

Peace



Press

The Newsletter of
The Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice

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Introducing www.ocpj.revolt.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB! Our maiden voyage on the web should help answer that age-old question for those who do not know: What is an "OCPJ"? Not the Orange County for Peace & Justice (CA)—which you may find if you go surfing, without the "revolt." Not a revolting website you would ever visit. And not the Oxford Citizens for Peanut Butter and Jelly—delicious but not us.

The good folks at the Riseup Collective are our website hosts (as well as our listserv hosts), and, by way of an explanation, under their domain we got "revolt" as a sub-domain. We could say it's a gentle revolution we're working toward, or we could say it distinguishes us for easy targeting by the FBI. We'll see.

COME VISIT US ON THE WEB. We are still tinkering with the format and content. But we'd like to have your comments. **Kim Medley**, our webmaster, has had to learn web design and other how-tos over the past several months in order to bring our website to fruition. Thank you, thank you, Kim.

Please send your comments to Kim Medley at mdomoko@yahoo.com

Getting Out of Iraq—The Hard Way

A form of this article appeared in the Journal News on 5/24/07.

With an obsessed president who lets soldier after soldier die so he can maintain his illusion, and a Congress failing to live up to its Constitutional obligations, how can we ever extricate ourselves from the horror in Iraq?

It becomes increasingly clear that George W. Bush and his cohorts finagled us into the war, intending never to leave Iraq, but to keep it as an empire-building base. As former President Jimmy Carter said in February 2006, "The reason that we went to Iraq was to establish a permanent military base in the Gulf region." And Bush, rationality-challenged as he is, clings to that notion, come hell or high water.

The indication is that the hope of persuading him to change course is virtually nil. Therefore, concerned citizens must concentrate their efforts on persuasion of Congress. Though that seems nearly as difficult as getting through to the president, it is what must be attempted.

The Senate rejected, by a 29-67 vote, Sen. Russ Feingold's proposal to cut off money for combat operations after March 2008. Then the deal to fund the war through September as Bush requested was struck — **with no timetable for ending the war, no demand that troops leave Iraq by a certain date, and no restriction on the deployment of units based on readiness standards.** The vote, on May 24, in the Senate was 80-14 for the war funding bill, and 280-142 in the House.

The Constitution (Article I, Section 8) gives Congress the power "to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces"—which means that it is not solely up to the commander-in-chief to determine the end of a war. When Congress declares that the military forces shall no longer be involved in a certain war, the president no longer has that war in which to be commander-in-chief. His duty then is to command that the forces be brought back home.

A difficulty confronting the Feingold bill and others like it is that they deal with cutting off combat funds – which, in the public mind and in the minds of many legislators, immediately translates into not supporting the troops.

Since Article I of the Constitution does not place limits on the power of Congress to make rules for governing and regulating the military forces, legislators must abandon the notion that they can do so only through pulling the purse strings. They need to have the courage and integrity simply to end the war. Once it is ended, troop support is no longer an issue.

Ending the war need not be a callous abandonment of the people in civil war-torn Iraq. A vigorous and concentrated effort must be made to involve all factions and parties (including neighboring nations and the UN) in subduing the violence. Once the U.S. declares itself ready to leave, the success of such efforts could be rapid.

There are indications that the religious factions fighting in Iraq would not cooperate with al-Qaida and that neighboring nations would work toward restoration of order in Iraq.

The fact remains that, as the citizenry has overwhelmingly concluded, U.S. forces should no longer be involved in this civil war. No matter how long the road, the Congress must be nudged and pushed along toward the formation of a veto-proof majority committed to fulfilling its duty to bring the troops home.

Ours is not a government run by one man, and it is necessary to use the supreme law of the land to drive that point home. It is obvious, though, that Congress will not do what is necessary unless and until the overwhelming majority of citizens raise their voices and give unmistakable evidence that they want that law applied.

A massive increase in letters, telephone calls, e-mails, demonstrations, and lobbying efforts may yet get the attention of Congress.

—RD

When a social movement adopts the compromises of legislators, it has forgotten its role, which is to push and challenge the politicians, not to fall in meekly behind them. We who protest the war are not politicians. We are citizens. Whatever politicians may do, let them first feel the full force of citizens who speak for what is right, not for what is winnable, in a shamefully timorous Congress....The mantra—“the best we can get”—is a recipe for corruption....We have no office to hold on to, only our consciences, which insist on telling the truth. That, history suggests, is the most realistic thing a citizen can do.

—Howard Zinn

Perhaps, when we remember wars, we should take off our clothes and paint ourselves blue and go on all fours all day long and grunt like pigs. That would surely be more appropriate than noble oratory and shows of flags and well-oiled guns.

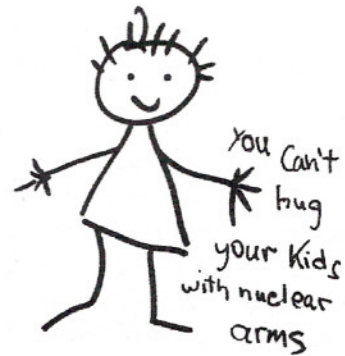
—Kurt Vonnegut

No New Nukes!

The Bush administration is proposing a new factory to build a new generation of nuclear weapons. We don't need new bombs, and, at an estimated cost of \$150 billion, we cannot afford them, either.

During the Cold War, America built thousands of nuclear bombs. We now have more than 10,000 bombs in our nuclear stockpile. With the demise of the Soviet Union, we have begun to realize that we do not need that many warheads, AND we have signed agreements that commit us to reduce our stockpile significantly.

So why is the Bush administration seeking to build new facilities to make new warheads? Proponents of the idea claim that we need new warheads to replace older ones, like replacing an old car. But a nonpartisan, scientific government study revealed that key nuclear weapons parts remain viable for at least 90 years, three times the age of the oldest weapons in the U.S. nuclear stockpile. We don't need new weapons!



And we certainly don't need to increase our capacity to build new warheads. With America's treaty commitments to reduce our arsenal to 2,000 by the year 2012, we can easily meet any unforeseen "need" for new warheads with our current facilities.

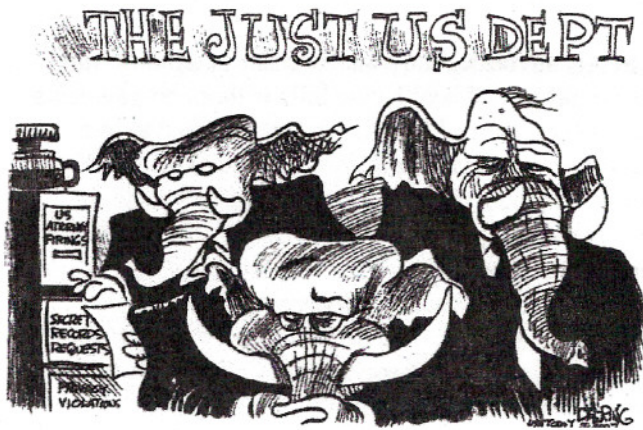
Instead of getting started down the road of this expensive boondoggle, America should be rethinking its strategic nuclear plan. Why do we have so many weapons? What are they for? The challenge now is to do away with these weapons and keep them from spreading to more countries, not to make more.

Moreover, America's plan to embark on building new nuclear weapons while trying to stop countries like Iran and North Korea from doing the same is a huge mistake. We are, once again, preaching temperance from a barstool, with predictable results.

ACTION REQUEST: This madness must stop. Please contact your legislators and ask them to delete funds in both the Dept. of Energy budget and the Dept. of Defense budget for the "Reliable Replacement Warhead," (the RRW) and the new facility—"Complex 2030." Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 to be connected to your Senators and Representative. These two major new administration proposals would rebuild the Nuclear Weapons Complex and develop a new generation of nuclear warheads at a time when much needed services are coming under budget pressure. It would be a terrible mistake! We need to stop this new initiative before it begins!
—LMK

True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country.

—Kurt Vonnegut



As Bad As It Is— Now Government Abuse of Patriot Act

Recently, our concerns about the PATRIOT Act have been sadly vindicated as we learned that:

1) A Dept. of Justice Inspector General's report revealed that the FBI violated Americans' privacy by abusing its power to issue its own warrants for personal records—National Security Letters (NSLs). Specifically, between 2003 and 2005, the FBI violated Americans' Fourth Amendment rights and the minimal oversight requirements by:

—undercounting the NSLs issued in its reports to

Congress,

—failing to obtain follow-up subpoenas when promised,
—issuing NSLs under claims of emergency circumstances, when no emergency existed,
—failing to purge records obtained when the information showed no ties to terrorism or foreign spying.

2) The Dept. of Justice failed to meet its March 9 deadline for reporting to Congress on datamining as required by the PATRIOT Act, and

3) The Bush administration slipped a provision into the PATRIOT Act reauthorization allowing the Attorney General to skirt the Senate confirmation process for U.S. Attorneys, by making indefinite interim appointments. This resulted in the firings of eight U.S. Attorneys, seemingly for political reasons.

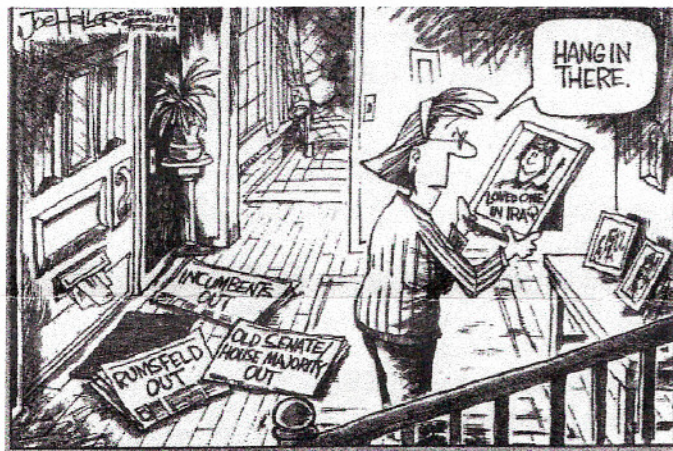
Our Congressional representatives repeatedly asked us over the years to prove government abuses of the PATRIOT Act. We can now give them the proof they asked for, and use these abuses to demand change!

ACTION REQUEST: Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask the operator to connect you to your members of Congress. Demand that the PATRIOT Act be changed to guard against further abuse of Americans' constitutional rights. Clearly it is time to demand that:

- Congress set up mechanisms for close scrutiny of government collection and use of personal data, particularly in anti-terrorism programs;
 - Congressional oversight in the appointment of U.S. Attorneys be restored;
 - NSLs be approved by the FISA court or a federal magistrate judge, rather than the FBI's 56 Special Agents in Charge of its field offices;
 - The FBI show a connection between the records sought and a terrorist or foreign spy;
 - The FBI purge data gathered through NSLs that is no longer needed and report to individuals when their records were secured in violation of the law;
 - Congress remove criminal penalties on businesses that do not comply with an NSL;
 - Congress provide a meaningful mechanism for challenging NSLs in court;
 - Permanent gag orders preventing third-parties from ever telling their customers that their records were given to the FBI be lifted if no evidence is found linking the records with any wrongdoing;
 - The government should lose its ability to dispense with any challenge against an NSL or gag order simply by claiming "national security."
- The scandal about the FBI's abuse of NSLs reveals the dangers not only of Bush's runaway agency but also of these letters themselves. They

are instruments of unchecked executive power. They violate the Fourth Amendment and the separation of powers. These letters are subpoenas the FBI issues by itself, without having to go to a judge or grand jury for approval. The PATRIOT Act, along with the 2004 Intelligence Authorization Act, greatly expanded the use of National Security Letters. Now, the FBI can slap these Executive Branch subpoenas not only on actual suspects but on anyone it says is “relevant” to a national security investigation. And once information is obtained, it is indefinitely retained and retrievable by the many (some 12,000) authorized personnel who have access to various FBI databases. National Security Letters are an invitation to lawlessness. They should be abolished.

–LMK with BORDC



SPAN Comes to Ohio— Single-Payer Health Care System

The past few years have seen a dramatic shift in the thinking of the American public regarding the country’s health care system. When the Single-Payer Action Network–Ohio (SPAN Ohio) was formed in 2001, many people rejected its message because they did not want government involved in the health care system. Yet today, polls show that 72% of the U.S. population now believe that the government should guarantee that everyone has health care coverage. The idea of “Medicare for all” has really taken root—even before Michael Moore’s “Sicko” hits the theaters.

OCPJ has long been an organizational member of UHCAN–Ohio (Universal Health Care Action Network) working to educate for a universal health care system, working to chip away at our for-profit health care system,

to widen access to health care, particularly for the disabled, the poor, the children, and the uninsured. Yet now, in what has clearly become a health care crisis in this country, there is a proliferation of groups organized for the promotion of this or that plan to provide “access” to health care for more and more people.

Enter SPAN. SPAN and groups like it all across the country have played a key role in bringing about a change in consciousness. As the health care crisis deepens by the day—with the rolls of the uninsured continuing to climb and the cost of health care continuing to soar—more and more people are searching for a way out of the crisis. In Ohio, the SPAN coalition offers an alternative to the profit-driven system. SPAN is working hard to place the **Health Care for All Ohioans Act on the ballot and win voter approval to make single-payer universal health care the law in Ohio.** This would be a key step on the road to achieving national health care.

SPAN Ohio is a statewide coalition of organizations and individuals seeking fundamental health care reform in our state and country so that every resident is guaranteed full and comprehensive coverage. This includes the full range of medical services: hospitalization, prescriptions, vision care, dental care, home care, long-term care, mental health care, and medically necessary care for all injuries and illnesses.

SPAN advocates the establishment of a *public* fund which would pay all health care bills without co-payments or deductibles. (The plan is sometimes referred to as a single-payer universal health care system.) And SPAN’s campaign to place this measure on the ballot would, if approved by the voters, guarantee comprehensive medical coverage as a matter of right for all Ohio residents, regardless of employment status or pre-existing conditions. That’s *one* fund, administered by a *non-profit government agency* that would make payments for all medical services. The 1500 health care insurance companies—each making profits and each with its own bureaucracy and rules—would no longer be involved as middle men. Medicare is an example of a single-payer plan.

SPAN’s goals for the coming year are securing lots more signatures on its initiative petition, more endorsements of its campaign by organizations and individuals, more forums and educational events, more rallies and demonstrations, more speaking before more groups—in short, more of everything that will help build the single-payer movement.

Visit the SPAN web site at www.spanohio.org for more information.

ACTION REQUEST: OCPJ has thrown in our lot with the SPAN effort! And we need your help. With many petitions to circulate (and information to impart), we are looking for a few good persons to: (1) gather signatures (on your own), and/or (2) join with others at tabling events or go to places where people gather in order to collect signatures. Please call the Peace Center (523-6555) to volunteer. Remember, we won't have a single-payer health care system unless we work for it. —LMK

Delegation of Miami Students Enter Conflict Zone in Colombia

[OCPJ supported the delegation to Colombia with a Bloom Peace Education Fund Grant, and individual OCPJ members made additional contributions of support.]

Fourteen Miami University students traveled to Colombia during their Spring Break to see just where the billions in U.S. military aid has gone in recent years.

The delegation was a very diverse group. Some were members of Students for Peace and Justice, a campus human rights organization, and some were members of Students for Staff, which focuses on labor issues at Miami. Returning from the trip, the students believed they had a better understanding of how labor policies affect human rights around the world—and with that understanding, hope that they could come back to the university with new ideas and inspiration for their fellow students.

2007 marked over 45 years of armed conflict in Colombia, and with 4.7 billion U.S. tax dollars invested there since 2000, that makes Colombia the third highest recipient of U.S. foreign aid. These U.S. tax dollars are not spent to alleviate the 64% poverty rate in Colombia. Rather, 81% of this money is used to bolster a corrupt Colombian military (with increasingly visible links to paramilitaries) in fighting the failed “War on Drugs.” In 2006, U.S.-funded fumigations aimed at eliminating cocaine production reached an all-time high, but coca crops increased by 40,000 hectares. The availability of cocaine in the U.S. is better than ever.

“To better investigate just where this money is going,” delegation member Jessi Brown explains, “we traveled into the conflict zone.”

The delegation met with labor organizers throughout the week. Colombia is the most dangerous country for trade unionists. Since the election of their current president in 2002, 400 trade unionists have been murdered. Most of the people the delegation met with have received numerous death threats from the paramilitary groups. “Some have had family members disappeared and are living in fear,” Brown said.

Another delegate, Greg Claus, thinks that, “If the workers in Colombia were to unionize, they would be able to make enough money to support their families without turning to illegal crops, including coca.”

And delegate Alexandria Tabasso claims, “The armed actors are also dependent on the illegal crop money. To help support their own reliance on the narco-trafficking, they create terror to keep the people from making changes. This means that our [the U.S.] war on drugs is actually supporting a much larger conflict.”

In order to raise awareness and share what the delegation learned, they hosted a week of events called “Globalization Gone Wild” Week on the Miami campus in April. Delegation members presented mini-lectures on the history, trade policies, human rights, and violence of Colombia.

U.S. aid to Colombia supports the violence and instability of a corrupt government, and promotes a disastrous drug eradication policy. Meanwhile, the policy ignores the blatant human rights abuses occurring in Colombia on a daily basis.

But some are working to change U.S. policy, among them, the nonpartisan organization Witness for Peace, which sponsored this and many other trips to Colombia. Witness for Peace is dedicated to fostering peace among all parties in Colombia by increasing funding of Colombian social programs, pressuring the U.S. to demand that the Uribe government respect the rule of law, and supporting the grassroots human rights organizations working for peace in Colombia. —JB and AT



PCP Index

\$20,000,000	Amount a 2006 defense bill authorized for a day-long "celebration" of "success" in Iraq and Afghanistan
\$275 million	Daily cost of the war in Iraq to American taxpayers
\$900 million	Estimated cost of the Iraq Survey Group, which failed to find WMD in Iraq
\$1.3 billion	Amount the White House requested to build and operate the largest U.S. embassy in the world, to be completed in Iraq later this year—104 acres
25%	Percentage increase in terrorist attacks worldwide in 2006 compared to 2005, killing 40% more people than in 2005, according to the U.S. State Dept.
9 in 10	Chances that a Guantanamo detainee was turned over to Coalition forces by an Afghan or Pakistani citizen
\$5,000	Average reward that leaflets airdropped over their countries promised for every "terrorist" turned in
624	Number of incidences of torture on prime-time network TV shows from 2002-2005
+106%	Percentage change from 2004 to 2005 in the number of criminal violations by U.S. military recruiters
7	Number of private firms that have been hired since 2002 to recruit soldiers for the Army
\$5,700	Average amount the firms are paid per recruit
4,000,000	Number of magnetic "Support Our Troops" ribbons sold by the leading manufacturer in 2004
48,000	Number sold last year
27%	Percentage of veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who have filed for disability with the VA
10%	Percentage of soldiers given medical discharges in 2001 who were given permanent disability benefits
3%	Percentage in 2005 who were
51%	Percentage of Americans in Oct. 2006 who said that Congress should impeach President Bush
8 million	Number of weapons manufactured each year—enough to arm one in 10 persons in the world with enough ammunition (12 billion rounds manufactured each year) to shoot every person in the world, twice

143,000

Undercounted number of National Security Letter requests for info issued by the FBI from 2003 to 2005—130 per day

2.5 million

Number of undocumented Mexican immigrants in the U.S. in 1995

8 million

Number of undocumented Mexican immigrants who have come to the U.S. since then

2 million

Minimum number of Mexican farmers driven off their land from 1993 to 2002, following the NAFTA trade agreement

305

Number of new U.S. anti-immigration groups formed since Jan. 2005

21

Number of non-citizens charged with vote fraud in U.S. elections since 2002

37 million

Number of Americans officially living in poverty, including 12 million children

25%

Percentage of all families with children in New York City who live below the federal poverty threshold—1.5 million

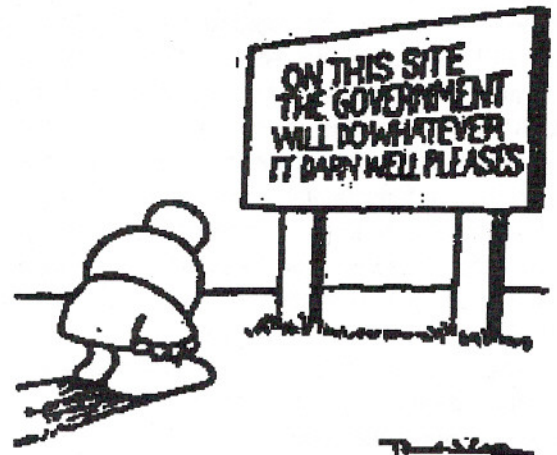
44 million

Number of American jobs that pay \$11.11 per hour or less—one out of every 3 jobs

20

Rank of the U.S. among 21 rich countries that the United Nations ranked this year for "child well-being"

[Data compiled by Oxford Citizens for Peace & Justice from government and independent sources, studies, and polls]



For a photo-op at a New York park, the White House demanded that pavement be laid down for every step Bush would take. The instructions were explicit:

"The President's feet are not to touch dirt."

Bits and Peaces

Bloated Defense Budget Exceeds the Rest of the World Combined—President Bush's request for a Pentagon budget for fiscal year 2008 is \$481 billion. But that's doesn't tell the whole story. To determine total U.S. "security" costs, you must add: \$142 billion to cover the anticipated costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; \$17 billion for nuclear weapons costs in the DOE; \$5 billion for miscellaneous defense costs in other agencies, such as the GSA's National Defense Stockpile, the Selective Service, and some Coast Guard and international FBI costs, and that's \$647 billion, and running. To that add \$36 billion for homeland security costs (beyond those already in the DOD); \$38 billion for essential U.S. security costs in the budget of the State Dept. for diplomacy, arms aid to allies, U.N. peacekeeping, reconstruction aid for Iraq and Afghanistan, foreign aid for other countries, and most of the International Affairs budget; \$84 billion for the Dept. of Veterans Affairs; and \$75 billion for the share of annual payments to the interest on the national debt that can be attributed to the Defense Dept. **You have now reached a whopping \$878 billion!** And there's more, like costs to the Treasury for military retirement and the costs to repair and replace equipment worn out by war operations, usually underestimated, and more. So build in another \$50-\$100 billion. It boggles the mind and breaks the bank.

[Source for statistics: Center for Defense Information]

Over 200 Datamining Programs—There are now over 200 datamining programs scattered throughout U.S. government agencies. Although Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) has repeatedly introduced legislation requiring public reporting of these programs—along with their effectiveness, privacy impact, and ways individuals can be informed and opt out—the bills have not yet passed. These continuing datamining programs raise many issues, not the least of which are the missing independent checks-and-balances and the seemingly reversed presumption of innocence. Such vast dragnets can be an instrument of social control that seriously infringes on both privacy and other liberties precisely because people are never quite sure the extent to which they are being monitored.

The Center for Constitutional Rights and The Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International will receive the War Resisters League's 42nd Annual Peace Awards at a ceremony at the New York Society for Ethical Culture on September 28.

The country's premiere progressive legal institution, CCR was founded in 1966 to use litigation proactively to change the law for the better and to guarantee the rights of those with the fewest protections and least access to legal

resources. In 2001, after the first detainees arrived at Guantanamo, CCR began what became the Guantanamo Global Justice Initiative by filing the first challenge to the Bush administration's attempt to create an extralegal offshore penal colony. CCR won that case in the Supreme Court in 2004. It continues to represent the detainees in more than 200 cases in the courts and to coordinate a legal network that comprises hundreds of attorneys. CCR's work has contributed greatly to global awareness about illegal detention, secret prisons, and U.S. torture, and have strengthened the movement to end these crimes.

The mission of TASSC is to end the practice of torture wherever it occurs and to empower survivors, their families and communities wherever they are. It is the only organization founded by and for torture survivors. In early 2007 it launched a campaign to repeal the U.S. Military Commissions Act, which, in effect, legalizes torture.

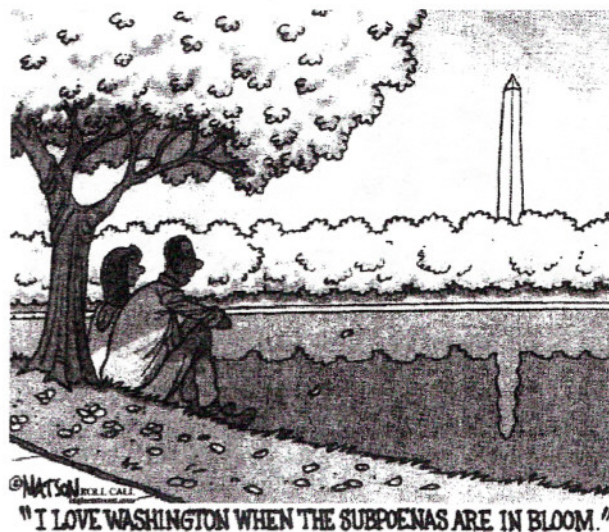
Climate Change Across the Aisle—The *National Journal* released a "Congressional Insiders Poll," which registered the opinions of 113 members of Congress on global warming. Only 13% of Congressional Republicans said they believed that human activity causes global warming, compared to 95% of Congressional Democrats.

Buying the Science—The American Enterprise Institute has offered \$10,000 to scientists and economists to undermine the U.N.'s February report on climate change. According to *The Guardian*, the American Enterprise Institute has received more than \$1.6 million from ExxonMobil, and more than twenty of its staff members have worked as consultants to the Bush administration.

—LMK

We could have saved the Earth but we were too damned cheap.

—Kurt Vonnegut



OCPJ's Not-So-Big Yard Sale

August 18 will likely be a Super Yard Sale Day in Oxford—many yard sales at many locations, a few to support good causes. After more than 20 years of recycling many goods and treasures (and fundraising, too), OCPJ's Yard Sale is coming again in 2007—with your help. Remember us, won't you, as you do spring cleaning and before you discard your no-longer-used but still usable items. Re-use, recycle, and an added plus: your donated stuff helps support OCPJ's work for peace and justice.

Coming again – **OCPJ's NOT-SO-BIG YARD SALE**
Saturday, August 18, 2007
724 Melinda Dr.

(Home of Linda Musmeci and Jeffrey Kimball)
 To benefit the Oxford Citizens for Peace & Justice
 All proceeds support the Peace Center.

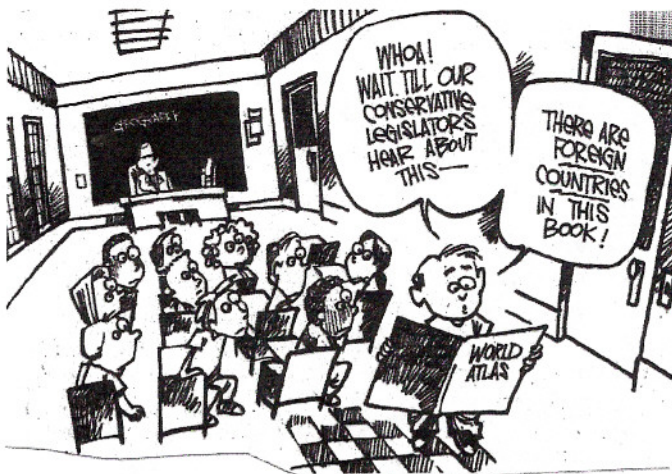
Contribute your gently used, clean items from
August 6-17 to the Kimballs' garage.

Need a pickup or have questions about your donations? Call 523-6555 (Peace Center) or 523-3640.

Wanted (in good condition): housewares, small furniture, linens, small working appliances/electronics, decorative items, art & crafts, collectibles, antiques, jewelry, hardware, tools, sporting goods, office supplies, lamps, toys & games, kids-ware, a few books, vintage or costume clothing, rugs, other specialty items

Not wanted (by necessity): clothing, large specialty items, old electronics, computer-ware, large furniture, a lot of books

Thanks for your help in making OCPJ's Yard Sale work for peace and justice. —LMK



Cinema Veritas resumes in the Fall.
Look for notices about the line-up of films coming your way.



OCPJ MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete this form and return to:

OCPJ Peace Center
 19 1/2 E. Walnut St.
 Oxford, OH 45056

Choose your Membership:

- \$5 Student/Limited Income
- \$25 Individual
- \$40 Family
- \$75 Sustainer
- \$100 Patron
- \$ _____

Make your check payable to OCPJ :

\$ _____ membership
 \$ _____ Bloom Peace Education Fund
 \$ _____ total enclosed

Indicate your preferred involvement:

Work on short-term projects:

- Bread not Bombs
- Fund Raising
- Special Events

Work on continuing projects:

- Volunteer in the Peace Center
- Be part of an Issue Committee
- Serve on the Board
- Offer moral support and my membership

Indicate how you wish to receive legislative alerts and announcements:

- e-mail (occasional postings)
- mail

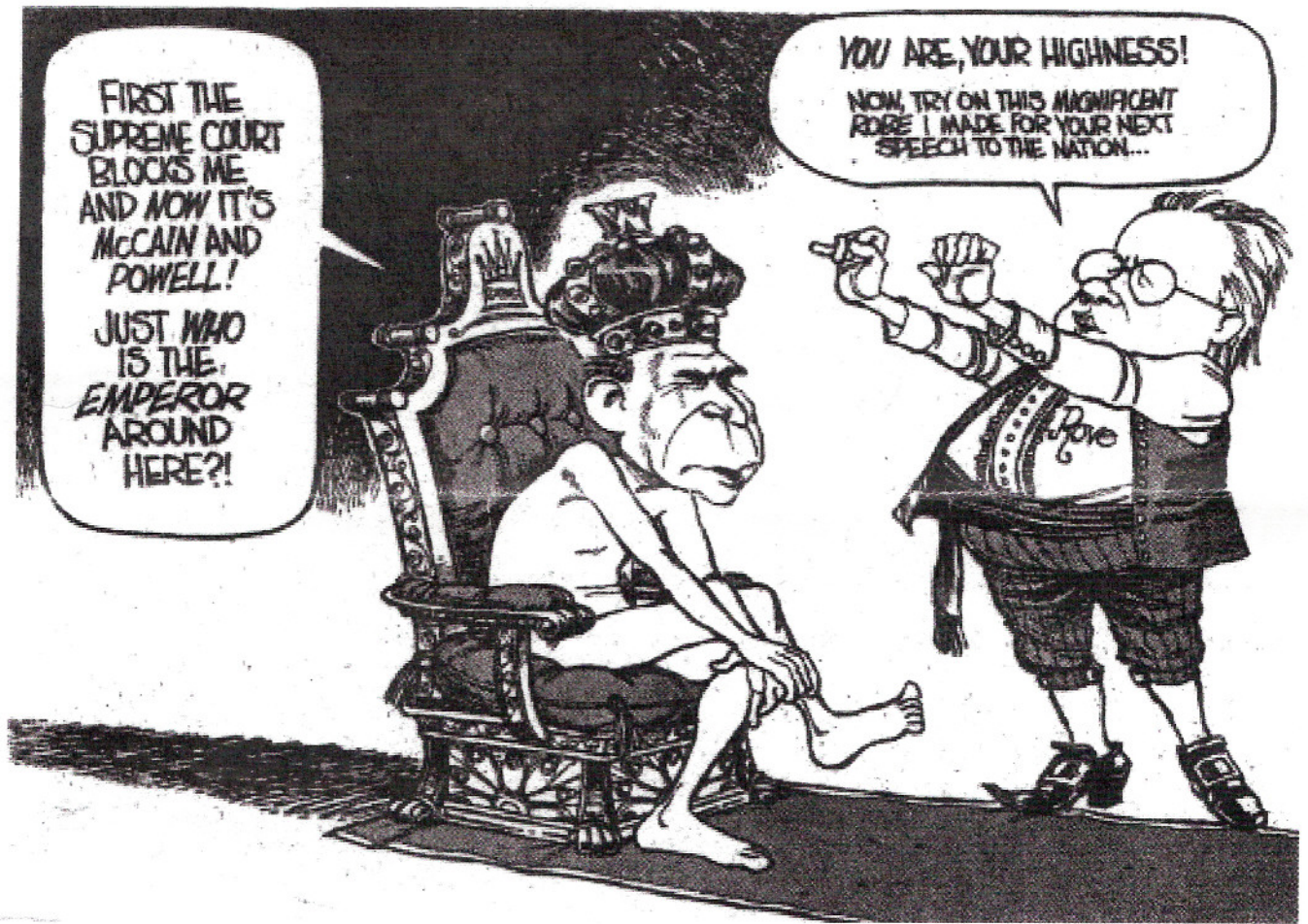
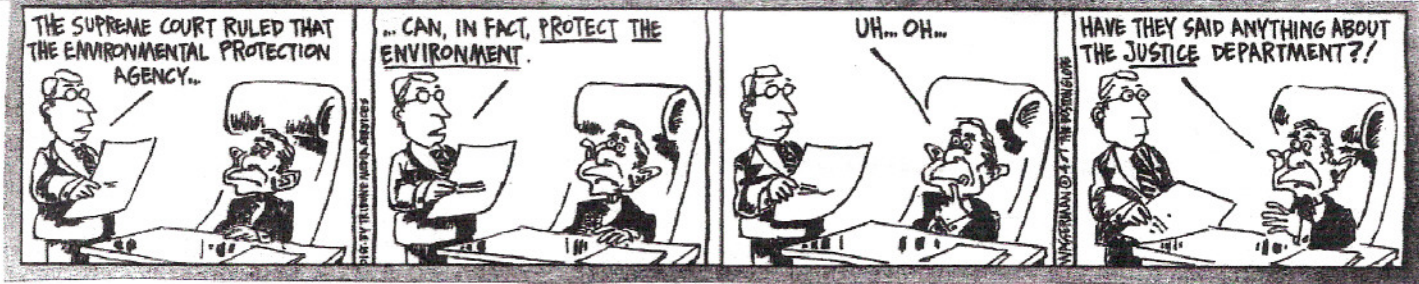
NAME (if family membership, list all names)

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

COMMENTS: _____



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