

# PEACEWAYS



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The Newsletter of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice  
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## Second annual Lexington Peace Fair at BCTC Cooper campus Saturday, May 19

by Rebecca Glasscock

Lexington's Second Annual Peace and Global Citizenship Fair will be held on Saturday, May 19th, on the grounds of Bluegrass Community and Technical Colleges Cooper Campus. This campus is directly north of Commonwealth Stadium. Bus routes #3, 33, 34, and 35 come by the campus or close to it. This year, for the second annual event, we have broadened the name to better reflect the dual local/global emphasis: creating an ecologically sustainable community and building global understanding and knowledge.

The event will begin at noon. There will be a break in the action from about 5:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. An evening concert will begin at 5:30. This concert will be a benefit for Howe Charities (see [www.howecharities.org](http://www.howecharities.org)), a Lexington non-profit.

The students are working on some fascinating ideas for this year's event. There will be a peace bridge and a world piñata. When untied, the piñata will release an earth-friendly surprise that supports the idea of local sustainability. A Children for Peace art contest and Creating a Culture of Peace essay contest for adults is open for entries.

Music will again fill the air. This year, Reel World String Band, Water, and Pangaea Drums will be returning. Joining us this year will be Alma Gi-

tana, Mitch Barrett, the Dialectics, and others. Food, from local sources, will be provided by Stellas. Last year, there were no small meals for the children, so this year the Peace and Justice Coalition will have a food booth serving Peace and Justice sandwiches (aka peanut butter and jam), grilled cheese, and a surprise or two. The prices will be very reasonable.

The Sustainable Cities Network is coordinating workshops on sustainable living throughout the day. The University of Kentucky is hosting an exhibit on alternative transportation. Booths will again focus on citizenship local and global.

Our invitation to you:

We would like for you/your group to have a booth at the fair. There is no charge for participation. The booths may be set up between 10:45 and 11:45 a.m. and taken down at 5:00 p.m. We hope that you'll stay for the evening concert featuring Alma Gitana (see [www.almagitanamusic.com](http://www.almagitanamusic.com)), Mitch Barrett (see his recording webpage [cdbaby.com/cd/mitchbarrett](http://cdbaby.com/cd/mitchbarrett)), and Pangaea Drums. The event will end at about 8:00 p.m.

We want people to come to the fair and find it so energizing, informative, and fun that they stay most (if not all) day. To engage people in such a way, we would like for all of the participants to plan one (or more) activity for the day. The activity doesn't have to be any-

thing fancy, just informative and enjoyable. If you'll be selling farm products, native plants, or handmade items, then that's your activity. Otherwise, you might consider engaging attendees in some sort of ecological knowledge quiz, discussing medicinal plants or how to have a productive urban garden, encouraging children to contribute to a collage about peace, leading tree ID tours, training small groups about how to get involved in promoting social justice issues in Kentucky, or creating any number of other activities. There are certainly many options that will help fairgoers Think. Act. Discover. Peace.

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## The Central Kentucky Council for Peace & Justice

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Submissions of articles or items in the *Calendar* are welcome. Contact the editor, Michael Fogler, at (859) 299-3074 or michael@lexingtonguitartrio.com. Deadline: the first Wednesday of the month.

The views expressed in *Peaceways* are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice.

# Experience as candidate shows need for public funding

by Don Pratt

As an activist and a candidate, I have known the need for publicly funded elections. (Note: I was VERY successful with less than \$300 against one big spending incumbent.),

Most importantly, public funding of elections could level the playing field for us to control OUR elected officials and improve our elections. I want more conscientious, independent and well qualified people in OUR decision making positions. Better candidates could have a viable chance against seasoned incumbents and/or prolific fundraisers from deep pocketed, lobbyists friends.

In reality, expensive campaigning does not provide honest communication to voters about issues but simply discourages citizens from running due to the serious fear of "bought" elections. Campaign spending is incredibly disgusting. (The 2006 elections were the most expensive mid-term elections in history, costing about \$2.8 billion.)

The idea of purchasing OUR government by either party, or even by independents, is not acceptable!

And, I would suggest that money not be given directly to candidates. (Remember Paul Patton for Governor public financing.) There has been some success in three "Clean Money" states.

My dream would to be a process of supplying all the registered voters with information via brochures, pamphlets and newspaper space with equal space in the mailed material from all the candidates. This equal space literature to all the voters from all the candidates could be done more than one time.

Already incumbents send out newsletters at taxpayer expense, often immediately before campaigns. This should even be banned a certain time before campaigns and actually should have some educational or journalistic merit.

Where practical, and possible, forums/debates for all the candidates could be set up with organizing, public-

ity and public space provide at the neighborhood level. Questions could submitted by voters applicable for the office sought to an election commissioner or clerk.

If the areas of the contested campaign are so large that radio and television would be benefit, equal time and debates could be publicly financed for voter education.

And, web pages could be provided to address issues/concerns in greater length or number that are of interest to the voters.

And there is the usage of Instant Runoff Voting that would provide a clear majority to the victorious candidate, and for the voters! IRV would eliminate the need for campaigns in non partisan elections as well as help eliminate the spoiler effect of third candidates.

I want more democracy, not less.

Our democracy is not a good example but could become one of great pride and our leadership could represent us, not special interests or special investors. Our community and state could set such an example.

When our elections become our own, we will be free, free from the control of bought candidates, grossly expensive campaigns, and the chains of special interest dominations of elections at many levels. ■

*Don Pratt, a candidate for Urban-County Council in the last election, can be reached at 255-7931 or 559-3045.*

"American suburbia represents the greatest misallocation of resources in the history of the world. The far-flung housing subdivisions, commercial highway strips, big-box stores, and all the other furnishings and accessories of extreme car dependence will function poorly, if at all, in an oil-scarce future."

— James Howard Kunstler

# The Iroquois way of impeachment: Let the Mothers do it!

by Kaz Dziamka

Not only does American democracy rank a miserable 17th on the list of the world's modern democracies (according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's index of democracy); it also doesn't fare well when compared with traditional Native American democracies, in particular, with the Iroquois Confederacy—the Haudenosaunee—"the oldest living participatory democracy on earth."

In "Perceptions of America's Native Democracies," Donald A. Grinde Jr. and Bruce E. Johansen point out that Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson,

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## Peace Fair (cont. from page 1)

For those who plan to sell something at the fair, we ask that it be some combination of local, organic/ ecologically sound, handmade in a sustainable manner, fairly traded, and educational and that a portion of the proceeds be earmarked for a non-profit that does good works or for local farmers. It would be nice to post the name of the beneficiary at your booth. If you can bring your own canopy, tables, and chairs, that would be most appreciated; however, if you cannot, we can provide tent space, one table, and two chairs per group. Space is somewhat limited. We ask that you complete and return the application form as soon as you can.

A second-year BCTC student is currently designing a webpage for the Peace and Justice Coalition. This webpage is now operational. Check that page, <http://www.peace2day.org> for event updates.

Please direct your questions to Rebecca Glasscock, faculty advisor for BCTCs Peace and Justice Coalition. Email: [rebecca.glasscock@kctcs.edu](mailto:rebecca.glasscock@kctcs.edu) and telephone number is (859) 246-6319. We hope to hear from you soon. Thank you so much.

It is possible to live in peace. (Mahatma Gandhi, 1869-1948) ■

son, among others, could benefit—and did benefit to some extent—from Native Americans' experience in designing functional democracies. Unfortunately, being racist and sexist as well as mostly contemptuous of direct democracy, our Founding Fathers failed to take full advantage of the political genius of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy: The Mohawks, the Oneidas, the Onondagas, the Cayugas, the Senecas, and the Tuscaroras. Among the Iroquois provisions absent from the U.S. Constitution is the law that allows Iroquois clan mothers to initiate impeachment against incompetent or criminal political leaders, or "sachems":

"The rights, duties, and qualifications of sachems were explicitly outlined, and the clan mothers could remove (or impeach) a sachem who was found guilty of any of a number of abuses of office—from missed meetings to murder."

Had our Founding Fathers been less prejudiced and more inclined to study Native American political philosophy seriously, they would have learned a valuable political lesson from the Iroquois. Today the mothers of U.S. soldiers killed in wars started by the necon armchair warriors in the White House would have the moral and legal authority to initiate impeachment of these immoral "sachems." In the case of the worst crime of the 21st century—the U.S. war on Iraq—the Iroquois law would give Cindy Sheehan and thousands of American mothers the legal power to force impeachment proceedings in the Supreme Court by bypassing an irresponsible or incompetent Congress.

Once removed from office, Bush and other warlords like Cheney and Rumsfeld would be subject to our criminal laws—no pardon or parole being available to officials thus impeached. (Consider the advantage of this provision if Nixon had been sent to prison, instead of being pardoned by President Gerald Ford, an immoral

decision that has had tragic consequences.)

The genius of Iroquois democracy to empower mothers, "the Lifegivers of our Mother Earth," with impeachment authority is that such a law restrains expedient political power with apolitical moral judgment. Iroquois women were not part of the political/military elites and did not feel compelled to compromise moral principles under political pressure. Not our elected representatives in Congress, not our career female politicians like Clinton or Pelosi—but ordinary American citizens, mothers of U.S. soldiers, should ultimately keep executive power in check.

It may be that the Iroquois impeachment law is the only efficient way for modern democracies to balance political expediency with moral responsibility. ■

*[Kaz Dziamka is editor of the American Rationalist and teaches English and Native American Studies at the Albuquerque Central New Mexico Community College. Email: [kazd@nmia.com](mailto:kazd@nmia.com)]*

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"Our economic system is partially blind. It sees some things and not others.... Consider the most basic measure of a nation's economic performance, gross national product (GNP). In calculating GNP, natural resources are not depreciated as they are used up. Buildings and factories are depreciated; so are machinery and equipment, car and trucks. So why, for instance, isn't the topsoil in Iowa depreciated when it washes down the Mississippi River after careless agricultural methods have lessened its ability to resist wind and rain?"

This ought to strike anyone as alarming, if not absurd. For all practical purposes, GNP treats the rapid and reckless destruction of the environment as a good thing!"

—Al Gore

# Is your activism eating you alive?

by “Dr. Hyena”

In a renewed effort to open an overdue discussion, I ask that you please consider this barrage of invasive and offensive loaded questions.

Is this you?

Do you wake up in the morning feeling ashamed of your privileges, responsible for the misdeeds of your predecessors, guilty for each unit of your consumption and sorry for your incarceration in a toxic and disposable “First-World” society?

Do you pause at your refrigerator door to properly anguish over magnet-held images of starving babies, prostituted children, or bowel-churning satellite photos of grievous wounds torn in the Earth?

And when you open that fridge, do the foods that you somberly remove excite and thrill you? Or do they simply fill you without violating your political taboos? That is, are you eating what you’re eating because of what it is? Or are you eating what you’re eating because of what it isn’t?

Do you curse the vehicle that transports you to where you’re going, promising yourself you will upgrade to the most eco-friendly alternative as soon as you can do a ton of research on it and get the necessary large sums of money and learn to be an able mechanic? In the meantime, do you make sure to agonize over the fossil fuels and pollutants burnt and spewed while you travel as best as you can today? Bickering with the Bad News on the radio, do you refuse to return a smile to an attractive passing driver, because you disapprove of their SUV?

Are you alienated from colleagues and co-workers because they assume you pass judgment on their lifestyles, whether you speak it or not? Do you occupy that lonesome, self-appointed position in the workplace that labels you as The Other, The Weird, The Dissatisfied, The Masochist, The Malcontent, The Disapprover? Do you struggle with your employers over how much you will compromise yourself to keep the job you hate, to earn the money you hate, to pay the bills you

hate, to live in the sprawl or industry you hate, so you can fight the corporations and the laws you hate?

And then, weary from another day’s anger and tension, do you attend another activist meeting, because you can’t respect yourself if you go home to rest instead? Sitting in a circle of agreeing minds, do you squash down that little voice that cries up that you’re doing too much already? Do you volunteer again and again (despite the resulting chill in your gut, your body’s familiar fear of being under-slept and overstressed again already), because you feel that if you don’t, no one will? Or do you take on more than you should in order to rescue another work-horse from committing to more than they can handle?

Do you use your fear of failure, your rage against injustice, and your always replaceable deadline-stress as if they were fuels, in order to continue in this manner?

Me too. How long do you reckon we can get away with it? Will we hold out long enough to realize our goals? Will we just keel over dead some busy afternoon, or will we fade slow, having to let healthy people spend valuable time feeding and washing us?

Make no mistake about it, activism can eat us alive; but only if we feed ourselves to it willingly... which is what we do.

The Movement, you see, has a way of becoming an entity unto itself, in the same way a corporation does. It is more than the sum of the people involved; it is also Less than that. This entity lacks compassion, pity, or even concern for the limitations of its human components. It sits at the center of our circle, its many eyes searching each of us for promises and offerings of ourselves to be laid before it. We can compete to sacrifice more of ourselves, to neglect ourselves worse than each other for the greater good, and still hardly whet its appetite.

If you are interested in being a martyr for the cause, the movement accepts martyrs, fried in oil of self-deprecation and served with perhaps a

tepid white guilt sauce, hmmm? Yes, the movement will accept all that you can wring out of yourself and ask for more. It will spend your paycheck, trash your car, move into your home, chase off your lover, eat all your food, throw out your hobbies, alienate your friends, scare your family, and consume your health.

If you allow it to; if you offer more than you can spare, on a silver platter, hoping that the ravening appetite seated at your table will politely leave enough for you to get by on.

Do not depend upon this hungry guest to mind its manners sufficiently to allow for your needs. Our campaign is not a genteel being; it is not even housebroken. We called this thing up from the Ouija board of our combined frustrations, and now we must interact with it accordingly. Carefully. All fingers and toes kept well away from its rows of gnashing teeth.

Yes, the campaign is a monster. A big, beautiful, dangerous beast. We have us a tiger by the tail. That’s what we asked for: a great fiend to sic on our enemies, the better to torment and topple them by. Our Baby.

So what can we do to make the best of it? Maybe we can acknowledge this situation and begin to work consciously with the entity we have invoked. Maybe we can start by working consciously with our own selves, cultivating fulfillment through pursuits that recharge us in our personal lives. In the hours between causes, can we focus on embracing what we love about ourselves and life on Earth? Then we might come to the meeting already aware of how much more of ourselves we can afford to contribute to tasks for the cause.

Perhaps we can acknowledge that the movement by its nature cannot become dependent upon the contributions of a single person. That indeed, to allow any group’s campaign to become so is akin to sabotage, however well-intentioned the work-horse may be. When the stoic old girl drops dead in

**(Continued on next page)**

# How will high-ranking women use their power?

by Ruth Rosen

Women have gained the potential for enormous power in D.C. with Nancy Pelosi's election as speaker of the House. The Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues will grow to become perhaps the largest in Congress, but the question remains: How will these newly empowered women use their power?

Among the issues on the wish list of newly elected women, according to *Women's eNews*, are women's health, educational equity, sex trafficking, women in prison and international

domestic violence.

All are important but will go nowhere if women leaders don't challenge market fundamentalism, the exaggerated and quite irrational belief in the ability of markets to solve all problems, an economic fundamentalism that has dominated our national political debate for a generation. Without directly challenging market fundamentalism, they will ultimately fail to improve the lives of ordinary American women and their families.

Put it this way: What do catastrophic climate change, the widening

gulf between the wealthy and the poor, America's obesity epidemic, and our society's lack of care for the young and the elderly have in common? Each has powerful special interests who insist that we need to let the market work its private magic and that government action would create more problems than it would solve.

These interest groups also block any effort to enlist the government by invoking the arguments of market fundamentalism: Privatize everything, rely on yourself and expect nothing from your government.

Market fundamentalism has become like the air we breathe; we hardly notice it. Every time George W. Bush argues for more tax cuts, he relies on the unquestioned assumption that we all embrace market fundamentalism. Like religious fundamentalism, it is based more on faith than on reason. Through constant repetition, however, the American public has been bullied into believing that private spending is rational and efficient, while public spending is always wasteful and unproductive. (Tell that to people in New Orleans.)

Progressives and liberals have assumed that Americans would eventually turn against these ideas, much as they become disillusioned with the Iraq war. But the truth is, neither the women in Congress nor progressives outside of D.C. challenge market fundamentalism directly. Two decades of the reign of market fundamentalism have impoverished both the language and aspirations of progressive Democrats.

Instead, they dance around market fundamentalism; they try to gain support for their cause without directly attacking the 800-pound gorilla that sits in Congress, in our deteriorating schools, and at the bottom of the gulf between those who hold stocks and those who wait for their next minimum-wage paycheck.

Ideas that are not challenged or questioned become even more deeply entrenched. We have private "security guards" who are doing the work of soldiers in Iraq, but who are not account-

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## Unsustainable activism (continued)

front of the plow, leaving the rest of us without the skills to carry on, her indirect disservice to the cause (albeit selfless and noble) will show as clearly as her contributions.

I posit that we can grow up a bit by facing the fact that our first responsibility is to the fine human animal that we get to ride around in. When we neglect that, our outside contributions devalue drastically. We can admit that it is reasonable and morally sound to attend to this most dependable and loyal being first. No other has always been there for us and still remains so, as this one has and does. This being endures all it can in devotion to our wishes, despite incomparable feats of abuse and neglect, cruelties that we'd never inflict upon any other creature. And we are useless to any cause without it.

The campaign that will succeed is one in which the individuals comprising it are developing awareness of what genuinely replenishes and energizes them, discovering what sustainable resources can nourish and nurture their bodies and spirits. Then they can become conscious of the quantities they can afford to share of themselves for the best reasons; meanwhile each prioritizes their own health and well-being through active, loving self-respect. This recipe may well cook up a campaign that can't be stopped.

Or, in these treacherous parts and times, we can step out of this conver-

sation and slip again into all-encompassing guilt and shame for the shortsighted misdeeds of our ancestors, our families, society, race, gender, privileged groups, etc. We can choose to focus always on the big wrongs in order to ignore the costs of neglecting our own lives, our health and our relationships. We can surrender it all now to a cause, for however long it lasts. We can age prematurely and rapidly deteriorate, embittered by sacrificed lifetimes in the wake of unrealized goals. We can hang on by sheer spite in early old age, trying to fake the spark that once drove us forward. We can stay visible in the fight just waiting to "go down swingin'" with the good guys in the end, having finally given up hope of success and settling for underdogs' bragging rights in the hereafter. We can finish ourselves off with abuse, neglect, and despair before all the pollution and war and corruption gets a chance to.

Or, we can work to win; get our lives and our planet restored, united and co-evolving. We can work with a conscious awareness of what we can spare and what we will select to spend that on. We can contribute the quality of energy that finds favor with justice and rises superior to struggle, generated by a holistic approach to personal responsibility that begins with an active reverence for the self.

It's not too late. Want to? ■

*"Dr. Hyena" is a traveling environmental activist who sometimes lives in Lexington.*

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# Why a veteran disrupted Congress

by Lori Purdue

I have been in many, many congressional hearings in the past several months. And yes, I have acted up, spoken up, been moved to stand up in protest, been removed and threatened with arrest. I have confronted legislators in hallways, following press conferences, in their offices, at events and on the streets of D.C. I have lobbied, monitored, and marched into the teeth of opposition. It is true, I have pushed the envelope and been pushed across the line and onto the floors of the House office buildings. I have not, however, been arrested... before Friday, March 23.

Civil Disobedience has been something I have supported, and advocated. It is a valuable tool for change in our society, a vital part of democracy. Last week, I proudly, but with an overwhelming sadness, added my name to the list of those whose life stories include defying rules and laws to

shed light on injustice and express dissent.

I spent early Friday morning on the sidewalk between the House office buildings and the Capitol lobbying Members going to and from the Democratic Caucus meeting, stressing that if they buy this war, by funding it, they will own it and will be held responsible for the outcome. I won't say the effort was wasted, because the experience hardened my resolve. When Members who greeted me on their way to the Caucus meeting wouldn't look me in the eye upon their return, I understood that our battle for de-funding was facing defeat at the hands of the Democratic leadership.

I entered the Capitol building with Marine Mom Tina Richards, Military Families Speak Out co-founder Nancy Lessin, and two other members of MFSO. I was wearing black, clearly marked with Code Pink — Women for Peace, with stage blood on my hands and face.

As Speaker Pelosi addressed Congress

Tina produced a photo of her Son, Cloy. She wanted to remind Congress, many of whom had met with her in the previous weeks, that her son could be recalled to active duty and deployed to Iraq, for the third time, if they funded the Supplemental. She was escorted out of the gallery by four plain clothes Capitol Police officers and removed from the building.

The Speaker wrapped up her address by twisting the Peace Movement's talking points to her purpose, co-opting our truth and besmirching it with her partisan spin.

When the legislators moved to cast their electronic votes for the record I recognized that my time had arrived. I quickly stood, held my bloody hands in the air and shouted, "Don't buy this war." I was grabbed by the Capitol Officer who had stationed himself next to me, expecting just this type of disturbance, and pulled into the aisle. I continued, "You're buying it and you own it!" Four more officers surrounded me and lifted me by my elbows up the stairs as I shouted, "Troops Home Now! Troops Home Now! Troops Home Now!" as they carried me from the Gallery. Another Activist, Tighe Barry, picked up the cry from another area in the Gallery as they dragged me out, sustaining the dissent for a few more moments. We were both arrested, searched, cuffed and taken away by police quite efficiently and without violence.

Looking back, I realize that our actions did not change the way the votes fell, but the spirit of true change was recognized in the Capitol. Pelosi and the Blue Dogs got what they wanted legislatively. They got their money, but they also got the message that the cost was much greater than 100 billion dollars. The true cost will be paid in blood and tears. They did not, however, get it quietly, floating their political maneuvering under the radar. Tighe and I made sure they and everyone in the Gallery and maybe those watching at home on C-Span realized that there are those in the public that disagree, that there are Americans that don't believe that more money for war is supporting the troops. I truly hope that all members of Congress understand that we will continue to mourn and dissent even in the House Chambers, and now in the Senate, until they act responsibly to Bring our Troops Home Now. ■

*[Lori Purdue is a native of Indiana, mother of two teenagers, a United States Air Force Veteran, and is officially affiliated with Code Pink — Women for Peace, Veterans for Peace and Military Families Speak Out. She has been a full-time Peace Activist for two years.]*

## The challenge for newly-empowered women (cont.)

able to the military. When Hurricane Katrina tore through New Orleans, many of us imagined that the Bush administration's callous and incompetent failure to rescue the people of New Orleans and to provide the leadership to rebuild the city would lead to massive disillusionment with the administration's market-oriented rhetoric.

But has it? I'm not sure. Many people saw Bush's incompetence, but they also viewed it as one more example of the government's incapacity to solve problems.

This is a huge problem for liberals and progressives. Even if a decent Democrat wins the White House in 2008, his or her ability to offer compelling leadership and to propose new progressive solutions will be limited if market fundamentalist ideas remain unquestioned. Ditto for the women in Congress who think they will push women's issues on to the national agenda.

So, it's necessary — no, urgent — that we immediately challenge market fundamentalism every chance we get. Between now and the 2008 election, we need take every opportunity — on blogs, among political progressives — to explain to others why this exaggerated faith in markets is so dangerous and misplaced.

Fortunately, there is now a resource to help us make these arguments. The Longview Institute, a progressive think tank with which I am affiliated, has just launched a market fundamentalism resource page, designed to help people rec-

ognize and refute these arguments. Longview's Fred Block, a sociologist at the University of California at Davis, has long been articulating the dangers of market fundamentalism. The plan is to steadily add new arguments and new material, but what is already there provides plenty of fodder for a collective assault on the irrational ideas that support market fundamentalism.

Market fundamentalism is what prevents us from having universal health care, mass transit, affordable housing, trains that cross the nation, subsidized care for the young and elderly, and government efforts to reduce carbon emissions. The list, of course, is endless.

Aside from ending the war in Iraq, there is nothing more important we can do to improve our domestic future. Ending the reign of market fundamentalism is a precondition for every kind of progressive cause.

For a quarter of a century, conservatives have tried to convince us that we, rather than the government, should be responsible for what is known in other industrialized nation as the "common good." If we don't attack the effort to privatize every public service that belongs to this common good, we will ultimately fail to move this nation in any progressive direction. ■

*Ruth Rosen is a historian and journalist who teaches public policy at UC Berkeley. She is a senior fellow at the Longview Institute.*

# Events at a Glance

<i><b>Date/Time</b></i>	<i><b>Event Description</b></i>	<i><b>Contact</b></i>
Saturday, April 21 9:30 am - 6:00 pm	<b>Flyover Festival</b> , Sponsored by KFTC. See mountaintop removal from the air. Carpool leaves Lexington TBA.	Dave Newton, 420-8919
Saturday, April 21 1:00 pm	<b>Workshop on media essentials with GLAAD</b> , Sponsored by Kentucky Fairness Alliance. KFA headquarters, 451 S Broadway.	KFA info, 205-3239
2 - 9 pm Friday, April 27 9 am - 6 pm, Sat, April 28 9 am - 4 pm Sun, April 29	<b>Camp Wellstone: a 3-day training in grassroots political skills</b> , Sponsored by KFTC. Crown Plaza Hotel, 1375 S Broadway.	Lisa Abbott, 859-986-1277 x223
Saturday, May 19 12:00 noon - 8:00 pm	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lexington Peace and Global Citizenship Fair</b> , Sponsored by BCTC Peace & Justice Coalition. BCTC Cooper Campus, next to the UK football stadium. ●	Rebecca Glasscock, 246-6319
	"Disobedience is the true foundation of liberty. The obedient must be slaves." —Henry David Thoreau, 1847	
1 <sup>st</sup> Wed. of the month, 7:30 pm	<b>CKCPJ Board Meeting</b> , Friends Meeting House, 649 Price Avenue. All welcome.	Kerby Neill, 293-2265
Every Sunday 6:00 pm	<b>Sustainable Communities Network</b> , Third Street Stuff, on N.Limestone near the corner of Third St. <a href="http://www.SustainLex.org">www.SustainLex.org</a>	Jim Embry, 312-7024
1 <sup>st</sup> Wed. of the month, 4:00 - 6:30 pm	<b>Franciscan Peace Center</b> , 3389 Squire Oak.	Pat Griffin 230-1986
Every Thursday, 5:30 - 6:00 pm	<b>Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace</b> , Triangle Park in downtown Lexington.	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed. of the month, 7:00 - 8:30 pm	<b>Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky (AHA)</b> , Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd.	Dick Renfro, 255-7029
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month,	<b>Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC)</b> , Episcopal Diocese Mission House, corner of 4th St. and Martin Luther	Janet Tucker, 389-8575
New meeting schedule TBA soon.	<b>Lexington Living Wage Campaign</b> , Community Action Council, Georgetown St., Lexington.	
4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm	<b>Bluegrass Fairness Steering Committee</b> , Price Center, 389 Waller Avenue	806-4114 <a href="mailto:info@bluegrassfairness.org">info@bluegrassfairness.org</a>
4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month,	<b>Central Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty</b> , Central Library, downtown.	Will Warner, 278-9232
1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm	<b>Kentucky Migrant Network</b> , Cooperative Extension Building, 1141 Red Mile Place.	Andrea Tapia, 268-3353

● *Denotes article in this issue containing more information.*



"America is the conflict between those who want the good life only for themselves and their kind, and those who actually want liberty, justice and happiness for all."  
— Richard Mathis

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## Bits and Peaces

### Chavez creates barter system in Venezuela

Venezuelan President has announced the creation of a "community currency system," intended to facilitate trade of products among organized low-income communities.

Chavez instructed Minister of People's Economy Pedro Morejón "to set a date" for implementation of this "alternative trade system."

He added that the relevant regulations could be enforced through a presidential decree, under the special ruling powers conferred upon him from February 2007 to mid-2008 by the National Assembly.

The alternative trade system is aimed at "giving the poor the chance to acquire products through barter, with a barter currency that may circulate in a given territorial space that is valid for a given period," Chavez said in his TV show *¡Al, Presidente!* (Hello, President!) late Thursday.

According to Chavez, "a system based on community currencies is operating in north Brazil and some towns in Mexico."

Chavez also replied to reports published by Miami-seated newspaper *El Nuevo Herald* claiming that state-run oil conglomerate Pdvsa "is sinking."

"Absolutely not true! Pdvsa is currently one of the strongest oil firms

around the world. We are strengthening Pdvsa," he said.

Chavez claimed the report is part of a smear campaign the United States is waging worldwide against Venezuela and Chavez's revolution.

### Progress in single payer healthcare movement

#### From Healthcare-Now.org:

Many good things are happening across the nation as the single payer movement continues to develop.

Here are some of the exciting developments in the single payer movement:

1. We now have 62 co-sponsors of H.R. 676 in just two months following its reintroduction in this new Congress — as a result of your efforts.

2. The AFL-CIO has joined us as an endorser of single payer. How did this happen? It happened because of the movement of local unions from the bottom up who studied the bill, endorsed it, and urged the AFL-CIO to join us over the past eighteen months. One volunteer, Kay Tillow, has worked tirelessly to make this happen.

3. Act-Up has joined us — one of the most militant organizations in the U.S. — the group that challenged Congress and the healthcare agencies to do the research and help to stem the tide of

the AIDS epidemic in the 80's and 90's. Now they have made single payer, national healthcare their #1 issue.

4. The National Organization for Women has formally endorsed.

5. Newspapers all over the country are studying the issue, and many are endorsing. City councils are signing on. Two state democratic parties, New Hampshire and Washington State have endorsed single payer and will be pushing the national Democrats to move forward toward single payer in the coming election.

6. And Congressman Conyers is planning a briefing for Congress members and the public on April 24th in Washington, D.C. **YOU ARE INVITED.** Be in touch with [joel.segal@mail.house.gov](mailto:joel.segal@mail.house.gov) for more details.

One of the friends of single payer in the U.S. Congress is Maurice Hinchey. In addition to being a strong endorser of H.R. 676, he has introduced legislation that has forced the FDA to create new rules to protect us from the drug profiteers. When we achieve a national single payer system in the United States, we will have a system where the single payer (probably Medicare) will negotiate the cost of all drugs for all of us and have a strong mechanism for protecting our people.