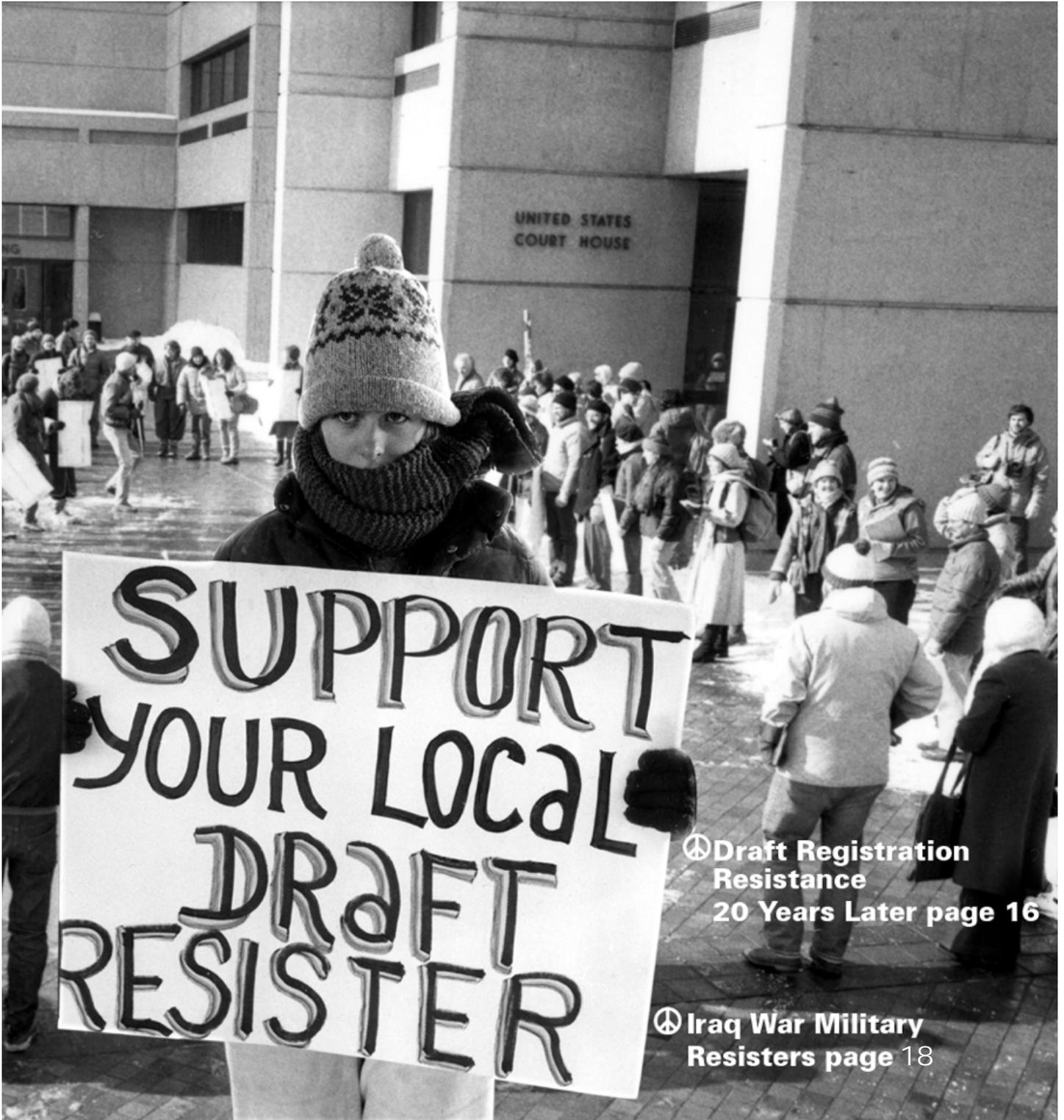


Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace and Social Justice

February 2005 PNL 739



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Resistance
20 Years Later page 16

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Resisters page 18

Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace and Social Justice

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SPC Announcements is the Peace Council's email service which sends a few announcements each week about upcoming activities. Subscribe at the bottom of our webpage: [www.peacecouncil.net].



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Syracuse Peace Council

924 Burnet Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203

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Carol Baum, Andy Mager, Jessica Maxwell, Paul Pearce (SPC Press/TV). Interns: Lauren Neider and Kelsy Waggaman

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March PNL Deadline

Article submissions: February 1
 Calendar items: February 14

About the Cover

These photos from Andy Mager's 1985 draft resistance trial include former PNL coordinator Karen Beetle (foreground). Former SPC intern and SU design student Lisa Maynard designed the cover with photos by Paul Pearce.

The *Peace Newsletter (PNL)* is published monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council (SPC). The *PNL* is the newsletter of SPC as well as a forum for articles which discuss issues of concern to the peace and justice movement. The opinions expressed in the *PNL* reflect the diversity of opinions within SPC itself.

Syracuse Peace Council

Statement of Purpose

The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC), founded in 1936, is an antiwar/social justice organization. It is community-based, autonomous and funded by the contributions of its supporters.

SPC educates, agitates and organizes for a world where war, violence and exploitation in any form will no longer exist. It challenges the existing unjust power relationships among nations, among people and between ourselves and the environment. As members, we work to replace inequality, hierarchy, domination and powerlessness with mutual respect, personal empowerment, cooperation and a sense of community.

Present social injustices cannot be understood in isolation from each other, nor can they be overcome without recognizing their economic and militaristic roots. SPC seeks to make these connections clear. We initiate and support activities that help build this sense of community and help tear down the walls of oppression. A fundamental basis for peace and justice is an economic system that places human need above monetary profit. We establish relationships among people based on cooperation rather than competition or the threat of destruction.

Our political values and personal lives shape and reflect each other. In both, we are committed to nonviolent means of conflict resolution and to a process of decision-making that responds to the needs of us all.

Educate, Agitate, Organize

SPC IN ACTION

compiled by Jessica Maxwell



The Bush Coronation

Protests, counter-inaugurals, and civil disobedience marked Bush's official inauguration on January 20. Locally, SPC organized activists to hold a banner on the Spencer St. overpass above I-81 from 4:30-5 pm. Rush hour traffic was greeted with the message, "NOT OUR LEADER, Impeach Bush." Three other local actions happened independently. A contingent of discarded Christmas trees held a "Trees Against Bush" demonstration in Clinton Square during the morning. The trees wore signs such as "Trim the Executive Branch." The Syracuse Cultural Workers gathered with signs at noon in front of the Federal Building to protest as Bush took his oath of office. Another group gathered on Marshall Street at the same time.

That evening, about 35 people attended SPC's program on electoral reform. Panelists Bo Lipari of New Yorkers for Verified Voting [www.nyvv.org], Megan Quattlebaum of Common Cause [www.commoncause.org] and Marisol Hernandez, who worked with local voter education efforts in the Latino community.

About 100 residents of Syracuse, Cortland, and Binghamton boarded two buses to join the DC protests against Bush's second inauguration. Members of the Student Environmental Action Coalition organized the trip with help from the Syracuse Peace Council and the Syracuse Greens. Thousands of people attended the counter-inaugural events in DC despite heightened security. Police cars and vans were a common sight, but protestors managed to get around with the support of many DC residents. In a city where 90% of residents did *not* vote for Bush, marchers were greeted by waves from people in buildings, car honks in support, and bystanders cheering or giving the thumbs-up.

While marching with throngs of people, drums and chants kept the spirit of pro-

testors high as they tirelessly hoisted their signs in the air. Demonstrators were restricted from certain areas such as the inaugural parade route, where sign size was limited and bags searched. Protestors standing outside the security checkpoints were often challenged by Bush supporters waiting in line. They held strong, however, with the clear message that under a second Bush term US citizens face threats to our civil liberties, an unjust war in Iraq and the threat of pre-emptive strikes elsewhere. A massive cry for peace and justice was shouted out in DC by thousands of people who had come from around the country.



Jolie Christine Rickman in Action.
Photo: Jamie McCallum

The Passing of a "Shero"

For years Jolie Christine Rickman inspired many of us with her lyrics, music and activism – and the seamless web between them. Jolie, partner of former SPC staffer Bill Mazza, passed away on January 19 following a battle with cancer, waged with her trademark grit and humor. A memorial service will be scheduled Contact SPC regarding the memorial service to be held in Syracuse. Jolie *ipresente!*

Welcome Kelsy and Lauren

We're thrilled to have two energetic and talented new interns working with us full-time! Kelsy Waggaman has been working with the Youth and Militarism Task Force and helping organize SPC's annual bowl-a-thon (see below). Lauren Neider helped coordinate SPC's counter-inaugural activities on January 20 and is helping to set up an Iraq working group to address the ongoing US occupation (see below).

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL

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Youth and Militarism

SPC is a part of the Youth and Militarism Task Force. The Task Force is looking forward to an engaging agenda for the next few months. The January 12 Draft and Draft Registration information program went well, and has energized our work to educate young people about their options regarding the military. We plan to focus on educational programs for schools and faith/community center youth groups. This will include tabling at schools (counter-recruitment) and encouraging public schools to change their policies for releasing student information to military recruiters under the No Child Left Behind Act.

The Task Force is offering a Draft Information Workshop for people who want to assist in outreach work. The seven-hour training (9:00 am-12:30 pm on Saturdays, February 12 and 26) will cover the basics of Selective Service rules, regulations, and options; conscientious objection

SPC / continued on page 4

SPC MONTHLY PROGRAM

White Activists Confronting White Racism

Thursday, February 17
7-8:30 pm

Westcott Community Center
(corner of Euclid and Westcott, Syracuse)
followed by refreshments & discussion

Participatory discussion/workshop on how white people can constructively address their own racism and the personal and institutional racism in society. Racism and white privilege affect our lives in both subtle and obvious ways.

SPC in Action / from page 3

and non-registration, in order to “teach choice” to draft-age youth. Training materials cost \$15 (no one excluded for lack of funds). The program is limited to 15 participants, so please reserve your spot by February 9. Contact Kelsy Waggaman at SPC or [antioch@peacecouncil.net].

Iraq Organizing

As we go to press, SPC is establishing a committee to coordinate our Iraq organizing work. The crisis and devastation continues to escalate under the US occupation. We see little hope that the elections will bring either security or democracy to Iraq. Our organizing efforts must be strategic and consistent if we are to impact US Iraq policy (see page 21). To join the committee or help in some other way, contact Jessica at SPC.

SPC's Vision

SPC scheduled three meetings in late January and early February for members of our staff, steering committee and other standing organizational committees to engage in a long-term planning process. The last meeting is scheduled for February 12. We will evaluate SPC's current program and organizational development work, set goals and develop strategy for achieving those goals. Discussions of relocating the SPC office have been deferred until after this process is completed.

We'll wrap up our planning process just before the United for Peace and Justice coalition's national assembly—February 19-21 in Saint Louis, MO. As one of over 800 member organizations, SPC will send a representative to participate in the gathering. Look for an update on the results of this process in a future *PNL*.

Direct Deposit to SPC

Regular pledges provide SPC with a predictable and reliable source of income throughout the year. If you're a member of the Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union this can be very simple and easy - you can pledge to SPC through direct deposit. If you'd like to start off the new year with a regular quarterly or monthly

commitment to SPC, contact **Gerry Russo at SCFCU, 471-1116**, to arrange an automatic withdrawal. Then simply email or phone SPC so we can look for your contribution on our monthly credit union statement.

Activist Appreciation

If you've checked out our online *Peace Newsletter* [www.peacecouncil.net] lately you probably noticed a more attractive look, including graphics. We thank Nancy Newman for these improvements.

Nancy, a researcher and administrator at Upstate Medical University, expressed interest in working actively with the Peace Council in response to last year's spring fund appeal. After an email exchange, she took on the web posting of the *PNL* in May and has been devotedly doing it monthly. Her favorite part of the work “is learning something new about web development programs and getting it to work right.”



SPC's 2005 Steering Committee: (top, left to right) Emily Moeller, Joan Conley, Nick Poulos, Barbara Humphrey, Mike Pasquale, Beth Mosley, Dik Cool; (bottom, left to right) Carole Resnick, Carol Baum, Andy Mager, Jessica Maxwell and Tina Musa. (Missing from photo: Gary Bonaparte and Shirley Novak.) Photo: Kelsy Waggaman

Peace Newsletter Help

While we're proud to publish a quality newsletter each month, we'd like more hands to share the work. Unlike much activism, we get to see the fruit of our labor each month. The *PNL* editorial committee is looking for people to:

- coordinate graphics (5+ hours/month)
- gather information and lay out the monthly community calendar (6 hours/month)
- serve on the editorial committee (10 hours/month)
- help edit articles (variable).

Contact Andy.

Weekly Peace Outreach

“End the War; Bring the Troops Home”

Thursdays, 7:30-8:15 am

- Feb. 3: Valley Dr. & Seneca Tnpk.
- Feb. 10: James St. & Thompson Rd.
- Feb. 17: S. Salina & East Colvin
- Feb. 24: E. Genesee St. & Erie Blvd.

Get Involved!

If you want to get more involved but haven't, or want to learn more about SPC, our current program priorities and organizational development projects, stop by for our next monthly orientation – **Thursday, February 3 at SPC, 7 to 8:30 pm**. We'll provide refreshments. This is a perfect opportunity to ask questions, meet other new folks and identify projects and tasks you're interested in working on.

Pledge Solidarity with Muslims – Feb. 25

The CNY Bill of Rights Defense Campaign, of which SPC is a part, is again asking Central New Yorkers to stand in solidarity with our Muslim sisters and brothers on **February 25**.

Two years ago, on February 26, 2003, federal and local law enforcement agents aggressively interrogated 150 local Muslim and Arab families as part of investigating Help the Needy, a charity to which many of the families had donated. The agents were intimidating, intrusive and insensitive: the Syracuse-area Muslim and Arab community still feels the impact.

Please join in one or more of the following activities: come to a morning gathering followed by a legislative visit; wear the hajab for the day (for women); send a symbolic donation of \$1 or more to a Muslim community organization; and/or stand in silent contemplation or prayer at the times Muslims pause in daily prayer.

PNL subscribers can see the insert for specific details on how to participate and the mail-in coupon. Others should contact Carol at SPC. In order to have a count to share with the Muslim commu-

SPC / continued on page 6

Providing Empowering Tsunami Aid: Suggestions from Starhawk & UFPJ (United for Peace & Justice)

The following is adapted from Starhawk's article, "Four Suggestions for Empowering Aid." For the full text, see her website, [www.starhawk.org]. Starhawk is a well-known global justice activist and organizer, whose work and writings have inspired many to action.

Our hearts grieve for the hundreds of thousands of victims of the December 26 tsunami, which may be the worst natural disaster in human memory. But how do we help in a way that empowers communities and does not strengthen the grip of the international institutions of power?

Politically, we can continue to pressure the US and other governments to provide aid, and to call for a moratorium — or better yet, outright cancellation of the World Bank and IMF loan repayments owed by affected countries.

Personally, we can donate to groups that are working close to the ground, that have longstanding ties to communities, and that share the values of sustainability and justice. Here are three suggestions:

Sri Lanka:

The Nonviolent Peaceforce has been working in Sri Lanka, attempting to be a neutral, nonviolent presence in the ongoing civil war. They suggest donating to Sarvodaya [www.sarvodaya.lk/], one of their partner organizations, which is providing relief in one of the most devastated countries.

Donate to Sarvodaya online through the Nonviolent Peaceforce at: [www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org/english/help/donatosarvodaya.asp]

To donate via post within the US, send a tax-deductible check made out to: Sarvodaya USA, 5716 Manchester Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Please earmark the check for the Tsunami disaster and note it is being sent via the Nonviolent Peaceforce.

Aceh—Indonesia:

Nonviolence International has worked in Aceh for five years. Their Peace Education Program has worked with religious leaders, teachers and youth to build the capacity for peacebuilding and nonviolent resolution of conflicts in Aceh, where a



Stephanie McMillan

civil war has raged for years. At last report, three of their staff members were missing. Their library of books and manuals, computers, financial records, curricula, and works in progress are all gone.

Nonviolence International-USA has established a relief fund for the victims and survivors of the earthquakes and tsunami in Aceh. Funds can be sent via the website at [www.nonviolenceinternational.net], or checks can be made out to Nonviolence International, PO Box 39127, Friendship Station, Washington, DC 20016, USA.

All Areas:

Via Campesina [www.viacampesina.org], the global organization of farm workers, has set up a relief fund specifically to empower local civic society and communities. The relief philosophy of Via Campesina is that communities should participate actively and be the key actors in the reconstruction process, and that peasant organizations should play a key mobilizing and supporting role. Via Campesina wants to give communities and organizations the political support they need in this process, and to help get the funds needed for reconstruction. The funds raised in this campaign will be used to strengthen local communities as the key actors in this process.

Make a secure on-line credit card donation at: [https://secure.groundspring.org/dn/index.php?aid=4589]; or make a check out to "Via Campesina/CENSA" and mail it to: CENSA/Via Campesina, 2288 Fulton Street, Suite 103, Berkeley, CA 94704. Earmark the check for tsunami relief.

The following suggestions come from United For Peace and Justice [www.unitedfor

peace.org]. United for Peace and Justice is a coalition of more than 800 local and national groups (including SPC) throughout the US who have joined together to oppose our government's policies of permanent warfare and empire-building.

Demand Increase in US Aid

Contact your Congressional representatives to demand that the US government dramatically increase its aid to the affected countries. After considerable pressure, the Bush Administration has upped its pledge of support to \$350 million — but that figure is still insultingly small, less than the amount that is wasted every two days on the war in Iraq. Find contact information for your representatives at [www.house.gov] and [www.senate.gov].

Demand Immediate Debt Cancellation

Like much of the Global South, the countries most affected by the tsunami have been crippled for years by staggering debt. Support the call by Jubilee South [www.jubilee south.org] and groups all over the world for the unconditional cancellation of all the debt owed by these countries. Support this demand by joining Jubilee USA Network in sending a letter to President Bush and Treasury Secretary Snow.

Support Grassroots Relief Efforts

Private giving is no substitute for government aid or debt cancellation. That said, there are many grassroots nongovernmental organizations in the region that not only do key relief work but are also empowering local communities and providing a

Tsunami / continued on page 20

nity and the media, please let us know what you are planning to do that day.

Strike for Peace – March 6

Mark your calendars, organize your team and get your costume ready! SPC's annual benefit bowl-a-thon is scheduled for **Sunday, March 6 from 2-5 pm** at Strike 'N Spare Lanes, 1777 Brewerton Rd. in Mattydale.

We're looking to top last year's stupendous effort: 51 teams, 250 bowlers and \$3500 raised. Begin organizing a team from your school, college, union, community/activist group, faith community....

You don't have to be a good bowler to have fun. Enthusiasm, striking (sic) attire and even performance art desired. Register as part of a team or on your own. Local subscribers see enclosed flier.

Register by February 24. The \$10/person entry fee covers two games, shoes, and an SPC donation (fee is \$12 after February 24). We hope you'll seek out sponsors to help with the fundraising part of the day's fun. Kids welcome; bumper lanes available.

Prizes...prizes...prizes!

Contact: Kelsy Waggaman at SPC or [antioch@peacecouncil.net]. Down load registration forms at [www.peacecouncil.net/bowl].

New Progressive Coalition?

For the past year SPC has been convening monthly Justice Breakfasts. These convivial events are an effort to increase networking among local progressive organizations. SPC is partnering with the CNY Labor Federation to coordinate efforts to transform this casual effort into a more formal coalition.

Representatives from over a dozen groups working on peace, labor rights, civil rights, civil liberties, poverty, women's issues, equal justice, the environment and cultural sharing are already plugging in. We've set up a listserv to share information and continue discussion between meetings. We're seeking to involve more organizations.

Our next meeting is **Wednesday, February 16 from 8 to 9:30 am** at the Brady Faith Center, 404 South Ave (opposite the Southwest Community Center), Syracuse. Contact: Andy at SPC, or Mark Spadafore, CNY Labor Federation, 422-3363 x11 or [mark@cnylabor.org].

NOON

Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON), an SPC program, has continued to increase its activism. Recently we have tabled and spoken to groups, met with Onondagas, and sent out an informational mailing. We'll soon create buttons and bumperstickers, reprint the *Neighbor to Neighbor, Nation to Nation* booklet, and develop and deliver more presentations.

Contact Carol if your group is interested in a NOON speaker, or if you would like to help. ☸

Ten miles out from town

*Granpa's papa and mama were babies
when slavery ended
and Granpa six before his sisters
slid him down their hips
and introduced his feet
to earth.*

*Mama wore no more
than four braids as a girl
and though not favored herself
spared sympathy for Slavic classmates
whipped for garlic on their breath.*

*I wore two braids,
breastfed my own
until they learned to sing,
and listen but don't stay
too long from home
when a white lady cries.*

*We rose up quick
from where we landed,
but some of the great-grands
are balancing heads
the size of basketballs
and limping from the press of shrapnel.*

*At funerals the old ones bawl
for old as well as new,
and ladies in white,
fanning through the worst of grief,
are frontline for the preacher's promise
to "Let the cemetery wait,
until we finish here."
They fan as though their hands
were made for only this
and rest by simply shifting tired feet
inside their worn down flats.*

*Ten miles out from town,
alone, I grip the steering wheel
and think of uncles driving
three days straight from Florida in '35,
the piss and shit backed up
inside them out of fear,
and Granpa waiting far up north
to set his reassuring hands upon their skin;
him telling me long after
that on moonless nights
the woods, no matter how they twist
and moan with ghosts,
are not our enemies;
him asking,
so I don't forget,
"Why else the moss grow
on the north side of trees?"*

-Mary McLaughlin Slechta
(from *Buried Bones*,
a chapbook, 2004)



Poetry to Mark African American History Month

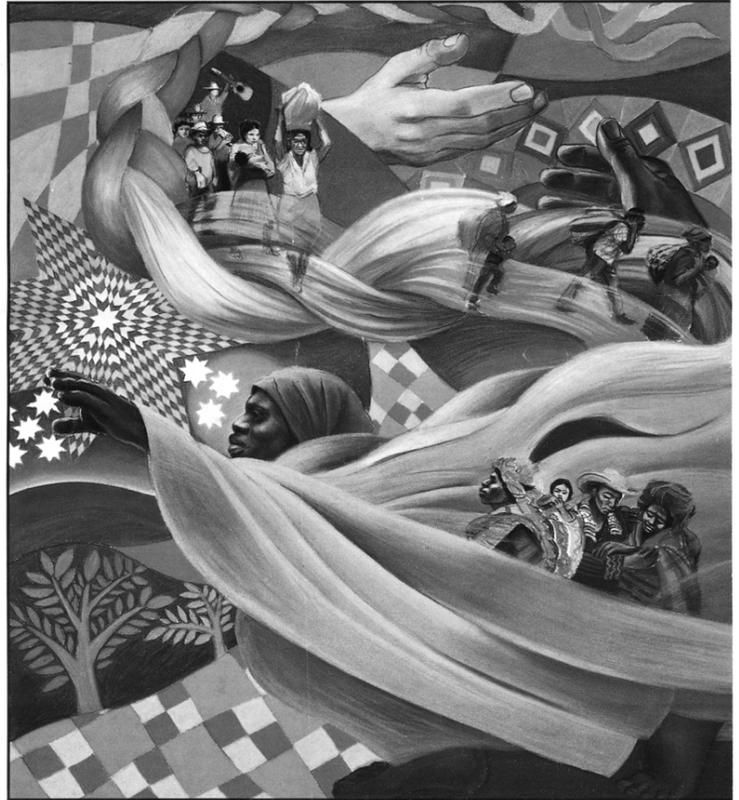
February commemorates African American History Month. In recognition and honor of the extraordinary efforts of our African American brothers and sisters who struggled and continue to struggle for equal rights and freedom in the face of adverse conditions; we feature the poetry of a few local artists. We hope these poems will inspire you to keep the fight for social justice alive.

A part of African-American folklore suggests that sometimes the will and constitution of slaves was so strong that they could exercise the power to “will” themselves out of the servitude of slavery. This poem is based on that supposition.

The People Could Fly

*I'm watching this TV program
About my people
And they show this Black boy
Who said he was tired of his master beating him
So he took off running
And he kept running and running
And wishing and hoping
And don't nobody know what happened to him
And he ran into the woods
But the next thing they saw
Was a beautiful black bird
With what looked like an injured wing
Flying away to freedom
You can say what you wanna
But I believe it*

*This woman was telling this story
About one of her ancestors
Who had hid in the underbelly of a barn
For seven years
For seven years
She only heard the voices of her children
She only saw the crack of sunlight
And then one day
When they brought her something to eat
saw a black bird strutting around
Like it had some new legs or something
And that bird took a long look at all of them
Stretched its wings
And flew away to freedom
You can say what you wanna
But I believe it*



“Sanctuary: The Spirit of Harriet Tubman,” is a poster from Syracuse Cultural Workers with artwork by David Fichter. It is available for \$7. (315-474-1132 or www.syracuseculturalworkers.org).

*Then there was this family of nothing but womenfolk
The mother knew she couldn't protect her daughter
From the master's loins much longer
She felt hopeless
She had to do something
And after the master defiled her baby girl
She knew what she had to do
And when they found his body
She had stolen her own children into the night
She could hear the mob approaching
She held them close
And she whispered to them to be perfectly still
And as the dogs and voices got closer
She prayed a prayer like she'd never prayed before
And as the pursuers looked into the sky
They saw a flock of black birds
Looking like a mama bird with the baby birds in tow
Flying away to freedom
You can say what you wanna
But I believe it*

-Omanii Abdullah

Where can you hear great acoustic music?
 Where can you hear engaging speakers?
 Where can 9–14 year olds go after school for an enriching experience?
 Where can seniors go for information & help, to socialize and have lunch?
 Where can you Talk to a Lawyer for FREE ?

The Westcott Community Center

That's where !

Call us for information about these programs and other exciting things happening at the Center

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 Email: info@westcottcc.org
 Web: www.westcottcc.org



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 Paul Robeson, Harriet Tubman

In honor of African American History Month all African American themed posters (above), cards, postcards and books are:

25% off MLK Day
through February 2005.

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Hope at Midnight: *Democracy Rises in Latin America*

Rebecca Solnit

Most of the acute despair felt in the wake of the US election has faded into general depression or a sense that all the effort, or even any effort, is futile. But I still wonder about the intensity of that gloom. And I'm still an advocate for hope.

One of the starkest contrasts of the campaign was that Bush was selling hope – even if false hope, something pretty indistinguishable from lies. After all, his good news consisted mostly of the assertion that the economy was doing great, the war was being won, and the US was safer. Kerry had the sorry job of saying that actually the war was a disaster, that we'd made millions of new enemies, that we were a whole lot less safe, and that the economy was tanking. Kerry never figured out any creative way to frame the bad news and the demands that such news makes.

As a product, Bush was more tightly packaged, prodding the US people along with the carrot of false hopes and the stick of false fears. Or perhaps displaced fears is a better term – for the feelings are real but the phenomena onto which they are projected aren't.

Late in the election season, I vowed to keep away from what I thought of as “the Conversation,” that tailspin of mutual wailing about how bad everything is, a recitation of the usual evidence against us that just dug any hope and imagination down into a dank little foxhole of curled-up despair. Now I listen to people having that conversation, wondering what it is we get from it – the certainty of despair? Is even that kind of certainty, a despair as false as Bush's hope, so worth pursuing? Let me try to make instead the case for realism and for not giving up.

Locating the Future

What strikes you when you come out of deep depression is the utter selfishness of misery, its shallow, stuck, inward gaze.

Rebecca Solnit is a writer and activist based in San Francisco. This article was adapted with permission from her book Hope in the Dark (Nation Books, 2004).



Massive street protests against the economic policies of Argentine President Fernando de la Rúa and his economic minister Domingo Cavallo led to government's resignation on December 20, 2001 and new elections. Photo: [latinacoop@hotmail.com]

Which is why the political imagination is better fueled by looking deeper and farther. The larger world: it was as though it disappeared during that season, as though there were only two places left on the planet – Iraq, like hell on Earth, and the United States rotting out from the center.

But there are places we hardly notice where it looks like the future is being invented – notably South America. In Uruguay, after not four years of creepy governments, but 170 years – ever since Andrew Jackson was president here – the people got a good leftist government. As Eduardo Galeano joyfully wrote:

A few days before the election of the President of the planet in North America, in South America elections and a plebiscite were held in a little-known, almost secret country called Uruguay. In these elections, for the first time in the country's history, the left won. And in the plebiscite, for the first time in world history, the privatization of water was rejected by popular vote, asserting that water is the right of all people.... The country is unrecognizable. Uruguayans, so unbelieving that even nihilism was beyond them, have started to believe, and with fervor. And today this melancholic

and subdued people, who at first glance might be Argentineans on valium, are dancing on air. The winners have a tremendous burden of responsibility. This rebirth of faith and revival of happiness must be watched over carefully. We should recall every day how right Carlos Quijano was when he said that sins against hope are the only sins beyond forgiveness and redemption.

The US is in many ways the world's big problem; South America is one place that looks like it's coming up with solutions. In Chile, huge protests against the Bush administration and its policies went on for several days, better than any we've had at home since the war broke out. Maybe Chile is the center of the world; maybe the fact that the country has evolved from a terrifying military dictatorship under General Augusto Pinochet to a democracy where people can be outspoken in their passion for justice on the other side of the world matters as much as our decline.

Despair there in the Pinochet era was more justified than here under Bush. And

Democracy / continued on page 10

as longtime Chile observer Roger Burbach wrote after those demonstrations, "There is indeed a Chilean alternative to Bush: it is to pursue former dictators and the real terrorists by using international law and building a global international justice system that will be based on an egalitarian economic system that empowers people at the grass roots to build their own future."

In Venezuela last August, voters reaffirmed "Washington's biggest headache," anti-Bush populist Hugo Chavez, in a US-backed referendum meant to topple him. This spring, Argentina's current president, Nestor Kirchner, backed by the country's popular rebellion against neoliberalism, defied the International Monetary Fund; Uruguayans voted against water privatization; Bolivians fought against water and natural gas privatization so fiercely they chased their neoliberal president into exile in Miami in October of 2003.

Which is not to say, forget Iraq, forget the US; just, remember Uruguay, remember Chile, remember the extraordinary movements against privatization and for justice, democracy, land reform and indigenous rights in Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Argentina, and Venezuela. Not one or the other, but both. Latin America is important on the face of it because these communities are inventing a better politics of means and of ends. That continent is also important because 20 years or so ago, almost all those countries were run by violent dictators. We know how the slide into tyranny and fear takes place, but how does the slow clambering out of it unfold? That's something we are going to need to know, because Bush is halfway through an eight-year reign, not at the start of a 1000-year Reich, so far as we can tell.

Counting Backward, Looking Forward

Stories of liberation have been running concurrently with the rise of the Bush administration and its leap into war. This is what the world usually looks like, not like Uruguay this fall, not like the US, but like both. F. Scott Fitzgerald famously said, "The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in the

mind at the same time, and still retain the ability to function." His forgotten next sentence is, "One should, for example, be able to see that things are hopeless and yet be determined to make them otherwise." You wonder what made Nelson Mandela hopeful in 1973, what made Czech dissident Vaclav Havel keep poking at the authorities in 1979, what kept the indigent peoples of the Americas going from 1492 to 1992 when their fortunes began to turn a little, what made the people of Uruguay bother to come out to vote after 170 years of bipartisan oligarchy, the people of Chile continue resisting at hideous cost against the Pinochet regime. And you re-



"Sovereign Bolivia! Never on our knees! Always on our feet! Gringos go home! The gas is not for sale!"

member that the world turned on Pinochet in 1998, that his own country will likely try him as a criminal, that his old crony Henry Kissinger is afraid to leave the United States for fear of international justice. Is it so impossible then, with another 20 years or so of heading in the direction the world's been heading, the direction the US government is trying to head off, to imagine that Bush may one day find himself in a war-crimes tribunal?

The last 15 years in Poland and Venezuela, in rural Mexico and downtown Seattle are the wide-open present in which we live. And what distinguishes all these hallmarks – the case for the defense of hope – is that they are about the power that lies on the edges, in the shadows, with

forgotten, discounted, marginal and ordinary people, not the privileged and spotlighted. It is that power on the edges, the power of the powerless, that undermines the WTO, troubles Monsanto, overthrew a president in Bolivia, and makes the war in Iraq unwinnable.

Hope at the Edges

The US election was bound to be depressing, since its very nature was to fix our gaze upon national electoral politics, the arena in which they have lots of power and we have hardly any. At these times, the world is organized like a theater; politicians are what's on stage; and the message is that this and nowhere else is where the fate of the world is decided. It's easy to let your gaze lock onto the limelight, helped along by all the mainstream media. And staring at a bright light makes it hard to see in the dark areas around and beyond. It takes time for your eyes to adjust. The brightly lit stage is an arena of tremendous power, but of almost no creativity. Much is decided there, but what is at stake comes from elsewhere. I wonder nowadays if the fear of the Other – communists, immigrants, terrorists – displaces into safe terms the very real recognition that change comes from the edge. Those with a stake in the status quo are there to protect the center not just from assault, but from imagination and transformation. But change will come anyway.

The Wobblies used to say, "Don't mourn, organize!" Do both. The election was deeply depressing, and I'm not arguing against being depressed. I'm just arguing against giving up. And for broadening the arena of evidence under consideration, since the world is larger than the United States and mostly in defiance of it, not to mention utterly unpredictable.

And besides which, if you give up, you'll hate yourself in the morning. If you act, you may or may not have the impact you intend, but you know what the consequences of passivity are. Insurrection is the honorable way to go, and you can be a small victory just by being in public, in touch, and outspoken – one person who hasn't been conquered. Don't do the Administration the favor of conquering yourself.

McDonald's Hot Coffee Lawsuit and Beyond: The Tort "Reform" Myth Machine

Jon Greenbaum

Perhaps you saw the Seinfeld episode in which lawyer Jackie Chiles encourages Kramer to sue over a cup of hot coffee. The show spoofed the reported \$2.7 million awarded to a woman who had sued McDonald's. Elaine's reaction to Kramer mirrored what most people were saying: "Who ever heard of this anyway? Suing a company because their coffee is too hot? Coffee is supposed to be hot." Of course Kramer, replies, "Yeah, but Jackie says the top was faulty."

It's a perfect morality tale exposing everything wrong with our litigious society whose members refuse to accept personal responsibility. The McDonald's lawsuit was ridiculous, right? We're all bearing the burden of higher insurance rates because there is an epidemic of lawsuits, right? Malpractice lawsuits are driving doctors out of business, right?

Well, not really.

Third Degree Burns

Here's what the talk show pundits and columnists neglected to mention about the McDonald's coffee burn case:

- 79 year-old Stella Liebeck suffered third degree burns on her groin and inner thighs while trying to add sugar to her coffee at a McDonald's drive-thru. Third degree burns are the most serious kind of burn.
- McDonald's knew it had a problem. There were at least 700 previous cases of scalding coffee incidents at McDonald's before Liebeck's case.
- McDonald's had settled many claims before, but refused Liebeck's request for \$20,000 compensation, forcing the case into court.

Jon is an organizer with Metro Justice, a Rochester-based peace and justice organization. Metro Justice [www.metrojustice.org] has 1,000 dues paying members in the Rochester area.

- McDonald's heats its coffee to about 190°, 30-50 degrees hotter than other restaurants. Doctors testified that at 190° it only takes 2-7 seconds to cause a third degree burn.

- McDonald's knew its coffee was exceptionally hot but testified that it had never consulted with a burn specialist. McDonald's rationale was that the coffee smells better at such scalding temperatures.



- The Shriners Burn Institute had previously warned McDonald's not to serve coffee above 130 degrees.

And so the jury came back with a decision: \$160,000 for compensatory damages. But because McDonald's was guilty of "willful, reckless, malicious or wanton conduct," punitive damages were also applied. The jury set the award at \$2.7 million. The judge then reduced the fine to less than half a million. Ms. Liebeck then settled with McDonald's for a sum reported to be much less than a half million dollars. McDonald's coffee is now served nationwide at the same temperature as most other restaurants.

The Lawsuit Crisis Myth

Mr. Bush is now pushing for tort "reform," claiming that lawsuits are hurting the economy. On January 5 he demanded that Congress take immediate action to impose strict limits on medical malpractice litigation. Contrary to popular belief, since 1975 the number of lawsuits na-

tionally has declined. Government data show that the median jury verdict for punitive damages was only \$37,000 1996 significantly less than the \$65,000 median award in 1992.

So, why are *Newsweek* and *Time* running cover stories about "Lawsuit Hell"? Why is there a common perception of a "lawsuit crisis"? Why is Bush talking about the need for tort "reform" (legislation to limit citizens' rights to a jury trial or limit juries' ability to set punitive damage awards)?

It wasn't until the 1950s that lawyers began to win judicial precedents establishing corporate responsibility for injuries to workers and consumers. Corporations started to be held accountable and consequently their insurance companies were increasingly being forced to pay damages.

The insurance industry responded with a public relations campaign against "excessive awards." Its strategy was to convince people who might sit on juries that there was a problem.

By the 1980's, with the insurance industry in a slump, industry strategists moved beyond targeting prospective jurors, and took on the law itself. Their goal was to restrict citizens' right to a jury trial. Their ad copy pointed out that "everybody pays" for overzealous lawsuits. The industry couldn't very well attack consumer and environmental protection or victims. Instead they scapegoated the trial lawyers.

Dozens of tort "reform" measures were introduced in state legislatures. Teams of lobbyists mobilized to push these bills through state legislatures. The insurance industry mobilized right wing think tanks to focus on the "crisis." They targeted journalists and circulated bogus statistics about the "costs of frivolous lawsuits." Large corporations created fake grassroots groups (called "Astroturf") like Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse and set up chapters in local Chambers of Commerce.

Tort / continued on page 20

Fighting for Underground Storage And Civil Rights: the Legacy of MLK, Jr.

Lauren Neider

Here in Syracuse we commemorated Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 17, by celebrating the struggle for civil rights...and by protesting ongoing local civil rights abuse. The County's proposed — and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's approved — sewage treatment plant for the Midland/Blaine area of the South Side would burden an already depressed quality of life. Even before construction begins the proposal has led to the eviction of numerous nearby residents from their homes.

On the 17th, about 120 people marched from the NAACP office on West Onondaga Street through downtown to rally around the Jerry Rescue Monument in Clinton Square. Both children and people old enough to have been around to work with King took part in the march and rally. The marchers' message: "Underground storage is the way; long live the fight of MLK!"

The fight for underground storage (and against above ground sewage treatment) on the banks of Onondaga Creek extends out of the South Side to Armory Square and throughout the entire city. With an aboveground sewage plant the quality of the creek will continue to be sacrificed as millions of gallons of partially treated and raw sewage laced with chlorine will be dumped into it.

The use of a large underground storage tank, however, would almost eliminate sewage overflow into Onondaga Creek, making the surrounding neighborhood healthier for residents. Chlorine is a health risk: when disinfecting sewage, it creates cancer-causing compounds. The underground storage alternative, on the other hand, only temporarily stores the sewage and does so without chlorine disinfection. The stored sewage is then piped to Metro, the main sewage plant opposite Carousel Center, for full treatment (including safe disinfection with ultraviolet light).

Lauren is interning at the Syracuse Peace Council during her field work term at Bennington College. When not attending school, she lives in Cicero, NY. The POC's Aggie Lane contributed to this article.

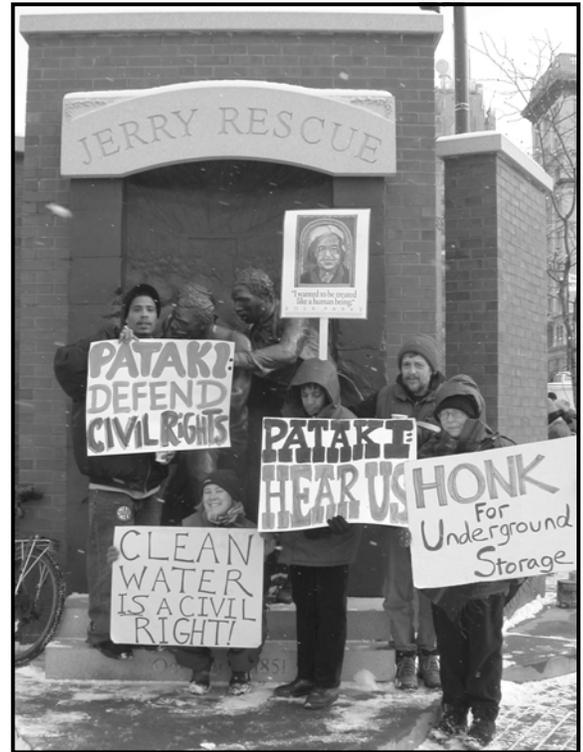
Rally emcee Louise Poindexter described underground storage this way: "It's cleaner, it's fair, it's the right thing to do."

Last April S.U.'s Law Clinic filed for the Partnership for Onondaga Creek (POC) a Title VI civil rights complaint to the federal Environmental Protection Agency. In response, in September, the EPA began investigating the County and State's sewage plant proposal. According to POC activist, Aggie Lane, the EPA must "make sure Onondaga County and the state Department of Environmental Conservation aren't using federal taxpayer money to discriminate."

If the EPA finds both are discriminating by building the plant as they plan to, federal funds can be withheld from the County and the DEC until they pursue the less discriminating option — underground storage. Action taken at the rally included signing about 100 postcards to Governor Pataki and the EPA urging them to initiate a negotiated, equitable solution that fosters civil rights for Syracuse's South Side.

History helped make clear the current injustice. Reverend Samuel Hudson and Heniretta Persons spoke of the 1960s struggle for civil rights. Reverend Hudson, who worked with King in Mississippi, described how leaders like King affected African Americans in that time; he said, "They trained us [civil rights activists] how to take the abuse that was put upon us." Mrs. Persons pointed out, "We've only been out of slavery a short time according to history." The 88 year-old woman, a descendent of one of those involved in the Jerry Rescue, braved the day's below-freezing weather to add a voice of history to share how progress is possible.

The Jerry Rescue Monument flanked the rally. In the 1850s Jerry, an escaped slave, faced imprisonment and return to bondage when he was rescued here in Syracuse and was helped to find freedom in Canada. In the Midland/Blaine neigh-



Marchers display their message for civil rights and environmental protection in front of the Jerry Rescue Memorial in Syracuse's Clinton Square.
Photo: Wendy Harris

borhood, freedom is not found by being relocated.

Vernell Bentley, the last of the evicted residents to leave Blaine Street, spoke while holding up a photo of her boarded-up home. She insisted, "I did not want to go. I had no choice." People like Mrs. Bentley and others evicted due to the sewage plant aren't remaining quiet despite the County's unwillingness to listen. With the Partnership for Onondaga Creek, they're fighting for equity: health, clean water, and an unstigmatized neighborhood. The fight for justice for people like Vernell Bentley is based on the idea, as Louise Poindexter put it, "We're going to show them we are number one human beings."

The ralliers united to make it known they're still fighting for justice and for the civil rights of all people — despite what the County is attempting to do. Reverend Hudson declared, "We haven't won yet. We're still fighting the same battle [as Martin Luther King]...."

Haudenosaunee* Land Claims Update

Doug George-Kanentiio

There is a strong light remaining within the longhouses of the Haudenosaunee but it is flickering. There are those remarkable clan leaders who insist the effort to secure justice for our lost lands must be a spiritual endeavor — one in which we reestablish our intimate relationship with the living organism we call *Iethi'nistenha Ohontsia* (the earth mother). We must use our Haudenosaunee language, that manner of speaking born of this land, to address her concerns and begin healing her wounds after seven generations of being repeatedly beaten and raped.

In the hearts and minds of the traditionalists there is no other reason to pursue a land claim, an action which, if undertaken without proper public relations, is bound to incur the wrath of the very people we need to enlighten. We are the true custodians of the natural world; as a contemplating species we have a sacred obligation to insure all other life forms have the inherent right to exist in their own space and time.

Our rituals, our music, our prayers, our very names are meant to remind us of this task. Should we fail to speak to our mother or otherwise ignore her needs, then life as we know it in this hemisphere will undergo radical ecological change. This is why the Haudenosaunee could not accept the European-based notion of earth as commodity; it explains the extreme internal differences among our own people regarding the way in which we choose to live.

Divorced from our culture

Some of us are so divorced from our culture and so void of common sense as to be-

Doug is an Akwesasne Mohawk residing on Oneida Territory with his wife Joanne Shenandoah. He is the former editor of Akwesasne Notes-Indian Time, a co-founder of the Native American Journalists Association and a past member of the Board of Trustees of the National Museum of the American Indian. He is a columnist for the periodical News From Indian Country. He can be reached at [Kanentiio@aol.com] or Box 450, Oneida Iroquois Territory, Oneida Castle, NY 13421.

The Iroquois empire

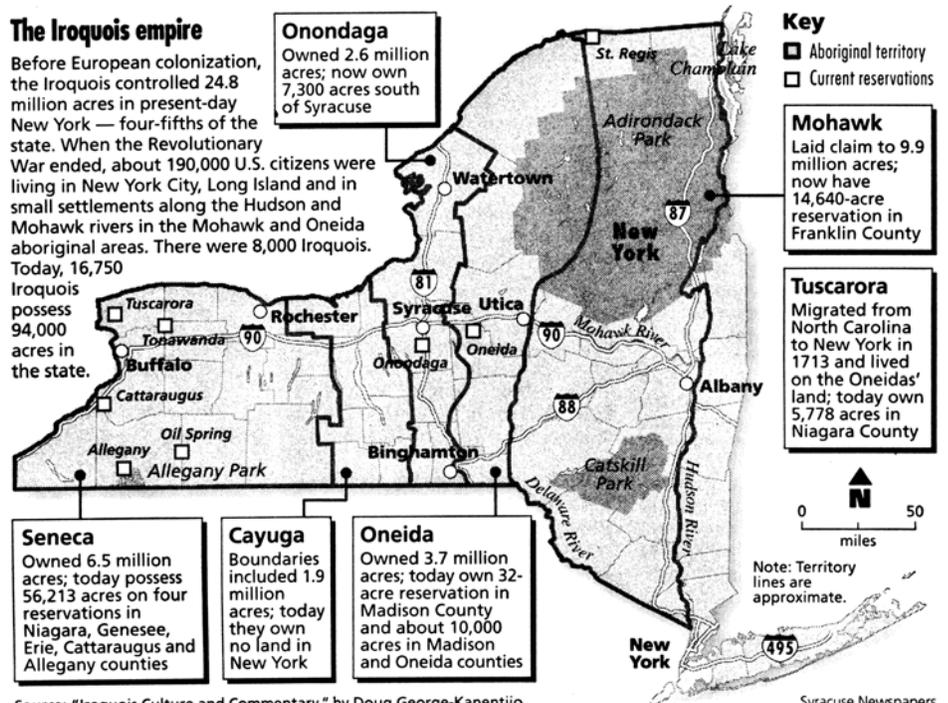
Before European colonization, the Iroquois controlled 24.8 million acres in present-day New York — four-fifths of the state. When the Revolutionary War ended, about 190,000 U.S. citizens were living in New York City, Long Island and in small settlements along the Hudson and Mohawk rivers in the Mohawk and Oneida aboriginal areas. There were 8,000 Iroquois. Today, 16,750 Iroquois possess 94,000 acres in the state.

Onondaga
Owned 2.6 million acres; now own 7,300 acres south of Syracuse

Seneca
Owned 6.5 million acres; today possess 56,213 acres on four reservations in Niagara, Genesee, Erie, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties

Cayuga
Boundaries included 1.9 million acres; today they own no land in New York

Oneida
Owned 3.7 million acres; today own 32-acre reservation in Madison County and about 10,000 acres in Madison and Oneida counties



Source: "Iroquois Culture and Commentary," by Doug George-Kanentiio

Key
 ■ Aboriginal territory
 □ Current reservations

Mohawk
Laid claim to 9.9 million acres; now have 14,640-acre reservation in Franklin County

Tuscarora
Migrated from North Carolina to New York in 1713 and lived on the Oneidas' land; today own 5,778 acres in Niagara County

lieve they will be happier people if they can use our earth mother as a means of barter. They think converting our 26 million acres into casinos, which demean the human spirit and extract massive amounts of energy from the soil and water, will enhance their lives.

After a decade of commercial gambling at Akwesasne, Oneida and Seneca, those people are more miserable than ever. They have become piggish, paranoid, peevish. They have created a class of super-rich Haudenosaunee who go about boasting of their material wealth despite the nagging shame of having exploited the very traditions they used to make their money.

They were not the ones who fought to preserve Haudenosaunee culture and identity through the long dark days of the 19th and 20th centuries. They were not the ones on the front lines willing to go to war with New York State to protect our status as free peoples. They did not care to learn the rituals of thanksgiving which keep us humble or the language which enables us to speak to the skies and stars. They are in a state of perpetual conflict

*Haudenosaunee is the preferred name of the Six Nations Confederacy, often called the Iroquois.

with the traditional beliefs. They use their powers, as granted to them by the US and New York, to forcibly subdue anyone standing against them.

Witness the Oneida Nation of New York, Inc. now facing litigation before the US Supreme Court for violating the human rights of the Oneida people. And why the Supreme Court? Because Oneida, Inc. is a US, hence alien, entity existing outside of the Haudenosaunee circle in the murky world of US corporate law.

The Cayugas

Then there is the truly disturbing Cayuga situation. It must be understood that the Cayugas residing in this region desperately want their own home. They want a stable, traditional council to govern a singular community. They need time and space to recover from 200 years as guests in other people's homes. This will not happen because Oneida, Inc. is afraid of the revival of a Cayuga Nation Council of Chiefs. The Council's 11 male leaders and 11 clan mothers will strengthen the Haudenosaunee, that entity which has declared Oneida, Inc.

Land Claims / continued on page 14

to be outlaw and has been targeted by Oneida, Inc.'s "CEO" as the primary threat to his unilateral control over all things Oneida.

So Oneida, Inc. waited until the last Cayuga chief passed on before pouncing. It poured millions of dollars into a highly unstable organization which in no way is capable of governing under Haudenosaunee law. Inevitably, the tensions within the Cayugas degenerated into serious divisions which have paralyzed those people. But chaos won't stop Pataki from making his deals, nor has it slowed the casino investors who stand to make millions of dollars while gloating over the Cayuga carcass.

There is simply no Haudenosaunee administration capable of effectively managing the kind of massive casino ventures Pataki advocates for the Catskills. Certainly not the Mohawks whose tiny operation has yet, after years of operation, to turn a profit. Not the Senecas whose Niagara Falls casino has yet to pay them a dime and surely not Oneida, Inc. which, after 12 years of reaping in hundreds of millions, still refuses to provide its people with an audit of its operations.

And where is the Oneida, Inc. money? \$10 million to Harvard, \$10 million to the National Museum of the American Indian and millions more for Falcon jets, mansions and other "investments" — all without the knowledge or approval of the Oneida people.

But perhaps this metamorphosis of the Haudenosaunee from free, humble and caring human beings into callous consumers is precisely what Pataki and crew are unwittingly bringing about. We are the human conscience of this land and when we no longer care for mother earth why should she care for us?

This is my version of what the land claims are about. ☹

Young Peacemakers Award

Peace Action of Central New York seeks Onondaga County high school seniors committed to peace, justice, and conflict resolution. Applications are available for a \$500 award.

Applications for the award are available from the Peace Action office at 478-7442 or download it at: [www.peaceactionny.org]. The application deadline is March 18, 2005.

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The Government v. Dr. Rafil Dhafir

Katherine Hughes

I have been attending the trial of Dr. Rafil Dhafir here in Syracuse since it began in October. I knew very little about the case beforehand. I did know that there was some controversy surrounding the case and that some people were concerned about whether Dr. Dhafir, a US citizen of Arab descent and a practicing Muslim, would receive a fair trial in the current climate in this country.

I was moved to attend the trial because I feel passionately about the defense of civil liberties. This passion was ignited when, as a 14-year-old, I watched a documentary program showing the Allies entering Auschwitz in 1945. The words of Pastor Martin Niemoller, a victim of the Nazis, have stayed with me throughout my life:

In Germany first they came for the Communists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics and I didn't speak up because I was Protestant. Then they came for me - and by that time no one was left to speak up.

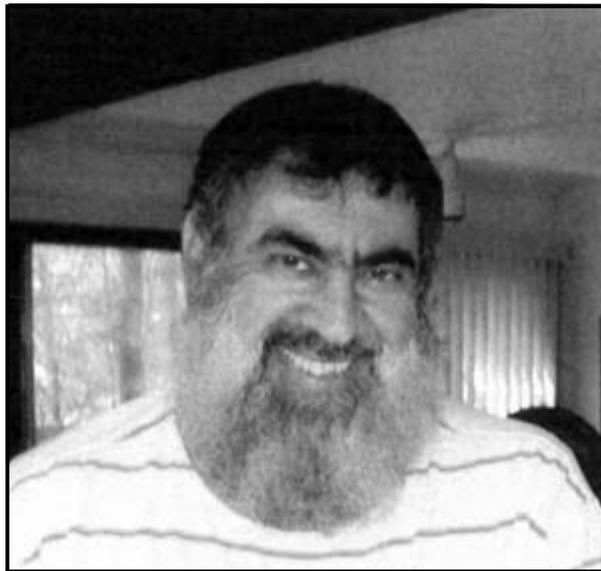
I had no intention of writing anything about the trial when I started attending it. However, I became so distressed by the *Post-Standard* coverage, that I felt impelled to speak out and offer another view of what was happening in the courtroom.

Terrorist Investigation

This case, as many know, started out as a terrorist investigation, and the media and government made much of this fact. After

Katherine is a local potter, a voracious reader of history and current events, and an active member of the SPC Study Group.

years of investigation, the government was unable to come up with any credible evidence linking Dr. Dhafir to terrorism. As a result, Dr. Dhafir is now being tried as a white-collar criminal. The charges against him include money laundering, tax evasion, and Medicare fraud. He is also charged with breaking the US-imposed sanctions. Despite being prosecuted on only these lesser charges, Dr. Dhafir has been denied bail and held in prison since his arrest almost two years ago.



Although charged with "white collar" crimes, Dr. Rafil Dhafir has been held in jail for nearly two years awaiting trial. This imprisonment made it difficult for him to prepare a legal defense.

Because Judge Mordue has ruled that the defense cannot mention how the investigation began, the proceedings sometimes are surreal. On January 13, week twelve of a trial that took the resources of seven government agencies over a five-year period, the prosecution's direct examination concerned three days that Dr. Dhafir was not in his office but had billed Medicare for his services.

The prosecution laboriously reviewed three sets of forms, one set for each day that Dr. Dhafir was absent. This was all done so that the witness, the office nurse practitioner, could verify her signature on each of the forms subsequently submitted to Medicare under Dr. Dhafir's Medicare ID number. That patients did receive possibly

life-saving services from this nurse with 30 years experience was irrelevant. What mattered was that Dr. Dhafir was not physically present in the office and that the Medicare forms had not been filled in correctly.

It seems obvious to me that, under normal circumstances, this situation would have been dealt with long before it came to any trial, never mind a trial of the magnitude that we are witnessing. Knowing that the case started as a terrorist investigation gives me a frame of reference; I can only wonder what the jurors, who are deprived of this frame of reference, are thinking.

Limited Funds

At times I have been struck by the similarity of court proceedings to theatre. If the prosecution and defense were theatre companies, I would liken the prosecution to The Royal Shakespeare Company. They have the ability to draw on vast seemingly unlimited resources. I would liken the defense to a company that performs improvised theatre. Their resources are extremely limited. The defense's lack of access to helpful resources is compounded by the fact that, since his arrest, Dr. Dhafir's assets have been frozen.

Because of the limited funds, one of the defense lawyers types all the proceedings on his laptop.

The \$5.75 per page charge for court transcripts, unless absolutely vital to the defense, is beyond their means. I believe the defense is gladly accepting donations. (Checks payable to Aiello & Cannick [captioned "Dr. Dhafir Legal Defense Fund"] can be sent to Aiello & Cannick, Attorneys at Law, 69-06 Grand Ave., Maspeth, NY 11378)

At present, I am attending the trial every day and I plan to do so until it ends. Court is in session from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm Monday through Thursday. It is held on the 12th floor of the Federal Building; a picture ID is required to enter the building. It is possible to come and go quietly during the proceedings and I encourage others to attend. Because of my frustration with the *Post-Standard* I have started a website: [www.dhafirtrial.net].

Unrepentant Resister: Looking Back 20 Years to my Draft Resistance Trial

Andy Mager

Twenty years ago, as a nervous 23 year-old, I stood before a Federal Court jury in Syracuse explaining my refusal to register for the draft. My spirits were buoyed by the hundreds of activists who had demonstrated outside the courthouse despite breath-freezing weather and were overflowing the courtroom.

No one was being drafted, but young men were required to register with Selective Service to provide lists of potential draftees if Congress reimposed the draft. This system was initiated in 1980 as part of President Carter's reaction to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the taking of US hostages in Iran. I was singled out for prosecution because of my public resistance and related activist work.

Representing myself in court, I worked hard to explain to the jury why I had refused to register and why I believed my refusal was justified on moral and legal grounds.

Following a two and a half day trial, I was convicted and sentenced to three years in prison – 30 months of which were immediately suspended. This left a sentence of six months in prison followed by 30 months on probation. (The sentence was calculated to reduce my anti-war activism: violating probation could lead to the additional two and a half years in prison.) The support of the draft resistance movement, locally and nationally, lightened the burden of my sentence.

I often say that I learned as much during my "semester" of prison as during three semesters of university. There were a few frightening and trying moments, but nothing like what you see in the movies. Coming from an upper middle class, educated family, prison (even the mild federal minimum security variety) exposed me to parts of our society which

Among other duties at the Syracuse Peace Council, Andy coordinates the Peace Newsletter. His book about his draft resistance experience, "Fighting the Flow: A War Resister in the Reagan Era," remains unpublished. See [www.magers.info/draft] for more information.



On the evening of January 8, 1985, following the first day of the trial, several hundred people braved the fierce cold for a candlelight march and vigil in front of the Korean/Viet Nam Veterans Memorial in downtown Syracuse. Viet Nam veteran Paul Pearce spoke about why, as a veteran, he now supported draft resistance. Photo: Paul Pearce

I hadn't experienced first hand. It was, for me, time well spent.

A New Draft?

Today, as the war in Iraq maims and kills many thousands of US soldiers and Iraqis, a new draft is more likely than at anytime since 1973. The US military is over-extended. The signs include long-term deployment of "weekend warriors" (reservists and national guard soldiers), stop loss orders and extended tours of duty. Those killed or maimed (underreported by the Pentagon) add to the shortfall, as do unmet recruiting goals.

The Bush administration will increase military personnel in Iraq unless the peace movement compels it to admit failure in Iraq and withdraw US troops. It needs more soldiers for a long-term military presence in Iraq, yet it knows that a draft will accelerate resistance to its war. To overcome this concern, if a draft is imposed, it will likely follow a contrived "national emergency," and the White House — as it did after 9/11 — will seize every opportunity to bang the drums of patriotism.

Young people may hold the key to putting the brakes on the ongoing mili-

tary aggression in Iraq.

We don't need to wait for a draft to hear their voices. Passionate, articulate and conscientious young people are already resisting this war from within the military. (See accompanying article, page 18.)

Resistance Loves Company

During the early and mid 1980s, youth anti-militarism work in Syracuse was led by Upstate Resistance (UR), a small group affiliated with the Peace Council. The relationship between the focussed UR group (which included an SPC staffperson and other SPC activists) and the larger broader Peace Council was synergistic, with a couple of rough spots *regarding tactics*. Born out of the "Organizing to Stop the Next War" conference in 1981, Upstate Resistance was a regional network committed to individual and collective resistance to war.

Upstate Resistance was already active when I moved to Syracuse in late 1981, only several months after my decision to "go public" with my refusal to register. That decision was inspired by meeting fellow war resisters of my generation as well as resisters from the Viet

Nam era, Korea and World War II at a War Resisters League national conference.

While the public and the media frame war resistance in terms of “heroic individuals,” organizations and movements play a critical role in enabling that resistance and transforming it from isolated acts into meaningful political action. Upstate Resistance played that role masterfully through strong local and regional organizing. Its excellent mainstream media work resulted in scores of newspaper articles, including feature articles in Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, New York City, Long Island and Philadelphia. Local television and radio coverage was also extensive and much of it respectfully conveyed our key messages. In our media work we insisted on group photos and interviews with other activists besides me, a stand which sometimes put us at odds with even “friendly” reporters.

One tactic which Upstate Resistance adopted from earlier struggles was the use of “complicity statements.” These statements invite people who aren’t subject to draft registration (or a possible draft) to openly state their willingness to “support, aid and abet” those who violate the law for reasons of conscience. While people have rarely been prosecuted for signing such statements, they demonstrate the existence of a broader movement. Such statements also encourage those not directly affected to engage in the same soul searching which we’re asking of young people.

At my sentencing Cornell student Brett Beeman spoke out about his decision to publicly resist registration, a sign that the efforts to “grow the movement” were succeeding.

MARGARET R. MATHEWS C.S.W.

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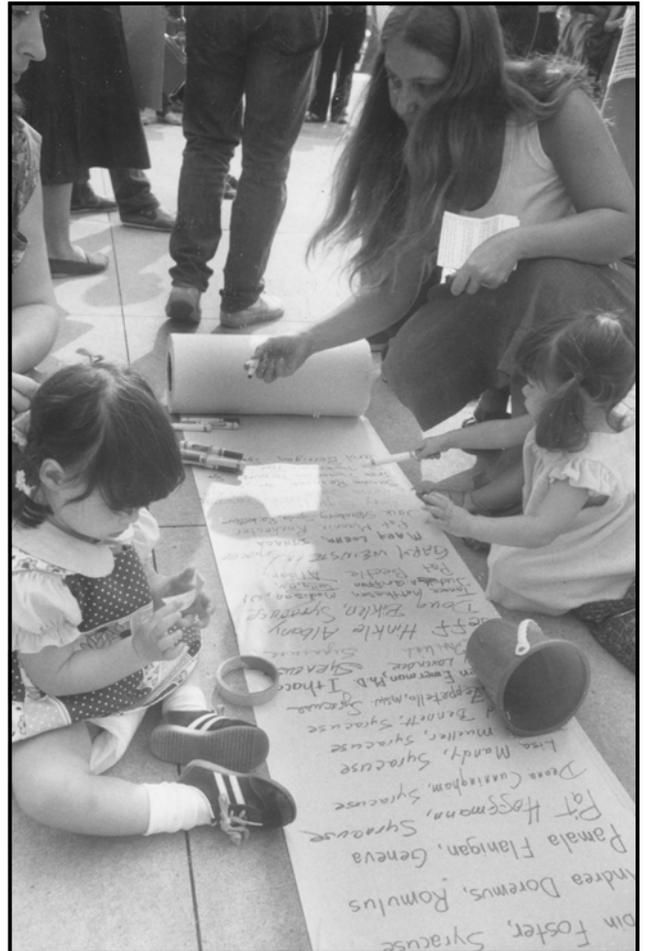
Lessons to be Learned

As one of only 20 young men prosecuted for refusing to register since 1980, I was part of the tip of the iceberg of youthful resistance to war planning. During the 1980s draft resistance movement, we spoke about the need for resisting from the very beginning in order to prevent a draft and the war-making it would enable. With the advent of counter-insurgency warfare and high tech weaponry, large numbers of soldiers seemed less “necessary,” but we’ll never know whether our resistance helped prevent additional wars. We do know that there have been no prosecutions of draft registration resisters in over 15 years.

My life was transformed by grappling head on with the question of participating in war. I believe that this issue can likewise help today’s youth shape their life choices in a violent and unjust world. That’s why I’m so pleased to see the growth of youth anti-militarism again here in Central New York (see page 3).

Today, while Selective Service claims high compliance rates, it has accurate addresses for perhaps half of those registered; many registrations result, not from compliance, but from drivers license applications or other rites of passage for young men. Selective Service knows that if it were dependent on true cooperation, compliance would be low enough to threaten the system’s credibility.

We must challenge educators, faith communities and others dealing with moral and ethical issues to encour-



At a demonstration before Andy’s arraignment in August 1984, supporters signed an oversized “Trial Solidarity Statement” which concluded: “We are here with Andy to answer your charges against us. For us to be here and to make this statement is for us to support, aid, and abet Andy, as unindicted co-defendants. We ask, if you convict Andy Mager, that you convict all of us, that you imprison all of us, or none of us.” Photo: Paul Pearce

age young people to wrestle with their beliefs and ideas about these life and death issues. A good place to start is the question: “Should you travel to distant lands and kill people with whom you’ve had no direct contact?”

I remain proud of the stance I took over 20 years ago, and of the anti-war organizing by groups like SPC and Upstate Resistance. My war resistance continues as an activist and organizer as well as through refusing to pay federal war taxes. While I’ve always worked to make my actions politically effective, one never knows what their ripple effects will be. I do know that in the years to come I’ll be able to tell my young son that I stand up for what I believe. And I’ll be able to encourage him to do so as he charts his own life path.

RESISTANCE:

The growing peace movement among US service men and women

Elizabeth Quick

The second anniversary of the beginning of the United States' war on Iraq is approaching – March 2005 will mark two years since the “shock and awe” bombings began in Baghdad by order of George W. Bush. As I write the US expects to have 150,000 troops in place for Iraqi elections scheduled for late January. More than 1300 US troops have been killed in Iraq, with thousands more wounded, and an uncounted number of Iraqi civilians dead.

As the war continues, reports of military members resisting the war are on the rise. Some soldiers have refused to be deployed to Iraq. Some have fled to Canada. Others have applied for Conscientious Objector (CO) discharges or reclassification. In early December, the Pentagon reported that more than 5,500 men and women have deserted from the US military since the beginning of the Iraq war. The GI Rights Hotline receives 3000 to 4000 calls each month from military members seeking help and guidance.

Resistance in Viet Nam

During the Viet Nam war, military resistance played a key role in causing the US to withdraw. Sgt. Martin Smith, of the Traveling Soldier veterans advisory board, writes that while he believes that individual war resisters are “true heroes,” he believes that resisters who stay in the military and work together could have a greater collective impact. He recalls tactics used during Viet Nam: “Troops formed ‘rap groups’ within their platoons that discussed the immorality of the war; they used graffiti and sabotage to deadline military vehicles; soldiers led mutinies that included whole companies....Acts of resistance became so widespread that the military often failed

to punish the offenders out of fear that retribution might incense the troops and lead to even greater discontent.” He concludes, “Overall, the collective action by troops opposing the war was a significant factor in bringing an end to the ground war in Viet Nam.”

The government took notice, admitting forces had become “un-



Anti-war activists demonstrate in support of Pablo Paredes in San Diego. Photo: [www.swiftsmartveterans.com]

reliable” and that the troops were “disintegrating.” Today, as resistance against the war in Iraq escalates, we can only imagine the impact such resistance will have in the movement for peace.

Refusing to be Deployed

Increasingly, soldiers are refusing to be deployed to Iraq. Some try to stay under the radar, but others have publicly opposed the war. “Democracy Now” recently interviewed 23 year-old Pablo Paredes, a Navy sailor who refused to board the ship that would transport him to the Persian Gulf this past December. Paredes, who faces prosecution,” shared in an earlier interview that he joined the Navy because of lack of options and because “this military guy [kept] calling me.” Paredes enlisted at 17, which he now thinks was “crazy....Nobody is ready to make that decision at 18....We are not ready. We don’t know what the world is about.” Since

joining, he has come to see the world in a new way, and has learned that war is “not something [he’s] about.” In his “Democracy Now” interview, Paredes said his decision to refuse deployment was “based on principles, not fear.” He’s willing to face

the punishment his refusal of conscience may bring. On December 18 Paredes surrendered to Navy officials. He’s working on his Conscientious Objector package.

Conscientious Objectors

Camilo Mejia joined the Army in 1995, looking for a way to pay for his education, after exhausting his federal financial aid options. After three years in the Army, he joined the Florida National Reserve, seeking continuing support for his education. He was completing his last semester of college when his unit was ordered to active duty. Almost immediately, Mejia was concerned about training for his unit that seemed

solely designed to make them “deployable,” nothing more. In April 2003, Mejia and his unit were deployed to Iraq.

Not long after he arrived, Mejia became uncomfortable with what he saw as a focus on killing enemies despite risky situations for US soldiers. And he was bothered by the second-class treatment that activated reservists received over active duty GI units. “When I saw with my own eyes what war can do to people,” Mejia said, “a real change began to take place within me. I have witnessed the suffering of a people whose country is in ruins and who are further humiliated by the raids, patrols, curfews of an occupying army. My experience of this war has changed me forever.”

For Mejia, these feelings led him to refuse deployment to Iraq in October 2003 after returning home from leave. He surrendered to authorities on March 2004, applying for CO status. In May 2004,

Elizabeth is a United Methodist pastor serving a congregation in Oneida, NY.

however, he was sentenced to the maximum penalty for desertion of one year of imprisonment. Mejia was the first US soldier to publicly refuse further service in the war on Iraq.

Jeremy Hinzman joined the military in 2001. He began to have doubts as early as basic training. "There is a strong, innate predisposition against killing," Hinzman says, "and the military breaks that down." Hinzman applied for CO status in May 2002, writing in his application packet,

Canadians have been reluctant to welcome those seeking asylum from serving in Iraq, noting that "the would-be refugees are deserters, not draft dodgers refusing military conscription." But Dankwort and other former resisters and peace activists are working to encourage hospitality. "Having been helped myself, it's an opportunity to help someone else....As more Americans decide they cannot participate in an illegal, immoral war, the demand for sanctuary will increase," Dankwort says.

Learn More

To learn more about your rights as a member of the military, check out [www.girights.org] or call the GI Rights Hotline: 1-800-394-9544.

For information about registering as a Conscientious Objector, check out *The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors*, [www.objector.org] or *The Center of Conscience and War*, [www.nisbco.org].



Pablo Paredes, Jeremy Hinzman and Camilo Mejia (left to right) are among the soldiers refusing the return to Iraq and speaking out passionately for peace and social justice. Photos: [www.swiftsmartveterans.com], Mark Laking and [www.freecamilo.org]

"Although I still have a great desire to eliminate injustice, I have come to the realization that killing will do nothing but perpetuate it." He was told his application was lost. He reapplied right before being deployed to Afghanistan, where he was assigned to noncombatant duty.

In April 2003, at his CO hearing Hinzman was asked if he would ever use violence to protect himself. When he said he would not always refrain from violence, he was denied CO status based on this response. The law distinguishes between using violence in interpersonal conflict and in war, but objectors' rights are often overlooked or misunderstood. Hinzman's conscience kept him from going when his unit was re-deployed to Iraq. Instead, he went to Canada, where he and others are seeking refugee status.

Asylum in Canada

Juergen Dankwort was a Viet Nam war resister who fled to Canada rather than respond to his draft summons — one of between 30,000 and 90,000 young men who did so. He remained in Canada, and now works to ensure that people wishing to avoid fighting in Iraq can receive the same refuge in his adopted home. Some

Hinzman argued for refugee status before Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board in early December. A decision is expected in February. Two other deserters are waiting for their hearings. How Canada will respond remains to be seen. On the one hand, the Board has rejected Hinzman's argument that the US war on Iraq is illegal, saying the issue is "irrelevant" to his case. Yet, in a recent interview, Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin said, "In terms of immigration, we are a country of immigrants and we will take immigrants from around the world. I'm not going to discriminate." He indicated he was not speaking about any individual case, but his words provide hope.

How to Help

How can we help military resisters? First, we can help young people know their options before they join the military. For many teenagers, the promises of education and income from joining the service appeal when alternatives seem lacking. Help young people who are making decisions that will impact their future. Encourage people in and out of the military to seek CO status. Those most likely to be granted status are those who can document their position

as an objector. Current military members are also permitted to apply. Objectors need letters of support from people who know their views — volunteer to write such a letter for any objectors you know. Give out the GI Rights Hotline number (see box above) to people in the military so they can call for help. Finally, take the phrase "support our troops" to heart. People in the military are there from many paths and for many reasons. You can support military members by helping them see and embrace the many options for resistance.

We can make a difference. 

Human Rights for Workers

NMASS, an injured worker group, is preparing a Human Rights Report to support the idea that the NYS Workers' Compensation system does not meet (remove "NAFTA") (include "reasonable") standards for health care and wage compensation (take out "agreed to in the Fair Trade Act"). The report will be developed from confidential interviews with injured workers about their experience. If you have a story to tell, and would like to schedule an interview, please call 315-696-8777. This is an unusual chance for injured workers to speak up, and to participate in their government. And....It's about time!

Urban Legends

Anecdotes of bizarre lawsuits buzzed on the Internet, and major media outlets like *U.S. New and World Report* picked up on the stories without fact checking. Conservative columnists at smaller papers also ran with these urban legends of runaway jury verdicts. Did you hear the one about the man who sued Winnebago after setting his R.V. on cruise control and going to the back to make some coffee? How was he supposed to know the R.V. would crash? The fact that the incident never happened didn't stop papers like the *Weirton Daily Times* in West Virginia from printing the story in a column calling for tort "reform."

Will outlawing our right to sue grossly negligent doctors for punitive damages stop the escalating costs of health care? The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office figures that medical malpractice lawsuits account for one half of one percent of health care costs.

Would insurance rates go down? According to the American Insurance Association, "The insurance industry never promised that tort reform would achieve specific premium savings." (March 13, 2002) and the American Tort Reform Association added, "We wouldn't tell you or anyone that the reason to pass tort reform would be to reduce rates." (July 19, 1999).

What will tort "reform" accomplish? It will limit our ability to hold corporations accountable for their misdeeds. Corporate America has largely succeeded in buying up our legislators and capturing regulatory bodies. We must not let them wrest control of the judicial system as well. ♪

crucial counterweight to the often corrupt and brutal governments of the most affected countries. Below are several groups that we especially encourage you to support:

East Timor Action Network [www.etan.org/action/action2/23alert.htm]

ETAN is collecting contributions from those who want to give direct aid to local grassroots and humanitarian organizations in Aceh. Direct donations to grassroots organizations in Aceh circumvent the inevitable siphoning off of resources by the Indonesian government and military, which has a long and brutal record of human rights violations in Aceh.

American Friends Service Committee [www.afsc.org/give/asia-relief.htm]

AFSC, a UFPJ member, is mounting an important relief effort in Aceh. AFSC has had a presence and contacts in Indonesia for more than 35 years, and is working to offer pragmatic, immediate help to build long-term recovery so that communities can rebuild long after the media attention and compassionate responses for aid have diminished.

MADRE [www.madre.org/programs/appeal/tsunami.html]

The human rights group MADRE, a UFPJ member, has partnered with a Sri Lankan women's organization, INFORM, to help establish and equip emergency health centers in areas affected by the tsunami. ♪

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You buy it to build your future. We lend it to help out your neighbors, Your nest egg grows, Everybody grows - and that's where the solidarity comes in!

Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union
 723 Westcott Street and 401 South Avenue, Inside the Southwest Community Center

471-1116

NCUA
 National Credit Union Administration
 \$1,000 Minimum Balance/ThreeYearTerm Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawals. Fees could reduce earnings on the account. Rates offered as of 1/14/05 *Annual Percentage Yield

Notes for US Resistance to the Iraq War

Phyllis Bennis

Phyllis Bennis, a long-time analyst of Middle East issues, is a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC. Her most recent publication is Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Primer (2003). These reflections are directed to colleagues and activists. Bennis' overview may help us shape our agenda for 2005.

Iraq continues to be the centerpiece of our broader campaign for peace and justice because the Iraq war is now the centerpiece of US policy and its drive toward empire.

Our job in the peace and justice movement is to identify and heighten the pressures making the war and occupation more difficult for the US to fight.

Certainly the single most important factor undermining the US war is the Iraqi resistance. We recognize the RIGHT of the Iraqi people to resist, even if we do not endorse specific resistance organizations or tactics. But we don't have the information or the ties to influence the resistance.

We should not call for "supporting the resistance"

because we don't know who most of them are and what they really stand for. And further, because of those we do know, we mostly don't support their social program beyond opposition to the occupation.

Do we support the January 30 Iraqi election? We support the *idea* of elections, but not *this* election. An election held under occupation, an election designed to put in place a US puppet government and legitimize an illegitimate occupation — such an election cannot be legitimate.

Regardless of whether there is some support in Iraq for the election, our job is here in the US. We need to expose US goals for the election and work to delegitimize them.

US military strategy. Conditions in Iraq

are worsening. The US is committed to trying to wipe out the Iraqi resistance before the January 30 election. That means continuing escalation of US military attacks.

Most likely, this escalation will not look like what we've seen over the last few months, with the large-scale assaults on Fallujah and elsewhere. It will likely not take the form of huge, escalated attacks in one place that can grab the world's attention. Rather, it will likely take the shape of smaller attacks in different places.

We must identify deficits in US war policy, and especially the fissures within sectors of support for the war. Our job is to widen those fissures.



The military personnel deficit. Much of the total US military force is now tied up in Iraq. Rising casualties among US military means that morale is sinking, that recruitment and retention are more difficult. There's growing anger regarding poor preparation, insufficient equipment, and insufficient capacity among troops.

A 70 year-old dentist was recently called back to military service. There's huge reliance on National Guard and reserves. Militarily, the Pentagon is seriously understaffed.

Our work: counter-recruitment and GI organizing and undermining stop loss. We're *not* a nation at war — this was a war of choice. We need to rebuild the GI coffeehouse movement (during the Viet Nam anti-war movement coffeehouses, near military bases, were storefronts where

you could get coffee, hang out, and military lawyers would provide draft counseling; to protect GIs, there would be do-you-know-your-rights flyers, etc.)

So far most military people — even those questioning Pentagon policy about the military itself, but not yet questioning the legitimacy of the war — don't see the peace and justice movement as a force that can provide protection they need.

We have to work to undermine the Pentagon's ability to keep people in the military and determine how they talk to their families when they go home. It's long-term, but we could see significant results quickly.

Key constituencies: military families, veterans' organizations, counter-recruitment activists.

The financial deficit. The costs of war are mounting. It creates a huge problem for the White House when it has to go back to Congress to request \$100 billion more at the same time the reality of the problems of how the money is spent is on the front pages.

US corporations close to the Bush administration are increasingly seen as getting the bulk of the money. The UN is criticizing

US diversion of Iraqi oil funds to pay US contractors (Halliburton, Bechtel, others) while ignoring the needs of Iraqi contractors and workers (and failing to actually reconstruct anything).

The lack of reconstruction, the insufficient personal protection for US soldiers, the impact on other government programs and the huge overall deficit as a result of the high spending on the Iraq war — all of these are important in challenging the appropriation of more funds.

We must focus on pressuring Congress against the appropriations bill (likely to come up in February). Note Rumsfeld's vulnerability: money didn't go to armoring humvees to protect GIs, only to more and

Iraq War / continued on page 23

Iraq War / from page 21

better bombs to kill Iraqis.

Key constituencies: Congress, anti-corporate organizations, broad US people (especially with new polls indicating Bush's approval rate is down and disapproval for the war is up [57%.])

Deficit in protection and real support for US troops.

The Administration is more and more vulnerable as the military community speaks out. Issues include: lack of protective gear, stop-loss laws, forcible returning to service of veterans (the "back-door draft"), long deployments for reservists and national guard, high rate of mental and emotional disorder in returning vets, lack of sufficient veteran healthcare.

To maximize, we need to keep organizations like Military Families Speak Out and the new Iraq Veterans Against the War at center stage in our mobilizations. But we also need to provide concrete support to those organizations, particularly with help in funding and staff.

We should note that US concern about human costs in the war has not yet focused on the huge numbers of Iraqi civilian casualties. This is true despite the (short-lived) flurry around the John Hopkins study published in the British medical journal, *Lancet*, which estimated 100,000 Iraqi war casualties. [See "Moral deficit" below.]

Political and credibility deficit. So far we're not seeing much effort by the Democrats in undermining the Bush policies — don't know if we can have much effect on the Democrats yet. But within the Republican Party there's a growing division. Some right-wing Republicans say they've lost confidence in Rumsfeld; a few (including some neo-cons like William Kristol) are even calling for Rumsfeld to be fired.

Rumsfeld personifies the war. Bush can't get rid of him because that would admit that the war itself has become a liability. (So far one of the only right-wingers to come out in clear defense of Rumsfeld has been Richard Perle, arch neo-con and former Pentagon adviser, who has been virtually silent since corporate-related scandal forced him out of Rumsfeld's Defense Policy Board earlier in 2004.)

A December 21 *Washington Post* poll indicates 56% think Rumsfeld should be fired, 49% disapprove of Bush as presi-

dent, 57% believe the war was not worth fighting. We need to figure out how to strengthen this popular opposition, perhaps linking it with growing elite and particularly right-wing opposition.

Key constituencies: Democrats, who so far have failed to seriously critique the war, and peace movement sectors with ties to the Democrats.



Ken Landuus displays a homemade lawn sign in Cleveland, OH, after learning of the death of his son in Iraq. Photo: Indymedia (from WKYC-TV News)

International deficit. The appointment of Condoleezza Rice to replace Powell means the end of popular illusions (in Europe and the Middle East in particular) that the Bush administration has separate views — or that there is a rational semi-multilateralist voice within the administration. This clarifies the reality of the unified unilateralist thrust of US policy.

Key constituencies: global peace movement, European and other governments, UN.

Moral deficit. The Pentagon's lack of concern over GIs especially being killed. The Pentagon ignores the rising casualties among Iraqis civilians and demonstrates the fallacy of the "Iraqis are better off today" argument. It's likely that the Iraq election will be widely seen as illegitimate because of occupation-linked violence making it impossible for large numbers of people to vote.

Our challenge is to raise the issue of Iraqi civilian casualties — both direct casualties of occupation forces and those that are occupation-related. (When the resistance attacks civilians it usually seems to be targeting civilians viewed as collaborating with the occupation.)

Key constituencies: We need a sharper strategy for reaching faith-based communities, particularly mainstream churches.

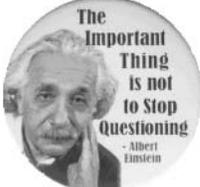
(The peace churches are with us, but need to broaden their campaigns.) Many mainstream churches have taken positions, but aren't mobilizing their base. How about coordinating a national day for local coalitions of religious leaders to preach against the war on the same weekend?

Democracy deficit. The destruction of civil liberties [e.g. the Patriot Acts and the militarization of the police] is coming under increasing scrutiny. Such destruction undermines the claim that the US is "fighting for democracy" in Iraq.

Key constituencies: civil liberties, immigrant rights, people of color organizations.

What Does Our Movement Need for this Work?

- Internationalism: serious networking, engaging and intersecting with the global peace movement.
- Linkage with Israel/Palestine question: crucial issue of dual occupations. The peace movement has accomplished important initial educational and mobilization work in normalizing the issue within the broader peace and justice movement, but needs to do more to make links.
- Organizing strategies: beyond giant national actions, we must figure out ways to heighten the deficits/challenges facing US strategy, and educating about those rising costs and deficits. The March 19 [second anniversary of the beginning of the invasion] mobilization will be key.
- Grassroots media and training: we can look at the model of the US Campaign to End Israeli Occupation in organizing regional training sessions in five/six state regions. Those trainings provide basic skills in media and in outreach/education and advocacy — but they also mobilize and energize movement activists still paralyzed with post-election depression.
- Speaking tours: probably a good idea, but they have to be linked with outreach and media strategies and not just be educational. Our national movement, centered in United For Peace & Justice (UFPJ), needs to link local and regional organizing efforts into a national peace movement able to speak with one voice, one message. ☛

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p align="center">Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar FEBRUARY 2005</p>		<p>1</p> <p>Dr. Dhafir's Trial Continues: It's unclear how much longer it will run. It has been every Mon-Thurs. 8:30 am at the Federal Courthouse, 100 S. Clinton St. Prayer gathering 9 am each day of the trial. Madis 463-5369.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Help an SPC Intern & Learn about Draft Registration: Kelsy is developing presentations on draft registration and wants a crowd to help her learn to respond to pro-war challenges. 7 pm. SPC, 924 Burnet Ave. Vegan treats. Kelsy 472-5478 [antioch@peacecouncil.net]</p>	<p>3 Stonewall Committee Mtg: 6 pm, Bonnie Strunk 422-0144</p> <p>Peace Outreach: 7:45-8:30 am. Valley Dr. & Seneca Trpk.</p> <p>Syr. United Neighbors SW/ Tallman Mtg: Brady Faith Center, 404 South Ave. 7 pm. 476-7475.</p> <p>SPC Volunteer Orientation: 7:30 pm. 924 Burnet Ave., Get Involved! Carol 472-5478.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Folkus Project Concert: The WIYOS. Acoustic trio playing "oldturnative" music. 8 pm. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. Reservations 440-1818 or [tickets@folkus.org].</p>	<p>5</p> <p>EVERY SAT: Democracy Now! w/Amy Goodman. Time Warner Cable Ch. 98, 9-11 am.</p> <p>Syracuse Community Radio Open House. 12:30-2 pm. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave. 426-0850 [info@wxxe.org].</p> <p>War Tax Resistance Discussion. Potluck 6:30 pm. 125 Park Pl., Ithaca. Mary 607-256-9733.</p>
<p>6</p> <p>EVERY SUN: Common Threads, Acoustic local music. WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm.</p> <p>Syracuse Gay/Lesbian Catholics & Friends Mass: St. Andrew's Church, 124 Alden St., 5 pm. 636-7726.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>EVERY MON: Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave., 7-8:30 pm. 478-8634.</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>Peace Action Program: Inside Sudan. 7:30 pm. May Memorial Unitarian Society, 3800 E. Genesee St. 478-7442. FREE.</p> <p>CNY Pride Planning Meeting. 7 pm. Community Room, Carousel Center.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>"Plan B for Syracuse": Video & Discussion. 7:30 pm. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave. Drug policy reform for Syracuse. Reconsider. 478-7815. FREE</p>	<p>University Neighbors Lecture: 7:30 pm. Miranda Hine, Personal Journey of Community Activism in Thornden Park. Westcott Comm. Ctr., 826 Euclid Ave. FEE.</p> <p>10</p> <p>Weekly Peace Outreach: 7:45-8:30 am. James Street and Thompson Rd. (Northside).</p> <p>EVERY THURS: Womens Voices Radio. WAER - 88 FM. 8 pm.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Get Democracy Now! on the air in CNY. Contact WAER today! rgockert@syr.edu, 443-4021.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Draft Information Workshop: for outreach work. 9 am-12:30 pm. \$15 (no one excluded for lack of funds). Registration by February 9. Kelsy 472-5478 [antioch@peacecouncil.net].</p> <p>Peter Mulvey Concert. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave, 8 pm, \$12 (\$10 for WCC members). 478-8634.</p> <p>Women's Info Center Valentines Day Dance. 7-11pm, 601 Allen St. Music by DJ KUMA. \$5. 478-4636.</p>
<p>13</p> <p>SAGE monthly potluck meeting. 4:30 pm. Parish House, 1st Presbyterian Church, 620 W. Genesee St. 478-1923.</p>	<p>14 Westcott East Neighborhood Assoc. Mtg: Petit Library, 7-9 pm. Starke Donnally 472-2140.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/ Southside Mtg: Payton Temple, 1816 Midland Ave. 7 pm. 476-7475</p> <p>SPC Study Group on the US Global Agenda: 7-8:30 pm, Friends Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. <i>Water Wars</i> by Vandana Shiva. Carol 472-5478.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Sojourner Storytelling Conference. 10-4 pm. Hendricks Chapel, SU. Francis 443-2901.</p> <p>EVERY TUES: Rough Times Live. Television by, for & about teens. 8 pm. Time Warner Cable Channel 98. 478-UNIT.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/ Skunk City Mtg: Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 6:30 pm. 476-7475.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Justice Breakfast. 8-9:30 am. Brady Faith Center, 404 South Ave. 472-5478.</p> <p>EVERY WED: Military & Draft Counseling Noon - 3 pm. SPC, 924 Burnet Ave. Marge 472-5478.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/ Skunk City Mtg: Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 6:30 pm. 476-7475.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Weekly Peace Outreach: 7:45-8:30 am. S. Salina and East Colvin (Southside).</p> <p>SPC MONTHLY PROGRAM: "White Activists Confronting White Racism" 7 pm. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave. FREE. Kelsy 472-5478 [antioch@peacecouncil.net].</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Folkus Project Concert: Joe Davoli & Harvey Nusbaum. Spirited guitar and fiddle. 8 pm. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. \$10. 440-1818 or [tickets@folkus.org].</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>EVERY SAT: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10 pm. Time Warner Cable Ch. 98. People for Animal Rights.</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Syracuse Gay/Lesbian Catholics & Friends Mass: St. Andrew's Church, 124 Alden St., 5 pm. 636-7726.</p> <p>EVERY SUN: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable Channel 98. 8 pm. Produced by SPC. Tape it, share it!</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/ Westside Mtg: Brown Memorial Church, corner Davis and S. Geddes St. 7 pm. 476-7475.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PFLAG Monthly Meeting: 7:30 pm. 446-5940</p> <p>Friends of Dorothy Benefit Dinner: 5:30 - 7 pm. St. Vincent's Parish Center - enter on Winton St. [friendsofdorothy@twcny.rr.com]</p>	<p>23</p> <p>EVERY WED: Open Figure Drawing Inc., We Draw People! 7-10 pm. Westcott Community Ctr, 826 Euclid Ave. 478-8634. FEE.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Weekly Peace Outreach: 7:45-8:30 am. E. Genesee St. and Erie Blvd. (Dewitt).</p> <p>Monthly Vigil Against Death Penalty: Noon. Columbus Circle. People Against the Death Penalty 637-3344.</p> <p>SPC Newsletter Mailing Party: 4-6:30 pm. SPC Office, 924 Burnet Ave. Free Pizza.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Muslim Solidarity Day. Many ways to plug in: attend a morning gathering and legislative visit; wear the hijab (for women); send a symbolic donation to a Muslim community organization; and/or stand in silent contemplation or prayer at the times Muslims pause in daily prayer. See page 4, insert or Carol 472-5478.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Draft Information Workshop Part II: for outreach work. 9 am-12:30 pm. \$15 (no one excluded for lack of funds). Kelsy 472-5478 [antioch@peacecouncil.net].</p> <p>Pax Christi Monthly Meeting: 9:30 am-noon. Contact Frank Woolever 446-1693.</p>
<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>SPC Study Group on the US Global Agenda: 7-8:30 pm, Friends Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. <i>Water Wars</i> by Vandana Shiva. Carol 472-5478 or carol@peacecouncil.net.</p> 	<p>To list your group's event or meeting, call 472-5478 or send the info to SPC at pnl@peacecouncil.net</p>	<p>EVERY THURS: Interfaith Peace Vigil, Conventual Franciscan Friars, Assisi Center, 800 North Salina St. 5:30-6 pm. 473-0952.</p> <p>EVERY THURS: Free Legal Services for people denied unemployment benefits or have a welfare hearing. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave. 6-8 pm.</p>	<p align="center">COMING IN MARCH</p> <p>SUNDAY, MARCH 6 Strike for Peace Benefit Bowl-a-thon: 2-5 pm. Strike 'N Spare Lanes, Matlydale. Organize a team! \$10/person covers 2 games and shoes. Please solicit pledges to make money for SPC. For more info or to help out contact Kelsy 472-5478 [antioch@peacecouncil.net].</p> <p>THURSDAY, MARCH 11 Marine Veteran Jimmy Massey Speaks in Syracuse: Massey served in Iraq and is speaking out against the war after seeing the results. He'll speak at several venues in Syracuse. Details TBA.</p>		

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