



Nebraska Report

There is no Peace without Justice

MAY/JUNE 2003

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 5

S O S — Speak Out at STRATCOM

No New Weapons of Mass Destruction!

by Josh Cramer, Co-convener, with Becca Kaiser,
of the coalition planning the August 1-3 protest in Omaha

“Peace is Our Profession.”

Strategic Command (STRATCOM) Motto

During the first week in August, 2003, Strategic Command (based out of Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska) will be hosting the annual Stockpile Stewardship Conference to discuss what new nuclear weapons to build, how they might be tested, how these weapons might be mated to new delivery systems, and even how the process for granting authority to build small quantities of new nuclear weapons might be changed.

The irony in this meeting is that STRATCOM is “charged with deterring and defending against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction” as part of their mission statement. Not only is this meeting in direct contradiction with the interests of all humanity, it is also in violation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the existing nuclear testing moratorium, STRATCOM’s own stated mission and U.S. compliance with Article VI of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), which was ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1970 and is now binding law in the United States. (http://www.lasg.org/hmpgfrm_b.html).

Midwesterners have the moral obligation to do something about this. The command center guiding the death showers that the U.S. rains down on the world is located in our backyard. The prospect of world destruction grows daily more eminent, given the Bush Administration’s use of the “War on Terrorism” to justify unending war and

its foreign policy precedent of unwarranted, preemptive attack. Human progress is at a crossroads, and we know that the peaceful path is a necessity if we plan on hanging around this planet we call home for much longer. As citizens in this democratic society, we must hold our government to their foreign policy objective of “No New Weapons of Mass Destruction.”

Speaking out during another moment of crisis in our nation, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “A time comes when silence is betrayal. Even when pressed by the demands of inner truth, men do not easily assume the task of opposing their government’s policy, especially in time of war. Nor does the human spirit move without great difficulty against all the apathy of conformity thought within one’s own bosom and in the surrounding world. Moreover, when the issues at hand seem as perplexing as they often do in the case of dreadful conflict, we are always on the verge of being mesmerized by uncertainty. But we must move on.” (New York City, April 4, 1967)

In defiance of international law, our own democratic principles and basic common sense, our government will be actively planning the development and proliferation of new generation of destabilizing nuclear weapons (the so-called “mini-nukes” or “bunker-busters”) during the first week of August, at STRATCOM in Omaha.

Will we be there?

Yes.

A coalition of regional peace activists is deep in the planning process for the **S O S: No New Weapons of Mass Destruction!** event slated for August 1-3. This is shaping up to be a widely publicized international protest.

The current Bush debacle in Iraq is estimated to cost taxpayers at least \$75 billion. Given the current state of education, the widening gap between the rich and the poor and lack of health insurance for over 42 million people, there are plenty of other places for our money to go. The power to change this injustice comes from the people. We must stand together for peace and do what we can to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. When the government fails to deliver, we must take on this responsibility ourselves.

Mr. Bush, your own people stand unified against the science of death and it is time that you listen to us. We will indeed enjoy our First Amendment rights during the first three days of August to send the clear message that the people in this country are about peace.

The elimination of weapons of mass destruction begins at home.

We will be heard in August.

Come to the “Middle” and bring your rights!

For more information on how you can participate in planning email sos2003@bugeaters.net. Also, you may visit sos2003.com or bugeaters.net to engage in discussion about this topic, post additional information, or download information or flyers.

The following websites help clarify the above information:

www.lasg.org/hmpgfrm_b.html
www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO0302/S00220.htm
www.grn.es/electropolucio/omega154.htm
[www.lasg.org/StockpileStewardshipReview\[1\].htm](http://www.lasg.org/StockpileStewardshipReview[1].htm)
www.acronym.org.uk/dd/dd70/70nr06.htm

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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

Sarah Disbrow, Bud Narveson, Byron Peterson, Charlie Flowerday

Typesetting and Layout: Ben Knauss

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. E-mail: nfpstate@aol.com

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.

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STRATCOM & the War on Iraq



by Bud Narveson

Let us begin by quoting the mission statement of STRATCOM, the United States Strategic Command, based at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha and home of the newly-reassigned U.S. Space Command:

“Our Mission: Establish and provide full-spectrum global strike, coordinated space and information operations capabilities to meet both deterrent and decisive national security objectives. Provide operational space support, integrated missile defense, global C4ISR [Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance] and specialized planning expertise to the joint warfighter.” [<http://www.stratcom.af.mil/>]

Quite simply, what this mission statement means is: “Our goal is the militarization of space.”

The U.S. has abandoned all pretext of adherence to past agreements for keeping space free of military weapons. Current plans call not only for use of satellites to direct weaponry, but also in the future to deliver weapons—including nuclear weapons—through space.

The extent to which the former goal has already been realized was seen in the recent war against Iraq, as the excerpted articles quoted below make plain. But as some of the writers also make plain, the warriors who called the shots in the war seem to have given rather less thought to the aftermath.

This first excerpt suggests some of the elements in the military use of space in the Iraq venture. The original article, “Satellites provide vital reconnaissance, communications to war effort” by Michael Woods, appeared in the April 2, 2003 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

[<http://www.post-gazette.com/nation/20030402spacewar0402p4.asp>]

“...Never before has space played such a large role in how a war is conducted, and how it is perceived by people around the world.

At least 50 military satellites support the U.S.-led war effort, providing reconnaissance data; communications links for troops on the ground, ships at sea and aircraft in flight; precise targeting data for cruise missiles and smart bombs; instant warning of Iraqi missile launches; weather forecasting; commercial

and cable TV programming for U.S. forces, and myriad other services.

Another 24 satellites that make up the Global Positioning System have essential roles in the Iraq war, as well, guiding missiles to targets and reporters to stories, along with a variety of commercial communications satellites.

Even the space shuttle has been involved; it might be actively engaged now if it had not been grounded by the Columbia disaster. A February 2000 flight of the shuttle Endeavor scanned Earth’s surface with a radar device, producing a three-dimensional map that is used to select targets in Iraq.

‘From a special operations soldier on horseback navigating by GPS to our global communications

Just nine days before the war began, a new Defense Satellite Communications System was installed in space. It connects ground forces, ships, planes, the Pentagon, the White House, the State Department and what the U.S. Space Command, which has responsibility for the system, describes as ‘special users,’ such as intelligence agencies.

—April 2, 2003 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

architecture providing intelligence and command and control around the world, never again will this nation fight without significant contributions from space,’ Adm. James O. Ellis [Commander in Chief of Stratcom] told the Senate Armed Services Committee a week before the war broke out.

The Pentagon plans to send a lot more hardware into orbit, too. This year will witness one of the largest expansions of space war-fighting capabilities in history, according to Peter B. Teets, undersecretary of the Air Force. At least 12 ‘national security’ launches are scheduled, compared with just one last year. Some may put multiple satellites into orbit.

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During the 1991 Persian Gulf War, just two defense system satellites handled almost 80 percent of military communications. The space command says there are now 11 third-generation defense satellites in geosynchronous orbit 22,230 miles above Earth. Each \$200 million satellite is almost the size of a minivan and weighs 2,716 pounds.

Maj. Gen. Judd Blaisdell, director of space operations for the Air Force, estimated that 33,600 people at 36 sites around the world are involved in space-war activities...

...At least three so-called ‘Keyhole’ satellites take images of surface features on twice-daily sweeps over Iraq—one during the day, one at night.

Each of several ‘Lacrosse’ spy satellites makes a half-dozen sweeps over the country every 24 hours. Their radar sensors can see through heavy cloud cover and sand storms both day and night.

Another satellite brigade eyeballs the Earth’s surface for infrared rays, for heat given off by motor vehicles, people, buildings, missile launches and other things.

One of the satellite launches this year will complete the so-called Milstar system, a network of five advanced military communications satellites.”

The net result of U.S. military success in using space-oriented communications and guidance systems in Iraq is what

technology reporter and analyst Loring Wirbel calls, “The Post-Iraq Space Superiority Complex.” He writes:

“Feeling nostalgic for the mid-1990s days of the U.S. Space Command’s ‘Vision for 2020,’ and its loose talk of dominating the planet? You couldn’t get any more retro than the 19th Annual National Space Symposium in early April at the Broadmoor [in Colorado Springs].

With generals and intelligence officials pontificating to a video backdrop of Saddam Hussein statues toppling in Baghdad, this year’s symposium reached levels of brash triumphalism rarely seen in the last decade.

continued on page 9

A Request to the United Nations (cont.)

Resume the Weapons Inspections

May 19, 2003

The Honorable Kofi Annan
Secretary General, The United Nations

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

We are former intelligence officials who have served many years at senior levels of the U.S. intelligence community. As the role of intelligence on Iraq assumed critical importance over the past several months, we established Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) as a collegial body to monitor the unfolding of events. Our first analytic paper was a same-day commentary on Secretary of State Colin Powell's performance at the UN Security Council on February 5. Six papers on related subjects have now been issued, three of which have taken the form of Memoranda for the President. We have had no response from the White House.

We turn to you now because it has become inescapably clear that the issue of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq remains a most urgent one. We see no viable alternative to renewed UN involvement if this key issue is to be dealt with effectively. This letter is an appeal to you and Security Council members to pursue that objective with a renewed sense of urgency.

As we applied the rigorous evidentiary standards of professional intelligence analysis over recent months, we were inclined to place reports of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq in the "unconfirmed" category. However, the assertions of President George W. Bush and his senior advisers were so categorical—and their assurances so insistent—that it seemed reasonable to assume that they were in possession of more compelling evidence than that which had been made public, and that prudence therefore dictated giving them the benefit of the doubt. In doing so we found ourselves in step with most Americans, including some who are highly experienced in these matters—former UN inspectors David Albright and Jonathan Tucker, for example.

We find it deeply troubling, therefore,

that two months after U.S. and British forces invaded Iraq no weapons of mass destruction have been found. Statements by those close to the Bush administration have served to compound the confusion. On April 10, for example, Defense Policy Board member (and former Deputy U.S. Representative to the UN), Kenneth Adelman, predicted that such weapons would be found "pretty soon, in the next five days." He now concedes that the situation is "very strange," and suggests that Saddam Hussein may have launched "a massive disinformation campaign to make the world think he was violating international norms, and he may not have been."

U.S. Gen. Tommy Franks has said the search for weapons of mass destruction may take a year. We assume that the international community will find this unacceptable.

It became painfully obvious in the weeks following the invasion of Iraq that the U.S. did not know the location of any weapons of mass destruction. Nor, at the outset, was the U.S. able to pinpoint and take into custody those Iraqis who do know. This has now changed. A former chief UN inspector for weapons in Iraq noted last week that the U.S. now has in custody four top Iraqi officials who "know exactly what the facts are," adding, "We need to know what they are saying."

Intelligence analysts rarely confess to being perplexed. We confess. We are perplexed at the U.S. refusal to permit the return of UN inspectors to Iraq.

From an intelligence point of view, Washington's decision to bar the very people with the international mandate, the unique experience, and the credibility to undertake a serious search for weapons of mass destruction defies logic. UN inspectors know Iraq, know the weaponry in question, know the Iraqi scientists/engineers who have been involved, know how the necessary materials are procured and processed; in short, they have precisely the expertise required. Barton Gellman's detailed account of the abortive two-month search by U.S. forces in Iraq ("Odyssey of

Frustration," in yesterday's *Washington Post*) should remove any lingering doubt that the U.S. needs all the help it can get. We are particularly troubled by reports of looting and thefts at Iraqi nuclear facilities.

UN prerogatives regarding weapons of mass destruction in Iraq offer a way out of this mire. Security Council resolutions requiring that UN inspectors certify that Iraq is free of such weapons before economic sanctions can be lifted can continue to play an important role. Indeed, it would be folly to attempt to resume normal economic activity while weapons of mass destruction remain unaccounted for. Just last week the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers, warned that such weapons may still be in the hands of Iraqi "special units."

The draft Security Council resolution being promoted by the U.S., however, makes no reference to the mandated UN role in weapons certification. Thus, at the Security Council deliberations this week, the stakes—for the UN, for the spread of weapons of mass destruction, for the international community as a whole, and for the Middle East in particular—could not be higher.

It is understandable that you and other senior UN officials are unwilling to take at face value the intelligence reporting offered by the U.S. on Iraq, particularly since the detailed assertions by Secretary Powell on February 5, by and large, have not withstood close scrutiny. Particularly distressing to us as intelligence professionals has been the revelation that some of the most important evidence cited by Secretary Powell, and by the president himself, was based on forged documents.

You will agree, certainly, that this is a starkly different state of affairs than that which obtained during the Cuban missile crisis 41 years ago. Then war was averted through peaceful means partly because of widespread trust in the integrity of U.S. intelligence collection and analysis. Trust is a fragile commodity. The success of diplomacy leans heavily on it. If trust is squandered, all suffer.

Today, as veteran intelligence officials, we cannot stand by in silence as U.S. credibility is in danger of being frittered away. This will be the inevitable result if previous U.S. government assertions based on "solid intelligence" concerning the existence of serviceable weapons of mass destruction in Iraq remain without credible substantiation.

Only the return of UN inspectors to Iraq can determine on behalf of the entire international community the credibility of the intelligence upon which the U.S./UK invasion of Iraq was based. Accordingly, we strongly encourage you to continue working toward that end. The restoration of an internationally sanctioned inspection and verification regime would be a giant step toward resolving lingering ambiguities. Equally important, it would ensure a stable foundation for the security of the next government in Iraq.

We have found it somewhat awkward to write you in this vein, but the urgency of the situation leaves us no alternative. We take no joy in sharing our confusion over our government's policies.

We appreciate your efforts and those of other member states to carry out the UN's mandate on Iraq and to assert UN prerogatives. The long-term credibility and role of the UN will be strengthened as you redouble your efforts to meet this formidable challenge.

We shall fax copies of this letter to the current members of the Security Council, including the U.S. delegation.

Respectfully yours,

Kathleen McGrath Christison, Santa Fe, NM
William Christison, Santa Fe, NM
David MacMichael, Linden, VA
Raymond McGovern, Arlington, VA
Steering Group
Veteran Intelligence Professionals
for Sanity

Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) is a coast-to-coast enterprise; mostly intelligence officers from the analysis side of the CIA. Ray McGovern (rmcgovern@slschool.org) worked as a CIA analyst for 27 years.

Shoshana's eyes

by Wopashitwe Mondo
Eyen we Langa

i saw her trembling on the evening news
the sister in the u.s. army uniform
whose eyes seemed so unknowing
and so scared
maybe she'd figured
it was safe to be a cook
after all, it is pots and serving spoons
not rifles and grenades
that are the tools of her military trade
but even army cooks are trained to shoot
and the bullets that they fire can kill
just like anybody else's bullets
and the Iraqis are out-gunned, not stupid
lead is lead, they know
and dead is dead

whatever the job description of the
shooter
but the woman is a SISTER, like I said
so I'm feeling for her in my heart
but in my head, I'm asking why
she thought it was all right for her to die
in someone else's sovereign land
for a government she ought to
understand
is using her like a cook uses oil to fry
as it orders sacrificial lambs to do its
dirty work
as hounds of war with wolfish teeth
to bring to life its dreams
of imperial reality
shouldn't she know better
and shouldn't we

how many times must this sordid history
repeat itself
this ludicrous and hideous shame
of us who are the progeny
of the enslaved and branded
the abused and denied
toting guns against those who
have wronged us none
for these who are
the power-hungry, lying, hypocritical
sons
of the masters of our bondage
how many more of our deaths will it take
for us to find the breath to awake
from self-abusive, cowardly sleep
the power in our voice to say "no."

*Specialist Shoshana Johnson, who
suffered gunshot wounds to both feet,
was taken prisoner of war by the Iraqi
Army on March 23, 2003.*

Three Nuns Convicted in Nuclear Protest

by Charlie Flowerday

Three nuns who broke into a Minuteman missile facility in northeast Colorado, hammering and pouring their own blood on its tracks in an act of nonviolent resistance, were released on their own recognizance April 30. They were protesting the first-strike nuclear capabilities of the United States and President George W. Bush's threat to use nuclear weapons against Iraq if it used weapons of mass destruction against invading U.S. troops.

Their charges were more extreme than the vast majority stemming from the 80-some actions of resistance in the long and storied history of the Plowshares disarmament movement, which takes its name and inspiration from the biblical injunction to beat swords into plowshares. They believe the recommendation of an eight-year sentence smacked of politics and example-making, not justice, they said.

"It was a political trial. Our entire legal defense was stripped from us," said Ardeth Platte. They had based their defense on both international law, which prohibits first-strike nuclear weapons, and the U.S. Constitution, which incorporates international law, she added. They had argued that international law protects those who act against a government with murderous intent, represented by first-strike nuclear capability.

U.S. District Judge Robert Blackburn barred the jury from hearing international law and any Nuremberg defense, named after the trials of Nazi leadership following World War II in Nuremberg, Germany, which said that those compelled to participate in atrocities have a duty to defy the law.

They had been refusing release from Clear Creek County jail in Georgetown, Colorado, for seven months because they could not commit to the government's demand they engage in no more protests while free on bond. But in view of the prosecution's request for a minimum eight-year sentence, the Dominican sisters, Platte, 66, and Carol Gilbert, 55, of Baltimore, and Jackie Hudson, 68, of Bremerton, Washington, decided they needed to set various personal and spiritual affairs in order before returning for their sentencing hearing July 25.

The nuns will use the time to say goodbye to loved ones who are ill or ailing, to divest of belongings that will be given to the poor, to take care of medical needs and to thank those who have supported them.

"Eight years (imprisonment) will take deep spiritual strength. Eight years means



Srs. Ardeth Platte, Carol Gilbert and Jackie Hudson entering the Minuteman missile site to protest the U.S.'s threat to use nuclear weapons in Iraq.

that a number of friends and family will die before we get out," Platte said. Hudson has said that eight years in prison could well be a death sentence for her.

The three were found guilty April 7 in Denver of injury/interference/obstruction of the national defense and injury of property of the United States. The first charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and \$250,000 fine, the second a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. They were also charged with, but not convicted of, sabotage and felony depredation of public property. "We believe we were overcharged. A colonel and lieutenant colonel even testified that we did not engage in sabotage. Even the depredation charge was severe," said Gilbert.

During the action of October 6, 2002, they cut through a security chain to enter the missile silo and hammered on the tracks that move the lid of the silo to its firing position. They then painted crosses on the building with their own blood and poured it on the tracks. Besides protesting the president's threats to use weapons of mass destruction to stop them, they sought to spotlight the 49 nuclear missiles in Colorado, each carrying a warhead with 25 times the explosive force of the first nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

John Suthers, U.S. attorney for Colorado, a Catholic and Notre Dame graduate, publicly celebrated the nuns' conviction and urged that there be no sympathy for them. Even so, while incarcerated in the Clear Creek County jail in Georgetown, they received thousands of letters from supporters all over the world. Just as they performed their actions as a form of liturgy, they

offer their lives in jail and outside as examples of what the world can be, Platte explained.

As part of the Jonah House community in Baltimore, Platte and Gilbert live very simply, run a kitchen for the poor and educate about disarmament, the sacred nature of creation and our responsibility to the poor. Hudson has followed a similar path as a member of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Poulsbo, Washington.

Those who would like to help the nuns should send letters in support of their character and judgment to Judge Blackburn in care of: Susan Heckman; Senior Probation Officer; 1961 Stout St., Suite 525; Denver, CO 80294-0101; or fax: 303-844-5439.

Inspired by nonviolent resistance to the Vietnam War and the arms race by Phillip and Daniel Berrigan and others, the Plowshares movement began with the Plowshares Eight. On September 9, 1980, Daniel Berrigan, Jesuit priest, author and poet from New York City, Philip Berrigan, former Josephite priest and co-founder of Jonah House in Baltimore, and six others entered the General Electric Nuclear Missile Division in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, where nose cones for the Mark 12A warheads were made. They hammered on two nose cones, poured blood on documents and offered prayers for peace. Originally convicted by a jury of burglary, conspiracy and criminal mischief and sentenced to prison terms of five to 10 years, after 10 years of prison and appeals, they were resentenced and paroled for up to 23 and a half months for time served in prison.

Civil Liberties Lessons Learned

(from the War on Iraq)

by Amy Miller, Legal Director
ACLU Nebraska

President Bush's decision to wage war in Iraq has had many repercussions locally as individuals chose to speak out about their feelings, demonstrate, picket and protest. Many people, aware of our mission to promote justice and human rights, have asked ACLU Nebraska about our position on the war. The response has surprised some: the ACLU has no position on the issue of war in Iraq at all. The American Civil Liberties Union is a non-partisan organization, solely formed to protect and promote civil liberties—the rights that come to us from the Constitution and the Bill of Rights—and as a result, we are solely concerned with domestic issues. Our organization does not take any position on international affairs because it is simply outside the scope of our mission and non-partisan status.

However, that doesn't mean ACLU Nebraska has been idle or standing on the sidelines. We have been active in many ways despite our official silence on the propriety of the war. War has historically created activists out of people who otherwise were unlikely to take to the streets on an issue—this war was no different. There has been a well-organized anti-war effort in both Omaha and Lincoln. These activists have used their First Amendment right to free speech and expressed their opposition to the war. The polls show that peace activists are the minority voice on this issue, however, they have run into obstacles and people seeking to squelch their constitutional right to speak out. This is one of the prime areas ACLU Nebraska is able to assist, as protection of the right to assemble, the right to demonstrate, and the right to communicate has always been one of our priorities. Here are some examples of how we've been able to help:

- Anti-war activists wanted to hand out leaflets about the "Virtual March on Washington" at the post office, but were ordered off the property. We successfully negotiated with the post office to guarantee the right to leaflet outside any Nebraska post office.
- Coalition for Peace wanted to hold a peace rally in a Lincoln Park but at the eleventh hour were told their permit would not allow tables and chairs to be set up. ACLU Executive Director

accompanied the permit holder to a meeting with the Parks Department, where they were successful in obtaining the correct permit with both the application fee and the \$1,000,000 liability insurance requirement waived.

- Assisted the Act to Stop War Coalition in Omaha in discussions with the city law department on the issue of a demonstration in response to the start of the war.
- ACLU Legal Observers—trained neutral witnesses—have been provided to Omaha and Lincoln rallies and protests in order to discourage any incidents with police or counter-protesters and to record any problems.
- Investigation of allegations of police brutality and wrongful arrests following an Omaha rally is ongoing.
- Advice and counseling regarding First Amendment law has been provided to individual activists as well as organized groups.

In addition to these efforts on behalf of activists and protestors, we are also continuing our program of public education and outreach to minority groups targeted for investigation by the FBI, the INS, and the Office of Homeland Security. We have brochures entitled "Know Your Rights: What to Do If You're Stopped by the Police, the FBI, the INS, or the Customs Service." These informational brochures are available in various languages, including Arabic and Spanish. We've worked to get the word out to immigrant communities and to immigration attorneys that ACLU Nebraska is available as a resource willing to attend or prevent FBI interviews.

Ashcroft and the Bush Administration have used a time of crisis and war to attack all of our civil liberties, and so we have continued our work to roll back their assault on the Constitution. The national ACLU has brought several class action lawsuits across the country in order to challenge provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act. We continue to educate and lobby senators to urge them to stem the tide of un-American legislation pouring from the White House. While the government is waging its "War on Terrorism," it will try to use fear and "patriotism" to persuade us to give up fundamental rights, and the ACLU is working to ensure that doesn't happen.

ACLU Nebraska has also been conducting public education and outreach on the USA PATRIOT Act, a draconian law passed in the wake of September 11. The Act severely limits rights in the areas of association, privacy, searches and arrests, and expanded the ability of the FBI, the CIA and others to conduct domestic spying on nonviolent political groups.

If you have an interest in our work, or a desire to obtain more information about any of these issues, feel free to contact us at 402-476-8091 or www.aclunebraska.org.

A BASIC PRIMER FOR ACTIVISTS:

In this time of war, what are your rights to express your personal or political sentiment? Below are the answers to the most common questions that ACLU Nebraska has received since the possibility of war became apparent.

Can I protest, leaflet or picket on public property?

Depends on the property. If you're on a public sidewalk or in a public park, you're almost definitely allowed to be there, because the Supreme Court has said "sidewalks and parks... have immemorially been held in trust for the use of the public" and are considered a public forum for free speech. Other public property, like the courthouse or government buildings, may be off-limits for protesting inside, though peaceful and quiet activity like handing out leaflets OUTSIDE is probably always protected. The government can't discriminate between different types of speech, though—if they are allowing one group to assemble and demonstrate then they have to allow everybody.

We want to have a protest at the park—why do we need a permit if it's our right under the First Amendment?

The law allows the government to make neutral rules that apply to everyone which control the "time, place, and manner" of your free speech right. If you want to hold a parade or rally, you can do so—but for a larger crowd the government has legitimate safety, traffic, and planning concerns so they can require you to get a permit ahead of time. They can't deny the permit just because they don't like your cause, and they can't charge excessive fees, though.

I was told I couldn't hand out flyers at the post office—is that true?

No! You can hand out flyers, picket, or carry signs anywhere OUTSIDE the post office, as long as you're not blocking the entryway or making a noisy disruption. Don't try to engage in free speech inside—that's not allowed, and don't try to gather petition signatures or collect donations inside or outside, since regulations still prohibit that activity. Standing or sitting outside the post office with a sign or handing out free literature is definitely allowed, though.

What about holding a sign with obscenities on it or shouting curse words?

Yes, it's completely legal. The First Amendment protects all speech, including offensive language, and the government cannot prevent you from using even the "F" word in writing or speech. Deliberate harassment or intimidation of particular individuals is not generally protected by the First Amendment and may be illegal under local laws, but it is not illegal to offend people by simply expressing a political message such as "F*** the war."

Can I go to the shopping mall and put leaflets on cars or hand them out?

Not without permission of the property owner. The First Amendment protection of free speech only protects you from the government—a private property owner still has the right to control his or her property, and if they don't want you there, they can make you leave. Some states do allow protest activities on private property, but Nebraska doesn't yet have a law like that.

I was handing out flyers in a legal way, but I was ordered to leave anyway. What should I do?

If you have quietly and politely explained you have a right to be there but the government official or police officer doesn't agree, the best idea is to retreat for now and get help from us rather than risk arrest. Get as much information as you can about the person who told you to leave (name, title, badge or identification number), and immediately record your impressions of the encounter in writing. (Where were you standing? Who approached you? What did they say, exactly?) Then contact the ACLU for help. It's better to peacefully retreat, even if you're right, because then you don't have the additional headache of a criminal ticket or being held in jail before a bond is set.

MARCH FOR JUSTICE TO WHITECLAY

In memory of Wilson "Wally" Black Elk Jr., Ron Hard Heart and all of our relatives who we cannot forget and for whom we must seek justice.

Saturday June 7, 2003

SCHEDULE

12:00 noon

Assemble 1 mile south of Whiteclay on Highway 87

1:00 p.m.

March begins towards Whiteclay (transportation will be provided for those who need it)

2:00 p.m.

Rally on the street in Whiteclay featuring Indian & Christian spiritual leaders

3:00 p.m.

Walk to Camp Justice just over the Pine Ridge Reservation border for prayers, honorings and guest speakers

5:00 p.m.

Meal at Camp Justice

Camp Justice and The March for Justice are honored to invite all tribal members and children, Spiritual Leaders, Headsmen, Tokalas, Grass Roots Oyate, Veterans, Tribal Government, American Indian Movement, Leonard Peltier Defense, Offense Committee, drummers and singers, Nebraskans for Peace, and other Human & Civil Rights, Religious and Social organizations, to come join in

A day of prayer, a day of honor, a day of solidarity, a day of unity, a day of relatives.

For more information contact: Tom Poor Bear 605-462-6662, March for Justice Coordinator

Scenes from the Street in Whiteclay



LB 775 “Gorilla” Theater...

Legislature Chooses Big Business over Children

As the 2003 Session wound down and the debate over the state budget heated up, the 775-pound gorilla in the state budget crisis made a return visit to the State Capitol to ensure that, whatever else the Legislature chose to cut, LB 775 was spared. Rubbing shoulders with all the other Big Business lobbyists, the LB 775 Gorilla cheered the senators on as they again made deep cuts in programs for children, but protected the corporate welfare program from the budget knife for the fourth straight session. Printed below—in his own words—is the statement the gorilla delivered at the May 13 news conference in the Capitol Rotunda. This television event was sponsored and orchestrated by **B.M.O.C. (Big Business • Mows • Over • Children)**, a promotional concern dedicated wholly to putting “Profit BEFORE people—especially the ‘little’ ones.”

I think I speak for all of Big Business when I say I don’t care how much the Legislature has to cut children...K-12 education... the University and higher ed... and state employees and public services—**JUST DON’T CUT LB 775!**

Leave our corporate welfare program alone!

Although it’s true that LB 775 will cost Nebraska taxpayers \$250 million—a quarter of a billion dollars!—over the next

two years (and that, in and of itself, could just about close the budget gap), our message to the senators today is:

Keep your hands off our money!

Admittedly, these are tough times to be a politician. It seems that no matter what decision you make, somebody is going to be unhappy. Somebody’s going to be hurt.

But if it comes down to a choice between, say, children and Big Business... Make the sensible choice. Choose Big Business.

Children? Oh, they’re nice and all...

But children don’t create wealth.

They don’t own businesses.

They don’t buy and trade stock. Since the federal government abolished Child Labor, they can’t even hold jobs.

They’ve got no earning power, whatsoever. Economically, they’re black holes.

All they do is consume, consume, consume. Until they’re old enough to start delivering pizzas, they’re a net loss from an investment perspective.

Big Business, on the other hand—we make profit. We take our LB 775 tax credits and then downsize our workforce—like Goodyear in Lincoln is doing—to move jobs to a cheaper labor markets in Mexico... All to boost our profitability.

And our state meatpacking industry, we’ve got a profitable little set-up going



The LB 775 Gorilla was accompanied by his corporate handler at the May 13 news conference in the State Capitol Rotunda. Despite the gorilla’s greater size, note the uncanny resemblance—the gestures, the piercing glare, even the physical characteristics like facial hair—between these two primates, both of who adhere to the “law of the jungle” and espouse “survival of the fittest.”

there as well. We ship a steady stream of undocumented workers in from Mexico and Central America, turn them over and dump them out within the year, while racking up our LB 775 benefits for “creating new jobs.”

And when companies like LB 775 beneficiary WorldCom aren’t cooking the books to show even bigger profits—we’re using our tax credits, like Gallup just did, to move our corporate headquarters from Lincoln to Omaha—in effect taking from Peter and paying Paul.

There’s no denying it. The pursuit of profitability can be a twisting and turning path.

But it’s a path we’re prepared to take.

I know it’s hard, Senators. And every one of us in Big Business feels for what you’re going through. (We ought to know; we’ve laid off enough people and broken up more than our share of families.)

But that’s why I’m here today. To cheer you on and give you some moral support, while you vote to cut everybody but us: Big Business.

Let’s not kid ourselves. Looking in their sad and forlorn little faces, seeing them lose their health care, or trying to learn when they’re in an overcrowded classroom competing with 35 other kids, it can just about break your heart...

SO DON’T LOOK AT THEM.

Forget the kids.

They’re unprofitable.

The thing you want to keep in your mind while you’re voting is:

Leave No Millionaire Behind.

We’re the ones with the money. We’re the engine that drives the political process. And to help grease the way for you, I just happen to have a briefcase full of it right here, and a box of cigars to boot.

So there will be bonuses and cigars for everybody who continues to protect our tax giveaways for an *unprecedented fourth legislative session*.

We can almost see the final scorecard already:

Big Business 4, Children 0.

To conclude, I’d just like to perform a little cheer me and the guys put together on your behalf. But *first* I want to pass out a business card we had specially printed up for today’s budget vote. (Be sure and check the ‘brain teaser’ on the back!)

The Capitol Security folks don’t like banners and signs, but *business cards*, hey, that’s the currency of choice here in the Rotunda. Am I right?

Now for the cheer:

Ready? Okay.

Cut those kids.

Cut those schools.

But SAVE, SAVE, SAVE

and SUBSIDIZE

Biiiiiiiiig Business

and 7-7-5!

Leave No Millionaire Behind

Protect LB 775 from the Budget Knife

**Paid for by the B.M.O.C. Committee
(Big Business • Mows • Over • Children)**

Brain Teaser

Isn’t it interesting that the very businesses that are always championing private enterprise, touting free market economics and bashing “Big Government,” are now claiming they couldn’t possibly make it if their public assistance were cut. But children, K-12 education, the University and higher ed, state employees and the working poor are all being expected to.

State's Anti-Gay Family Law Challenged in Court

by Michael Gordon, Executive Director
Citizens for Equal Protection

Citizens for Equal Protection (CFEP) has partnered with the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project and Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund to challenge Nebraska's constitutional amendment that prohibits any type of same-sex relationship recognition.

Pointing out that the amendment blocks gay people from advocating for even the most basic protections for their families, Lambda Legal and the ACLU filed suit in U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska on April 30, 2003, demanding that the law be struck down because it denies lesbians and gay men basic citizenship rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

"This is by far the most extreme anti-gay law in the country," said David Buckel from Lambda Legal. "This law prevents gay couples from seeking even the most basic protections for their families—it blocks them out of the political process entirely."

Section 29 of the Nebraska State Constitution (Initiative 416) was passed by the voters in November 2000 after it was widely promoted as a ban on same-sex marriage. Unlike other states' so-called "defense of marriage" laws, Section 29 goes far beyond restricting the right to marry to heterosexual couples. The law specifically prohibits recognizing the uniting of two persons of the same sex in a "civil union, domestic partnership, or other similar same-sex relationship."

"States and voters can—and should—have broad discretion to pass laws, but there are some limitations

that are spelled out in our nation's Constitution," said Tamara Lange of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "The U.S. Constitution and courts have been clear that it's unconstitutional for a state to have a law with no basis other than expressing disapproval toward gay people and blocking gay people out of the political process."

The law relegates gay people to second class citizens in a particularly restrictive way, effectively prohibiting Nebraskans in same-sex relationships from even asking their representatives for the right to decide where to bury their lifelong partners, for bereavement leave, for the right to hospital visitation, or for emergency leave if their partners become ill.

The lawsuit, in which CFEP is a plaintiff along with Nebraska Advocates for Justice and Equality and ACLU Nebraska, charges that the state law violates the U.S. Constitution.

A number of CFEP members are highlighted in the litigation and helped educate the public about the harmful effects of the law by participating in a press conference on the day of the filing. Judy Gibson and Barbara DiBernard of Lincoln have been living together as a couple for over 14 years and have made commitments to care for one another for the rest of their lives. Judy suffers from a degenerative disease that requires her to use a wheelchair. Because of Section 29, Barbara, who works for the University, does not have the option of obtaining coverage for Judy on her university health plan. The law also

prevents Barbara from advocating for a policy that would let her take time off from work to take Judy to her regular medical appointments.

Donna Colley and CFEP board member Margaux Town-Colley were also featured at the press conference. Donna and Margaux have been in a committed, loving relationship for over six years and are the proud parents of an 18-month-old son. With a child's needs to consider, Donna and Margaux are especially concerned about what would happen if either of them dies or becomes incapacitated. The law makes it impossible for the couple to seek legislation that would allow them to designate each other as responsible for making emergency medical or funeral decisions.

Beyond its terrible effect on families, Section 29 has had a huge negative impact on business as well. Business leaders across the state have spoken out about how the law has hurt the state's image and economy. To stay competitive, more business and government employees are providing health insurance and benefits to lesbian and gay employees' same-sex partners. In the coming months, CFEP will be presenting a new series of 'road shows' about organizing for domestic partner benefits in the workplace. In late February, James Clifton of the Gallup Corporation said that Section 29 has hurt the state's economic prospects and "made ourselves a joke." More than 150 local governments and more than 5,000 companies nationwide recognize same-sex couples.

STRATCOM, continued

In the exploitation of near-Earth space, this holds far more import than merely the risk of repeating the Iraq invasion again and again in new venues. The new space superiority includes some very explicit decisions by Air Force Space Command to look at new generations of strategic ballistic missiles, including missiles that include nuclear and conventional weapons.

It includes an effort by the Northern Command to adopt some of the intelligence tools designed on behalf of space-based intelligence. And it involves multiple generations of new snooping and communication satellites, this time fielded jointly by the National Reconnaissance Office, Defense Department and NASA.

Somehow, 'over the top' seemed like the understatement of the year for the post-Iraq Space Symposium 2003."

The military propaganda machine is at work preparing us for further billions of dollars of what is euphemistically called "defense" spending. Consider some of the further details in the following article:

"Local satellite controllers help orchestrate Iraqi war" by Pam Zubeck in the *Colorado Springs Gazette*.
[<http://www.gazette.com/display.php?sid=276782>]

"...More powerful and sophisticated satellites are on the horizon to better detect missile launches and resist

jamming of GPS signals, James [Col. Larry James, the 50th Space Wing commander for Air Force Space Command at Schriever Air Force Base] said.

A new generation is overdue, [Air Force Secretary James] Roche said, who noted some systems date to the 1960s, and most of the GPS system has been used twice as long as it was designed to be used.

The military wants to be able to launch spacecraft on demand rather than on schedule.

That would mean it could deliver weapons during a conflict via space, said Mike Kucharek, Air Force Space Command's deputy media chief.

All the technical advancements and training programs will cost billions of dollars, and no one is certain what will get funded, especially because of the war's cost.

The outcome?

From the military perspective, space-traveling missiles and space-based, real-time targeting will make the battleground even safer.

'All of that,' James said, 'leads to a very effective military, which will reduce loss of life.'"

By which James no doubt means reduced loss of American life—not loss of life of opposing forces, which, in the euphemistic language of the Iraq venture, were

"degraded" by appallingly destructive bombs so powerful that the blasts popped eyes and eardrums for hundreds of yards around.

In another article, Loring Wirbel, who also serves on the board of the Colorado Springs-based "Citizens for Peace in Space," states:

"The icing on the cake is provided by Air Force Space Command, in its 'Operationally Responsive Spacelift' campaign. The idea behind ORS is to find ways to take war to space quickly. The NRO helped pay for the Evolved Expandable Launch Vehicle program, in which the Delta-4 and Titan-5 can lift satellites to space quickly. The military also has a space-plane on the long-term drawing board.

The military is being so ambitious this year precisely because it can. In the aftermath of the Iraq War, the Pentagon now is confident it owns the world, and brooks no competition. The unspoken slogan for this year's Space Symposium could have been, 'This is what empire looks like.'"

In essence, then, the ability of the U.S. military—from its base of operations in Stratcom—to wage both

conclusion on page 11

More than one billion people on the planet live in poverty. Each day in the developing world, 29,000 children die, mostly from malnutrition and preventable disease.

The power to end hunger **RESULTS**

by Rev. Michelle Reed & Anne Whitney, UNL Lecturer

Last June as I sat in a Senate Office Building dining room, Marian Wright Edelman, creator of the Children's Defense Fund, told me that I have work to do. RESULTS partners from around the country were preparing to lobby their senators and representatives about the importance of ending poverty, hunger and disease around the globe. What especially moved me was to hear this inspiring woman tell me that my vision to end world hunger can be accomplished in MY generation. To think that by the time my grandchildren are coming of age, that hunger would no longer be a threat anywhere in the world motivated me to speak passionately later that day with aides for Senator Chuck Hagel and Representative Doug Bereuter.

My journey to Washington D.C. began in October of 2001 as I sat in a meeting with a group of people who had been called together to hear about the devastating effects of poverty worldwide. It was an also an introduction to a non-profit, international grassroots citizens advocacy organization called RESULTS. Our goal is in response to a 1976 report by the National Academy of Sciences, which reported that we possess all of the resources, structures and technology to end hunger in a single generation, but that the political will to make it a priority is missing. Our goal is to create that political will. After the meeting, I agreed to be a partner in RESULTS because I am convinced that we are making a difference.

In its 20 year history, RESULTS has had an impact on legislation surrounding hunger and poverty issues through empowering ordinary people to speak to their elected representatives and local communities on measures targeted by the organization. Its innovative technique for grassroots organizing is as simple as a national conference call once a month that brings key experts and volunteers together. As volunteers learn to use the media to build public awareness, write letters to the editor and to their members of Congress, they focus on a limited number of issues crucial to altering circumstances that keep poverty in place.

Here in Lincoln, we have what is called a "Global Group," which means that we are

focused on issues of poverty in mostly developing countries. Nebraska's Senator Hagel sits on the Foreign Relations Committee as Chair of the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion and as the Chair of the Subcommittee on International Trade and Finance, and therefore is a key player in our work. Rep. Bereuter sits on the Committee on International Relations and is also an important ally. Although we have not met face to face with either representative, both Bereuter and Hagel have records of supporting our goal.

For instance, both Bereuter and Hagel were supportive of last year's legislation for microenterprise, a system of credit developed to assist the desperately poor. Very poor people are usually the first to be forgotten and the last to receive help. Their lives are fraught with the stress and difficulties of poverty—which often means they suffer from poor health, a lack of education, and little or no employment and income. If we could reach the world's very poor people with credit and other financial services, we could transform the lives of the over 100 million children in the world who are not in school.

On April 25, the House International Relations Committee passed H.R.4073, a bill containing critical and effective provisions to ensure that we reach the very poor. H.R.4073, if passed by Congress, would fund microenterprise for the next two years at levels of \$175 million and \$200 million, mandate that half of this funding be spent on programs where 50 percent or more of clients are initially "very poor," require that poverty measurement tools be used to identify the very poor and provide for transparency issues.

"I am very proud that can afford something like this store, even though I am a woman." Violet Mutoto, a Ugandan borrower with the Freedom From Hunger program, lives in a poor village on the outskirts of a large town. Violet's husband passed away and she now lives with her four children in an 8'x10' room, adjacent to a smaller room that houses her store. The building is made of mud, with dirt floors and a corrugated tin roof. There is no plumbing and the family shares a latrine not far from the house. Violet is her family's sole breadwinner. She used her first loan of

\$43 to rent the house/store and buy supplies. After repaying that, she used her second loan to expand her store's stock. Now that she sells cooking oil, cassava flour, salt, cheese, biscuits, sugar, malaria pills, and condoms, she is having no trouble repaying her third loan. Her \$5-\$10 in daily profits buys food and school supplies for her children. She can now afford to send her older children to secondary school. She has saved almost \$100, set aside in case of emergency..

Microcredit is an economically sustainable method of fighting poverty. In developing countries, the rate of repayment of well-established microenterprise programs ranges from 95 to 99 percent. Repayment rates are high because, through a system of peer support and pressure used in many microcredit models, borrowers are responsible for each other's success and ensure that every member of their group is

retroviral treatment for AIDS in Africa by six-fold. Despite this immense progress to date, without significant new resources very soon, the Global Fund will not have the money to award a third round of grants later this year. Although President Bush signed off on the bill, his original budget called to cut the U.S. contribution to this fund to \$200 million. I like to think that our work in RESULTS is why this bill came to be so important and was overwhelmingly accepted.

At our latest group meeting of RESULTS, one of our partners reminded us that hunger and poverty are the real weapons of mass destruction. We are committed to easing the plight of the world's poor. Not only do we believe that health and well-being are the birthright of all human beings, but we also understand that our own country's security and the future of our children here in America depends on

"Hunger and poverty are the real weapons of mass destruction."

***— Rev. Doyle Burbank-Williams,
Calvary United Methodist Church in Lincoln***

able to pay back her loans. In our chapter of RESULTS, we are proud that Doug Bereuter is a supporter of microenterprise as a means of poverty relief.

The second issue that our Lincoln chapter is focused on has been in the news recently. On May 1, HR 1298 was passed in the House providing up to \$1 billion for the Global Fund to Fight TB, AIDS and malaria. The Global Fund is a critical new public-private mechanism that is playing a key role in the global effort to combat AIDS, TB and malaria. It provides desperately needed resources so that programs providing prevention and treatment in affected areas can scale up their life-saving work. The Global Fund is transparent, results-oriented, and technically rigorous, and has already approved grants that will treat 2 million people for TB, expand treatment in Africa for drug-resistant malaria from 15,000 to 4 million people and scale up existing anti-

others being physically healthy and economically viable. All peoples in the world are inseparably linked; their welfare is our welfare. Disease knows no borders. War and other human-generated crises will continue to plague the world until we can ensure that every person's basic needs are met. We believe this is an achievable goal. As Margaret Mead and others have observed, the only way things have ever changed is through the action of a small group of committed citizens. We are that group, and we are out to change the world.

RESULTS partners in Lincoln: Rev. Michelle Reed, Chapter Coordinator; Lou Gaddis; Rev. Melissa Draper-Finlaw; Sondra Atkins; Rev. Doyle Burbank-Williams; Rev. Dennis Hanneman; Rev. Steve Griffith; Rev. Lauren Ekdahl; Anne Whitney. For information about meetings or to contact the group, call 402-423-6127.

Prairie Peace Park

10th Season Celebration June 14

June 14 will be a big day at the Prairie Peace Park. Hundreds of people will help to make the 10th Season Celebration the biggest event ever held at the park. It's a great time to see the park's many new displays, or to visit for the first time. The event is scheduled to last from 9 AM till 9 PM and tickets will be \$5 at the gate and \$3 in advance. NFP and many other peace organizations will have representatives at the event. There will be many activities for children at the celebration and children 12 and under will be admitted free. Fun food and drink will be available.

FEATURED EVENTS UNDER THE BIG TENT

Featured performers on the main stage under the big tent will include **Larry Long**, who has traveled the country for 30 years composing and singing songs which celebrate working people and their lives. Long has worked extensively with Pete Seeger and has been called "A true American Troubadour" by Studs Terkel. His newest CD has peace songs for children and has been sent to every grade school in the USA... over 100,000 CDs! Mr. Long is very concerned about current US policies relating to terrorism and some of his songs express this concern in a very intense way.

A famous American General will visit the Peace Park for the first time. **General Ulysses S. Grant**, (as portrayed by Thomas N. King) will speak of his experiences and answer questions from the audience.

Another man from America's past will also appear on the stage. **Pat Gass**, who was the **Carpenter of the Lewis and Clark Expedition** is always a favorite with children. He will speak and bring many things to the stage to illustrate his experiences, including his beloved Newfoundland dog. (Mr. Cass will be portrayed by Dale Clark) Both Mr. King and Mr. Clark are sponsored by the Nebraska Council for the Humanities)

Well known peace activist **Doug Paterson** will be on the main stage during the celebration. Dr. Paterson is Professor of Theatre at UNO and has lead interactive theatre performance workshops in many oppressed countries, recently including Iraq. In 2001 Doug worked in Israel for 3 weeks with Israeli Arabs and Jews, producing scenarios for presentation at a festival.

MAYOR SENG JOINS PEACE LEADERS IN GIVING TALKS

There will be brief talks by leaders of peace groups from Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Iowa and South Dakota, and panel discussions with them. There will also be appearances by local officials, including new Lincoln Mayor Coleen Seng, Council Member Terry Werner and Paul Olson, representing the Center for Rural Affairs. Time schedules for these sessions will be posted on the park's website: www.peacepark.us.

MULTIPLE STAGES FOR SPEAKERS AND PERFORMERS

There will be performances of many kinds. Enjoy dramatic performances, poets, comedians, folk singers and folk groups including some who sing wonderful original songs. You can hear music all the way from renaissance styles to highland bagpipe music. At the celebration, there will be lots of performances with children in mind and many special activities for children as well. For everyone there will be wide variety of things to see and hear. Spend some time at one stage, then go explore what's happening at the others.

DANCING TO WATCH OR JOIN

On one stage area you'll enjoy watching colorful ethnic dance groups. This is also your chance to watch and learn about contradancing and join many enthusiasts dancing in this popular style. You'll find many things to remember at this celebration. If you'd like a schedule of events or if you or someone you know would like to be a performer, visit www.peacepark.us for details.

PARADE OF 100 FLAGS

See flags of 100 nations, carried through the Path of Hope, then out to map of the world. The flags will be carried children. Larry Long will lead everyone in singing a song to celebrate the event.

POETS TO GIVE READINGS

A score of the state's best-know poets, including Nebraska State Poet Bill Kloefcorn will be at the event, reading from their latest works in a variety of styles.

LARGE RAFFLE/SILENT AUCTION

To help raise money for the Peace Park, many local businesses and individuals have contributed items for a large raffle and silent auction. There will be many great bargains to bid on.

The Prairie Peace Park is at exit 388 on I-80. The Park's office phone is 402-466-6622. Email questions or comments to director@peacepark.us.

STRATCOM conclusion

conventional and nuclear war against any opposing force now appears to be beyond question. But still to be seen is what the post-conquest world will look like. If Afghanistan and Iraq are indicators, the scenarios are not likely to be so rosy.

In an article entitled, "Rumsfeld's War Leaves Iraq in Pieces," published in the April 14, 2003 *Newsday*, Marcus Corbin, a defense analyst with the Center for Defense Information in Washington, D.C., suggests why.

"The difficulties in preserving order in Iraq are a symptom of the broader efforts of Rumsfeld and his aides to impose their view of military 'transformation,' particularly on the Army. In Rumsfeld's view, air power and new high-tech targeting and communications gear should substitute for larger ground forces.

According to leaks from military sources, Rumsfeld repeatedly cut the number of U.S. troops that could be deployed to invade Iraq, by as much as half (he denies having done so).

The lack of troops now, in the post-invasion phase, is emblematic of Rumsfeld's focus on raw force. Rumsfeld may understand modern combat but doesn't seem attuned to the more complex, difficult and political challenges of nation-building, peacekeeping and occupation missions. His inexplicable comments on the looting and chaos in many Iraqi cities illustrates a troubling lack of appreciation for the difficulties and requirements of this occupation, and of modern political conflicts more generally. On Friday he argued it was merely some 'untidiness that you might find in any city in America,' or 'some boy walking out with a vase,' dismissing it with the phrase 'stuff happens.'

Military transformation has been too narrowly thought of in terms of high-tech targeting and communication gear. The nearly completed 'shooting war' in Iraq indicates that the long efforts in developing this hardware have already delivered benefits. The occupation of Iraq suggests that military transformation now needs to be thought of as better preparation for peacekeeping and security-building missions, for unconventional wars, and for the important political dimensions of modern conflicts. To do otherwise will mean our armed forces will be ready for the wars of the 20th century, not the 21st."

For the world's sole remaining superpower, waging war—whether conventional or nuclear—may be much simpler than waging peace. But unless as much energy, time, and material is put into the latter, the world may well be in for what author Gore Vidal calls "perpetual war for perpetual peace."

Waging Peace

A Conference for Learning

Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., (registration opens at 8:30)

Nebraska Wesleyan University, Smith Curtis Building
(east of 50th and St. Paul streets) in Lincoln

Sponsored by the Coalition for Peace

For more information contact: peacemlk@yahoo.com or 402-483-7009.

- * A just war?
- * Science, religion, and war
- * The Palestine/Israel conflict
- * ACLU legal primer for activists
- * Electing a peace president in 2004
- * A history of U.S.-sponsored terrorism
- * How to be an effective volunteer marshal
- * Rights in retreat: the Patriot Act and beyond
- * The looting of Iraq: U.S. corporations pillage in the name of reconstruction
- * Using e-mail & the Internet as organizing tools
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Out of Touch and Out of Line

Mike Johanns wants to be the next senator elected from Nebraska. His ambition to be a senator is the most poorly kept secret in Nebraska politics. You know it, and I know it, but the governor himself is acting like he doesn't have a clue. Despite Johanns' often-cited highly evolved political instincts, his lack of leadership in the interests of ordinary Nebraskans in the current state budget crisis will come back to bite him. You heard it here first.

Since the beginning of the year, it's just been one embarrassment after another. On January 1, Johanns announced pay raises to 17 upper-level state administrators, while every single state-funded sector faced substantial budget cuts—or worse. Johanns has now reversed himself and rolled back the ill-timed raises, but it was a mistake on the governor's part and as the *Lincoln Journal Star* said (5/18/2003), “a glaring case of misplaced priorities.”

The governor has not brought forward one meaningful or truly helpful idea in this bloody budget-balancing process. He has stonewalled on reducing corporate welfare. The *Grand Island Independent* (March 18, 2003) calls the Governor's mantra “no new taxes” and his leadership disappointing.

Johanns sent the Legislature a budget that Appropriations Committee member Nancy Thompson calls “unworkable,” with brutal cuts to K-12 education and the University of Nebraska. During consideration, according to Committee Chair

Roger Wehrbein, neither Johanns nor his aides offered any feedback on the committee's budget proposal. Only after the Appropriations Committee made its recommendations to the Legislature did the governor go public—to reporters—with his criticisms.

Appropriations Committee members were clearly angry about Johanns' veto threats, and his offer to negotiate privately did not make things better. Wehrbein called Johanns' statement to reporters “a funny way to communicate” with the committee. Thompson called the governor's management style “odd,” and said governors in other states are helping their legislatures to “set priorities, rather than wall themselves off.”

Johanns has criticized and even thwarted others seeking to find replacement revenue at the federal level. U.S. Sen. Ben Nelson has managed to leverage a proposed \$20 billion in aid to state and local governments in return for voting for a higher tax cut than Nelson's own party wants to see. Team Bush regulars Sen. Chuck Hagel and Governor Mike Johanns, marching in lockstep, said they oppose aid to the states, which Johanns calls “new spending.”

What part of “replacement revenue” does Mike Johanns not understand? Surely even a party man like the governor is honest enough to admit that federal tax cuts by definition mean less revenue to the states, as state taxes are largely figured as a percentage of federal tax. The federal tax cuts largely responsible for state budget shortfalls (and the ballooning federal deficit) are of course Team Bush tax cuts,

which the governor signed on to and spoke for as a good thing.

Until now, Johanns has behaved like the rock-ribbed Republican he became when somebody decided being a Democrat couldn't take him far enough, fast enough. Lately, under pressure, a new side of the governor is emerging.

To serious observers, the governor's clear message is that we are headed for a train wreck. Here is a man at the height of his power as governor, in his fifth year engineering the train. Yet, in this fiscal crisis, Johanns looks more like a freshman governor, in over his head. Increasingly, he appears churlish and incompetent.

The Rural Development Commission was zeroed out in last year's state budget. Supporters of the RDC are seeking grant dollars—including USDA funding—to keep the 12-year-old program afloat to pursue its mission of creating economic opportunities for rural Nebraskans. Whatever claims defenders of LB 775 may make, a third of Nebraskans live in low-density areas which have received virtually no benefits from the nearly \$1.5 billion lost to corporate tax relief over the life of this sacred cow.

At the last minute, Johanns claims to have made “certain” that he, not the RDC, will be awarded USDA grant money in their category, which allows only one recipient in any state. Johanns plans to divert the money to his Department of Economic Development or UNL, neither of which to be frank have any stellar history of working for the best interests of Nebraska's rural communities. You think I'm wrong, ask a farmer. I'm not wrong.

In the 2002 legislative session, rural Nebraska was more than willing to give blood in budget cutbacks, to a fault even. Now Johanns has said “flat out,” according to State Sen. Ray Janssen, that he would like the RDC to “go way.” Johanns wants to replace the RDC with a focus group, a council to promote “cooperation and coordination among rural Nebraskans.” Since the governor has not been paying attention, let me point out that the only way rural Nebraskans now or ever have survived, much less prevailed, is through cooperation, and they don't need him to show them how.

The problem of income in rural Nebraska is the problem of the state's number one industry, agriculture: a Republican-driven, export-based farm policy which sharpens monopolies and keeps price to producers artificially low—at below the cost of production for every major commodity including livestock. What part of “worst crisis in farm income since the Great Depression” does Mike Johanns not get? For a Nebraska governor to use political influence to fix USDA partnership grant funding is an embarrassment to us all. For the governor to do so at the expense of this sorely-needed state agency with a terrific track record shows his real contempt for rural Nebraskans.

Finally, I take it as a very bad sign that the governor's budget slashed education funding at every level, with extreme prejudice to K-12 funding and the University of Nebraska. A smart man ought to know we can't get out of the hole we're in by raising ignorant citizens. A leader ought to know better.



From the Bottom by Sally Herrin

The real political spectrum isn't right to left... it's top to bottom.