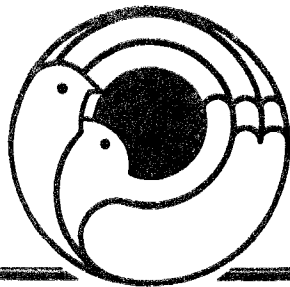


October--
November
2004

vol. 39 no.8



Newsletter of **LEPOCO**

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

More Work Needed to Close SOA/WHINSEC: Vigil & Direct Action Planned at Ft. Benning Nov. 19-21

After ten plus years of annual vigils and civil disobedience at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, protesting the notorious School of the Americas (now named the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation) we are continuing our efforts to shut it down.

10,000 of us -- students, veterans, labor, human rights workers, members of various religious groups and social/global justice organizations -- will gather in Columbus, Georgia, on November 20 and 21, to continue the struggle until the school is closed and the policies it represents are changed forever.



Teach-ins, trainings in nonviolent civil disobedience and caucuses will begin on Friday, November 19, and continue through Saturday evening. From 11:30 am to 5 pm, on Saturday, November 20 there will be a rally at the gates of Ft. Benning, and on Sunday, the Vigil and Non-violent Direct Action will be at those gates and on the grounds of Ft. Benning. Many speakers and musicians, including Kathy Kelly, Sr. Helen Prejean, Sr. Dianna Ortiz, Neris Gonzales and Carlos Mauricio, Bob King of the United Auto Workers, Kim and Reggie Harris, Utah Phillips, Lljatusuyo, The Chestnut Brothers, and Pat Humphries will be on hand.

More information about SOA/WHINSEC is available in the LEPOCO Office. To discuss the

possibility of traveling to Columbus, Georgia, for this event contact Bob Riggs at 610-588-9832.

- Bob Riggs

Nobel Laureate Helen Caldicott to Speak

Dr. Helen Caldicott, founding president of Physicians for Social Responsibility (co-winner of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize), will speak at Quakertown High School on International Anti-Food Irradiation Day, Sunday, November 21st, from 1-3 pm. Dr. Caldicott's topic will be "Nuclear Weapons Production and the Link to Food Irradiation." Judy Szela of Nocobalt-4-Food and Patty Lovera of Public Citizen will discuss the possible use of nuclear food irradiation in the National School Lunch Program. Admission is free, but please consider a donation to Nocobalt-4-Food at the door.

From 10 am to Noon, the same day, will be The Gathering: Protecting and Healing the Lenape Homeland Against Nuclear Irradiation, at the farm of July Szela and Phil Stein, 1920 Allentown Road, Milford Square, Pennsylvania. For more information, visit www.nocobalt-4-food.org or call nocobalt at 215-552-8903.

Donations towards the event are urgently needed! (The costs for bringing Dr. Caldicott as a speaker are significant.) Please make checks out to EarthSave, with a memo to "Nocobalt-4-Food," and mail them to: Nocobalt-4-Food, PO Box 68, Milford Square, PA 18935. Thank you!

- Anna Maria Caldara



Vote Your Conscience; Vote for Peace; Vote for Justice; Vote for the Environment; Vote for the People of Iraq and Colombia; But, Be Sure to Vote!

Visiting Colombia: Part II

Medellín is the second largest city in Colombia, three to four million population. Like Bogotá its population is indefinite, increasing constantly with the influx of displaced people from the countryside. We met with a collection of human rights groups who described their difficulties in a country where human rights are held in little regard. Detention is the primary method of harassing people now; people can be detained by being accused by anyone. The current government has begun using paid informants; put that together with the fact that the accused don't have the right to confront their accusers, and you get an idea of the importance of human rights in Colombia.

Angelina, a woman who attended the above mentioned meeting, spoke to some of us after the meeting. She was accused and detained earlier this summer. She spent nine days in two different jails, threatened with a knife, forced to undress and be photographed, and interrogated constantly about her non-existent connections with the guerillas. Her human rights lawyer succeeded in getting her release. She moved after her release, because she's afraid to go back to her barrio. This is life in Colombia now.

Angelina is not someone important, doesn't do highly important work for an important organization. She is a person trying to live her life in circumstances which include the threat that eventually became reality for her in June.

More encouraging, we met with Red Juvenil (Youth Network). A delightfully lively bunch of teenagers met us, drumming and chanting, ready to march and demonstrate against the six-weeks-long detention of a popular combo. We didn't go with them, but learned about "Red's" programs, which include actions by conscientious objectors and nonviolent games in the schools.

Ruta Pacifica (Way of Peace) is a consortium of women's organizations that plans actions, espouses nonviolence, and provides support for women and girls through everything from demonstrations and counseling to aroma therapy and massage. A couple of years ago, their Women in Black brought together over 500 women at a jail just outside the city and successfully protested the detention of several women inside. A principle for them: it's better to do something with fear than to do nothing because of fear.

We flew from Medellín to Apartadó, then drove to San José de Apartadó. The most threat of violence was on this part of the trip, chiefly because of the armed factions; we encountered none. Our two jeeps took an hour to drive the six miles to San José because the road is so bad -- and we did get stopped and our bags searched at the military checkpoint.

We stayed at the attractive, though with minimal amenities, guesthouse, our beds equipped with mosquito netting. Brigitta, a village elder, gave us a tour of the town: a pretty child care center; the grist mill; a

back-yard banana plantation; the square with its drying beans, cacao, and roaming pigs; the too numerous named memorial to community martyred; the elementary school for 550 children; the community building for events, which holds equipment for processing cacao and making marmalade. These last are not used; the equipment has been donated, but establishing the business is much more complicated.

Dinner in the community building included members of the community, who described the difficulties of being a peace community. They have survived the guerillas and paramilitaries as well as the official nonsupport and even persecution by the military. During our meeting, a man paced along the balcony outside our room, alert for possible approach of any armed faction. Approximately two weeks after we were there, two people died and two were injured when a grenade left from military operations in March exploded in a San José home; two others who associated with the community were shot to death by paramilitaries in separate incidents at about the same time.

None of the tension that is the daily life of the region was felt by us as we hiked the two miles on the mule trail up the beautiful mountain to La Unión the next day.

- Janet Goloub

Editor's Note: Janet Goloub was a member of a delegation to Colombia, July 18-31, organized by the Fellowship of Reconciliation's Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean and the Chicagoans for a Peaceful Colombia. The first part of her report on the trip appeared in the September issue of the LEPOCO Newsletter. A final segment will appear in the next issue of this newsletter.

Newsletter of LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

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The LEPOCO Newsletter is published 10 times a year by the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern, a non-violent, non-profit organization dedicated to peace in all forms.

Annual dues are:

Regular Member \$25
Limited Income Member \$ 5
Household Membership \$30
Supporting Member \$50

Articles/news should be submitted by the third Wednesday of the month for use in the following month's newsletter.

Newsletter Staff: Fran Dreisbach, Mike Lawton, Tom Lloyd, Bob Riggs, Barbara Schultz, Brad Schultz, Tom Stinnett, Joan Stone, Nancy Tate, Jeff Vitelli, Hans Wuerth, and Ursula Wuerth.

Thanks to all the people who staple, fold and label the newsletter each month.

LEPOCO Steering Committee: Ellen Buck, Peter Crownfield, Annie Hasz, Julius Iwantsch (co-treasurer), Mike Lawton (ex-officio), Janet Ney, Sue Ravitz, Reggie Regrut, Nancy Tate (ex-officio), and Marion Thorne (co-treas.).

Retrial Postponed

The retrial of Dennis Counterman, scheduled to begin October 4th at the Lehigh County Courthouse, has been delayed indefinitely. Mr. Counterman was convicted in 1990 of three counts of first degree murder for allegedly setting a house fire that killed his three children. After spending 13 years on death row his conviction was overturned by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The Court found prosecutorial misconduct in regards to the suppression and changing of evidence that would have provided a defense for Mr. Counterman. Mr. Counterman is still being held in Lehigh County Prison.

A motion by the current defense attorneys that testimony from the 1990 trial, which had been altered by the prosecution, be inadmissible at the retrial was granted. The defense is also asking that up-to-date standards of fire investigation be applied to the evidence. The use of modern fire investigation techniques, and the presentation of untampered testimony will make it difficult for the prosecution to convict Mr. Counterman of a crime he steadfastly maintains he never committed. Mr. Counterman has refused to plea bargain.

This case deserves public scrutiny and outrage for a number of reasons. Most importantly, it appears that an innocent man has been sentenced to death row. Dennis Counterman's conviction was overturned by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, not for procedural problems, but because of deliberate prosecutorial tampering with the evidence. This places an ethical taint on the prosecutors handling of the original trial. Are they still practicing law? Finally, why was taxpayer money, a lot of it, used to perpetrate such an injustice?

The defense remains hopeful that the prosecutors will drop the charges against Dennis Counterman. If this happens Mr. Counterman could be released unexpectedly. Anyone who can make support available to him (money, food, shelter, clothing, a job, counseling, etc.) can contact LEPOCO or any members of L.V. Committee Against State Killing.

- Maria Weick

Phonathon Starts Soon

LEPOCO's annual phonathon will be starting in November. The pre-phonathon fund appeal letter will also be arriving soon. Please respond by mail if possible. Besides seeking financial support (and this is LEPOCO's biggest fund raiser) the phonathon is the one time of the year when we try to speak with so many people on our mailing list. This is an important way to strengthen the local peace community.

Please let us know if you do not want to receive a phone call, even if you cannot make a donation. Please greet our callers with kindness. They are gentle peace

people, like you. This is your chance to share, if only briefly, some of your hopes and dreams for building a world more filled with justice and peace.

If you can be a phonathon caller (a commitment of two to three hours) please let us know by calling LEPOCO at 610-691-8730.

- Nancy Tate



Joan and Sarah Stone staff the check-out table at LEPOCO's Indoor Yard Sale, which was held October 8th and 9th at the Forte Building on Bethlehem's south-side. We grossed over \$900 and received more donated goods than we could deal with. The two-day sale did not really increase our total attendance (from previous years when the sale was only one day), but it did provide time to set up one day and leave items overnight. Thank you to all those who volunteered to staff the sale and to all those who generously donated so many great items. If you have suggestions about how to handle next year's yard sale please talk to someone on the Fundraising Committee or the Steering Committee or call the Peace Center. (Above photo by Ellen Buck.)

Flood Relief for Haiti

Although the primary emphasis for we members of LEPOCO is to work for peace and justice, we do have an environment aspect. Further, since our hearts are in the right place, we are moved by things like the serious flood situation in Haiti. What can we, as individuals, do?

The Quixote Center is taking contributions of money for its "Haiti Reborn Emergency Flood Relief Fund." Send your check to: Quixote Center, PO Box 5206, Hyattsville, MD 20782. Phone: 301-699-0042 or go to "Quixote Center" on the web and make your gift via credit card. You can also learn more about the good work that the Quixote Center is doing.

The Director of the Center was the speaker at LEPOCO's Annual Dinner a few years ago.

- Tom Lloyd

Barbara Schultz (1940-2004) —

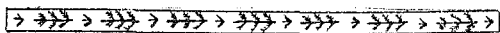
Barbara Schultz crossed over to a more perfect peace September 21, 2004. Family, friends and neighbors gathered at a memorial service at Heintzelman's in Hellertown on Saturday, September 25. Barbara's ashes were later buried on the Schultz family farm. Afterwards, we shared memories and lunch on the porch in view of the cats and horses at pasture that will sorely miss her as well. In a nearby studio, we got to see Barbara's work of wonders with miniatures—a facet of her many at LEPOCO didn't know very well.

Barbara was active against the Vietnam War, then gave years to study and teaching before joining LEPOCO sponsored resistance to the 1991 US war in Iraq. She was a member of LEPOCO's Mid-East Peace Committee and the Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition, as well as a participant in many LEPOCO activities. I miss her grace, her quiet courage, seeing her at dinner, at meetings, walks, and vigils, wearing overalls or dressed in black, her hair in a long gray braid, her enjoyable laugh.

Barbara had a heart for human rights and traveled far and wide for political peace: twice to Georgia to close the SOA, to Chiapas, Mexico, Vietnam, Cuba, Turkey; she planned to go to Mongolia, China with Brad, her husband, and Fran Driesbach this past spring before illness overtook her. Barbara also worked for years at a Democratic Party committeewoman in Springfield Township, Bucks County.

If I flagged in my attention and commitment at the daunting tasks and details for peace, a conversation with Barbara usually brought me round. I'm sorry you had to go Barbara; guess a bit of you will forever live in us as we endeavor to build the peace.

- Monica McAghon



Edward Said Remembered.

On September 23rd, two days before the first anniversary of the death of Edward Said, Lehigh University held a forum, organized by Abe Blair, to commemorate Mr. Said's vast contribution to the understanding of the Islamic world. The forum was hosted by Dr. Gordon Bearn, and the panelists were Amardeep Singh and Rob Rozenhal, both Professors of English at Lehigh.

Said's most influential book, *Orientalism*, published in 1978, was an academic bombshell. His aim was to "systematically question all modes of received knowledge." Professor Singh said the book was Said's signature contribution to literary studies. In it he does close, brilliant analysis of major writers such as Rudyard Kipling and Joseph Conrad, analyzing how Oriental stereotypes permeated their writing and shaped popular conceptions.

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Orientalists were perceived to be clannish, sly, devious, despotic, and difficult to trust. They were believed to be incapable of rational analysis, the men to be sexually incontinent, and the women to be behind bars.

Said wrote that the Oriental myth was possible because of political dominance by the west. Only those in power can write a book defining the other.

He is often lumped in with pluralists and multiculturalists, but Professor Rozenhal said Said is best understood as a secular humanist. Though he was a leading American defender of Muslims and the Palestinian cause, he was an Episcopalian married to a Quaker.

In the question and answer period, it was asked what Mr. Said's response to the events of 9/11 were, and Professor Rozenhal referred to an interview with Said in the November 2001 issue of the *Progressive* magazine, only weeks after the attack.

Said referred to Bush's rhetoric about "a crusade" and "wanted: dead or alive" in referring to Osama bin Laden. He thought it suggested not so much an orderly progress toward bringing the man to justice according to international norms, but rather "something apocalyptic, something of the order of the criminal atrocity itself. This will make matters a lot, lot worse, because there are always consequences. And it would seem to me to give Osama bin Laden... a kind of mythological proportion is really playing his game. I think we need to secularize the man. We need to bring him down to the realm of reality. Treat him as a criminal, as a man who is a demagogue, who has unlawfully unleashed violence against innocent people. Punish him accordingly, and don't bring down the world around him and ourselves."

- Mike Lawton

Let Us Go Forward Together

INFLUENTIAL WRITINGS AND ART ON WAR, PEACE, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

from 50 Years of the War Resisters League Peace Calendar



PREFACE BY HISTORIAN HOWARD ZINN

Changemakers like Aung San Suu Kyi, Abbie Hoffman, Rosa Parks, and Ani DiFranco, and groups like Children of War and Women in Black — among many others — speak to nonviolent activists through the generations.

War Resisters League

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NY state/city residents include 8.625% sales tax. Calendars are shipped bulk mail. Allow up to 4 weeks for delivery or enclose an extra \$2.50 per calendar for first class mailing. For delivery outside U.S. add \$4 Mex/Can; \$5 other countries.



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Also available at the LEPOCO Peace Center.

To Mourn the Dead... —

On October 2nd in Washington, DC, various peace and anti-war groups sponsored a "Memorial Procession, For All Those Wounded and Killed In the Iraq War." The 52 listed sponsors included the American Friends Service Committee, Pledge of Resistance, War Resisters League, Military Families Speak Out, Iraq Veterans Against the War, School of the Americas Watch, House of Grace Catholic Workers. Six LEPOCO members joined the group of about 500, Joe De Raymond, Robert Daniels, Ruth Karpinski, Nancy Tate, Anna Maria Caldara, and Ken Moore.

It is hard not to allow the war to dissolve into a numbers game, a cataloging of statistics which strip the eleven dead or three dead, the five wounded or 30 wounded as cited by the "news" into a faceless series of daily statistics with no more emotional impact than the ever-repeated stock exchange value. On this day, we heard from the flesh and blood victims of the war,



Some of the young people representing Iraq Veterans Against the War at the October 2nd Memorial Procession in Washington, DC. Michael Hoffman of Macungie is on the far left. He spoke at the gathering on October 2nd and at the Michael Moore program at Stabler Arena on October 29th. (Photo by Robert Daniels.)

returned veterans who oppose the war, family members who have lost sons, brothers and sisters to the war. We staged a funeral procession which marched across the Arlington Bridge to the White House, carrying caskets, remembering the victims. Twenty-eight people were arrested as they attempted to deliver a list of the names of the dead to the White House.

This demonstration against the war asked us to "Mourn the Dead, Heal the Wounded, End the War." It was a moment of recognition that this war in its grisly progression of slaughter will itself create a resistance, as slowly or quickly as the families of our soldiers realize that their sons and daughters are being maimed and killed for the extension of empire, as slowly or quickly as the citizenry of the United States recognizes the colossal waste and cruelty being perpetrated in our name and demands an end to the madness of the war in Iraq.

- Joe S. DeRaymond



Project ELF Closes! —

On September 30, the plug got pulled on Project ELF. A surprise Navy announcement signaled the end of 36 years of first local, then global, opposition to the Navy's giant transmitter system. The system was built to send one-way messages to submerged British and U.S. submarines around the world, allowing Trident ballistic missile submarines to get close enough to the USSR to launch a sneak attack or first-strike with nuclear weapons.

Calling the twin ELF transmitters (in Clam Lake, Wisconsin, and Republic, Michigan) "outdated and no longer needed," the Space and Navy Warfare Systems Command in San Diego said on September 17 that it will cease operating the devices and over the next three years disassemble over 100 miles of above-ground heavy cables and cedar poles that carry the extremely low frequency signal into the earth's crust.

Anti-nuclear weapons activists celebrated the unexpected end of a 36-year long campaign against what they dubbed a "nuclear war trigger." The struggle involved state-wide referendums, federal law suits, marches, pole-cutting disarmament actions, and a 18-year-long campaign of line-crossing civil resistance. Over 40 of the nuclear weapons resisters who refused to pay court-ordered fines have been incarcerated in county jails and state and federal prisons. Altogether, more than nine years of incarceration have been served by the activists.

The dead-end of constitutional protest methods -- including a successful state-wide anti-ELF referendum in Michigan, the repeated introduction in Congress of the "ELF Termination Act," and a 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversal -- led to the campaign of civil resistance. Five times since 1984, antenna poles have been cut down by activists who temporarily shut off the system. In 1996, two pole cutters won a jury acquittal on state sabotage charges after expert testimony showed that the Trident system was unable to act defensively, but is only useful as a first-strike or offen-

(continued on page 8)

Popcorn & Politics: First Friday Film!

November 5, 7:00 pm

"Lost Boys of Sudan"

An award-winning documentary about two Sudanese refugees on their journey to the U.S.

Popcorn will be provided, but please bring other snacks to share.

LEPOCO Peace Center

313 W. 4th St., South Bethlehem

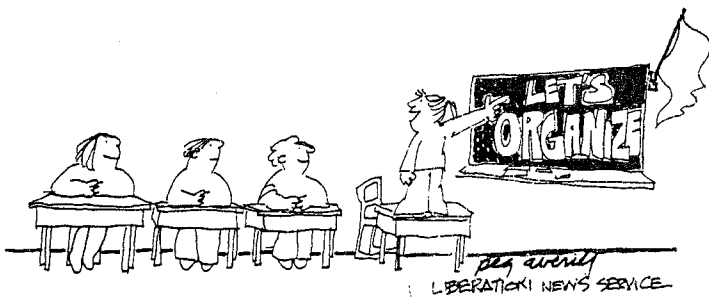
Call 610-691-8730 for more info.

"Marx in Soho:" A Treat

As I ease on into *la-la land*, with creaking joints, flabby muscles and Alzheimer's, one (of many) of my pet peeves of the past 35 years has been the paucity of plays done by area theatres that go beyond musical fluff and Neil Simon comedies. Every now and then some theatre will do Shakespeare, Shaw, Shepard, or a classic drama. But more often the offering is another doily for the mind by Dr. Feelgood. Well, take heart, there is good news ("Chariots A' Comin'" as the old spiritual puts it)!!

Bob Weick, fresh from the Philly Fringe Festival, performed a one-actor play by Howard Zinn entitled "Marx in Soho," under the auspices of the Theatre Outlet, on the last two week of October. Some LEPOCO folks got to attend the opening night and were quite impressed. The *Morning Call* also gave it a good review on October 26. I can't vouch for Bob's Oscar winning history, but he certainly deserves applause for his courage to memorize this role!

The play is about Karl Marx's return from the Great Beyond to tell us something not only about his political economy, but about his life in Soho, London, where he did much of his living and writing. Due to a bureaucratic mix-up, the "authorities" send him to Soho, NYC (or as Bob presents it, Allentown, PA), where he reminisces about his family, his comrades and also about current events here in the U.S. This play couldn't be more timely, more relevant to the present crisis. It is funny, profound, and thought-provoking. All the things that new-age schlock isn't.



And while this delightful play will entertain, it might also prick the consciences of those who are hell-bent on holding their noses and voting for the lesser evil. Take a peek at this scene with Bakunin: "I said to Bakunin: 'You want to know what I mean by the dictatorship of the proletariat? Look at the commune of Paris (1871)). That is true democracy. Not the democracy of England or America, where elections are circuses with people voting for one or another guardian of the old order. Where whatever candidate wins, the rich go on ruling the country'"

If you did not get to see the play maybe you can help get it presented at other local venues. Bob Weick would especially like the opportunity to present the play for college and high school audiences and can be contacted about that at 610-346-8793.

And don't anguish over your gut-wrenching guilt feelings. Even Chomsky and Zinn are supporting Kerry.

This is submitted in the spirit of Crazy Horse, who hated the U.S. government and whose memorial will dwarf the four gringo presidents at Rushmore.

- Bernard J. Berg

Editor's Note: This article was written before the play was presented in Allentown and has been modified slightly to reflect the lateness of this newsletter. Also, thank you to Kathryn Hoffman and Jim Schneider, who opened their home for a theatre party before the October 20th performance of the play, and thank you to the LEPOCO supporters who were able to attend that party and the play.



James Forbes Calls for Renewed Vision

The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., brought a clear message to an enthusiastic interfaith audience at Packer Memorial Church on the campus of Lehigh University, on Tuesday, October 12. Calling on the preaching skills that have made him a "preacher's preacher," Dr. Forbes called on the assembly to remember whose they are and to stand up for what they believe. "If we are intimidated, the terrorists have already won." The featured speaker at an interfaith worship experience, Dr. Forbes was the guest of the Lehigh Valley Interfaith Mobilization 2004, a newly formed coalition of more than 25 local communities of faith.

Dr. Forbes returned frequently to an opening statement, "I hate cowardice." He talked about his own actions and the actions of so many others. "I saw fear activate the action of cowardice" after 9/11. He saw that his country has become a place where there is no longer a free environment to speak your piece. It has become a danger to speak up, to dare to question. He called on his listeners to speak out, to speak boldly, to stand against greed, pride, racism, and empire building.

Alternating between standing in front of the chapel, sitting on the steps, or walking up and down the aisle, Dr. Forbes displayed his powerful preaching style as he cried out for a great awakening of the spiritual in an age of secularization. Recalling readings from the Book of Esther in the Bible that were part of the interfaith service, Dr. Forbes lauded Esther who stood up for her beliefs and did not count the cost.

At the end of the service, those in attendance joined in a commission that included the following: "We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination..."

- Janet Ney

The Struggle Shared

For civilization as a whole, the faith that is so essential to restore the balance now missing in our relationship with the earth is the faith that we do have a future. We can believe in that future and work to achieve and preserve it, or we can whirl blindly on, behaving as if one day there will be no children to inherit our legacy. The choice is ours; the earth is in the balance.

- Al Gore,

Earth in the Balance: Ecology & the Human Spirit

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE -

It is tempting to think that this season's hurricanes, accompanying floods, downed trees, mudslides, and power outages were the planet's revenge for the regressive environmental policies of the last four years. In point of fact, global warming is responsible for spawning more frequent, and more violent storms, and the World Health Organization predicts that 160,000 people around the globe will die this year as a direct result of global warming. While melting polar icecaps are increasing the total volume of water on the planet, less and less of it will be potable. By 2025, it is predicted, the world's people will need 50% more fresh water than is available.

To the balance of our ecological crisis add the phenomenon of "Global Dimming." Air pollution is diminishing the amount of sunlight reaching the earth by 10% to 37%, scientists say. A significant part of that cloud hovers over Pennsylvania. Our state leads all other states in the nation in the number of premature deaths linked to power plant emissions, according to a Clear The Air report released in July.

What follows as this month's Struggle Shared are brief mentions of several important environmental battlegrounds in our Lehigh Valley. Space prohibits more detailed presentation and analysis, but you're urged to get in the fray. While LEPOCO does not currently have an Environmental Committee, our active membership overflows into the Alliance for Sustainable Communities, which is a good forum for environmental activists to pool energy and information. Their Steering

Committee meets every Tuesday at 1 pm at Morning Star Center (610-838-7666) and the last Monday of the month for a general meeting at 7 pm. You can also reach them at their website, www.sustainlv.org.

DEVELOPING DEVELOPMENTS -

In its ongoing war with Lehigh Valley Hospital to dominate the health-care market, St. Luke's Hospital and Health Network recently purchased 180 acres in Bethlehem Township, and is planning to build new facilities in anticipation of the Valley's population boom. The property includes a rare stand of 300-year-old white oaks that reach over 60 feet tall. At the least, St. Luke's must be urged to leave the two-acre stand unscathed.

Construction has begun on the much-touted Commerce Center Boulevard, a \$13-million road intended to link the 1600 acre Industrial park on former Bethlehem Steel property with yet another new industrial park planned south of Bethlehem, via Route 412. The bulldozers you hear are "The Sound of Progress," according to Bethlehem Mayor Callahan.

In September, the Federal Aviation Administration solicited comments on its draft environmental impact statement on plans to build a 10-story radar tower on South Mountain, less than a mile east of the Star of Bethlehem. Residents of the Lower Saucon Township have expressed concern over potential aesthetic, as well as environmental impacts.

To our North, in Plainfield Township, officials are looking at plans for a new Wal-Mart and Lowes. The county has allocated \$2.6 million for infrastructure, in-

cluding a road connecting the project to Route 512. The new stores would be a death knell for small-town Mom and Pop operations, and even the Big K-Mart.

While developers seek to create new space to attract the public's business, often it is at risk of sacrificing historic structures. The Save Our Steel (incorporating as Friends of Steel) organization is continuing efforts to preserve unique remnants of Bethlehem Steel's blast furnaces, for example (see Struggle Shared of March 2004). Folks in Coplay, meanwhile, are facing the possible demolition of five of nine limekilns that operated more than 100 years ago, and today look more like a medieval castle. One councilwoman in Coplay said that the kilns are as necessary to Coplay resident's sense of identity as the Empire State Building is to New Yorkers.

HEARING ON MERCURY RECYCLING PLANT PERMIT -

Bethlehem Apparatus is the largest supplier of elemental mercury to industry in the world. It has been operating in Hellertown for the past 49 years. For years it was exempt from hazardous waste regulations because it is a recycling facility. When the regulations changed 11 years ago the company filed for the required permit. It has been operating on an interim permit since 1996 for storage, processing and treatment of its mercury, known to cause serious development and neurological problems in children, with effects on the central nervous system comparable to that of lead.

Finally, the state Department of Environmental Protection has completed its review of the company's hazardous waste permit, and has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, November 10, at 7 pm, in the Hellertown Borough Municipal Building. Written comments should be sent to Bethlehem Apparatus Hazardous Waste Permit, Land Recycling and Waste Management, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711.

- Jeff Vitelli

Bits & Pieces

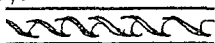
Ⓢ On Wed., Nov. 3, Janet Goloub, will give another report (with slides) on her July trip to Colombia (see page 2). This report will be for the Allentown Hiking Club, following their monthly business meeting and will start at 8:30 pm, at the Lehigh County Senior Citizens Center, 1633 Elm St., Allentown.

Ⓢ Fired Up Films closes with *The Corporation* on Thurs., Nov. 4, 7 pm, Lithgow Science Aud., Trumbower Hall, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, and again on Fri., Nov. 5, at 7 pm, in Rm. 33, Miller Science Bldg., Cedar Crest College, Allentown. This film helps ask the question: when corporations own everything, who will stand for the public good?

The final program will be an exhibition and discussion of Local Alternative Media on Thurs., Nov. 18, at 7 pm, again in Trumbower Hall at Muhlenberg College. A video about anti-Iraq war activism in the Lehigh Valley will be shown and the discussion will focus on the possibilities for expanding production and distribution of community media locally.

Ⓢ Peter Crownfield had an excellent op-ed in *The Morning Call* on Oct. 6, that opened, "A little-known provision of the federal school law, 'No Child Left Behind,' requires secondary schools to give students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers to a military recruiter upon request. The same section also gives recruiters access to students in their school."

It goes on to spell out the easy access recruiters have to young people, often facilitated by those who should do more to protect them: public school officials. If you did not see the article, contact LEPOCO for a copy.



Ⓢ Princeton's Coalition for Peace Action will hold their 25th annual conference, Sun., Nov. 14, on the topic of, "The Impact of the Media on War and Peace," at the Nassau Presbyterian Church, 61 Nassau St., Princeton. Speakers will include Dr. Noam Chomsky, Amy Goodman, Peter Hart of Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting, and Laura Secor, foreign policy correspondent for the American Prospect. A \$40 donation is requested for the conference and advance registration is recommended. For more info.: 609-924-5022 or www.peacecoalition.org.

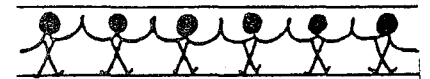
Ⓢ War Is Costly; Peace Is Priceless, is the theme of the Annual Public Gathering for American Friends Service Committee on Sat., Nov. 6, at 1:30 pm, at Friends Center, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia. Chris Hedges, war correspondent for the *New York Times* and author of *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*, will be the plenary speaker. There will also be panels on "War and the National/Global Economy," "Building an Environment for Peace," and "Justice for All In a Time of War." For more info. call 215-241-7049.

Ⓢ Nearly 1000 people signed the Iraq Is a Hornets' Nest on Fire ad initiated and paid for mostly by Dan Poresky. Giving 14 reasons to condemn the Bush Administration for

its actions in Iraq the ad appeared in *The Morning Call* on Mon., Oct. 18. If you would like to see a copy please contact LEPOCO.

Ⓢ The League of Women Voters will hold a workshop on "Running for Local Office," on Sat., Nov. 20, 8 am to 12:30 pm at Northampton Community College, 3835 Green Pond Rd., Bethlehem, in the Kiva Bldg. This workshop is for people seeking office at city, county, borough, township, school board, or district justice level. The cost is \$45. For more info. call 610-432-1456 or 610-252-1339.

Ⓢ Thank you to several people for making it possible to have LEPOCO information and boutique tables at the Peace Fair at Buckingham Friends Meeting in Lahaska on Oct. 2nd, and at the Race Street Festival in Jim Thorpe on Oct. 20. They are Tom Stinnett, Mike Lawton, Peter Crownfield, Annie Hasz, Sarah Weick, Ellen Buck, David Rose, Robert Daniels, Janet Goloub and Tim Chadwick.



Project ELF Closed!

(continued from page 5)

showed that the Trident system was unable to act defensively, but is only useful as a first-strike or offensive nuclear war machine. Since 1991, 636 trespass citations have been issued to activists who converged on the site 58 times in 13 years.

"We did it," said John LaForge of Nukewatch, which has helped coordinate the Coalition to Stop Project ELF. "This is another victory for nonviolence, because everybody who has confronted this nuclear war system has been made stronger by the experience," LaForge said. "No attention was ever paid to ELF unless we were out there putting ourselves in legal jeopardy. After so many years of actions, trials, and jail-going, cynics said to us, 'You've failed.' But we hadn't lost, because we never gave up."

The U.S. still deploys 14 Tridents, the deadliest and most expensive weapons system in human history. The \$155 billion Trident fleet carries over 2,880 intercontinental ballistic missile warheads, some of which -- the 475 kiloton D-5s -- are 38 times the power of the Hiroshima bomb.

For more info., contact: Nukewatch, POB 649, Luck, WI 54853, (715) 472-4185, www.nukewatch.com.

Source: Nukewatch and The Nuclear Resister, 10/15/04.

Bits & Pieces

Ⓞ The Americas Solidarity Group will meet on Tues., Nov. 16, at 11:30 am at the Peace Center to discuss future work re: the new member of Congress from the 15th congressional district and the SOA as well as developments regarding Haiti and Colombia. All interested people are welcome. Bring a bag lunch if you like.

Ⓞ Thank you to the many faithful souls who have maintained the weekly peace vigils in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton. Contact LEPOCO to learn of vigil plans post November 2nd.

Ⓞ If you want to help with efforts to reduce recruiting and military testing in high schools contact Peter Crownfield at LEPOCO.

Ⓞ The LEPOCO 40th anniversary committee continues meeting and welcomes/needs more support to carry out ambitious projects between March 2005 and March 2006. A more detailed description of those plans will appear in the next LEPOCO Newsletter. In the meantime, if you can help with this effort please contact Janet Ney or the LEPOCO Office. The committee will meet again on Tues., Dec. 7, at 7 pm at the Peace Center.

Ⓞ The Lehigh Valley Peace Coalition will meet on Wed., Nov. 17, at 7 pm, at the Peace Center. It will be a time to assess new directions for local peace efforts.

Ⓞ Congratulations to the Scranton Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, celebrating 25 years of local peace work to change the world. They had their celebratory dinner on October 3rd.

Ⓞ November 17 and 18 (Wed. and Thurs.) there will be some special gatherings at Lehigh University under the theme Prophetic Voice,

Prophetic Witness: A James Baldwin Gathering. At 4:10 pm each day there will be discussions. On the 17th it will be at the Humanities Center and on the 18th in Rm. 200, Linderman Library. On the 18th at 8 pm, Calvin Levels will perform "James Baldwin: Down From the Mountaintop," in Packer Chapel. All events are free and open to the public.

Ⓞ This school year Good Schools Pennsylvania is launching a new and exciting program to build their Youth Action Network: High School Action Grants. This is an important student leadership opportunity. Please share this information with students, principals, teachers and others who would be interested.

The High School Action Grants will fund youth-led initiatives across the state that are targeted at creating a fairer system of public education in Pennsylvania. Each site will be granted awards of up to \$1000. Teams will be composed of three or more students in grades 9-12, one adult advisor, who is a faculty or staff member at the high school, and a representative from a partnering community organization.

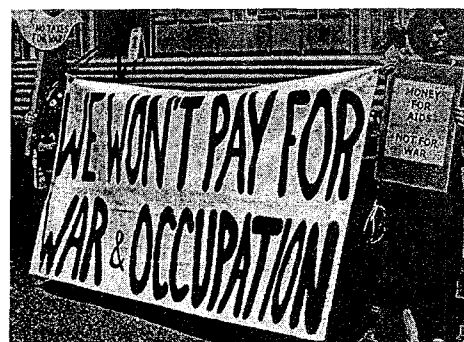
For more info. contact Stephanie Nelson, Youth Director, Good Schools PA at 215-332-2700 or 610-392-7251 or see www.good-schoolspa.org.

Ⓞ *An optimist isn't necessarily a blithe, slightly sappy whistler in the dark of our time. To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places -- and there are so many -- where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.*

- Howard Zinn, from "The Optimism of Uncertainty," *The Nation*, Fall 2004.



NATIONAL WAR TAX RESISTANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE



GATHERING AND MEETING

Swarthmore Friends Meeting
12 Whittier Pl., Swarthmore, PA

November 5-7, 2004

A Weekend of Workshops
and Organizing Discussions
with Business Meeting Sunday morning

Everyone interested in War Tax Resistance is invited to attend the NWTRCC semi-annual conference and meeting. Advance registration is \$15. For more info. call 1-800-269-7464. (LEPOCO has registration forms.)



LEPOCO

Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern

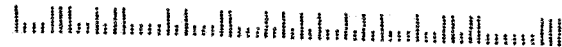
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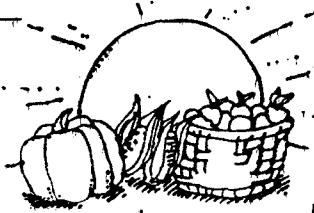
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Bits & Pieces

Enclosed

2004 Peace

Pilgrimage Brochure

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7 pm ³¹ LEPOCO Peace Singers meet at Martha Christine's	4-5 pm & 6-7 pm ¹ Vote! vigils in Bethlehem 7 pm LEPOCO Steering Committee Meeting	ELECTION DAY! ²	8:30 pm ³ Janet Goloub speaking on Colombia for Allentown Hiking Club	7 pm ⁴ Fired Up Film: "The Corporation" Trumbower Hall, Muhlenberg College	7 pm ⁵ First Friday Popcorn & Politics: "Lost Boys of Sudan" video, LEPOCO Peace Center	
LEPOCO Phonathon Begins ⁷	7 pm ⁸ LEPOCO Monthly Action Meeting at Peace Center	Phonathon Continues ⁹	Phonathon ¹⁰		¹² 1991 Indonesian troops massacre 150 nonviolent demonstrators, Dili, East Timor	¹³ 1974 Karen Silkwood, anti-nuclear activist, killed
1:30 pm ¹⁴ Coalition for Peace Action Conference, Princeton 7 pm Peace Singers meet	Phonathon ¹⁵	11:30 am ¹⁶ Americas Solidarity Group Meeting at LEPOCO	8:30 am ¹⁷ L.V. Committee Against State Killing Meeting at LEPOCO 7 pm L.V. Peace Coalition meets	7 pm ¹⁸ Discussion of Local Alternative Media, Trumbower Hall, Muhlenberg College	¹⁹ Nov. 19-21 Close the SOA demonstrations, Georgia (see p.1)	²⁰
1-3 pm ²¹ Dr. Helen Caldicott speaking at Quakertown High School (see p.1)				²⁴ THANKSGIVING DAY	²⁵ BUY NOTHING DAY	²⁷

November