



Nebraska Report

There is no Peace without Justice

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Four IVbre Years

We don't imagine any of our readers are all too happy about starting the holiday season with George Bush's election as president. (This will be his second term, but the 2000 race, you'll remember, was a "se-lection," courtesy of the Supreme Court.)

After four years though of ongoing imperialist military ventures... tax cuts for the wealthy... an unending trail of corporate cronyism and corruption... conservative judicial appointments... a record federal deficit... job losses and an ailing economy... cuts to education and social services... double-digit inflation in health insurance... attacks on civil rights... environmental rollbacks... violations of international law... and an utter and unapologetic disdain for world opinion, we were all ready for an end to the Bush presidency and a chance for a fresh start.

Whatever else John Kerry may have been, he wasn't George Bush, Jr., and Greens as well as Democrats were united in the goal of **A.B.B.** ("Anybody But Bush"). And one would have thought that, given the absolutely atrocious track record he had amassed, after one term, Bush the Son would have gone the way of Bush the Father and Kerry would have been elected in landslide.

But with the Bush/Cheney ticket winning the popular vote by three percentage points and a three-and-a-half-million-vote margin, there's no disputing that President Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney are the victors in the 2004 election and the rightful occupants of our nation's two highest offices.

After their tumultuous first term, beginning with the contested 2000 election, followed by the attacks of 9/11, the preemptive (and illegal) invasion of Iraq and the revelations thoroughly discrediting their case for going to war, Bush and Cheney can now actually claim a kind of popular mandate. In a campaign that offered the most clear-cut choice between the two major parties' presidential candidates that we've seen in 20 years, George Bush won an outright majority and four more years as commander-in-chief.

Four more years that could make the past four look downright tame in comparison.

Their agenda for their second term is more of the same, with double the damage:

Privatizing Social Security. More tax cuts for the rich. Reducing and phasing out ag support programs for family farmers. Passage of the neo-liberal Free Trade Area of the Americas and Central American Free Trade Agreements. Stacking the judiciary—particularly the Supreme Court—with reactionaries. Beefing up the Patriot Act. A constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages. Drilling in the Alaskan Wildlife Refuge. Bolstering the Military-Industrial Complex. And maintaining a belligerent foreign policy in the developing world and Mideast that's guaranteed to foster and foment more terrorism.

The next four years will be a trial, no question. We will be challenged to speak out and hold fast to our

principles like never before.

But amid all the anger and grief (justified, we might add), this is no time to give up.

All is not, in fact, lost. And there's every reason to believe the pendulum will swing back.

First, we didn't lose by much. Fifty-one percent to 48 percent is hardly a blowout. The country is still pretty much evenly divided, with nearly one of every two voters agreeing with us.

Secondly, with the Republicans controlling the executive branch and both houses of congress for a second straight term, all of the responsibility for what now happens will fall squarely on them. They can't blame Bill Clinton for this one. And from the failures in the War on Terrorism to the sorry state of the economy, there will be plenty of blame to dish out.

And lastly, it's going to take four years longer than we wanted it to, but George Bush is now a lame duck. Lame duck presidents are by definition old news, and historically the media has always gotten out the knives in the second term. (Think Johnson and Vietnam; Nixon and Watergate; Reagan and Iran-Contra; Clinton and Monica Lewinsky.) With all the baggage the Bush Administration has accumulated, the media—corporate-controlled as it is—will have a field day.

We are not alone. There's plenty of reason to keep working. And who knows? Over the next four years, we may end up talking about Dick Cheney's impeachment yet.

inside:

Latin America Briefs	p. 2
The Bush White House Coerced CIA Corruption To Lead Us into War	p. 3
Chiapas Ten Years On	p. 5

Whiteclay: 'Where Are Our Moral Values, Nebraska?'	p. 6
Legislative Remedies for Whiteclay	p. 7
NFP State Board 2005 Priorities	p. 9
Taylor & Wolf Honored As Peacemakers	p. 9
From the Bottom by Sally Herrin	p. 12

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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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Latin America Briefs

compiled by **Christy Hargesheimer**



CAFTA—Another bad idea.

CAFTA, the Central America Free Trade Agreement, is another of those misguided agreements that will harm workers, the environment and small farmers in both the U.S. and Central America. Engineered by a few multinational corporations and the power elites of five Central American and Caribbean nations, this agreement was signed in Washington in May. Before it becomes law, however, it must be ratified by Congress. The Bush Administration decided to wait until after the elections to push for ratification, because it was a potential electoral liability. Now, however, with a lame duck Congress in place, members of Congress looking for jobs after January will try to curry favor with Big Businesses by voting for ratification.

Why is CAFTA a bad idea?

- First of all, CAFTA's labor and environmental protections are even weaker than those of NAFTA.
- CAFTA requires immediate opening of Central American agricultural markets to U.S. producers, but maintains U.S. farm and export subsidies. Cheap U.S. imports will bankrupt small farmers and drive them off the land, as NAFTA did to 1.5 million farmers and farm workers in Mexico.
- CAFTA opens the U.S. market to Central American sugar, threatening the Minnesota sugar beet industry and some 30,000 jobs in the Red River Valley. (Remember that "giant sucking noise" post-NAFTA?)

CAFTA is opposed by Central American people, even though their governments signed on to it. From July through October, major anti-CAFTA demonstrations and marches took place across Central America, after U.S. and Central American Catholic Bishops severely critiqued the agreement.

Uruguay Takes a Left Turn

Following the October 31 federal elections in Uruguay, with 100 percent of the votes counted, left coalition candidate Tabaré Vázquez was declared the winner a week later, with 50.45 percent of the vote, adding another Latin American country to the leftist political map. Vázquez's win ended the dominance of the country's two main right-wing parties. The left coalition also won 53 of the 99 seats in the lower house of Congress and 17 of the 30 Senate seats, gaining a clear majority.

Uruguayan voters also approved, by about 60 percent, a "Constitutional Reform in Defense of Water," which defines water as a human right in the Constitution and requires its continued public, participatory and sustainable management. The referendum was promoted by the National Commission in Defense of Water and Life (CNDAV), created in 2002 after the Uruguayan government signed a letter of intent with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the privatization of potable water and sanitation services.

Nebraskans Lobby Congress on Cuba Policy

A delegation of seven Nebraskans (and one Floridian) met with Sen. Chuck Hagel and with staff persons for Sen. Ben Nelson, Rep. Tom Osborne, and Rep. Lee Terry on November 10 to lobby for a change in U.S. policy toward Cuba. At issue were easing of the embargo, in place for over 40 years, and reversing the stringent travel bans to Cuba put into place by Bush last spring. Christy Hargesheimer represented NFP in this effort.

Hagel is very supportive of opening up relations with Cuba, considering 40 years of embargo to be failed policy intended to punish Castro but instead punishing the Cuban people. As a member of the Senate Cuba Working Group, Hagel can play a leadership role in influencing new Senate colleagues. Sen. Nelson and Rep. Osborne are also supportive of easing restrictions on Cuba. Rep. Lee Terry, however, after voting in the past to ease the embargo and to end travel restriction, reversed his position in 2004. He now supports the Bush Administration's harsher new restrictions on travel to Cuba by Cuban Americans, limiting them to one trip every three years, and restrictions on humanitarian items and gifts sent to Cuban relatives by Cuban Americans. (The House has voted to overturn these restrictions.

After the day of lobbying, the Nebraskans attended the Edmund Muskie Awards dinner, at which Senators Hagel and Ted Kennedy were honored.

Bush White House Coerced CIA Corruption To Lead Us into War

Says Former Agency Analyst at Annual Peace Conference

by Charlie Flowerday

As the occupation of Iraq wears on and more Americans die, what most concerns former CIA analyst Ray McGovern, what most jeopardizes the future of a free nation, is the highjacking of the truth in the intelligence gathering that led us into war.

McGovern was the keynote speaker at the October 16 Annual Peace Conference at Augustana Lutheran Church in Omaha, sponsored by the UNO School of Social Work and Nebraskans for Peace. He spoke on “The Role of Intelligence in the War on Iraq.”

Confirming what other authoritative sources such as former terrorism expert Richard Clarke have said, McGovern noted that the second Bush Administration ignored the fact that actual intelligence on Iraq’s Weapons of Mass Destruction was scanty and that the president and his advisors didn’t want to hear what there was. It said there were no such weapons since 1991 and no programs to develop such capabilities.

But because George Tenet, then director of the CIA, lacked the courage to stand up to a very popular president after the nation had been attacked, he allowed his agency to prostitute itself and develop the “intelligence” the Bush Administration, in essence, asked for.

“It was the worst possible intelligence estimate in the nation’s history. It was wrong in every category. It said there were chemical weapons, biological weapons and the start of nuclear weapons. But there was zilch,” he said. “One bright light was the State Department, where a bunch of gutsy, courageous senior analysts weren’t willing to buy this charade.”

When asked when Iraq would develop WMD that would threaten the United States, they replied that the administration was asking them to predict the culmination of a program that they didn’t think had begun, McGovern said.

The reason the intelligence was so badly cooked was the administration had a very specific foreign policy agenda, he said, one that predated the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. The reasons for invading Iraq, McGovern explained, are

encapsulated in the acronym: OIL.

“O” stands for oil. Energy resources were one of first major challenges this administration faced. There were the power problems, brownouts and blackouts, respectively, in the West Coast and New England. For the first time in our nation’s history, we’re importing more than half the oil we need, he said. China’s burgeoning economy is competing for oil. Great Britain, our major partner in the invasion, is importing more than half of its oil.



Photo by Rachel Gonzalez
Annual Peace Conference speaker, Ray McGovern, addressing the audience at the October 16 event in Omaha. In the background is the “Wall of Remembrance,” which lists the names of the hundreds of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq since the war began.

“The biggest geopolitical fact of all is that the world is running out of oil,” he explained. So the administration set up the energy task force headed by Vice President Dick Cheney.

“Maybe we should explore alternative sources,” McGovern said, paraphrasing the task force’s logic, “but that’s really complicated and you don’t make a lot of money out of that, not right away, and we know about oil (as its highest officials come from that industry).”

“Then they looked at Iraq,” he said, “which has the second largest deposits of oil in the world, a country on its back militar-

ily because of the sanctions following the Gulf War, and best—or worst—of all, a ruthless dictator (making it easy to morally justify an invasion).”

The United States is building a huge, long-term military presence in Iraq, he noted, largely to protect oil profits for U.S. companies. It is now building 14 permanent military bases there. McGovern said he recently talked to an army engineer just back from Iraq. The man said he was helping build a movie theater on one base. “For the local

“The people who run our policy in the Mideast are called neo-conservatives. I am a conservative. They are neo-radicals who have led us off on a very reckless path,” he said.

During the first Bush Administration, these same people held mid-level positions in the White House, the defense department and other agencies. They were kept at arm’s length under George H. W. Bush by Chief of Staff James Baker and were called “the crazies” by professionals in the intelligence community.

Many of the key policy makers in the current administration—Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary of Defense; Richard Perle, defense advisor; and others—have great difficulty distinguishing between the security interests of Israel and those of the United States, McGovern asserted. Iraq was perceived as a threat to Israel and so had to be eliminated, which happened to coincide with the desire to commandeer the Iraqi oil fields. These White House policy makers have a virtual doctrine that, as the sole remaining superpower in the world, the United States “has a responsibility to throw (its) weight around,” McGovern said.

“Where better to throw it around than strategic areas like the Mideast, where the oil is, and where Israel is?” he added. In the current political climate, this stance is very hard to challenge because its critics can be accused of anti-semitism.

McGovern was a career CIA analyst for 27 years from the Kennedy White House to the first Bush Administration. He chaired the crucial “national intelligence estimates” and prepared the daily brief on intelligence read by the president. He said that shrewd intelligence gathering isn’t rocket science. It depends largely on using sources available to most anyone, reading them carefully and checking the facts for consistency.

As an example of such publicly available knowledge, he offered the report by former Secretary of the Treasury Paul O’Neill, who said he saw, early on in the administration’s tenure, a map in Vice President Dick Cheney’s office showing Iraq di-

conclusion on next page

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vided up into areas that would be given to various U.S. and European oil companies.

McGovern, retired from the CIA since 1990, said that when a group of intelligence veterans saw, after Sept. 11, 2001, the same level of corruption in intelligence they had seen, and not publicized, on enemy strength during the Vietnam War, they decided to speak out.

In January of 2003, concerned about the unraveling of the crucial nonpartisan stance of the CIA, he and colleagues formed an information service to unmask corruption in the agency. In its second effort, titled, "Cooking Intelligence for War—Forgery, Hyperbole, Half Truth, a Problem, Mr. President?" they looked at the chronology of official information on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq—the stated reason for going to war.

On February 24, 2001, Secretary of Defense Colin Powell stated at a news conference that Saddam Hussein had not developed any ability to produce WMD. In fact, he went on to state Hussein was even unable to project conventional military power against his neighbors. Following up on Powell's assessment, National Security Advisor Condeleeza Rice subsequently said the allies had been able to keep Hussein's arms from him, that his military forces had not been rebuilt. That was six weeks before 9/11, McGovern noted.

"We were tracking these statements," he said, "and we couldn't believe all these statements that came from accepted sources about weapons of mass destruction? Did any U.S. journalists report what Rice and Powell had said that just a few months before?" McGovern asked.

The biggest sea change since he first went to work for the agency is that there's no free press anymore. It doesn't demonstrate the independence of the Vietnam War era, the Watergate era, or even the Iran-Contra scandal. "We lack that, and it's a real big impediment to getting the truth out," he said. If most of the people in the country get their news from *Fox News*—and reports show that most do—then they don't have half the information they need to make good decisions, he added.

How the Intelligence Got Cooked

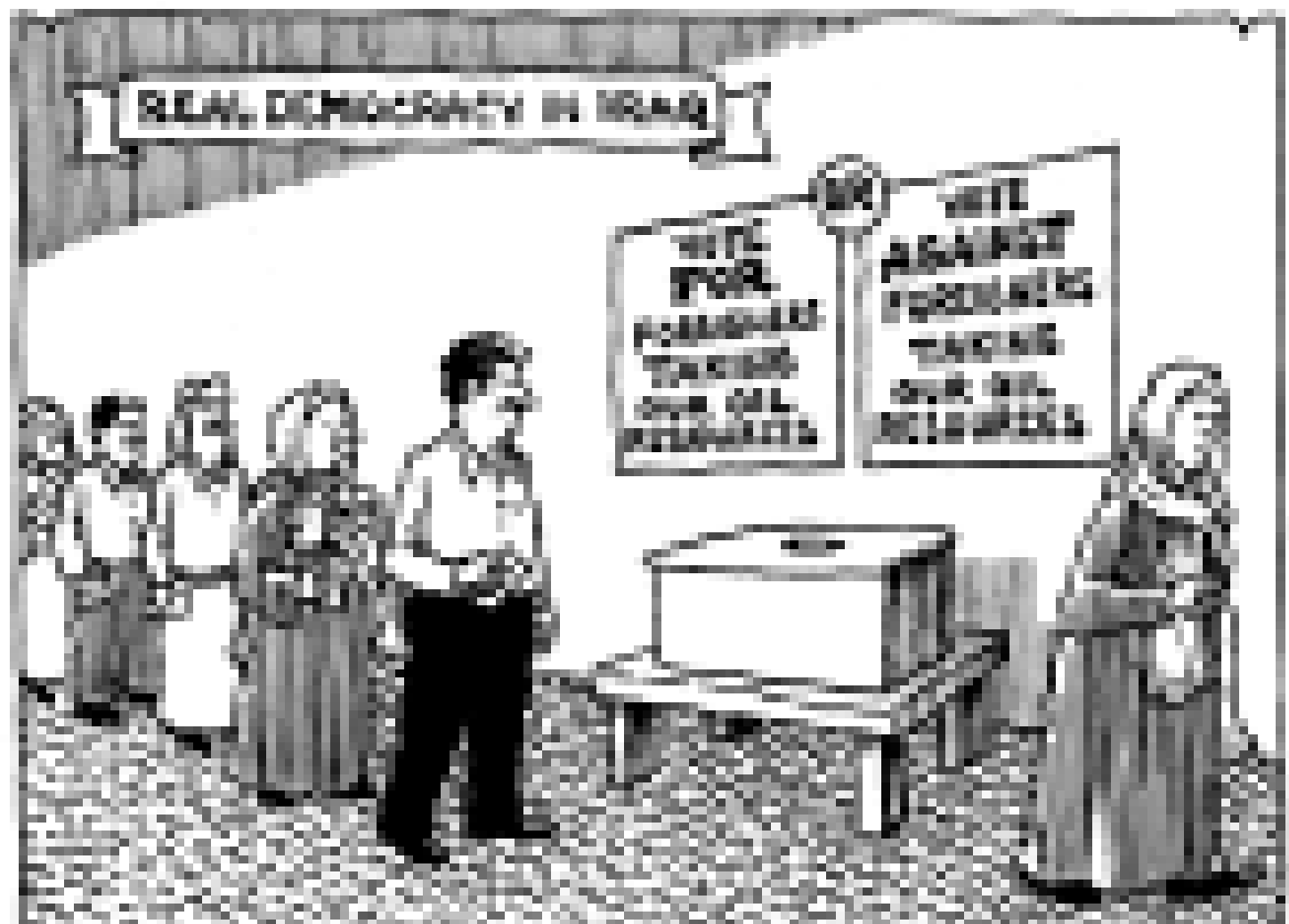
The impetus for cooking the intelligence about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, according to Ray McGovern, can be traced to a conversation between President Bush and Richard Clarke, the top counter-terrorism person in the administration. As Clarke himself has recounted the exchange, the president took him aside the day after the September 11 attacks and said, "Was it Iraq?" Clarke responded, "No, I told you yesterday it was Al-Qaida, and they don't have anything to do with Iraq.

"Well, you just keep pursuing Iraq's role," Bush directed. "Keep checking into it and keep reporting to me about Iraq."

Former CIA Director George Tenet, McGovern said, kept "his head down, way, way down," but to no avail. When the administration began to put pressure on the agency to produce the intelligence it wanted on Iraq, with three weeks remaining before the mid-term elections of 2002, Tenet buckled to his superiors. He told his agency staff that they had to do an estimate of WMDs in Iraq; that it had to be done in three weeks, prior to the mid-term elections while the White House was confident in its votes; and that it had to come up with a specific conclusion: Iraq had such weapons.

"In the old days," McGovern stated, "we would have laughed and said, 'That's a good one. We don't do that. You know we don't do that.' I'd like to think that in the old days, he would have known that he would have an insurrection on his hands," McGovern said.

Instead, according to McGovern and many other reputable sources, the reputation of the agency's intelligence-gathering arm has been compromised, the U.S. government blatantly violated international law by preemptively attacking another nation, we have forfeited the good will of most of the world community, and thousands of people are dead, including over 10,000 Iraqi civilians and 1,100 American servicepeople.



Chiapas Ten Years On

NFP member Frances Mendenhall and her daughter, Ellie, went to Chiapas this year on the tenth anniversary of the Zapatista uprising. While there, they hooked up with their friend and former Nebraskan, photographer Richard Flamer, who now lives in this southern Mexican state and works with the Chiapas Project, an advocacy program. Both Frances, who is a dentist in Omaha, and Ellie, who is studying to become a naturopath, found their medical expertise in great demand. The following excerpts are taken from a diary that Ellie kept during their visit; the photographs are by Richard Flamer.

Bienvenidos a Chiapas

“So, how was your trip to Mexico?” Strange, successful, definitely surprising. I’m sharing this story with you not because I know you have a lot of time to sit around and read about my adventures, but because I feel blessed enough by my adventures to share the story. However, just to ruin the suspense, I will say here and now that no one died in my arms, I



didn’t get any international press, nor did I save anyone’s life. So there. But I came home with wide-open eyes, a full head, and a heavy but hopeful heart.

Most of the work Mother and I [were in Chiapas to do] was coordinated by Richard Flamer, an old friend of hers from Omaha, a Catholic Worker, who is now involved in a project called SYJAC. The organization helps with the human fallout of the tragedy of the unlanded Mayans, people who have been forcibly evicted from their land by the Mexican paramilitary, which the natives had been farming for decades, if not millennia. Richard represents what I most liked about my Catholic upbringing, which was the Catholic Worker movement and its influence on my life now. It has brought my own life and my life’s work closer to the spirit and that of giving and serving.

Our first day was mostly spent getting the gospel of Chiapas according to Richard. Starting in his office at SYJAC, we learned about the center. It housed Habitat for Humanity, a wood shop, a sewing center, and a daycare center for Mayan children. Most of the children were

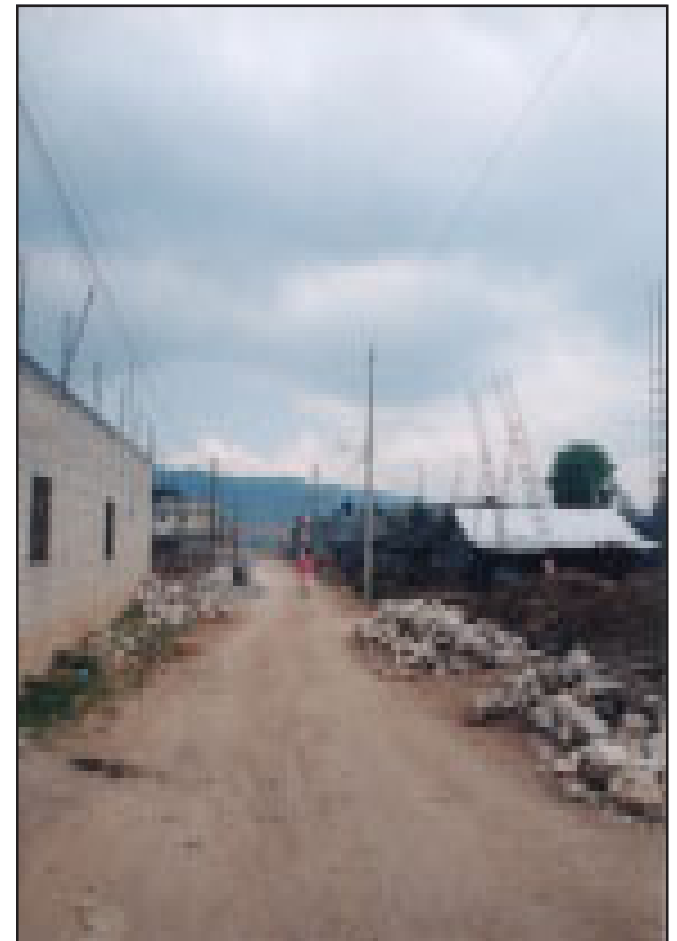
conceived from the rape of Mayan teenagers by Mexican paramilitary during the evictions. Unfortunately (as if it weren’t unfortunate enough), Mayan culture is to reject any woman who has been raped by an outsider. So these pregnant teens end up penniless and homeless in the streets of San Cristobal, and SYJAC helps them find jobs and housing and takes care of the kids while they are at work.

God, Revolution and Coke

According to Richard, the political situation in Chiapas is very messy. It’s not so clear as it was in Nicaragua and Guatemala. For instance, the former bishop of Chiapas, Don Samuel Ruiz, did phenomenal work to promote positive

native relations and to help with their situation in the 30 years he was bishop. Some of the primary issues are sheer poverty. Chiapas (chee AH pis) and Oaxaca (wuh HAH kah), the two Mexican states that have the highest number of natives, also have the highest poverty levels in Mexico. In addition, each group has its own very distinctive language, and many don’t speak Spanish. There are some 62 native languages spoken in Chiapas. Anyway, Don Samuel spent his first year as bishop riding around these two states on a donkey talking to natives and camposinos. Many of his decisions weren’t so popular with the Pope. After his retirement after 30 years, the Pope essentially exiled him from Chiapas. But, Don Samuel left a legacy. Thirteen of the 18 insurgents in the initial Zapatista uprising were trained as Deacons by Don Samuel, but resigned from their Church positions a month before the revolution began, to save Church face.

On the other side of the Church issue are the “caciques”, a Mafioso-like organization that has co-opted much of the Church and caused it to oppose works that fall under “Liberation Theology,” like the works of Don Samuel (also of Bishop Romero and Ernesto Cardenal). They have become an unofficial police force behind the Indian expulsions that led to the Zapatista uprisings in the first place. Not only that, but they ally themselves with large international corporations, and politically with whomever supports Coca-Cola and their other business interests.



Their presence is so strong that I saw Coke sold everywhere, but rarely Pepsi. Even the main bottled water label, Ciel, is produced and distributed by Coke. So, the Church position in Chiapas is as clear as the Church’s own muddy political history throughout the world, throughout time.

Then we have the beloved Zapatistas, revered in Chiapas and probably by a few of you guys, too. Initially, their uprising was to fight the expulsion of some 60,000 Mayans from their land about ten years ago, which put Chiapas on the world political map. This process was extremely violent and seemed to result in a regional military dictatorship for quite a while afterwards, which did not answer to the other parts of Mexican government. The conflict continues at a low level, taking 30-60 lives per month still. But, as revolution would have it, the EZLN (the Zapatista acronym) took to

conclusion on page 8

Whiteclay:

'Where Are Our Moral Values, Nebraska?'

by Rachel Gonzalez

Freelance journalist, Alliance, Nebraska

RUSHVILLE - Under a bright blue Panhandle sky, about 30 protesters filed into the Sheridan County Courthouse to voice their feelings about yet another "businessman" wanting to rake in the profits from beer sales in Whiteclay.

In a public hearing in front of the Sheridan County Commissioners, Monday, November 15, those protesters, and the applicant for a new off-sale alcohol license in Whiteclay, had to be moved into the court chambers from the commissioners' meeting room due to overcrowding.

Commissioner Lewis Abold recommended to commissioner Dan Kling at the end of the hearing, that they postpone any decision until the following week at 9:45 a.m. Monday, Nov. 22, because the absent commissioner Vern Platt would return and they could read all the statements before rendering a decision.

Around 12 protesters expressed their feelings of dismay, some anger and quite a bit of disappointment that the selling of beer in Whiteclay is continuing to be a problem, the sales are increasing instead of decreasing and dealers are making a profit on someone else's weaknesses.

Thomas Bernard, the license applicant, stated that it was his intent to make a profit there. "I'm a business person, I want to start the business to make a profit, establish an income." Nebraska, he said, "will lose a lot of tax dollars if it weren't for Whiteclay. But it won't stop [drinking] if you stop it in Whiteclay." He noted that during a recent pow-wow that liquor businesses he talked with said they had a 50-100 percent increase in sales from Native Americans at that time.

The fact that publicly intoxicated people "lay around" in Whiteclay did not seem to matter to Bernard. He said he sees people laying around in Chadron, Gordon and other towns—not just Whiteclay. "You see people laying around in Lincoln and Omaha and other places. Don't see Lincoln and Omaha stopping the business."

He feels Whiteclay is a hub for business with three alcohol outlets, two cafes, used tires stores, a post office, two garages, two used car dealerships and a body shop. "All of these bring a lot of money into Whiteclay. There were four, now three beer stores. I applied to put it back where it was." Closing down the alcohol sales, he reasoned,

would only force Indians to drive to Chadron, Rushville, Gordon and other towns, "and that would put that many more people on the road."

In a reference to the people who had turned out to oppose his request, Bernard said, "I could go out and get protesters and a petition—and 99 percent would want to keep Whiteclay just like it is. Saves that many people from being on the road."

He wondered, in fact, where all these

asserted, "begs the question of the lack of adequate law enforcement and all the illegalities of alcohol sales, but most of law enforcement."

It is the nature and mission of law enforcement, he said, to shut down illegal activities wherever they are found. If there were a crack house in Rushville, he stated, law enforcement would shut it down, knowing full well that it would spring up on the other side of town, "They go there and shut down

ism, both physical and mental, to tribal members. Another license, he noted, would create more of an inhumane condition. It would strain even further the race relations at Whiteclay and Pine Ridge. He called for the commissioners to use strong moral values in their decision.

Rev. James E. Krotz from the Rushville area, a retired Episcopalian Bishop who was one of about 30 opponents, presented 58 signatures on a petition asking the county commission not to recommend Bernard's application to the State Liquor Control Commission. He offered four reasons for denying recommendation.

Another beer store:

- Does not seem to serve public need, doesn't meet public test for convenience. If someone wants a six-pack they shouldn't have a problem getting it in Whiteclay.

- Owner doesn't live there. Wouldn't be likely to take responsibility or interest in the community or people.

- Doesn't enhance public safety or quality of life of Whiteclay or Sheridan County.

- It would further exploit human weaknesses.

"It's a sad little town. We can do something. Vote against it," he requested.

Tom Beattie, a fairly new resident of the area, pointed out that it is a federal offense to take advantage of a vulnerable adult. And that although the law was initially intended for the elderly or mentally deficient, it didn't take much of a stretch to include those adults who are truly addicted. "People who sell liquor to vulnerable adults are predators," he concluded.

Philip Compton with Panhandle Rescue Ministry gave some statistics to the commissioners about taxes. In 2003, there were \$1 million in taxes from alcohol sales in Sheridan County, and in 2002, \$809,907. In Whiteclay alone in 2001, there was over \$3,000,000 in alcohol sales and over \$250,000 in sales and excise taxes.

"I am appalled and ashamed of Sheridan County handling that much alcohol. They not only tolerate but propagate the sale of death," Compton said. "We all need to take inventory of ourselves, take responsibility."

Bruce Bon Fleur along with his wife and child are in Whiteclay every day, on the streets. They are registered voters and taxpayers in the county. "My Lord put his light on Whiteclay, it is so dark there," he la-



Photo by Rachel Gonzalez

Sheridan County Commissioners Dan Kling and Louis Abold listening to testimony on Thomas Bernard's application for a new liquor license in Whiteclay.

non-profit people who were speaking in opposition got their financial support. He, he said, had to make his own money, through doing business and making a profit.

Frank LaMere of South Sioux City and member of the Winnebago Tribe responded to Bernard's comments by stating that he works for "a profit-making organization, for a very wealthy individual in Kansas City, who cares about people." The main point he wanted to address, however, was Bernard's argument, which LaMere said he's heard mentioned by commissions, local people, government, the liquor board and others—"If they shut it down, they'll go to other places. They endanger themselves and others." While this may be somewhat of a true statement, LaMere said he thought it needed clarification. Bernard's argument, he as-

serted, "begs the question of the lack of adequate law enforcement and all the illegalities of alcohol sales, but most of law enforcement." It is the nature and mission of law enforcement, he said, to shut down illegal activities wherever they are found. If there were a crack house in Rushville, he stated, law enforcement would shut it down, knowing full well that it would spring up on the other side of town, "They go there and shut down

Winnebago Tribe member Leah Hunter read a letter from Oglala Sioux Tribal President John Yellow Bird Steele to Nebraskans for Peace, of which Hunter is on the State Board. President Steele stated that he did not want this new application approved. He spoke of the detrimental aspects of alcohol-

LEGISLATIVE REMEDIES FOR WHITECLAY

Nebraska Liquor Control Commissioners Bob Logsdon, Dick Coyne and Rhonda Flower held a public hearing November 4 to gather citizen input on their annual "legislative letter" to the Nebraska Unicameral. Traditionally, this letter to the General Affairs Committee and the 49 state senators has outlined the Commission's recommendations for proposed legislation on alcohol-related issues in the upcoming legislative session. In recognition of Nebraskans for Peace's long-standing interest in alcohol sales at Whiteclay, we were notified of the hearing and invited to testify. NFP President Mark Vasina spoke on behalf of the organization and delivered the following testimony.

The Nebraska Liquor Control Commission deserves praise for including in the new Legislation Letter—as in previous ones—a call for additional state funding to ensure a law enforcement presence in Whiteclay during the hours that alcohol is sold (Recommendation #3). We thank the Commissioners for reminding our Governor and state senators that effective law enforcement in Whiteclay is a serious public health issue which should be adopted as a priority issue for state government.

Implicit in the Commission's recommendation regarding Whiteclay is the recognition that inadequate law enforcement in Whiteclay is both a reality and a serious problem with respect to responsible regulation of alcohol sales. However, the Commission's focus on the need to improve law enforcement in Whiteclay should not divert attention from the need to strengthen the regulatory framework through which the Commission issues and renews licenses.

The very existence of liquor licenses in Whiteclay represents a failure of this regulatory process. Few people believe that the Liquor Control Act sanctions the issuance and renewal of licenses in a location with inadequate law enforcement when that inadequacy leads to serious issues of public health and safety (Neb. Rev. Stat. 53-101.05 and 53-132(3)). Moreover, the Act requires the Commission to

consider "the adequacy of *existing* law enforcement"—not *potential* or *requested* law enforcement. If the Commissioners believe that current law prevents them from denying licenses where existing law enforcement is widely acknowledged to be inadequate, it is their duty to investigate the causes of the legal defects and recommend remedial legislation (53-117(9)).

A few well-known facts about Whiteclay merit repeating here. Whiteclay, with a population of 14, lies literally on the border of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Located almost entirely in South Dakota, the Pine Ridge also includes a square mile of land within Nebraska, along which Whiteclay lies to the east. Whiteclay lies virtually on the state line and reservation border, less than two miles from the town of Pine Ridge, the largest community on the reservation. It is a 21-mile drive south from Whiteclay to the nearest town in Nebraska—the Sheridan County seat of Rushville, with a population of nearly 1,000. Residents of Rushville and vicinity are amply served by alcohol retailers in that town.

Of course, the Whiteclay retailers exist solely for another purpose—to serve the residents of the Pine Ridge. For many decades the Pine Ridge has been a "dry" reservation, where consumption, possession and sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited by tribal law. Earlier this year the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council voted 10 to 2 to maintain its alcohol prohibition as a critical defense of the health and welfare of the reservation population against the onslaught of alcohol-related disease and destruction. Community standards and sanctions involving alcohol in the immediate vicinity of Whiteclay, albeit originating across jurisdictional borders, should be a matter of prime importance to the Commission, particularly because the sale of alcohol in Whiteclay causes such clearly recognized physical and social devastation to Pine Ridge residents.

The Commission's sanctioning of off-sale alcohol sales

in Whiteclay has the further obvious consequence that virtually all those who purchase alcohol legally in Whiteclay have *no legal place to consume it*. We believe the Commission should recognize the public health and safety issues created by the *legal* sale of alcohol in Whiteclay that *necessarily leads to serious acts of illegality* in order for the purchasers to consume it.

Public concerns about the location of liquor retailers are reflected in local statutes which prevent the siting of alcohol retailers near churches and K-12 schools. To add a zone around dry Indian reservations to this list does not depart radically from these precedents. The Commission—not local governing boards—has the responsibility to provide leadership on this matter due to its special role in the regulation of alcohol in the state.

Protection of the residents of the Pine Ridge from the physical and social damage caused by whiskey peddlers was among the reasons that until 1904 federal law had placed under tribal jurisdiction a 50-square-mile buffer zone to the south of the Pine Ridge which included Whiteclay. A reinstated "buffer zone" around the Pine Ridge which would simply extend the tribal prohibition on alcohol sales would address the public health concerns of the Oglala Lakota with virtually no disruption of other legal commerce in the buffer zone area.

For these reasons we urge the Commission to recommend that the Legislature establish an alcohol-free buffer zone around dry Indian reservations.

More generally, the Commission should seek to establish guidelines to assist in its finding of the adequacy of existing law enforcement when issuing liquor licenses. We recognize that the Commissioners, who are not assumed to be experts in law enforcement, face difficulties in making this determination. We believe the Commission should reach out to state law enforcement officials and the concerned

continued on page 11

Support Grows for Action on Whiteclay Issue

Nebraskans for Peace was not alone in voicing concern about Whiteclay at the Liquor Control Commission's November 4 hearing. In an important new development, Project Extra Mile, a statewide network of community coalitions working to combat underage drinking, also specifically addressed the problems in this northwest Nebraska border town. Excerpted below are the comments delivered by the organization's Executive Director, Diane Riibe, in her testimony to the commissioners.

[Project Extra Mile] believes that changing the statute—53-132—is imperative for Nebraska. Further, it is critical for this body to provide unrestrained and courageous leadership with the governor and the legislature in the months ahead on the issue. Alcohol control policy within this state is in dire need of revision. The system is broke, it needs to be fixed, and this is the body to frame a solution. There are far too many liquor license outlets, there is little ability for a community's voice to be heard when there are concerns, law enforcement is stretched to an absolute limit with minuscule resources before them to address the growing problems posed by too many licenses (requiring us as taxpayers to bear the burden of that needed and increased enforcement) and it often seems—even if it feels unfair from your seat—that what's good for families comes far behind what's good for business. That wouldn't be of such concern, commissioners, if we weren't talking about the very fabric of public health policy for families within this state. People who have never paid attention to this issue before are asking, "When



*Diane Riibe
Project Extra Mile*

is enough enough?" There is an increasing frustration within communities across the state regarding their ability to maintain an environment in their neighborhoods and cities that values a quality of life so reflective of Nebraska's good life. And in some areas of the state, we can even remove the word "good" and simply say life. This is wrong, and it shouldn't be allowed to happen on my watch as a prevention advocate; and it certainly shouldn't be allowed to happen on yours.

The issue of outlet density and alcohol control provides the larger umbrella of a multitude of problems festering in this state, which brings me to the issue of Whiteclay. Certainly there are issues that must be addressed withing the Native American population, and we commend Nebraskans for Peace and those who have worked to help the citizens of Pine Ridge. But these problems are not merely unique to Whiteclay; these same problems rear their ugly head in Omaha, in Scottsbluff, in Norfolk, and all across this state. Sadly the citizens of Pine Ridge suffer greatly from our inaction. The people of Pine Ridge live across the state line from the good life, both literally and figuratively. We can make excuses for the plight of a people we cannot understand, believing that we also cannot help. But we can help. We can if we address the larger issues of alcohol control within Nebraska that affect all citizens. When we do, we also become better neighbors. We can if we fix the flaw in the law that allows as many liquor license outlets in a city, in a village, in a neighborhood as those that apply. It's wrong. It needs to be fixed. And together we can do it.

We don't profess to have all of the answers. We respectfully request that Mr. Rupe call a working group together in the very near future to begin looking at the critical issues and the changes needed. It is a lengthy process, a daunting task, but one well worth the investment of our time and energy. We will not fall silent in our desire to see these issues addressed in more depth.

Chiapas Ten Years On, conclusion

using the methods of their oppressors and attacked Mayan communities that didn't cooperate with them, dislodging 8,000 more Indians. Apparently, you can't find this in the news anywhere.

That night Richard invited us over for dinner. We talked some more local politics, about the parties, PRI, PRD, and Green, none of which are great and none of which the Zapatistas allies themselves with. Then we hashed out a plan for working the next day. Mom will do dental checkups on the kids at SYJAC, and I, well, I wasn't sure. Maybe I could do physical exams? I'd have to get some diagnostic equipment. Fortunately, a doctor had just moved in next door the previous month. Araseli went and borrowed a stethoscope, a BP cuff, and an otoscope from him.

Mom was about to fall over from fatigue, so we hailed a cab to our new and improved hotel, run by Zapatista supporters, friends of Richard. As we waited for a cab, I looked out up at the hill, beautiful twinkling lights in the clear, chilly mountain night. Richard had earlier told a story about that hillside, where even sand gets political. The government granted the hillside to some poor people to build on, taking it from a sand-making company. The company now comes back and steals sand periodically, causing these houses to collapse. This results in some 60 plus deaths per year, says Richard, and no one does anything about it. Yes, people here die over *sand*. We in the States get all upset about "No Blood for Oil," while here they could be protesting "No Blood for Sand." There is some poetic justice, however. The squatters at the bottom of the hill creep up in the night to steal this sand from the company and make cement to build their own squat homes at the bottom of the hill. From Richard and Araseli's house, the hillside is beautiful at night, you can't tell it's a slum, a war zone.

Dar La Luz

In Spanish, an expression used meaning to give birth is "dar la luz",

meaning, "to give the light."

Richard came the next morning at 8:00 a.m. to get breakfast and take us to SYJAC to work. Mom and I were busy sleeping like the dead. I had just gotten out of bed to check the time down the hall and visibly startled Richard, appearing in my jammies, a gigantic bedhead, and glasses.

After getting our acts together, we went to breakfast. I enjoyed some Oaxacan eggs (Richard definitely knows where to eat in this town) and we took off for SYJAC. It was here that I got in over my head.

First, I couldn't get Dr. Jose's otoscope to work. Then, I realized that I could barely speak Spanish, and no one there could speak English. So, we traipsed down the street to Dr. Jose's house and knocked on the door. He answered the door looking sheepish and apologized for being late. Then he "fixed" the otoscope by putting the batteries in the other way. (Milagroso! Who's sheepish now?) After he got ready, we all walked back to SYJAC and started with physical exams.

It's a damn good thing he was there. Because I don't know what pellagra and scurvy looks like in three-year-olds. And I don't know how to ask about their symptoms in Spanish. I just noted what I saw and had him repeat exams I thought were not normal. He showed me how to feel for lung congestion with my hands instead of using a stethoscope to hear, and how to watch a child's face for signs of pain when it is more subtle. He also showed me how to use to the edge of a stethoscope as a reflex hammer, and how to differentiate an abdomen full of parasites from one that is just distended from bloating or baby fat, just by touch, since you won't hear peristalsis in a chronic pediatric case of worms. These are not conditions that I am accustomed to seeing in an overfed, over-hygenic American culture. Very valuable. This is part of why I think it's so important medical students work in places like this. We performed eight exams (out of the 15 kids) that morning. When we finished, Mom did cursory dental exams with the children.

Richard was waiting to take us to the Museum of Mayan Medicine. On the way



he told us about the mothers of some of the children we'd seen that day. One woman fled from her village to the city after being raped by a soldier, which produced Carlos. The soldier found her here and raped her again, producing Lupita. She ran again and moved in with her sister. The soldier found her sister, and she fled again. I believe she either committed suicide, or attempted it. The kids live with their aunt.

Another woman was raped and moved to (exiled to?) San Cristobal. When she discovered she was pregnant, her fiancé in the village left her. After the birth, they got back together. Suddenly, one day without telling anyone, she left the child at the center. Later they found out that her fiancé had been shot by a soldier. She was gone for four days, taking care of her fiance in the village while he died. Richard and Araseli took care of the child during that time. This woman, who has returned to San Cris, is now 20 years old.

Not to get rosey-eyed, I must say that these children are truly amazing kids. Some love to laugh and run and play. Some are afraid of men. Some, like Carlos and Lupita, cry at the drop of a hat. Some love men. Some are flirts. Some eat everything. One boy is nearly three and seems to understand everything but won't talk. He's got something wrong with his left ear, and we're not sure really what to do about it. Can't afford a specialist. But they are all, clearly, the light, in dark, dark places.

The next morning I headed out to the Museum of Mayan Medicine by myself to do some translating. Miguel [tour guide and natural medical doctor] helped me, and we ended up talking a lot about gardening and living in the States versus living in the village. He would really like to come here, but of course, he can't. Sometimes I just want to say to Mexicans, really, life in the U.S. is overrated. I work three jobs and go to school full time just to make a living. And it's cold, and people are cold, and

have little sense of community. Plus, they think any medicine not recommended by the AMA is witchcraft. And once you get there, you won't be able to come back. And we've got George W, need I say more? At some point, Miguel said innocently, "Your president Bush is bad, yes?" I nodded. He said, "why?" I think I said he makes laws to make his friends rich, he starts wars against the wishes of the rest of the world, and he's dumb. It was the best I could do in my Spanish, really, but I think I made my point.

Back at Richard's, I got the lowdown on all the missing women in Mexico and Central America. It used to be happening just with young women in southern Mexico, but it's now extending to Guatemala and El Salvador. It seems to be women who are attempting labor organizing. The Mexican police, like they do with rape, seem hesitant to report or investigate, although the recent international pressure has altered things a bit. Culture here around women is so peculiar... In Mexico, protecting women inside their "proper" roles and discarding them beyond the roles seems to be what makes machismo work. Of course there's a little of each on each side. Machismo means getting harassed for wearing a skirt too short, means not investigating all the taxi drivers in San Cris who rape women coming back from dancing at night. Sexism means having political power taken away because of being a woman. I don't know, I'm just thinking out loud. I mulled it over during dinner. We retired early that evening.

Our last day in San Cris, Richard came to get us for breakfast at 9 am. We then swung by to see the dentist who my mother had been working with. He has this magic herbal concoction that keeps patients from getting infections or pain after an extraction. We got some to take home.



NFP State Board 2005 Priorities

The Nebraskans for Peace State Board met in retreat at The Leadership Center in Aurora September 25 and identified the organization's priority issues for the coming year. With only minor adjustments and alterations, the State Board's 2005 priorities are identical to last year's. NFP President Mark Vasina pretty much sized up the situation for the nation's oldest statewide Peace & Justice organization when he said, "Because the issues have stayed the same, our priorities have stayed the same."

Foremost in everyone's mind, of course, is the ill-conceived "War on Terrorism" and increasingly counter-productive occupation of Iraq. But NFP's traditional concerns regarding the culture of violence in America, the ongoing abuses in Whiteclay, Big Business tax subsidies and StratCom's expanded and even more belligerent mission also top the list. Here's a summary description of the identified priorities for 2005:

Opposing the culture of violence at home

- a. Development of anti-bullying programs in schools
- b. Promoting peace teachings in faith-based communities
- c. Opposing legislation permitting concealed weapons (conditional)

Promoting civil rights locally and internationally

- a. Whiteclay campaign
- b. Minority recruitment into the military

Economic Justice, Globalization and Empire

- a. Legislation reforming LB 775
- b. Globalization's role in U.S. military ventures
- c. Latin America focus

Anti-war/Anti-nuclear Activities

- a. Lobbying for a just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (which is serving as a seedbed for terrorism)
- b. Protesting StratCom's expanded role in the War on Terrorism for conventional as well as nuclear warfighting

This outline does not begin to indicate the number of issues involved in each of these program areas, though it does demonstrate the breadth of our activities. Starting this year however, that breadth in our activities will be connected by a common, overriding theme outlined in the following resolution adopted by the State Board: "Since war, violence and oppression affect children and women in a unique way, NFP's programs that are developed each year shall reflect the special needs of women and children suffering the consequences of war, violence and oppression." Each priority plan will be drafted specifically to reflect this new emphasis.

TAYLOR & WOLF HONORED AS PEACEMAKERS

Photo Not Available

Photo Courtesy of Journal Star Printing Company

John Taylor and George Wolf eating dinner at home with their cat, Squeak.

Nothing could be more powerful than a roomful of peace and justice workers gathered to share bread and be strengthened by the company of others involved in this uphill journey. The way is indeed hard. But, as a person vilified during the McCarthy hearings in the '50s observed, you have the nicest friends.

Honored at the 2004 Alternatives to the Military Peacemaker of the Year Potluck Supper were George Wolf and John Taylor, perennial workers in the vineyards of justice and a couple since 1973. Retired from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln English Department since August, George Wolf is active on behalf of many Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender concerns, especially same-sex partner benefits at the university. For several decades, he has been an active member of Nebraskans for Peace and the American Civil Liberties Union. John Taylor, a practicing attorney and 1995 graduate of the UNL College of Law, is also dedicated to several GLBT organizations, active in the Unitarian Church, long-time chair of the Lincoln Board of Zoning Appeals, and a former director of ACLU-Nebraska.

Fran Kaye, a friend of long-standing to both men, eloquently recounted that her son "grew up with George and John as a model of the love of a committed couple."

Approximately 40 people gathered for the potluck at Christ United Methodist Church in Lincoln, including former ATM Peacemakers of the Year, members of the ATM committee, leafletters and tablers in the city's seven high schools and other Peace & Justice activists. Alternatives to the Military regularly visits Lincoln high schools to distribute information about non-military career choices.

The Rev. Nye Bond, a 2004 Nebraskans for Peace Peacemaker of the Year award recipient and ATM co-chair, concluded the potluck supper and celebration with a quote by Clarissa Pinkola Estes, author of *Women Who Run with the Wolves*, "Do not lose heart. We were made for these times. Please do not spend your spirit dry by bewailing these difficult times. Do not lose hope. For years, we have been learning, practicing, been in training for and just waiting to meet on this exact plain of engagement."

Members of the ATM committee, including leafletters, tablers, and speakers, are: Nye Bond, George Eisele, Jay Schmidt, Marg Manglitz, Margaret Vrana, Dwight Ganzel, Dick Hargesheimer, Ruth Thone, Fran Kaye, Bob Hall and Bobbie Kierstead, Paul Olson, Danny Ladely, Larry Zink, Jaime Obrecht, and K. Roy Bailey.

For more information about Alternatives to the Military, contact Ruth Thone at 402-421-2855.

Whiteclay Moral Values, conclusion

mented. "There is evil—Whiteclay personifies evil—a black eye—to exist in this form. Bernard, I don't know you but this is the wrong application, the wrong place and the wrong time." The founding fathers, he said, had the ideal of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness—there is no life in Whiteclay, no liberty and it doesn't even approach the pursuit of happiness." Bon Fleur is with the About Group/555 Whiteclay ministry, a part of the Hands of Faith, which is operating a thrift shop, a Lakota Crafters Co-op that pays fair and living wages, with a soup kitchen to be established.

Byron Peterson of Nebraskans for Peace said, "This is an opportunity to achieve a great moral victory for ourselves... the opportunity to continue the positive transformation, which I'm hearing this morning and I think sensing for the first time the real possibility."

"I trust," he continued, "we don't have to belabor the conditions. The stark contrast to any other town. None are like Whiteclay. Drinking in the streets, toileting there, fighting, passing out in the streets and just laying there. Even drinking around the beer stores, in a clear violation of the law. These are characteristic only to Whiteclay. You don't see it in Rushville, Hay Springs, Alliance or in Pine Ridge, or on or off other reservation towns. Just Whiteclay."

As far as Peterson can find there has only been a handful of citations ever written to the dealers in Whiteclay for the illegal act of selling to an intoxicated person, for selling on credit, to selling to a minor by the county law enforcement and by the State Patrol. The liquor dealers, he said, who should be making sure those violations don't happen out of concern for keeping their licenses, "seem to have no fear."

Even Col. Tom Nesbitt of the State Patrol has admitted law enforcement there is inadequate. Noting that over 11,000 thousand containers are sold daily in Whiteclay, he asked the commissioners to look at it from a dealer's point of view and tell him where a person could legally drink even one without breaking the law. He said he'd posed same question to the State Liquor Commission and they couldn't come up with an answer.

One commissioner said that he assumed some of those people would have friends in the county and felt they could go into a friend's home if invited. Both commissioners agreed that they couldn't take it to the reservation, nor drink it on the streets or the parking lot or in the store. They only could go to a friend's house, maybe in Rushville or someplace.

"Do you think that is happening very often with those 11,000 daily containers?" Peterson asked, "Is there a need for another beer store in Whiteclay and if so why?" To which the commissioner answered, "We're here to listen to your testimony. What has been allowed to happen in Whiteclay makes none of us Nebraskans look good. This diminishes each of us," Peterson pointed out.

Frank LaMere, with Earth, Energy & Environment out of Kansas City and Rapid City, said he does a lot of social and energy development for tribes in the U.S. and Canada. He is sometimes characterized as the 'grandfather' of the movement to have Nebraskans take a serious

look at the devastation on the streets of Whiteclay, Nebraska.

"In 1998 there was a progressive move to try to find some middle ground, but we lost a governor at that time who was very committed to the effort. I must point out that the situation has deteriorated since then."

"I'm here and I want to express commitment, resolve and remind Sheridan County that I am not going away. I have been involved for six years and will be involved for another six or even longer. As long as we have those who have no voice and as long as there are those who will disenfranchise and those who are pandered to and set upon by those in a industry that I believe has gone mad in and around Sheridan County." LaMere noted that he has a great deal of respect for the commissioners and feels they can play a large role in the solving of the issues at Whiteclay. Although they may feel their hands are tied in regard with what may or may not be done with the liquor license application—"I can't accept that."

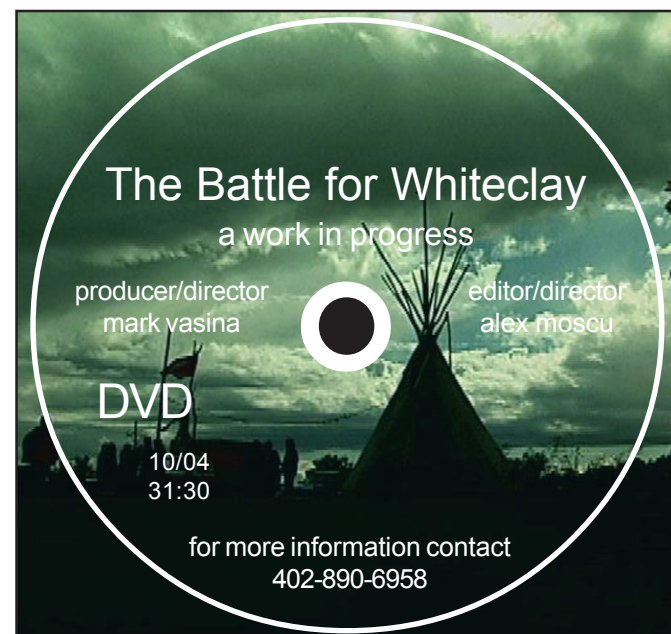
He understands the legal ramifications of that perspective, but "I did not drive all night to come and hear that 'we only play the piano.' I think we all know that the lack of activity and lack of coming together on this, in Sheridan County, has exacerbated the situation in Whiteclay, Indian or non-Indian. And I'll take as much blame as anybody else."

Citing the recent election outcome, LaMere reminded the commissioners of the importance placed on "moral values" by the voters. That discussion of moral values, he said, starts here in Sheridan County. "It starts with how [Governor] Johanns, the county commissioners and the citizens feel about moral values. I think we are better than this than to allow what we have allowed at Whiteclay. The issue will not go away. The issue will be brought to this table, and to the meeting room of the liquor board and to the governor again. I will test and question you on your moral values. I don't know if there is a worse case situation in all of the USA, in regard to an adjacent community to an Indian reservation. It is time to deal with it."

"Since 1998, I'm concerned that people in Sheridan don't see how to improve this. I saw 2,000 native people—men, women and children march into Whiteclay on July 3 of 1999, wanting to sober the people up, wanting to stop the devastation on the highways, stop the carnage in the families, alleviate the domestic abuse. They arrested us—I felt they should have passed out awards for wanting to be good citizens. July 3, 1999 will go down as a dark day in Nebraska history."

"I think things have gotten worse. I counted five, by 1999, tragic deaths in the alleys and streets of Whiteclay and it has grown. Where do we stand on moral values, where does the governor stand on moral values? We are going to elevate the discussion in the weeks and months to come. You can strike a blow for the right thing, by making your recommendation here today."

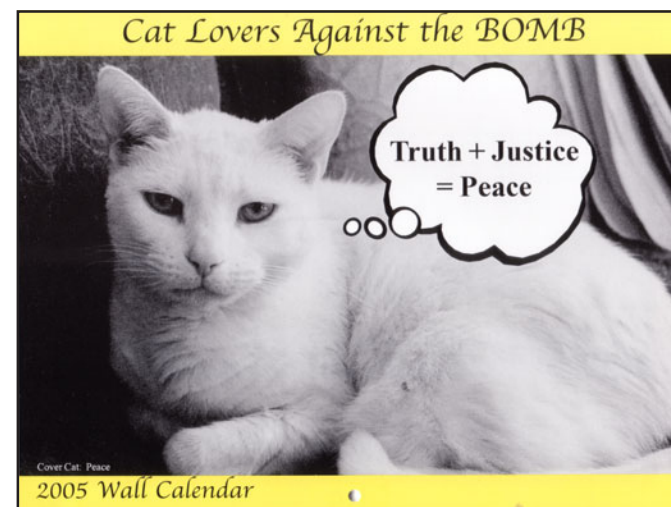
"I stand up against alcohol abuse, against drug abuse, I stand up against domestic abuse. All of those things come from Whiteclay and are exported onto Pine Ridge. Join me in standing up against those things... We must express our moral values."



NFP President Mark Vasina and co-director Alex Moscu have completed the first stage of a work-in-progress documentary on the situation on Whiteclay. This preliminary 30-minute video, titled "The Battle for Whiteclay," had its premiere screening at the October 16 Annual Peace Conference in Omaha and has been shown to selective audiences since. Although the documentary is not available for broad distribution, public showings for groups or organizations can be arranged by contacting Mark directly at 402-890-6958, or by email at mvasina@neb.rr.com.

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Remedies, conclusion

public at large for assistance in this matter. We offer two approaches which we believe merit inclusion in the Legislation Letter.

We urge the Commission to recommend that the Legislature amend the Liquor Control Act to require the Nebraska State Patrol to attest in writing to the Commission as to the adequacy of existing law enforcement in the vicinity of all new licenses and all license renewals for which hearings before the Commission are required.

The State Patrol would provide the Commission with expert guidance on the status of existing law enforcement. The role of the State Patrol in enforcement of liquor laws extends throughout the state and includes communities large and small, urban and rural, with and without local police departments.

We urge the Commission to recommend that the Legislature authorize a task force to determine appropriate statutory and regulatory measures to enable the Commission to carry out its statutory responsibility to ensure that licenses are located in areas with adequate existing law enforcement.

This task force should be comprised of representatives of state and local law enforcement agencies, governmental and non-governmental agencies involved with alcohol-related issues, concerned citizens groups, and liquor industry organizations. The Commission could initiate action to incorporate helpful changes to rules and regu-

lations, and include task force recommendations for legislative changes in subsequent Legislation Letters.

In summary, we ask the Commission to follow through on the good intentions and implicit logic of its recommendation concerning Whiteclay in the draft Legislation Letter by incorporating three additional recommendations to the Governor and state senators:

1. Establish an alcohol-free buffer zone around dry Indian reservations, particularly where public health and safety concerns are undeniable.
2. Amend the Liquor Control Act to require the Nebraska State Patrol to attest in writing to the Commission as to the adequacy of law enforcement in the vicinity of all new licenses and all license renewals for which hearings before the Commission are required.
3. Authorize a legislative task force to recommend statutory and regulatory measures to enable the Commission to carry out its statutory responsibility to ensure that licenses are located in areas with adequate existing law enforcement.

We believe all three suggestions are reasonable and sound. They address significant issues of public health and safety which are of concern to the Commission. We welcome a response from the Commissioners regarding their evaluation of the merits of these suggestions.

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Wayne/Wayne State College Chapter	Sayre Andersen	402-375-3794
Central Nebraska Peace Workers	Charles Richardson	402-462-4794

Contact the NFP State Office for information on the UNL, UNO, UNK, Creighton and Nebraska Wesleyan University and Hastings & Doane College Chapters

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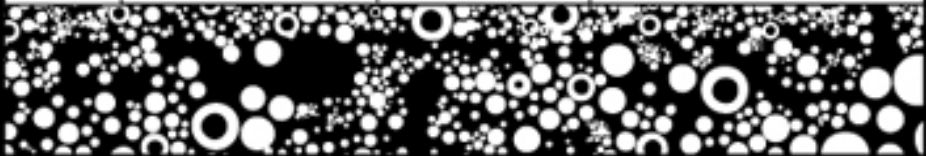
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Human Rights Day CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 4, 2004

“Enriching Life Through Human Rights—A Look at Corporations’ Potential for Advancing Human Rights

First United Methodist Church

2733 North 50th Street

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Join us for this program of short talks, music and discussion.

Guests include: Phil Hugly, inspirational speaker; Steve Larrick, past Green Party Candidate for Congress; Milo Mumgaard, Nebraska Appleseed Project; Linda Shafer, business woman; and Chris Sayre, musician.

Let’s recommit ourselves to achieving human and civil rights for all.

Sponsored by the Coalition for Human Rights, Amnesty International, The United Nations Association, Nebraskans for Peace, Wesleyan United Ministries, M.O.S.I.A.C., Prairie Peace Park, ALTRUSA International & others.

For more information, contact: Don Tilley, 466-6622; John Krejci, 466-8460; Larry Williams, 440-7891.

Senator Hagel Eats His Cake and Has It Too

Senator Chuck Hagel enjoys a COMPLETELY unearned reputation as an independent. Whenever the Bush Administration proposes some step, Chuck Hagel is first at the microphone with his concerns, with the Capitol in the background and his head against the blue blue sky.

When it gets down to gate-cutting time, however, and there is an actual vote in the Senate, Sen. Hagel is THERE for the Bush administration every time, or as near (97%) as makes no difference.

Despite his alleged concerns about going to war in Iraq, when the issue came before Congress to determine the terms and conditions under which that war would be waged, Sen. Hagel refused to join his more moderate colleagues in their attempts to re-

tain SOME congressional oversight. Amendment after amend-

ment came to the floor, including Sen. Ben Nelson’s proposal to make half the appropriations for Iraq a grant and the other half a loan (in part because of the looming deficits which will be the lasting legacy of this war), with the loan possibly forgiven if other nations would also forgive Iraq’s debts. Sen. Hagel made light of this proposal and voted for the straight Rumsfeld/Cheney-friendly package.

Sen. Hagel is often seen on Sunday morning talk shows, calling for reconciliation and bipartisanship. It is hard to believe that he finds Sen. Nelson, one of the most conservative Democrats in Congress, difficult to work with. One centrist ought to be able to build an effective working relationship with his Senate bench mate, another centrist from Nebraska, but in a recent *Omaha World-Herald* story, Sen. Hagel said in effect that it was important to replace Sen. Nelson.

Elected after passage of the 1996 Farm Bill, Sen. Hagel has been in an excellent position to educate his fellow Republicans as to the disastrous effects on farm income of this export-driven policy, which has caused historic low prices, an ongo-

ing crisis in farm income, the erosion of rural economies and increased concentration in agricultural markets. He, has not done so. On the bread and butter economic issues that impact Sen. Hagel’s have-not constituents—the farmers and ranchers who take the risks and operate at an enormous structural disadvantage—his “independence” goes just as far as the corporate interests will allow and not one step further.

Sen. Hagel is a Free Trade true believer. He does not have a working understanding of the real world of the number one industry of his state—agriculture. When desperate dairy farmers tried to enlist his help in closing the tariff loophole that allows imports of a new milk product (milk protein concentrate), an unfair price advantage over domestic production, Sen. Hagel refused. His hard-line belief in free—not fair—trade trumped any commitment to provide effective representation to Nebraska dairy producers who are being hammered by these imports.

When drought-stricken farmers and ranchers sought disaster assistance, Sen. Hagel supported offsets from farm program funding, though no other group of disaster aid recipients (think hurricane victims, flood

victims, World Trade Center victims) is expected to offset the assistance they receive. In the most recent round of disaster aid negotiation, Sen. Hagel has provided exactly ZERO leadership, and any ag producer in Nebraska who receives drought assistance has Sen. Nelson to thank.

The difference between the two U.S. Senators from Nebraska strikes me all the more because of a certain similarity—both men come from plain people, not rich, and both men have achieved significant prosperity. But Ben Nelson remembers where he came from and retains his feeling for folks of average means. Chuck Hagel sees the world through the eyes of transnational companies. It is the rich man’s pain he feels, and it is the rich man’s water he carries, vote after vote, year after year, in the Senate.

He may not burn with the same righteous evangelical fire as George Bush, but Sen. Hagel is kissing all the same corporate rings. He can talk—when it suits him—like Jesse Jackson, but he votes just like Jesse Helms.



From the Bottom by Sally Herrin

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