



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.

March 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

With the light's earlier arrival and extended presence, and winter's loosened grip on the frozen land, MVPP members this past month vigiled and walked and worked and sang toward the new spring, keeping faith with the daily possibilities for which we've been spared. On the evening of February 22, we hosted in Andover's Old Town Hall Square a candlelight vigil, called by MoveOn to stand for the Constitution and The Bill of Rights--the latter read, article by article, by individuals among the encircled gathering of 16--in protest of unwarranted surveillance of U.S. citizens and the expansion of executive authority.

In early March, our Valley was honored by the faithful, itinerant presence of the Buddhist Monks from the Peace Pagoda in Leverett, MA, on their Walk for a New Spring. Veteran MVPP members, Hattie Nestle and John Schurhardt, were regular participants in this year's Walk. On March 5, Nikki Rosen helped host them at the Newburyport Peace Vigil followed by Susan Manning in Haverhill on March 6. At 6:30 am on March 7, the Monks joined Arthur Brien and Mary Kate Small at the weekly vigil of the Raytheon Peacemakers, that day numbering more than a dozen, some of whom then joined the day's walk to Lawrence and back (receiving front page coverage in the Eagle-Tribune). That evening, Boryana Tacconi, Brenda McCarthy, and Ralph Galen and his UU congregation in Andover helped MVPP host a potluck supper with the Monks, attended by more than 40 at 6 Locke Street. At several stops in this year's journey, the Monks enjoyed overnight rest in members' homes.

The weekend of the 3rd anniversary of the invasion of Iraq brought members to Boston for two events: on the 18th, the march and rally sponsored by the Rosa Parks Human Rights Day Committee, attended by an estimated 3,000 individuals; and on the 19th, the witness by Iraq Veterans against the War, Military Families Speak Out, and Veterans for Peace outside the annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast in the Boston Convention Center. And in the shivering and lingering light of the 19th, the very eve of spring, 25 vigilers lifted voice and song at Andover's Old Town Hall Square -- led by Pat Scanlon, Mary Kate Small, Don Abbott, and piper Brian Quirk -- all in solemn recognition of the destruction our country has caused, yet yearning for the promise of a more peaceful future.

Leaders of faith communities are becoming more outspoken in their critique of the policies of the Bush administration. A coalition of American churches in the World Council of Churches is among the latest to issue words of denunciation. In mid-February, at a 10-day conference in Porto Allegre, Brazil, the WCC group representing 34 U.S. member churches released a two-page letter condemning the Iraq War and accusing the administration of "raining down terror." It apologizes and asks forgiveness for "the violence, degradation and poverty our nation has sown" and "abuses carried out in our name." The statement further acknowledges our "culture of consumption"

that treats the world's finite resources "as if they are private possessions" and propels the world toward environmental catastrophe. And in words that seldom are heard in U.S. sanctuaries, it declares: "Nations have been demonized and God has been enlisted in national agendas that are nothing short of idolatrous."

On March 8th, hundreds of women in pink marched to the White House and delivered a petition to stop the war in Iraq, signed by 103,000 supporters from all over the world. The petition, "Women Say No To War," was initiated by the group CODEPINK on January 5th, with the goal to collect 100,000 signatures by this date in March, annually celebrated in many countries as International Women's Day. Leading the contingent was a delegation of Iraqi women, invited to the U.S. by CODEPINK to participate both in this international demonstration and in a speaking tour calling for an end to the war and occupation. While Congress was considering the Bush Administration's request for \$72 billion more for war, American and Iraqi women walked arm-in-arm, chanting, "Money for health care and education, not for war and occupation!" Other **Women Say No To War** events were organized on March 8th in over 30 cities in the U.S. as well as in Australia, Belgium, Britain, Cuba, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, and Switzerland.

MVPP Monthly Meeting – North Parish Church – Tuesday, 7:30 PM, March 28, 2006.
<http://www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org/>

Printed on recycled paper

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.

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.

Now, even the majority of our troops are saying, "Bring Us Home." A recent Zogby International poll of 944 American soldiers and marines in Iraq found that nearly three-fourths (72%) thought that the U.S. should exit within the year.

While the mainstream media hardly covered this news--they tucked it away--the findings bear out the lesson of earlier disastrous military operations by our country: When our service men and women speak out, then the policies they are asked to carry out lose all legitimacy.

On March 3rd, over 100,000 marchers took to the streets of Chicago to fight an immigration reform bill in one of the biggest pro-immigrant rallies in U.S. history. The bill was

recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and will be debated by the Senate later this month. It would drastically strengthen immigration enforcement, including the extension of a fence along the Mexican border and severe punishment for social service workers who aid undocumented immigrants. The mostly Latino protesters were carrying signs reading "No human being is illegal" and "We are not criminals." The march had the support of local politicians, including Mayor Daley and Governor Blagojevich, who addressed the marchers in Spanish, saying, "You are not criminals, you are workers." U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) said in his speech, "This is our country, and this is where we will stay." Earlier in the week, over 20,000 rallied against the bill outside the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C.

On March 17th, in a decision hailed by environmentalists as one of their most important gains in years of litigation, regulation, and legal challenges under the Clean Air Act, a federal appeals court overturned a clean-air regulation issued by the Bush administration that would have let many power plants, refineries, and factories avoid installing costly new pollution controls to help offset any increased emissions caused by repairs and replacements of equipment. The ruling was in the favor of a coalition of states and environmental advocacy groups, citing that the "plain language" of the law required a stricter approach. With a wry footnote to Lewis Carroll, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit said that "only in a Humpty-Dumpty world" could the law be read otherwise.

On March 17th, in a big victory for advocates of mental health research and services, the Senate passed the Specter-Harkin amendment, adding \$7 billion in spending authority to a broad range of health and human service programs as part of the FY 2007 budget resolution. Approved in an impressive showing of bipartisan support (73 to 27), it restores funding for education, nutrition, and vital social services programs such as Head Start, child care, and Meals on Wheels. Social activists around the country cheered the outcome of their many supportive calls and letters to senators. This victory must now be followed up in the House, which has yet to take up the FY 2007 budget resolution. Advocates are urged to contact their House members and encourage support for the additional funding authorized by the Specter-Harkin Amendment.

Noam Chomsky receives the MVPP "quote of the month award." Earlier this month, he spoke to an over-capacity crowd at the State University of New York-Binghamton (hundreds were turned away as the building filled beyond capacity). His message--the dire consequences of the current direction of U.S. foreign policy, including nuclear Armageddon--caused one in the audience to rise and ask afterwards, "My question is, what do you find hopeful?" Chomsky's reply: "I think one should be very optimistic...the large majority of the population already agrees with the things activists are committed to. All we have to do is organize people who are convinced."

Curbside Chatter

1.
Vigiler's Sign: "We Don't Belong in Iraq."

Angry Driver, at the red light: "Why don't you leave the country, you f___ing loser? In fact, why don't you go to Iraq?"

Vigiler: "So, that's where losers go?"

2.
Driver, pulls to the curb and rolls down window. Three years ago, he was one of our most bitter, loud, and obdurate opponents. Now, and for more than a year and a half, he is a faithful and congenial adversary. His smile greets us, punctuated with a thumbs-up: "Hey, I'm still with the 30% who favor Bush!"

Vigiler: "Always knew you were a winner."

Issues

The State of Our Union: 2006 and Beyond; An Inevitable Military State?

by Craig S. Barnes

excerpted from *A People's Report on the State of Our Union*;
www.craig-barnes.com/author/commentary?Read=119

Editor's note: This is the final part of a speech delivered at Ghost Ranch, Santa Fe, NM, on January 4, 2006, in which Barnes describes the state of moral and intellectual chaos in our republic today, with causes that go far deeper than the policies and actions of our current political administration. His thesis is that we Americans no longer have a "grand story" that can explain the greater purpose of our existence beyond the slogans of freedom and the security of self-interests. What makes this a time of severe crisis, he contends, is our culture's prevailing preference to use military means "to clear up everything about our uncertainty and ideological confusion." While he does not condemn us to a perpetual military state, he looks the military/industrial/lobbying complex squarely in the eye and invokes the courage and conscience of ordinary citizens to face it down.

"...There is nothing inevitable here. The Senate and House may resist this temptation to turn our democracy into a military state. But there are huge pressures, untold numbers of lobbyists urging the cause of empire and American self interest in the Middle East and who seem to be urging that our interests be accomplished militarily, just as Julius Caesar did, or for that matter just as any modern dictator might. America's modern militarists claim to be idealistically urging the cause of freedom...but the practical effect of their policy is to turn a blind eye to the dismantling of democracy at home. There is no end to the money to be made in the military business and therefore no end to the constant lobbying pressure in congress to succumb to this temptation. In our day it is not therefore just one Caesar who is pushing for the dissolution of presidential restraint, it is the lobbying army of the whole military industrial complex.

"Whether in 2006 the military story, the Article II story of all power to the president, prevails, or whether the civil story, the story of American decency and restraint, of equality of opportunity and compassion, prevails, will depend upon those who are not in politics to set the stage or create the climate for those who are in politics. It will depend upon those who sing and dance the dignity of human nature in the pursuit, not of property, but of happiness, not of dominion, but of community. They will have to do their work in advance of the politicians, because that is always the way. Whether the civil story is to survive will depend upon the power of some new articulation to pull us away from the lure of violence and excitement of bombs exploding. It will depend upon those in the pulpits leading us, not to self satisfaction and isolation, but to community engagement and sacrifice. It will depend upon community activists who turn their anger to positive deeds and singers who turn their sorrow to hymns of praise for the courage of Kathy Kelly and Rachel Corey and nameless other heroes of a new kind. It will depend upon scientists standing up for science and poets speaking truth to power and playwrights searching out the modern-day likes of Macbeth and Lear and Iago. It will depend upon all of us to weave the tapestry of the culture we want and not just react against the culture we don't want.

"The picture of the year to come is, therefore, more in the hands of all us civilian weavers than in the hands of the politicians, who—it must be said—so often live in whitened sepulchers, or are still led by blind guides. It will depend upon teachers willing to fashion not only the deconstruction of modern icons, but who, like the Galilean of 2000 years ago, fashion the construction of a gentler, nobler story of our purpose here on earth.

"Perhaps as much as at any time in our history, the state of the union in 2006 will be determined by acts of conscience and kindness, reverence for the law, community norms and traditions of our past, and at last upon the courage of people like you and me who will take out our lamps from under their bushels, seize the initiative in a hundred, hundred ways, and do what we know how to do, not wait to be told what we cannot do. From all these acts of conscience and from those who sing the dignity of the human spirit will gradually emerge the new narrative, the new myth, the new theory and story of civilization.

"It is said that gold is tried in the crucible and goodness in the fires of adversity. And so it is that we have come to our adversity and this would be an ideal year to make good use of it."

An Index of the American Economy

compiled by Don Abbott

Editor's note: Wealth disparity in our country is no longer a gap, but a chasm. It widens and deepens each year, driven by the profits of those corporate enterprises that strive to insure the unchallenged military supremacy of the U.S. in the world today. The annual cycle in a citizen's life of passing budgets and paying taxes comes full circle this spring. Indifference to our responsibility at any level simply is not an option.

- 37 million Americans live below the poverty line (12.7% of our people, and the highest percentage in the "developed" world).
- Under the Bush administration, an extra 5.4 million have slipped below the poverty line.
- Poverty has risen in America in each of the past 4 years.
- 9.2 million other working families in America are on the brink of poverty right now.
- There are 269 billionaires in the U.S., the highest number in the world.
- The top 20% of U.S. wage earners take home over half the national income.
- The bottom 20% percent take home just 3.4%.
- Nearly 25% of all black Americans live below poverty; 22% of all Latinos/Hispanics. The figure for whites is 8.6%.
- 46 million Americans are without health insurance.
- 82,000 homeless people live in Los Angeles alone.
- In 2004 the poorest U.S. community was Pine Ridge Indian reservation in South Dakota, with over 80% unemployment, a 69% poverty rate, and male life expectancy at 57 years.

- 2007 budget cuts in domestic programs (over 5 years): \$183 billion; \$14 billion in Medicaid, \$706 million in food stamps, \$1 billion in child care support, and \$36 billion in Medicare.
- 2007 education cuts are the largest in 27 years, totaling \$25.5 billion.
- The 2007 budget projects a 6.9% increase in military spending to \$439 billion/year, not including any costs for the wars and occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan, now approaching a total of \$300 billion.
- The projected deficit in the 2007 budget would rise to over \$2 trillion.
- The major factor in this new deficit increase is \$1.7 trillion dollars (over 10 years) in permanent tax cuts to wealthier Americans.
- During the current Bush administration, \$680 is added to the federal deficit every second of every minute of every hour. "An American child born today will inherit a promissory note—which might as well be a tax increase—of more than \$27,000 (Lynn Woolsey, D-CA)."
- The minimum wage of \$5.15/hour has not risen since 1997; when adjusted for inflation, it is at its lowest since 1956.
- During the Bush administration, the budget surplus projected at \$5.6 trillion over 10 years has undergone an \$8.9 trillion reversal into a projected deficit of \$3.3 trillion.
- U.S. military spending in Iraq and Afghanistan will average 44% more in 2007 than in 2005. It will rise to \$9.8 billion/month; last year it was \$6.8 billion.
- The estimated full costs of the Iraq War are now projected to grow to as much as \$2 trillion (Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes). At its outset, the war's cost was "sold" to the American public at around \$75 billion, to be financed by a post-war increase in Iraq oil production that has never materialized.
- Next year, U.S. military spending is projected to rise above 50% of the total global military expenditure. The U.S. population is about 4.6 % of the global total. **One half the world's military spending. Under 5% of the world's population.**

"We know now there were no weapons of mass destruction over there. But Coretta knew, and we know, that there are weapons of misdirection right down here. Millions without health insurance. Poverty abounds. For war billions more, but no more for the poor!"

--Rev. Joseph Lowery, at the Memorial Service for
Coretta Scott King,
February 7, 2006

A Budget Built on Common Sense

by Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-CA, member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus; excerpted from a posting on Alternet, March 8, 2006; www.alternet.org/story/33241/

Editor's note: Another example of the kind of leadership we need: a woman who sees with insight, thinks with vision, and makes the radical criticism.

...It's time to question the hallowed, untouchable status of some of our bigger budget items. For example, it's been an open secret for years that the Pentagon is rife with waste -- remember the \$600 toilet seats of 1980s lore? Fifteen years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the sclerotic Pentagon bureaucracy is still fighting the Cold War, still procuring weapons systems that have nothing to do with the security threats we face today.

So today, I'm joining my fellow Congressional Progressive Caucus co-chair Barbara Lee in introducing the Common Sense Budget Act (CSBA), which would divert \$60 billion of unnecessary Pentagon spending to underfunded domestic priorities. Among the cuts: \$7 billion from the National Missile Defense Program and \$13 billion to reduce the American nuclear arsenal to 1,000 warheads.

These obsolete Pentagon expenditures have been identified by a team of military experts led by defense scholar, Lawrence Korb, whose knows a thing or two about what and how the Pentagon spends -- he was President Reagan's assistant secretary of defense for Manpower, Installation and Logistics.

The \$60 billion would be reallocated as follows:

- Children's Health Care: \$10 billion annually to provide health care coverage for the millions of uninsured American children.
- School Reconstruction: \$10 billion over 12 years to rebuild and modernize every public K-12 school in the country.
- Job Training: \$5 billion per year to retrain 250,000 Americans who have lost their jobs because of foreign trade.
- Energy Independence: \$10 billion each year to kick the imported oil habit by investing in efficient, renewable energy sources.
- Homeland Security: \$5 billion a year to make up for funding shortfalls in emergency preparedness, infrastructure upgrades and grants for first responders.
- Medical Research: \$2 billion a year to restore recent cuts to the National Institutes of Health budget.
- Global Hunger: \$13 billion a year in humanitarian assistance that allows poor nations to feed 6 million children who are at risk of dying from starvation every year.
- Deficit Reduction: \$5 billion devoted to putting a dent, however small, in the \$8.2 trillion national debt.

We can do all that, without a single tax increase or one additional dime in federal spending. And the right wing can save the demagoguery about patriotism and supporting the troops -- this legislation doesn't touch outlays for the war in Iraq or the so-called war on terrorism. Those are funded separately through a supple-

mental appropriations process. We're simply talking about diverting that fraction of our overall defense spending that is doing nothing to defend us.

In addition to Mr. Korb and the military advisers, we have developed this legislation in collaboration with Business Leaders for Sensible Priorities (BLSP), a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of 650 top corporate executives from companies like Goldman Sachs, Hasbro and Phillips-Van Heusen. BLSP is behind this bill not just because they have a moral compass, but because they are businesspeople who understand that these investments in human capital will create jobs, improve the business climate and create economic opportunity...

...The Pentagon, which already consumes roughly half of all discretionary spending, can make do with 15 percent less. Cutting \$60 billion would actually bolster the national defense, because weeding out the waste would allow the military to focus on the weapons, training and tactics that truly keep the nation safe. What better serves the cause of national security? Investment in first responders, energy independence and global nutrition ... or billions that we're still pouring into the F/A-22 Raptor, which was designed to outpace Soviet fighter jets?

The Common Sense Budget Act represents a dramatic shift in our fiscal priorities, an almost revolutionary rededication to investing in our people. The money is there, if we choose to find it, if we choose to take on the sacred cows and the entrenched interests that perpetuate them.

This 12-step program can break U.S. oil addiction

by Michael Brune, executive director of "Rainforest Action Network" and founding board member of Oil Change International.

published in The Capital Times, Madison, WI, February 6, 2006

Editor's note: A new, one-day-at-a-time-prescription for the health of humankind and life support systems.

Our president almost came clean in his State of the Union speech last week when he finally admitted that "America is addicted to oil." That addiction threatens our national security, our environmental health and our way of life.

It is true that our leaders are exhibiting the classic signs of an addiction denial, aggression, avoidance, blaming others and as a country we are falling far short of reaching our full potential.

America's stubborn dependence on oil erodes our bedrock values. For it, we will go to war, support unstable and undemocratic regimes, destabilize our climate, decimate our forests and parks, threaten the health of our children, and weaken our economy.

The president admitted to a national problem, but stopped well short of committing our country to a full recovery program. We already have the technology. What we desperately need is the courage to act now. It is time for nothing short of a national intervention, and a 12-step program to break America's oil addiction. Here's how:

• **Step 1: Let's admit that we have a problem, and commit deeply and truthfully to a national recovery program to**

break our oil addiction. Transitioning to a clean energy economy will create millions of jobs, clean our air, protect our water supplies, our forests and our climate, and will help to build a safer and more secure world for us all. But breaking our addiction requires humility and an unwavering commitment to change at every level of society. No one gets a free ride anymore.

• **Step 2: Separate oil and state.** Every year, oil companies "invest" millions of dollars in political candidates. In turn, elected officials dole out more than \$20 billion a year to prop up fossil fuel projects internationally. We must reduce the oil industry's influence over public governance and eliminate government handouts for dirty oil.

• **Steps 3-6: Jump-start Detroit and redesign American mobility.** The transportation sector accounts for more than two-thirds of all oil consumption in the U.S. Our passenger train system scrounges for funding in Washington while one out of every seven barrels of oil in the world is consumed on America's highways alone. Led by Ford Motor Co., the American automobile industry is driving in reverse. The average Ford vehicle gets worse gas mileage than the Model T did almost 100 years ago. Thomas Friedman is right: the stability and very existence of the American automotive industry depends upon American automakers building affordable, fuel-efficient cars that all patriotic Americans can support. Pioneering engineers have already built plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) and new companies are inventing super-efficient bio-fuels made from agricultural waste with no help from Detroit or Washington.

• **Steps 7-8: Start a rooftop revolution and green the grid.** California is enacting regulations to build one million homes with rooftop solar power, generating 3,000 megawatts of power. Studies show that solar energy supports up to 10 times more jobs than dirty fossil fuel energy. A green grid powered by the wind and the sun can recharge car batteries and help us kick our transportation oil habit.

• **Steps 9-10: Wean to green and fund the future.** Capital investment from the world's largest banks is the fuel in the engine, so to speak, of the oil-based economy. Through their investment decisions, large banks can either help to keep us hooked on oil, or rapidly steer us toward a clean energy future. Some banks, including Wall Street powerhouse Goldman Sachs, are leading the way, proving that it is indeed possible to do well by doing good.

• **Step 11: Adopt a "low-carb" energy diet.** Any comprehensive strategy to break our oil addiction must include aggressive measures to reduce energy consumption. A low-carbon energy diet will reduce energy costs and increase competitiveness for American businesses, lower emissions, and produce clean jobs for workers. Efficiency improvements in the last 30 years have doubled the amount of work we get from each barrel of oil. According to the Rocky Mountain Institute, current proven technologies can double oil efficiency again, for less money than would be required to buy the oil we save.

• **Step 12: Vote.** Could it be any clearer that we need responsible and visionary leaders at all levels of government?

Like a smoker who says he's going to quit someday even as he lights up another cigarette, the president offered little hope that he would actually break our country's oil addiction. It will take a lot more than a speech and a few research dollars to set us free from oil. Let's get to work.

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

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

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\$50.00 Supporting
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Return to
P.O. Box 573

MVPP is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to MVPP are tax deductible. Last year, approximately one-third of our members joined/renewed at higher than the basic rate.

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

Action to Consider: A Peace Pledge for Voters

by Don Abbott

Editor's note: Information for this article was obtained from a piece by John Nichols in The Nation on March 18, 2006 and from www.votersforpeace.us/index2.jsp.

VotersForPeace is a non-partisan organization that seeks "to educate, organize, and activate" peace voters around the country, a constituency they believe is a committed and growing majority of the voting population. They are attempting "to organize anti-war voters into an effective political force that cannot be ignored."

One of their primary actions is to urge voters to sign their *Peace Pledge*: **"I will not vote for or support any candidate for Congress or President who does not make a speedy end to the war in Iraq, and preventing any future war of aggression, a public position in his or her campaign."**

A recent poll indicates that 46% of likely voters agree with the pledge--20% in strong agreement and 26% at least somewhat in agreement. Among Democrats, the percentage rises to 67; Independents, 59; and Republicans 26.

"This poll demonstrates that anti-war voters are significant enough in size to affect the outcome of elections -- if they become organized. Just like pro-gun groups have organized, pro-choice and pro-life groups have organized -- now the anti-war constituency has been identified and the peace movement is ready to organize them. This will ensure that the anti-war movement will no longer be one that can be ignored," argues Kevin Zeese, an organizer of Voters for Peace. Zeese says the initiative will try to organize 2 million voters in 2006 and 5 million by 2008.

"Organized anti-war voters who pledge not to vote for pro-war candidates may force the Democrats in particular to develop a stronger position against the war," explains Zeese. "The Democrats may now realize that if they fail to represent the anti-war community, voters will stay home or vote for alternative party and independent candidates."

"Republicans are not free to ignore the anti-war constituency either," adds Zeese. "Not only do more than 25 percent of Republican voters oppose candidates who support the war, but the fastest growing group of voters -- independents -- overwhelmingly support the pledge. So, that all important swing voter can cause Republicans to lose elections - and could

become a new source of support for Democrats -- or if both parties fail to support voters wishes, then candidates running independent of the two parties may find a new foundation on which to build an independent political movement."

The initiative, which reaches across partisan and ideological lines, has already received important endorsements from some of the most active national peace and justice organizations, including United for Peace and Justice, Peace Action, Not in Our Name, Democracy Rising, Code Pink, AfterDowningStreet, and Peace Majority.

A Member's Letter to the Editor

Use of torture should alarm all Americans

Newburyport Daily News; published March 16, 2006

Recently, I heard the phrase, "benevolent hegemony," used to describe what neocons, those authors of Bush policy, believe in. Untouched by the stench of death and combat, but well fortified with profits from war industries, these thinkers supposedly envision an improved world dominated and controlled by, of course, themselves. In a continual bait-and-switch game, the Bush administration claims one thing and delivers another. (No need to repeat the ever-lengthening list that is by now familiar to anyone paying attention.)

The beauty of America has been the willingness of so many to join in the greatest struggles against injustice and exploitation practiced by powerful segments of society against other segments of society. These struggles have seen great gains, but are far from over. Human rights, our civil rights, require "eternal vigilance" to be maintained. Sadly, our nation's history is replete with dark chapters that must be opened up to scrutiny to be remedied.

One of the worst of these dark chapters is being played out now under the auspices of the Bush administration. The embrace of torture by this administration is an immense breach that should alarm everyone. It signals the demise of human rights, the collapse of decency, a descent into brutality and bloodshed that knows no end. It is the triumph of sadism in a country that has struggled long and hard to establish justice. And it is a practice that can easily spread from military to domestic use.

Tragically, we have a history of torture practiced by American operatives. After long delays following public outrage, Congress began investigating the role of the CIA in kidnappings, assassinations and torture carried out in Latin America. Members of various Latin American military forces are schooled in such techniques at the U.S. Army's School of the Americas (since renamed Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation) in Georgia. After information became public revealing the collaboration of CIA operatives in cases of rape, torture and killings of both Guatemalans and American citizens working in Guatemala (including teaching nuns), attempts were made to safeguard against such crimes. Eventually, the Convention Against Torture was ratified and put into effect by the United States.

Since that time, however, we have watched the secret outsourcing of torture, called extraordinary rendition, the horrors of Abu Ghraib Prison, unending illegal incarceration at Guantanamo (the FBI warned the military against illegal interrogations there) and the prison at Bagram Air Base. Combatants and noncombatants alike, along with children in their teens, have been incarcerated at Guantanamo and Bagram and deprived of any recourse to justice; whether guilty or innocent, citizens have been snatched from airports and shipped overseas for interrogation under torture (as was Canadian traveler Maher Arar — sent to a Syrian prison for 10 months, the same Syria Bush labels as an enemy). Reports of torture are hideous records of the failure of a society. Couple this with invasions, aerial bombardments, covert operations and the decimation of civilian populations and their environments, and it is no wonder that much of the world fears and hates the United States.

It's an ugly picture we wish to turn away from, to avoid, to deny. Yet government documents, reputable news reports, historical accounts, books, articles and first-hand witnesses make clear the terrible realities of our time. In a world choked by pollution and threatened with ecological disaster, must we persist in serving the greed of institutions and industries bent on tearing the world apart for profit?

Diana Philip, Newburyport

Reflections

IN MEMORIAM

Oscar A. Romero (1917 – 1980)

“We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between the master builder
and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.”

Being a Palestinian

by Tala Rahmeh
December 23, 2005

(Source: [Mississippi Review](#); archived at www.axisoflogic.com)

When death is in the air there is always a heavy silence that fills the lungs with a suffocating sensation. Everything seems gray and colorless. Life stops in its tracks.

It seems to be god's way of reminding us of his presence; his breath approaches the back of our necks and chills run down the spines.

When death is present we feel hollow, echo fills our bodies and we find nothing to say. Words run away and we stumble inside ourselves in an attempt to fill the inevitable void.

Hope escapes the strings of our thoughts, and a heavy sense of loss sinks our hearts, screaming inhales our silence and sucks it in.

After the world falls to pieces it gathers itself again and springs up from the blueness of the sky of this country, Palestine, the one place on earth that always seems to gather its pieces, and our pieces.

We hurry everyday to collect the remnants of an ordinary life. We wake up, have a light breakfast, reach our destinations and swim in seas of things that seem to matter at that specific earthly moment.

We could have been other people, somewhere else where those moments linger to fill up a day, make up a memory or create a being. But here, we have to shake ourselves up and remember the existence of checkpoints, soldiers and indefinite waiting.

Waiting, waiting to cross a checkpoint, get a permit, lift up the curfew, end the occupation, waiting to reach home, inside home.

The harder we try, the more numb we get, most things stop mattering, the way we see ourselves, the way the rest of the world sees us, the way we make our tea and coffee, even our eggs, we stop being recognized, our faces blur entirely, we even start looking alike, even when our colors differ, that sad look blends with our original features and erases what could have made us different.

And then as we are sitting somewhere, we read a story, watch a child run around or listen to a song and just like Palestine we manage to remove the dust gathered over our thoughts and stand up to face the waiting.

Faces start to clear up and we could finally remember ourselves through other people's eyes, smiles begin to break the heavy silence and the aroma of death, the greenness of land begins to unravel, our feet loosen up and we feel like we could walk again, feel the sensations we forgot about again.

We grab our senses and push ourselves out of that unsafe refuge, then fumble and stumble towards humanity that awaits past checkpoints, hatred and bullets.

Tala A. Rahmeh is a student at Birzeit University in Ramallah, Palestine. Her major at Birzeit is English Literature. Her work has been published at www.miftah.com, www.birzeit.edu, and www.ramallahunderground.com.

A Prayer for Unity in a Time of War

by Kathy Kelly, founder, Voices for Creative Nonviolence

Thou hope and joy of all creation. You have given to all generations the power to seek you, and in seeking you, to find you. Grant us, we pray, a clearer vision of your truth, greater faith in your power, more confident assurance of your love.

Our sisters and brothers in Iraq suffer overwhelming grief and affliction. Bombed, maimed, mutilated, wasted, tormented, these our brothers and sisters endure unending war, much of it fueled by U.S. wealth and arrogance. Grant us, we pray, courage to overcome our cautions, to set aside our unjust comforts, to resist the works of war and embrace the works of mercy.

Grant us, we pray, the grace to hear deep in our hearts our Muslim brothers' and sisters' daily call to prayer: "*O God, you are peace. From you is peace and unto you is peace. Let us live our lives in peace. Bring us into your peace. Unto you be honor and glory. We hear and obey. Grant us your forgiveness, God, and unto you be our becoming.*"

Upcoming Events

compiled with the help of Sue Imhoff

Saturday, March 25, 9:30 pm to 5:00 pm: "From Boston to Baghdad—Organizing for Justice and Peace." A *United for Justice with Peace* Education and Action Conference. The conference is an opportunity to hear about, or continue your involvement with, some of the exciting campaigns being carried out locally and statewide. Join a campaign that sparks your interest and gives you hope! Speakers will help us sharpen our understanding of the current crisis in the Middle East and in the U.S. and of the connections between the wars abroad, the Katrina catastrophe, and Washington's domestic agenda: *Dr. Entisar Mohammad Ariabi*, Iraq doctor on tour with Code Pink; *Mariama White-Hammond*, Project Hip Hop; *Meizhu Lui*, United for a Fair Economy; *Leila Farsakh*, Professor, UMASS-Boston; and *Nancy Murray*, Massachusetts ACLU. Eight major UJP Campaign workshops. Suggested donation: \$10.00. Participants pay for lunch in student center. Registration, coffee, etc. at 9:15 am. For information: 617-491-4857 or www.justice-withpeace.org. **Northeastern University Law School, 400 Huntington Avenue, Room 97, Cargill Hall (corner of Huntington and Forsythe), Boston.**

Saturday, March 25, 7:30 pm: El Higueral, El Salvador: We Remember, We Commemorate, We Celebrate. A Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the massacre at El Higueral. Benefit for ongoing Sister City projects in El Higueral. A concert and dinner gathering featuring **Dean Stevens and Friends**—Doug Day, Sue Kranz, Linda Sharar, Ben Tousley, and more. Dinner at 6:00 pm; \$10. Concert at 7:30 pm; \$20 suggested, children free for movie. Beverages and Desserts. For information and reservations: deanpsteve@aol.com or

617-869-3014. **The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston Street, Boston.**

Thursday, March 30: HEALTH CARE ACTION DAY. In order to get at least 50 State Senators and Representatives to vote YES in favor of the Health Care Constitutional Amendment at the May 10th Constitutional Convention, we are asking unions and community organizations across the state to participate in the Jobs With Justice Health Care Action Day, March 30th. We need individuals to fill out postcards addressed to their state legislators and show their support to make health care a RIGHT FOR EVERYONE in Massachusetts. For information: Ariana Flores at 617-524-8778 or AFlores@massjwj.net.

Thursday, March 30, 7:30 pm: "Depleted Uranium: The Effects on Our Soldiers and the Iraqi People. A community peace forum with Jack Scotnicki, a Vietnam Veteran and member of Veterans for Peace; Michael Dathe, coordinator of the Boston Chapter of Veterans for Peace; and Gretel Munroe of Grassroots Actions for Peace, author of "Health Effects of Depleted Uranium." Sponsored by The Lexington Justice and Peace Committee. For information: 781-674-9338 or www.lexingtonjpc.org. Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington.

Saturday, April 1, 8:30 am to 3:15 pm: STOP THE NEXT WAR; BUILDING PEACE WITH JUSTICE. A day of reflection on faith-based non-violence and peacemaking, with keynoters and workshop presenters, **John Dear** and **Michael True**. Dear is a Jesuit priest, peace activist, and former director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. He is author/editor of 20 books including *Living Peace* and *Disarming the Heart*. True is a peace educator and professor at Assumption College in Worcester, MA. His books include *An Energy Field More Intense than War*, *The Nonviolent Tradition and American Literature*, and *To Construct Peace*. Sponsored by the Peace with Justice Task Force of the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ. For information: Rev. Gordon Crouch at revgordon@mcttelecom.com. **South Congregational Church, 27 Pleasant St., Concord, NH.**

Saturday, April 1, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm: Peace Teaching Conference--"The Art and Craft of Teaching Peace." This second annual conference will seek to develop new strategies for teaching the art and craft of peace by exploring how people create cultures of peace at home, in school, in the workplace, and in the world. Structured in the "Open Space/World Cafe" model. Individuals are invited to display their own work. For information: msalazar@cisunix.unh.edu or morgankatherin@com-cast.net. **Oyster River High School, Durham, NH.**

Saturday, April 1, 8:00 pm: Coffeehouse Concert featuring Joanne Hammill. Known for her captivating, original songs and her engaging style, her songs go straight to the heart of modern day issues with wit and poignancy. Co-sponsored by *MVPP* and *Merrimack Valley Chapter of Amnesty International*. Fair trade coffee and scrumptious eats. \$12 suggested donation. For information: 978-475-4454 or office@uuandover.org. **Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6 Locke Street, Andover.**

Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 pm: Cambridge Forum--Lester Brown, environmental activist and founder of the World-watch Institute and the Earth Policy Institute. Brown discusses his latest book, *Plan B 2.0*, outlining a rescue plan for a world facing oil and water shortages and the disruptions caused by global climate change. How much longer can we ignore nature's deadlines for dealing with these environmental issues?

How can we balance short-term economic costs of rescuing the planet against the potential long-term costs of not doing so? For information: 617-495-2727 or director@cambridgeforum.org.
Cambridge Forum at 3 Church Street, Cambridge.

Saturday, April 8, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm: Meet Jeremy Brecher and Brendan Smith, editors of In the Name of Democracy, for a discussion of their new book about American war crimes in Iraq and beyond. A riveting examination of a critical and deeply disturbing question. Brecher has written and edited many books of current interest. Brendan Smith is an expert in international law and a senior congressional human rights and defense aide. For information: 617-482-6300 or suren@fairjobs.org. **MLK Auditorium, Brookline High School, 115 Greenough Street, Brookline.**

Thursday, April 13, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm: World Water Forum Report Back. Olivia Zink of the World Water Allies Network will share news from this month's Mexico City World Water Forum Protest. The Forum, organized by the corporate-dominated World Water Council, is the latest in a growing struggle to stop the privatization and commodification of water. For information: 617-482-6300 or kim@Encuentro5.org for additional information. **ENCUENTRO 5, 33 Harrison Avenue, Chinatown, Boston.**

Friday, April 14, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm: "Ring around the Common" Vigil against the Death Penalty. On Good Friday, a day when many remember the consequences of death as a punishment, give your silent witness against the death penalty. Sponsored by the Boston North Chapter of Massachusetts Citizens against the Death Penalty. Join vigilers already expected from Reading, Wakefield, Stoneham, Andover, North Reading, Concord, Ipswich, and Newton. **Town Common, Reading (intersection of Rtes. 28 & 129).** [An estimated 5,000 cars pass through the Common in the late hours of the afternoon.]

Friday, April 21, all day: Amnesty International Bus Trip, Portsmouth, NH to New York. Every year for at least the 10 previous years, Amnesty Group 133 in Somerville, MA has organized a "Get on the Bus" trip to New York City for a day of action on behalf of human rights worldwide. Targeted primarily at high school and college young people from the New England area. In 2005, attendance was 1,500. Starting from Portsmouth at 5:00 am and arriving in NYC at 11:00 am. Activities include visiting at least 3 embassies at which a rally is held. In addition, after lunch there is a one-hour pep rally with great speakers. Depart NYC around 5:30 pm and arrive in Portsmouth around 11:30 pm. Suggested cost: \$50 per person on a pay-as-you-can-afford basis. For information: Peter Somssich at somssich@juno.com.

Friday, April 21, time TBA: Dr. Doug Rokke--"Breaking the Silence, A Survivor of Depleted Uranium Poisoning Tells His Story." Sponsored by New Hampshire Peace Action. For information: Anne Miller at 603-228-0559 or anne@nhpeaceaction.org; or Tom Jackson at coffeeanon@yahoo.com. **Dover Friends Meeting, 141 Central Avenue, Dover, NH.**

Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 pm: Cambridge Forum--"Democracy and the Press: The Role of Journals of Opinion." A panel of editors and publishers discusses the role of "journals of opinion" as alternative news sources in the era of Internet news and individual blogs. Victor Navasky, publisher emeritus of The Nation; Jack Beatty, senior editor of The Atlantic; and Robert Kuttner, co-founder of The American Prospect, examine the prospects for small journals committed to in-depth

reporting and analysis and thought-provoking partisanship. In the rapidly changing media landscape, will there continue to be a place for the non-mainstream press? Co-sponsored by Brookline Adult and Continuing Education and the Friends of Fairsted. For information: 617-495-2727 or director@cambridgeforum.org. **Cambridge Forum at 3 Church Street, Cambridge.**

SAVE THE DATE: 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. Bus from Andover available at parking lot, Dascomb Road exit, off I-93. Tickets reserved at www.justicewithpeace.org. Further information: Bobbie Goldman at 978-661-9009 or bg@comcast.net.

Books of Note

Recommended Reads compiled by Don Abbott

William Goodman, Michael Ratner, et al: Articles of Impeachment against George W. Bush, Melville House Publishing, 2006. Just produced by the Center for Constitutional Rights. Experts at one of our nation's leading institutions of constitutional scholarship objectively lay out the legal bases for impeachment, in a clear and concise argument. Four separate articles on four separate charges: warrantless surveillance, misleading Congress on the reasons for the Iraq War, violating laws against torture, and subverting the Constitution's separation of powers. Affordable at \$9.95 (www.mhpbooks.com/aoi.html), send a copy to your congressman, to the editor of your local newspaper, etc.

Thich Nhat Hanh: The Coconut Monk, illustrated by Vo-Dinh Mai, Plum Blossom Books, Parallax Press, 2005. The fourth book written for children by the Vietnamese Buddhist Zen master, poet, scholar, and human rights activist. Based on the life of a real Buddhist monk, who displays with simple clarity and with the help of his two friends--a cat and a mouse--how to live together in peace, even in time of war. Accompanied by beautiful, full-color artwork, this story will appeal to the child in each of us who cherishes friendship and peacemaking: "If a cat and a mouse can live together in peace, don't you think we humans can too?"

Elizabeth Kolbert: Field Notes from a Catastrophe; Man, Nature, and Climate Change, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2006. A vivid, absolutely essential, description of the reality of global warming; perhaps the best in a run of new titles on the subject. Growing from the author's 3-part *New Yorker* series from the spring of 2005, this book is written when we may have already passed the tipping point toward apocalypse. Kolbert's final sentence: "It may seem impossible to imagine that a technologically advanced society could choose, in essence, to destroy itself, but that is what we are now in the process of doing." Will we be resourceful enough in time? Will we look catastrophe in the eye and fashion a global response that might reduce our relentless pace toward the unthinkable destruction of life as we know it?

Michael Lerner: The Left Hand of God, Taking Back Our Country from the Religious Right, HarperSanFrancisco, 2006. The current bestseller with a broad and fresh vision of a progressive spirituality, set out by Rabbi Lerner, internationally renowned social theorist, theologian, psychotherapist, and editor of *Tikkun* magazine. Insightful description of the “spiritual crisis” in our country and an equally clear explanation of how the right-wing religious community recognizes and exploits this crisis. Speaking to the needs of all of us, regardless of politics or religion, Lerner describes a spiritual agenda (or “covenant”) for America that could undergird a politics of generosity and caring. In short, one that builds “a world of social justice, peace, environmental sanity, and loving-kindness.”

Denise Levertov: Making Peace, edited by Peggy Rosenthal, New Directions Books, 2006. Although relatively unheralded, Levertov (1923-1997) may emerge as one of the foremost poets of her time. This thin, rich volume gathers a selection of her poems that span her last three decades and deal with subjects like Vietnam, El Salvador and the first Gulf War. Pursuing her craft with utter self-honesty, she writes as she lived, as an activist merging art and politics through the prism of her conscience. Readers who find her poems illuminating will find her prose nourishing too. Example from another volume of essays: “A poetry articulating the dreads and horrors of our time is necessary in order to make readers...not just know about it but feel it...And a poetry of praise is equally necessary, that we not be overcome by despair but have the constant incentive of envisioned positive possibility.”

Poetry

Guantanamo

by Mike Smith
www.axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/article_21308.shtml

Always a long-shot for the public's ticket -
a tortured, sub-titled script
never likely to be an academy favourite.

The establishment remake: stripped bare
pasted, slapped on the good & evil billboard.
For those who like a scare, but the good guys win.

In the end no jury requested. Envelopes sealed.
Reels buried deep in the American archive.

Haiku

by David Ray

Leave grief in buckets
wrote Chiyo and morning glories
will find use for it.

Resuscitation

by Don Abbott; 3/19/06

Have we no shame?
Have we no rage?
No indignation toward the crimes and lies
of people without blame?

They rewrite laws
for power's lust.
They privatize the public good
and break the people's trust.

They call on God
to bless their greed,
and sanction all that's special
in their race and class and creed.

Have we no shame?
Have we no rage?

They rape the land,
befoul the sky.
They torture in our name
and leave our dignity to die.

We mutely stand
in neutral gear,
while innocent blood cries from the grave
and still, we fail to hear.

Have we forgot
why we are here:
our deepest human yearnings,
what our secret dreams revere?

Where is our shame? Where is
our rage...?

If deepest dark
precedes the dawn,
then catch the pulse of justice,
for the truth keeps working on.

May conscience breathe, again.
Make freedom ring, and then
resist all trespass on our soul
and face down,
bring down tyranny.

Love knows no fear.
Truth makes us free.

“Our task, Friends, is to be worthy of what we were spared for.”

--from a poem by David Ray

WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX

U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET 2007 FISCAL YEAR

MONEY REALLY GOES

**TOTAL OUTLAYS
(FEDERAL FUNDS)
\$2,251 BILLION**

**\$748
BILLION**

- Health/Human Services
- Soc. Sec. Administration
- Education Dept.
- Food/Nutrition programs
- Housing & Urban Dev.
- Labor Dept.
- other human resources

**33%
HUMAN
RESOURCES**

\$281 BILLION

- Interest on debt (20%)
- Treasury
- Government personnel
- Justice Dept.
- State Dept.
- Homeland Security (17%)
- International Affairs
- NASA (50%)
- Judicial
- Legislative
- other general govt.

**12% GENERAL
GOVERNMENT**

\$131 BILLION

- Agriculture
- Interior
- Transportation
- Homeland Security (17%)
- HUD
- Commerce
- Energy (non-military)
- Environmental Protection
- Nat. Science Fdtn.
- Army Corps Engineers
- Fed. Comm. Commission
- other physical resources

**6% PHYSICAL
RESOURCES**

**19%
PAST
MILITARY**

**30%
CURRENT
MILITARY**

\$429 BILLION

- Veterans' Benefits \$76 billion
- Interest on national debt \$353 billion (80% est. to be created by military spending)

**BUDGETTED
\$563 BILLION**

- Military Personnel \$110 billion
- Operation & Maint. \$162 billion
- Procurement \$90 billion
- Research & Dev. \$72 billion
- Construction \$8 billion
- Family Housing \$4 billion
- DoD misc. \$4 billion
- Retired Pay \$49 billion
- DoE nuclear weapons \$17 billion
- NASA (50%) \$8 billion
- International Security \$8 billion
- Homeland Secur. (military) \$27 billion
- Exec. Office of President \$2 billion
- other military (non-DoD) \$2 billion

HOW THESE FIGURES WERE DETERMINED

“Current military” includes Dept. of Defense (\$449 billion), the military portion from other departments (\$114 billion), and an unbudgeted estimate of supplemental appropriations (\$100 billion). “Past military” represents veterans’ benefits plus 80% of the interest on the debt.* For further explanation, please go to www.warresisters.org/piechart.htm.

These figures are from an analysis of detailed tables in the “Analytical Perspectives” book of the *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2007*. The figures are federal funds, which do not include trust funds — such as Social Security — that are raised and spent separately from income taxes. What you pay (or don’t pay) by April 17, 2006, goes to the federal funds portion of the budget. The government practice of combining trust and federal funds began during the Vietnam War, thus making the human needs portion of the budget seem larger and the military portion smaller.

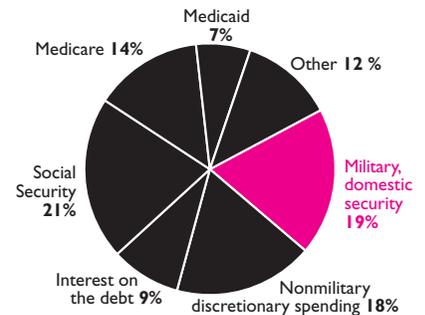
*Analysts differ on how much of the debt stems from the military; other groups estimate 50% to 60%. We use 80% because we believe if there had been no military spending most (if not all) of the national debt would have been eliminated

**UNBUDGETTED
\$100 BILLION (est.)**

Most of the spending for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is not included in the President’s Budget but the Administration will seek supplemental appropriations later this year as it has in the past three years. This is likely an underestimate.

The Government’s Deception

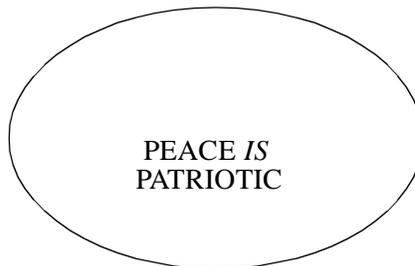
The pie chart (right) is the government view of the budget. This is a distortion of how our income tax dollars are spent because it includes Trust Funds (e.g., Social Security), and the expenses of past military spending are not distinguished from nonmilitary spending. For a more accurate representation of how your Federal income tax dollar is really spent, see the large graph.



Source: New York Times, Feb. 7, 2006, based on Budget of the United States FY 2007.

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

President George W. Bush

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

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

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

Senator John F. Kerry

304 Russell Senate Office Building
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202 224-2742 fax: 202 224-8525
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617 565-8519 fax: 617 248-3870
Form: <http://kerry.senate.gov/text/contact/email.html>

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978 531-1669 fax: 978 531-1996
E-mail: <http://www.house.gov/tierney/email.htm>

A link to all in US legislature:

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

How Senators and Representatives voted:

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

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