



# Nebraska Report

*There is no Peace without Justice*

OCTOBER 2006

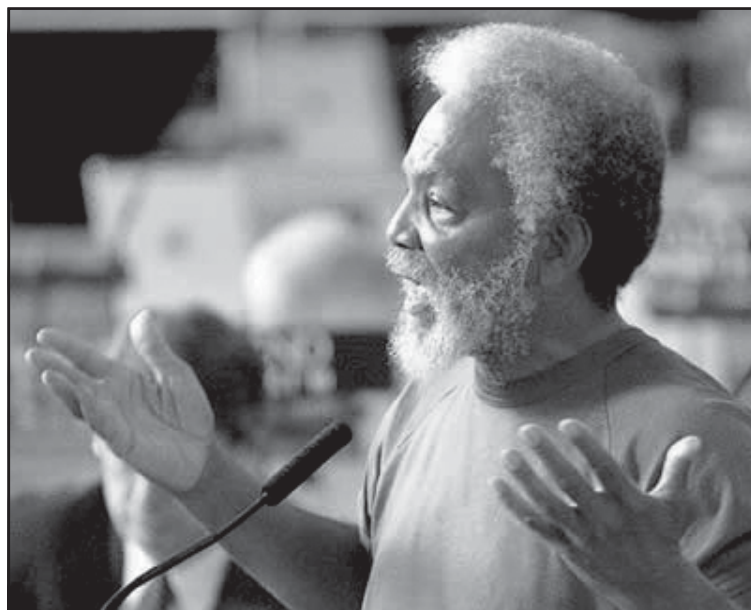
VOLUME 34, NUMBER 8

## Senator Ernie Chambers to Speak at 2006 Annual Peace Conference

Nebraska political legend and “Defender of the Downtrodden,” Sen. Ernie Chambers, will be the featured speaker at the 2006 Annual Peace Conference in Grand Island, Saturday October 14.

The longest-serving legislator in Nebraska history, Sen. Chambers has been a politically fearless and unceasingly eloquent champion of social, racial and economic justice for 35 years. Time and again, his unchallenged intellect, parliamentary savvy and gift for the poetic—coupled with an astonishing physical stamina—have enabled him to single-handedly thwart the passage of unjust legislation by tying the Unicameral up in knots.

The man’s influence though has been felt well beyond the Statehouse. As the feature article on him in the January/February 2006 *Mother Jones* magazine so amply demonstrated, his politically principled leadership—from the State of Nebraska’s unprecedented divestment from the apartheid government in South Africa to his vocal and unapologetic opposition to



the war on Afghanistan after 9/11—has earned him a national reputation. The cause of justice and peace has ever been his work, whether in his African-American neighborhood in North Omaha, or half a world away in the midst of an illegal and neo-colonial occupation of Iraq.

With the advent of term limits, however, Sen. Chambers’ storied career in the Unicameral will likely come to an end in 2008. First elected in 1970—the same year Nebraskans for Peace was founded—Sen. Chambers has been our constant legislative ally and voice, and we shudder to imagine politics in Ne-

braska without him. All of which makes his appearance as our 2006 Annual Peace Conference keynote speaker just that much more poignant and notable. This coming October 14, in a talk which he has entitled, characteristically enough, “Candid Conversation on the Topics of the Day,” we shall once again have the benefit of his wide-ranging and always provocative political insights.

This year’s conference marks the tenth anniversary of the University of Nebraska-Omaha School of Social Work’s and Nebraskans for Peace’s joint sponsorship of the Annual Peace Conference. Trinity United Methodist Church at 5<sup>th</sup> and Elm Streets in Grand Island has again graciously offered the host the event, which will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Theresa Baron-McKeagney, Director of the UNO School of Social Work, will provide the welcome at the event and open the day’s activities.

In addition to Sen. Chambers’ morning address, there will be a special panel discussion on “The

Crisis in the Mideast,” the usual selection of Peace & Justice workshops on topics ranging from civil and human rights issues to anti-war organizing to state property taxes. And of course, the presentation of this year’s “Peacemakers of the Year” awards.” Sen. Chambers, who was honored as our Peacemaker of the Year in 2002, will be on hand when we recognize long-time NFP volunteer Virginia Walsh and the Central City, Nebraska Friends Meeting.

The conference cost is \$25 per person (which includes continental breakfast and lunch) if you register by October 11—registration at the door is \$30. (A student and low-income rate of \$10 per person is also available.) Certified Masters Social Workers and Licensed Mental Health Practitioners can earn four-and-one-half CEUs by attending the entire conference.

For more information, contact the NFP State Office by phone at 402-475-4620 or by email at [nfpstate@nebraskansforpeace.org](mailto:nfpstate@nebraskansforpeace.org).

### inside:

Latin America Briefs	p. 2	National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund	p. 5
Tortured Logic	p. 3	World Peace Day	p. 6
‘Bolton’ as in ‘Bully’	p. 4	The Face of War	p. 7
Strategic Space and Defense 2006	p. 5	Africa Is Dying	p. 8
		NFP Year in Review	p. 9
		Dateline Whiteclay 9/27/06	p. 9

*Nebraskans for Peace*  
941 ‘O’ St., Ste. 1026  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Phone: 402-475-4620/Fax: 475-4624  
[nfpstate@nebraskansforpeace.org](mailto:nfpstate@nebraskansforpeace.org)  
[www.nebraskansforpeace.org](http://www.nebraskansforpeace.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 310  
Lincoln, NE

## Nebraska Report

The *Nebraska Report* is published nine times annually by Nebraskans for Peace. Opinions stated do not necessarily reflect the views of the directors or staff of Nebraskans for Peace.

*Newspaper Committee: Tim Rinne, Editor; Mark Vasina, Christy Hargesheimer, Peter Salter, Marsha Fangmeyer, Paul Olson*

*Typesetting and Layout: Michelle Ashley*

*Printing: Fremont Tribune Circulation: 6,500*

Letters, articles, photographs and graphics are welcomed. Deadline is the first of the month for publication in the following month's issue. Submit to: *Nebraska Report*, c/o Nebraskans for Peace, 941 'O' Street, Suite 1026, Lincoln, NE 68508.

## Nebraskans for Peace

Nebraskans for Peace is a statewide grassroots advocacy organization working nonviolently for peace with justice through community-building, education and political action.

## State Board of Directors

A'Jamal Byndon, Maureen Connolly, Joshua Cramer, Henry D'Souza, Bob Epp, Marsha Fangmeyer, Roger Furrer, Caryl Guisinger, Christy Hargesheimer, Leah Hunter, Patrick Jones, John Krejci (Secretary), Rich Maciejewski (Treasurer), Carol McShane, Jeff Mohr, Patrick Murray, Paul Olson, Byron Peterson, Del Roper, Deirdre Routt, Linda Ruchala, Jay Schmidt, Jeanette Sulzman (Vice President), Mark Vasina (President), Sue Ellen Wall. Tim Rinne (State Coordinator), Dace Burdic (Office Administrator), Susan Alleman (Membership Coordinator), 941 'O' Street, Suite 1026, Lincoln, NE 68508, Phone 402-475-4620/Fax 402-475-4624, nfpstate@nebraskansforpeace.org. Omaha NFP Office, P.O. Box 34823, Omaha, NE 68134, Phone 402-453-0776, nfpomaha@nebraskansforpeace.org.

## Moving? Send Us Your New Address

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Old Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

New Phone # \_\_\_\_\_



## NFP Chapter & Affiliate Contact Information

Crete Chapter ..... Pat Wikel ..... 402-826-4818  
Lincoln Chapter ..... State Office ..... 402-475-4620  
Omaha Chapter ..... 402-453-0776  
Scottsbluff Chapter ..... Byron Peterson ..... 308-783-1412  
Southwest Nebraska Chapter ..... Dennis Demmel ..... 308-352-4078  
Wayne/Wayne State College Chapter .... Sayre Andersen ..... 402-375-3794  
Central Nebraska Peace Workers ..... Charles Richardson .... 402-462-4794  
(Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney)

Contact the NFP State Office for information on the UNL, UNO, UNK, Creighton and Nebraska Wesleyan University and Hastings & Doane College Chapters



## Latin America Briefs

compiled by Christy Hargesheimer



## Never A Dull Moment: Update on Mexico

Mexican politics can never be described as dull, as evidenced by the 2006 presidential campaign, the July 2 election and the intriguing aftermath. The candidate of the PRD (Party of the Democratic Revolution), Andrés Manuel López Obrador, a champion of the poor and the middle class, held an early lead against Felipe Calderón, a right-winger of the currently ruling PAN party who enjoyed support from the Mexican ruling class and was the clear choice of the Bush/Cheney Administration.

Early in the campaign, an attempt was made to invalidate López Obrador's candidacy by accusations of a criminal act. The charges did not stand, and López Obrador (called AMLO by supporters) led in the polls until just weeks before the election, when Calderón gained support. The July 2 elections were immediately called into question when the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) withheld early estimated results, then selectively released results from areas won by Calderón, ignoring millions of votes from areas favoring AMLO. It was discovered that 3 million votes from AMLO-leaning areas hadn't been counted. When, many days later, Calderón was declared the winner by less than 1 percentage point, a mere 240,000 votes, the PRD demanded a vote-by-vote recount.

In response to the IFE's decision to recount votes in only certain disputed areas, López Obrador's followers staged two massive marches and protests in Mexico City, with over a million people massing in the Zócalo (huge public plaza) demanding that their votes be counted. And they didn't leave. Instead, they set up tent cities along the main arterial, Reforma Avenue, and the Zócalo, and blocked traffic entering and leaving the center of Mexico City. The economic effects of this were enormous, as tourists avoided the city and businesses were unable to function. The Mexican Congress was prohibited from entering the National Palace, the seat of government. And President Fox, who traditionally rings the bell from the balcony of the National Palace on the eve of September 15 commemorating Independence Day, chose instead to ring the bell in the town of Dolores Hidalgo, birthplace of the independence.



*Andrés Manuel López Obrador  
The Man Who Should Be President?*

A special electoral tribunal was charged with investigating voting irregularities, and on September 6 they declared Calderón the winner. If this were the United States, that would have been the end of the dispute. But Mexico is much more polarized and volatile, and López Obrador, in a speech before the PRD National Convention on September 16, pledged to continue the fight, setting up a shadow government. In his speech, he declared the PRD has "proclaimed the abolition of the current regime of corruption and privileges and has set into place the basis for the construction and establishment of a new Republic" backed by millions of Mexicans. He continued,

"This political crisis has as immediate antecedent the Salinista project [former President Salinas of the PRI party], which converted the government into a committee at the service of a minority of bankers, businessmen linked to the power base, speculators, influence peddlers, and corrupt politicians." (*translation mine*)

During the post-electoral demonstrations, López Obrador lost some of his support from people who believed he was jeopardizing the precarious safety of Mexico, and was acting as a demagogue. Others believed that his display of defiance was past due in a country that has been controlled by a small group of privileged people for far too long. The PRI ruled for over 70 years, each president basically anointing his successor, and the current election was reminiscent of that of 1988, when PRD candidate Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas was ahead in the voting until the computer system counting the votes crashed on election night. When it was back up, the PRI candidate was declared the winner by a slim margin. Finally, the election of 2000 broke PRI control, when Vicente Fox of the PAN party won. But it is widely believed that Fox did little to improve the lives of the millions of Mexicans living in poverty.

Interestingly enough, in a recent speech to the nation, Calderón set forth an agenda that drew upon many of the positions of López Obrador, an obvious attempt to appease the opposition. As Porfirio Díaz, Mexico's dictator from 1876 to 1910, noted, "We must not awaken the tiger." The last time the tiger awoke was during the revolution of 1910. Many believe the tiger is again stirring after a long nap. One thing is sure, things won't be dull.

# Tortured Logic

by Amy Miller  
Legal Director of ACLU Nebraska

Torture of detainees. Indefinite detention. Secret government kidnappings. These ideas should not represent the United States of America. Torture is un-American. And we need to tell our leaders and the world how deeply we oppose our government's unconscionable involvement in these acts.

It's been two years since the first images from Abu Ghraib prison shocked people everywhere and tarnished America's standing as a champion of freedom. Yet the U.S. has failed to comply with the universal prohibition against torture—abroad and at home. The ACLU has taken a new step to try and address these issues: we presented a detailed report outlining our country's failures with the United Nations Committee Against Torture. Earlier this summer, ACLU representatives appeared in Geneva to provide live testimony about how the U.S. is not complying with our international treaties.

There is a systemic pattern of torture and abuse of detainees in U.S. custody abroad. The federal government has failed to reverse the policies that led to this abuse or to hold a single high-ranking official responsible. ACLU presented information showing that torture and abuse is not limited to actions by military personnel overseas in the "War on Terror," but is common here at home—through pervasive prison rape, abusive conditions at supermax prisons and taser use by local police.

## The ACLU Report

Entitled *Enduring Abuse: Torture and Cruel Treatment by the United States at Home and Abroad*, the ACLU report is based on a range of sources, including more than 100,000 government documents turned over to the ACLU as a result of Freedom of Information Act litigation, detailing the torture and abuse of detainees in U.S. custody in Guantanamo, Iraq and Afghanistan. The FOIA documents provide evidence of a systemic and pervasive pattern of

torture and abuse of detainees in U.S. custody: detainees have been beaten; forced into painful stress positions; threatened with death; sexually and religiously humiliated; stripped naked; hooded and blindfolded; exposed to extreme heat and cold; denied food and water; isolated for prolonged periods; subjected to mock drownings; and intimidated by dogs.

The ACLU also has made public a powerful new Web-based search engine that allows users to comb through and analyze the massive number of torture documents released as a result of the FOIA lawsuit. This is the first time this important set of documents has been made easily searchable and available to journalists, scholars and the public.

## The UN & American Torture Practices

In addition to issuing this report calling for our government to voluntarily change its ways, ACLU has taken a historic step in going directly to the United Nations to ask that body to enforce our international treaty obligations. The primary treaty implicated by U.S. torture practices is the "Convention Against Torture." Dealing exclusively with the subject of torture, this international human rights treaty obligates countries who have signed it to prohibit and prevent torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in all circumstances. The Convention compels governments who ratified it to investigate all allegations of torture, to bring to justice the perpetrators, and to provide a remedy to victims of torture. The Convention was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1984 and went into force in 1987. As of April 2006, 141 countries have ratified the Convention. As a signatory (the United States ratified the treaty in October 1994,) we are obligated to comply with the provisions of the treaty just as we would any other domestic law. The U.S. Constitution itself makes clear that treaties are "the law of the land."

Since the Convention Against

Torture prohibits the exact sort of actions that are happening with Bush/Cheney Administration's approval, ACLU appeared this May before the Committee Against Torture of the United Nations. The committee, made up of members from Chile, Spain, Norway, Senegal, Morocco, the U.S., China, Cyprus, Ecuador and Russia, heard ACLU representatives' testimony about torture and extraordinary rendition. Upon hearing testimony firsthand about civil liberties abuses at home and abroad, the Committee issued a series of recommendations and concerns in June 2006. The committee's recommendations are not legally binding, but they place an important moral obligation on the U.S. government, which has

they could face a real risk of being tortured;

- Promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigate all allegations of acts of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by law enforcement personnel and bring perpetrators to justice.

The committee also heard testimony on domestic issues ranging from the need to abolish the death penalty, to end racial profiling by law enforcement, and to improve juvenile justice. Recommendations for the U.S. to improve their record in these domestic areas were also issued by the committee.

Within one year, the U.S. government is to provide detailed in-

The White House's response to these developments, though, has hardly been encouraging. On September 6, President Bush finally acknowledged publicly that the CIA was indeed running secret prisons overseas. Instead of apologizing and promising to mend his ways, however, the president sent legislation to Congress that very morning that would authorize these military tribunals and grant the executive branch the power to interpret international standards for prisoner treatment.

The president's own "tortured" logic and twisted language at the news conference provided further evidence that the administration has no intention of abiding by international law. Even as the newspapers were reporting that "the prisons were made legal under U.S. law with a presidential finding allowing the [CIA] to set them up" and the prisoners were subjected to "interrogation techniques including feigned drowning, extreme isolation, slapping, sleep deprivation, reduced food intake and light and sound bombardment," President Bush was asserting, "I want to be absolutely clear with our people, and the world: The United States does not torture. It's against our laws, and it's against our values. I have not authorized it, and I will not authorize it."

As it's now obvious that our government cannot be trusted to honor its human rights obligations, we ourselves must be the ones to stand up and hold our government accountable.

*All of the documents the administration wants to keep secret about government-sponsored torture are available on the ACLU website: [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org). (Just click on the "Torture FOIA" logo.) The full text of the UN's Committee Against Torture recommendations online is also available on that same page. Finally, while you're there, take a stand and sign the online petition asking our government to stop using our tax dollars to torture people in our names.*

Torture is un-American.

We need to tell our leaders  
how deeply we oppose their  
involvement in these acts.

committed to complying with the treaty before the nations of the world. The committee's recommendations regarding our country's international actions include the following:

- Ensure that no one is detained in any secret detention facility;
- Promptly, thoroughly, and impartially investigate any responsibility of senior military and civilian officials authorizing, acquiescing or consenting, in any way, to acts of torture committed by their subordinates;
- Cease to detain any person at Guantánamo Bay and close this detention facility, permit access by the detainees to judicial process or release them as soon as possible, ensuring that they are not returned to any State where

formation responding to the committee's recommendations both on the domestic and extraterritorial level. Again, this is not a mandatory requirement from the United Nations committee, but this heightens the burden on the president and his administration to respond to our international community's concerns.

At the very moment that the UN committee was issuing its recommendations, the U.S. Supreme Court also dealt a blow to the administration's policies toward detainees. The Court ruled in June that the administration's plan for trying detainees in military tribunals violated U.S. and international law, and that the prisoner protections for a fair trial spelled out by the Geneva Conventions extended to members of Al-Qaida.

# ‘Bolton’ as in ‘Bully’

## UN Ambassador Deserves Removal for Failing Grade as Diplomat

by Steve Larrick, President, United Nations Association—USA, Chapter 100

Just before U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton spoke at Lincoln’s Lied Center on September 8, a lively “**Stop Bolton Rally**” took place on the brick street median directly in front of the entrance.

As audience members filed slowly through Homeland Security and into the Lied Center, they were able to learn more about “Bolton, the Beltway Bully,” who has been described by a former colleague at the U.S. State Department as the quintessential “kiss up-slap down” kind of guy.

Emblazoned on a large ‘**Report Card**’ were Bolton’s grades for his performance as UN Ambassador. In each subject area, Bolton received an “F” for having failed the American people and the world community.

### **John Bolton’s Report Card as U.S. Ambassador to the UN**

*August 1, 2005 to Present*

**Strengthening the UN:** “F” Swiss Ambassador Peter Mauer (a U.S. ally) called Bolton’s approach to negotiating the new UN Human Rights Council “intransigent and maximalist” and added, “All too often... high ambitions are cover-ups for less noble aims, and oriented not at improving the UN, but at belittling and weakening it.” The Council was a top U.S. policy priority.

**Diplomacy:** “F” Gunter Pleuger, Germany’s former UN ambassador, said Bolton has repeatedly maneuvered the United States into isolated positions on key issues. “The first thing you learn in diplomatic school is never move yourself into a position of isolation, because even the biggest power will not sustain that position.”

**Working with U.S. Allies for U.S. Goals:** “F” “My initial feeling was, let’s see if we can work with him, and I have done some things to push for consensus on issues that were not easy for my country... But all he gives us in return is, ‘It doesn’t matter, whatever you do is insufficient’... He’s lost me as an ally now, and that’s what many other ambassadors who consider themselves friends of the U.S. are saying.”

— Anonymous UN Ambassador with close ties to the U.S.

**Consensus Building:** “F” “If I were redoing the Security Council today, I’d have one permanent member because that’s the real reflection of the distribution of power in the world.” — Ambassador John Bolton.

“Some people have the possibility to build consensus, others operate in other ways.” — Greek Ambassador Adamantios Vassilakis on Bolton’s diplomatic methods.

**Social Skills:** “F” “He is incapable of listening to people and taking into account their views. He would be an abysmal ambassador.” — Lawrence Wilkerson, former Secretary of State Colin Powell’s chief of staff, commenting on Bolton’s record at the State Department prior to his UN post.



**Overall Progress:** “F” “American interests at the UN have suffered from Mr. Bolton’s time there, and will suffer more if the Senate confirms him in the job. At a time when it is militarily and diplomatically overstretched, Washington needs as much international cooperation as it can get—on Iraq, on Iran, on North Korea and now on the latest fighting between Israel and Lebanon—Mr. Bolton is a liability, not an asset at the United Nations.” — *The New York Times*

**Absences:** 34 out of 35 days Thirty-five plenary meetings were held to negotiate the creation of the new UN Human Rights Council between October and the end of February. Ambassador Bolton attended one.

Stop Bolton Rally participants also provided the Lied Center audience with a flyer entitled “**Watch Out for John Bolton—A Man Who is Unafraid of Abusing Power.**” This flyer explained that John Bolton has:

- Deliberately provided wrong information

about Iraq which contributed to the U.S. going to war;

- Acted belligerently toward the UN Human Rights Council;
- Acted arrogantly in putting down other countries;
- Expressed an interest in destroying the United Nations;
- Rejected international treaties which the U.S. has signed and is obligated by the U.S. Constitution to uphold; and

**“American interests at the UN have suffered from Mr. Bolton’s time there, and will suffer more if the Senate confirms him in the job.”**

*The New York Times*

- Regularly trusted in war more than diplomacy. (Bolton has said that “preventive diplomacy can no more stop war than it can reverse the power of gravity.”)

One rally participant observed that, in 1994, John Bolton argued that if the top ten floors of the United Nations headquarters in New York were to disappear, nobody would notice.

### **Bolton Speaks in Half-Truths & Arrogant Bully-Talk**

Bolton’s presentation at the Lied Center was well organized and clearly articulated. However, it was also strongly biased and filled with half truths, omissions, and belligerence toward the world beyond the United States.

He spoke at length of problems within the UN “Oil for Food” program. He never acknowledged that over 70 percent of the resources from the program were used successfully, as intended, to alleviate hunger and malnutrition among Iraqi children

caused by earlier sanctions. He also failed to share blame for the “Oil for Food” corruption with member nations. Germany, France and the United States were all complicit in violating program guidelines. A wily Saddam exploited the greed of all with bribes and kickbacks.

Ambassador Bolton warned of Iran and its illegal program of uranium enrichment. But his attitude was one of total distrust, leaving no room for diplomatic negotiation. He failed to note that Iran has voluntarily agreed to suspend enrichment activities for two months while talks proceed. Mr. Ambassador—the glass is half full, not empty.

Bolton rightly condemned Hezbollah violence, but gave unequivocal support to Israel’s “right to self defense,” which killed hundreds of innocent Lebanese civilians, destroyed the nation’s public infrastructure, and caused an oil spill that could surpass the environmental damage caused by the Exxon-Mobil Valdez disaster.

Bolton also supported the Bush/Cheney policy of giving Israel the time and weapons to bomb Lebanon’s civilian infrastructure to rubble. Moreover, he never mentioned the ceasefire successfully negotiated by the United Nations.

The good news is that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has delayed a vote to confirm Bolton as permanent UN Ambassador. Some sources say the Bolton nomination is now dead. Others believe President Bush may again bypass the U.S. Congress in order to re-install Bolton as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

This would be a scourge upon the UN and the world community. John Bolton is an embarrassment. He is not a diplomat committed to working with other nations for a better world. He is alienating many of the 191 other nations of the world, both allies and adversaries. He is not the man to represent America in these dangerous times.

This past June, I had the pleasure of attending a workshop in Washington, D.C., led by two previous U.S. Ambassadors to the United Nations—Donald McHenry, who served under President Jimmy Carter, and Thomas Pickering, who served under President George Bush, Sr. Both men—one Democrat and one Republican—displayed the kind of diplomatic skills that have served this nation so well in the past.

That the Bush/Cheney Administration would repeatedly nominate a man so unfit for the job shows just how little regard it has for international diplomacy. America will pay for this attitude. Indeed, we already are.

# Strategic Space and Defense 2006

Ever wonder how the Pentagon actually spends all the money Congress dishes out to it?

For Fiscal Year 2007, spending for the Department of Defense will average over \$1.5 billion a day. And not all of it, you can be assured, is earmarked for wages and benefits for our service people...

Or even to wage war in the Muslim world.

## The "Strategic Space and Defense 2006" conference in downtown Omaha October 10-12 is the Military-Industrial Complex at its most obscene—an arms bazaar and spending spree all rolled into one.

No, if you really want to see where a goodly share of your tax dollar is going, you need to check out the "Strategic Space and Defense 2006" conference in downtown Omaha this month. It's the Military-Industrial Complex at its most obscene—an arms bazaar and spending spree all rolled into one.

Hosted by the 'non-profit' Colorado Springs-based "Space Foundation," the October 10-12 conference will be the fourth such annual event in Omaha since 2003. (This year though, as part of their public relations strategy, they've added the word "Defense" to the title—in a shameless bid to capitalize on Americans' national security fears.)

The touted purpose of the conference is expressed in the foundation's mission statement:

"Conducted in support of America's strategic forces, Strategic Space and Defense 2006 will address both the space-related and strategic missions of the Command, expanding the dialogue between the senior leadership of U.S. Strategic Command, appropriate component and supported commands,

the aerospace contractor community, federal officials and other leaders. The primary objective will remain the same: fostering relationships and understanding among the Command and its constituencies in support of America's strategic forces."

But when you cut through all the reverential rhetoric and tech-speak, it's really a 'trade show' for StratCom, where the 'suits' from the arms and aerospace industry show up to hawk their latest wares, and the 'uniforms' shop till they drop and compile their new 'wish lists.'

Think this is too cynical of an assessment?

Take a look at the list of aerospace and defense contractors who are sponsoring this 'non-profit' feeding frenzy:

Lockheed Martin Corporation is hosting the "Opening Ceremony and Reception." CSP Associates, Inc.—which provides "marketing, management, and mergers/acquisitions support to businesses, equity investors, and senior lenders in the aerospace and defense industries"—is springing for a continental breakfast. Northrop Grumman and Boeing are doing the luncheons. "Cocktail Hour" is courtesy of Booz/Allen/Hamilton—the global strategy and technology consulting firm. And Honeywell, Raytheon, AirLaunch, Analytical Graphics, Inc. (AGI), ATK, Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) and Sterling Computers—a Sun iForce partner, are all chipping in for the perks and do-dads.

The conference, though, is not open to the public, and no one in our circle has been invited. But Nebraskans for Peace will be there nevertheless. *We've already made arrangements to hold demonstrations outside the Holland Performing Arts Center Tuesday evening October 10 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. before the "Opening Ceremony and Reception" begins, and the following morning, October 11 from 7:30-8:30 a.m., by the Qwest Center when the conferees really get down to 'business.'*

NFP will be there, not just because we're protesting this prodigal use of our tax money, when there are so other crying needs out there that are being short-changed and unmet. We'll be there because StratCom is where the Bush/Cheney Administration's next war is being planned. It's where the attack on Iran's or North Korea's nuclear facilities will originate. It's where the war will be conducted from. It's the nerve center in fact for now waging preemptive war anywhere on the face of the globe. And U.S. Strategic Command, right here in Omaha, in our own backyard, is where the administration is even now plotting the domination of outer space. Because whoever controls space, controls the earth.

"Strategic Space and Defense" is slated to be an annual fixture in Omaha during October from now on. And for our part, Nebraskans for Peace has every intention of making a public protest at this hideous event every bit as annual, and eventually bringing the international community to Omaha to stand with us. This year only marks the beginning.

Contact the NFP State Office by phone at 402-475-4620 or by email at [nfpstate@nebraskansforpeace.org](mailto:nfpstate@nebraskansforpeace.org) for more details about the October 10 and 11 demonstrations.



by Chris Fretz  
NCPTF Outreach & Development Assistant

Although the American public's opposition to our military presence in Iraq has been steadily growing, most Americans continue to support the war with their tax dollars. Many conscientious citizens feel they cannot, in good conscience, participate in war, either physically or financially. But at present, there is no legal alternative for taxpayers who are ethically opposed to having their taxes being used to commit violence.

The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund (NCPTF) is working to create a solution. NCPTF is a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. that advocates for legislation which would permit conscientious objectors to pay their federal income taxes into a fund designated for non-military purposes only. This legislation, called the "Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act" (H.R. 2631), would increase re-

ligious freedom and civil liberties for U.S. citizens. Peace Tax Fund legislation has been introduced in every session of Congress since 1972, and with the growing public discontent over the Iraq War, momentum for the bill is building.

Although the bill is currently in the House of Representatives, there is no parallel legislation in the Senate. Campaign staff and supporters have met with staff of several senators, including a staff person for Sen. Chuck Hagel, to advocate for a parallel bill to be introduced in the Senate. As a moderate Republican who is well respected by his colleagues, Sen. Hagel, in particular, would be an ideal lead sponsor for the bill.

The Campaign encourages Nebraska residents to contact Sen. Hagel and request that he protect freedom of conscience by introducing the "Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill" into the Senate. As citizens, we should have the right not to have to pay for war. And, with military expenditures consuming more and more of the federal budget—and domestic spending constantly getting short shrift—we should have a choice as to how our tax dollars are spent.

More information about the Campaign can be found at [www.peacetaxfund.org](http://www.peacetaxfund.org).

## Your Foundation Speaks



by Loyal Park, President of the Nebraska Peace Foundation

Last month I reported about our *Peacemakers in Perpetuity* and listed the names of twelve people who are remembering the Foundation in their wills. I have since received notice that Elizabeth Platt and Linda Ruchala are remembering the Nebraska Peace Foundation in theirs. We had asked for people to let us know of their estate planning decisions, and we really were glad to hear from Elizabeth and Linda.

We have also added a new convenience for those wishing to make contributions to the Foundation. We now accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover credit/debit cards. We do, however, have to pay the bank a transaction fee for processing these contributions, which amounts to about 5 percent of the amount contributed. The contributor receives IRS credit for the full amount of their contribution, of course, but the Foundation receives only about 95 percent of what was contributed. So with convenience comes a price. Something to remember—checks are always the preferable way to make donations. Just make your check payable to Nebraska Peace Foundation and see that it gets to the NFP State Office.

# WORLD PEACE DAY

by Mark Weddleton

This year's commemoration of World Peace Day in Lincoln on September 21 was marked by an unusual all-day downpour. Signs were soggy and clothes waterlogged, but spirits were high during the full day's worth of activities.

"I am speaking today as a member of a military family against the war," declared Susan Emanuel, the mother of a Nebraska National Guardsman currently serving in Iraq. "Our troops should be brought home."

Emanuel's remarks at the opening rally on the eve of World Peace Day were carried widely on local TV and radio stations. They reflect a growing willingness among Nebraskans to speak out against the war, including military families. (See the speeches by Emanuel and Bob Boyce, the father of a U.S. Marine temporarily back from Iraq, in the sidebar.)

Hundreds participated in a 24-hour fast for peace. An all-day vigil was held at the Federal Building, with about a dozen students from East High School taking the day off to join retirees, college students and others in a public witness in the steady rain. Clergy and other members of the public visited the offices of federal officials to petition them to sign the Declaration of Peace which calls for an end to the occupation of Iraq.

Notable at the World Peace Day events was the emergence of young people in important leadership roles. UNL Ecology Now

and UNL Nebraskans for Peace co-sponsored an evening forum on "War and the Environment," bringing together two burning issues. UNL Nebraskans for Peace President Sarah Beringer organized and emceed the culminating World Peace Day rally on campus, which attracted over a hundred people despite the foul weather.

Experienced antiwar activists observe that this kind of energy and key youthful leadership hasn't been seen since the early days of the movement against the Iraq war.

The day's events were coordinated by the Coalition for Peace. The Coalition has been organizing a weekly antiwar vigil every Wednesday from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at the Federal Building since May. The vigils have grown from the handful of activists to a regular weekly turnout of 40-50 people.

The response from cars, cyclists and pedestrians has been overwhelming positive, with honks, cheers, and peace signs making the vigil seem at times like a festival. Rarely a week goes by when passersby don't stop to join in. This shows a shift in public attitudes as the ongoing death toll, both U.S. and Iraqi, continues to escalate with no clear end in sight. Many see the situation in Iraq as a deadly quagmire.

Responding to the new possibilities to mobilize antiwar sentiment, the Coalition for Peace will continue the Wednesday vigils each week. For more information, contact either [www.fmclincoln.org/Peace.htm](http://www.fmclincoln.org/Peace.htm) or 402-499-6672.



*It was a chilly and rainy day in Lincoln September 21 for the World Peace Day vigil outside the Federal Building. But these 'hardies' braved the elements to make the case for peace in Iraq—and to oppose an attack on Iran.*

## World Peace Day Statement by Bob Boyce

### Father of a U.S. Marine temporarily back from serving in Iraq

I am here to express my opposition to the illegal invasion of Iraq and to oppose any attack on Iran. We see the same terrifying progression of events with Iran that we saw with Iraq—a wildly exaggerated picture of Iran as a threat to peace, sanctions, demands and deadlines. The next step, already planned, is the invasion of a country which has not threatened the United States and does not have and will not soon have the nuclear weapons capability the administration claims justifies an invasion.

The tragic result of our invasion of Iraq and its bungled aftermath is seen in the newspapers every day—more and more U.S. and Iraqi lives torn apart by violence. The war has cost over \$315 billion dollars, resulting in over 2,600 U.S. soldiers dead and 20,000–40,000 U.S. wounded, over 100,000 Iraqi civilians dead.

We are involved in a "War on Terrorism" which has no end, and we have given fuel to the fires which breed terrorists by our violence and unwillingness to see reality.

Worse than this, terrible as it all is, the administration has lost its moral compass.

We invaded a country which did not threaten us! We have 14,000 "detainees" in Guantanamo and other prisons—prisoners who, the administration claims, may be held for years without being charged. Although we claim not to torture, the evidence of Abu Ghraib and other prisons is clear. We do torture, and the administration claims the right to do so—by redefining "torture." Right now Bush is trying to have laws passed to legitimize military tribunals denying the accused the right to know what evidence is being presented against him.

I never thought to see the day when the United States would invade a country without just cause, when torture would be justified as necessary and proper, when the United States would ignore the Geneva Conventions.

I have to take a stand against all this. I want my country back—the United States which did not invade other countries, the United States where people were innocent until tried and found guilty, the United States ruled by law, the United States standing tall as the moral leader of the world.

## World Peace Day Statement by Susan Emanuel

### Mother of a Nebraska National Guardsman serving in Iraq

My son has been serving in Iraq since October with the 189th Transportation Company Nebraska National Guard from Wayne and Norfolk. I am speaking today as a member of a military family against the war in Iraq and in favor of the withdrawal of our troops.

Members of the National Guard are 'citizen soldiers,' and like other soldiers, their sacrifice and service to this country deserve respect and gratitude from all of us. But being a soldier does not preclude being a thoughtful, informed citizen. Being loyal to our country does not mean losing the ability to recognize that the conflict in Iraq has changed into a civil war or to see that only the Iraqis themselves can settle the differences between Sunnis and Shiites. Being loyal to our country does not mean it is unpatriotic to question the wisdom of maintaining the status quo.

I am here because I believe that the most meaningful way to honor our soldiers in Iraq is to speak up about the mounting evidence that this administration misled us into this war and sent Americans to fight and

die with a flawed plan. I believe we honor our soldiers when we speak out against this administration's insistence on following a failed policy in Iraq, a policy which many see as undermining the broader fight against terrorism, and I believe that when citizens insist on accountability from their elected representatives, they are showing great respect towards our men and women in uniform.

My son, who is loyal to the National Guard, to his friends, and to his country, sees no conflict between being a good soldier and being a good citizen. He e-mailed, "I would just want people to know that they need to stand up for what they think is right," and he quoted a fellow soldier who said, "Please stress that people can oppose the war and support the troops. Those are two different things, and as soldiers we feel one of the things we are fighting for is the right of people to oppose their government in a democratic way."

Thank you for speaking out for our soldiers, for standing up, and for being here.

Photographer and anti-nuclear activist Gabriela Bulisova is part of Nebraskans for Peace's growing international network. Along with her husband Kevin Kamps of the Nuclear Information & Resource Service in Washington, D.C., the Slovak national has visited our state numerous times to publicize the dangers of nuclear waste transport over Nebraska's 'road and rail' corridors. She has traveled to Chernobyl to do a photographic retrospective on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nuclear disaster. And just this past week, she returned from a month-long visit to Lebanon, where she documented the devastation from the Hezbollah-Israeli War. For weeks, while the two sides exchanged rocket attacks and airstrikes and deadly street-fighting was taking place, the Bush/Cheney White House callously ignored international pleas for a cease-fire and let this conflict spiral out of control. With these photos from Gabi, we get a glimpse of the human face of this war that unfolded while our government stood by and watched.



*photos by  
Gabriela  
Bulisova*



# THE FACE OF WAR



# AFRICA IS DYING

## The Politics and Economics of HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa



**Sub-Saharan Africa**

by Robert K. Hitchcock

*To our great chagrin, UNL Anthropology Professor and Nebraska Report contributor Bob Hitchcock moved to Michigan this past August to become chair of the Michigan State University Anthropology Department. Before his departure, this nationally known Africa specialist submitted the following article about the AIDS epidemic that is ravaging the African continent—and the world community's tragic failure to act.*

Of the 41.3 million people in this world infected by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), 25.8 million live in Sub-Saharan Africa. While the overall prevalence rate for HIV in Africa is 7.2 percent, in southern Africa, the rates range from 20 to 38.8 percent, depending on the country. In 2005, 2.8 million people around the world died of AIDS. Without a massive expansion of HIV prevention, treatment, and care efforts, the death toll will continue rise through 2010.

HIV/AIDS has stretched the economies and infrastructure of Africa to the breaking point. In Botswana, for example, in 2003 it was estimated that 37.4 percent of the adult population was HIV positive. Unfortunately, HIV prevention and treatment programs are limited and extremely underfunded. Less than one in 50 Africans have access to antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) which are crucial to controlling the symptoms of the disease and prolonging life.

HIV is an ultimately fatal viral disease spread though poor medical sanitation or by contact with blood and other body fluids. AIDS, the collection of symptoms and

infections which take advantage of an immune system compromised by HIV, weakens the body and makes it difficult for people to work, take care of their families, and finally themselves. Due to its primary modes of transmission, HIV/AIDS is most prevalent among those between 18 and 45 years of age, normally a person's most economically and socially productive years.

In some rural areas, a significant cause of malnutrition is not climate change or poverty, but the inability of people infected by HIV to tend their crops. It is rare to find an African family not impacted by AIDS, or a wage earner who is not supporting the children of siblings or cousins who have died from AIDS. Whole family fortunes are drained because of AIDS, both because of cost of caring for an AIDS patient and the expense of funerals and burials. The result has been social, economic, and political disruptions in both in Africa and globally.

Of all those affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, children and youth are the most seriously impacted. In some parts of Africa entire villages are essentially made up of those under 16 years of age and those over 50 years old. Today, there are some 15 million children in Sub-Saharan Africa who have lost one or more parent to HIV. Children are becoming the main source of income, and the primary care-givers in their families. Children lucky enough to be enrolled, frequently have to withdraw from school due to these obligations, further hobbling the future development of Africa.

A major contributor to the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa is the high levels of militarization in some countries. As in the United

States and Europe, it is not unusual for a soldier to find a new girl-friend or "wife" with each new assignment. In addition to the physical and psychological power which has made rape a tolerated aspect of war, extreme poverty and the massive displacement caused by conflicts has made women and children particularly susceptible to being coerced into exchanging sex for survival. Not surprisingly, a sizable proportion of the soldiers of some African countries are HIV positive. In a recent peacekeeping effort, over a third of South African troops were deemed ineligible because of their HIV status. The well documented cases of international peacekeepers and aid workers extorting sex from women and children have had serious implications for the HIV rates in Africa and abroad.

Aid agencies and African governments seeking to address the HIV crisis face tremendous challenges. In addition to inadequate funds and personnel; health systems and physical infrastructure (roads, schools, clinics, and water systems) are non-existent, in poor condition, or deteriorating. There are several reasons for this situation:

- 1) A pre-existing lack of indigenous resources;
- 2) Governments funneling funds in other directions (e.g. corruption and the military);
- 3) Pressure from institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reduce social and health spending in Structural Adjustment Programs; and
- 4) Limitations placed on international aid by religious and government agencies (e.g. Uganda had formerly been a global leader in reducing its HIV infection rate. Once the U.S. Agency for International Development

was mandated to de-emphasize the role of condoms in HIV prevention, the infection rate in that country has returned to earlier levels.)

In such as the Mozambique, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and Uganda, historic and brutal conflicts have compounded these problems.

The \$15 billion PEPFAR initiative (the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) was intended to finance and administer all the United States' international HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs. As with most U.S. aid, PEPFAR has provisions requiring beneficiaries to purchase most supplies—including the antiretrovirals (ARVs) which can delay a HIV-infected person developing AIDS—from U.S.-based companies. This means that under-developed countries are forced to spend up to three times what it would cost to purchase a locally-produced generic form of the drugs. As a result, only a third of the patients which could be treated receive care. There are also recommendations prioritizing defense contractors in transporting the ARVs.

In light of these restrictions, it is not surprising that cash-strapped governments have been reluctant to provide HIV treatment to the general population, despite the implications of failing to do so. Although it is the wealthiest country in sub-Saharan Africa, South Africa did not begin supplying its estimated 5.3 million HIV patients with free antiretroviral drugs until November of 2003. (Compare this with one of the world's most wealthy companies not being able to ensure a minimal level of health care for its citizens.)



# NFP Year in Review



by Tim Rinne, NFP State Coordinator

We all like to win.

With an election next month, lots of Nebraskans for Peace supporters are hoping for major shake-up in Congress to set this country on a new direction.

Having put up with a far-right majority in the House of Representatives for 12 straight years, and one-party control of both the House and Senate for the past four, we feel like it's our turn and we deserve to win one again.

But the fact of the matter is, we don't always. Sometimes, hardly at all.

Whether that's due to chance, a cruel fate, our sinful nature or some kind of spiritual test we're having to undergo, I leave to you to interpret according to your personal philosophical or religious views.

But for whatever reason, right doesn't always seem to make might, justice doesn't always prevail, and bad things do happen to good people.

As the State Coordinator of Nebraskans for Peace, I'd love to be able to tell you that in the past year NFP led the way

in ending this tragic war. StratCom was dismantled and disarmed. President Bush endorsed the Kyoto Protocol to combat global warming. We put an end to school bullying. And Nebraska stopped selling alcohol in Whiteclay.

It didn't happen though. And it may not in the coming year either.

So, with such little return, why do we keep doing this stuff and beating our heads against the wall?

There are lots of good reasons. But now that I'm over 50 and more chastened, the one I keep coming back to was told to me by a devoutly religious person almost two decades ago:

"We do this work less to change the world, than to keep the world from changing us."

Some observers have described our issues priorities as less organizing initiatives, than 'quests.'

*And how right they are.*

What could be more quixotic than wanting to end war, stop school violence, save the earth from ecological destruction, and undo 150 years of physical and

cultural genocide against the Oglala Lakota Nation on Pine Ridge?

*Can't mount any bigger quests than those.*

But despite these formidable odds, we continue to persevere—because these are our convictions. And even though we may never live to see the scales of justice balance and a world at peace, it's the vision we hold and wish to pass down to the generations who will come after us.

*Despite the formidable odds, we continue to persevere—because of our convictions. Although we may never live to see the scales of justice balance and a world at peace, this is the vision we as NFP members hold and wish to pass down to the generations who will come after us.*

Much as we'd like to, we can't ever guarantee victory...

...Only that we'll act with conviction. The same sort of conviction that has emboldened us to say that attacking Iraq was wrong and our government should never have gotten us into that mess to begin with—both when 70 percent of the public was supporting the war (as they were in April 2003), as well as today, when support has tumbled to barely 30 percent.

## Anti-War Priority

Without question, progress is being made on our **Anti-War Priority**. Four years of pounding away (counting the six months leading up to the war) about the wrongheaded and counter-productive nature of the Bush/Cheney Administration's "War on Terror" has started to pay off. At least half of the population of Nebraska now agrees with us about the War on Iraq—which in a 'red state' like ours is darn close to miraculous.

Nor, thank goodness, have we had to make this point alone. Affinity groups like the Nebraska Coalition for Peace in Lincoln and Central Nebraska Peace Workers are playing a critical role helping change the public's attitude. The war in Iraq is a long ways from over (and we worry daily about the administration trying to start yet another in Iran or North Korea). But the court of public opinion is now weighing strongly in our favor. And you can bet the farm that NFP will never abandon the issue that serves as our namesake—whatever the stakes, however long it takes.

## TOTV Priority

That same doggedness and durability was displayed in our **Turn Off the Violence Priority**. Working closely with the Nebraska Indian Commission, NFP helped prevent budget cuts in the State Department of Education that would have hampered anti-bullying education in our schools. Two hundred of the 600 school buildings in Nebraska are currently work-

ing to develop anti-bullying programs, and the Nebraska Department of Education has committed thousands of dollars of its discretionary and grant funds to this cause. We not only succeeded in staving off a major setback to this work, though; we've been planning for the future. And in the upcoming 2007 Legislative Session, Sen. Gwen Howard will introduce a bill making bullying illegal and requiring every school in the state to implement anti-bullying education. We're hopeful about the bill's prospects this session, partly because of what the education groups are doing, partly because of what the Nebraska Department of Education is doing, and partly because of the advocacy structure we are organizing. If we have any hope of seeing nonviolent, socially constructive behavior among grown-ups, we need to start inculcating these techniques and practices in the young.

## Whiteclay Priority

Seven years after **Whiteclay** burst into the news, four liquor licenses are still selling over 12,500 cans of beer a day to the dry Pine Ridge Reservation. Of all the issues NFP works on, Whiteclay is perhaps the most heartbreaking—if only because this human tragedy is visibly taking place right here in our own midst, and by our own hand. The alcoholism rate on Pine Ridge is conservatively estimated at 80 percent. One out of every four children is born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. And yet, despite the priority NFP has given Whiteclay, the sales go on.

*conclusion on page 10*

## Dateline Whiteclay 9/27/06

by Mark Vasina, NFP President

I am writing this report from the streets of Whiteclay and Pine Ridge as this issue of the *Nebraska Report* is being prepared for publication. I am spending the better part of a week here meeting with Oglala Lakota tribal elders, tribal police and other Lakota concerned about the atrocious behavior by Whiteclay beer merchants and the Nebraska authorities that enable this behavior.

Preparations for the resumption of the Whiteclay blockade are proceeding. Last month, the Black Hills Sioux Nation Treaty Council authorized the Cante Tenza warrior society to operate the blockade. Duane Martin, Sr., leader of Cante Tenza, is arranging for a similar resolution from the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council. These efforts are being undertaken to provide explicit tribal support for the blockade and to establish its undisputed legality under tribal law.

In the meantime, the blockade has attracted national attention and has placed Whiteclay on the agenda in some important venues. On September 29 and 30, Duane and I will attend a national conference in Lawrence, Kansas on Indian health issues and the failure of state and county authorities to address them. We have both been

invited to speak on a panel about our efforts to force Nebraska authorities to recognize their genocidal conduct with respect to Whiteclay alcohol sales.

Duane and I have also been invited by Martin Luther King III to speak about Whiteclay at a national civil rights conference on November 16 and 17 at the King Center in Atlanta, Georgia. King, who learned about Whiteclay from national news reports on the blockade, immediately contacted Duane to arrange a visit to Whiteclay and Pine Ridge. While his visit has been delayed due to his heavy travel schedule, he recognizes the seriousness of the Whiteclay issue and its parallel to the manner in which the alcohol industry targets inner city populations of people of color to market malt liquor and fortified wine beverages.

Duane's visibility on this issue has made him a galvanizing figure for Pine Ridge residents sickened by the appalling reality of what goes on in Whiteclay day after day. This week, we are meeting with a number of Lakota young people and their parents to discuss specific complaints against Whiteclay liquor dealers. I will report on these matters in later issues of the *Nebraska Report* as it becomes appropriate to make them public.

## Politician Contacts

### **The White House**

Washington, DC 20500  
Comment Line: 202-456-1111  
202-456-1414  
202-456-2993 (FAX)  
president@whitehouse.gov

### **Sen. Chuck Hagel**

248 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-4224  
202-224-5213 (FAX)  
402-476-1400 (Lincoln)  
402-758-8981 (Omaha)  
308-632-6032 (Scottsbluff)  
hagel.senate.gov

### **Sen. Ben Nelson**

720 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-6551  
202-228-0012 (FAX)  
402-391-3411 (Omaha)  
402-441-4600 (Lincoln)  
bennelson.senate.gov

### **Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, District 1**

1517 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-4806  
402-438-1598 (Lincoln)  
<http://www.house.gov/fortenberry>

### **Rep. Lee Terry, District 2**

1524 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-4155  
202-226-5452 (FAX)  
402-397-9944 (Omaha)  
[leeterry.house.gov/contact.asp](http://leeterry.house.gov/contact.asp)

### **Rep. Tom Osborne, District 3**

507 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-6435  
202-226-1385 (FAX)  
308-381-5555 (Grand Island)  
[www.house.gov/writerep/](http://www.house.gov/writerep/)

### **Capitol Hill Switchboard**

202-224-3121

### **State Capitol Switchboard**

402-471-2311

### **State Senator, District #**

State Capitol  
PO Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

### **Governor Dave Heineman**

PO Box 94848  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848  
402-471-2244  
402-471-6031 (FAX)  
<http://gov.nol.org/mail/govmail.html>

## NFP Year in Review, conclusion

Slowly but surely, however, the moral and political support for licensing dealers there is being whittled away. This past spring, the Legislature adopted a bill that gives the Liquor Control Commission more authority over granting liquor licenses. While this new power does not impact the current licensees, it places any future licenses in doubt. Last summer's proposed tribal blockade to interdict the transport of alcohol onto the reservation generated national news coverage, and even caught the eye of Martin Luther King III (see NFP President Mark Vasina's attached article.) Plans for reviving the blockade, with even greater tribal government support, are in the works.

NFP, as you may have read, was honored by the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Standing Bear Commemoration as the "organization of the year," specifically for our work on Whiteclay. And after seven years of carrying this banner, you can, accordingly, count on us to persevere on our side of the border until the State of Nebraska's role in this ongoing tragedy is at last brought to an end.

### **Economic Justice Priority**

Economics is central to the subject of justice. Just look at the \$3 million alcohol industry in Whiteclay. The corporate tax giveaways funded at the expense of our children's education. The resource grabs in the Middle East that dredge up memories of crusades and colonization. And the quote/unquote 'Free Trade' agreements that enrich the 'haves' even as they swell the ranks of the 'have-nots.' As part of our *Economic Justice Priority* this past year, Greg LeRoy of "Good Jobs First" spoke about a fair and just state tax policy at the

2005 Annual Peace Conference. Dry as it can oftentimes be, tax policy largely determines what our society looks like—whether through an unjust reliance on property taxes to support education, which disproportionately punishes farmers, seniors and homeowners; or through favoring Big Business and out-of-state stockholders with tax breaks at the expense of our in-state residents. The same sort of structural inequities that we find in our state economy, however—while everyone else congregates at the bottom—informs the entire theory of economic globalization. NFP will continue to publicize the economic connections between all of these things. Because as our motto so accurately notes, "There is no Peace without Justice."

### **Environmental Priority**

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the undeniable evidence of global warming, NFP specifically adopted an *Environmental Priority* this past year. Throughout our 36-year-long history, we have consistently opposed both nuclear weapons and nuclear power as too inherently risky to the planet, advocating instead renewable forms of energy as an alternative. Believing as we now do that protecting the environment is central to peacemaking, we have begun seeking out allies who share our sense of urgency about the environment, and will continue to promote public awareness of the dangers of human-induced climate change.

### **StratCom Priority**

The nuclear arsenal of the U.S. Strategic Command (or what used to be known as SAC, the Strategic Air Command) has been a perennial concern of

NFP since our founding in 1970. With the raft of dangerous and destabilizing 'mission changes' that have taken place at the Omaha command center in the wake of 9/11, however, the NFP State Board voted in September to create a separate *StratCom Priority*. In addition to commanding the U.S. nuclear arsenal, StratCom has now been given the task of offensively waging the "War on Terror." Operating under a policy of 'shoot first, and ask questions later,' StratCom is responsible for preemptively neutralizing any alleged threat to our national security, with either nuclear or *conventional* weapons.

But that's just the start. Its component commands of SpaceCom and the National Security Agency conducted the "warrantless wiretaps" of American citizens, and its mission of "Missile Defense" is no less than an outright bid for the "domination of space." And just this past month, StratCom successively weaseled its way into academia, when it dedicated a new, top-secret "Global Innovation and Strategy Center" on the University of Nebraska-Omaha campus. Through its membership in the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, NFP has begun developing contacts with like-minded organizations around the world. Having StratCom housed in our own backyard gives NFP a special opportunity to alert the rest of the nations of the earth of this menace. But it also gives us a special obligation. Because the next war the U.S. gets into will be started right here in Omaha.

In 2007, NFP will continue doing what it is we do best: Act on our convictions, regardless of the odds, to continue the 'quest' and keep the world from changing us. And if by chance we 'win' one, we'll just take that as a bonus.

## Africa Is Dying, conclusion

In my own experience I have seen urban hospitals in southern Africa where all of the beds were filled with AIDS patients — sometimes two or three patients to a bed. Cemeteries are filled to overflowing, and a funeral today is 15 minutes, whereas in the past funerals could last for days. Due in part to the stigma attached to AIDS, people do not want to admit that they have a relative, a father, a mother, a son, or daughter with the virus. The social stigma attached to the virus is so great, that HIV is seen as death for both the patient and their family. The very suspicion that a family member has died of HIV can result in the loss of a job.

Yet there are signs of hope: there are

some 200,000 traditional healers who are now playing roles in meeting the needs of the populations in both urban and rural areas in South Africa alone. Traditional healers provide more than 80 percent of the country's medical consultations, and they play significant roles in health promotion. A combination of the modern western medical technology and traditional medical practitioners are now making inroads against HIV/AIDS in South Africa and elsewhere in the region.

Since 2001 AIDS activists have persuaded some pharmaceutical companies to sell their drugs at cost in developing countries. Yet even this success is not without controversy. International pharmaceutical companies continue to "mine" the traditional

knowledge, practices and herbs of African healers to develop new treatments for HIV and other diseases. Yet the profits from these drugs remain with the company and are not shared with the communities which have developed and nurtured this knowledge for centuries.

The impact of HIV/AIDS is catastrophic not only in health terms but also in terms of economic and social stability. HIV/AIDS will only be adequately addressed when we invest the same energy, finances, and technology in fighting HIV as we do the global arms race. As one young AIDS orphan in South Africa said, "This can happen only if our governments and societies have the political will to do so."

# Paul Olson, conclusion

against America on almost a weekly basis. It may even explain why the administration had to manipulate the elections in Florida and Ohio (see Robert Kennedy, Jr.'s piece in *Rolling Stone* magazine); and why it was so indifferent initially to warnings about Al-Qaida. With so much intelligence that a 9/11-style event was about to happen, why was the intelligence not brought together and why was nothing done about it? Why was NORAD so slow to act when we knew that the 9/11 planes had been taken over?

This is not to suggest an active conspiracy. One can make things happen by allowing them to happen. (They will be allowed to happen again if we do not look to port security, luggage-hold plane security and a variety of other areas.)

The 'evidence' for the noble lie about the Iraqi threat came out of Dick Cheney's frequent visits to the CIA and his insinuations of incompetence by then Director George Tenet, out of the administration's reliance on Douglas Feith's "Office of Special Plans," and from a hundred other sources. These places manufactured the lies, to which Karl Rove and his propaganda machine repeatedly pointed to create the specters that flamed our horizons and blocked our vision. We will have more of these terror alerts and talk of dangers before the November election.

This is not to say that there are no real dangers out there, especially after we and our allies have ravaged much of the Islamic world. But other nations have faced terror and disruption—France from the Algerian rebels, Germany from the Baader-Meinhof Gang, England from the IRA, and Russia from the Chechnyan rebels. The nations that survived these difficulties mostly intact, first did something about the causes that so often make people turn to terror—unemployment, marginalization, discrimination, exploitation and lack of self-determination. I was

in England last year when the London bombings took place. And while the government developed subway caution systems, no one raised the specter of apocalyptic plots to destroy Britain. The British had already known the IRA.

Fear is necessary to the noble lie. It will, according to Karl Rove, win the House elections this fall. But not all Republicans are guilty of promulgating the myth, nor are the Democrats free of it. Chuck Hagel has been notably free from it; Ben Nelson has not. I could recite names from each party nationally who have resisted or contributed to our sense that the bridge will not take us over the troubled waters, and that we must flee to our Commander in Chief for comfort and courage. One or both candidates in most of our elections will peddle the story for the House and Senate next month.

But we should not go back to my childish nightmare. It may indeed be that we face tough times, terror attacks, times that the actions, which partly followed from the noble lie, created. But as Benjamin Franklin put it, "They who would give up an essential liberty for temporary security, deserve neither liberty nor security."

When you vote this fall, vote your hopes and expectations. And not your fears. Vote peace, vote health care, a decent minimum wage, a balanced budget, tax justice, the abolition of whiskey border towns, and the diminution of global warming.

Mr. Bush may think that he has Jesus for his philosopher, as he once said, but his administration has Leo Strauss. It has mastered the art of fear, and not the arts of love and hope. If we succumb to its noble lie, we will indeed have no democracy at home and none to spread abroad. We will have fear—not Fascism, but a kind of Bismarckian autocracy—that will permanently change us for the worse, and never let us get over our nightmare.


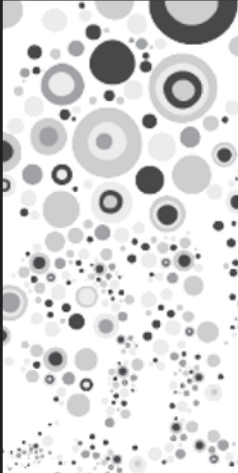
## The Progoff Intensive Journal Workshop

I believe that unless we process our inner lives, using such methods as the Progoff Program (described below), polarities in our nation will increase and harden.

We cannot continue to live so superficially, allow inner violence to fester unaware, permit unadulterated misinformation, and expect to survive in an age of increasing technology, technology that instead of nurturing us turns into a monster with many vicious heads.

On October 28-29, a Progoff Intensive Journal Workshop will be conducted in Lincoln, NE at the Quality Suites, 216 North 48<sup>th</sup> Street. This is an excellent program for people wanting to deepen their spiritual lives. The leader is Mike Gajda, a certified leader of the Intensive Journal method and a group therapist at a delinquent youth facility in southcentral Michigan. The Intensive Journal Method was developed in 1966 by Dr. Ira Progoff and has helped 175,000 people lead more fulfilling lives. It helps people access their feelings and experiences in an organized way and provides techniques for guiding others. Joseph Campbell stated: "The Intensive Journal Process is one of the greatest inventions of our time." [www.intensivejournal.org]

Cost is \$165, with some partial scholarships available (amount of scholarship is determined during a conversation between participant and Don Tilley). Contact: Don Tilley, 4533 Starr, Lincoln, NE 68503 402-466-6622, or email: don@peacepark.us.

	NOW SHOWING	
	COMING SOON	
	ABOUT THE ROSS	
	MEMBERSHIP	
	SPONSORS	
	FILM RESOURCES	
CONTACT US		
<b>MARY RIEPMA ROSS MEDIA ARTS CENTER</b>	<b>ADMISSION:</b> <b>\$8.00</b> GENERAL <b>\$6.00</b> MATINEE (BEFORE 6 PM) <b>\$6.00</b> MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS OF THE MARRAC, STUDENTS, SENIOR CITIZENS <b>\$5.00</b> MATINEE FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE MARRAC (BEFORE 6 PM), AND CHILDREN (ALLTIMES) <small>Box Office Opens 30 Minutes Before Showtimes</small>	
<b>UNIVERSITY OF Nebraska Lincoln HIXSON-LIED COLLEGE OF FINE &amp; PERFORMING ARTS</b>	<b>LOCATION:</b> 313 N. 13 STREET LINCOLN, NEBRASKA	
		
<a href="http://www.theross.org">www.theross.org</a>		

### UPCOMING FEATURES:

Thru Oct 12  
**WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR?**  
 chronicles the life and mysterious death of the GM EV1, examining its cultural and economic ripple effects and how they reverberated through the halls of government and big business.

Thru Oct 12  
**DRAWING RESTRAINT 9**  
 Matthew Barney teams up with Bjork for this highly experimental film in the style of Barney's CREMASTER cycle, Bjork also provides the soundtrack, making it essential viewing for fans of her more esoteric ventures.

Oct 13 - 26  
**THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP**, a playful romantic fantasy set inside the topsyturvy brain of Stephane Miroux (Gael Garcia Bernal) an eccentric young man whose dreams constantly invade his waking life.

Oct 13 - 26  
**LOS LONELY BOYS: COTTONFIELDS AND CROSSROADS** tells the story of three Mexican American brothers from San Angelo Texas who are creating a unique sound that melds the core of the early San Angelo music scene of the 1950s and 60s with a signature style they call "Texican."

# Democracy Now!

National, Daily, Independent Award-Winning News Program — [democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org)

## On KZUM 89.3 FM

Now airing on Nebraska's first-and-only non-profit, community radio station, KZUM 89.3 FM Monday-Friday, Noon-1 pm.



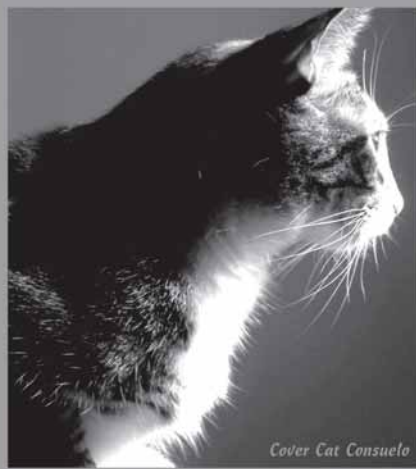
Amy Goodman, host of Democracy Now addressed a Lincoln audience at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center in April 2005.



KZUM is a member-supported, socially-conscious radio.

Listen at:

- 89.3 FM
- Cable Ch. 10
- [www.kzum.org](http://www.kzum.org)



Cover Cat Consuelo

# The Pursuit of Peace

Cat Lovers Against the BOMB  
2007 Wall Calendar

[www.catloversagainstthebomb.org](http://www.catloversagainstthebomb.org)

## NFP BULLETIN BOARD

*NFP State Office Hours in Lincoln, 941 'O' Street, Ste. 1026, are 9:00 a.m. to noon weekdays.*

- Wednesdays** Anti-war vigils, Lincoln Federal Building, 15th & 'O' Streets, 5:00–6:00 p.m. Call 402-499-6672 for more information.
- Oct. 10-11** Protests at the Strategic Space and Defense 2006 Conference in Omaha (See page 5).
- Oct. 14** 2006 Annual Peace Conference in Grand Island, featuring Sen. Ernie Chambers.
- Nov. 7** General Election
- Nov. 11** Human rights activist Angela Davis will visit American political prisoners Ed Poindexter & Mondo we Langa (David Rice) at the Nebraska Penitentiary in Lincoln. That evening Dr. Davis will be the keynote speaker at an Omaha fundraiser for the two men at the Preston Love Jazz Hall, North 24th & Lake Streets from 6:00 til 10:00 p.m. Advanced tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students (\$25 at the door). Mail checks c/o Nan Graf, 100 North 12th, Apt. 306, Lincoln, NE 68508.

*To list an event, submit in writing by the tenth of the month preceding the event to: NFP, 941 'O' Street, #1026, Lincoln, NE 68508, or email: [NeReport@neb.rr.com](mailto:NeReport@neb.rr.com).*



## Speaking Our Peace

# On Fear

by Paul Olson, UNL Professor Emeritus

When I was a boy, I had a recurrent dream. My father and I were driving over a bridge that spanned the whole width of Lake Superior near the Wisconsin home of my middle childhood. The bridge was long and tottered in the wind as my father sped over it in the dark. Then, all of a sudden, it ended, and our '32 Chevrolet catapulted into the cold lake, where I struggled to escape from drowning. I would awaken trembling, with dark fantasies all around me. Some nights I would run to my parents' bedroom for reassurance. As four of my brothers and a sister had died in my childhood, I was afraid. I needed comfort—to be reassured that I was alive and protected.

We are all in a like dream. Karl Rove recently assured Republican leaders running for Congress that they would win again on the issues of terrorism and security. The president has told us that the torture of Islamic prisoners has kept us from terror. Almost weekly, we hear of the terror threat rising again to level orange. Then it subsides, only to go up again when the administration commits another egregious act of incompetence. We are afraid. We are to be kept permanently afraid. And we *can* be kept afraid by disasters vaguely alluded to, disasters predicted, disasters in other countries, disasters allowed to happen, and the manipulation of the imagery of Armageddon. Afraid, we hope that daddy who is in the next room is protecting us.

The Bush/Cheney Administration is

characterized by many as a 'neo-conservative' administration, referring to the numerous figures who studied with the University of Chicago professor, Leo Strauss: Paul Wolfowitz, Abraham Schulsky, William Kristol, Richard Perle, Douglas Feith—the leaders of the New American Century Project, the men who drew up the blueprint for Donald Rumsfeld on how terrorism is to be used by the administration (cf. Seymour Hersh's articles in *The New Yorker*). George Bush may be an incurious man, as Al Gore once said, but he is not stupid. He has surrounded himself and his propaganda machine with brilliant men. They believe not in democracy, but in benevolent autocracy. Since these men craft the message and policy for the Bush/Cheney Administration from inside and outside the executive branch, we need to know their mentor understood fear, and why they are now so set on producing it.

Their mentor, Leo Strauss, was a brilliant teacher who attracted the best and the brightest at the University of Chicago. He did not believe in democracy. As a Jew who had experienced Hitler, he concluded that Hitler arose from democracy gone wrong—that the wrong elites had used democracy to come to power. The goal, as Strauss saw it, is to place the right elites in power, ones who have the interests of the nation in mind. As political scientist Sheila Drury has observed about Strauss,

As far as his politics, it came out of

his experience in Nazi Germany. He saw the world, basically, as made up of groups that are pitted against each other in mutual hatred and animosity. You either destroy your enemy or you're destroyed by your enemy. Political society has to be organized in a way that makes the enemy very paramount, always somehow in view. Only the prevalence of the enemy will keep people united, will keep them together, will keep them strong. So, if you don't have any enemies then you better follow the advice of Machiavelli and invent some.

Leo Strauss's political world is made up of *the wise* who know how to make up the myths—Plato's philosopher kings who know that civil society is created out of violence; *the gentlemen*—Plato's military, who will do what the wise tell them to do if given a "noble lie" that appeals to their sense of honor and glory; and *the selfish, slothful rabble*—who can be brought to rise above their worthlessness and hedonism only by the fear of doom. Strauss also did not believe in any religion. But he did believe that popular religious 'fictions' should be used to organize the stupid masses, and he feared that world government would become tyranny. Hence, perhaps, the religious right's concept of Armageddon, embodied by the United Nations.

Though Strauss saw his teaching as having little or no current political relevance, I believe it his frame through which

Wolfowitz, Schulsky, Kristol, Perle, Feith—the former leaders of the New American Century Project—see the world.

Central to the project of these neo-cons is a belief in the wise leader's construction of the "noble lie" through manipulation of the media, creating a myth that will unify the people and inspire them to greatness. Part of the construction of that lie, as Strauss viewed the matter, resides in the political control of intelligence.

In the case of the present regime, it is the construction of the view that Iraq was a funder of terror; that it had weapons of mass destruction to put in the hands of terrorists to destroy cities and nations in a matter of seconds (as Colin Powell's testimony to the United Nations suggested); that America is under attack from a militant Islam; that this Islam—which may be most of Islam—seeks and has the means to destroy the West; that the great confrontation will lead to the battle of Armageddon and "end time" events; and that we must be afraid every moment or we will be destroyed.

The need to construct and sustain the noble lie explains the weapons of mass destruction story; the outing of CIA agent Valerie Plame; the setting up of Secretary Powell at the UN; the Tim La Haye Armageddon propaganda machine; the confrontation with Iraq; and the discovery of plots

*conclusion on page 11*