

Camilo Mejia

First Iraq War Resister

On Tour in the Greater Boston Area
December 3 – 7, 2005

Events in Dorchester, Chelsea, Cambridge, and Lawrence
Hosted by UJP and Several of Its Groups

MVPP is organizing two speaking events in Lawrence on December 7, one in the afternoon and one in the evening.

Locations and times to be announced soon.
For further information: Boryana Tacconi at 978-470-1362;
also see www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org/events.htm

MOBILIZE TO END THE WAR

OCTOBER 29; 11 AM

BOSTON COMMON

**End the Occupation! Bring the Troops Home!
Military Recruiters out of Our Schools!
Fund Human Needs –Not War!**

It is time for citizens of New England to stand up and be counted among the growing millions who oppose current U.S. policies at home and abroad. If 300,000 - 500,000 people could send the message in Washington last month, we should have at least 100,000 in Boston!

Upcoming Events

compiled with the help of Sue Imhoff

Wednesday, October 26, 7:00 pm: Doris "Granny D" Had-dock, "Telling It Like It Is: Putting Our Values into Action." Sponsored by Seacoast Alliance for Democracy and Seacoast Peace Response. For further information: Rjvincent@aol.com or 603-964-4211, and NRGBrown@aol.com or 603-436-7861. **South Church, 292 State Street, Portsmouth, NH.**

Friday, October 28, 7:15 pm: Nonviolent Social Change: Hugo Chavez and Venezuela. Film entitled "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" (75-minute) showing the Venezuelan people's struggle for democracy against private media, oil interests and U.S. manipulation. Followed by a discussion with Rev. Mike Clark (pastor of St. John's Methodist Church in Water-town, former director of Witness for Peace), Lois Mastrangelo, Niki Johnson and Glenn Griffin, who just returned from a fact-finding tour in Venezuela. The doors will close at 7:15 P.M. For further information: bjf@copydesk.org or 617-262-9461 or 617-561-9139. **Paulist Center, 5 Park Street, Boston (across from the Park St. "T").**

Saturday, October 29, 11:00 am: STOP THE WAR! MOBI-LIZE ON THE BOSTON COMMON. End the Occupation of Iraq! Bring the Troops Home Now! Military Recruiters Out of Our Schools! Fund Human Needs--Not War! Speakers to include Felix Arroyo, Boston City Councilor at-large; Klare X. Allen, 2005 Nobel Peace Prize nominee; Cindy Sheehan, Gold Star Families for Peace, and more. Sponsored by October 29th Coalition, a broad coalition of Boston area anti-war, student, and community organizations, including MVPP. For further infor-mation: www.oct29.org or 617-338-9966, option 5. **BE THERE: Boston Common, Bandstand.**

Thursday, November 3, 6:30 pm: "Rebels with a Cause: Proposition 2½ Twenty-five Years Later," with Barbara Ander-son and Jim Braude. Sponsored by Ford Hall Forum. For fur-ther information: www.fordhallforum.neu.edu or 617-373-5800. **716 Columbus Avenue #565, Boston.**

Thursday, November 3 through Saturday, November 12: "EYES WIDE OPEN," AFSC's widely acclaimed exhibition on the human costs of the Iraq War, featuring a pair of boots honoring each U.S. military casualty, a field of shoes, and a Wall of Remembrance to memorialize the Iraqis killed in the conflict.

November 3: Boston Common, above the Park St. "T".
5 pm: Formal Opening & Candle Light Vigil
7 pm: Forum with Dahr Jamail, Military Families Speak Out, Gold Star Families For Peace, and Iraq Veterans against the War;
Paulist Center, 5 Park Street.

Nov. 7 & 8: Copley Square
5:30 pm: Candlelight Vigil on November 7, followed at 7 pm by film "Arlington West" and discussion at Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St.

Nov. 10-12: U. Mass Amherst

Friday, November 4, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm: The 2005 Dry-lonso Awards, presented by Community Change, Inc. This event honors ordinary people doing extraordinary things in the struggle to dismantle racism. For further information: www.communitychangeinc.org or 617-523-0555.

Tuesday, November 8, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm: United for a Fair Economy's Tuesday Evening Workshop Series —"Closing the Racial Wealth Divide." One of UFE's popular Educa-tion Economics programs that transform dry economic statistics into strong learning experiences that connect with people's lives and lead to action. Program is free; dinner provided for a \$5 donation. RSVP to Candace at 617-423-2148 x101. For further information: www.faireconomy.org.

Sunday, November 14, 7:00 pm: "Bonhoeffer," film by Mar-tin Doblmeier. Followed by discussion led by Nancy Lukens and Martin Rumscheidt on recognizing and combating fascism today. This Dover Meeting event is open to the public. Potluck at 6:00 pm. Further information: Randall Kezar rkezar@rcn.com or 603-642-8265. **Dover Friends Meeting House, 141 Central Avenue, Dover, NH.**

Thursday, November 17, 6:30 pm: "Women to Women, A Journey to Darfur." Gloria White-Hammond, Liz Walker, and Linda Mason. Sponsored by Ford Hall Forum. For further information: 617-373-5800 or www.fordhallforum.neu.edu. Old South Meetinghouse, Boston.

Friday, November 18 through Sunday, November 20: Con-vergence on Fort Benning, GA; 3 Days of Remembrance and Resistance to Close the School of the Americas. Each year thousands gather and hundreds commit peaceful civil disobedi-ence as a protest against the U.S. institution now called the Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation but for-merly known as the School of the Americas. At the SOA, U.S. instructors have trained many of the worst human rights viola-tors in Central and South America. As a global anti-torture movement gains momentum and the U.S. Congress considers whether to close down the school, it is important to bring a pow-erful presence to the SOA gates. For further information: Mary Kate Small at marykatespeace@yahoo.com or 978-474-0606; also www.soaw.org.

Saturday, November 19: HIPP (Help Increase the Peace Program). Hosted by Senior Youth at the Haverhill Universalist Unitarian Church, Haverhill, MA for U.U. and Interfaith Youth, with Barbara Hildt. For further information: Peter Cameron at 978-975-0405.

SAVE THE DATE:

MVPP'S ANNUAL STONE SOUP DINNER

Tuesday, November 22, 6:30 pm

North Parish Church, North Andover

Books of Note

Recommended Reads, compiled by Don Abbott

Daniel Berrigan: Testimony: the Word Made Flesh, Orbis Books, 2004. Foreword by John Dear. Culled from Berrigan's files of talks, essays, poems, and reflections--many of which had never been published--this collection shines with the author's unique language, spoken out of his unshakable belief in the truth and the efficacy, indeed the utter necessity, of nonviolence in a world of war, despair and violence. Whatever one's faith tradition, religious or humanistic, these are words that can help to save us.

Noam Chomsky: Imperial Ambitions: Conversations on the Post-9/11 World, Metropolitan Books, 2005. Interviews with David Barsamian, founder and director of Alternative Radio, www.alternativeradio.org. Barsamian and Chomsky have been talking with each other since the mid-'80s, and these are transcripts of recent conversations. Frank views on the invasion and occupation of Iraq, the Bush doctrine of preventative war, and the threat the U.S. poses to international peace through its drive for full domination of the world. Trenchant descriptions of the propaganda system that distorts reality and allows growing fascism in America to keep us in its thrall.

Ann Fagan Ginger, editor: Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations since 9/11, Prometheus Books 2005. Created by the Executive Director of the Meikeljohn Civil Liberties Institute, this is an extraordinary reference work. Are you concerned with freedom, human rights, and democracy in the midst of an "endless war on terror?" This accessible and highly organized compendium presents the facts in nearly 200 reports on 30 different types of human rights violations by our country in this young century, and provides practical tools to preserve, defend, and protect our constitutional freedom and our need for peace. In March 2005, the City Council of Berkeley, CA, voted unanimously to submit copies of this report to the U.S. State Department and the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Rushworth M. Kidder: Moral Courage, William Morrow, 2005. When we see something that is wrong, why do many of us find ourselves sometimes unready, unable, or unwilling to act? Kidder, the founder of the Institute for Global Ethics (Maine and England) and formerly a senior columnist for the Christian Science Monitor, teaches about moral courage as the bridge between talking about ethics and doing ethics. Well-grounded conceptually, clear in its definition, and illustrated by very helpful, real-life examples, this book is the work of an objective "public philosopher" who explores the way moral courage can spur us to strive for core values in our private and public lives.

Douglas Worth: Catch the Light, Selected Poems (1963-2003), Higganum Hill Books, 2004. A gifted, though lesser-known poet, who just might stand within the tradition of Emerson, Whitman, and Thoreau, Worth is faithful to the indivisibility of nature and spirit. With considerable craft and control, he writes poems with imaginative and spiritual depth. His is a voice that summons you to listen again and again...and to call your best friend to come and hear. His attentiveness to his world enlivens the same sensibility in his reader. Such attention is urgently needed as an essential survival skill for our species today. Howard Zinn has called him "a visionary dream-weaver of the future global tribe."

Poetry

Peace Maker
(for Daniel Berrigan)
by Douglas Worth

Asked, for a change, to comment

not about pouring your blood
over nose cones, prisons, the Pentagon, Nicaragua
or other such obvious
places you'd recently been

but about what you thought
of Saint Francis of Assisi,

after what seemed an awkward
moment's shifting of gears;
dumbfoundment? bemusement? titters
rippling the crowd,

you mentioned a painting
given to you by an artist
dying of cancer

that portrayed the saint praying
one arm round his brother
wolf,
the latter looking ferocious
and none-too-well fed.

It made you wish
Saint Francis well,
you said,

and went on,
once the swell of uneasy amusement
at your cryptic understatement
had subsided,
to suggest that perhaps one measure

of a peace maker—
Gandhi, King, those
whose lives you have tried to live by—
is the tenacity
with which one is willing to bear
one's message, over and over,
down from some cherished mountain top
tower, porch, lectern,
and speak it
into the slobbering fangs of aggression

feeling the hot, sour breath
ablaze in your nostrils,
flinging an arm round the bony neck,
kneeling to pray

not just for the ravenous
creature panting beside you,
but that other, waiting
to gobble you up
inside.

Editor's comment: The following statement, written after the terrorist attacks in London last July, is just the "voice in the wilderness" I need to hear. It provides a healing antidote to the endless invocation of fear that emanates from the Bush Administration, especially in the President's most recent speech on terrorism on October 6th.

How To Stop Terrorism

by **John Dear, S.J.**

Sunday, July 10, 2005

<http://www.jonahhouse.org/Dear,John0705.htm>

Like many, I was upset about the horrific terrorist attacks on London on July 7th. I spent a few days in London just this past Christmas. I know my way around the Tube. It gave me flashbacks of my days working at Ground Zero right after the September 11th attacks, and the thousands of grieving people I met in the months afterwards as a Red Cross coordinator of chaplains at the New York Family Assistance Center.

However, I am equally upset by the ongoing U.S. terrorist attacks on Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and elsewhere. My heart breaks with every report of the hundreds of nameless people who die from our bombs, our weapons, our soldiers.

For me, then the question, "How to Stop Terrorism?" is easy. We stop terrorism first of all by stopping our own terrorism! We cannot fight terrorism by becoming terrorists. We cannot end terrorism by using the methods of terrorism to bomb and kill Iraqis, to occupy Iraq, to support the terrorist occupation of the Palestinians, and to hold the world hostage with our nuclear weapons. We must bring the troops home from Iraq, fund nonviolent democratic peacemakers in Iraq, send food and medicine to Iraq, support United Nations' nonviolent peacemaking solutions, end world hunger immediately, cut all U.S. military aid everywhere, dismantle every one of our nuclear weapons, fund jobs, education and healthcare at home and abroad, clean up the environment and teach nonviolence to everyone around the world, beginning at home in every U.S. classroom.

As I watch the TV news reporters and commentators, I am amazed at their lack of understanding. Half the world considers the United States the leading terrorist in the world, but our public spokespeople remain clueless about what's really going on. We are seen as terrorists by many around the world because we bombed and killed 100,000 people in Iraq in 2003, and because we have over 20,000 weapons of mass destruction, (many of them in my neighborhood in New Mexico), which we are willing to use on any nation that does not support "U.S. interests." Our wars and bombing raids and hostility toward the world's poor are turning the world against us. We are breeding thousands of new terrorists, desperate poor people who have nothing, whose backs are up against the wall, and who have learned from our total violence to adopt the lunacy of violence, even suicidal violence, to strike back, blow up trains and buses, and spend their lives spreading fear.

Violence in response to violence can only lead to further violence. Jesus taught us that as the soldiers were dragging him away to his death when he said, "Those who live by the sword, will die by the sword." Gandhi taught us that when he said, "An eye for an eye only makes the whole world blind."

Violence cannot stop violence. We have to break the cycle of violence, renounce violence, start practicing creative active non-

violence on a level that the world has never seen, and reach out and embrace the world's poor by meeting their every need. Then, we will win over the world, and no one will ever want to hurt a Westerner again. On that new day, we will sow the seeds of love and peace and discover what a world without terrorism, war, poverty, and fear is like.

I remember with sadness meeting thousands of Iraqis in 1999 when I led a group of Nobel Peace Prize winners to Baghdad. We asked everyone the simple question, "What do you want us to do?" Everyone we met, from the Papal Nuncio to the Muslim Imam to the non-governmental organization leaders (including the late, great Margaret Hassan) to hundreds of high school children to the hundreds of mothers holding their dying children, said: "Don't kill us!" That sounds so obvious, but they said it with tears. If you want to help us, don't kill us! If you want us to live in peace, don't kill us! If you want us to be friends with you, don't kill us! If you want Iraq to create a new democracy, don't kill us! Send us food and medicine instead, and fund nonviolent, democratic movements for peace. Then, we will live in peace with you.

I reject violence and espouse only nonviolence, but I know that most Americans support, even relish violence, anything for "God and country," they say. If people really believe in violence and justified warfare, then why should they be upset when individuals, or hundreds, or thousands, or maybe someday millions of people turn against the United States, England, or other first world nations in acts of terrorism? What do they expect when we have shown only hostility to the world's poor, when we have practiced genocide against people in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Darfur, Haiti, and elsewhere? Why are people who espouse violence--including most Americans, most TV commentators, most government officials, even most church people--so upset about these terrorist attacks, when they themselves support terrorism upon sisters and brothers elsewhere on the planet?

I do not understand our love of violence. If you want other people to be nonviolent, you first have to be nonviolent. If you want to remove the speck from someone else's eye, you have to remove the two by four from your own head. If you want other nations to hold you in high regard, you first have to hold other nations in high regard, and treat every human being on the planet as a sister and brother. As someone once said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." That is the answer to the nightmare of terrorism.

On August 6th, thousands of us across the country will remember that the United States vaporized 140,000 innocent, ordinary people sixty years ago in Hiroshima, Japan, in the ultimate terrorist attack. That morning, hundreds of us will converge on Los Alamos, New Mexico, the birthplace of the bomb, and citing the book of Jonah, we will put on sackcloth and ashes, repent for the sin of war and nuclear weapons, and beg the God of peace for the disarmament of the world. That afternoon, I will fly to Las Vegas, to join over five hundred people of faith in a three day interfaith peace conference, where I will speak and then we will drive out to the Nevada Test Site, where hundreds of us will commit civil disobedience by walking onto the Test Site and getting arrested in a peaceful demand that they close this U.S. nuclear terrorist training camp. I hope everyone everywhere will stand up in protest against nuclear terrorism on August 6th.

How do we stop terrorism? Renounce every trace of violence in your heart and your life. Adopt the wisdom and practice of active nonviolence, as Gandhi and Dr. King taught. Beg the God

of peace for the gift of peace. Join your local peace and justice group. Stand up publicly for an end to war. Let your life be disrupted, and take a new, nonviolent risk for disarmament. Create new cells of active nonviolence. Embrace the religious roots of nonviolence. Study and teach the wisdom of nonviolence. Resist your local military and government violence. Stop business as usual, government as usual, media as usual, war as usual and demand peace, justice, and disarmament for the whole world, now. Announce the vision of a new nonviolent world, a disarmed world, a world without war, poverty, injustice or nuclear weapons. Explain how such a world is possible if we give our lives for it, demand it, insist on it, work for it, and begin to live it.

URGENT ACTION ITEM

Massachusetts Ballot Initiative: Should the Massachusetts National Guard be in Iraq?

MVPP has joined peace and justice groups in Massachusetts to support a regional effort in a national campaign to end the war in Iraq through binding statewide ballot initiatives to pressure the administration to bring the troops home now.

The first step is to place such an initiative on the November 2006 ballot in Massachusetts that would prevent the Governor from sending any more Massachusetts National Guard troops to Iraq. The initiative would also call on the Governor to recall those National Guard troops already deployed to Iraq. It was crafted by constitutional law experts and certified as constitutional by the Attorney General of Massachusetts.

To place this initiative on the November 2006 ballot, 100,000 valid signatures of Massachusetts voters are required by November 15, 2005.

To read the exact language of the initiative and to download a copy of the petition see:
<http://www.homefromiraqnow.org/>.

We urge all members to sign on and to work hard to circulate the petition and gather as many other signatures as possible. Use of your email list may be an effective process too. Also, the MVPP table at 20 Main Street in Andover at every Saturday morning vigil, 10 am – 12 noon, will have petitions. For further information or for instructions for circulating petitions in your community, call Becci Backman at 9787-475-5679 or Bobbie Goldman at 978-661-9009.

Time is short; the cause is urgent. As John Bonifaz (lawyer and author of Warrior King: The Case for Impeaching George Bush) has written: "This is the first time in American history that a ballot initiative is being used to empower voters to take matters into their own hands to end a war."

"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest."

--Elie Wiesel

FLASH BULLETIN!

"A GUIDE FOR ALTERNATIVES TO THE MILITARY" NOW AVAILABLE

The Boston Direct Action Project has just released an extremely useful resource for all of us who are active in counter-recruitment work. Entitled "A Guide for ALTERNATIVES to the MILITARY," this 24-page booklet is available at once. We urge members to accept the invitation to download it at <http://bostondirectactionproject.blogspot.com>.

As the back cover advertises: "This booklet isn't a secret. Please copy and share it."

One of the most urgent questions in counter-recruitment education has been how to help young people get a handle on real, constructive alternatives to military service. This new booklet appears to be a goldmine for those who seek practical information for use by those who live in the Greater Boston Area. A lot of this information is not readily available to youth. Here, however, it can be placed at their fingertips, with very specific names and contact information for useful resources and opportunities.

Consider the Table of Contents:

Getting into College

Computer Skills

Money for College

Four Year Colleges

Online Schools

Two Year Colleges

Volunteer Corps

Religious Volunteer Corps

Apprenticeships

Trade Schools

Taking the G.E.D.

Anti-War Resources

Community Resources

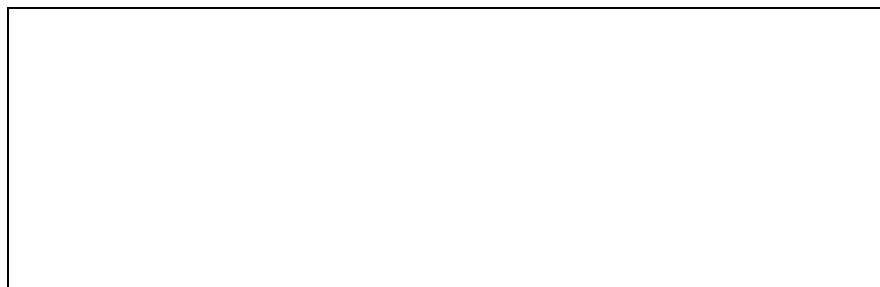
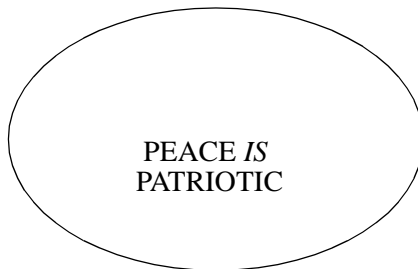
Young people deserve access to this information. Let's all give it to them.

"Pace yourself. An elephant can be swallowed, one bite at a time."

--proverb of unknown origin

Merrimack Valley People For Peace
P.O. Box 573
North Andover, MA 01845-0573

<http://www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org/>



The MVPP Newsletter is printed monthly and has a current distribution of 200. We are grateful for suggestions, comments, and help with publication. (Unless 2006 appears on your label, your dues have expired. Please remember to renew.)
MVPP President: Bobbie Goldman. Vice President: Becci Backman. Newsletter Editor: Don Abbott. Newsletter contributors: Becci Backman, Arthur and Margaret Brien, Bobbie Goldman, Sue Imhoff, Brian Quirk, Boryana Tacconi, and Mary Todd.

CALL AND WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES & SENATORS TO MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN

Every legislator knows one letter is worth a thousand votes.

President George W. Bush

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500
White House Comment Desk: 202 456-1111
E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202 224-4543 fax: 202 224-2417
2400 JFK Building, Boston MA 02203
617 565-3170 fax: 617 565-3183
Form: <http://kennedy.senate.gov/contact.html>

Senator John F. Kerry

304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202 224-2742 fax: 202 224-8525
One Bowdoin Sq., Boston, MA 02114
617 565-8519 fax: 617 248-3870
Form: <http://kerry.senate.gov/text/contact/email.html>

Representative Martin Meehan (District 5)

2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202 225-3411 fax: 202 226-0771
305 Essex Street, Lawrence, MA 01840
978 681-6200 fax: 978 682-6870
E-mail: martin.meehan@mail.house.gov

Representative John Tierney (District 6)

120 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202 225-8020 fax: 202 225-5915
17 Peabody Sq, Peabody, MA 01960
978 531-1669 fax: 978 531-1996
E-mail: <http://www.house.gov/tierney/email.htm>

A link to all in US legislature:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/legbranch/legbranch.html>

How Senators and Representatives voted:

Senate: http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/a_three_sections_with_teasers/votes.htm
House: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2004/index.asp>

State Voting Information: Look up who you vote for at
<http://www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/myelectioninfo.php>