



Nebraskans for Peace

Nebraska Report

There is no Peace without Justice

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Nebraskans' Bill for the Iraq War: \$21,450 per Household (and growing)

by *Hank van den Berg*
UNL Associate Professor of Economics

The Bush/Cheney Administration has intentionally kept the costs of the Iraq War hidden from public view. There has been no tax increase to cover the \$500 billion that the government will spend on the war through the end of this year. The administration has indicated it will request another \$200 billion for the war through the end of 2008, but most Americans will pay no attention since they will not be asked to pay any additional taxes. Some simple math shows that this full amount comes down to an average of more than \$6,000 for each of the 113 million American households. While this number is large, more thorough analysis suggests that the Iraq War's full costs will be at least four times that large.

The Budgeted Costs

Obviously, if the Iraq occupation continues into 2009 and beyond with 130,000 troops and 50,000 contractors, expenditures will continue at about \$10 billion per month—or about \$100 per household. We cannot predict how much longer the occupation of Iraq will continue, but it is safe to say that the \$700 billion in military expenditures through the end of 2008 are as low as we can realistically hope for.

But, even under the assumption that the occupation ends by the end of next year, there are many costs beyond the budgeted direct military expenditures. For example, conservative estimates suggest that about \$25 billion of airplanes, helicopters, tanks, rifles, drones and other equipment is being used up each year the war continues. Hence, to the costs of occupation through 2008 we must add \$125

billion for 'depreciation.' The military will have to budget for this sooner or later, and American households will eventually be asked to pay.

The biggest costs of the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq are not shown in the military budget, however. The costs of the military and civilian casualties, the cost of the destruction, the costs of the economic disruption and the widespread social costs in the U.S. (not to mention Iraq) dwarf the budgeted military expenses. Precise estimates of these costs are difficult to make, but economists can provide some ballpark figures. .

The Value of Life, Medical Costs, & the Cost of Disability

To put a value on a human life, economists observe human choices. After all, people make decisions every day that reflect how they value health and risk. Many of these choices involve market decisions, such as working a risky job, purchasing a hazardous product or choosing among alternative medical procedures. Suppose, for example, that a worker in a dangerous job demands \$10,000 more per year than in a less dangerous job. Suppose the more dangerous job increases the probability of dying from 0.005 percent to 0.01 percent, or an increase in the probability of death of 0.005 percent. Under the assumption that workers make their choices rationally, we can conclude that the difference in pay implies that a worker values his or her life at 1/.005 x \$10,000, or \$5,000,000. Obviously, there may be many other reasons why wages differ across jobs, and people may not

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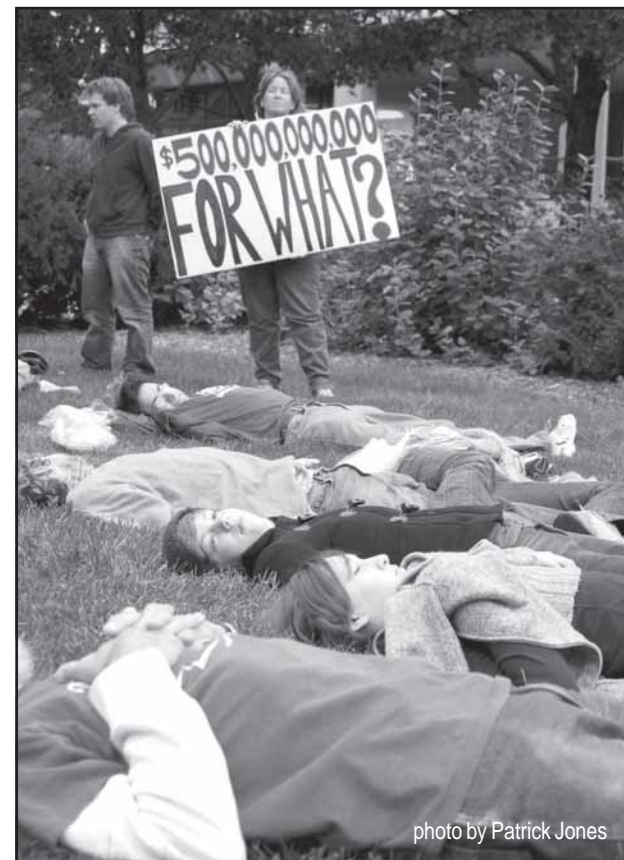


photo by Patrick Jones

The September 15 Iraq War 'die-in' organized by the UNL NFP Chapter prior to the NU-USC game.

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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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Football Saturday Peace Rally Urges Troop Exit from Iraq

by Lisa Janssen
Nebraska Coalition for Peace

“What are you doing? It’s game day.”

This comment was heard during the Sept 15 anti-war march on ‘O’ Street in Lincoln.

What were we doing? We were standing up for peace. While thousands were gathering to cheer on the Huskers in their big showdown with Southern Cal, a smaller, but no less passionate crowd of 200 gathered in cheering to “Bring the Troops Home.” The war hadn’t ceased, the dying hadn’t stopped, and the lies about what’s happening in Iraq hadn’t suddenly turned into truths just because the Huskers took on the Trojans.

We marched right into the noise and crowds of game day to stand up for peace.

The Nebraska Coalition for Peace planned and hosted the event titled “U.S. Out of Iraq.” RC Dub, a local band welcomed the crowd with their much-loved reggae music. Speakers Ron Meyer and Debbie Smith, both veterans, spoke from their hearts about their personal experiences.

Meyer, a Vietnam War veteran, spoke of the ongoing emotional and physical problems confronting war veterans. Smith, a Desert Storm veteran whose son is currently serving in the Army, has started a local chapter of “Veterans Against the War”. Each of the speakers was bold about sharing their convictions and speaking out against the war.

Following their speeches, we marched through the early day football crowds. A few onlookers voiced their opposition for our cause; many more voiced their support or honked as they drove by; and many just watched. They read our signs, listened to our chants of “No More War” to the cadence of the familiar “Go Big Red” chant. At one point, our numbers lined both sides of ‘O’ Street. It was a great sight to see the energy, the hopes and the desires of so many Nebraskans calling for peace.

So much more, though, was accomplished than what was observed that day. Visual actions like this get the general public talking. Though there was not much media coverage

due to the *more important* ‘football news of the day,’ we imprinted our message onto many minds. We kept the dialogue going—and kept children asking their parents what is it all about. We were able to reach a new audience of out-of-town, out-of-state and out-of-touch people that day. In the past couple of years, the public response to peace events in Lincoln has changed drastically. I am confident that by being so visible on a Husker game day we have made a positive impact on many that we had not previously. The energy continued as we marched back down ‘O’ Street to the green space on Centennial Mall. While RC Dub treated us to more music, activists talked with one another about finding new ways to get involved and connected.

A vibrant peace community is essential to the health of our democratic society and our collective well-being. Earlier this year, I attended a protest in Washington, D.C. I networked with numerous activists and asked “what makes the most impact for peace?” Time and time again they responded, “We have to constantly be contacting our representatives, so they cannot turn a blind eye.” One activist told of a politician who had said the activist presence has helped change the dialogue on the floor of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Here in Lincoln, several Coalition members and I have been visiting our representatives’ offices on a regular basis. It is our hope that this will change their conversations and encourage them to be stronger in standing up for an end to this illegal war. I urge everyone to contact your representatives by telephone, by letter, by email or in person. Let them know you want this war to end now.

I thank all those who organized and you who participated in the September 15 march and rally. The event has energized me to keep acting for peace and has reminded me that I am not alone. I hope that if you were there, you too are energized and inspired to do more as an activist. I stand tall with so many of you Nebraskans who care, who know that we do make a difference, and that we indeed can help end this war and bring our troops home.

Nebraskans' Bill for the Iraq War, conclusion

make rational decisions. However, by looking at a very large number of such differences in wages across jobs with clear differences in levels of danger and risk, it becomes possible to estimate a range within which we value our lives and those of people close to us. According to a well-known review of these studies by Kip Viscusi

ties are young men and women, who will need years of care, assistance and financial support from families and government programs. Past experience with Gulf War and Vietnam War veterans provides some guidance, but future medical and other costs for Iraq casualties will be much higher because of the higher survival rate

The Macroeconomic Costs

Often left out of the calculations of the costs of war are the indirect costs to our economy. First of all, future interest payments on government debt incurred to finance the war and future medical and veterans' expenses are estimated by Bilmes and Stiglitz (2006) to exceed \$400 billion. There is also the obvious waste of resources from destructive military activity, resources that could have been used to produce, innovate and invest. Also, the added borrowing by the U.S. government will raise interest rates, further reducing private borrowing for investment and research as well as government investment in education, infrastructure and research. I again follow Bilmes and Stiglitz and estimate the current value of lost future economic growth at about \$700 billion over the next 50 years.

The Total Bill for the U.S.

With these indirect costs added to the direct budgeted military expenses, the Iraq War's cost to the U.S. adds up to well over \$2 trillion. The estimated \$2.34 trillion comes to over \$21,000 per U.S. household. Obviously, if the occupation of Iraq continues beyond 2008, the bill will rise further. The U.S. faces many other costs from its foolish decision to invade Iraq. How do we put a value on our country's lost reputation? How much U.S. business has been lost by the increased anti-American sentiment? How long will it take to restore our military to what is once was? And how much will it cost to deal with future conflicts that may erupt from the chaos in Iraq and our aggressive foreign policy over the past five years?

It will be a long time before we know the full tally for the Iraq War, particularly as the numbers shown here assume that we will soon end our occupation, and that may not be a very realistic assumption. Further, these calculations only examine the U.S. side of the expense ledger for the war. In a future issue, I will calculate the war's cost to the Iraqis, which—between expenditures for reconstruction and reparations—could drive the American taxpayer's burden for this disastrous political blunder even higher.

Adding the indirect costs to the direct budgeted military expenses, the Iraq War's cost to the U.S. totals well over \$2 trillion. The estimated \$2.34 trillion works out to over \$21,000 per U.S. household.

and Joseph Aldy (2003), the median estimate of an American life is about \$7 million. This number is often used as a guide for court decisions and insurance payments. A conservative assumption would be that casualties among U.S. troops and contractors will slow but still reach 5,000 at the end of 2008. Hence, multiplying 5,000 deaths by \$7 million gives us a total value of American lives lost of \$35 billion.

At current rates, there will also be 35,000 serious casualties through 2008. Most of the casual-

ties are young men and women, who will need years of care, assistance and financial support from families and government programs. Past experience with Gulf War and Vietnam War veterans provides some guidance, but future medical and other costs for Iraq casualties will be much higher because of the higher survival rate of seriously injured soldiers. These costs of medical procedures, physical therapy, counseling, social assistance and aid may exceed \$200 billion. These costs will be borne by the government, families and society over the next half century. Many seriously injured soldiers will never live normal lives. A detailed study by Bilmes and Stiglitz (2006) values the future loss of earnings, life options and diminished capabilities for seriously injured veterans at about \$100 billion.



photo by Patrick Jones

Cost of the Iraq War to the U.S. Taxpayer

(Through end of 2008 with 130,000 U.S. troops deployed)

<i>Direct Costs</i>	<i>(In Billions)</i>
Direct costs already budgeted through 2007: ¹	\$500
Expected new requests by White House for 2008: ²	200
More rapid depreciation of military equipment: ³	125

Cost of U.S. Casualties

Value of lives of U.S. soldiers and contractors killed through 2008: ⁴	35
Value of diminished lives of U.S. soldiers and contractors with major injuries: ⁵	105
Healthcare costs ⁶	
Veterans Administration expenses:	60
Underestimates of costs of brain injuries:	35
Disability payments by military and government:	122

Macroeconomic Costs

Interest on added Federal Debt ⁷	400
Economic growth lost to above expenditures that reduce investment activity ⁸	750

Total Costs in the U.S.: \$2.32 trillion

Costs per U.S. Household:⁹ \$21,450

And what if we are still there in 2009? 2010? 2011?... 2015?... 2020?

Sources:

- Gordon Adams (2007), "Prime Numbers: Iraq's Sticker Shock," *Foreign Policy*, March/April, 2007, p. 34.
- National Public Radio report, September 14, 2007.
- Linda Bilmes and Joseph Stiglitz (2006), "The Economic Costs of the Iraq War: An Appraisal Three Years After the Beginning of the Conflict," National Bureau of Economic Research working paper 12054, February
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- Linda Bilmes and Joseph Stiglitz (2006), op. cit., using the methodology of Scott Wallsten and Katrina Kosec (2005), "The Economic Costs of the War in Iraq," AEI/Brookings Institution Working Paper 05-19, September.
- Linda Bilmes and Joseph Stiglitz (2006), op. cit.
- Linda Bilmes and Joseph Stiglitz (2006), op. cit.
- Linda Bilmes and Joseph Stiglitz (2006), op. cit.
- Census Bureau data indicates there are about 113 million households in the U.S. in 2007.

Cheney's Fingerprints

by Matthew Rothschild

The following article stating the case for the impeachment of our 'famous son' Dick Cheney originally appeared in the August 2007 issue of *The Progressive* and is reprinted with permission.

You don't have to dust for long before finding Dick Cheney's grimy fingerprints all over the Bush crime scene. It's becoming clearer by the day that behind every one of Bush's illegal actions lurks the shadow of the Vice President. Never in our history have we had a Vice President who grabbed so much power. And never have we had a President so lazy that he was willing to divest so much power to such a man.

Cheney has said that it is his mission to aggrandize the Executive Branch. And then he notoriously argued that he was not part of the Executive Branch, placing himself on a new twig all by his lonesome.

This is a man who has no respect for our system of checks and balances. It is high time he was impeached.

Bush, too, should be impeached, for they are partners in crime. But there is a certain logic in impeaching Cheney first. After all, who would want to impeach Bush and be left with Cheney? And secondly, the path of criminality, time after time, leads back to Cheney.

It was Cheney, in the days after 9/11, who insisted that the United States would have to work the "dark side" in the war on terror.

It was Cheney who devised many of the flimsy legal justifications for the torture that U.S. personnel committed. "The

Vice President's office played a central role in shattering limits on coercion in U.S. custody," Barton Gellman and Jo Becker wrote in the *Washington Post* on June 25. They showed that the Vice President's lawyer, David Addington (now his chief of staff), was instrumental in drafting the President's February 7, 2002, directive, which said that U.S. personnel would abide by the Geneva Conventions "to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity." Addington also worked on the Justice Department's infamous "torture memo," which said that almost any infliction of cruelty that didn't cause organ failure or death was justifiable. Addington pressed the point that the President was exempt from treaties and laws governing torture, the *Post* said. Those "do not apply" to the commander in chief, according to the torture memo.

It was Cheney who said he approved of the torture tactic of waterboarding, calling it "a no-brainer."

It was Cheney, the *Post* said, who prevailed upon the administration to declare U.S. citizens Jose Padilla and Yasser Hamdi enemy combatants and to deny them access to U.S. courts.

It was Cheney who insisted that detainees had no due process rights, here or abroad, and who bypassed normal channels—including the State Department and the National Security Council—to get Bush to sign off on this executive order, the *Post* reported.

It was Cheney who vigorously opposed any moves by Congress to outlaw torture, and got Congress to exempt the CIA from the ban.



It was Cheney who insisted that the Military Commissions Act, which Congress passed, include a section that lets the President decide whether something is a violation of the Geneva Conventions.

It was Cheney who initially advocated for detentions in secret CIA prisons around the globe, the *Post* reported, and who prevailed upon Bush to resume them.

Beyond championing the torture and detention policy, it was Cheney who first hyped the case for the Iraq War, beginning in the spring of 2002.

It was Cheney who leaned all over the CIA in the lead-up to the Iraq War in an unprecedented interference with the intelligence agency's process of sifting through data. As Seymour Hersh has reported for *The New Yorker*, Cheney cherry-picked and stove-piped any information that served to buttress his case.

And it was Cheney who, just days before Bush launched the war, went on "Meet the Press" and uttered the most flagrant lie, saying that Saddam Hussein had actually reconstituted nuclear weapons.

It was Cheney who directed the outing of Valerie Plame and the campaign to smear Joe Wilson. "There is a cloud over the Vice President," Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald told the jurors in the Scooter Libby trial. And that cloud hangs even lower after Bush's shameful grant of clemency to Libby.

It was Cheney who pushed the illegal wiretapping that the NSA conducted on millions of Americans. He sparred with Justice Department officials who didn't want

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The Drumbeat for War with Iran Grows Steadily Louder . . .

August 19, 2007 – At their conference in Washington, D.C., several thousand *Christians United for Israel* support a call for the U.S. to attack Iran immediately. Keynote speaker Newt Gingrich gains loud applause when he says that diplomacy is a "surrender policy."

August 19, 2007 – The Republican governor of Texas, Rick Perry, announces he will seek to have state pension funds divest from any companies doing any type of business in Iran.

August 29, 2007 – President Bush says that Iran's nuclear program threatens to place the Middle East "under the shadow of a nuclear holocaust." He also points to Iran as a reason why the U.S. military must stay in Iraq, claiming that if it were left unchecked, Iran would "imperil the civilized world."

August 30, 2007 – "This is the first time Iran is ready to discuss all the outstanding issues which triggered the crisis in confidence. This is a significant step," says Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency. U.S. State Department spokesman Tom Casey promptly disputes ElBaradei's assessment: "There is no partial credit here. Iran has refused to comply with its international obligations, and as a result of that the international community is going to continue to ratchet up the pressure."

September 2, 2007 – The *Times* of London reports that the Pentagon has drawn up plans for massive air strikes against 1,200 targets in Iran. According to a national security expert, these air strikes (launched and coordinated from StratCom) are designed to annihilate the Iranians' military capability in three days.

September 7, 2007 – A U.S. District Judge rules that Iran must pay \$2.65 billion to the families of the 241 U.S. soldiers killed in the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut. In the lawsuit, Iran is blamed for supporting Hezbollah, which carried out the Beirut bombing. Spectators in the court loudly applaud the judge as she leaves the chamber following her ruling.

September 12, 2007 – British forces withdrawn from Basra are sent to the Iran border after warnings from General Petraeus, the U.S. commander in Iraq, that Iran is fomenting a "proxy war." The term "proxy war" was the title of Sen. Joe Lieberman's opinion piece in the July 6, 2007 *Wall Street Journal*, in which he called for the bombing of Iran.

September 19, 2007 – The deputy commander of Iran's air force announces that plans have been drawn up to bomb Israel if the Jewish state attacks Iran. "It is not constructive and it almost seems provocative," said Dana Perino, President Bush's White House press secretary, adding that "Israel doesn't seek a war with its neighbors."

— Hank van den Berg

It was Cheney, in the days after 9/11, who insisted that the United States would have to work the "dark side" in the war on terror.



Psychologist Mary Pipher on 'Inhuman Rights'

*Dr. Mary Pipher recently returned her 'Presidential Citation' from the American Psychological Association, saying that its position on psychologists' participation in CIA interrogation practices violated medical human rights and ethical standards. (Find her letter at www.zmag.org/content/show-article.cfm?ItemID=13625). Pipher is perhaps Nebraska's best living prose essayist and the author of seven books, including *Reviving Ophelia*, *In The Shelter of Each Other*, *Writing to Change the World* and *The Middle of Everywhere*. She is presently at work on a new book relevant to NFP members: *Seeking Peace—Reflections of the Worst Buddhist in the World*. She has spent her life as a practicing therapist with a special interest in people whose human rights have been abrogated. Pipher's principled action serves as an exemplar to all professionals interested in *Peace & Justice*. Without the complicity of academic professionals in the creation of war, injustice and the denial of human rights, these horrors would be less fearsome. In the following op-ed entitled "Inhuman Rights," she explains why she did what she did.*

— Paul Olson

I am a psychologist and writer in Lincoln, Nebraska. All of my adult life, I have worked for human rights organizations. In 1965, when I was 17 years old, I marched for de-segregation in Kansas City. As a therapist, I have spent my career repairing the psychic damage of traumatized people, whether they be rape or assault victims, family members of murder victims, or refugees and asylum seekers. I have worked with torture

victims since the 1980s and I know that many of them are innocent of any crime whatsoever and all of them suffer irreparable damage to their lives.

This month I made the difficult decision to return my 2006 Presidential Citation, awarded to me by then President of the American Psychological Association, Dr. Gerald Koocher. I was deeply appreciative of this honor and proud to be a member of the APA. Over the years I have enjoyed an excellent relationship with this organization. I received my first Presidential Citation in 1998 from Dr. Martin Seligman and have been the keynote speaker at the APA's national convention. With this action, I feel as if I am betraying a good friend.

For the past few years, I have been troubled by various media and Department of Defense reports that psychologists have designed protocols and trained and supervised interrogators in the use of sophisticated methods for breaking the human spirit and destroying mental functioning. When this last Sunday, at the APA's annual convention, members passed Substitute Motion Three instead of a ban on psychologists' involvement in military interrogations, I felt I needed to act.

Substitute Motion Three looks fine on the surface, but the devil is in the details, and the devil always dresses in the tuxedo of lofty rhetoric. While it has been argued that this resolution bars psychologists' participation in the CIA's enhanced interrogation program, the motion did not place a moratorium on psychologists' involvement in all national security facilities that operate outside the law. This lack of firmness



puts our profession at odds with the Geneva Conventions, Red Cross standards, Department of Defense guidelines, The U.N. Declaration of Human Rights, and the ethical codes of the American Psychiatric Association and the American Medical Association. In ratifying this document, the APA has made a terrible mistake.

With sorrow, I have concluded that the United States government is committing war crimes with the help of individual psychologists and our professional organization. Without psychologists' presence to lend legitimacy to these interrogations, our government would find its position utterly indefensible. The behavior of psychologists on interrogation teams violates our own Code of Ethics, in which we pledge to respect the humanity of all people.

As psychologists, we vow to do no harm.

I learned this lesson from my mother, Dr. Avis, who was a small town doctor in

rural Nebraska in the 1950s. She often quoted Hippocrates' remark, "Make a habit of two things, to help, or at least, to do no harm." She took her Hippocratic vows seriously. Two of them I remember specifically, "Never do anyone harm for someone else's interest." And, "Keep the welfare of your patient as your highest priority." My mother gave free medical care to any one who showed up at our house or her office. Sometimes she was paid in smoked hams and sweet corn. She also taught me this, "Morality isn't pretty words; morality is action." I hope I am honoring my mother's values with my decision.

When any of us are degraded, all of human life is degraded. This is not just about the prisoners; it is about who we are as people. Once we decide certain people are beyond the pale and give them less respect than we would want for ourselves if our situations were reversed, we make we ourselves vulnerable to also being treated as less than human.

I know that the return of my Presidential Citation is of small import, but it is what I can do to disassociate myself from what I consider to be a heinous policy. My belief is that psychology should be solely a helping profession. When we become anything else, we destroy ourselves.

I return my citation as a matter of conscience and in the hopes that the APA will reconsider its current position. We have long been an organization that respects human rights and promotes tolerance, kindness and peace. It is my deepest hope that the APA will reclaim its reputation as a beacon of integrity and compassion.

Cheney's Fingerprints, continued

to go along with the spying at a White House meeting in March 2004, according to the Senate testimony of former Deputy Attorney General James B. Comey. That meeting took place just one day before then-White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales and then-Chief of Staff Andrew Card went to the hospital room of the ailing John Ashcroft and, in Godfather fashion, tried to get him to sign off on aspects of the NSA spying program. Cheney later blocked the promotion of a Justice Department official who had expressed reservations about the NSA spying.

It was Cheney who exempted his office from the requirement to protect classified information, and who then tried to abolish the executive branch office that was complaining about his self-exemption.

It was also Cheney who was the prime mover behind Bush's signing statement spree. "The office of Vice President Dick Cheney routinely reviews pieces of legislation before they reach the President's desk, searching for provisions that Cheney believes would infringe on Presidential power, according to former White House and Justice Department officials," wrote Charlie Savage of the *Boston Globe* last May in a story that won a Pulitzer Prize. "The officials said Cheney's legal adviser and chief of staff, David Addington, is the Bush Administration's leading architect of the 'signing statements' the President has appended to more than 750 laws." Two examples: Bush issued a signing statement on the anti-torture law to say that he would en-

force it only to the extent that it didn't interfere with his authority as commander in chief. And he issued a signing statement on an obscure postal bill last fall to give the Executive Branch an expansive right to open first-class mail.

Dick Cheney is a man who has gone way over the line, time and time again.

He is fond of saying he has a constituency of one—Bush—when in fact we are all his constituents. And as his constituents, we must avail ourselves of the only constitutional remedy at our disposal: impeachment. Article 2, Section 4, specifically allows for the impeachment of the Vice President. He clearly has committed "high crimes and misdemeanors," which our founders con-

strued to mean usurpations of power that subvert our system of checks and balances.

Cheney is a recidivist usurper. We cannot keep letting him get away with his crimes. Nor should we let Bush. But OK, start with Cheney first.

Fortunately, Representative Dennis Kucinich has gotten the ball rolling. This spring, he introduced House Resolution 333, which calls for the impeachment of Cheney. Kucinich's bill is co-sponsored by Representatives William Lacy Clay, Yvette Clarke, Keith Ellison, Barbara Lee, Jim McDermott, Jan Schakowsky, Maxine Waters, Lynn Woolsey, and Albert Wynn.

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An Injury to One is an Injury to All...

NFP Member Alex Svoboda Injured in Rhode Island Labor Protest

by Matthew Gregory
NFP State Office Manager

In Czech, as well as other Slavic languages, the word *svoboda* means "freedom." What better metaphor exists to depict the state of free speech and civil liberties in America than the photographs of Alex Svoboda being brutalized by North Providence, Rhode Island police during a demonstration for worker's rights?

On Saturday August 11, 2007, members of the Industrial Workers of the World organized a march on Jackie's Galaxy, a restaurant chain supplied by HWH, a supplier notorious for its slave labor conditions of up to 110 hours per week at less than \$5 an hour without overtime or other work benefits.

Alex Svoboda, 22 years old at the time, originally from Lincoln and a graduate of Lincoln High School, is a current resident of Providence, where she studies Spanish at the Community College of Rhode Island. She was in the demonstration that day playing a drum, looking forward to a game of kickball following the protest.



Roughly 30-40 supporters were marching towards Jackie's Galaxy in North Providence when police surrounded the group with their squad cars and told the marchers to move to the sidewalk. A scuffle ensued and Alex was tackled and pinned down by three police officers. Accused of attacking officers with her drum sticks, she suffered a broken and dislocated left leg and a severed main artery to her lower leg.

These injuries have required four surgeries already with more on the way, and she will require extensive rehab. Alex spent many days in intensive care while doctors restored blood flow to her leg via a bypass graft. Surgical incisions to relieve pressure in her lower leg and removal of the "erector

set" of pins and rods that held her leg in place for 11 days were also performed. Reconstruction of her four knee ligaments is on hold until her leg can withstand the pressure of a tourniquet necessary for such procedures.

Right now Alex is back at home and is getting around with the help of her ten roommates.

Originally charged with three felony counts of assaulting a police officer (later reduced to misdemeanors, as well as resisting arrest and disturbing the peace), Svoboda pleaded 'not guilty' in an arraignment September 13. The now 23-year-old was released on personal recognizance and is due back in court October 4 for a pretrial conference.

Nebraskans for Peace wasted no time in coming to the defense of one of our own. On August 26, a few hundred people came out to the Capitol in a show of support for Alex, with stirring speeches from Alex's family members, including her brother Nick and mother Jan Enstrom. The Lincoln event coincided with a rally in North Providence that drew approximately 250 counter-protesters defending the officers' brute force.

On September 16, a family friend, Adam Williams, and Nebraskans for Peace organized a benefit concert at the Box Awesome in Lincoln in support of Alex, which included performances from local artists The Awkwords, Lockheed Electra, and Kansas City's We Are... The Argument, among other groups. The artists and venue were very generous that evening and a nice chunk of change was raised for her medical bills and legal fees.

Alex's treatment by the police has raised controversy in Lincoln and Providence, mostly revolving around a permit to demonstrate and the level of force used against her.

The marchers were demonstrating without a permit, although they say they were following officers' orders to move out of the street when three officers restrained and tackled Alex. The police report stated that the demonstration had 100 people while protesters put the number between 30 and 40, as photos from the march appear to confirm. The photos also tell a gruesome story, showing a mortified Alex pinned to the ground a few feet from a building, which does not appear to be very close to a street, indicat-



ing Alex was already well away from the street upon the point of brutal force.

The police report also mentions that Alex attacked the police officers with her drum sticks. One has to question the how a petite 22-year-old woman was a threat to three officers who brandished mace, clubs and guns, not to mention men of greater physical stature and trained in defensive techniques. In an interview with her father, Scott Svoboda, he rattled off a list of relatives that are law enforcement officers, making his case that Alex has been taught to respect authority figures and been around them her entire life. On top of all this, the mayor continues to change the official story from first proclaiming that Alex tripped over her drum to now saying that she was yanked out of the crowd by the police.

The North Providence Police Department has defended the actions of the officers and all three remain on active duty.

Because of her injuries, surgeries, and subsequent rehabilitation, Alex will be unable to work for a significant period of time. Money will be needed to provide Alex with legal support in her defense as well as to help with the astronomical medical bills that she will accumulate.

The good news in all of this is that the restaurant owner said he doesn't do business with the distributor any longer, and Alex's recovery is free of complications as of press time. But more help with legal fees and medical bills is needed. Donations can be made to: Alexandra Svoboda Fund, c/o Citizens Bank, 120 Waterman Street, Providence, RI 02906.

What's HOT in Global Warming?

by Professor Bruce E. Johansen

Global Warming, “Thermal Inertia” and Tomorrow’s News

In the Arctic, September is the peak ice-melt season. This year, even by August, polar ice had retreated to near record-low levels, exposing dark ocean water to soak up even more of the sun’s heat, in an albedo (reflectivity) cycle that is reinforcing itself. As is often the case, the provocations are both natural and human. Greenhouse gases emitted by human transport and industry are part of the story. The rest involves persistent high pressure over the Arctic that this year allows more sunshine than usual, along with winds from the south, drawing up warm, ice-eroding air.

“During the first week in July, the Arctic sea ice started to disappear at rates we had never seen before,” said Sheldon Drobot, who leads the Arctic Regional Ice Forecasting System group at the Colorado Center for Astrodynamics Research (CCAR). The record-low September minimum for sea ice, set in 2005, is 2.15 million square miles, Drobot said. For 2007, the most likely minimum extent is 1.96 million square miles. Persistent high pressure over the Arctic during the summer of 2007 allowed more sunshine than usual, along with winds from the south, drawing up warm, ice-eroding air.

Across Alaska, northern Canada and Siberia, scientists are finding telltale signs that permafrost is melting more quickly than ever. As permafrost melts, additional carbon dioxide and methane convert from solid form, stored in the earth, to gas in the atmosphere, retaining more heat. Once again, human contributions of greenhouse gases are provoking a natural process, like the trigger of a gun.

The real news of global warming, however, is not how warm it is today, because today’s carbon emissions do not give us tomorrow’s temperature. Through a complex set of feedbacks (“thermal inertia” to scientists), we will feel today’s emissions in our faces roughly half a century from now. In the oceans, the

fundamental ways. With water pollution or common air pollution, smog, the problems occur immediately when the pollutants are emitted. If we decide there is a problem and stop emitting them, the problem goes away. However, global warming is caused by greenhouse gases that have a lifetime of hundreds of years. So

that? Even with another degree or two in the pipeline, who cares about a few degrees? Well, we had better all care about it, because we have already brought the planet close to some tipping points. If we pass those tipping points there will be dramatic consequences. We will leave an impoverished planet for our

technology is now in its infancy.

We also need to conserve power in all ways possible, through tighter buildings and more efficient transportation—on the ground, as well as air travel. At present, only one percent of the energy in a car’s gas tank actually reaches the drive train.

We need vigorous development of alternatives—solar, wind and tidal power. In California, a new technology that concentrates solar energy with mirrors will provide power for 400,000 homes from the Mojave Desert.

Solar panels are being built into the roofs of many new homes across California.

This is a start. Global warming is dangerous because it is a sneaky, slow-motion emergency, demanding that we acknowledge a reality centuries in the future with a system of individual, legal, and diplomatic reaction that reacts in the past tense.

Again, I quote Jim Hansen, who knows the science: “The bottom line is this: business-as-usual, if it continues for even another decade will be disastrous for the planet. We can have a stable climate, clean air, and an unpolluted ocean. And clean energies yield good jobs. It is up to the public to make sure that we get onto a path that stabilizes climate and allows all the creatures of Creation to continue to thrive on this planet.

*Bruce E. Johansen, Frederick W. Kayser Professor of Communication at the University of Nebraska in Omaha, is the author of the three-volume *Global Warming in the Twenty-First Century* (2006).*

Human contributions of greenhouse gases are provoking a natural process, like the trigger of a gun.

– Professor Bruce Johansen

feedback loop is longer, probably a century and a half, maybe two.

The real debate isn’t over how much the oceans may rise from melting ice by the end of this century (one to three feet, perhaps), but how much melting will be “in the pipeline” by that time. James E. Hansen, director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, estimates that thermal inertia by the year 2100 may guarantee a 25-meter sea-level rise within two centuries.

Most of the world’s mountain glaciers, as well as a large part of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets would add up to 25 meters. Some are now laying bets on the date that first-floor toilets will back up from flooding at the White House—about 60 feet above the Tidal Basin.

According to Hansen, Global warming differs from previous pollution problems in two

we can’t wait until we have a full-blown problem and then say “Oh, we better stop emitting these.” It’s too late then. The gases will hang around for centuries.

The second major difference with the global warming problem is that the climate system responds slowly to the gases that we add to the air. Because of the great thermal inertia of the ocean, only about half of the eventual warming due to gases already in the air has been realized. The Earth has warmed one and one half degrees Fahrenheit so far, but there is another one degree already in the pipeline. Moreover, there are surely more gases in the pipeline, because of power plants that we have in place and vehicles that we are not going to take off the road.

One and one-half degrees! Who cares about



children; we will have been lousy stewards of Creation; we will have destroyed Creation for future generations.

In 50 more years, when our children are grandparents, the planetary emergency for which we are now tasting the first course will be a dominant theme in everyone’s life, unless we act now. Hansen and other scientists tell us that within a decade or two, thermal inertia will take off on its own, portending a hot, miserable future for coming generations.

What do we need? To begin, a moratorium on construction of coal-fired power plants until adequate technology is available to remove carbon dioxide from their emissions. As long as we pour carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, we are pulling the trigger of thermal inertia. Such

How to Pick a Fight, How to Start a War and How to Do It with Unconscionable Impunity and Ruthlessness

Reflections on a Reading of Mari Sandoz's *Crazy Horse* for "One Book, One Nebraska"

by Byron Peterson

We might imagine such a task—starting a war—to be an easy one. But not so, if the target is a people deft in sharing what is theirs and adept in welcoming the newcomer as a relative, rather than a stranger. It took men of command, schooled in the 'art of war,' exploitation and oppression (West Point men in some cases), to not only 'get it on' with the Lakotas, but to keep getting it on, for years and years—nearly 40 by the time it was finally over.

How did they do it, one might ask?

It took U.S. soldiers adroit in near blind devotion to command—and you should add, a keen awareness of the consequences of disobeying one's superior officers. It took vulnerable young men easily enraged by their superiors to join in unspeakable acts of violence—violence that would wreak havoc not only among those targeted, but that would haunt those doing the targeting for the balance of their lives.

Through the State Library Commission's "One Book, One Nebraska" statewide reading promotion, many of us are being gifted this year with the opportunity to read and formally discuss Mari Sandoz's 1942 classic, *Crazy Horse: The Strange Man of the Oglalas*. This book is an unflinching eye opener to the barbarism perpetrated against the Lakota, and the recompense (or rather lack of it) that ensued. As University of New Mexico Professor Paul Hutton grimly comments in the recent documentary, "Crazy Horse, the Last Warrior," the U.S. Army had "a long stream of western officers with far more firepower than brain power." And it was the Lakota, in particular, who were to suffer the effects of this volatile mix.

Some of the more graphic U.S. military practices detailed in Sandoz's book include attacking peaceful Indian villages with cannon, cavalry and infantry.

The first gruesome incident she relates, involving a Lieutenant Grattan and the 30 men under this command, took place on August 19, 1854. Fresh out of West Point and stationed at Fort Laramie, Grattan marched his men into Chief Conquering Bear's camp of 600 lodges located nearby. His purpose: to take High Forehead, a visitor in the camp, into military custody for

punishment. High Forehead's offense: killing an old lame Mormon cow that had strayed into the camp. Tribal protocol prohibited Conquering Bear from turning over a visitor in his camp, so he offered horses in compensation. Grattan rejected the compromise, insisting on High Forehead's surrender. When Conquering Bear refused, the lieutenant responded with cannonade and rifle fire—blowing things up and killing people, including Conquering Bear himself. An annihilating rain of arrows from the warrior defenders ensued, resulting in the deaths of Grattan and all of his men.

Reaction from Washington to Grattan's death was slow in coming, but inexorable. Blaming the Lakotas for the violence, Secretary of War Jefferson Davis (who was later to become president of the Confederacy) demanded retribution. Brigadier General William Harney, known for his

swift and harsh approach in dealing with those he considered enemies, was commissioned the job of punishing Conquering Bear's village. By the following summer, 11 companies of troops (6 infantry, 4 cavalry and one artillery, for a total of 600 soldiers), under the moniker of "The Sioux Expedition," were headed west into the Nebraska Territory.

Harney came upon Little Thunder's peaceful camp on Blue Water Creek just north of Lewellen, Nebraska, on September 3, 1855 and promptly set about preparing his attack. William Chandless, an overland freighter traveling with the expedition, recorded the general's remarks to the troops. "[U]sing the harsh language for which he was renowned, [Harney] thundered, 'There are those damned red sons of bitches, who

massacred the soldiers near Laramie last year in the time of peace. They killed your own kindred, your own flesh and blood. Now, by God, men, there we have them, and if you don't give it to them you deserve to be— [sic] 'shot.' Don't spare one of those damn red sons of bitches.'"

Although most of the Lakota men were away hunting buffalo and the village was mostly undefended, Harney sought to further his advantage for carnage. While fronting the camp at

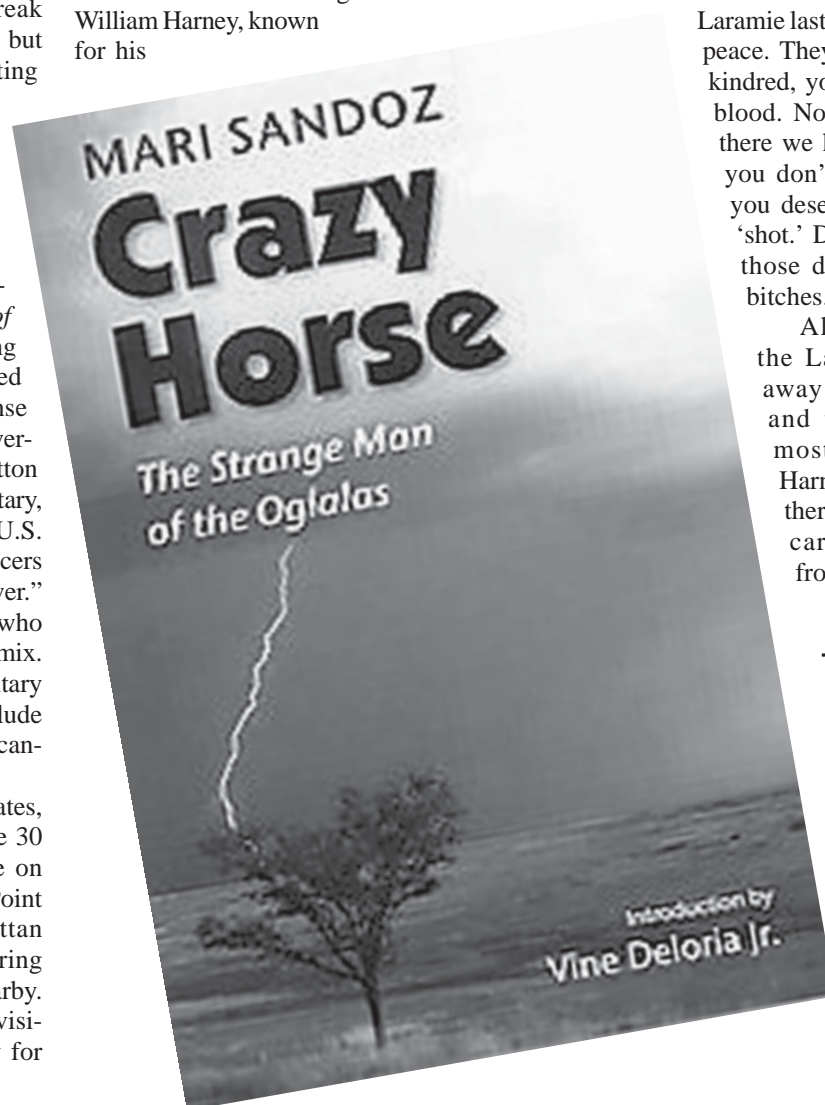
the south with infantry and artillery, he snuck his cavalry—with no doubt their sabers—into position to seal the camp off from the north. In order to allow time for this subterfuge, he arranged a 'white flag' parley with Little Thunder and Spotted Tail. Once satisfied that all was ready, Harney broke the parley off and ordered the slaughter to begin.

Some prefer to think of what followed as a battle. Many consider it a massacre. Harney's own report listed five soldiers lost, 86 people killed, the village burned, and 70 women and children captured and in turn marched to Fort Laramie for service to his soldiers throughout the winter. For this incident, Harney would be given a new name among the Lakota. Rather than "White-bearded soldier chief," he would be known simply as "Woman killer." Others would call him "The Butcher."

Attacks on other Indian tribes followed. "Soldiers looking for the Santees," Sandoz notes, "found the friendly Yanktonians at White Stone Hill and fell upon them. And at Bear River, beyond the west mountains, they struck the midwinter camp of Bannocks and Snakes, killing over 200, many of them women and children, leaving only a few to hide out in the snow."

To this list one might also add the massacre at Sand Creek in 1864, by Chivington's force of 700 militiamen. While Harney and his command had to be reassigned back east with the onset of the Civil War, his model was replicated in the massacre of more than 150 largely disarmed members of Black Kettle's band of Southern Cheyenne

conclusion on page 11



The U.S. Army had "a long stream of western officers with far more firepower than brain power."

And it was the Lakota, in particular, who were to suffer the effects of this volatile mix.

Act to Stop the Use of Cluster Munitions

by Suzy Prenger, Legislative Coordinator
Amnesty International

Imagine the curiosity of a child, seeing what looks like a soda can or a shiny metal or orange ball, and reaching to pick it up. But it's a bomblet, or cluster munition, and that child will lose a limb—or even its life—from the explosion.

In the last ten years, U.S. cluster munitions have been used in or near civilian-populated areas in Afghanistan, Iraq, former Yugoslavia, Colombia and southern Lebanon with devastating consequences to civilians.

For example, U.S. forces have reportedly dropped more than 10,500 cluster munitions in Iraq in 2003, including in villages of al-Hilla and the al-Baladiyat quarter of Baghdad with several direct civilian casualties. As of December 2004, approximately 90,000 unexploded cluster sub-munitions litter Iraqi areas such as cities, farmland and roads from the U.S. use of cluster bombs, continuing to threaten civilians.

In the last ten years, several major recipients of U.S. arms exports have used cluster munitions in civilian-populated areas. Most recently, for example, Israel fired hundreds of thousands of cluster munitions in Lebanon during the conflict with Hezbollah last summer, including in the villages of Ainata and Rashaya al-Foukar, using U.S. cluster bombs. According to the Lebanese Red Cross, 285 people were killed by cluster munitions during the conflict; after the conflict, unexploded cluster munitions have so far caused 30 deaths and nearly 180 injuries, including several to children. Some 40% of the bombs did not explode on contact and remained active on the ground. There is also credible evidence that the Colombian military dropped a cluster bomb from a U.S. supplied helicopter on the village of Santo Domingo in 1998, killing 11 adults and 6 children.

When used in or near civilian areas, cluster munitions run a serious risk of violating the international humanitarian law prohibition on indiscriminate attacks. Cluster munitions also often leave large numbers of unexploded sub-munitions on the ground, presenting a grave danger to civilian lives similar to landmines. The imprecise and unreliable nature of U.S. cluster munitions makes them especially hazardous to civilians. Whether artillery-fired or air-dropped, cluster bombs disperse hundreds of small bomblets over a wide area, failing to distinguish

between military and civilian targets. Cluster munitions were initially designed for attacking large-scale military troop formations, but more recently, they are being used in or near highly populated areas, with civilians as a de facto target, and running a serious risk of violating international humanitarian law.

The threat of cluster munitions to civilians does not end when a conflict subsides. Some U.S. made cluster munitions are reported to have a high dud rate, including up to 23 percent in test conditions for the U.S. made M26 rocket. Bomblets that fail to explode at impact often pose a severe threat to civilian lives and livelihoods for up to 50 years, similar to landmines. Cluster bomblets are usually no bigger than a small toy, and children have been killed and injured picking them up.

According to Donald Steinberg, vice president for multilateral affairs at the International Crisis Group and former U.S. ambassador to Angola, "Even demolition experts often lose their fight against these weapons... among the first casualties in NATO's Kosovo peacekeeping operations were experts trying to dismantle unexploded bomblets."

Although U.S. cluster munitions procured after FY 2005 are required to have a dud rate of less than one percent, no restrictions to date have been placed on exports from the older, existing—and unreliable—munitions stockpiles. Nor does current U.S. policy strictly prohibit their use in civilian populated areas. A Senate bill, sponsored by Senators Dianne Feinstein and Patrick Leahy, seeks to change that.

The Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act of 2007 (S. 594) would prevent the U.S. use or export of cluster bombs with high dud rates (less than one percent) and for civilian-populated areas. On humanitarian grounds alone, we should be urging our own senate leaders, Chuck Hagel and Ben Nelson, to co-sponsor this legislation.

We live in a world where 90 percent of the victims of conflict are civilians. Mustard gas and other biological and chemicals weapons have long been banned under the understanding that humanitarian concerns override military utility, and it is time cluster munitions join that list. And it is time that the United States joins the rest of the world in their denunciation.

For more information, go to www.amnestyusa.org and click on the arms trade under the issues button. And join us at the AIUSA Regional Meeting, Nov 2–4, 2007.

Amnesty International's Midwest Regional Conference 'Hope and Justice for All'

by Amanda E. Flott, Former NFP Omaha
Coordinator and Amnesty Midwest Field
Organizer for Nebraska

A British lawyer named Peter Benenson altered the course of history in 1961 by founding Amnesty International. Mr. Benenson is proof of the influence one human can exert upon an international community when inspired by the plight of those suffering social, political or economic injustice. Now you, too, can be a part of history and be a part of what Mr. Benenson created by attending the annual AIUSA Midwest Regional Conference—"Hope and Justice for All"—to be held November 2-4, 2007 in Omaha, Nebraska. The 2007 AIUSA Midwest Regional Conference is an opportunity for AI activists and leaders, as well as all those interested in human rights, to come together to learn about, discuss, and take action around some of the most important human rights issues facing the world today.

We hope you are able to attend the conference, and participate in the wide array of activities that will take place. There will be three Focus Plenary Panel sessions on The Death Penalty, International Justice, and Child Soldiers, in addition to a series of fourteen workshops on Sudan, Building a Movement Against Torture, the Rights of LGBT

People, Organizing a Multicultural Movement, Confronting the Human Rights Violations that Lead to Poverty, Fighting Impunity for Human Rights Violations in Colombia, Working with the Media and others. If you are interested in learning about Amnesty International and its accomplishments, there will be an Ideas Fair, which will display the work of AIUSA student and local groups, as well as that of our programs and networks. Human rights movies will also be shown throughout the conference. Other exciting conference highlights will include the following speakers and events:

Program Highlights:

- Curt Goering, Senior Executive Deputy Director, AIUSA
- Bukeni Tete Waruzi, Filmmaker, Author, and Director and founder of AJEDI-Ka/Projet Enfants Soldats, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Madeleine Shukurani, former child soldier, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Maya survivor of the Guatemalan genocide
- Midwest Region's "Spirit of Human Rights" Volunteer Awards

Conference Registration Information

Conference Registration:

If you are interested in attending, the first step is to register for the conference by downloading the registration form from the link below.

Pre-Registration (September 16–October 15): \$35 general, \$25 student/senior/limited income
After October 15 and on-site: \$40 general, \$30 student/senior/limited income

You can mail in both the conference registration form application to Amnesty International, Midwest Regional Office, 53 W. Jackson, Suite #731, Chicago, IL 60604, attn Regional Conference, fax them to 312-427-2589, or email them to [Adriana at apbartow@aiusa.org](mailto:Adriana.apbartow@aiusa.org).

Conference Registration Form:

www.amnestyusa.org/events/midwestern/pdf/mwrc2007registrationform.pdf

Lodging:

The conference will be taking place at the Clarion Hotel Omaha West, and the hotel is offering Amnesty International conference attendees a special room rate of \$69 for singles and \$79 for doubles, plus local taxes and fees.

This year's AIUSA Midwest Regional Conference centered around the theme of "Hope and Justice for All" is guaranteed to be an exciting venue that will provide you with an opportunity to learn from and educate your fellow conference attendants through networking opportunities. It is also a chance to reflect upon successes in the field of human rights as well as come together to find solutions for international issues still left unresolved. Hundreds are expected to attend the conference from all over the country; I sincerely hope you are one of them.

Cheney's Fingerprints, continued

It is too narrow for my liking. It contains only three articles. The first two say that Cheney "purposely manipulated the intelligence process to deceive citizens and Congress" in the lead-up to the Iraq War, both about weapons of mass destruction and about the alleged link between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaida. The third one says Cheney "has openly threatened aggression against the Republic of Iran absent any real threat to the United States." Kucinich notes that such a threat is a violation of the U.N. Charter.

Cheney should be brought up on more charges than these. But the concluding passage of the Kucinich bill is right on the mark:

"Vice President Richard B. Cheney has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as Vice President, and subversive of constitutional government, to the prejudice of the cause of law and justice and the manifest injury of the United States. Wherefore, Richard B. Cheney, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office."

Many people of goodwill raise objections to the idea of impeachment for either Cheney or Bush. Let me attend to those.

But first, can we dispatch with the paternalistic claptrap that the American people somehow wouldn't be able to endure another impeachment process? We are not so weak that we cannot stand up and fight for our constitutional system. Some of the people who make this argument are the very ones who foisted upon the nation the ludicrous impeachment of Bill Clinton. His petty, personal indiscretion, and even his serious lying under oath, pale in comparison to the

crimes against the Republic that Bush and Cheney have been committing.

Still, some progressive allies say that impeachment will never pass. It's a waste of time, so why try?

Well, we don't know that.

Now that the Democrats have investigative powers, every time they turn over a new rock, more reptilian facts emerge.

And we may be headed toward a constitutional confrontation, as Bush and Cheney resist subpoenas from the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

They are invoking "executive privilege." That has a certain ring to it, doesn't it?

Patrick Leahy, head of the Senate Judiciary, called it "Nixonian stonewalling" and said, "Increasingly, the President and the Vice President feel they are above the law."

John Conyers, head of the House Judiciary Committee, added: "This is reckless. It's a form of governmental lawlessness that is really astounding."

Conyers should know. He sat on the Judiciary Committee when it voted to impeach Richard Nixon in 1974.

And let's remember, one of the three articles that this committee brought forward concerned just such stonewalling.

Article 3 says: Richard M. Nixon "failed without lawful cause or excuse to produce papers and things as directed by duly authorized subpoenas issued by the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives... and willfully disobeyed such subpoenas... In refusing to produce these papers and things, Richard M. Nixon... acted in a manner contrary to his trust as President and subversive of constitutional

government."

Incidentally, Conyers introduced in the last Congress a bill to explore grounds for impeachment, and that was before many of the Bush crimes surfaced. He explained to Lewis Lapham of *Harper's* early last year that he was doing so because he didn't want people to wonder, years from now, where everybody was and why nobody did anything when "the Bush Administration declared the Constitution inoperative and revoked the license of parliamentary government."

"With the support of the leaders of the Progressive Caucus and the leader of the Out of Iraq Caucus, we will see more and more Members of Congress signing on in this effort to save our Constitution and protect the very values that bind us as a nation."

— Rep. Dennis Kucinich

Ironically, Conyers's party did not control the House at that time, so he knew his bill would go nowhere. Now, with the Democrats in power, Conyers can move impeachment forward in the Judiciary Committee that he heads. But he's gone uncharacteristically silent. Why? Because House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has muzzled him.

She and other Democratic leaders say

that impeachment may distract them from more important legislative duties. But what could be more important than upholding the Constitution? And anyway, the argument doesn't hold up, since impeaching Cheney or Bush might be the best way to bring the war to an end and to restore some of our civil liberties. That's what happened after Nixon resigned, as Kucinich adviser Steve Cobble has argued. We got out of Vietnam, we had the Congressional hearings that exposed illegal spying and infiltration, and Gerald Ford's Attorney General, Edward Levi, issued guidelines prohibiting most domestic spying.

Partisan Democrats make one last argument against impeachment. They say it will hurt their chances in 2008 of solidifying gains in Congress and in winning back the White House. History, here, suggests otherwise. In the Presidential election following the Nixon impeachment hearings, Jimmy Carter won. And in the Presidential election following Clinton's impeachment, the Republicans won.

The pragmatic argument also collapses under its own light weight. For impeachment is not about partisan payback or political gamesmanship. It's about something much larger. It's about whether we will have a democratic form of government or not. Democrats and responsible Republicans alike need to rise to this challenge.

And what message does doing nothing send? It tells Bush and Cheney that they can get off scot-free. And it leaves a loaded gun in the front drawer of the Oval Office desk for the next President to shoot more holes into the Constitution.

Silver Anniversary Edition

Cat Lovers Against the Bomb Wall Calendar



Cover Cat: Poo Wee Lulu

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Your Foundation Speaks

by Loyal Park, President Nebraska Peace Foundation

This month's column is for those who have a conventional IRA account and are age 70½ and older. The new tax rules concerning distributions from these IRA accounts will expire at the end of 2007. So now is the time to consider a direct contribution from your IRA account and the tax savings that may be possible.

Money taken out of a conventional IRA becomes taxable income to the IRA account holder. And if you are over age 70½ you will be required to take a minimum amount from your account. So this ends up increasing your adjusted gross income (AGI) which in turn usually increases the amount of your tax, both federal and state.

But there is a way around that—a direct withdrawal called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)—that avoids adding to your AGI and then the withdrawal escapes taxation. Of course the direct withdrawal has to be made to a qualified charitable organization and your Nebraska Peace Foundation qualifies 100% as a receiver of the QCD.

So think about it, contact your accountant or tax preparer and see if this will save you tax dollars and at the same time help support peace education work. If this does not save you taxes, then you may still want to make a gift to the Foundation as an ordinary charitable contribution.



Crazy Horse, conclusion

camped at Sand Creek in 1864.

Sandoz also identifies specific and particularly barbaric acts used by commanders to “teach the Indians a lesson.” She cites reports of Lakotas visiting with immigrants along the Platte River who became particularly inflamed when they learned that a “soldier chief on the Missouri had killed some of their relatives and set their heads upon poles.”

At Fort Laramie, the commanders had at least three Indians “strung up” with chains around their necks and their bodies left to hang and decompose for all to see as they visited or passed by the fort. A Cheyenne was strung up with an iron ball still attached to his leg for allegedly having stole some immigrants’ horses. To this particular spectacle, the bodies of two friendly Lakotas, Two Face and Blackfoot were added. Having learned of the opportunity to return “Mrs. Eubanks,” an immigrant woman captured and held by the Cheyennes, they brought her to Fort Laramie, only to have the commanders order them hanged and also left to dangle.

While acts like the above seem to be all too common in warfare, they become particularly problematic when those guilty of committing are not held accountable. The U.S. Army commanders were supposedly responsible for the care and protection of both the immigrants and the Indians. The young Crazy Horse did not see this happening. By age 14, he had witnessed two peaceful camps being fired upon and, in the case of Harney, a massacre perpetrated. He saw no protection afforded Indians from the occasional abuse by the immigrants—or, more importantly, from the abuse by the white soldier

chiefs themselves. But perhaps worst of all, not only for him and the others at that time—but also for us who look back on all of this today—there seems to have been little if any justice meted out for those guilty of committing the atrocities. To the contrary, some were honored, memorialized and even, in the case of General Harney, monumentalized. In his biography, *The Journey of Crazy Horse*, author Joseph Marshall III puts it this way:

One wonders what Crazy Horse would think of the modern day irony associated with General Harney, dubbed ‘Woman Killer’ by the Sicangu Lakota: In the middle of the Black Hills is the highest of all the granite peaks. Like Bear Butte to the north, it was a favorite location for vision quests and other ceremonies. It was and is considered by the Lakota to be the spiritual center of our world. The highest and holiest of places was named Harney Peak by the whites. I have seen old Lakota men simply shake their heads at what they considered to be the most grievous of insults, because they could find no words to adequately describe their feelings.

While one can only speculate on the suffering that could have been avoided had justice been better esteemed by those who were living in those times, we today can still do our bit to redress the wrong that troubled those “old Lakota men.” At the very least, we can seek to erase the insult of “Harney Peak” in the Paha Sapa by removing this ignoble name. To engage in bringing this about would be a gift in justice for our ancestors, ourselves and all of us into the future. So may it be.

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



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	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NOW SHOWING</td> </tr> <tr> <td>COMING SOON</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ABOUT THE ROSS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEMBERSHIP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SPONSORS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FILM RESOURCES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CONTACT US</td> </tr> </table>	NOW SHOWING	COMING SOON	ABOUT THE ROSS	MEMBERSHIP	SPONSORS	FILM RESOURCES	CONTACT US	<p>COMING SOON</p> <p>9.28 - 10.11 ROCKET SCIENCE features a good cast of relative unknowns, who with the help of a solid script, convey the pangs of adolescent angst and the awkwardness of high school. The film treads familiar territory but does so well, sticking to the story and not getting too caught up in style.</p> <p>10.12 - 10.25 DELIRIOUS is a A gently attitudinous, generally zippy urban fairy tale about pop stars and the hangers-on who coddle (or prey upon) them, Tom DiCillo's DELIRIOUS is a mild Midnight Cowboy, a minor King of Comedy, and mainly a vehicle for Steve Buscemi as a lower Manhattan-based paparazzo.</p> <p>10.12 - 10.25 2 DAYS IN PARIS is an inside-out version of the much-admired Richard Linklater films "Before Sunrise" and "Before Sunset." Where Mr. Linklater's movies were weepies for the kind of educated, upscale young cosmopolites who have a soft spot for romances like "Casablanca," Ms. Delpy's examination of modern love among the almost young and still restless is bracingly hard-headed. Ms. Delpy's and Mr. Goldberg's performances are so assured and spontaneous that they don't even seem to be acting; they're living their roles in front of our eyes.—Stephen Holden, The New York Times</p>
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'KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE WEEK' SCHEDULE OF EVENTS IN OMAHA

Friday, October 5 – 3:30 p.m.

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of the Archdiocese of Detroit and Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the "Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space" will jointly deliver a presentation entitled "StratCom's Role in the Militarization of Space: An Update and Catholic Response" on the Creighton University campus in the Rigge Science Building, Room #120. The program is free and the public is welcome.

Saturday, October 6 – 10:00 a.m.

Bishop Gumbleton and Gagnon reprise their presentation, "StratCom's Role in the Militarization of Space: An Update and Christian Response" at the 2007 Annual Peace Conference at First United Methodist Church in Omaha. Conference registration for the all-day event is \$25 per person, which includes lunch. Arrangements to attend the morning talks for free can be made by contacting the NFP State Office.

Tuesday, October 9 – 4:30 p.m.

Nonviolent public protest at the 'opening ceremony and reception' for the "Strategic Space and Defense 2007 Conference" in front of the Qwest Center in Omaha until 6:00 p.m. There will be banners, a float and Gospel singing to urge an end to this Military-Industrial Complex shopping spree and rush to militarize outer space. Sponsored by Nebraskans for Peace.

Wednesday, October 10 – 4:30 p.m.

Nonviolent vigil outside StratCom's Global Innovation and Strategy Center at 6825 Pine Street on the UNO campus. Sponsored by the Omaha Catholic Worker Community.

Thursday, October 11 – 7:30 a.m.

Nonviolent public protest in front of the Qwest Center on the final day of the "Strategic Space and Defense 2007 Conference" from 7:30-9:00 a.m., with banners, signs and speakers.



Speaking Our Peace

I don't get fan mail. My wife sometimes tells me I have done a good job. My 'good old boys' Monday luncheon group occasionally discusses a column I wrote. That's about it.

But recently, with great emotion, I received fan messages from people I *don't even know*. I had written a *Lincoln Journal Star* guest editorial on the "brain-washed peaceniks" who'd organized the Hiroshima Day lantern float at Holmes Lake August 5. In the op-ed, I suggested that competent military people and historians doubted that Hiroshima and Nagasaki produced the Japanese surrender. I argued that the bomb violated the highest principles of international law and "Just War" theory calling for the avoidance of civilian deaths. I said that whatever we think of Hiroshima/Nagasaki, we cannot continue the proliferation of nuclear arms in the U.S., Pakistan, India, Israel, the UK, France, China, Russia and so forth. Proliferation only purposes more innocent deaths.

My fans soon appeared. One told me that, like most UNL professors, *I did not love America*. Another told me that I had better find out fast *whether or not I was an Israelite because God would destroy me if I wasn't*. Other judgments said that I was *pathetic, near the top of nonsense, wacko, ripe for the cat's litter box* (that really hurt both me and Sapphire, my kitty), and an *arrogant professor from a smugly titled organization*. Gerard Harbison—a UNL chemistry prof who has opposed the repatriation of Indian remains and, as he says in a *Scarlet* article, is busy "keeping the world safe" with his own science—called what I had written "*tendentious nonsense*." With praise like that, who could

avoid pride?

None of my responders disputed the military authority of my generals and admirals—Eisenhower, Leahy, LeMay, Marshall. None dealt with the historians—Gar Alperowitz of the University of Maryland, Herbert Bix of SUNY, Ernest R. May of Harvard and Barton Bernstein of Stanford—who questioned the efficacy of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki attack and nuclear armaments in general. Harbison cited the neo-con Oliver Kamm's inaccurate article for *The Guardian* (www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,2142224,00.html; <http://crooked-timber.org/2007/08/22/kamm-versus-anscombe/>). No one else provided even pseudo-evidence. Yet no one said that we needed more nukes and more nuclear nations. Apparently, only the White House, the nuclear industry and a few military types believe that.

A few favorable comments appeared. Jody P. wrote:

One's perspective changes when one is "in harm's way"...I wonder what the perspective was of the innocent women and children in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. [One can get an idea from Ibuse's Black Rain.] I imagine it made 9/11 look pretty tame by comparison. Even if you assume that dropping those bombs was somehow justified, I don't see how anyone could deny that it was still a tragedy. Many Americans talk casually about nuking such-and-such country back to the Stone Age. But when it comes to being on the receiving end of a mushroom cloud, or even the 9/11 attacks, Americans don't seem to like the idea nearly so much.

Jody is right. How can the killing of

Downwind from Nuclear Holocaust and Wacko

by Paul Olson, UNL Professor Emeritus

hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians appear right because the armies of our opponents did similar things? The attacks on my column were full of pictures of the cruelty of "the Japs." We can concede that they were cruel. Does that justify cruelty in us? How can murder justify murder? If we end up launching a nuclear attack on Iran over White House allegations that they're creating like weapons, how does that make it any less of a tragedy?

In February, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Seymour Hersh wrote that "the Pentagon is continuing *intensive planning for a possible bombing attack on Iran, a process that began last year at the direction of the president*"—a plan "that can be implemented, upon orders from the president, within twenty-four hours" and could include nuclear weapons. Indeed the president refused to take nukes off the Iran table. New weapons developed for field use heighten the possibility of a nuclear attack. Under CONPLAN 8022, the president can order the commander at StratCom to take out a target in one hour, and the commander has the choice of whether to do so with a conventional or nuclear weapon.

No consultation. No congressional input. A StratCom commander can decide to start a nuclear war. And some of your neighbors in Omaha and Bellevue might very well be the ones implementing the attack.

Given that we have had one president, Nixon, who by friendly accounts was often drunk; given that we have now or have had, in the recent past, others at the top of the executive branch who had been se-

nile, emotionally unstable or recovering alcoholics and drug users, the Congress and the government appear to have vested a dangerously inordinate amount of power in one or two people. And yet the Constitution, on the power to make war, is still pretty clear about it being a congressional responsibility. (Mario Cuomo has recently made the same argument).

We need to raise our voices for a repeal of the president's power to declare war through StratCom, for a return of StratCom to its traditionally 'defensive' mission, and ultimately, for the multilateral abolition of nuclear weapons. StratCom's in our backyard, and Nebraskans for Peace has a particular obligation to alert the world of these dangers.

(But we will need money for that—a lot of money. At the StratCom-focused Annual Peace Conference in Omaha October 6, we will be making an appeal for people to include the Nebraska Peace Foundation in their wills and bequests so that, among other things, NFP can educate the nation and world about the StratCom threat.)

Jonathan Schell said in the 1980s, during the campaign for a "nuclear freeze" on any more weapons, that "the fate of the earth" was at stake. So it now is at StratCom (though we obscure the danger through technological jargon and acronyms). Indeed, if Nebraskans really knew StratCom's plans for propagating more Hiroshimas and Nagasakis, our positions after Holmes Lake might seem less wacko. As one of the denominational representatives (quoting William Sloan Coffin) said at the lantern float, "we are all downwind from nuclear holocaust."