



Merrimack Valley People For Peace

Serving the communities of the Merrimack Valley

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

April/May 2006

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

GOOD NEWS

compiled with the help of Boryana Tacconi

On April 1, more than 400 people participated in the Immigrant Rights rally and march in downtown Lawrence called together by the Lawrence Coalition for Immigrants Rights. Hats off to MVPP member and School Committee member Martina Cruz, who was the coordinator and one of the main organizers of this highly successful action. She was joined by other Latino/a civic, political, and religious leaders in Lawrence, including José Cruz, José Ayala, Brian de Peña, and Gregoria Rosario. The event was a part of the enormous nationwide wave of immigrant rights actions protesting the Sensenbrenner legislation that, if passed, would turn millions of people into criminals. Organized on very short notice, there were hundreds of excited but peaceful demonstrators, a large number of whom were families with young children, carrying handmade signs saying, "We are not criminals, we are not terrorists, stop discrimination," and "No somos criminales, somos trabajadores." A pleasant feature of the event was the minimal presence of the police. The action received coverage in the Eagle-Tribune, four Spanish-language weeklies, and several radio shows; it inspired others to do the same in Haverhill and New Bedford. Then on April 10, the National Day of Action for Immigrant Rights, over 300 Lawrence area participants, dressed predominantly in white, came to the candlelight vigil at Broadway and Essex Street. More actions are being planned for May 1, the next round of immigrant protest nationwide. Seven MVPP members participated in these two events.

On April 4, twenty-four of thirty-two communities in Wisconsin voted for immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, beginning with the National Guard and Reserves.

Added together, the local referenda produced a resounding vote against the continued U.S. occupation of Iraq, showing an anti-war margin of 61 percent to 39 percent. Conservative talk-radio hosts and Fox TV commentators hurried to suggest that the referenda offer a reflection only of liberal, anti-Bush sentiment in college towns such as the state capital of Madison. But, in fact, several of the results (some of them with dramatic 70-to-30 or 82-to-18 margins) came from suburbs and rural communities in counties that were won by George Bush in the 2004 election.

On April 8, the Vermont Democratic Party became the fifth in the nation to call for the impeachment of President

George Bush, following the lead of party affiliates in Wisconsin, New Mexico, Nevada, and North Carolina. After the grassroots impeachment resolution in Newfane, VT, had gained national press attention and started rapidly spreading to other towns, Vermont's Democratic leaders agreed on to urge the U.S. House of Representatives to begin immediate impeachment proceedings against President Bush. "People say this is a symbolic act", said Dan Close of Underhill during the debates. "But, upon thinking about it, there are times for symbolic acts. The Boston Tea Party was a symbolic act. The Declaration of Independence was a symbolic act."

The Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, has publicly admitted that it wrongly accused one of its nurses of sedition. Last September, Laura Berg, a nurse at the hospital for 15 years working with returning veterans, wrote a letter to a local newspaper sharply criticizing the Bush administration's handling of Hurricane Katrina and the Iraq war. In response, her employers confiscated her computer. Shortly thereafter, she was informed that she was being investigated and accused of sedition. The case attracted the attention of the ACLU in New Mexico and later was taken up by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). Until its reversal in position in the middle of April, the hospital had resisted calls to publicly admit that its allegations were false, although it had given Berg a private apology.

A broad coalition of peasant farmers, indigenous peoples, and civil society recently celebrated a major victory: the firm rejection of efforts to undermine the global moratorium on " Terminator" technologies (genetically engineered sterile seeds) at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Curitiba, Brazil. This technology switches off a plant's ability to germinate a second time. Profitable to global agribusiness, it forces farmers to buy a fresh supply of seeds each year, undercutting the traditional practice, tried and true for thousands of years, of saving seeds for the next harvest. "This is a momentous day for the 1.4 billion poor people worldwide, who depend on farmer saved seeds," said Francisca Rodriguez of *Via Campesina*, a world-

MVPP Monthly Meetings – North Parish Church – Tuesday, April 25, and Tuesday, May 23, 7:30 PM .
<http://www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org/>

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Weekly Vigils

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

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

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

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

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

Nashua, NH in front of Nashua City Hall from 11 to Noon every Sat. www.nashuapeace.org

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

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

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

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

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

wide movement of peasant farmers. "Terminator seeds are a weapon of mass destruction and an assault on our food sovereignty." There is no doubt that the multinational biotech industry will continue to push sterile seed technology. However, the members of the Ban Terminator Campaign vow to continue working for a total permanent ban on this oppressive technology.

In the first days of April, under pressure from Green campaigners, five major food companies pulled out of supporting the Japanese whaling industry. This is a serious setback to Japan's relentless push for the return of commercial whaling. The five firms, led by the Japanese seafood giant, Nissui, and its US frozen foods subsidiary, Gortons, said they would divest their one-third share in Japan's largest operator of whaling ships, Kyodo Senpaku. The move follows months of campaigning by activists, who sent thousands of e-mails to the firms demanding they end their support for the industry. The timing is vital, as pro-whaling nations are on the rise and likely to achieve their first majority in whaling's regulatory body during 2006.

Sisyphus remains undaunted! Pressure continues to mount to bring into Congress an open debate and vote on all alternatives to the course of the Iraq War. The call for this debate is registered in [H.J. Res. 55](#), submitted last year by Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D-NM) and co-sponsored by Rep. Marty Meehan. The bill has languished in committee since last fall. However, support for a discharge petition (H.R. 543) continues to build. To become effective, thereby requiring the debate to go forward, the petition needs 218 signatures. To date, nearly 100 have signed up, with more coming each week, thanks in part to an effort by Moveon.org. At last report, Rep. John Tierney was about to sign on.

Be your own Good News! Raise your voice with all the people now pressuring Congress NOT to authorize war on Iran. Call your representatives and ask them to support the resolution (www.house.gov/defazio/041306GV/Release.shtml) recently introduced by Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR) to express the sense of Congress that the President cannot initiate action against Iran without congressional authorization. See www.workingforchange.com/activism/action.cfm?itemid=20647, and enlist your full network of friends and colleagues to join you.

Local and Regional Action

MVPP Develops a Library: Additional Resources Welcomed

MVPP is establishing a library of peace and justice-related materials that individuals or groups may borrow. The collection currently has 35 titles and includes books, as well as DVD and VHS formats. Selections to date include the build-up for the Iraq war, use of depleted uranium, use of white phosphorous in Fallujah, conscientious objection, Israeli-Palestinian issues, Muhammad, Gandhi, Wal-Mart, and Columbine. A complete listing will be available soon and will be printed in the newsletter. If you wish to borrow from the library, or find out what is currently available, contact Mary Todd at 978-687-6864. We welcome new contributions to augment the collection.

Report on the Annual UJP Strategy Conference on March 25th

by Becci Backman

The annual Strategy Conference of *United for Justice with Peace*, "From Boston to Baghdad: Organizing for Justice and Peace," attended by approximately 100 current and new activists, did not disappoint. In fact, Barbara Haack, Bobbie Goldman, and Becci Backman pronounced it the best conference yet. Our only "criticism" was that each featured speakers did not talk much longer. The timeliness and urgency of each appeal are self-evident. The morning session began with Janice Hayden, who has been in Palestine several times, most recently after the Hamas election and presented a power point entitled, "The Middle East after the Hamas Election Victory." Meizhu Lui, of *United for a Fair Economy*, followed with hard numbers about our economy that is alarmingly propped up by debt in "Stick 'em up: Your money or your life." Prior to the morning workshops, Mariama White-Hammond of *Project Hip-hop*, talked about "The Legacy of Katrina" and her experiences in post-Katrina New Orleans. Among the many horrors and of particular note regarding MVPP's campaigns, she reported that military recruiters were actively seeking recruits at evacuee centers.

The afternoon featured a talk by Dr. Entisar Mohammad Ariabi, an Iraqi pharmacist touring the U.S. with Code Pink, who gave us a "Report from Iraq: the Iraqi Perspective." It was not easy looking at photos and hearing the anguish of an Iraqi professional and mother regarding the realities of life in Iraq. Her

message was clear -- the US must leave Iraq. Nancy Murray, of *Massachusetts ACLU*, followed with a hard hitting discussion entitled "The Road to Dictatorship," a wake-up call for all of us regarding the severe erosion of our rights. We all learned from informative workshops on various topics, and congratulate our own Chad Montrie on his well attended and proactive workshop on counter-recruitment efforts and ongoing actions in eastern Massachusetts.

Continuing the pressure to close Vermont Yankee: 6 anti-nuclear activists from MA arrested

In the early morning of April 10th, six women including MVPP member, Hattie Nestel, all veteran grassroots protesters, staged another action at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, VT. Each carried life-sized dolls of themselves bearing signs reading, "I'm not staying! I don't want more radiation." A single security guard watched them as they placed the effigies against a "Welcome to Vermont Yankee" sign at the front entrance of the plant and then returned to their vehicles.

First mission accomplished, the six women then drove to the Vermont Yankee headquarters in Brattleboro, where they wrapped a colorful chain made of pink and blue construction paper around the main door inside the vestibule, forcing employees to use another entrance. The chains bore labels of various alternatives to nuclear power, e.g. renewable energy and wind power. The Brattleboro Police Department arrested the women for trespassing on the Entergy Nuclear headquarters.

This marked the seventh protest against the operation of Vermont Yankee. Entergy, the plant owners, have recently won permission to boost the reactor's power by 20 percent, and they now seek a 20-year license extension for the 34-year old facility. Anti-nuclear demonstrations there have picked up in recent months, some drawing crowds of more than 100. While the outcome of this demonstration is in doubt, all charges have so far been dropped against every other set of protesters since last fall.

Arrested with Hattie for this action were Frances Crow, 87, of Northampton; Dorthee, 77, of Wendell; Paki Weiland, 62, of Northampton; Marcia Gagliardi, 58, of Athol; and Claire Chang, 49, of Gill.

Commentary

"No" to Another Preemptive War; Defuse All Bombs by Don Abbott

On March 16, 2006, the White House released its most recent National Security Strategy, which largely echoes a similar document from September 2002. It clearly reaffirms President Bush's doctrine of preemptive war against terrorists and hostile states with chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, and it includes the threatened use of offensive nuclear strike systems to do so. Consider the following excerpts:

"...Defeating terrorism requires a long-term strategy and a break with old patterns. We are fighting a new enemy with global reach. The United States can no longer simply rely on deterrence to keep the terrorists at bay or defensive measures to thwart them at the last moment. The fight must be taken to the enemy, to keep them on the run."

"... To forestall or prevent...hostile acts by our adversaries, the United States will, if necessary, act preemptively in exercising our inherent right of self-defense."

"... We do not rule out the use of force before attacks occur, even if uncertainty remains as to the time and place of an enemy's attack. When the consequences of an attack with WMD are potentially so devastating, we cannot afford to stand idly by as grave dangers materialize. This is the principle and logic of pre-emption. The place of preemption in our national security strategy remains the same."

This aggressive strategy played out with disastrous effects in Iraq, flying in the face of overwhelming global opinion and in defiance of international law. Now, coupled with our declared right to first-use of nuclear weapons, it takes on more ominous force, even macabre dimensions, in the growing U.S. confrontation with Iran, which is not now a nuclear weapons state and is not capable of becoming one for several more years. Remember, Iran is not in violation of any its legal obligations as a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In fact, Graham Allison of Harvard calls this moment "the Cuban missile crisis in slow motion." Allison is the professor of government who wrote the classic study of JFK's 1962 showdown with the Soviet Union, narrowly averting nuclear war. I was a college senior at the time of that crisis, and I have not again experienced in my lifetime such a prospect of imminent doom...but it is feeling much closer to that now.

It is difficult to imagine a more disastrous scenario than for the U.S. to attack Iran, with or without nuclear weapons. American citizens cannot afford to wait and see if the administration is bluffing with its reported plans to strike Iran with nuclear bunker busters. Or to rationalize that the administration would not be that insane. Not the administration that has renounced "reality-based" analysis and acted with such single-minded, unilateral, and evangelical zeal in its war-making to date!

I repeat the call to action in our February Newsletter, adding information about new actions to take at once:

Members are urged to contact elected representatives, Washington officials, the media, and community leaders at all levels and to demand that they exert every effort to quell the growing drum beat. Press them all to work for the patient, nonviolent process of multilateral diplomacy.

First, call senators and congressmen and urge them to be courageous and speak out for a diplomatic solution on Iran, and to oppose deceptive attempts by the administration to justify military action against Iran. **Tell them not to repeat their mistakes of October 2002 by again abdicating their constitutional power to declare war. Demand that they vote against any measure that could be construed as an authorization to use military force.**

Second, go to www.StopWaronIran.org, sign the following petition to the President, Vice President, and Congress, and make sure others have too.

Third, go to www.afterdowningstreet.org/iran, sign this new petition to the President and Vice President, and work tirelessly to engage your family members and friends and colleagues to do the same:

We write to you from all over the United States and all over the world to urge you to obey both international and U.S. law, which forbid aggressive attacks on other nations. We oppose your proposal to attack Iran. Iran does not possess nuclear weapons, just as Iraq did not possess nuclear weapons. If Iran had such weapons, that would not justify the use of force, any more than any other nation would be justified in launching a war against the world's greatest possessor of nuclear arms, the United States. The most effective way to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons would be to closely monitor its nuclear energy program, and to improve diplomatic relations -- two tasks made much more difficult by threatening to bomb Iranian territory. We urge you to lead the way to peace, not war, and to begin by making clear that you will not commit the highest international crime by aggressively attacking Iran.

Fourth, take up these other organized efforts to make your voice heard in specific quarters: Code Pink has an email to Kofi Annan; the Department of Peace Campaign is urging emails to the President and Congress; TrueMajority takes an interesting approach with an email to the Democratic Congressional leadership; VotersforPeace adopts a similar tactic with its petition targeting leading Democrats; Progressive Democrats of America has an email to Congress. United for Peace and Justice is circulating petition drives to both Congress and the UN.

This moment may be one of the most critical times in recent years for people to stand, resist, and say "No!" in as many direct and persistent ways as possible. Silence is worse than despair. Neither is an option.

Issues

A Statement of Opposition to the Policy of Threat and Use of Nuclear Weapons in Preemptive Strikes against Non-nuclear States, as reaffirmed in the new National Security Strategy (<http://physics.ucsd.edu/petition/NationalSecurityStrategy.html>)

Editor's Note: In the tradition of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto and the Pugwash Conferences, these voices must be heeded. The following statement issued in fall 2005 has been signed by more than 1,800 physicists.

The undersigned Nobel Laureates, Past and Elect Presidents of the American Physical Society, members of the US National Academy of Sciences and Professors at US universities, all members of the physics profession that brought nuclear weapons into existence, affirm that:

- This dangerous policy change ignores the fact that nuclear weapons are on a completely different scale than other WMD's and conventional weapons. Using a nuclear weapon pre-emptively and against a non-nuclear adversary crosses a line, blurring the sharp distinction that exists between nuclear and non-nuclear weapons, and heightens the probability of future use of nuclear weapons by others.
- It provides a strong incentive for countries to abandon the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and pursue nuclear weapons themselves and dramatically increases the risk of

nuclear proliferation, and ultimately the risk that regional conflicts will explode into all-out nuclear war, with the potential to destroy our civilization.

We express our repudiation of these dangerous policies in the strongest possible terms.

Letter from Prominent U.S. Physicists Calls Bush Policy "Gravely Irresponsible"

www.truthout.org/docs_2006/042106B.shtml

In mid-April, as a follow-up to the Fall 2005 petition reported above, thirteen American physicists, several of them preeminent in their field, wrote President Bush stating that the use of nuclear weapons against Iran would have "disastrous consequences for the security of the United States and the world." They wrote:

"Once the U.S. uses a nuclear weapon again, it will heighten the probability that others will too." In a world with many more nuclear nations and no longer a 'taboo' against the use of nuclear weapons, there will be a greatly enhanced risk that regional conflicts could expand into global nuclear war, with the potential to destroy our civilization."

"It is gravely irresponsible for the U.S. as the greatest superpower to consider courses of action that could eventually lead to the widespread destruction of life on the planet. We urge the administration to announce publicly that it is taking the nuclear option off the table in the case of all non-nuclear adversaries, present or future, and we urge the American people to make their voices heard on this matter."

The full text of the letter is available at: <http://physics.ucsd.edu/petition/physicistsletter.pdf>.

The Human Costs of Bombing Iran

by Matthew Rothschild from The Progressive; April 11, 2006: http://progressive.org/mag_wx041106

Editor's Note: The chilling information in the following article places the war-making policies of our country beyond the ludicrous; indeed into the realm of the criminal. We must mount full opposition to our country's reported preparation to use tactical nuclear weapons against Iran.

George Bush didn't exactly deny Seymour Hersh's report in The New Yorker that the Administration is considering using tactical nuclear weapons against Iran.

Neither did Scott McClellan.

Bush called it "wild speculation," and McClellan said the United States would go ahead with "normal military contingency planning."

Those are hardly categorical denials.

So let's look at what the human costs of dropping a tactical nuclear weapon on Iran might entail.

They are astronomical.

"The number of deaths could exceed a million, and the number of people with increased cancer risks could exceed 10 million,"

according to a backgrounder by the Union of Concerned Scientists from May 2005.

The National Academy of Sciences studied these earth-penetrating nuclear weapons last year. They could “kill up to a million people or more if used in heavily populated areas,” concluded the report, which was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Physicians for Social Responsibility examined the risks of a more advanced buster-bunker weapon, and it eerily tabulated the toll from an attack on the underground nuclear facility in Esfahan, Iran. “Three million people would be killed by radiation within two weeks of the explosion, and 35 million people in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, would be exposed to increased levels of cancer-causing radiation,” according to a summary of that study in the backgrounder by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

While Congress last year denied funding for a new nuclear bunker-buster weapon, the Pentagon already has a stockpile of one such weapon in the arsenal: the B61-Mod11, according to Stephen Young, a senior analyst at the Federation of the American Scientists.

That the Administration is considering using such a weapon against Iran is “horrifying and ludicrous,” says Young.

But it is now Bush Administration doctrine to be able to use such weapons. The new “National Security Strategy of the United States of America,” which Bush unveiled in March, discusses the use of nuclear weapons in an offensive way. “Our deterrence strategy no longer rests primarily on the grim premise of inflicting devastating consequences on potential foes,” it states. “Both offenses and defenses are necessary. . . . Safe, credible, and reliable nuclear forces continue to play a critical role.”

Even more explicit is the Pentagon’s draft of a revised doctrine for the use of nuclear weapons, which was revealed by Walter Pincus of The Washington Post last September.

It envisions using nuclear weapons for “attacks on adversary installations including WMD, deep hardened bunkers containing chemical or biological weapons.” It says that the United States should be prepared to use nuclear weapons “if necessary to prevent” another country from using WMDs.

This is a mere amplification of the Nuclear Posture Review of December 31, 2001, which stated: “Nuclear weapons could be employed against targets able to withstand non-nuclear attack (for example, deep underground bunkers or bio-weapon facilities).”

If the United States used nuclear weapons against Iran, it would be violating the Nuclear NonProliferation Treaty, which prohibits nations that possess nuclear weapons from dropping them on nations that don’t.

But in the Bush Administration, planning to do this is just “normal” behavior.

And a million casualties or more?

For Bush, that is evidently not a disqualification.

“Our childhood is killed in Iraq. It is killed.”

<http://nationalcatholicreporter.org/fwis/>

by Joan Chittister, OSB; Erie Benedictine Sister, April 10, 2006

The question to the group of women delegates from Iraq was “What would you like to see come out of this meeting?”

I was not prepared either for the answer or for its explanation: “What we need now,” one of the Iraqi woman said, “is the end of the blood-letting. Women are very necessary to this operation. Fifty-five to 60 percent of Iraqis are women. The minority is ruling ... Women must interfere in the affairs of men. We should take over.”

It was hardly a statement I expected to hear in this place from these women. But I couldn’t forget it.

“The minority is ruling.” Right. And not too well, it seems, either here or there.

When men sit down to negotiate peace treaties -- when there’s even someone to negotiate with, which, given al-Qaeda, is not a luxury we seem to have anymore -- they disband armies and guard borders and hold military tribunals and form new governments and punish old ones. But they put no faces on the victims.

When they tote up the cost of the war, they do not include the number of women raped, the number of families displaced, the number of schools bombed, or the number of babies without milk.

The victors take their spoils, monitor the guns, forget the defenseless and leave the people to clean up the rubble. War becomes the daily dirge of the anonymous victims.

But when you bring women together to discuss the effects of war, the things that need to be changed, the real problems of a war-torn society, the conversation takes a sudden turn.

At the first Iraqi-American dialogue convened by the Women’s Global Peace Initiative in New York on March 29, the differences were plain. The women’s first agenda did not concentrate on who did what or who profited or lost by the doing of it. “Take the oil. We don’t care about the oil,” one woman called across the room. “We never got any value from it anyway,” she went on. “Never mind yesterday,” another woman said in answer to the Sunni-Shi’ite tensions. “Forget who did what to whom. We must turn the page now. We must rebuild the country.”

“And what is the first thing that must be done to rebuild the country?” we asked them. I sat with my hands over the keyboard, sure that the list would be long and varied. I was wrong. To a woman, the call was clear: “Take care of our children.”

It was a sobering moment. Take care of our children. “Oh, them,” I thought. “The tiny, the forgotten, targets of this war.”

Take care of the ones who now carry within themselves the sour taste of fear that came as bombs dropped through the dark sky shaking their houses, destroying their streets. Take care of the children, the ones who went cold as stone at the loss of brothers and fathers and dead playmates.

Take care of the ones who felt the sweat of terror when the doors of the homes in which they were sure they were safe broke down in the middle of the night or the lights went out or their mothers

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wrapped their shawls around their heads and cried. Take care of the ones who went into psychic paralysis at the sight of blood and bodies. Take care of the ones who woke up one morning to find their lives completely disrupted for no apparent reason.

Take care of the ones to whom then Secretary of State Colin Powell was apparently referring when a reporter asked him how many Iraqis had been killed or injured at that point in the war and his answer was, "That is a number in which I have absolutely no interest whatsoever."

But maybe he and we should all rethink that answer. Because these children do not feel "liberated" by this war; in these children the seeds of the next war have already been planted.

The Iraqi women were very clear: the most injured of all in this war are the children of Iraq. "The war has made deep wounds that have become part of our souls," another woman said. "They can never be forgotten. The living conditions, the lack of security is affecting everything the children do. They cannot even deliver newspapers anymore."

Their schooling has been interrupted. Even if the school buildings still stand, there are no supplies for them. And there are few people in them anyway. Teachers are dead. Classmates are gone from the area -- refugees somewhere or dead themselves. Most of all, their parents are afraid to send them out of the house even if the schools are undamaged.

"Our childhood is killed in Iraq," a woman said. "It is killed."

The small jobs children once held to help with family expenses are gone now. No one buys flowers on the street now. No one drives a car whose windows they can wash.

Drugs are flooding the streets now and drugs are the best and quickest way to ease the pain.

The number of street children -- children whose parents are dead, whose extended families are fractured -- have multiplied beyond anything modern Iraq has ever known.

Orphans are a commodity now in Iraq but orphanages are not. "We are taking care of the orphans, trying to give them love," the woman said. "But they are traumatized. They don't speak."

Recreational programs are a thing of the past, so children are restless or rebellious or simply bored with life.

"Fifty percent of the bodies in the hospital are women and children," the doctor said. "We are afraid that a large number of

children will be affected by the depression of their mothers and the loss of their fathers and the poverty of their families."

The future of Iraq is at stake. But it is not the banking system the women are concerned about. It is the treasure of the nation that is being squandered, they know. It is their future. It is their children.

The U.S. budget for fiscal year 2007, according to The National Priorities Project, earmarks 51 percent of all discretionary spending for military use. "Spending on the Iraq War in fiscal year 2006 alone will reach \$96 billion," the Project reports. (www.nationalpriorities.org)

The Bush budget calls for the elimination or reduction of 141 domestic programs. Among other things, we cut the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children by \$200 million and the department of education by 9 percent and eliminate vocational education. "Level funding" is provided for other domestic programs.

The overall cost of the war in Iraq for the United States is already being estimated at at least a trillion dollars. But so far not a penny of it is specified for the children. Neither theirs nor ours.

"We see the prisoners' rights," another delegate said sadly, "but where are the rights of the children."

From where I stand, I can't help but wonder that if we sold some of our weapons and used the money to buy crayons, food, houses and schools for Iraqi children, we could stop worrying about being terrorized ourselves. Indeed, the minority is ruling. Maybe the Iraqi woman's idea about what to do about it wouldn't be a bad one after all.

"There is no more dangerous thing for a democracy than a foreign policy based on presidential preventive war."

--Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.

Members' Letters to the Editor

“What are we doing in Iraq?”

Newburyport Daily News; published April 9, 2006

To the editor:

In January 2005 the Pentagon discussed renewed interest in using "The Salvador Option," referring to the training of "nationalist" death squads to hunt down, kidnap and kill opposition "rebels" in El Salvador in the 1980s, a conflict in which the United States was deeply involved. In the Pentagon's Iraq version, Special Forces were to train Kurd and Shiite death squads to target Sunnis. Recently, waves of mass killings in Iraq have been reported in grim detail; victims shot execution style, tortured, sometimes decapitated, their bodies dumped in swamps and rivers or elsewhere. News reports confirm the existence of death squads dressed in government uniforms.

Very recently the following paragraph appeared in a New York Times article (March 28) reporting on why Shiite leaders had halted cooperation with American authorities regarding negotiations over government.

"The militias, and their fighters working within the government's security forces, have been accused of conducting a dirty war against Sunni Arabs through kidnappings and executions, and thereby helping to push the country toward all-out civil war."

Was region-wide chaos and a failed state always the aim of the Bush administration? Was the invasion of Iraq meant to cripple the nation in order to exploit Iraq's resources and to provide a staging ground for further incursions throughout the world?

An article in the Christian Science Monitor (March 3) reports that over \$1 billion has been spent on creating bases in Iraq, with another \$348 million designated for further base construction. On April 2, The Independent UK, a British newspaper, headlined an article, "US and UK Forces Establish 'Enduring Bases' in Iraq," and included the following:

"The Pentagon has revealed that coalition forces are spending millions of dollars to establish at least six 'enduring' bases in Iraq — raising the prospect that US and UK forces could be involved in a long-term deployment in the country. It said it assumed British troops would operate one of the bases." This puts homecoming for American troops a long way off.

What are we doing in Iraq? The authors of this horrific blood-bath, developed in a cesspool of lies and deceit, continue to expand war plans. It is believed by many that America will inevitably lead an attack on Iran. And after the attack on Iran, who's next? Is bludgeoning others into compliance the only foreign policy this administration comprehends?

As rich as our country is, it seems that it is sinking further and further into a morass, without the sense or will to extricate itself.

Diana Philip, Newburyport

“Bush Proposal Violates Treaty”

Newburyport Daily News; published April, 17, 2006

To the editor:

We should be dismayed and distressed by Sen. John Kerry's statement that he was "inclined to support" the Bush administration's agreement to provide nuclear materials to India. This deal violates international agreements and raises the odds of nuclear disaster by opening the door to rapid proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The Bush proposal directly violates the terms of the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) in place since 1970 and signed by 187 countries. India refused to sign this treaty. If the U.S. gives India nuclear technology, our government will violate this important treaty.

Congressman Markey stated: "The U.S. has now pushed over a nuclear domino that falls against 187 other nations—all signers of the NPT—to review why they should honor a document which the nuclear superpowers no longer respect. It empowers the hawks in every rogue nation to put their nuclear weapons plans on steroids now that they can no longer be isolated as non-signers of an agreement that has been shredded."

Before the agreement can be implemented, Congress must amend provisions of the 1954 Atomic Energy Act on exporting nuclear technology, carving out an exemption for India. This would undermine efforts to prevent other nations like Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

The U.S. can, and must, enhance its relationship with India through other means that don't threaten a dangerous new nuclear arms race that will increase the threat to life on this planet.

Last weekend 100 local voters signed a letter to Sen. Kerry urging him to reconsider his position and vote "no" on this reckless Bush plan. Meanwhile, we've learned from the Pentagon reports that the Bush administration is considering the use of a nuclear weapon to bomb Iran in order to prevent that nation from the possibility of developing nuclear weapons.

I hope that people who want to preserve the planet for their children will speak up about the nuclear madness.

Barbara Hildt, Amesbury

“3-day fast on 20th Anniversary of Chernobyl calls for closing down Vermont Yankee”

submitted to several newspapers on April 11, 2006, including Brattleboro Reformer, Rutland Herald, Vermont Guardian, Manchester Guardian, Montague Reporter, Greenfield Recorder, and Athol Daily News.

To the editor:

As noted in the April issue of National Geographic, this is the twentieth anniversary of the catastrophic accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Northern Ukraine. Due to human error, the number four reactor exploded on April 26, 1986, releasing over 400 times more radioactivity than was released at Hiroshima. The initial explosion rained radioactive material to the west of the reactor, and then, as the reactor burned out of

control, winds swept the clouds north. The destroyed hulk burned for ten days, contaminating tens of thousands of square miles and drove close to a million people from their homes.

The two most pervasive radionuclides from Chernobyl, cesium 137 and strontium 90, will remain in the environment for decades. These releases triggered an epidemic of thyroid cancer, leukemia and genetic damage which continues to cause pain, deformities, and death to untold thousands.

Health and clean-up costs from the Chernobyl accident are estimated to have cost hundreds of billions of dollars and have still not been completed. Many thousands of square miles are still contaminated and uninhabitable. The radioactive remains of reactor four continue to smolder beneath the sarcophagus, a decaying concrete-and steel-crypt that now threatens to collapse. Within this decaying shelter an estimated 200 tons of nuclear fuel remain and continue to threaten the surrounding environment with dangerous levels of radioactive contaminants in the air and water.

This nuclear nightmare created by a simple human error must stand as a warning. There is no remedy for this accident. There is no way to prevent human error. And there is no safe way to store the high level radioactive waste for the tens of thousands of years it will take to decompose.

For these reasons I advocate closing down Vermont Yankee, a 34 year-old dangerous reactor that is threatening the health and safety of all New England. In its place I envision communities developing conservation to decrease our energy needs and develop local, clean, affordable, safe and sustainable energy.

For that reason, I am initiating a three-day water only fast. I will be in front of the Wells Fountain on Main St. in Brattleboro, which is less than 10 miles from Vermont Yankee on April 25, 26 and 27 from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. and invite anyone to join me.

Hattie Nestel, Athol

Upcoming Events

compiled with the help of Sue Imhoff

Saturday, April 29, New York City: MARCH FOR PEACE, JUSTICE, AND DEMOCRACY. End the War in Iraq - Bring Our Troops Home Now! Unite for Change - Let's Turn Our Country Around! Part of this day's National Mobilization. Initiating sponsors include United for Peace and Justice, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, National Organization for Women, Friends of the Earth, U.S. Labor against the War, Climate Crisis Coalition, Peoples' Hurricane Relief Fund, National Youth and Student Peace Coalition, Veterans for Peace. For MVPP and regional transportation and logistics information: Bobbie Goldman at 978-661-9009 or bg@comcast.net.

Tuesday, May 2, 7:00 pm: Dave Lippman as "Singing CIA Agent George Shrub". Lippman, a.k.a. Shrub, continues to afflict the complacent, occasionally rhyming in the process. Dave has been known to take the air out of the windbags of the week and de-distort history. He has toured widely in the U.S., Europe, Australia, and Central America in a 35-year musical

career. With ten releases to his credit, including "I Hate Wal-Mart" and his latest--"Shrub and Lippman Live in Manhattan, Kansas"--his 2004 visit to Palestine and Israel led to a multimedia piece, "Star of Goliath," called "a triumph" by the [Washington Report on Middle East Affairs](#). Sponsored by Seacoast Peace Response and New Hampshire Peace Action. For further information: 603-749-9159 or info@seacoastpeaceresponse.org. **UU Church, 292 State Street, Portsmouth, NH.**

Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 pm: "Showdown in the Gulf/ Myth-making in the Media"--film and Q & A. Presented and moderated by Stephen Wicks, instructor in art at Phillips Academy, the program addresses the question of who controls the media. The video, edited by Wicks, focuses on the television coverage of "DESERT STORM"--the 1991 GULF WAR" and presents a compilation of video excerpts selected from a wide variety of documentaries created in the years following the war. A central theme of the piece is the use of propaganda to sell the war to the American people and ally nations. For more information: swicks@andover.edu. **Kemper Auditorium, Chapel Avenue (opposite Andover Inn), Phillips Academy, Andover.**

Wednesday, May 3, 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm: Yolanda King-- "Nonviolence as a Way of Life." Sponsored as a fundraiser by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Join us as we celebrate women and all who nurture the traditions of peace, nonviolence, human rights, and justice. Admission \$30.00, or pay what you can or what you wish. Further information: www.wilpfboston.org or email wilpfbmedia@verizon.net or call Andre at 617-964-5267. **St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, 138 Tremont Street, Boston.**

Friday, May 5, 3:30 pm: Mother's Day Peace Reception; Celebrate Mothers, Celebrate Peace. Sponsored by WAND (Women's Action for New Directions). This year we honor 1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize and WAND's 25th Anniversary. Eight of these women are from this area and will be present. Come and meet them! Tickets to the reception are \$50 each; several sponsorship levels are available. Further information: jtaylor@wand.org or 781-643-6740. **The Great Hall, Massachusetts State House, (corner of Park and Beacon, up the hill from the Park Street "T" station).**

Saturday, May 13, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm: SILENT MARCH in D.C.: "Silence of the Dead, Voices of the Living." Sponsored by AFSC, Gold Star Families for Peace, Gold Star Families Speak Out, Iraq Veterans against the War, Military Families Speak Out, September Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, Veterans for Peace, and Vietnam Veterans Against the War. **Part of a four-day witness to end the war in Iraq.** A slow and solemn one-mile march held in conjunction with the return to D.C. of the "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit. Special placards provided for unifying our voice; group identification banners are welcome. A Children's Contingent will focus on the human costs of the Iraq War. Program of speakers and music to follow plus tour of exhibit and a special exercise involving compositions on "Children's Creative Responses to War." For information: Dennis Hartzell at dhartzell@afsc.org or 202-483-3341, ext.301, or Cynthia Terrell at ctcabin@aol.com or 301-270-4981. Meet between 10:30 am and 11:30 am at the intersection of 14th Street and Jefferson Drive (opposite the Washington Monument and near the "Eyes Wide Open" exhibition). Note the next listing, also in D.C. at this time.

Saturday, May 13, 4:00 pm through Sunday, May 14, 4:00 pm: Mother's Day 2006: A Call for Peace! A 24-hour vigil outside the White House. An effort to stop the insanity of sending our children to war. Sponsored by CODEPINK. Special guests: Cindy Sheehan, Patch Adams, and Susan Sarandon. Bring your mother, your children, your grandmother, your friends, your loved ones, and your passion to end war. Come for the whole vigil or for just a few hours. Sing, laugh, drum, inspire, dance, share & create peace. Write and read out loud letters to Laura Bush.

Saturday, May 13, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm: "Frontiers of Dreams and Fears"--a film by Mai Masri. Post-film discussion with Manar Faraj, who appeared in this Official Selection at the 2002 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival. Award-winning Palestinian filmmaker, Mai Masri, traces the delicate friendship that evolves between two Palestinian girls: Mona, a resident of the economically marginalized Beirut refugee camp and Manar, an occupant of Bethlehem's Al-Dheisha camp under Israeli control. The two girls begin and continue their relationship through letters until they are finally given the opportunity to meet at the border during the Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon. When the intifada suddenly erupts around them, both girls face heart-breaking changes in their lives. Co-sponsored by Visions of Peace with Justice in Israel/Palestine, the Boston Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, and Workmen's Circle Mideast Working Group. For additional information: jonathangroup@comcast.net. **Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA (Corey Road stop, Green Line "C" train).**

Friday, May 19, 6:45 pm: "Weapons of Mass Deception," presented by filmmaker Danny Schechter. Schechter, the veteran human rights and media activist, will introduce the screening of the film and take questions from the audience. This powerful and provocative documentary sheds light on the role the media played in the shaping of opinion about the Iraq War. For further information: swicks@andover.edu. **Kemper Auditorium, Chapel Avenue (opposite Andover Inn), Phillips Academy, Andover.**

Friday, June 2, 6:00 pm through Sunday, June 4, 4:00 pm: Summer Gathering of the People's Music Network for Songs of Freedom and Struggle. Join this annual summer weekend of music, fun, and friendship. Jamming, singing, networking, sharing, "Songs of the Spirit", etc. For information: Mary Kate Small at marykatespeace@yahoo.com or 978-474-0606; also for registration: www.peoplesmusic.org/Summer_2006/Summer_2006.htm. **Epworth Camp and Retreat Center, High Falls, NY.**

MVPP ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK SUPPER

Friday, June 16; 6:30 pm.

North Parish Church, North Andover

Guest speaker to be announced.

Books of Note

Recommended Reads compiled by Don Abbott

Anthony Arno. Iraq: The Logic of Withdrawal, The New Press, 2006. Foreword and Afterword by Howard Zinn. A compelling brief, cogently written and historically grounded, in the tradition of Zinn's similar book calling for withdrawal from Vietnam in 1967. It lays bare the reckless and dangerous logic of not withdrawing from Iraq. A message of great urgency because the consequences of defeat are much higher in Iraq than they were in Viet Nam. Yet the consequences of the continued occupation of Iraq militarily and economically, fueled by America's quest for global imperial power, are even graver. Withdrawal from Iraq must be immediate and accompanied by reparations and rebuilding. Then begins the real work of dispelling America's belief in its exceptionalism and its claim to the right of full spectrum dominance.

Noam Chomsky. Failed States: The Abuse of Power and the Assault on Democracy, Metropolitan Books, 2006. With prodigious documentation and powerful intellect, Chomsky continues the essential critique so necessary for human survival today. His latest publication reveals how much the American "system" itself possesses particular features of the "failed states" the U.S. considers threats to our security; namely, their "inability or unwillingness to protect their citizens from violence and destruction" and their "tendency to regard themselves as beyond the reach of domestic or international law, and hence free to carry out aggression and violence." The sharp disconnect between public opinion and public policy grows ever wider in our country. This book will inform and strengthen the power of citizens' opposition to the government's abuse of power in their lives.

William McDonough and Michael Braungart. Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things, North Point Press, 2002. The authors--one a visionary American architect, the other a German chemist and one of the founders of the Green Party--will provoke those environmentalists whose motto is "reduce, reuse, recycle." They contend that doing more with less in order to minimize damage just furthers the centuries-old model of waste and pollution. The vast majority of what we continue to make eventually goes to the grave--read incinerator or landfill. Instead, by using nature as our model for making things, they explain how products can be intentionally (re)designed to be useful beyond their use, nourishing something new. A stimulus even for the layperson's consideration of what "practicing eco-effectiveness" should and could really mean.

Joan Murray, editor. Poems to Live By in Troubling Times, Beacon Press, 2006. A sequel to the earlier Poems to Live By in Uncertain Times, this thin volume of 64 poems provides vital nourishment. It conveys hope without denying suffering and doubt; it challenges and comforts. Best poets invite us to tell the truth about experience and feelings, about reality and mystery. They breathe the new air, envision different realities, trust our instincts, keep faith with better angels. Or as Terrence De Pres once put it: "Between the self and the terrible world comes poetry with its minute redemptions, its lyrical insurgencies, its willing suspension of disbelief in tomorrow." These are not necessarily easy poems. But these are necessary poems. (See page 11 for two samples.)

Jane Breskin Zalben. Paths to Peace: People Who Changed the World, Dutton Children's Books, 2006. The latest by an award-winning author-artist of 50 books, this visually stunning book

profiles 16 people from different times, countries, and walks of life who found bravery enough to try to make the world better. Among others, the group includes Emerson, Gandhi, Eleanor Roosevelt, Ralph Bunche, Mother Teresa, Anwar Sadat, Anne Frank, The Dalai Lama, Wangari Maathai, and Aung San Suu Kyi. Parents will find these brief introductions appealing because they offer ways to begin discussions about what is important. Children will find them interesting not only because of their illustrations but because some of the individuals were inspired at an early age.

In Memoriam:

William Sloane Coffin, Jr.

June 1, 1924 – April 12, 2006

***Editor's Note:** Best gifts in life come by grace--unexpected, unconditional, and undeserved. Bill Coffin was/is one of the most extraordinary gifts to my life, from the moment in my early teens when I first heard him preach, through my undergraduate years when he was my mentor, and then, by miracle, over more than four decades of deepening friendship. Each of us, if we are lucky, can point to one or two people whose impact on our lives is wholly transformative and absolutely ineradicable. At every level, time after time, Bill followed Rilke's encouragement to love the questions and live out the answers -- with courage, humor, hope, and love.*

In recent years, he learned from me about MVPP, and in our occasional visits to his home in Vermont, and in regular phone conversations, he was always eager for news of our vigils and different actions. When he was in Andover to receive a major award from Phillips Academy in November 2004, I drove him down to Old Town Hall after dinner, and through the open window he greeted each of the half dozen stalwart vigilers (in Boryana's case, in Russian!) with the characteristic gusto and respect and joy that he would share with peace and justice workers all over the world.

*Once, he was goaded by a devil's advocate interviewer to explain why he was an activist for peace--it doesn't really accomplish much does it? His reply: **"One reason is you hope to change the world. Two is you are going to make sure the world doesn't change you."***

On April 20, 2006, a Memorial Service for Bill at New York's Riverside Church was packed to overflowing with several hundreds of his beloved community of family, friends, and sojourners. One of those who offered reflections was Bill Moyers. The following excerpt of Moyers's comments picks up with his recollection of a conversation he had with Bill in the fall of 2004, just before taping was to begin for a PBS interview. For the complete text of these comments by Bill Moyers, see www.tom-paine.com/articles/2006/04/21/remembering_bill_coffin.php.

"When he came down from Vermont two years ago for that final interview, we talked about how democracy had reached a fork in the road—what Tony Kushner calls one of those moments in history when the fabric of everyday life unravels and there is this unstable dynamism that allows for incredible change in short period of time—when people and the world they are living in can be utterly transformed for good or bad.

"Take one fork and the road leads to an America where military power serves empire rather than freedom; where we lose from within what we are trying to defend from without; where fundamentalism and the state scheme to write the rules and regulations; where true believers in the gods of the market turn the law of the jungle into the law of the land; where in the name of patriotism we keep our hand over our heart pledging allegiance to the flag while our leaders pick our pockets and plunder our trust; where elites insulate themselves from the consequences of their own actions; where 'the strong take what they can, and the weak suffer what they must.'

"Take the other fork and the road leads to the America whose promise is 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness' for all. Bill Coffin spent his life pointing us down that road, in that direction. There is nothing utopian about it, Bill said; he was an idealist but he was not an ideologue. He said in our interview that we have to keep pressing the socialist questions because they are the questions of justice, but we must be dubious about the socialist answers because while Amos may call for justice to roll down as waters, figuring out the irrigation system is damned hard!

"He believed in democracy. There is no simpler way to put it. He believed democracy was the only way to assure that the rewards of a free society would be shared with everyone, and not just elites at the top. That last time we talked he told me how much he had liked the story he had heard Joseph Campbell tell me in our series on 'The Power of Myth'—the story of the fellow who turns the corner and sees a brawl in the middle of the block. He runs right for it, shouting: 'Is this a private fight, or can anyone get in it?'

"Bill saw democracy as everyone's fight. He'd be in the middle of the fork in the road right now, his coat off, his sleeves rolled up, his hand raised—pointing us to the action. And his message would be the same today as then: 'Sign up, jump in, fight on.'

"Someone sidled up to me the other night at another gathering where Bill's death was discussed. This person said, 'He was no saint, you know.' I wanted to answer: 'You're kidding?' We knew, alright. Saints flourish in a mythic world. Bill Coffin flourished here, in the cracked common clay of an earthly and earthy life. He liked it here. Even as he was trying to cooperate gracefully with the inevitability of death, he was also coaching Paul Newman to play the preacher in the film version of Marilyn Robinson's novel Gilead. He enjoyed nothing more than wine and song at his home with Randy and friends. And he never lost his conviction that a better world is possible if we fight hard enough. At a dinner in his honor in Washington he had reminded us that 'the world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love.' But as we left he winked at me and said, 'Give 'em hell.'

"Faith, he once said, 'is being seized by love.' Seized he was, in everlasting arms. 'You know,' he told me in that interview, 'I lost a son. And people will say, Well, when you die, Bill, Alex will come forth and bring you through the pearly gates. Well, that's a nice thought, and I welcome it. But I don't need to believe that. All I need to know is, God will be there. And our lives go from God, in God, to God again. Hallelujah, you know? That should be enough.'

"Well, he's there now. But we are still here. I hear his voice in my heart: 'Don't tarry long in mourning. Organize.'"

Editor's Afterword: At Riverside Church, we all received a memorial booklet of letters written to Bill following his death. Nearly a thousand people had responded for this collection. One of them was our own Masood Sheikh, who had been on that Andover curbside (as he almost always is) when Bill stopped by that November evening. Masood wrote: "Your courage will continue to inspire all those who seek justice and peace. We will remember you and follow your path."

POETRY

Healing

by D. H. Lawrence

I am not a mechanism, an assembly of various sections.
And it is not because the mechanism is working wrongly, that I am ill.
I am ill because of wounds to the soul, to the deep emotional self
and the wounds to the soul take a long, long time, only time can help
and patience, and a certain difficult repentance long, difficult repentance, realization of life's mistake, and the freeing oneself
from the endless repetition of the mistake which mankind at large has chosen to sanctify.

When They Sleep

by Rolf Jacobsen
trans. from the Norwegian by Robert Hedin

All people are children when they sleep.
There's no war in them then.
They open their hands and breathe
in that quiet rhythm heaven has given them.

They pucker their lips like small children
and open their hands halfway,
soldiers and statesmen, servants and masters.
The stars stand guard
and a haze veils the sky,
a few hours when no one will do anybody harm.

If only we could speak to one another then
when our hearts are half-open flowers.
Words like golden bees
would drift in.
--God, teach me the language of sleep.

Curbside Chatter

Motorcyclist: "What about the Trade Center?"

Vigiler: "The Iraqis didn't attack us."

Motorcyclist: "What!?"

Vigiler: "Iraqis had nothing to do with it.
A lot of Saudis did."

Motorcyclist: "Huh?"

Vigiler: "Bush lied to you."

Motorcyclist: Shrugs shoulder and shouts, "I don't get it!"
and starts to drive off.

Vigiler: "Go read about it."

Woman motorist, stops at Shawsheen and shouts at a woman
vigiler:

"You ought to be ashamed of yourself."

Woman vigiler:

"Actually, I'm rather proud of myself!"

"We are communities in time and in a place, but we are communities in faith as well--and sometimes time can stop shadowing us. Our lives are touched by those who lived centuries ago, and we hope that our lives will mean something to people who won't be alive until centuries from now. It's a great 'chain of being,' someone once told me, and I think our job is to do the best we can to hold up our small segment of the chain. That's one kind...of politics--doing your utmost to keep that chain connected, unbroken."

--Dorothy Day

"...there never was a night or a problem that could defeat sunrise or hope."

--William Sloane Coffin, Jr.

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

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

ANNUAL MEETING
Friday, June 16, 2006; 6:30 PM
North Parish Church, North Andover

PEACE IS
PATRIOTIC

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

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

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E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

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2400 JFK Building, Boston MA 02203
617 565-3170 fax: 617 565-3183
Form: <http://kennedy.senate.gov/contact.html>

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Form: <http://kerry.senate.gov/text/contact/email.html>

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A link to all in US legislature:

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

How Senators and Representatives voted:

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

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