

January/February 2008

Peace Matters

There Is No
Peace Without
Justice

INTERNATIONAL SPACE ORGANIZING CONFERENCE AND PROTEST in Omaha April 11-13, 2008

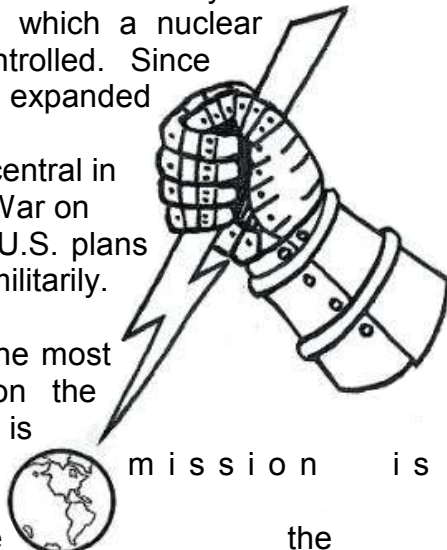
(Please put this on your calendar now, so you are sure to attend!)

StratCom: The Most Dangerous Place On the Face of the Earth

In 2008, the Global Network will hold its Annual Space Organizing Conference and Protest outside this Strategic Command. Hundreds of people from around the world will come to Omaha from April 11 to 13, 2008, to learn first-hand about this military installation that operates in America's heartland. For the first time, world citizens will gather to shine a light on what StratCom has become. Co-sponsors include Nebraskans for Peace. NFP members are strongly encouraged to attend this conference.

The U.S. Strategic Command for years has been the site from which a nuclear war would be controlled. Since 9/11 its mission has expanded to become command central in the United States' "War on Terror" and for the U.S. plans to dominate space militarily.

StratCom today is the most dangerous place on the face of the earth. It is secretive. Its mission is destabilizing. It operates outside the



law. And its transformation has occurred so quickly, most of the world (and Nebraskans) are completely unaware of its missions and dangers. As things now stand, the next war the White House initiates will be planned, launched and directed by StratCom. Building global awareness is essential if we are to get StratCom to back away from the brink. Join us!

For more information about this conference, contact the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space • PO Box 652 • Brunswick, ME 04011 www.space4peace.org • globalnet@mindspring.com • 207-443-9502

HOW TO VOTE FOR PRESIDENT IN NEBRASKA PRIMARY

If you are not a Democrat, just go to your polling place on May 13, 2008, and vote the same way you did in the past.

If you are a Democrat in Nebraska, the process and timing are very different this year. Democrats will be able to vote for their presidential candidate only during the Presidential Caucus on Saturday February 9, 2008. Much of the information in this article is on the Douglas County Democrats' Web site at: <http://www.douglascountydemocrats.com/what-is-a-caucus/>. Democrats will be able to vote for candidates running for lower offices on May 13, 2008, along with everyone else.

Nebraska Democrats decided to have a presidential caucus to increase their grassroots involvement, to get more people actively involved with the party, and to make their voice heard nationally during the primary season.

Peace Matters

Continued from page 1

Moving the date to February 9 doesn't make Nebraska first, but it does make the caucus early enough so the candidates should spend more time, energy and money in Nebraska to win our state.

The Nebraska Caucus is a "Binding Caucus." This means the candidate who wins the caucus on February 9, 2008, will win the Nebraska delegates at the Democratic National Convention. This is why it is so important for Nebraska Democrats to participate in the 2008 Presidential Caucus. It is the only opportunity to cast a deciding vote in the Democratic presidential race.

The Douglas County Democratic Party is organizing its 2008 Presidential Caucuses by legislative district. Each of the 15 legislative districts within Douglas County will have one central location within the legislative district where the caucus will be held.

All registered Democrats are eligible to participate in the 2008 Nebraska Caucus. You may register for the first time or change your registration at the caucus event. For more information, and to sign up to help, go to <http://www.nebraskademocrats.org> or call the Democratic office at 434-2180.

Regardless of how you are registered to vote, please make your voice heard for peace and justice by voting in 2008!

TWO WAR RESISTERS FOUND GUILTY

By Jerry Ebner, NFP Member and Omaha Catholic Worker

On Friday, December 14, 2007, two of the three Catholic war resisters, the Rev. Jack McCaslin and Jerry Ebner, went to trial in Douglas County Court as a result of their peaceful protest at the Qwest Center during the Space Weapons Conference sponsored by StratCom and Offutt Air Force Base. The third

resister, Peg Gallagher, will go to court on December 28. Judge Thomas McQuade listened to both sides about what happened. Jerry Ebner informed the judge that the defendants had pictures and a 20-minute video for him to see. The judge looked at the pictures, but not the video. The video is at www.archive.org/details/CatholicWorkerDieCDinfrontofQwestCre101007. The defendants showed evidence in pictures that no door was obstructed.

On October 10 at 6:26 minutes into the video above, Rebecca Kleeman, public relations manager for Qwest Center Omaha, told the defendants, ". . . Our problem here is that you're impeding the entrance to the door, so I need to ask you to leave." In fact, less than half of a minute before, at 6:00 minutes into the video, people, including Ms. Kleeman, are shown leaving the Qwest Center through doors right next to the protesters.

The judge said the charge was for failing to leave, not for blocking a doorway. The defendants do not



believe that what they did in a prayerful and prophetic spirit of Christian nonviolence was a crime. The Rev. Jack McCaslin and Jerry Ebner were both found guilty. Judge Thomas McQuade gave each a \$75 fine plus court costs for a total of \$119,

to be paid within 30 days. Jerry Ebner requested an alternative to the fine. He told the judge of his financial situation: he helps maintain the Omaha Catholic Worker Hospitality House for homeless men, where they care for five *homeless men*. It is a matter of conscience that he refuse to pay the

Answer: President Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909).

fine and seek an alternative, because all contributions to support the OCW House are used exclusively to support the poor, not the criminal justice system. Jerry Ebner was then given three options by Judge McQuade: (1) pay the fine, (2) two days in jail or (3) community service. Jerry Ebner thanked the judge for the options and chose the second option as an "acceptable and honorable choice". This will be served by January 14, 2008.

There is one more Catholic war resister to be tried for the same violation. She was given a later court date at her attorney's request. Peg Gallagher, age 89, is going to court on Friday, December 28, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. in Douglas County Courtroom No. 27 at 17th and Farnam Streets, Omaha. December 28 is the Catholic Feast Day of the Holy Innocents Massacre.

For more information contact Jerry Ebner, Omaha Catholic Worker, 1104 North 24th St, Omaha NE 68102, 502-5887 cwomaha@gmail.com www.nonukes.org/cwomaha.

STAY UP-TO-DATE AND BE MORE EFFECTIVE BY EMAIL

By Mark Welsch, NFP Omaha Coordinator

Nebraskans For Peace would like to be able to keep all its members (and non-member supporters) up-to-date about what we are working on regarding peace and justice issues. To do that we could spend a lot more time and money sending out more newsletters and flyers by regular mail. Instead of paying that additional cost, we have started to update our database with everyone's email address. Email addresses change more often than street addresses, so if you are not getting regular notes from NFP, PLEASE send your email address, along with your name, address and phone number, to NFPomaha@NebraskansForPeace.org. Then we will be able to update your record in our database and make sure that you are kept informed about important NFP issues and activities. One-third of

the email addresses in our database are no longer valid, and we don't have email addresses for many of our members and supporters. Please update yours with NFP today.



NFP volunteers are going to be calling supporters to learn which issues you are most interested in and to make sure our database is as up-to-date as possible. When they call you, please take a few minutes to answer their questions so we can be more effective on the issues you care about.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE STARTS JANUARY 9, 2008

We are fast approaching January 9, 2008, when the Nebraska Legislature starts the new legislative session. We could really use your help to pass good bills and to stop the passage of bad bills. NFP is working on several issues, including ending the death penalty, requiring local school districts to have a policy on how they will handle children who bully other children, environmental issues, and others. Senators rarely hear from people who live in their districts. We want to change that on bills that we care about.

As we have in the past, NFP will send email messages to our supporters when we need your help to advance or stop a bill. We will send enough information in the email so it will be very easy for you to send an email message to your senator about our issues. In our email messages, we plan on sending a draft letter that you may copy and paste into your email system, changing it a little (or a lot) if you wish, so all the letters your senator receives are not identical. We will also send your senator's email and other contact information.

Peace Matters Committee:

Editor: Mark Welsch

Assistant Editor: Victoria Peterson

Layout: Carol Windrum and Tim Fickenscher

NFP-Omaha Office
PO Box 6418
Omaha, NE 68106
402/453-0776

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
Paid
Omaha, NE
Permit #83

Question: What former president said, "To announce that there must be no criticism of the president, or that we are to stand by the president, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public.

Calendar of Events

Every Saturday, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Impeach Cheney and Bush Demonstration. Contact Elaine Wells at 415-9500 for more information.

Every Wednesday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Peace Vigil at StratCom/ UNO, 6825 Pine Street (three blocks east of 72nd and Pine Streets, which is 16 blocks south of Dodge Street, east of UNO Scott Technology Center). This is a cooperative effort with the Omaha Catholic Worker House. For more information contact Jerry Ebner, cwomaha@gmail.com or at 502-5887.

December 26-28, Join the Omaha and Des Moines Catholic Worker communities at the 29th Annual Feast of the Holy Innocents Resistance Retreat in St. John's Church basement on Creighton University Campus, in Omaha. It starts Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the church and ends on Friday at 1:00 p.m. at Kinney Gate at Offutt AFB with a prayer vigil and line crossing. For directions and more information contact Jerry Ebner, cwomaha@gmail.com or at 502-5887.

December 28, 9:00 a.m. War Resister's Court Hearings for Peg Gallagher at the Douglas County Courtroom No. 27 at 17th and Farnam Streets, 2nd floor in downtown Omaha.

January 7, 5:30-6:30 p.m. (first Monday of every month) Peacemakers Task Force at First United Methodist Church, Conference Room, 7020 Cass Street. Enter the church office door on the south side and turn left down first hallway. Contact person is Elaine Wells at 415-9500.

January 9, 6:30 p.m. (second Wednesday of every month) NFP Omaha Leadership meeting at Augustana Lutheran Church, 3647 Lafayette Avenue. All are welcome. Contact person is Mark Welsch at 453-0776.

January 12, 6:00 p.m. Potluck meal, 7:00 p.m. meeting of the Progressive Omaha group at 4924 Chicago Street. All progressive people are welcome. Contact person is Jack Dunn at 551-2552.

January 14, 7:00 p.m. Palestinian Task Force meeting at 7701 Pacific St, Suite 301. Contact Anne Else at 556-5184 for more information.

January 25, 7:00 p.m. The play "My Name Is Rachel Corrie" at First Unitarian Church at 3114 Harney Street. (\$5 admission, extra donation appreciated.) Contact person is Anne Else, 556-5184. Email information forthcoming.

February 4, 5:30-6:30 p.m. (first Monday of every month) Peacemakers Task Force at First United Methodist Church, Conference Room, 7020 Cass Street. Enter the church office door on the south side and turn left down first hallway. Contact person is Elaine Wells at 415-9500.

February 9, NE Democratic Presidential Caucus. (Article on page 1.)

February 13, 6:30 p.m. (second Wednesday of every month) NFP Omaha Leadership meeting at Augustana Lutheran Church, 3647 Lafayette Avenue. All are welcome. Contact person is Mark Welsch at 453-0776.

February 14, (second Thursday of every month) 6:00 p.m. Peace Seekers and Pizza, 7:00 p.m. discussion, reflection and leadership support at 4924 Chicago Street. Contact person is Jo Peterson at 350-3019.

February Palestinian Task Force meeting. Contact Anne Else at 556-5184 for date, time and location.

April 11-13, 2008, Annual International Space Organizing Conference and Protest in Omaha. Please put this date on your calendar. We will be hosting guests from other countries. Contact person is Mark Welsch at 453-0776. More information is on www.space4peace.org.

April 26, 2008, Annual Omaha Peace and Justice Expo. Save the date - more information will come later.