OMNI CENTER--UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS and CALENDAR

Omni/C.A.T. Connections

Omni C.A.T. Forum Schedule:
- Tuesdays, 6:00p.m.
- Thursdays, 6:00p.m.
- Saturdays, 2:00p.m.

Free Speech TV (FSTV) sponsored by Omni
- 3:00a.m. – 9:00a.m. – This is where you’ll find in depth reporting and documentaries as well as lectures and speeches by, and interviews with, intelligent, insightful minds including Noam Chomsky, Robert McChesney, Dennis Kucinich, Helen Caldicott, Shirin Imbadi and Medea Benjamin.

Democracy NOW with Amy Goodman: Daily 7:00a.m., Sundays 6:00p.m.

Omni Book Samplers: Book Samplers give a five minute book report or read a five minute excerpt from a book. Omni Book Samplers include Dick Bennett, Jon Zimmer, Mendy Knott, Tom Kennedy

Short Takes: Taping at C.A.T.

New Taping Schedule:
- Every Monday night, from 5:00p.m.-6:00p.m., C.A.T. will be doing Short Takes live. This will be a great opportunity for time sensitive material, live entertainment, or anything else that is expressive.

- For the folks who don’t want to go on camera live, you can still record your short take from 6:00p.m.-6:30p.m. Both the live and recorded short takes will air the following week as usual.
- If anyone has any comments or questions, please feel free to contact C.A.T.

Viewing Times: 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m., 11:00p.m.

Omni News and Current Events featured on Short Takes:
- Presented by Livia Philips, Cliff Hughes, Dick Bennett

--January 22, Monday, Omni UofA meeting - For more information, contact Stephen Coger 479-495-1316 or omniua@uark.edu

--January 23, Tuesday - President’s State of the Union address

--January 25, January 26 Thursday-Friday - House Republican retreat

--January 26, Friday, 6:30p.m., Omni Center Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner, United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville, AR. - Take Your Place at the Table. Join us: Free dinner, Music by Still on the Hill and Alexis Wilkins, Roundtable discussions of upcoming Omni events and ways for you to get involved. Pass the Peace - NOW is the time to join or renew your membership and share your energy and ideas toward a culture of peace in an Earth restored. For information, contact Steven Skattebo at 251-9442 or stevenskattebo@hotmail.com

--January 27, 1973 - Signing of the Viet Nam Peace Accord - Viet Nam War ends
--January 28, Sunday, 6:30 p.m., Video Underground, United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville

- Toxic Sludge Is Good For You - This film, from the book by John Stauber and Sheldon Rampton, tracks the development of the public relations industry from early efforts to win popular American support for World War I to the role of crisis management in controlling the damage to corporate image. "Toxic Sludge Is Good For You" illustrates how much of what we think of as independent, unbiased news and information has its origins in the boardrooms of the public relations companies.

Video Underground shows FREE political, social, and current event videos every second and fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 pm. These movies are shown at the OMNI CENTER FOR PEACE, JUSTICE, AND ECOLOGY located at 902 W. Maple in Fayetteville, on the main floor of the Presbyterian and Disciples United Campus Ministry.

Visit us: http://www.northwest-ark.com/vu/


--February 1, February 2, Thursday-Friday, - House Democratic retreat

--February 4, 7:00 p.m. - Omni Center Open Peace MIC, Deep End of UCM, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville - Don't miss the return of Kelly and Donna (Still On the Hill) as hosts. Thanks to Brenda Coda for hosting in December and Jay Ross and Dedre Rose for being our hosts in January.

--February 5, Monday - Probable date for President to submit annual budget to Congress

--February 12, Monday – Freedom to Marry Day

--February 14, Wednesday - Valentine’s Day

--February 18, Sunday, 6:30 p.m., HOWL, at Nightbird Books, 557 S. School, #103, Fayetteville. HOWL(Her Words Out Loud) - Women are invited to bring your own poetry, prose and music to share, or to bring another woman's work that is meaningful to you. Both men and women are invited to join us as listeners.

--February 19, Monday - Presidents' Birthday (federal holiday)

--April 21, Saturday, Springfest on Dickson Street, Fayetteville. Mark your calendar, put on your thinking caps! Omni will once again have the Omni Folk Stage in the Walton Arts Center Rose Garden. This is the day for Omni's maximum public exposure. What are the best ways to share our vision with our neighbors?

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS---UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

--January 22, Monday, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Roe v. Wade Commemoration, County Courthouse, Corner of Dickson and College Aves., Fayetteville - This is the annual commemoration of the passing of the resolution that legalized abortion. We come together to remember all the women who died before its passage, and to re-dedicate ourselves to protecting this right for the generations who follow. Sponsored by Northwest Arkansas Chapter of NOW. For more information, contact Melanie Dietzel 442-8600 or melaniedietzel@cox.net

--January 24, 10:00 a.m., Equal Rights Amendment Rally and Lobby Day at State Capitol
Rotunda, Little Rock, Arkansas. Invited Speakers include: Governor Mike Beebe, Attorney General Dustin McDaniel, State Treasurer Martha Shoffner and Secretary of State Charlie Daniels. In the spring of 2005 the Arkansas state senate voted on a resolution to ratify the federal ERA. The resolution failed by a margin of only two votes. Arkansas ERA advocates say that turnout for this rally will greatly impact the passage of the ERA resolutions to be introduced again during the 2007 session. Your attendance at this event is vital. Please attend and help us by forwarding this email to other Arkansas voters who support the principle of legal equality for men and women. Representatives from supporting organizations will be recognized at the rally. Contact Karen Garcia for more information. Office: 501-624-8117, Home: 501-520-5156, Cell 501-318-9046

--January 27, Saturday, 2:00p.m., Fayetteville Freethinkers Meeting in the Walker Room at Fayetteville Public Library, 401 W. Mountain St. (two blocks west of the town square). Library phone: 571-2222. We have a great meeting scheduled. Phil Ferguson is attending James Randi’s skeptics convention called The Amazing Meeting. He’ll be giving us a report on what he encountered there in Las Vegas.

Phil will also be bringing some audio selections of freethinker radio shows and programs, and we'll hear some funny and inspiring material and discuss it.

Doug Krueger will be showing off some of his collection of bizarre items that are widely held to have magical powers. Tarot cards, a crystal skull, a soap that shuts people up, cologne that wards off evil spells, and so on. No other magical items in the world work better than those Doug has!

At this January meeting we will be delegating some responsibilities to volunteers who want to perform various functions at our meetings. These functions include light duties such as taking pictures and starting a scrapbook, handing out name badges, preparing our meeting rooms, meeting and greeting newcomers, and so on. No heavy lifting. We plan to expand in 2007 and you can be part of it.

--January 28, Sunday, 1:00p.m., Arkansas Indymedia Meeting at Arsaga’s in the Fayetteville Public Library


We must connect with hundreds of citizens from across the country, expand our understanding of the Department of Peace legislation and how it will impact our culture in practical and profound ways, discover and practice effective lobbying strategies, claim our birthright as a citizens: Visit Capitol Hill and walk the halls of Congress

Meet and lobby our Representatives and Senators. Make our voices heard. Build a political constituency with the power to shape history. Wage Peace with Marianne Williamson, Deepak Chopra, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, Michael Bernard Beckwith, Plus leading experts in: Conflict Resolution & Prevention, Peace-building & Global Security, Human Security: Keeping America Safe, and more. . . REGISTER NOW! PO Box 70095, Rochester Hills MI 48307, phone and fax: (248) 813-8950

--February 6-13, Darwin Day 2007, University of Tennessee, Knoxville - "Evolution and Medicine"

Darwin Day 2007 at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville will take place over The theme for this year's events is "Evolution and Medicine," and focuses on the impact of evolution in understanding disease and public health. We will have a documentary film screening, two prominent speakers who will be giving evening talks for the general public and additional focused talks, and a workshop for area teachers on integrating evolutionary topics in the public school curriculum. The teacher workshop will be held off-campus at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, and all other events will be held at various locations on the campus of the University of Tennessee.

Current sponsors for 2007 events include: The Haines-Morris Fund, Division of Biology, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Department of Microbiology, Department of Psychology, Department of Anthropology, Department of Biochemistry & Cellular & Molecular Biology, Graduate School of Genome
Science and Technology, and College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences at the University of Tennessee.

-- February 10, Saturday, 6:00pm, 3rd Annual Toma Mi Corazon (Take My Heart) Silent Auction and Tex-Mex Dinner at Quapaw United Methodist Church, 1601 S. Louisiana St., Little Rock - It’s That Time Again! Great Food, Art and Great Valentine's Day Gifts!

Presented by The Center for Artistic Revolution, CAR, Dinner and Preview Party Begins at 6:00p.m., Silent Auction Begins at 7:00pm. Do you like great art? Are you in the mood for some delicious Tex-Mex food? Would you like an opportunity to not only purchase incredible art by area artists, but to also get a really unique Valentine’s Day gift for that someone special? Are you inspired by justice, equal rights and fairness? Do you want to be a part of the movement for Fairness & Equality for ALL Arkansans? Do you want to actively support social justice work?

Then this is the event you have been waiting for!

Wooden hearts have been given out to artists, school children, community activists, and community members. They are returned finished in a variety of mediums; metal, wood, paint, fabric, mosaics, found objects, collage, etc.

Tickets for the preview party dinner: $15.00 in advance; $17.00 at the door. Student tickets are $10.00 with I.D. Admission to the silent auction is free. The proceeds from this event go to support CAR’s community organizing and cultural arts program work. To purchase tickets call 501-244-9690 or e-mail ArtchangesU2@sbcglobal.net

***NOTE: Help get the word out. Forward this message to your e-lists, friends and family. Center for Artistic Revolution, CAR, P.O. Box 2300 N. Little Rock, AR 72114, (501) 244-9690 ArtChangesU2@sbcglobal.net

--February 13, 12:30 to 4:30, ARKU 507-508, Diversity Training - “Diversity: Our Campus-Building a More Inclusive UofA” (Session 2)

--March 6, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ARKU 513-514, Diversity Training - “Diversity: Our Campus-Building a More Inclusive UofA” (Session 3)

WHAT’S GOING ON?--CURRENT EVENTS

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY IN FAYETTEVILLE

We need to act fast. You may have heard of the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association’s Brooks-Hummel Nature Reserve Project (see fayettevillenatural.org). If FNHA can raise $247,000 by February 28th, they will ask the city to provide an additional $247,000 for the purchase of the land. So far FNHA has raised $117,000 for the project, and they may soon get a matching $50,000 grant, so this project is really doable.

If you would like to contribute in OMNI’s name, please send me (Steven Skattebo) a check written out to "OMNI," earmarked clearly (by writing "FNHA" in the memo line). I will wait until February 10th, then I will write a check from OMNI to FNHA for the total amount collected. If you need a 501(c)(3) contribution letter, I can provide that for you.

In the event a sufficient amount is not received to fund this project, I can refund your contribution.

Thank you
Steven Skattebo
OMNI Treasurer
2103 Loren Circle
Fayetteville, AR 72701

STOPPING THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN
Since early 2003, the Sudanese military and government-sponsored militias have carried out targeted killing of black Africans in Sudan's Darfur region. 400,000 people are dead, tens of thousand of girls (as young as eight) and women brutally gang-raped, 2.5 million displaced and at risk of starvation (whose refugee camps are now under attack), 90 percent of Darfurian villages have been destroyed.

The state of Arkansas and the Universities of Arkansas (through public employee retirement schemes and endowments) unknowingly invest more that 10 billion dollars in equities, bonds, etc. issued by companies that finance and provide infrastructure that aids the government of Sudan's conduct of genocide.

If you wish to help stop the genocide in Darfur, contact your state legislators and University Board of Regents and ask them to divest from companies that are linked to the genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

For more information, contact http://sudandivestment-arkansas.blogspot.com/ or email stand@uark.edu to reach the Arkansas Sudan Divestment Taskforce, c/o Students Taking Action Now: Darfur, ARKU A665, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

OMNI MULLINS LIBRARY PEACE BOOK AND FILM COLLECTION

The endowed collection is composed of four subject areas: VICTIMS, NONVIOLENCE, INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, WHISTLEBLOWING. Rationale: In a world in which the value of victory over others too often predominates--militarists, imperialists, dominionists, bigots-- these books and films foreground the value of caring for the victims of economic, military, and religious depredations.

Nonviolence is a chief value underlying the protection and rescue of the victims of the world. In the word "Satyagraha," the name Gandhi gave to a way of overcoming injustice, "satya" means the search for truth and "agraha" means persistence. Inseparable from Satyagraha is "Ahimsa"; that is, "a-himsa" (hims: desiring to kill): the effort to avoid killing until the desire to kill has been replaced by love for others and justice.

The "search for" and the "effort to" remind us of Gandhi's lifelong "experiments with truth." Investigative journalists and whistleblowers are two kinds of people who assist us in our search for truth. Working outside centers of power, these journalists are dedicated to the persistent exposure of corruption and discovery of truth, always the essential initial step toward justice.

Working inside governments and corporations, whistleblowers take great economic and even life-threatening risks to expose wrongdoing and return truth and honesty to ruling enterprises.

Thanks to Molly Boyd, Mullins has a news rotator item about the "Peace" collection. You can see it at http://libinfo.uark.edu/. You may have to click the reload button on your browser several times to get it to come up.

Or, you can view it directly through the feeds at http://libinfo.uark.edu/info/whatsnew.asp. Notice on that "What's New?" page, we have added a new link to "Collection News," which features the Omni Center Collection. You can access it directly on http://libinfo.uark.edu/info/collectionnews.asp.

THOMAS PAINE DESERVES A RESOLUTION

Nine States have passed a Resolution making every January 29th henceforth, "Thomas Paine Day" (Paine's birth date in 1737). (A Proclamation for this year only, was signed by the Governor). Now, it is time, and long overdue, for Arkansas to commemorate Paine, every year, for his indelible contributions to our liberty says Jack Makens, a member of Thomas Paine Friends, Inc. (www.thomaspainefriends.org). These were often "firsts" affirming Paine as a great author, innovator, genius, and universal humanitarian. Makens believes that once this Resolution is read, it will become clear that we owe Paine a debt of gratitude and that he deserves the title of "FATHER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION". - (This is an inscription at the base of a Thomas Paine statue in Bordentown, New Jersey, a former home of Paine).

Makens has pursued having a Resolution Bill entered and passed by various means: Having a Thomas Paine table at the Fayetteville Farmers' Market and contacting legislators and historians etc. He needs to get support from more citizens; else he feels his efforts alone will not be sufficient. He can be contacted at b4ethics@yahoo.com for a copy of the proposed Resolution, and more.
**CALL FOR PAPERS**

From the Center for Human Rights and Civil Liberties to be presented at the second Annual Conference on Human Rights: Genocide in the 20th and 21st Centuries: Cases, Causes and Cures (Other topics also welcome on human rights or civil liberties) March 23-24, 2007, Liberal Arts Building on the Hattiesburg, Miss. campus of Southern Miss.

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**LOOK WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO -- HAPPENINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED**

**OMNI CENTER'S CRITICAL THINKING AWARDS COMMITTEE MEETS**

OMNI's Critical Thinking Teaching Awards Committee met at Dick Bennett’s house on December 4, 2006. Present were Doug Krueger, Carolyn Griffith, Marion Orton, Dick Bennett, Joe Guinn, and Nancy Maier, chair. For 2007, we decided to continue giving a $500 award to the best proposal submitted from Fayetteville High, plus adding a new $500 award to the best proposal from the Fayetteville Jr. Highs. We decided to change the deadline for teachers' submissions to May 1. Several changes to our Critical Thinking Awards Brochure where suggested, including adding information about the 2006 award winning proposal, plus adding a few examples of critical thinking projects created by Joe Guinn. After changes are made to the brochure, it was suggested we get them to teachers in January.

**TAKING A STAND AGAINST ESCALATION OF WAR**

A group of folks rallied in front of the Federal Building on Thursday, January 11 in response to President Bush’s Wednesday night speech declaring his plans to send 20,000 more troops into the nightmare that he has created in Iraq. Thanks to Coralie Koonce for organizing this action and to all who came out to give voice in opposition to another ill-conceived plan by this administration. Please contact your senators and representative to express your feelings and to let them know that you expect them to have the courage to take a strong stand to stop the escalation and to bring our troops home (contact information for Senators Lincoln and Pryor and Representative Boozman can be found at the end of the newsletter).

**FREE PRESS MEDIA REFORM CONFERENCE**

Members of Omni Center and Community Access Television (C.A.T.) attended the Free Press Media Reform Conference in Memphis January 12-14. It was an exciting opportunity to meet with representatives from other organizations, from the alternative media communities, and universities, all concerned about the corporate domination of the media and lack of exposure of independent media sources. We listened and were inspired by insightful, dynamic speakers including Bill Moyers, former PBS host of NOW; Rev. Jesse Jackson, long-time civil rights activist and founder of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition; Amy Goodman from Democracy NOW; Representative Dennis Kucinich and FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein. The conference was packed with workshops covering everything from how minorities are misrepresented or not represented in mainstream media to actions that we, as citizens, can take to reclaim the airways and promote independent media in our own home towns. It seemed appropriate to be meeting in Memphis, Tennessee on the weekend celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His spirit was evident as we came together to strengthen our resolve that we will stand up and speak out for free speech and the rights of every United States citizen to be represented and heard.
OMNI SEEKS A WORLD FREE OF WAR AND THE THREAT OF WAR, A SOCIETY WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY PERSON’S POTENTIAL MAY BE FULFILLED, AN EARTH RESTORED. GRASSROOTS NONVIOLENCE, WORLD PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROTECTING SPECIES AND THE EARTH.

CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

    Phone: (202) 224-4843 Fax: (202) 228-1371.
  · Fayetteville office: 251-1380
--Senator Mark Pryor: Web Site (see contact link): www.pryor.senate.gov; http://pryor.senate.gov/contact/
    Phone: (202) 224-2353 Fax: (202) 228-0908
  · Main District Office: 500 Pres. Clinton Ave., Suite 401, Little Rock, AR 72201
    Phone: (501) 324-6336 Fax: (501) 324-5320
--Congressman John Boozman, District 3, 12 counties from Benton to Washington
  · Lowell office: 479-725-0400. 213 W. Monroe, Suite K, 72745. Steve Gray, coordinator of office. Web site (with contact link): http://www.boozman.house.gov/ Heath Hasenbeck, intern (one of them). Boozman’s new office in Lowell is located at 213 West Monroe in Lowell between I 540 and Business 71. To reach that office take Exit 78 off I - 540 and go east. You will be on Hwy 264 which is also West Monroe. The office is in the Puppy Creek Plaza, past the McDonald’s on the right. His suite is in the back of the complex to the left.
  · Harrison office: 870-741-6900; 402 N. Walnut, Suite 210, Harrison 72601.