



Nebraska Report

There is no Peace without Justice

MARCH 2004

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 3

Top Ten Reasons for Repealing LB 775 Nebraska's Corporate Accounting Scandal

- 1.** LB 775 is **Nebraska's corporate accounting scandal**—an expensive, failed economic development program that has eluded accountability for 16 years. LB 775 has no standards to ensure it is cost-effective or accountable to the taxpayers. Business tax incentive programs can be good or bad—and **LB 775 is a bad one.**
- 2.** LB 775 tax breaks **cost the state treasury \$77 million each year**, after new revenues from LB 775 projects are accounted for. Nebraska will *never* earn this money back, according to state analysts. Local sales and property tax revenues also take hits from LB 775. To pay for LB 775, elected officials raise taxes on other taxpayers, cut spending on other public programs, or both.
- 3.** LB 775 has cost over \$1.5 billion in tax breaks since 1987. But Nebraska owes **another \$1.5 billion** for tax breaks on LB 775 projects that **haven't been cashed in yet.** If LB 775 were repealed today, Nebraska taxpayers will be paying for it until the year 2019.
- 4.** LB 775 does not create new wealth in Nebraska. During its first ten years, LB 775 had **no impact on personal income growth** in the state, according to Creighton University economist Ernie Goss.
- 5.** LB 775 does not create new jobs as intended. The Nebraska Department of Revenue says **70 percent of jobs earning LB 775 tax breaks would have been created anyway.** We're paying for ten jobs to get three. The average cost of each true new job is \$108,000.
- 6.** There's **no guarantee that LB 775 jobs last.** In 2003 alone, companies receiving LB 775 tax breaks announced more than 3,800 job cuts—like Goodyear, which took its tax breaks and then sent almost 500 jobs to Mexico.
- 7.** LB 775 subsidizes Big Business, **forcing smaller businesses to compete with higher expenses and higher taxes.** Only 23 firms, including some of the biggest Fortune 500 corporations, receive 50 percent of all LB 775 tax breaks. The amount of tax breaks received by each company is a state secret.
- 8.** LB 775 projects are concentrated in Nebraska's populous areas. The Center for Rural Affairs reports that **nearly two-thirds of Nebraskans receive little or no benefit from LB 775.** Omaha received 43 percent of LB 775's investment and over half of the jobs.
- 9.** **LB 775 subsidies could have covered most state funding cuts since 2001.** Adequate funding for education and other essential public services is more important than giving tax dollars to Big Business. Cuts to education harm the quality of life for everyone and weaken efforts to ensure a skilled workforce in our state, undermining the foundation for long-term economic development.
- 10.** The Legislature has refused to repair LB 775 for 16 years. In recent years it has slashed funding for virtually every significant program except LB 775. **Without a citizens campaign to repeal this flawed program, LB 775 will never be changed.**

Public education is being cut and property taxes are going up to pay for LB 775

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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 Sarah Disbrow

Haiti: A Coup By Any Other Name

In a message dated March 1, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark called U.S. actions in Haiti a slow-motion coup d'état. Clark wasn't suggesting that President Jean Bertrand Aristide's removal from office was not sudden and swift, as befits a coup, but that the Bush Administration had worked actively toward Aristide's removal for the past three years. Aristide was spirited away under U.S. military guard last month to an undisclosed location in the Central African Republic. Bush administrators claim that charges of a U.S.-backed coup are "nonsense" (Donald Rumsfeld) and "absurd" (Colin Powell).

Among Clark's list of U.S. actions to overthrow Aristide: The U.S. imposed an embargo on this poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, held up \$500 million in humanitarian aid, waged a fierce propaganda campaign against the president, called for new elections in violation of Haiti's constitution, and finally, threw its support behind a political opposition made up of elite businessmen and backed by armed Duvalierists, veterans of the junta that overthrew Aristide in 1991. The *Los Angeles Times* reported "a growing enthusiasm" among businessmen to use rebel army veterans as their hired guns. Among their "security forces" are Haiti's notorious Tontons Macoutes, members of Baby Doc Duvalier's private army of death squads that terrorized the population and continued to operate after the brutal dictator's exile to France in 1986. Baby Doc, according to *The Guardian* in Britain, is now living in Miami and waiting to return from exile.

This latest coup leaves Haiti without an elected president and with a brutal rebel force that is calling for the reconstitution of the army. Haiti's army was established in 1915 by the American military. According to *Taking Haiti*, an award-winning book on America's occupation, the Marines "created a military that was intended to be used against the Haitian people." The army has had a long history of serving dictators and Haiti's elite class at the expense of Haiti's poor.

Aristide disbanded the army in 1995 and attempted to restore law and order through a national police force. But the force lacked resources and training, became demoralized and corrupt, and barely exists today. According to New York's police commissioner Raymond Kelly, who was a member of Haiti's police force a decade ago, to reestablish order will take "more resources than were ever talked about there in the past. You'd be talking roughly 20,000 police in Haiti. Even with the resources to do it, training and equipping a force that size would take years."

Many Haitians, especially the poor, are angry at the United States for Aristide's departure and for the U.S. Marine presence there. "With Aristide, for the first time, we have started to live," said a 33-year-old port inspector living in the slums where Aristide served as a priest. "I am the first one of my family to have a regular job. Aristide tried to lift us up, so America kidnapped him and took him away."

Ramsey Clark and the International Action Center are calling on the U. S. Congress to investigate:

1. The Bush Administration's role in forcing President Aristide from Haiti.
2. Training, financing, and arming the aggression against Haiti's elected government.
3. Destabilizing the social order in Haiti through the support of army veterans, the FRAPH, and the wealthy oligarchies that back them.

Congress should also seek an explanation from the Bush Administration for its failure to demand that rebel groups lay down their arms until the eve of the president's forced departure. Many of the rebels remain armed.

*Make a tax-deductible gift to
the Nebraska Peace Foundation*

TODAY THE APOCALYPSE, TOMORROW THE WORLD

StratCom's New Global Threat

From Mutually Assured Destruction to Full Global Strike

by Greg Mello, Executive Director
Los Alamos Study Group

The following article is based on Greg Mello's keynote address at the 2004 Annual Peace Conference, February 14, in Grand Island. Mello's talk provided the first full public examination of StratCom's dramatically changed role since the Bush Administration launched the War on Terrorism.

Probably everybody in Nebraska has heard of the U.S. Strategic Command—STRATCOM—headquartered at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha. But not everybody knows what it does. Especially lately, because STRATCOM has changed—a lot.

Until quite recently, STRATCOM's only mission was the targeting, command, and control of U.S. nuclear weapons—planning nuclear war and executing it (and everybody) if ordered. Established in 1992 to unify nuclear command, STRATCOM inherited the functions of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) along with the nuclear missions of the Atlantic, Pacific, and European commands. Creating STRATCOM also separated nuclear weapons further from the conventional military. The new STRATCOM absorbed the Joint Strategic Targeting Staff, the large organization that designated targets for U.S. nuclear weapons and wrote the automated nuclear war plans.

Today, STRATCOM greatly transcends its original nuclear mandate. No longer segregated from the rest of the military, it is an integrative, global, multi-dimensional command that increasingly coordinates and integrates U.S. military power around and above the world. The “strategic” in its name, which during the Cold War was associated with long-range nuclear delivery systems, has come to mean just “outside the United States,” the distinction between “tactical” and “strategic” air power having largely dissolved. STRATCOM is now the nerve system for the projection of air and space power from a global empire of at least 725 foreign military bases located in some 150 countries, plus literally thousands of U.S. installations.[1]

Mission Explosion

Officially, STRATCOM's new mission is to:

Establish and provide full-spectrum global strike, coordinated space and information operations capabilities to meet both deterrent and *decisive national security objectives*. Provide

“Decisive” military engagement is now deemed possible. What these “national security objectives” actually are at any given moment remains unstated and imminently flexible. Formally, they are up to the National Command Authority (NCA)—that is, to the President and the Secretary of Defense—to whom the CINC (Commander in Chief) of STRATCOM reports directly.

lexicon of conventional warfare, this simple prescription for adequate military preparedness became in the nuclear age a formula for unmitigated catastrophe. It was premised on a litany of unwarranted assumptions, unprovable assertions and logical contradictions. It suspended rational thinking about the ultimate aim of national security: to ensure the survival of the nation.[3]

Thus STRATCOM's mission now has two branches, one of which has never made much sense (nuclear deterrence) and one of which could mean practically anything (“decisive national security objectives”). This is dangerous.

More dangerous still is the day-to-day detailed work going on to knit these two branches together, integrating nuclear war planning with conventional air power, and in the process making nuclear weapons a realistic option for “decisive” military engagement anywhere in the world—a last resort to be sure, but still a pre-planned option.

During the Cold War, deterrence was a kind of glass case around STRATCOM's nuclear mission, one that in effect said “open only in emergency.” And there was only one kind of emergency that warranted breaking the case: a nuclear attack on the United States (setting aside the irresolvable question of whether the U.S. would have initiated a nuclear war to defend Europe or Japan). That glass case has now been broken—from the inside as it were, and in two ways. First, ready recourse to conventional war virtually anywhere in the world, whether unilateral or in the name of a “coalition of the willing,” is now not just thinkable but a reality. Second, the fantasy of “new” nuclear weapons, which theoretically could be used with minimum repercussions to us, is increasingly a feature of national policy.

With Russia now deterred economically, we have to a considerable extent returned to the idea that the nuclear weapon



A B61-11 earth-penetrating bomb in the bomb bay of a B-2 Bomber.
Photo by Paul Shambroom, from his recent book, Face to Face with the Bomb:
Nuclear Reality after the Cold War.

operational space support, integrated missile defense, global C4ISR [command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance] and specialized planning expertise to the joint warfighter.[2] [emphasis added]

“Deterrence,” we see, is no longer STRATCOM's only goal. Alongside deterrence now stands something called “decisive national security objectives.” In other words, the superpower stalemate is gone, and with it the stasis of mutual deterrence.

“Deterrence,” as used in the nuclear business, was always a word to end all words, a contradiction without intellectual, strategic or moral resolution—a kind of thought-stopper. In 1998, General Lee Butler, STRATCOM's first commander-in-chief and a man long-steeped in deterrence theory and practice, said he had come to see deterrence

...in a very different light [than during his active duty]. Appropriated from the

continued on page 4

StratCom's New Global Threat



*The launch trigger for a Trident missile.
Photo by Paul Shambroom, from his book, Face to Face with the Bomb:
Nuclear Reality after the Cold War.*

can be what senior military planners thought it was in the late 1940s: “the winning weapon.”[4] Secretary of War Henry Stimson had said as much in 1945, calling the new bomb “the ultimate arbiter of conflict.” Because we are a technological culture that believes in progress, profit, and the efficacy of all things shiny and new (especially as regards weapons procurement), only such “new” nuclear weapons can serve as vehicles for a renewed belief in nuclear potency.

Needless to say, the new weapons aren't all that new. There are only so many ways to nuke somebody, and the U.S. has deployed essentially all of them at one time or another. We had earth-penetrators in the 1950s that penetrated more deeply than the ones we have today (they were heavier). As for “mininukes,” all U.S. warheads can be turned into very low-yield weapons by the simple expedient of cutting the wires which actuate the boost gas valves, greatly decreasing the nuclear yield of the primary stage and preventing thermonuclear ignition in the secondaries. All the proposed “new” warheads are simply variations on old themes, if not exact copies.

Neither are the targets new. There have always been deep bunkers. All that is really new are the countries in which the targets are found and the freedom of action desired with respect to them.

This supposed new-found freedom of

action is very attractive to those who have been confined in the intellectual dungeon of mutually assured destruction—surely a more confining place than the hole in which Saddam Hussein was found. But it's an illusory freedom. There is very little military “value added” from the new weapons under any possible use scenario, and the downsides of nuclear use are so steep they form an abyss—especially for us, more so than for an adversary with nothing left to lose.

STRATCOM's Command Authority: More Than You Might Think

STRATCOM now has five directorates: Combat Support; Global Operations; Policy, Resources and Requirements; Strike Warfare; and Information Operations. The missions of two of these suffice to give a flavor of the whole. Global Operations “[c]oordinates the planning, employment, and operations of DoD strategic assets and combines all current operations, global command and control operations, and intelligence operations.”[5] Strike Warfare “[p]rovides integrated global strike planning, and command and control support to deliver rapid, extended range, precision kinetic (nuclear and conventional) and non-kinetic (elements of space and information operations) effects in support of theater and national objectives.”[6]

STRATCOM's authorized personnel level is only 3,738 people, and its annual budget is a mere \$433 million. But these figures do not include most of the military hardware and weapon systems—and the other military forces—it commands.[7]

What exactly are these forces? They include:

- all ballistic missile submarines, of which there are 14;
- strategic bomber and reconnaissance aircraft;
- aerial refueling and tankers;
- airborne communications;
- the Army Space Forces; including the 1st Space Battalion, which in turn includes five teams, “each aligned with a corps or special operations unit;”[8]
- all the Pentagon's cyberattack assets, the purpose of which is to “coordinate, support and conduct at the direction of the president, computer network attack operations in support of regional and national objectives;”[9]
- all land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs);
- the Marine Forces Strategic Command (“The Marines coordinate and facilitate U.S. Strategic Command's access to and use of Marine forces to execute U.S. Strategic Command missions”[10]);
- the Naval Network Warfare Command; and, last but not least, the far-flung collection of military and contractor organizations known as the
- Space Air Force.

Together, these military assets comprise a significant fraction of the entire U.S. military, perhaps two orders of magnitude greater than STRATCOM's budget alone might suggest. STRATCOM's assets run the gamut of warfare, from nuclear weapons to cyberwar, to space war, to special operations units, to global reconnaissance, mapping, analysis and targeting, all of which are meant to work together. Special operations forces might precede, for example, a nuclear attack.

“In Your Face from Outer Space”

In 2002, the U.S. Space Command (SPACECOM) was merged into STRATCOM, greatly broadening the latter's mission. STRATCOM now builds, launches, and runs communication satellites, navigation and targeting satellites (including those of the Global Positioning System, or GPS), and weather satellites; it monitors missile launches around the world from space, co

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Four NFP Founders Honored as 2004 Peacemakers of the Year

Rev. Nye Bond

From the first time I met Nye, at a Methodist camp in central Nebraska in the 1940s, I was deeply impressed by Nye's gentle spirit, his infectious smile, his warm friendliness and keen mind. In the years that followed I came to realize that he was also a man of deep compassion and courage in standing for the cause of peace with justice. For more than 50 years he has continued to impress me by his strong, active involvement and leadership in the numerous social justice causes that have been close to my heart as well.

You might be interested to know that this man who is receiving this Peacemaker Award served his country in the military back in World War II. With the rank of "Captain," Nye Bond served as a chaplain with the U.S. Army and was on board a troop ship headed for the invasion of Japan at the time they learned of the bombing of Hiroshima which made the intended invasion unnecessary. What he saw during his tour of duty undoubtedly had much to do with his dedication to the things that make for peace in the years that have followed.

Nye's involvement in peacemaking activities has found him involved in a number of related causes. One of those was the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s. In February 1964, at considerable risk both personally and professionally, Nye accompanied a group of Nebraska clergymen to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where they joined up with clergy from across the nation to participate in "Voter Registration" of Afro-American people in that community. This was the first national clergy rally in support of "Voter Registration" in the South. They were actually successful in getting some Black people registered and it was the first time such a group had police protection. Yet, because of his participation in that venture Nye took a lot of flack from some influential members of his congregation back home. Nevertheless, for many years following that event, he continued to preach and work for the cause of civil rights.

In addition to civil rights for Black



Pictured from left to right are the Rev. Nye Bond, Fred Schroeder, Arlo "Dutch" Hoppe and Merle Hansen, who were honored as Peacemakers of the Year at the 2004 Annual Peace Conference in Grand Island, February 14.

Fred Schroeder

Not many people realize that Nebraskans for Peace originated from a rural—not an urban—movement. It was in conservative farming communities like Shelton, Nebraska, starting with a handful of courageous individuals like Fred Schroeder, that organized opposition to the War in Vietnam first sprung up in our state.

I first got to know Fred in the fall of 1970 when he invited me to his farm for a meeting about the war. I wasn't sure who was sponsoring the meeting, or who was invited, but my jaw dropped to the floor once discussion began. Here in conservative rural Nebraska, I was hearing middle-aged farmers speaking against the war and about how to stop it, about the injustices of segregation and in support of the civil rights movement. I was relatively new to the scene of questioning and protesting American policy and traditions, but Fred and the farmers attending that meeting had been at it for years, when it was even less popular and more risky than the early '70s.

Fred and his wife Maxine, Arlo, Merle,

Arlo Hoppe

Arlo "Dutch" Hoppe was born 84 years ago on the family farm southeast of Richland, Nebraska to a family of political progressives. His parents and an uncle took part in the Farmers' Holiday Association during the depression of the 1930s, which along with other social and economic justice activities, called upon members to participate in farm foreclosure auctions. Neighbors and friends in the movement would attend the debt-ridden farmer's sale and bid a penny or a nickel or a dollar on an item of machinery, for example, and no one else in the crowd would bid any higher. At sale's end, the various items would simply be returned to the farm family. Once at a "penny auction" near Newman Grove, Nebraska, the county sheriff showed up, presumably as a show of force on behalf of fair play in the bidding process so that prospective bona fide bidders would not be intimidated by Farmers' Holiday supporters. The sheriff was summarily thrown into a water tank and the auction continued as before.

But it wasn't just federal agricultural

Merle Hansen

Merle E. Hansen, a founder of Rural Nebraskans for Peace, was born into a family rooted in progressive populist activism, on the farm northwest of Newman Grove, Nebraska, in 1919.

Great-great grandson of Norwegian immigrants, he was drawn to the center of activity in his community—the showroom of his grandfather's farm implement business in Newman Grove where the leaders of the Farmers' Holiday Association discussed strategies to deal with brutal conditions facing rural families during the Great Depression.

More than a farm protest organization, the Farmers Holiday Association organized direct action tactics such as the legendary "penny auction farm sales." Thousands of farmers attended these farm foreclosure auctions, where their organized bidding committees and crowd strength controlled the bidding process to limit proceeds for entire farm sales to less than \$10. At the end of these sales, the bank got less than \$10, and the purchased sale items were returned to their original owners. The bank had no further legal recourse, and the farm family got its equipment back. Through this simple strategy, bank foreclosures were slowed to a dribble.

His intimate knowledge of the Holiday leaders meant Merle grew up understanding the power of organization, knowledge, ideas and personal courage, and was the source of information for many books written on the Farmers' Holiday Association movement.

Merle graduated from Newman Grove High School and attended business school in Missouri. In 1941, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy while traveling through the town of Hope, Arkansas. He earned six battle stars, made Chief Yeoman and was honorably discharged in 1945. After the war, he worked to organize the American Veterans' Committee, along with John F. Kennedy and many others, to counter the conservative American Legion.

All tributes continued on page 10

Whiteclay:

'Year of Atonement' Over. No Progress. No Justice.

by Carol McShane
President, Nebraskans for Peace

One year ago—on 'Statehood Day', March 1—American Indian Movement International Representative Vernon Bellecourt and Nebraska Winnebago Tribe member Frank LaMere publicly called for a "Year of Atonement on Whiteclay" at a rally in front of the Governor's Mansion. Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns was formally notified that the State of Nebraska had one year to make significant progress in stopping both the lawlessness and alcohol sales in Whiteclay, or face the prospect of marches, civil disobedience and blockades.

The "Year of Atonement" has come and gone.

Is beer still being sold to intoxicated customers? Undoubtedly.

Is beer still being illegally consumed on the premises of off-sale outlets? Without question.

Is beer still being sold on credit? Has been.

Is beer still being sold to Indian children? Seems so.

As of March 1, 2004, semi trucks loaded with beer were still rolling into Whiteclay at the rate of four a week. Over 11,000 cans of beer a day were still being sold to a Pine Ridge clientele that has no legal place to drink it. The four beer outlets in this unincorporated village of 14 people were still operating a \$3.2 million annual enterprise. Everyone—including the State Liquor Control Commission, the State Patrol, the attorney general and the governor—knows that legally required "adequate law enforcement" doesn't exist in Whiteclay. And, to add monetary insult to this human misery, the State of Nebraska continues to realize over \$250,000 a year in tax revenue just from the sale of beer there.

Nebraska Liquor Commission regulations that are enforced in communities all over the state are not enforced in Whiteclay. Conditions that would not be tolerated in any other community in Nebraska are tolerated in Whiteclay. Putting the blind eye to equal protection under the law makes a mockery of justice.

Deputization of Tribal Police Goes a Glimmering

Last June, in a welcome and long-awaited move, Governor Johanns proposed cross-deputizing Pine Ridge Tribal law enforcement to police Whiteclay. This excellent first step, though, has since faltered. After reaching agreement in principle with tribal government, the governor is refusing to provide any funds to the tribe for assuming this law enforcement responsibility. For four years, state officials have repeatedly cited cost as the primary reason for the lack of law enforcement in Whiteclay. The Nebraska State Patrol estimated last year that full-time law enforcement in Whiteclay during all the hours alcohol was sold would cost \$250,000 a year. Yet Governor Johanns is now expecting the second poorest county in the United States to do for free what the State of Nebraska says it can't afford.

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Without any money, the whole deal is likely off, and what initially looked like real progress now appears to have been little more than a public relations sham perpetrated by the executive branch.

What Else Is New?

In late February, the Pine Ridge Tribal Council voted 10-2 not to put a referendum on the ballot that would legalize alcohol sales on the Reservation. The proposal grew out of a desperate need for funds for tribal government programs, including economic development and alcohol treatment. Despite persistent problems with rampant alcoholism, joblessness and poverty, the Tribal Council overwhelmingly reaffirmed its decades-old policy of prohibition.

The Nebraska State Legislature has once again declined to act on legislation that would prohibit the issuance of new alcohol licenses in Whiteclay or appropriate funding for law enforcement there. Neither LB 426 from last year or LB 995 from this year, which would amend state law to prohibit the sale of alcohol within five miles of a dry Indian Reservation, have been advanced out of the Legislature's General Affairs Committee. Nor has any action been taken on LB 691 from the 2003 session, earmarking state sales tax money from alcohol sales in Whiteclay for law enforcement. In three years, not one Whiteclay-related bill has made it to the legislative floor for debate. Regardless of what happens next in Whiteclay, no one can accuse us of not trying to use the existing channels of government.

Finally, this report in the form of a letter from NFP to the board of directors of the Licensed Beverage Dealers Association:

February 12, 2004

Nebraska Licensed Beverage Association
8424 W. Center Road #204
Omaha NE 68124

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

I was in attendance at the Legislative hearing for LB995 on Monday, February 9, 2004 at the State Capital. The bill being heard by the General Affairs Committee provides mechanisms to address the lawlessness that surrounds the sale of beer in Whiteclay Nebraska.

That situation is out of control. You are well aware of the undisputed facts in that sorry little Nebraska town, 200 feet from the legally dry Pine Ridge/Oglala Sioux Reservation in South Dakota.

- 4 beer stores
- 4,000,000 cans of beer sold a year –11,000 cans a day
- \$250,000 a year in taxes from the sale of beer going to Nebraska coffers
- 15,000 people living on the Reservation
- people living in the unincorporated town of Whiteclay
- No church or school or law enforcement agency
- No on-sale place to drink beer

- No public rest room
- People urinating, defecating, vomiting and sleeping in the streets and up against buildings in coldest winter and hottest summer.

The lawlessness associated with the sale of the beer has been well reported, particularly in the *Omaha World-Herald's* June 3, 2001 front-page story.

This is a disgrace.

Knowing all this, you really need to request a copy of the testimony of your lobbyist, Jim Moylan. Mr. Moylan testified—in your name—in opposition to the bill. He was both insensitive and uninformed.

He repeatedly stated that the problems in Whiteclay would be resolved if those frequenting the beer stores would take personal responsibility. He spoke of the Irish who often drank too much and, he added, himself included.

He demonstrated no understanding or knowledge of alcoholism as a disease—especially a disease that is present in Native American populations in frightening proportions.

He said that if the Whiteclay stores were shut down the Indians would just go five miles down the road "and so on and so on."

What difference does that make to law enforcement? In Lincoln or Omaha if there is a crack house, they don't decline to shut it down because "they'll just go down the road." They shut it down because of illegal activities...no matter where they think the miscreants will show up next. And, by the way, the town nearest to Whiteclay is Rushville –21 miles away.

He said the problem wasn't Nebraska's it was South Dakota's and asked why the people from South Dakota weren't in the room helping to solve the problem.

In fact, the problem is all Nebraska's because the lawlessness takes place in Whiteclay, which is, actually, in Nebraska. I understand the *Rapid City Journal* has taken issue with Mr. Moylan's testimony.

You would not have been proud of your man.

I know that you folks are more sensitive and informed than this. I really expect that one day you will be out there with us trying to solve this problem. It wouldn't hurt your image one bit.

Sincerely,

Carol McShane President, Nebraskans for Peace

P.S. Perhaps Mr. Moylan had left the hearing room when the last speaker, Lela Shanks, testified in the neutral position. She is an elderly black woman whose work in civil rights is well known and respected statewide. She had not planned to testify, but, hearing Mr. Moylan's remarks, Ms. Shanks felt compelled to respond. Her testimony also centered on the concept of responsibility. I'll paraphrase what she said:

"There are two parts to the idea of responsibility," she stated, "One is personal responsibility and no one disputes that. The other—social responsibility—is equally important. Taking societal responsibility is one of the prime reasons to have government at all."

Former UN Commissioner Speaks in Lincoln on Human Rights & Globalization

by Becca Kaiser
NFP Outreach Coordinator

As former UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, Mary Robinson has an important message for the future of the world while addressing the basic human rights violations the United States has taken part in post-9/11.

Robinson spoke at the Lied Center on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus February 17 as part of the E.N. Thompson forum on World Affairs on the topic "Human Rights and Ethical Globalization."

In her role as the first woman President of Ireland, she transformed a traditionally ceremonial position into a powerful pulpit for change. As the first head of state to visit Rwanda after the genocide of 1994, Robinson positioned herself as a key voice for the world's oppressed. Her advocacy on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised of the world resulted in her 1999 appointment to be the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights. As a UNL professor observed the day of her visit, Robinson's active efforts for global human rights raises the bar for what it means to be a member of the global community. She is able to access her education and experience to help provide answers to the world's most difficult questions.

Her message to the United States is clear: she is concerned about the roll back of basic human rights in the post-9/11 era. Not only does she lament government encroachment on basic human rights in America, she also sees the negative impact that these actions have on other countries. Citing the USA PATRIOT Act and the maltreatment of prisoners in Guantanamo Bay, she makes a compelling case to support her claims. "If you want to defend the United States, you defend the strengths of its society, those of democracy and freedom," she explains. While the U.S. may have the checks and balances to eventually undo some of the damaging abuses power by the current administration, other countries without the

same safeguards now model these new standards that could be in place indefinitely.

Labeling the post-9/11 America the "new normal," Robinson said U.S. officials like Vice President Dick Cheney are actively perpetuating this harmful state of affairs. The United States, she said, does play a leadership role in the international arena. Unfortunately, she notes that the "new normal" has become a justification for many human rights violations abroad.



Mary Robinson

Robinson believes that the traditional division that has existed between civil and political rights on the one hand and economic, social and cultural rights on the other must be torn down. Human rights, she says, "means not just freedom from fear, but also freedom from want," and she advocates for the infusion of the human rights dialogue in all discussions. Robinson insisted that human rights must be the baseline for all actions taken by the U.N. For example, she brought human rights to the discussion of development. No legitimate discussion of nation building, she stated, can be conducted without talking about human capital on the same level as economic capital.

While Robinson avoided making direct suggestions on how to impact U.S. policy for change, she applauded the various court cases now pending against the sweeping powers of the USA PATRIOT Act.

When asked of the impact of protests or rallies, Robinson sent a cautious message. Stressing the necessity of nonviolent action, she stated, "I have tremendous respect for people who protest. There are reasons to get out and protest and be angry because globalization isn't working for so many people." Alternatively, however, she emphasized the value of working within existing infrastructures to make change. Her own work in the United Nations has certainly testified to the effectiveness of institutional change in devising mechanisms to hold governments accountable.

Leola Bullock Honored

Nebraskans for Peace member Leola Bullock was honored February 3, as the "2004 Nebraskan of the Year" by the Rotary Club of Lincoln. Printed below is the club's published tribute detailing Leola's long and storied efforts in the cause of social justice.

Ms. Leola J. Bullock, has served over fifty years as a community volunteer, adviser and promoter of fairness, justice and equality. Her resume of activities, accomplishments and civil rights work speaks for itself.

The Honorable Coleen Seng, Mayor of Lincoln, said, "Leola Bullock is a woman of integrity who stands as a shining role model for all of us in determining how we should conduct ourselves as members of a community. Her commitment to volunteerism and active service to her fellow citizens spans more than a half a century."

Senator DiAnna Schimek said, "There probably is not a person in this state who has been involved as long or as consistently as Leola Bullock in working for an inclusive society. From her actions in the early '50s when she helped desegregate lunch counters in downtown Lincoln, through the '60s when she worked for the hiring of black people in department stores to the founding of the *Association of Black Citizens* in the '70s, Leola Bullock has been at the forefront of promoting equality for all."

Ms. Bullock has impacted education, civil rights and justice. She has advised congressmen, governors, mayors, city councils and many school officials. Her caring for quality education for all children, led to the passing of the Multi Cultural Bill for schools and the establishment by LPS of the *Leola Bullock Multi-Cultural Award*.

Among her accomplishments are working for open housing and equal opportunity in employment. She worked with the Governor's Human Rights Commission, Nebraskans for Peace, the Nebraska State Patrol Advisory Committee, University of Nebraska Training Teachers of Teachers Project and helped found the Black Students Booster Club and the Women of Color Task Force.

She has had a lifetime dedication to working for peace and justice, and for equity and equality for all Americans. Ms. Bullock and her husband, Hugh, have been married fifty-three years and have one daughter, Teri, and two grandchildren, Tyler and Tenia.

New GLBT Online Journal

A new online news source/journal for the Nebraska gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community is set to launch in early March. Along with state GLBT news, features and columns, it will also carry pertinent national news of interest to surrounding areas. Called *Prairie Sky* and housed at prairiesky.ineb.org, the contributors will consist of some of the same people who wrote for the now-defunct GLBT print media *Stepping Out*. The first issue will cover a history of Prop. 416, what is happening currently with the ACLU-CFEP lawsuit and a look at the anti-bullying project of the Lincoln Public Schools. There will be ongoing columns—GLBT parenting, transgender issues and PFLAG-ally news. Some older *Stepping Out* articles will be archived.

The website will host an ongoing forum for exchange of opinions and there will be action alerts and interim pertinent and breaking news.

Advertising from GLBT or ally businesses or professionals is solicited. The journal will have advertising and the website itself can display banner type ads. There will also be website "sponsorship" and a sponsor's page. Email bastienne888@yahoo.com for advertising rates.

Contributions of articles, poetry, photos or guest editorials are welcomed. Please send to above email address.

StratCom's New Global Threat, conclusion

ordinates space-based imagery between the collection agencies and military planners, and “oversees”—really, an impossible job—a sprawling and very rapidly growing network of military and contractor entities working on all aspects of space militarization.

Its missions include not just making sure the U.S. military has access to space, but denying that access to selected others, either all the time or when we want to.[11] This part of STRATCOM's mission is called “space control.” As STRATCOM puts it,

Our nation may find it necessary to disrupt, degrade, deny, or destroy enemy space capabilities in future conflicts. USSTRATCOM currently does not have an operational anti-satellite weapon; however, conventional weapons also are effective at striking an adversary's space launch or ground relay facilities. Research and development into anti-satellite technology is continuing.[12]

Another component of STRATCOM's space mission is “Force Application,” or “engaging adversaries [on the ground] from space.”

In the future, being able to attack terrestrial targets from space may be critical to national defense. USSTRATCOM therefore is actively identifying potential roles, missions, and payloads for this probable new field of battle. Space represents a fundamentally new and better way to apply military force—by promptly striking adversary centers of gravity, or minimizing or bypassing high-cost, high-risk conflicts.[13]

It will always be fairly expensive to throw heavy objects into orbit. What's more, the thick, turbulent, and often opaque atmosphere will probably always protect, to a greater or lesser extent, targets on the ground from some space-based beam weapons such as lasers. So space, as a “platform” for force application back to earth, may simply not be all it's cracked up to be.

While the hype almost certainly exceeds what is feasible and economic in many space warfare projects, it's important to say in the same breath that this may not matter in important ways. Technology doesn't advance in a linear manner. The technology developed for a doomed project may be quite adaptable to another more practical project. The fertile soil of a broad military and civilian space program is already growing weapon technologies that will “work” for space and near-space application.

Of particular concern are weapons which transit space but which are not space weapons per se, rather weapons which build

incrementally upon existing long-range missile technologies. This includes the various versions of the maneuverable, gliding, loitering, and semi-autonomous warheads called “common aero vehicles” (CAVs), the first version of which is to be flight tested in approximately 2007. These incremental advances in missile technology are a major driver for new warhead development. Two recent papers by Andrew Lichterman of the Western States Legal Foundation cover this subject in detail.[14]

Space weapons don't have to “work” to achieve important political and economic goals. Even vaguely possible projects can and do serve a diverse set of strategic pur-



General Curtis E. LeMay, founding commander of the Strategic Air Command (SAC), pictured in 1960 with cadet, George L. Butler, who in 1992 would become the founding commander of STRATCOM (Strategic Command).

Photo from History of the United States Strategic Command: June 1, 1992-October 1, 2002, prepared by HQ USSTRATCOM/CSH, Command Historian's Office, January 15, 2004.

poses, as well as grease many wheels and line many pockets.

Space war is symbolic and ideological as well. The vague possibility of Zeus-like domination, directed internally within the military and its contractors (“in your face from outer space”, as the uniform patches say in one of STRATCOM's far-flung divisions at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico), helps renew the myth of air power, maintain morale, impress the politicians and

give them something to sell, as well as boosting recruitment of young followers. The new apostles of air power seek to dominate earth from space, but also to control the heaven of imagination. They want the enemy to look up in the sky and be afraid of the personal death that could be sent at any time out of a clear blue sky at little or no cost to the sender. For the rest of us, approval, awe, and plenty of federal tax revenues will be enough.

Air and Space Power—or Airy, Spaced-Out Fantasy?

The single unstated but essential idea behind STRATCOM's new mission is that through an integrated, ultramodern military, heavily dependent on air and space power, global U.S. military and political objectives can be attained without much direct contact with the enemy, without many casualties, without catastrophic blowback, and at an affordable cost.[15] In other words, through such means a global empire of resources, investments, markets, and military bases can be maintained and economically expanded. In the bloodless, pristine fantasy world of animated Powerpoint wars, which always focus on just one relatively minor (but highly profitable) technical aspect of the imperial burden, it always looks easy. In the real world, of course, it is not. Maintaining security in such a global empire will not be possible by any means.

So it's not just nuclear weapons which are not “winning weapons.” What if there were no winning weapons? Conflicts such as the complex insurrections in Iraq and Afghanistan are highly asymmetric, involving great disparities in goals, methods of engagement, political legitimacy, and military power between protagonists. They are certainly not struggles between formal militaries in which “victory” and “defeat” have the same meaning to all sides. What if the protagonists were fighting, as it were, different wars?

What if these conflicts were not really military at all? What if their fundamental character were political, meaning that it would be possible to win every “battle” militarily, and even win the “war,” without succeeding in creating security anywhere, either in Iraq, let us say, or at home? It's possible that military “victories” might accomplish no coherent policy objective at all, all the while killing people, with civilians always the most numerous victims. Such carnage, especially if perceived by others as senseless, depraved, or craven (as it surely is by important constituencies in Iraq), might only weaken U.S. security, turning every supposed “win” into a loss. For the families of the slain and injured, it already is a pro-

found loss. For many victims of U.S. “collateral damage,” there is nothing left to lose. Such “victories” do nothing to enhance anybody's security.

In such cases, every bomb exploded would be a seed of future conflict or terrorist response, and each threat would only legitimate more violence or the acquisition of a more potent deterrent against us. The world is large and very complex. Human beings are quite resourceful. It is impossible for any country to find security by policing the world if all the while that country is providing ample reason for millions of people to hate it.

For these reasons, it would appear that neither military force nor air power, and even



Don Reeves, first president of Nebraskans for Peace when the organization was founded in 1970, speaking with Greg Mello, Executive Director of the Los Alamos Study Group and the keynote speaker at the 2004 Annual Peace Conference, February 14.

less so nuclear weapons, can satisfactorily resolve the conflicts for which they are being prepared, even from a purely military perspective. Still less can these technologies accomplish U.S. objectives in a “decisive” manner. The only thing “decisive” about the application of violence to political problems is destruction itself, which creates, quite literally, nothing. Long ago, Napoleon remarked to a friend: “Do you know, Fontanes, what astonishes me most in this world? The inability of force to create anything. In the long run the sword is always beaten by the spirit.”[16] This surely is a remark that STRATCOM officers and peace activists alike would do well to ponder.

Global Warming Update...

Imagining the Unthinkable

by Mark Zimmermann
Treasurer, Nebraska Green Party

Most of us have become accustomed to thinking of global warming as a gradual process, measured in fractions of a degree per year. This may be a mistaken assumption with catastrophic consequences. It is very plausible that global warming could trigger a drastic change in global climate in a matter of years or decades.

The theory behind such a cataclysmic climate 'event' goes like this. Much of Earth's climate is affected and moderated by the oceans. Oceanographers like to say that the oceans are the atmosphere's 'memory.' Oceans currents exchange warm and cold water around the globe such as, for example, the Gulf Stream, which moderates weather patterns in the North Atlantic.

As the planet warms and polar ice melts, huge amounts of fresh water are added to these currents, changing the density of the seawater and thus slowing or disrupting their circulation patterns.

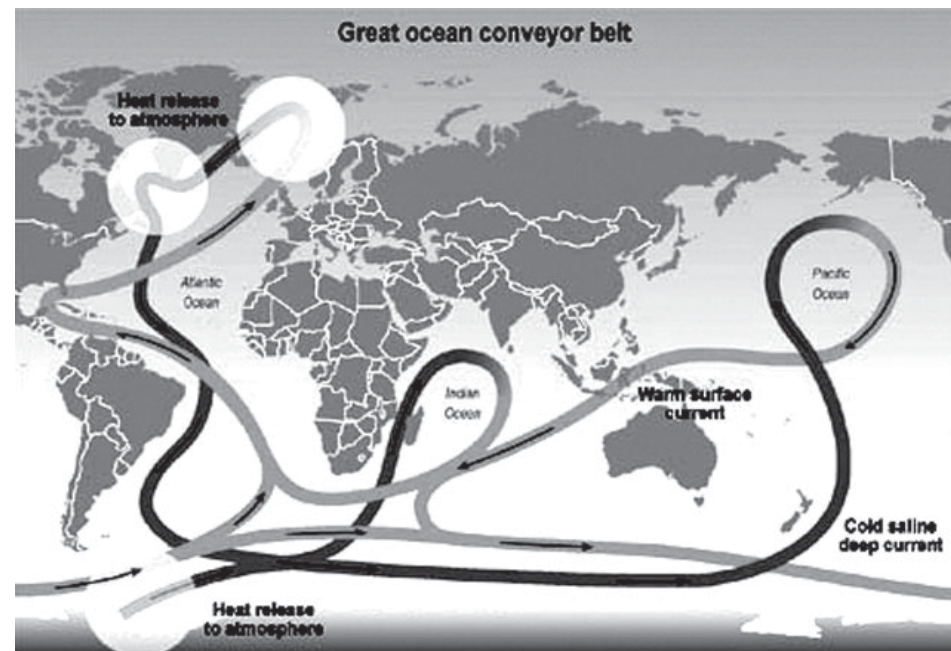
Scientists now know this has happened before. They theorize that as a result of variations in solar activity some 8,200 years ago, the Gulf Stream was disrupted and temperatures in Britain and Northern Europe fell by six degrees Fahrenheit in about a decade and stayed that way for a century. An even larger event, the "Younger Dyas", occurred 12,000 years ago when temperatures plunged by 27 degrees F. That Ice Age lasted for 1,300 years!

Though climatologists have been aware of this type of phenomenon for some time, the current round of concern and speculation seems to have started with the publication of "Abrupt Climate Change: Inevitable Surprises" by the National Academies of Science in 2002. This paper lays out the basic history, science and state of current research on the topic.

Either this paper or something similar seems to have caught the attention of planners at the Pentagon. A study was commissioned to look at not just the potential climate event, but also at its implications for national security. The study was written by Peter Schwartz, a former head of planning for the Dutch/Shell oil company and occasional CIA consultant, and Doug Randall of Global Business Network, a California business think tank. Hardly what you'd call tree-hugging environmentalists, yet they describe a frightening scenario.

Their purpose, they write, is to "imagine the unthinkable". They caution that their study is meant as a planning exercise and not as a prediction, but describe it right up front as "plausible" and that "climate change and its follow-on effects pose a severe risk to political, economic and social stability."

Published last October and titled "An Abrupt Climate Change Scenario and Its Implications for U.S. National Security" (available at www.ems.org/pentagon-climate-change.pdf), the report is not highly technical. In fact, it almost reads like a term paper. In places it seems remarkably detached and clinical, given its subject matter.



Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Example: "As abrupt climate change lowers the world's carrying capacity, aggressive wars are likely to be fought over food, water and energy. Deaths from war as well as starvation and disease will decrease population size, which over time, will rebalance with carrying capacity."

They modeled their scenario on the lesser 8,200-year-old event and place the Gulf Stream collapse as occurring in the years 2010-2020. Britain, northern Europe and the northeastern U.S. become colder, drier and windier. "By the end of the decade northern Europe's climate is more like Siberia's," they write. Here in the Midwest, they think it may be generally drier and windier with consequential effects on soil loss and agriculture. In China and India, hotter summers and disruptions of the mostly

reliable monsoon seasons cause massive disruptions in agriculture. The southern hemisphere, with less available geologic record, appears harder to predict, but is generally thought to follow the global warming trend we have come to expect. World-wide crop yields could fall from 10-25 percent.

In addition to crop losses, changes in climate patterns can also lead to more severe droughts and flooding and less available fresh water for human use. Further, se-

could become immense. In the U.S. they would be mainly from Europe and the Caribbean.

One of the more disturbing realizations that comes from reading this scenario is how little we can hope to predict. At various points Schwartz and Randall see the U.S. as either squabbling with Canada and Mexico over water or as forming a comprehensive security alliance with them to control refugees and borders. They think that, because climate effects would vary so greatly between northern and southern Europe, tensions between them over resources and immigration could become severe enough to cause a collapse of the European Union. Or conversely, Russia, with already an already declining population, might join the EU and restore some stability. And of course China and India, with huge populations to feed, may be forced to attempt desperate measures. The point is there is no way to know how severe or lengthy an abrupt climate change might be; or how well or badly humanity might cope with it.

Perhaps purposely the authors raise more questions than they answer. The first logical question anyone would ask would have to be how likely is this to occur? *The Independent* (UK) reported January 25th on a new study done jointly by oceanographers in Britain, Canada and the U.S., which described a change of "remarkable amplitude" in the waters of the North Atlantic. Rising temperatures cause more water to evaporate from tropical waters, making them saltier and the moisture-laden air condenses and rains over colder waters farther north, making them less salty. Since it is the salty dense water which sinks in the North Atlantic and drives the Gulf Stream, this global warming effect can disrupt, perhaps drastically, its circulation. As if that weren't bad enough, the extra water vapor in the air is itself a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide and so contributes to a feedback loop.

At a January 29 policy briefing for members of Congress by the Harvard Medical School, Dr. Ruth Curry, a 24-year veteran of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute told lawmakers, "I don't view climate change as an alarmist. But I have to believe some of these changes will be dramatic. I have to believe the planet will be a very different place."

Not surprisingly, countries that can remain mostly self-sufficient and which escape the brunt of an abrupt climate event, such as the United States and Australia, will tend to fortify their borders and defenses even more. The pressure of environmental refugees

conclusion on page 11

Rev. Nye Bond

people in America, Nye is a strong advocate for the civil rights of gay and lesbian Americans. He has participated in anti-war rallies beginning with the Vietnam War to the recent invasion in Iraq. Though legally blind, Nye continues to show up at peaceful protests against the insanity of war and works with the "Alteratives to the Military" program, visiting high schools in the Lincoln community on a regular basis to distribute leaflets and counsel with young people.

Other social issues and organizations that he has championed across the years include: Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty, Fellowship of Reconciliation, American Civil Liberties Union, Habitat for Humanity and Common Cause, to name just a few. In 1981, Nye received the "Distinguished Alumni Award" from his alma mater, Boston University School of Theology. He is regularly called upon for consultation by both government and private organizations regarding concerns for the visually impaired.

Nye is married to Garnett Bond, a well-known Lincoln actress, puppeteer, and author of several children's books. He and Garnett have been married nearly 63 years and have three grown children.

— Rev. Del Roper

Fred Schroeder

Nye, and others like them, not only talked about causes, they were quick to volunteer the funding for them. Several years before, they had been inspired by a Methodist minister, Tom Rehorn, who was speaking out against the war at great risk to his clerical status, and decided to gather together to do what they could collectively. This group of central Nebraska farmers began meeting every month at each others' places to discuss what actions they could take to increase opposition to the war. By late 1969, they decided it was time to spread the effort to the University of Nebraska campus in Lincoln, and funded a coordinator to bring that about. Only then did the urban component of Nebraskans for Peace finally began to take shape.

I have lots of stories about Fred, but the episodes I enjoyed the most were seeing Fred going into the local Shelton cafe for coffee where a group of his fellow farmers had gathered. Fred tried to be sociable and stay away from heated subjects, but after he heard about as many false facts and conservative attitudes as he could handle, he had to set the record straight. Once he started countering with his own version of the situation, one by one the guys would quickly exit, and Fred and I would be left to carry

on the conversation. He has outlived most of these local political adversaries, but Fred knows there are still a lot of "converts" to the peace movement to be made.

A wonderful highlight happened to Fred and Maxine the first time Rev. Jesse Jackson was running for President. Fred was publicly supporting Jesse, and that was not a popular stance with the rural folks of Shelton. Jesse decided to make a speech in the heartland about his agricultural policy, and chose to do it in Kearney. The campaign asked Fred and Maxine to host Jesse during his stay. They invited me to join them for breakfast and the four of us had a wonderful conversation and exchange of ideas. Jesse was impressed with Maxine's french toast.

Fred and these founding farm families are "moral giants," courageous beyond belief, and they can take great pride in seeing what their simple, modest movement has spun.

— Rich Maciejewski

Arlo Hoppe

policy that needed protesting during those turbulent times. The U.S. military made several incursions into Cuba throughout the '30s. On one of those occasions, Arlo's uncle, Fred "The Deacon" Hoppe, drove an old Chevy truck to Washington, D.C. to protest. The back of the truck was tarped and on it in bold letters was written: "Hands Off Cuba! Millions for blood but no food for our children."

Like his elders, Dutch has always understood the connection between foreign and domestic policy. One of his lifelong friends, Fred Stover, who was an official with the Iowa Farmers Union, was actually expelled from the national organization for his opposition to the Korean War. Fred in turn started his own group, the U.S. Farmers Association, and published a monthly newspaper of the same name.

With such a background, it was natural that Dutch would be among those few in the state who first came together to found a group to oppose the U.S.-waged war against the people of Vietnam. But the catalyst for the first meeting of this group in July 1967 was the Reverend Tom Rehorn. Dutch and his wife Marilyn, who beginning with their marriage soon after WWII was always a full partner in Dutch's peace and justice endeavors, had met Tom soon after his firing from his Methodist Church in Omaha. He had just been newly posted as the minister of the Methodist Church in Fullerton. The Hoppes decided to take a Sunday afternoon drive to make Tom's acquaintance—unannounced. As they drove up to the church, they saw a man working on the outside of the church, so Dutch rolled down his window and asked, "Are you Tom Rehorn?" Tom responded,

"Yeah. Who're you? The F.B.I?!"

The initial six or so persons, wife and husband teams, who met with Tom at that first meeting each pledged \$40 per month to this new organization, Rural Nebraskans for Peace, and undertook the tasks of writing letters to editors and producing a weekly radio broadcast.

That was the beginning. Thank you, Arlo, for moving us along in our political growing up. In the face of an often indifferent and sometimes hostile social environment, you have bent, but not broken, and have never lost your vision of a nation that could guarantee liberty and justice and *peace* for all.

— Jim Hoppe and John Ellefson

Merle Hansen

He was a membership organizer for the National Farmers Union in South Dakota and Iowa when he met wife-to-be Lucinda Kramer, a farm girl who worked in Charles City, Iowa and was secretary of a local labor union. Merle and Cindy moved in 1950 to the farm at Newman Grove, where they raised seven children, operated a family-owned fertilizer business and raised seed. Their purebred Charolais cattle business became nationally-recognized and sold breeding stock in the Midwest, across the U.S. and in Canada.

Merle was a local Soil and Water Conservation District Director and won regional soil conservation awards. He served as Vice-President of the U.S. Farm Association and the National Family Farm Coalition, and president of the Nebraska Charolais Association, Rural Nebraskans for Peace, Nebraskans for Peace and the North American Farm Alliance. Merle became Jesse Jackson's agricultural advisor and gave one of Jackson's seconding speeches at the Democratic National Convention in 1984. He served many years on the Nebraska Democratic Party Central Committee and received the state party Franklin Delano Roosevelt Award in 1990.

Nationally known as an outspoken civil rights activist, defender of the environment, peace leader and advocate for family farmers and ranchers, Merle was included in Studs Terkel's *Coming of Age: Our Century As Told By Those Who Lived It*.

To friends and neighbors, Merle is known for his keen sense of humor, good stories, historical insight, quick wit, personal warmth, disarming smile, unyielding sense of justice and fairness, progressive politics, and his skills as a marksman.

— Sally Herrin and John Hansen

Footnotes on StratCom

[1] Chalmers Johnson, *The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic*, 2004, Metropolitan Books, Henry Holt, NY.

[2] Available at the USSTRATCOM home page, <http://www.stratcom.mil/> as of February 12, 2004.

[3] George Lee Butler, "The Risks of Nuclear Deterrence: From Superpowers to Rogue Leaders," speech at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C., February 2, 1998.

[4] Gregg Herken, *The Winning Weapon: The Atomic Bomb in the Cold War, 1945-1950*, Princeton, 1981.

[5] U.S. Strategic Command "Snapshot," at <http://www.stratcom.mil/>.

[6] Ibid.

[7] Ibid.

[8] "U.S. Strategic Command Task Force Organizations," at <http://www.stratcom.mil/>.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Ibid.

[11] This mission would, if carried out, violate articles I and IX of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 ("Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.") Article I states in relevant part that "Outer space... shall be free for exploration and use by all States without discrimination of any kind." Article IX says in part, "In the exploration and use of outer space, ... States Parties to the Treaty shall be guided by the principle of cooperation and mutual assistance and shall conduct all their activities in outer space, ... with due regard to the corresponding interests of all other States Parties to the Treaty." Text at <http://www.state.gov/t/ac/trt/5181.htm>.

[12] USSTRATCOM, "Fact File: Space Missions" at <http://www.stratcom.mil/>

[13] Ibid.

[14] Andrew Lichterman, "Missiles of Empire: America's 21st Century Global Legions," fall 2003, and "The Military Space Plane, Conventional ICBM's, and the Common Aero Vehicle: Overlooked Threats of Weapons Delivered Through or From Space," fall 2002. Available at www.wslfweb.org.

[15] An outstanding sourcebook on this idea, and much more, is Sven Lindqvist, *A History of Bombing*, translated by Linda Rugg, 2001, The New Press, NY.

[16] Quoted in *Words of Conscience: Religious Statements on Conscientious Objection*, 10th ed., 1983, National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors, NY.

Global Warming, conclusion

ferent place, if not in our children's lifetime, then certainly in our grandchildren's." You can find her presentation at www.med.harvard.edu/chge/policy/marinebrief.html#intro. The word is that the Senate Commerce Committee and Committee on Foreign Relations will both be having hearings on global warming in the next few weeks.

There has been no reaction from the Bush Administration except for a spokesperson for the Council on Environmental Quality, Dana Perino, saying in response to a question from *Grist* magazine, "As I understand it, this is a what-if scenario—not a diagnosis, not a prophecy and not a foundation for new policy." Schwartz and Randall would seem to disagree with her as they write in their report that the subject "should be elevated beyond a scientific debate to a U.S. national security concern."

Indeed, this has the potential to put enormous pressure on President Bush's steadfast intransigence about actually doing anything to allay global warming. Before 9/11, a terrorist attack on U.S. soil was only seen as "plausible" too. Now we have numerous official inquiries as to why more was

not done to anticipate and prepare for a possible attack, why warning signs were ignored? Well, now we have warning signs of a crisis that could make today's terrorism pale in comparison.

Schwartz and Randall offer several recommendations in light of this threat: the usual exhortation for more study, identifying "no-regrets strategies such as enhancing capacity for water management" (policy-speak for get ready to horde water?), "rehearse adaptive responses", and a personal favorite "explore geo-engineering options that control the climate" (apparently every catastrophe has a silver-pocket lining). No mention is made of renewable energy or about economic incentives to reduce fossil fuel use.

Most importantly, it is readily apparent that one of the most important things we need to do is cultivate a much greater amount of international trust and cooperation in dealing with the whole array of climate change issues. And do it now before resource pressures and insecurities make it too difficult to achieve later. The geophysical threats were scary enough in this report. But the geopolitical ones might be the real calamity.

Lincoln Adopts Living Wage

by Danielle Nantkes
Nebraska Appleseed Staff Attorney

On February 9, 2004, Councilmember Terry Werner introduced a Living Wage ordinance to the Lincoln City Council. On March 1, 2004, the Lincoln City Council adopted ordinance No. 18308; the Living Wage ordinance. At the time of this writing, the ordinance awaits Mayor Coleen Seng's signature. Many articles in other publications have laid out the mechanics of the ordinance and some of the policy arguments in favor or against it, but no where—at least from my survey of the local media—has the true story about the efforts to pass a Living Wage ordinance in our Capitol City been covered. Months prior to the ordinance's introduction, Nebraska Appleseed worked very closely with Terry Werner and his able staffer Susan Hale to research and draft the ordinance, build consensus, reach out to likely and unlikely allies, and organize support for it. We continue to speak to community groups, schools and the media about the Living Wage ordinance and why it reflects sound public policy. The simple idea that tax dollars should go only to businesses that pay their employees a poverty-level wage has sparked a massive amount of debate about the ever-contentious relationship between government and the private sector.

The proposed ordinance was discussed at two lengthy city council meetings. The first was held on February 23, 2004 from 5:30 p.m. to approximately 11:00 p.m. Prior to this hearing, a small but determined group of supporters gathered in front of the steps of the City County Building on a chilly winter evening holding signs, encouraging motorists to show support by honking, chanting for Living Wages, and trying to raise the visibility of this important issue. Some of the signs exclaimed, "Living Wages? Try Living Without Them" and "Let's Keep Our Priorities Straight" and "People Over Profits". Supporters wore black and yellow lapel stickers that said, "Hard Work. Strong Families. Living Wages." The council's chamber was almost full to capacity with supporters. Approximately 30 people spoke in favor of the ordinance that night and many more submitted letters. About five people, including two from the Chamber of Commerce, spoke against its adoption. Supporters represented a broad cross-section of the community from labor unions, women's groups, small business owners, local churches, racial justice groups, and everyday citizens. Professor John Krejci eloquently spoke on behalf of Nebraskans for

Peace, and many of its members turned out to lend their support. Thank you NFP!

The second hearing was held the afternoon of March 1, 2004, and lasted into the early evening. About seven people spoke in favor of the ordinance and four spoke against it. Before casting their votes, some city councilmembers expressed their opinions. Patte Newman read shocking statistics about gender disparities in the workforce nationally and locally. Some councilmembers who voted against the ordinance stated that they wouldn't vote for it because it wasn't fair, that it doesn't cover all workers in the City of Lincoln.

The ordinance as amended requires all city employees and employees of certain city contractors to be paid at least \$8.85 per hour (100 percent of the federal poverty level for a family of four) if they have employer-provided healthcare benefits, or \$9.73 per hour (110 percent of the federal poverty level for a family of four) if they do not have employer-provided healthcare benefits. This wage will be indexed to the federal poverty level each July.

I think Terry Werner captured very simply the reason he introduced the ordinance at the second public hearing, "I am under no illusion that this will eradicate poverty in the City of Lincoln, but it is an important step in the right direction. Further, it sends a powerful message that our tax dollars will not be used to subsidize sub-poverty wages." Shortly after the ordinance was adopted by the City Council on a 4-3 vote, Nebraska Appleseed weighed in with this, "The Lincoln City Council has taken a close look at the research and has commendably adopted a positive public policy that has proven to be effective in lessening working people's reliance on public assistance," Executive Director Milo Mumgaard said.

This is an important victory on a number of levels. First, the Living Wage ordinance will lift many low-wage workers in the City of Lincoln up and out of poverty. Second, the ordinance requires the City of Lincoln as an employer to set the standard for our community. Third, it promotes responsible economic development efforts and use of our tax dollars. Fourth, other communities and employers in Nebraska have begun to take a serious look at how their tax dollars are being used and to think about wage standards. When others citizens and policymakers in Nebraska engage in serious reflection about these kinds of issues, that by itself in my opinion, is another important victory in our efforts on behalf of low-income working Nebraskans.

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The World
STILL
Says No
to War

MAR 20

**State Capitol
North Steps
2:30 p.m.
Lincoln**



**NOT ONE MORE DAY
NOT ONE MORE DEATH
NOT ONE MORE DECEPTION**

For more information about the global day of action, contact
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BULLETIN BOARD

*Office Hours for the Nebraskans for Peace State Office in Lincoln, at
941 'O' Street, Suite 1026, are 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on weekdays.*

- March 20** Global Day of Protest on the One-Year Anniversary of the Iraq War
State Capitol, north steps, 2:30 p.m.
- March 9** Monthly vigil at Kirby Gate at Offutt (StratCom) on the 9th from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. These vigils protest the continued threats of nuclear war and the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons. Sponsored by the Catholic Worker house of Des Moines.
- May 2** "Peace and Justice Expo." An exposition showcasing the wide variety of organizations working for social and economic justice in Nebraska will be held Sunday, May 2 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the Milo Bail Student Center on the UNO campus. The expo will offer a great opportunity for organizations to do outreach to the public as well as network with other like-minded groups. The event is free. Contact Steve Thyberg at 402-593-1810 for information on how to participate.

To list an event, submit in writing by the tenth of the month preceding the event.

Send to: Nebraskans for Peace, 941 "O" Street, Suite 1026, Lincoln, NE 68508 nfpweb@redjellyfish.net

Hating the Hatred of Homophobia

In the third year of Bush II, when Dick Cheney decides to ear-tag us like the cattle we are, make mine purple. I want to do what the citizens of The Netherlands did when the Nazi occupation forced Jews to wear a yellow Star of David armband—the Dutch, including the royal family, put on those yellow arm bands, too. I am proud to be a queer lover, as I have been a Negro (pronounced NIG-GRAH) lover my whole conscious life. Growing up as a "liberal," that quaint thing, in the Deep South gets a person used to being reviled on account of her convictions.

I myself am not homosexual, but some of my favorite people are. 10 percent, let us say, as that seems to be the percentage of gay folks in any general population you care to name. This statistic applies of course to families also. In my father's immediate family, to my knowledge three homosexual men were born in the 20th century. Two of the three died violent deaths directly related to the hatred

one ugly part of American society directs towards homosexuals.

M., 37, died in his parents' house in a farming community in Kentucky, beaten and stabbed, and the murder is unsolved to this day. B., 16, died by his own hand, shot himself through the heart with his daddy's antique pistol, because he could see no place for a pretty boy who loved the band 311, who was best friends with all the cheerleaders and never had a date in his life. No place in a coon-ass household in south Louisiana, no way, and what a pretty corpse he made.

Am I bitter? Damned straight, I'm bitter. And don't think I'm going to tell you about #3. My people never ever speak of him. It calls down the evil eye.

I have studied on this ugliness, this drive of a certain stripe of self-styled "Christian" to persecute homosexuals. To these "Christians," I have three things to say:

First, don't tell me the Bible says homosexuality is an abomination. The Bible also says that touching the skin of a dead pig is an abomination. So, how about those Huskers?

Second, the tragedy of "The Greatest Story Ever Told" has been its churches' complicity—in some places and some times—

in persecution of minorities. Whenever so-called "Christians" raise up that bloody old cross to use it as a weapon or to bar society's door, gentle Jesus cries.

Third, the doctrine of salvation by faith alone is a heresy, the huge loophole by which the rich man enters heaven, since it does not matter how many widows and orphans he cheats so long as he loves Jesus. Works matter, and that truth will be revealed, sooner than you think. Count on it.

It is no secret that I am no fan of George W. Bush. My expectation of the depth of his cynicism and his commitment to corporate socialism includes the belief that W. has Osama bin Laden like a ham in a can, ready to serve up salty and delicious to the credulous voters of America come Halloween 2004.

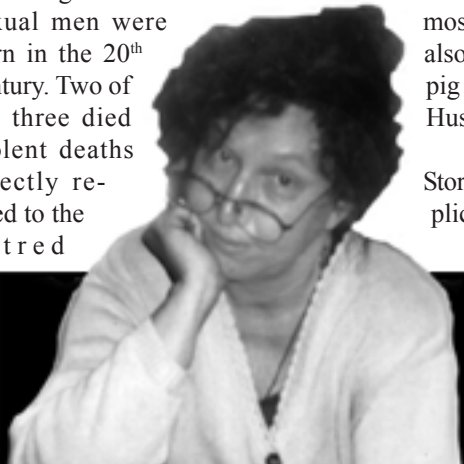
Just in case, though, Bush has made a Constitutional amendment to ban marriage between people of the same gender a major issue in his campaign. Clearly, this was the greatest issue the Bush administration could devise, in its need to keep voters from coming together over the pocketbook issues on which the Republican record is so dismal—jobs, the balance of trade, and Social Security. By choosing to pander to "Christian"

fear and hatred of homosexuals, Bush has done three things.

First, he shows that he cares nothing for the Constitution and knows even less, when he seeks to violate the longstanding Constitutional principle of extending and protecting the rights of Americans, not limiting them. (A famous failed experiment in limiting rights was the Volstead Amendment, known as Prohibition, which was ultimately repealed as unenforceable.)

Second, he proves that he has not one single ounce of real leadership or care for the American people, whose interests are NOT served by such a hateful, hurtful battle as this. Instead of being man enough to run on his record, Bush hopes his incumbent status will carry him if he can hide in the chaos of confusion and fear.

Finally, Bush demonstrates a frightening similarity to the very worst tyrants of the 20th century. There were self-styled "Christians" among the Nazis, too. And in case you've forgotten—or never knew—before the Nazis came to take away the Jews, they came for the queers first.



From the Bottom by Sally Herrin
The real political spectrum isn't right to left... it's top to bottom.



NFP Year in Review



From the Bottom conclusion

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