

PEACEWAYS

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The Newsletter of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice
PO Box 363 Lexington KY 40588 (859) 293-2265

Email List: richard.mitchell@insightbb.com Website: <http://www.peaceandjusticeky.org>

The UN: back (or still?) in Iraq years later

by Bill Miller

Support, both domestic and international, for the Bush Administration's unpopular war in Iraq is eroding faster than the New Orleans' levees under the ferocious battering of Hurricane Katrina. Interestingly, the United Nations, an organization whose vast majority of 192 member states opposed the US-led invasion, is actively lending a hand to shore up the political and humanitarian landscape, as well as the economic and social development of that ravaged country.

Prior to the war in Iraq, most UN members correctly believed that Saddam Hussein did NOT have weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), nor did he participate in the murderous 9-11 attacks. Hussein was NOT an imminent threat to the US or Israel and did NOT have an operational link to Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden.

Flashing back to 2002-03 during the buildup, most Americans probably have three vivid memories of interactions between the US and the UN: 1) President Bush was fond of challenging the UN to be "relevant"; 2) the UN Security Council withheld a resolution that the US desperately needed to provide legal and moral cover for the invasion; and, 3) a horrific explosion destroyed much of the UN Headquarters in August of 2003 in Iraq that killed over 20 of the UN's best and brightest international public administrators.

What a difference four years make. Today, President Bush, Secretary of

State Condi Rice and Bush Administration heavyweights have apparently come to the conclusion that the UN is absolutely crucial to achieve success in Iraq, and to confront other hotspots around the globe.

After the explosion at the UN headquarters in Baghdad in August of 2003, the UN took a low profile. So low, in fact, that some UN observers complained it had abandoned the country. Such was not the case. Predictably, the US media did little to dispel the abandonment myth because they were either not knowledgeable of the UN's assistance or they did not want to give the UN any credit. UN bashing talk-show hosts and anti-UN publications, it seems, were quite happy to perpetuate the myth and to denounce the UN for not doing its fair share.

Even though the war was not sanctioned by the UN, was a war of choice, and was widely viewed as an illegal invasion of a sovereign country, UN members and UN agencies arrived at the inevitable conclusion that it was imperative to help innocent Iraqis adversely affected by the conflict; re-build the country's physical and human infrastructure; and establish a democratic government that would govern for the benefit of the people.

UN agencies have played a major role in helping stabilize the situation and improve the quality of life for many Iraqis.

Just a few examples of the UN activities include:

- The UN and Iraq recently launched an "International Compact with Iraq," which is a partnership with the international community over the next five years. The Compact will bring together countries and international organizations to help the Iraqi government develop a democracy, a sustainable economy, good governance principles, professional security forces and a respect for the rule of law;
- The UN has been the key player in planning and implementing the three democratic elections held in Iraq and in developing an equitable national constitution;
- The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched one of the largest life-saving drives, with over 8,000 immu-

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NOTE: *Peaceways* is off in July.

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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.

The UN in Iraq (continued from page 1)

nizers, across Iraq to immunize 3.9 million Iraqi children from ages one to five to avert a potential outbreak of measles, mumps, and rubella. UNICEF supports other basic services in health and nutrition, water and environmental sanitation, and child protection.

- UNHCR (UN High Commission for Refugees) estimated that there are 1.9 million displaced Iraqis internally and over two million living in other states, primarily in Jordan, Egypt, and Syria. UNHCR is assisting 50,000 non-Iraqi refugees in Iraq and aiding 200,000 Iraqis in neighboring countries.

- UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) assists Iraqis in safeguarding and reconstructing their cultural heritage by retrieving looted art treasures and preventing vandalism of cultural artifacts and sites.

Aldous Huxley, the British author who wrote *Brave New World*, once stated that "facts do not cease to exist because they have been ignored." The facts are that the US Administration totally ignored the findings of Dr. Hans Blix, head of the UN's Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission in Iraq, that there were NO WMDs. To compound the problem, the US launched a preemptive military strike against Iraq which is widely viewed as illegal (as opposed to preemptive action against a foe that is authorized under international law). The Bush Administration had already decided to invade Iraq, prior to getting authorization from the US Congress and the UN, according to former CIA Director George Tenet in his book, *At the Center of the Storm*.

Tenet confirms many lingering suspicions regarding the duplicitous and mendacious process that allowed little, if any, substantive discussion about the actual threat posed by Saddam, such as the cherry picking of information, a reliance on inaccurate sources and information about WMDs, and the lack of ethics and the incompetence of several Bush Administration policymakers.

What are some of the lessons for the future?

1) Although the Bush Administration has a legacy of misinformation, incompetence, and disinformation in depicting the threat from Islamic radicals and anti-American forces, incredulously it still has considerable clout and partial credibility at the UN. The US's leadership helped develop the coalition of resources of UN agencies and countries to assist the Iraqis;

2) More frequently, the Iraqi invasion is being depicted as the most disastrous foreign policy blunder in US history. That mistake has fueled the conflict with Islamic fundamentalists, made the US government more unpopular (and even hated) around the world, diminished the US's role as a superpower, weakened the US military, fomented more instability in the Arab world, sharply increased the US debt and cracked the veneer of an invincible US military (remember the missile climbing a chimney in the First Gulf War). On every front, except a saturation bombing campaign, the US's hands are tied if it tries to deal militarily with North Korea and Iran.

3) Recently, the majority of the Iraqi Parliament, which now is in sync with public opinions taken in polls of the Iraqi people, signed on to a resolution declaring that the US is an occupying force and calls for a specific timetable for withdrawal.

4) The UN, even with its imperfections, is the "go-to" international forum to resolve current and future problems. As former Secretary of State Madeline Albright said about the UN, "...it is indispensable..."

Chaos in Iraq is intensifying. It is serving as a recruiting tool for Islamic radicals and is destabilizing many parts of the Middle East. The chaos will likely contribute to even more bloodshed and conflict both within and outside of Iraq. Sixteen UN agencies have been providing assistance to the Iraqi people since 2003. Not only should the UN be thanked profusely, it should also be listened to since it has been right about almost all the major findings concerning Iraq. As former Supreme

(Continued on next page)

UN Report looks at Muslim/Western clash

by Dan Murphy

Cairo — A UN-sponsored group called the Alliance of Civilizations, created last year to find ways to bridge the growing divide between Muslim and Western societies, released a first report that says the conflict over Israel and the Palestinian territories is the central driver in global tensions.

“Our emphasis on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not meant to imply that it is the overt cause of all tensions between Muslim and Western societies,” write the report’s authors, a group of academics and present and former government officials from 19 different countries. “Nevertheless, it is our view that the Israeli-Palestinian issue has taken on a symbolic value that colors cross cultural and political relations...well beyond its limited geographic scope.”

But while the authors hope their report will invigorate and create cross-cultural dialogue, its tone implies that it is unlikely to be well received by the United States and Israel, focusing as it does on allegations of double standards by those two nations while giving less time to the faults of the Palestinians or specific Muslim governments.

Criticism of US policies, though at times oblique, is a major feature of the document and hits on themes that have angered representatives of the Bush administration in the past. For instance, in a discussion of Al Qaeda’s attack on the US on Sept. 11, the report states: “Later, these attacks were presented as one of the justifications

for the invasion of Iraq, whose link with them has never been demonstrated, feeding a perception among Muslim societies of unjust aggression stemming from the West.”

The report is the result of a UN-sanctioned “High Level Group” meeting of some twenty “eminent personalities” that UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed last year. The group, which was cosponsored by the Prime Ministers of Turkey and Spain and included among its authors Nobel Peace Prize-winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former Iranian president Mohammed Khatami, issued the final report on Nov. 13 at its final meeting in Istanbul.

To be sure, the report is also framed as a direct challenge to the notion that a “Clash of Civilizations” is imminent—a concept first popularized by Samuel Huntington’s 1996 book.

In a statement, Mr. Kofi Annan said it was clear that religion is not at the root of current tensions.

“The problem is not the Koran or the Torah or the Bible,” Mr. Annan said. “The problem is never the faith, it is the faithful and how they behave towards each other.”

That sentiment was echoed in an editorial published in the *Houston Chronicle* by three of the report’s authors, who also said that political repression in the Muslim world contributes to extremism.

“Denying peaceful opposition movements the freedom to express their views and jailing their supporters generate anger and resentment, encouraging some to join violent groups,” wrote Mr. Tutu, former Indonesian foreign minister Ali Alatas, and Andri Azoulay, an advisor to Morocco’s King Mohammed VI.

“When Western governments lend their support—tacitly or overtly—to authoritarian regimes, they become part of the problem,” the authors wrote.

The overall objective of the paper is to set out problems between the Muslim and the West as a matter of politics, and not of culture, and tends to see anger and misunderstanding as largely a

problem of inadequate education.

For instance, the authors point to a recent Gallup poll that found 57 percent of Americans either responded “nothing” or “I don’t know” when asked what they most admired about Muslim societies, as evidence for a need for education systems in both the West and Muslim countries to provide a “basic understanding of religious traditions other than their own.”

The authors also point to another recent survey that found 30 percent of US government money for cultural exchanges go to programs with Europe, while just 6 percent go to programs with the Middle East, arguably the place where such efforts could do the most good.

The UN’s High Level Group report includes a set of concrete recommendations for the international community. Among the recommendations:

- The international community should draft a white paper to analyze the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- An international conference should be convened to reinvigorate the Middle East peace process.
- Ruling parties in the Muslim world should provide space for the participation of peaceful political groups.
- Leaders and shapers of public opinion should behave responsibly and work to promote understanding among cultures.
- The UN should appoint a high representative to assist in defusing cross-cultural tensions.
- The UN should establish a forum for the alliance of civilizations under its auspices.
- Journalists should receive improved training in intercultural understanding.
- Media content should aim to promote intercultural dialogue.
- Educational materials and media literacy programs in schools should face a critical review.
- Governments should increase the number of international youth exchanges and youth-oriented websites.
- The international community should create media campaigns to combat discrimination.

Source: www.unaoc.org

UN in Iraq (continued)

Court Associate Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said in his aphorism, “A page of history is worth a volume of logic.” The UN has the history, the ideologues and fanatics have the logic.

Bill Miller, former Chair of the UN Association of the USA’s Council of Chapter and Division Presidents, is the accredited “Washington International” journalist covering the UN and is the Producer/Moderator of “Global Connections Television.” ■

Working less better for the planet

by Dara Colwell

Americans are working harder than ever before. The dogged pursuit of the paycheck coupled with a 24/7 economy has thrust many of us onto a never-ending treadmill. But of workaholic's growing wounded, its greatest casualty has been practically ignored — the planet.

"We now seem more determined than ever to work harder and produce more stuff, which creates a bizarre paradox: We are proudly breaking our backs to decrease the carrying capacity of the planet," says Conrad Schmidt, an internationally known social activist and founder of the Work Less Party, a Vancouver-based initiative aimed at moving to a 32-hour work week — a radical departure from what we've grown accustomed to. "Choosing to work less is the biggest environmental issue no one's talking about."

A backlash against overwork fatigue, the Work Less Party is one of a growing number of initiatives aimed at cutting work hours while tackling unemployment, environmentally unfriendly behavior and boosting leisure time. According to Schmidt, author of *Workers of the World RELAX*, which examines the economics of reduced industrial work, working less would allow us to produce less, consume less, pollute less and — no complaints here — live more.

"As a society, we're working exponentially hard to decrease sustainability and it's making us miserable — just look at how antidepressants are on the rise," he says. "In order to reduce our ecological footprint, we have to take working less very seriously."

Americans work more hours than anyone else in the industrialized world. According to the United Nations' International Labor Organization, we work 250 hours, or five weeks, more than the Brits, and a whopping 500 hours, or 12 and a half weeks, more than the Germans. So how does ecological damage figure in to the 40-plus workweek?

Do the math: Longer hours plus labor-saving technology equals ever-

increasing productivity. Without high annual growth to match productivity, there's unemployment. Maintaining growth means using more energy and resources, both in manpower and raw materials, which results in increased waste and pollution.

Unsurprisingly, the US is the world's largest polluter. Housing a mere 5 percent of the world's population, it accounts for 22 percent of its fossil fuel consumption, 50 percent of its solid waste, and, on average, each citizen consumes 53 times more goods than a person in China, according to the environmental nonprofit, Sierra Club.

When people work longer hours, they rely increasingly on convenience items such as fast food, disposable diapers, or bottled water. Built-in obsolescence has become standard business practice—just throw it away and make more—leaving mountainous landfills in its wake. "Earning more often means spending money in ways that are environmentally detrimental. We're finding that to compensate for lack of time, you actually need more money to work those extra hours," says Monique Tilford, acting executive director of the Centre for a New American Dream, a Maryland group promoting environmentally and socially responsible consumption. "When people are time-starved they don't have enough time to be conscious consumers. The overarching theme of our organization is to remind Americans that every single dollar they spend has a carbon impact, to make the connection."

If the world started clocking American hours, then it would be detrimental to its environmental health. According to a paper issued by the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) in Washington, D.C., if Europe moved towards a U.S.-based economic model, it would consume 15-30 percent more energy by 2050. This would impact fuel prices worldwide and boost carbon emissions, resulting in additional global warming of 1-2 degrees Celsius. Any reductions in greenhouse gas emissions made through conservation, cleaner fuels or green technology

would be overwhelmed by increased industrial output.

"Productivity normally increases every year, but we haven't seen massive productivity gains reflected in our working hours," says Mark Weisbrot, CEPR's co-director, who also authored the study "Are Shorter Work Hours Good for the Environment?" "Because there's no limit to what we can consume, a change of values has to take place if the planet stands a chance of survival."

The problem is, France has already begun following America's lead by increasing the workload. In 2005, France effectively abolished its 35-hour workweek to counter high unemployment — the highest in the European Union, hovering at roughly 10 percent — though a subsequent International Monetary Fund paper examining the impact concluded there was no significant increase. And this May, the new French president-elect Nicolas Sarkozy, whose campaign to "work more, earn more" helped win him the presidential seat, promised to make overtime largely tax-exempt. His goal: strengthen consumer purchasing power and galvanize the economy.

Only if Weisbrot's research is correct, France's increased productivity would create even larger problems, especially considering France's current productivity is greater than America's, with a GDP (Gross Domestic Product) per hour of \$37.01 versus \$33.77. Today's push towards a heavier workload is in many ways a historical precedent. In both the United States and Europe, work hours declined steadily from the beginning of the industrial revolution until World War II, when labor unions were key in fighting for shorter hours. After the war, the 40-hour workweek was legally in place, and governments promoted economic growth in order to match it.

But since the 1970s, with the advent of technological advances and increased automation, most European governments have continued shortening work

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hours whereas the United States has opted instead to let wages fall. In the late 1960s futurists predicted an Age of Leisure, hypothesizing that the largest issue facing the country at the end of the century would be too much leisure. "It was the kind of problem I thought I could deal with — in fact, I was looking forward to it," says John de Graaf, producer of the groundbreaking 1997 PBS documentary "Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic" and a frequent speaker on issues of overwork and overconsumption. "Of course, I didn't reason we'd put all our productivity gains into more stuff."

Quoting data from his current campaign, "What's the Economy for Anyway?" which examines America's economic policies in light of quality of life issues, de Graaf says the evidence proves we're not better off. "It's staggering. The USA has declined relative to all other industrial countries in virtually every quality of life measured — health, equality, savings, sustainability — though that's not so with the GDP and certainly not with the number of billionaires," he says. "Yet we're still constantly being told we're better off."

Yet suggest alternatives to the status quo of GDP worship, like shortening the work week, and resistance is great. "Here, the business community fiercely opposes any mandates relating to time," says de Graaf, noting that by controlling or regulating time, they maintain the upper hand. "What's happened in Europe is people have discovered it's nice to have some time in their lives, and they've wanted more. Whereas here, business has kept that door completely shut."

But even many overburdened Americans fear change will signal further sacrifice — mostly to their paychecks. "But the fact is, we're already sacrificing our time and our lives right now," says de Graaf. De Graaf is also the national coordinator of "Take Back Your Time Day," an annual event scheduled for Oct. 24, the date on which the 40-hour workweek was first inaugurated in the United States. A national organization with 10,000 members, Take Back Your Time has launched a campaign calling for national legislation guaranteeing a minimum of three weeks of paid vacation,

an issue it hopes to make part of the 2008 presidential campaign.

As it stands, America is the only industrial nation that offers no legal protection for vacations. The average vacation in the United States is now only a long weekend, and 25 percent of American workers have no paid vacation, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Compare that to Sweden, which mandates 32 vacation days per year. President Bush, however, does know the value of vacation time. In 2005, he took five weeks off to visit his Texas ranch, taking the longest presidential retreat in at least 36 years.

"We see overwork as a social, legal problem that needs political legislation," says de Graaf. "We are utterly unique in our dismissal of the need for time and the environmental costs; not to mention, the costs to our health and our families have been enormous."

But by shelving time, we continue to suffer from overload, debt, and anxiety, and are stuck in a fatalistic rat race generated by heightened consumerism. So what fuels this need to accumulate in the face of time deprivation? Devoting his career to what drives materialism, Tim Kasser, associate professor of psychology at Knox College and author of *The High Price of Materialism*, has sought scientific explanations, examining the relationship between materialism and psychological well-being.

"Materialism is driven by an underlying sense of insecurity," says Kasser, who conducted a study where subjects were randomly assigned writing about death or writing about listening to music. The former experience an increased desire for consumption and were "greedier," according to Kasser. "Death is the ultimate end of time; it's interpreted as that feeling of not having enough time. In the last decade politicians have played off that insecurity. It keeps getting people elected, but it also drives us to think we need to work harder and harder," he says, noting the signs of insecurity around us are numerous: We don't know our neighbors and suffer from high divorce rates; our social safety nets have been dismantled; we have no mandatory overtime laws and minimal vacation. "All these work to create an underlying sense of insecurity, and we need to

break out of that cycle," he says.

Interestingly, Kasser conducted an empirical study comparing 200 adherents of Voluntary Simplicity to a control group of 200 mainstream Americans and found the Voluntary Simplicity group was "simultaneously happier while using fewer resources," and that their happiness was derived from "less materialistic, intrinsic goals, such as personal growth, family and community." While the Voluntary Simplicity group was "still awfully far from having a sustainable ecological footprint," Kasser feels it's a positive start. "The correlation between the VS group being happy was due to those non-consumeristic, intrinsic values, and the reason they're living in a more ecologically sustainable fashion is also due to those values."

It's just those kind of values Schmidt has tried to encourage in his Work Less Party. Schmidt, a former computer programmer, started by getting rid of his car and cycling to work, then took advantage of the savings by reducing his workweek, which allowed him enough time to write his book, make two documentaries, and organize a community theater group — all in the last three years.

"People spend so many hours working they have no idea of how much creative potential they have, but you get a taste of mental freedom you want more of it. It's an explosion of creativity," says Schmidt, quickly adding, "I'm a workaholic, but it's the type of work that's the problem. Our society is focused on work that makes stuff that goes directly into landfills. Essential work such as art, music, creativity, community, the kind necessary to create a healthy society and planet, is being negated in favor of that."

If there's any solution to increasing our well-being, as well as the planet's, Schmidt's advice flies counter to our driven consumerism. "If you want to protect the environment, you have to consume less, which means you have to produce less, and you have to work less. We have to keep the message positive — our standard of living will improve hugely. I think people are starting to make the connection." ■

[Dara Colwell is a freelance writer based in Amsterdam.]

The real scandal at the World Bank

by Johann Hari

The real scandal at the World Bank is that the Bank is killing thousands of the poorest people in the world.

While the world's press has been fixated on the teeny-weeny scandal over whether the World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz helped to get his girlfriend a \$300,000-a-year gig next door, they have been ignoring the rancid stench of a far bigger scandal wafting from Wolfie's Washington offices.

This slo-mo scandal isn't about apparent petty corruption in DC. It's about how Wolfowitz's World Bank is killing thousands of the poorest people in the world, and knowingly worsening our worst crisis—global warming—every day.

Let's start with the victims. Meet Hawa Amadu, 70-something, living in the muddy slums of Accra, the capital of Ghana, and trying to raise her grandkids as best she can. Hawa has a problem—a massive problem—and the World Bank put it there. She can't afford water or electricity any more. Why? The World Bank threatened to refuse to lend any more money to her government, which would effectively make it a leper to governmental donors and international business, unless it stopped subsidising the cost of these necessities. The subsidies stopped. The cost doubled. Now Hawa goes thirsty so her grandchildren can drink, and weeps: "Am I supposed to drink air?"

She is not alone. Half a world away, in Bolivia, Maxima Cari, a mother, is also thirsty. "The World Bank took away my right to clean water," she explains. In 1997 the World Bank demanded the Bolivian government privatize the country's water supply. So Maxima couldn't afford it any more. Now she has to use dirty water from a well her villagers dug. This dirty water is making her children sick, and she is sullen. "I wash my children weekly," Maxima says. "Sometimes there's only enough water to wash their hands and faces, not their whole body ... This is not a nice way to live." The newly elected socialist government of Evo Morales is planning to take the water

back—and he is, of course, condemned and threatened by the World Bank.

Meet some more victims. I have met hundreds, from Africa to Latin America to the Middle East. Muracin Claircin is a rice farmer in Haiti—only he can't grow rice any more. In 1995, the World Bank demanded Haiti drop all restrictions on imports. The country was immediately flooded with rice from the US, which has been lavishly subsidised by the US government. The Haitian government barely exists and can't offer rival subsidies anyway: the World Bank forbids it. So now Muracin is jobless and his family are starving.

Some 5,000 miles away, Charles Avaala in Ghana is watching his tomatoes rot. He used to grow them for a government-owned community tomato cannery that provided employment for his entire community. The World Bank ordered his government to close it down, and to open the country's markets to international competition. Now he can't compete with the subsidy-fattened tomatoes from Europe. He, too, is starving.

How would Hawa and Maxima and Muracin and Charles feel if you told them none of this is considered a scandal, but business as usual?

These victims are not merely an anecdote soup; they are an accurate summary of the World Bank's effect on the poor. Don't take my word for it. The World Bank's own Independent Evaluation Group just found that barely one in ten of its borrowers experienced persistent growth between 1995 and 2005—a much smaller proportion than those who stagnated or slid deeper into poverty. The bank's own former chief economist, Nobel Prize-winner Joseph Stiglitz, says this approach "has condemned people to death... They don't care if people live or die."

Why? Why would a body that claims to help the poor actually thrash them? Because its mission to end poverty has always been mythical. As George Monbiot explains in his book *The Age of Consent*, the World Bank was created in the 1940s by US economist Henry

Dexter White to be a further projection of US power. The bank's head is invariably American, the bank is based in Washington, and the US has a permanent veto on policies. It does not promote a sensible mix of markets and state action—the real path to development. No: the World Bank pursues the interests of US corporations over the poor, every time.

The bank's staff salve their consciences by pickling themselves in an ideology—neoliberalism—that says there is never a conflict between business rights and human rights. If it's good for Shell, it must be good for poor people, right?

This ideology also backfires on us in the rich world. In 2000, the World Bank was finally forced to undertake a review of its energy policies. It did its best to rig it, putting the former energy minister of the corporation-licking Indonesian dictator General Suharto in charge. Emil Salim was even serving on the board of a coal company at the time he was appointed. But—to everyone's astonishment—Salim concluded by opposing the carbon-pumping oil and gas projects that make up 94 per cent of all the bank's energy projects. He said they should be stopped altogether by 2008.

The bank's response? It ignored its own report and carried on warming. The business climate, it seems, trumps the actual climate. Feel the heat.

While the elites huff and puff about Wolfowitz's alleged small corruption and ignore his organization's proven immense corruption, there is something we ordinary citizens can do. In the summer of 2001, at the global justice protests in Genoa, I met Dennis Brutus, a former inmate of Robben Island prison alongside Nelson Mandela. He had been repelled by the bank's actions in South Africa, and started his protests against them by asking a very basic question: who owns the World Bank? It turns out we do. Ordinary people in the West—through their trade unions, churches, town councils, universities and private invest-

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Events at a Glance

<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Event Description</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Thursday, August 16 7:30 pm	You can become an activist for peace and justice! CKCPJ Orientation for new Board members. Kerby Neill's home: 3767 Winchester Road. Want to become a new Board member at the start of a new activist year? Come to this meeting.	Rosie Moosnick, 268-5260
Some time in September TBA	CKCPJ Annual Planning Retreat. For all Board members and anyone interested in working for peace and justice. Place TBA	Rosie Moosnick, 268-5260
	"The day that hunger is eradicated from the earth there will be the greatest spiritual explosion the world has ever known. Humanity cannot imagine the joy that will burst into the world on the day of that great revolution." —Federico Garcia Lorca	
1 st Wed. of the month, 7:30 pm	CKCPJ Board Meeting, Friends Meeting House, 649 Price Avenue. All welcome.	Kerby Neill, 293-2265
Every Sunday 6:00 pm	Sustainable Communities Network, Third Street Stuff, on N.Limestone near the corner of Third St. www.SustainLex.org	Jim Embry, 312-7024
1 st Wed. of the month, 4:00 - 6:30 pm	Franciscan Peace Center, 3389 Squire Oak.	Pat Griffin 230-1986
Every Thursday, 5:30 - 6:00 pm	Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace, Triangle Park in downtown Lexington.	
2 nd Wed. of the month, 7:00 - 8:30 pm	Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky (AHA), Unitarian Univerisalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd.	Dick Renfro, 255-7029
3 rd Thursday of the month,	Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC), Episcopal Diocese Mission House, corner of 4th St. and Martin Luther	Janet Tucker, 389-8575
New meeting schedule TBA soon.	Lexington Living Wage Campaign, Community Action Council, Georgetown St., Lexington.	
1 st Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm	Bluegrass Fairness Steering Committee, KCCJ office, 112 N Upper St.	Paul Brown, Chair, heme1588@yahoo.com
4 th Thursday of the month,	Central Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Central Librrary, downtown.	Will Warner, 278-9232
1 st Monday of the month, 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm	Kentucky Migrant Network, Cooperative Extention Building, 1141 Red Mile Place.	Andrea Tapia, 268-3353



The Central Kentucky Council
for Peace and Justice
PO Box 363
Lexington KY 40588

"We're losing eight children and teenagers a day to gun violence. As far as young people are concerned, we lose the equivalent of the massacre at Virginia Tech about every four days."

— Marian Wright Edelman

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Bits and Peaces

New book by EKU Professor Topmiller

Review by Mike Archer

Few people are more intimately acquainted with the horror of war than Navy corpsmen serving with U.S. Marine units in combat. It is upon that terrible and grisly stage that these corpsmen perform their duties, and become heroes to Marines, by risking their lives to help others: bandaging wounds, easing pain, comforting the dying, and lamenting (sometimes forever) the loss of those they could not save.

In 1968, at age 19, Bob Topmiller found himself in just such a situation, amidst of the longest and bloodiest battle of the Vietnam War — at a place called Khe Sanh. Surrounded by as many as 30,000 of North Vietnam's best troops, who were supported by artillery, tanks, anti-aircraft guns and rocket units, 6,000 outnumbered and outgunned American troops successfully held the majority of their defensive positions despite fierce ground attacks and endless artillery bombardment. Young Bob Topmiller was among a handful of corpsmen who, at great peril to their own lives, forayed out each day under intense enemy fire to assist the nearly 3,000 Marines who would be killed or wounded during the three-month long battle. Topmiller was himself wounded in the

process.

In *Red Clay on My Boots: Encounters with Khe Sanh 1968-2005*, now Professor Bob Topmiller combines chilling personal recollections with his expertise as a distinguished scholar of Vietnamese history to create a unique and powerful account of the Vietnam War — and the disturbing human toll it continues to exact. Topmiller's courage during the fierce and bloody battle for Khe Sanh would later serve him well in his tireless 37 year-long quest for reconciliation and inner peace; eventually leading him to rediscover a level of compassion he thought lost decades before amid the carnage and ubiquitous red clay of Khe Sanh. In a sublime act of personal redemption, Topmiller has been personally responsible for dramatically improving the lives of untold Vietnamese children deformed at birth due to an environment still poisoned from the war.

Terrifying, heartbreaking, enlightening and, above all, honest, *Red Clay on My Boots* is a story hard to forget.

The real World Bank scandal (continued from page 6)

ments—own it. The bank raises nearly all its funds by issuing bonds on the private market. They are often held by socially minded institutions, the kind who signed up to Make Poverty History. So, Brutus realized, we have a simple power: to sell the bonds and bankrupt

the World Bank. "We need to break the power of the World Bank over developing countries just as the disinvestment movement helped break the power of the apartheid regime in South Africa," he explained.

The campaign to make World Bank bonds as untouchable as apartheid-era investments has already begun. The cities of San Francisco, Boulder, Oakland and Berkeley have sold theirs. Several US unions have also joined. Even this small ripple has caused anxiety within the bank about the threat to its "AAA" bond rating.

In the Genoa sun, as tear gas fired by the Italian police hissed in the background, Brutus told me: "I lived to see the death of political apartheid. Now I want to live to see the end of global financial apartheid."

This is the fight we should join. Not some petty squabble over which Washington technocrat is morally pure enough to lead the forces of subsidy-slashing and starvation. ■

"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary."

—H.L. Mencken