

November/December 2008

Peace Matters



There Is No
Peace Without
Justice

RIDE TO THE POLLS

By Mark Welsch, Omaha Coordinator

Nebraskans for Peace wants to make sure everyone who reads this (in the Omaha area) is able to vote. Several volunteers have offered to give rides to potential voters. Just call me at 453-0776 so we can make arrangements for you to vote.

November 4, 2008, will be an historic election. Either a Black man will be elected as our president or a woman will be elected to be vice president. Don't let lack of a ride prevent you from voting. If you need one, please call to reserve a ride today (and leave a message if you get my machine). You don't have to wait until Election Day to vote. You can vote any time at the County Election Commissioner's offices. Douglas County's is at 225 North 115 Street in Omaha. This office is south of Dodge Street. A volunteer can take you to that location to vote early.



We should not take amendments to the state constitution lightly. This initiative was almost entirely funded by out-of-state people. These people are reportedly almost all rich White men who have an eye on our tax money that is spent on streets and highways. They don't like the competition that is being created by Omaha's ordinance and state law that requires a fraction of these contracts to be awarded to companies with women or minority owners or both.

ANTI-AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INITIATIVE 424

By Mark Welsch, Omaha Coordinator

There are some very important state and local candidates to select. One of the most important is the very last thing on the multi-page ballot. On the back of the last sheet of ballots that Nebraskans will get is the anti-affirmative action initiative question that Nebraskans for Peace is urging all members and supporters and others whom we can influence to **VOTE AGAINST INITIATIVE 424**. The headline on the ballot for this is "Constitutional



Amendment Proposed by Initiative Petition Initiative Measure 424. Please tell everyone you know to go all the way to the back of the last ballot page and vote **AGAINST** this initiative.

We can't wipe out the very negative effects of over 350 years of slavery in this country in just a few decades. In my lifetime it was legal to not rent to Blacks or other minorities. We who are white should be ashamed of our past and continue to work to create equality in our state. Today we still read newspaper reports about racial profiling by the police that puts innocent minorities in front of judges. Without a requirement to give women and minority owned businesses a small part of the roads budget, it is likely that contracts would only go to the largest white male owned businesses.

More information is at the Nebraskans United website:
www.nebraskansunited.org.

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EIGHT ARRESTED AT QWEST CENTER, ONE 89 YEARS OLD

By Jerry Ebner, Omaha Catholic Worker,
also NFP member

On Wednesday, October 8, 2008 eight people were arrested for "Failure to Leave" while participating in a civil disobedience "Die-In" action inside the Qwest Convention Center in Omaha. Among them was long time peace activist Peg Gallagher who recently celebrated her 90th birthday. The main reason for the "Die-In" was to expose the lie of legitimacy given by the City of Omaha and the Qwest Convention Center to the 2008 Strategic Space and Defense Conference. This is an unholy alliance which can only end in global death and destruction.

Another reason: to draw attention to the United Nations "Prevent an Arms Race in Outer Space" (PAROS) resolution that only the United States and Israel oppose. All other countries in the world have voted YES, that there should be an international treaty to prevent an arms race in outer space.

Thirdly, because StratCom's Space Weapons Bazaar, officially called "Strategic Space and Defense 2008 Conference" is being held every October in Omaha. Midwest Catholic Workers and friends will be at these events as long as they are held in Omaha.

Participants proceeded to lie themselves down on the cold concrete near the entrance to the Qwest Center in symbolism of the thousands of people who die each year at the hands of the rampant militarization of our planet. StratCom continues to promote its weaponization of space, and the Midwest Catholic Workers and friends continue to demonstrate that Space Weapons Equal Death. Omaha police officers arrested the participants of the "Die-In" for symbolically demonstrating that Space Weapons Equals Death.

Four of those arrested are from outside of Omaha and were taken to the Douglas County Jail. These four are Des Moines Catholic Worker Frank Cordaro, 57, Duluth Minnesota Catholic Workers Greg Boertje, 53, Michael Walli, 60, and Columbia Missouri Catholic Worker Steve Jacobs, 53. After a few days Jacobs and Cordaro pleaded



"No Contest." They were released on October 11 and 12 respectively, after serving jail time instead of paying any money to the court. Boertje and Walli both pleaded "Not Guilty" and may remain in jail until their trials. As of October 24th Boertje is planning on changing his plea to "No Contest", so by the time you

read this he will likely be out of jail. Walli's trial is on November 14 the time, judge and room number still to be determined.

Send letters of support to: Michael Walli # 3105706 (with his name and number on the face of the letter) Douglas County Jail, 710 S. 17th Street, Omaha, NE 68102. Support money for his commissary account, for stamps and some goodies, may be sent only by U.S. Postal money order--no cash or checks are accepted. Put his full name and numbers on the money order. Send it to the DC Jail.

Books can only be sent to them directly from a publisher or local bookstore with their name and number on the face of the package. They are both Christian Catholic religious and political, and they like those kinds of books.

The Omaha local peace activists were arrested and released. They are Peg Gallagher, then 89, Kathy J.

Answer:

Robert C. Winthrop - a Representative and a Senator from Massachusetts. Born May 12, 1809, died November 16, 1894.

Editor's note: We still have a long way to go in many of our schools today.

Peterson, 54, Mark Kenney, 51 and Jerry Ebner, 58. The next court date for these last four is November 12, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in the Douglas County Courthouse, the room number unknown at this time. Please pray for us and attend as many of the court hearings as you can. For more information contact Jerry Ebner at cwomaha@gmail.com or 502-5887.



THE FOLLY OF U.S. SPACE DOMINANCE

By Faye O'Reilly, Dana College Student and NFP Member

On October 7 Mike Moore, author of "Twilight War: The Folly of U.S. Space Dominance," spoke to the students at Dana College in Blair as

part of an event sponsored by Nebraskans For Peace. Promoting his book, he discussed the future of space-related weapons and the possible economic, political and social repercussions

that could arise from the United States' current push for dominance of outer space, more specifically, satellite orbits.

How do you sustain six billion plus people during a conflict in space? "You don't." Moore said. He believes that if the United States continues to push for more satellite-based

offensive weapons, the consequences could be great. Not only would we risk another World War (with the threat of total annihilation of the planet by nuclear weaponry) but the world could suffer a collapse of the global economy. Even if combat could be avoided, without the satellites that orbit the earth, communications would be lost, thus causing a blackout for worldwide businesses and governments, resulting in mass panic.

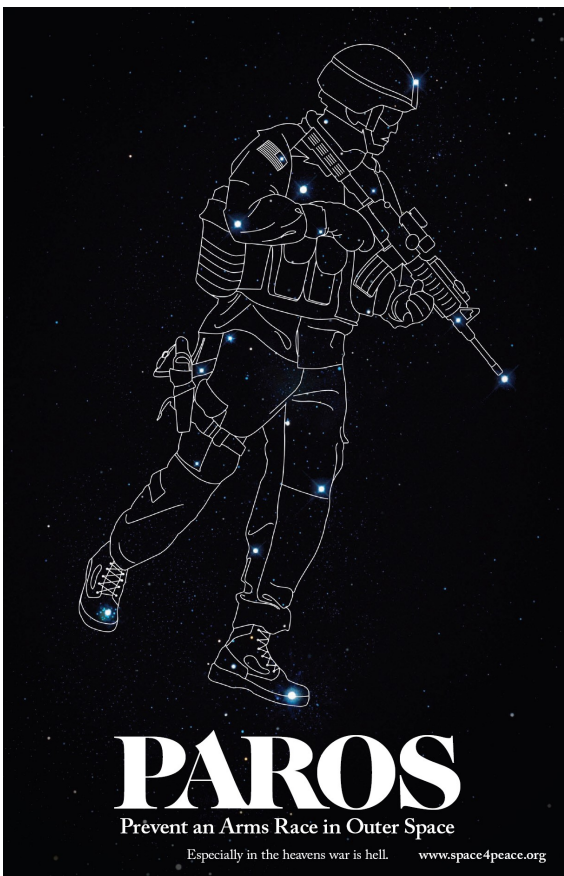
Satellites are fundamentally important to the economic and political infrastructure of the global economy. Backed by evidence in history: the Cold War and President Eisenhower, Moore supports a United Nations General Assembly proposal to outlaw space weaponry, an initiative the United States refuses to accept. He contends that if every nation in the world is in favor of a space treaty and the United States prohibits negotiations, it is acting as a lawless nation. Another of the earth's natural resources, space, is in urgent need of protection. This last frontier is the most important for the future.

HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT HELP OTHERS

By Anne Else, Chairperson NFP Palestinian Rights Group

The Palestinian Rights Task Force of Nebraskans for Peace is selling olive oil and olive oil soap from Palestine. The purchase of these items (\$20 for a bottle of oil; \$5 for a bar of soap) provides fair wage salaries for Palestinian farmers, helps to plant olive trees to replace those destroyed by Israel, and funds art and cultural programs for Palestinian youth. Because Israel often blocks exports from Palestine, the livelihood of many families has been devastated. Please consider letting these items become your holiday gifts.

To purchase, call 556-5184 - we can deliver. The brand name of the oil is Zatoun. It can also be purchased at the Mediterranean food store located on the southwest corner of 85th and Blondo Streets. It is necessary to ask for it by brand name if you purchase it there. (The intersection at Blondo is unique because the street going south of Blondo is 85th, but going north it is 88th.)



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Question: Who said, "Slavery is but half abolished, emancipation is but half completed, while millions of freeman with votes in their hands are left without education."? (Answer Inside)

Calendar of Events

Every Wednesday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Peace Vigil at StratCom/ UNO, 6801 Pine Street (east of UNO Scott Technology Center). Contact person is Jerry Ebner at cwomaha@gmail.com or 502-5887.

Every Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Progressive movies and dinner at McFoster's Natural Kind Cafe at 38th and Farnam Streets. See <http://www.progressiveomaha.com/films.htm> for more info. Free admission.

Every Saturday, 1:00-2:00 p.m. Anti-War and Pro-Peace Vigil at 72nd and Dodge Streets Contact Steve Horn at 426-9068 for more information.

The First Wednesday of the Month, Noon - 1:00 p.m. "The Hungry Club" meeting at Big Mamma's Kitchen & Catering at 3223 North 45th Street, Building A on the Turning Point Campus. Arrive early and be assured a seat. The Hungry Club has interesting guest speakers every month. For more information call 455-MAMA.

The Second Thursday of the Month, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. - Peace Seekers and Pizza - Time for discussion, reflection and leadership support 4924 Chicago St (Jo Peterson's house)

The Second Saturday of the Month - Potluck begins at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Progressive Omaha the Organization - A time for networking, discussion and planning. All Omaha progressives invited. 4924 Chicago St (Jo Peterson's house)

November NFP's Palestinian Task Force meeting. Contact person is Anne Else at 556-5184.

Tuesday, November 4, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Election Day. Please vote early and against Initiative 424. (See stories on page 1.)

Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m. Courtroom # will be on the TV screen in the courthouse, Douglas County Courthouse 17th and Farnam Street - Arraignment for Mark Kenney, Kathy Jo Peterson, Jerry Ebner and Peg Gallagher. (see article about the Die-In.)

Wednesday, November 12, 7:00 p.m., NFP Omaha Leadership meeting at Augustana Lutheran Church, 3647 Lafayette Avenue. All are welcome. Contact person is Mark Welsch at 453-0776.

Friday, November 14, 9:00 a.m. Michael Walli's trial (See article about the Die-In) in Douglas County Courtroom #27, Contact person is Jerry Ebner 502-5887.

Wednesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m., NFP Omaha Leadership meeting at Augustana Lutheran Church, 3647 Lafayette Avenue. All are welcome. Contact person is Mark Welsch at 453-0776.

Feast of the Holy Innocents – All of the plans are not final. For more information watch your email or contact Jerry Ebner, Omaha Catholic Worker cwomaha@gmail.com 402-502-5887

Friday, December 26, 7:00 p.m. Feast of the Holy Innocents potluck evening dinner at St. John's Church basement on Creighton University's campus. Bring some food to share.

Sunday December 28, 10:00 a.m. Feast of Holy Innocents Mass in Lower St. John's Church basement on Creighton University's campus.

Sunday December 28, 11:00 a.m. Prayer Circle and possible line crossing at Offutt Air Force Base, home of StratCom.

December NFP's Palestinian Task Force meeting. Contact person is Anne Else at 556-5184.