EARTH DAY IS HERE, APRIL 22

Let our leaders know if they want to keep their jobs, they have to do something substantive to solve climate change. What should you ask them to do? Take these ideas from the Live Earth Pledge:

- Demand that our country join an international treaty within the next two years that cuts global warming pollution by 90% in developed countries and by more than half worldwide in time for the next generation to inherit a healthy earth;

- Ask them to fight for a moratorium on the construction of any new generating facility that burns coal without the capacity to safely trap and store the CO2;

- Tell them to work for a dramatic increase in the energy efficiency of homes, workplaces, schools, places of worship, and means of transportation;

- Encourage them to pass laws and policies that expand the use of renewable energy sources and reduce dependence on oil and coal;

AND CALL

- White House - 202.456.1111
- Capitol Hill (our Capitol Hill Operators are really helpful, don’t be afraid to call and ask for your Member of Congress!!) 202.224.3121

Submitted by Dick Bennett

SPREAD THE WORD

EARTH FEST/ POLAR ARCADE
AN EVENT TO REMEMBER

For the past several years, Omni has used the Rose Garden of the Walton Arts Center during Springfest to share its message of Peace, Justice and Ecology with a wider public. This year is going to be the biggest event yet. The Earthfest and Polar Arcade will have a Buy Locally/Recycle/Environmental theme. THE DATE IS SATURDAY APRIL 26. We will begin setting up on Friday morning, April 25, and we will need lots of help. We also need volunteers on Saturday, April 26 to take down from 4-6p.m.

Some of the highlights of the day include: A Polar Arcade with 6 Carnival type games that teach about the environment. For a complete schedule of events and games, contact still@stillonthehill.com.

We will have an OMNI Video Underground Movie Theater hosted by our Video Underground Facilitator Gerry Sloan, and an Eco-Kids Craft Area—this is a carnival for the whole family.

Please contact Donna 582-2291 or email still@stillonthehill.com if you want to help.
ARKANSAS PEACE HEROES NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations for Omni’s annual Peace and Justice Heroes Awards opens April 1 and closes May 1. This will be the fourth anniversary of this special evening. Many community leaders who don’t normally attend Omni events, enjoy the Peace and Justice Heroes Awards, we have friends of peace and justice who come from many other parts of Arkansas as well.

Four Peace Heroes Awards are presented every year. The criteria are 1) must be a resident of Arkansas; 2) must be recognized by her/his community to be a fine example of having a commitment to and working for peace and justice causes; 3) they must be able to attend the awards banquet on June 14 at St. Paul’s Episcopal; 4) awards must be spread around the state, and 5) they can’t be a member of Omni’s steering committee.

You may have friends who you know need recognition for service they do. Last year’s Heroes included Eleanor Johnson (Wonderful Fayetteville community activist over a 50-year period, now 92 years old); Sam Totten (genocide expert working with Darfur refugees); Rennell Woods (Jonesboro youth program director operating City Youth Ministries); and Bill Kopisky (Executive Director of Citizens First Congress and social change dynamo, Little Rock).

Every year the Heroes have been incredible. Great work for peace and justice is quietly going on all over Arkansas. Omni depends on people like you to help us find these folks. Please go to Omni’s website and look for “Peace Heroes Awards” to find a nomination form. Nominate your friends, or yourself. The nominating committee will do the rest.

For more information email Gladys at gladystiffany@yahoo.com.

(Omni C.A.T. Connection Information has been moved and is with media information)

OMNI CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

--April 22, Tuesday, Noon-5p.m., OMNI-NWACC Earth Day Stuff Exchange – It’s time to do a little Spring Cleaning! But after you’ve cleaned out your desk drawer, closet, or garage, what will you do with all your stuff? Bring it to the OMNI-NWACC EARTH DAY STUFF EXCHANGE. Turn trash into treasure on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, from noon until 5:00 p.m., in the Student Center, Room 108A. There will be refreshments, movies, and lots of stuff. When you’ve made your exchanges (unexchanged stuff will be donated to charity), you can see THE STORY OF STUFF (20 minutes), an animated film on our consumer culture, at noon, 1:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m., and find out WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR? (90 minutes) at 3:00 p.m. That evening, as part of our regular Spring Film Festival, we’ll be showing TRASHED, a documentary on the history, politics, and economics of trash, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the Shewmaker Center. Admission is free and a discussion will follow. Join in the fun and help us celebrate Earth Day! For more information, contact Call 855-6836

--April 26, Saturday, Springfest, Dickson Street, Fayetteville - (See notice about Omni Event at top of newsletter)

--April 27, Sunday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, Earth Scouts Kids Club, Jones Center Room 222 - Kids ages 2-15 and their families will have a blast earning badges and learning about saving the earth and the creatures that live on her - including humans. More info contact Sara at sara@everydaysimple.org

--April 27, Sunday, 7:00p.m. - VIDEO UNDERGROUND, Sophie Scholl-The Final Days - On April 27, OMNI will screen film about German anti-Nazi resistee Sophie Scholl. The facilitator for discussion following "Sophie Scholl" will be University of Arkansas History professor Dr. Evan Bukey. Runtime: 120 min

SYNOPSIS from http://www.sophieschollmovie.com/

The true story of Germany’s most famous anti-Nazi heroine is brought to thrilling life in the multi-award winning drama SOPHIE SCHOLL-THE FINAL DAYS. Academy Award nominee for Best Foreign Language Film of 2005, SOPHIE SCHOLL stars Julia Jentsch in a luminous performance as the young coed-turned-fearless activist. Armed with long-buried historical records of her incarceration, director Marc Rothemund expertly re-creates the last six days of Sophie Scholl’s life: a heart-stopping journey from arrest to interrogation, trial and sentence.

In 1943, as Hitler continues to wage war across Europe, a group of college students mount an underground resistance movement in Munich. Dedicated expressly to the downfall of the monolithic Third Reich war machine, they call themselves the White Rose. One of its few female members, Sophie Scholl is captured during a dangerous mission to distribute pamphlets on campus with her brother Hans. Unwavering in her convictions and loyalty to the White Rose,
her cross-examination by the Gestapo quickly escalates into a searing test of wills as Scholl delivers a passionate call to freedom and personal responsibility that is both haunting and timeless.

SOPHIE SCHOLL-THE FINAL DAYS received three Lolas (German Oscars) including the Audience Award and Best Actress Award to Jentsch for her brilliant characterization of the title role. The film also won two Silver Bears for Best Director and Best Actress at the 2005 Berlin International Film Festival.

Video Underground shows FREE political, social, and current event videos every second and fourth Sunday of the month. These movies are shown at the OMNI CENTER FOR PEACE, JUSTICE, AND ECOLOGY located on the main floor of the Presbyterian and Disciples United Campus Ministry, 902 West Maple at Storer Ave. in Fayetteville. For more information, visit omni-vu-films.blogspot.com or contact Gerald Sloan at 575-6302 or gsloan@uark.edu

-- May 3, Saturday, 10:00 a.m., Omni Rapid Responders, Fayetteville Public Library
-- May 4, Sunday, 6:30 p.m. (note new time), Omni Open Mic for Peace, Nightbird Books, Old Mill Building, Corner of School and 6th Streets, Fayetteville - Don't miss the last Open Mic of the season. Bring your music and poetry about Peace, Justice and Ecology to share, or just come to listen.
-- May 15, Thursday, 5:30 p.m. potluck, 6:00 p.m., Omni Steering Committee Meeting, Downstairs, United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville.
-- May 18, Sunday, 6:30 p.m., HOWL: Women's Open Mic at Nightbird Books, Old Mill Building, Corner of School and 6th Streets, Fayetteville - HOWL happens the third Sunday of each month at Nightbird Bookstore. At HOWL, women are invited to read poems (their own or another woman writer's), share short prose or sing at an open mic forum hosted by Mendy Knott. So come read, sing or play your work to a really receptive audience. It's a great place to "try out" new work, share your masterpieces, or read for the very first time. Men and women are warmly invited to attend this celebration of women's words. Nightbird Books is located in the old mill buildings at the corner of School and 6th St. Their phone number is 443-2080. Reading starts at 6:30 but come early to sign up to read, browse the books and enjoy the good company. For HOWL questions or to join our mailing list, email howl@herwords.org. HOWL is a collaboration between Herwords and the Omni Center, supported Nightbird Books in Fayetteville, AR.
-- June 7, Saturday, Omni Peace Gardens Tour - Mark your calendars, and watch this space for details.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS---UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

-- April 21, Monday, 7:00 p.m., ANAM THUBTEN RINPOCHE, ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL Church, 228 N. East St., Fayetteville - Anam Thubten Rinpoche was born in Tibet and entered into Buddhist training in the Vajrayana tradition at a young age. He is an inspiring teacher. On Monday April 21, Rinpoche will deliver a general discourse on the nature of spiritual truth, its availability, and its power to transform our lives. All are welcome. A suggested donation of $10 for adults and $5 for students would help defray the cost of travel and accommodations. For more information and directions, go to http://mindspace.artibet.com
-- April 22, Tuesday, 2-4 p.m. Mullins Creek Cleanup, The Gardens (near lot 56), Razorback Road - This year University of Arkansas Facilities Management, Omni UA and other awesome UA groups will be cleaning up Mullins Creek to celebrate Earth Day 2008, and we need your help! Come and meet us at The Gardens [by Parking Lot 56] to get some great GREEN info, meet some fellow earth-lovers and to pick up your picking-up supplies! Then we'll walk over to the creek and have some clean-up fun! Submitted by OMNI UA
-- April 22, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Documentary, "Fading Traces: Postscripts from a Landscape of Memory," Arkansas Union Theater - Swiss filmmaker Walo Deuber will present and discuss his Holocaust documentary "Fading Traces: Postscripts from a Landscape of Memory" at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, in the Arkansas Union Theater. "Fading Traces" is a fascinating exchange of memories between witnesses still alive and those who, through their writings and music, long ago fashioned a memorial to the largest ever Jewish cosmos.
-- April 22 (Tues. - Earth Day) - TRASHED: A documentary on the history, politics, and economics of trash which focuses not only on the problem, but also on solutions. Trailer: http://www.trashedmovie.com/
-- April 25-28, Friday - Monday, Washington, DC, Amnesty International Annual Meeting (AIUSA) - The meeting includes a congressional lobby day on April 28. For more information, please contact www.amnestyusa.org/agm
-- April 26, Saturday, Fayetteville Free Thinkers at Springfest, Dickson St. - Our Fayetteville Freethinker meetings are regularly held on the last Saturday of each month at the Fayetteville library. However, this year the last Saturday of April happens to be the same day "Springfest" is being held in Fayetteville. That is, April 26. We always
have our ever-popular Freethinker booth at Springfest, and this year will be no different. The booth must go on. So there will be no freethinker meeting at the library this April. Instead, join us as we meet and greet the public at our Fayetteville Freethinker booth on Dickson street. We have new stickers, new fishy plaques and lots of interesting things planned. Come by and butt heads with our newest freethinker mascot: Willow. A baby goat born yesterday. You can see her picture in our forum here:

From Fayetteville Free Thinkers

-- April 27, 2-5p.m., KID’S BICYCLE SAFETY RODEO, Butterfield Elementary, 3050 N. Old Missouri Road, Fayetteville

-- May 8, Thursday, 6:30p.m., Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 901 W. Cleveland, Michael Dowd Film - Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow visited UUFF on January 9th and presented an amazing interpretation of all life and evolution and ideas that could unite people of all different faiths, political persuasions, and beliefs. As a follow up to that lively event, we have been showing portions of Dowd’s films followed by discussion. Each topic on the films is independently fascinating. The next free viewing and discussion will be Thursday, May 8th, at 6:30 in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fayetteville, 901 Cleveland and everyone is welcome. For information call Chava or Beverly 479-839-3238.

-- May 24, Saturday, 6:00p.m. An Evening with Sister Helen Prejean, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 224 N. East St., Fayetteville

-- May 25, Sunday, 10:00a.m., A Conversation with Sister Helen Prejean, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 224 N. East St., Fayetteville - Both of these events are part of St. Paul’s Tippy McMichael Series. Sister Helen is the popular author of Dead Man Walking, the book that challenged the way we look at the death penalty in America. Open to the public, admission is free.

WHAT’S GOING ON?---CURRENT EVENTS and INFORMATION

LOCALLY:

(AL Items will have Green Heading)

AL AZZAWI FAMILY ARRIVES APRIL 24, STILL NEED HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

On April 24, an Iraqi refugee family will arrive to make their home in Fayetteville. Many of you have participated in fundraising to help this family get settled in our community. However, they are still in need of household items. If you can make a donation, please contact Frank Head at Catholic Charities, cisnw@sbcglobal.net or Martha McBride at marthamidwife@yahoo.com or 587-1234. Still needed: BATHROOM: hand towels, plunger, toilet paper, paper towel, shower curtain rod; KITCHEN: Flatware, spatulas, serving spoons, sharp knives, oven mitts, pot-holders, dish towels, dish cloths, suar bowl, serving tray, scissors, trash can, dish drainer, covered casserole dish, kitch/dining type table, chairs, cloth napkins; BEDROOMS/LIVING ROOM: pillows, blankets, mattresses (2), box springs (2), bed frames, dressers/chest of drawers, lamps; BASIC CLEANING SUPPLIES/MISC.: Duct tape, flashlight (small for emergencies) with batteries, washing machine and dryer.

HELP INSPIRE A NEW GENERATION OF HEALTHY KIDS

APPLY FOR THE ALLIANCE FOR A HEALTHIER GENERATION'S YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation is bringing together a select group of young people from all across the country to serve on our inaugural Youth Advisory Board. We’re looking for kids and teenagers with unique experiences and opinions to shape our programs and generate fresh ideas on how to make healthy living the norm, not the exception. As a Youth Advisory Board member, you'll get to:

• Attend an in-person meeting with the entire membership of the Youth Advisory Board in Kansas City—don’t worry, it’s totally free for you and one parent or guardian!
• Join monthly conference calls to take care of business
• Represent the Alliance for a Healthier Generation at meetings, conferences and in your community
• Make YOUR voice heard on the best ways to empower youth toward good health

As a board member, you'll need to roll up your sleeves about two hours a month for critical thinking, good fun, new friends, and high profile leadership. You'll work to find the best ways to reach kids and teenagers to eat right, move more and make their communities the healthiest ever.

Applicants must be between the ages of 8-17 years old and live in the United States, including US Territories. To request an application, contact:
John Wilson, Youth Mobilization Manager
john.c.wilson@healthiergeneration.org
Completed application packets must be received by April 30, 2008 (6 PM CST)
For more information on Alliance for a Healthier Generation, visit: www.HealthierGeneration.org

MESSAGE FROM C.A.T. ABOUT FREE SPEECH TELEVISION
Free Speech Television is about to have their telethon, from April 21st to May 12th. Due to Community Access Television policy, C.A.T. cannot air anything that is a "call to action," especially when it comes to people asking for money. Although C.A.T. cannot carry FSTV during this three-week period, Democracy NOW should continue to air in its regular time slots. (See Schedule with C.A.T. Connection below).

TABLE AT FARMER'S MARKET
Omni will be at the Fayetteville Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings sharing our message of peace, justice and sustainability with the thousands of visitors that attend throughout the summer. If you've already signed up to work, we thank you. If you haven't, get in on the fun. You'll have a chance to chat with old friends, make new ones, sell bumper stickers, buttons and peace poles and distribute free educational literature, recruit new Omni members. You'll affirm with those who agree, and have an opportunity to have dialogue with those who don't. Farmer's market overflows with community, energy and joy. Spend some time there this summer by staffing the Omni Table.
If you'd like more information or to volunteer, contact Barbara Jaquish jaquish@uark.edu (479) 582-5495

OMNI NEEDS A COUNTER-RECRUITING COORDINATOR
"I believe the best chance we have of keeping the current wars from eclipsing the 10-year length of Vietnam would be if groups put much more emphasis on cutting off the flow of human resources, i.e., through counter-recruitment work and school demilitarization work. That's something that the media, Congress and the next president would not be able to ignore..."  Rick Jahnkow, Coord., Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (YANO). Read his essay: http://www.projectyano.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=404Itemid=1
If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Gladys Tiffany 973-9049 or gladystiffany@yahoo.com

OMNI-NWACC WILL BE SHOWING TWO MORE FILMS DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL.
both of them will be from 6:30-9:00 P.M. AT THE SHEWMAKER CENTER, CAMPUS OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE.
ADMISSION IS FREE AND DISCUSSIONS WILL FOLLOW.
--April 22 (Tues. - Earth Day) - TRASHED: A documentary on the history, politics, and economics of trash which focuses not only on the problem, but also on solutions. Trailer: http://www.trashedmovie.com/
--April 23 (Wed.) - FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO: A documentary about five Christian families struggling with gay rights and how the religious right has used its interpretation of the Bible to stigmatize the gay community. Trailer: http://www.forthebibletellmeso.org/media.htm

SECOND ANNUAL "PUPPETS IN THE PARK" FESTIVAL
CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL DAY OF PUPPETRY!
The 2nd Annual "Puppets in the Park" Festival will be held Sunday, April 27, 1-6pm, Wilson Park, Fayetteville. Puppet Shows for all ages, a Puppet Parade, and Workshops, with Music and Masks and Monsters - oh my!
Featuring: Toucan Jam, Animo, Walnut Farm Montessori Students, Captain Bubbles, Mary and Lolly, Haley Duke, Valley Productions, and Special International Guests.
Bring chairs or a blanket. Vendors will be on site with food, drinks, and puppet merchandise. Don't miss this festive event for the whole family celebrating the art of the puppet! FREE!

CULINARY DEMONSTRATION CLASS AT THE HOME OF PATRICE & KAREN GROS: 
FRIDAY, MAY 2ND (OR) SATURDAY, MAY 3RD, 2008
10:00AM - 1:00PM
Karen's elegant chicken salad with fresh tarragon, red peppers, and more, blended with
homemade mayonnaise & homemade crème fraîche
Salade froide de poulet, poivron rouge mayonnaise
Sweet pea & spring lettuce soup
Potage de petits pois et de la laitue

Class fee: $28
Includes copies of recipes, sampling & side of green salad and freshly-baked bread from the Little Bread Company.
Reserve by email or call 479-253-7461.

THEATRESQUARED, NWA’S PROFESSIONAL THEATRE COMPANY
WORLD PREMIERE OF “MY FATHER’S WAR” BY ROBERT FORD
WALTON ARTS CENTER’S NADINE BAUM STUDIOS IN FAYETTEVILLE (505 W. SPRING ST.)
MAY 2 THROUGH MAY 18

TheatreSquared, Northwest Arkansas' professional theatre company, concludes their 2007-2008 season with the world premiere of My Father’s War by Artistic Director, Robert Ford, based on actual experiences of the playwright’s father-in-law during World War II.

The innovative play dramatizes the astonishing saga of Pfc Arthur Herzberg, whose adventures took him from the D-Day invasion of Normandy through to the Battle of the Bulge, a ten-month span during which he survived one near miss after another, suicide missions, friendly fire, all to become the last man standing from his original platoon.

SPRING INTERNATIONAL LOOKING FOR HOST FAMILIES

Spring International Language Center. is an intensive English school at the University of Arkansas. We prepare non-native English speakers for classes at American universities and for better opportunities in their home countries.

I am writing you because we are always looking for American families to host students while they master English at our school. This is often the most affordable housing option for our students and the best chance for them to learn about American culture. In addition, host families also give the students a realistic impression of Americans, rather than just what they see on TV.

If you would be interested in hosting international students, please contact me at jbowie@uark.edu. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.
Thanks,
Jimmy Bowie
Student Services Coordinator
Spring International Language Center
(479) 575-4716 (office)
(479) 841-4340 (cell)

2008 $500 Annual OMNI CRITICAL THINKING AWARDS
TEACHERS IN WASHINGTON AND BENTON COUNTIES, ARKANSAS
The deadline for nominations is May 1. Please contact the coordinators: Lynda Haley-Brothers, Washington County (teacherhuman@cox.net) and Carole Westby, Benton County (westbyforhouse98@cox.net)

What is Critical Thinking?
Critical Thinking is the use of knowledge, facts, science, evidence, logic to evaluate and understand ideas and information, to detect falsehood, and to form conclusions, judgments, and inferences.

Why do we need it?
Today, more than ever before, we are bombarded with commercial and political propaganda. Clear Thinking enables us to decide if what we read and hear is true, factual, biased, or manipulative.
Clear Thinking also enables us to recognize our own fallacious thinking, biases, and assumptions.
Reasoning together through knowledge and language is an alternative to violence. The practice of Critical Thinking helps, by creating active, informed citizens, invigorates democracy. “Critical thinking skills” imply an ability to analyze ideas, stories, claims, and assertions both through relevant, factual knowledge and by training in analysis and by being
able to think for oneself. Independent mindedness and autonomy have long been considered essential to a democracy since President Jefferson.

These awards are sponsored by OMNI Center for Peace, Justice, and Ecology.

We at OMNI are devoted to the advancement of reasoned contemplation and conversation about issues that affect our community and world. We seek to extend the influence of reason and informed debate. The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2008.

INVITATIONS TO TEACHERS, THE OMNI CRITICAL THINKING AWARDS

Washington and Benton counties public school teachers from all disciplines are invited to fill out an application and submit materials about their teaching of Critical Thinking. The awards recognize both specific teaching units or projects and teachers who incorporate clear thinking into their everyday classes.

County committees of local citizens chosen from various walks of life will evaluate the applications. When the committee has made its decision, OMNI will offer one $500 award to the Washington County teacher and one $500 award to the Benton Country teacher who has been selected as the most outstanding. (More information is available on OMNI’s website [www.omnicenter.org](http://www.omnicenter.org). Also contact the coordinators: Lynda Haley-Brothers, Washington County (teacherhuman@cox.net) and Carole Westby, Benton County (westbyforhouse98@cox.net).

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE ARKANSAS COALITION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Back by popular demand: We will be protesting again at noon on May 3rd. This event will be at the corners of Bowman and Chenal in Little Rock. Please remember that this is a peaceful demonstration and that we are always supportive of the troops and their families. We believe that Peace is Patriotic! We need good signs with large print giving positive messages for peace and for an end to war. Invite your friends, neighbors and family members to come with you.

2008 MIDWEST WIMMIN'S FESTIVAL

The 2008 MIDWEST WIMMIN’ S FESTIVAL will be at Lake of the Ozarks State Park near Columbia, MO. Tuesday, May 13 through Sunday, May 18. Cabins, dining hall, rec hall, and about 100 wimmin with a dock down at the lake. Great for kayaks or canoes, floaties and floating. For more information contact [www.midwestfestival.com](http://www.midwestfestival.com) _ _ jori@joricostello.com

JULY BOOK FORUM

The Book Forum for July is WORSHIPPING THE MYTHS OF WORLD WAR II: REFLECTIONS ON AMERICA’S DEDICATION TO WAR by Edward Wood, Jr. We will meet at 6:30p.m. at Nightbird Books. This book is short, clear, and significant. The book will hopefully end the fraudulent exploitation of WWII to promote and defend all the wars of aggression by the US since WWII. There is still an opening on the panel, and a publicist is needed. For more information, contact Dick Bennett 442-4600 _ or jbennet@uark.edu

LATEST BIBLIOGRAPHY

Biblio #28 compiled by Dick Bennett contains annotated books ranging from the subjects Abu Ghraib, Activism, Animal Rights, Bicycles, and Bush, to Water, Whistleblowers, Women, Workers Rights, and World War II, and many other topics, with special attention to Books for Children, Control of Information, Global Warming, Hope, and Iraq War. Go to [www.omnicenter.org](http://www.omnicenter.org) and click on Bibliographies.

Submitted by Dick Bennett

jbennet@uark.edu

NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

YOUR TAX DOLLARS: TEACHING STUDENTS TO DISMISS GLOBAL WARMING FROM FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

The fight to stem global warming -- perhaps the greatest fight in our species’ history -- has an ominous new front: our public schools.
Friends of the Earth has received a copy of American Government, published by mammoth Houghton Mifflin, which is used in AP government classes in high schools nationwide. The latest edition’s chapter on “Environmental Policy” contains a discussion of global warming so biased and misleading it would humble a tobacco industry PR man:

* "It is a foolish politician who today opposes environmentalism. And that creates a problem, because not all environmental issues are equally deserving of support. Take the case of global warming." (p. 559)

* "The earth has become warmer, but is this mostly the result of natural climate changes, or is it heavily influenced by humans putting greenhouse gases into the air?" (p.559)

* "On the one hand, a warmer globe will cause sea levels to rise, threatening coastal communities; on the other hand, greater warmth will make it easier and cheaper to grow crops and avoid high heating bills." (p. 559)

* "But many other problems are much less clear-cut. Science doesn’t know how bad the green-house effect is." (p. 566)

These are not quotes from oil company press releases. These and other such statements are made by the authors of American Government in the same omnipotent, textbook tone with which we are all familiar.

Two of the world’s most respected climate scientists, Dr. James Hansen and Dr. Michael MacCracken, have weighed in with Houghton Mifflin to denounce the book and demand revisions. "I find it alarming that a widely-used textbook from a respected publisher would contain so many gross errors," wrote Hansen. "Failure to correct the book’s errors will leave students gravely misinformed about the facts and science of global warming, one of the most serious problems that we as a society and a species face.” You can read Dr. Hansen’s entire letter at [http://www.foe.org/textbook/Hansen_Letter.pdf](http://www.foe.org/textbook/Hansen_Letter.pdf) and Dr. MacCracken’s letter at [http://www.foe.org/textbook/MacCracken_Letter.pdf](http://www.foe.org/textbook/MacCracken_Letter.pdf). To take action, visit: [http://action.foe.org/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=24133](http://action.foe.org/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=24133)

THE PEOPLE’S SUMMIT

Our response to NAFTA expansion on April 21 - 23, 2008, New Orleans, Louisiana

Coming together for our communities, linking the Gulf Coast struggle to the fight for the survival of communities in Mexico, Canada, and the rest of the United States, building collective knowledge and action to transform NAFTA & other unjust economic policies pushed by Bush, Calderon, and Harper

Monday, 4/21

9am--12pm Community Tour of New Orleans & Story Circles in Congo Square
12--1:30pm Opening Ceremony & Lunch in Congo Square
2pm--5pm Understanding Who Profits & How: NAFTA+ and Katrina Profiteering
6pm--9pm Understanding Who Profits & How: NAFTA+ and Katrina Profiteering

Tuesday, 4/22

9am--12pm Self-organized sessions
1pm--4pm Self-organized sessions
6pm--9pm Breaking Inferiority & Superiority to Restore Ourselves & Our Communities

Wednesday, 4/23

10am Press Conference

To register a self-organized session and to get more information, contact James Williams, Organizer with the American Friends Service Committee, at 504-307-6588 or [www.summitneworleans.org](http://www.summitneworleans.org)

**2008 WELCOME THE CHILDREN CELEBRATING CULTURAL HARMONY CONFERENCE**

Don’t miss out on your chance to participate in the 2008 Welcome the Children Celebrating Cultural Harmony Conference! This 3rd annual Conference will be held April 30 - May 2, 2008 at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel in North Little Rock, AR. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the rich mix of ethnic and cultural diversity in Arkansas. This Conference will help you explore your own culture; promote positive cultural relations; understand the impact of socioeconomic factors; understand the differences between race, ethnicity and culture; and network with other professionals and experts on education and cultural issues.

Get quality training for a bargain price! Our regular registration rate of $75 has been extended to April 25th for the 2½ day Conference (this includes two meals). Don’t delay as onsite registration is not available. For more information and registration forms, visit: [http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/conference/general_information.asp](http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/conference/general_information.asp).
CREATING A POLITICS OF HOPE AND POSSIBILITY
SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE
April 25-27 in Dallas, TX
State Campaigns for a U.S. Department of Peace and Nonviolence
Co-sponsored by the Texas Campaign for a U.S. Department of Peace and the Division of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs at Southern Methodist University Meadows School of the Arts

It’s Debate-able! Please join us for an historic, first-ever public debate on the topic of the need for a U.S. Department of Peace. Plus:
* Marianne Williamson on "The Politics of Possibility,"
* a Nonviolent Communication experiential mini-workshop.
* "real life" experts putting nonviolence and pro-active peacebuilding to work in their communities
* and your fellow Department of Peace campaign supporters from Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas!

For conference schedule and registration visit: www.ThePeaceAlliance.org

STOPMAX CONFERENCE
From May 31 to June 1, The STOPMAX Campaign, sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), works to eliminate the use of isolation and segregation in U.S. prisons. Our strategies include research, grassroots organizing, public education and policy advocacy to abolish solitary confinement and / or reduce its use. http://www.afsc.org/stopmax/AbouttheCampaign.htm

15-WEEK RESIDENTIAL INTERNSHIP WITH SOCIAL CHANGE FOCUS
Would you or a young adult you know like to spend 15 weeks living, learning, and working in the Southern Appalachian Mountains with people who have a passion for creating humane, sustainable social change?

If so, check out . . .
The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center
Room and Board at The Mountain plus $100/week stipend
Fall '08 Session: August 11 - November 24
Spring '09 Session: January 19 - May 4

The residency program helps young adults cultivate a sense of meaning and purpose so that they carry an authentic commitment to social change into their relationships, work, and life choices. Participants in the residency program leave The Mountain with concrete skills, a lifelong thirst for greater awareness, and the belief that they have the capacity AND RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK WITH OTHERS TO BRING PEACE, JUSTICE, AND SUSTAINABILITY TO THE CENTER OF THEIR COMMUNITIES.

For more information about this exciting new program, Click here for Application and Reference Forms

THE CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST
HOLDS FOURTH NATIONAL INTEGRITY IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Save the Date! July 11, 2008, The Center for Science in the Public Interest will be holding its Fourth National Integrity in Science Conference. Titled Rejuvenating Public Sector Science, it will be held at the Ronald Reagan International Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20004. Become part of the growing movement to reinvigorate public sector science and end corporate and political influence over the scientific process. Conference details and registration will soon be available at: http://www.cspinet.org/integrity/conflictedscience_conf.html If you wish to co-sponsor and help build the conference, please contact kstade@cspinet.org.

NEW PEACE AND JUSTICE STUDIES MAJOR
Regis U, Denver, CO. Contact Dr. Byron Plumley, PJS Dir., bplumley@regis.edu or (303)964-3660.
THE 11TH ANNUAL 2008 INTERNATIONAL PEACE PALS™ ART EXHIBITION & AWARDS
Deadline for entry is **June 30th**
Awards Gala and Event scheduled on September 20-21
To learn more visit: [http://www.wppspeacepals.org/](http://www.wppspeacepals.org/)

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

**SAGERS ELECTED TO CONSERVATION BOARD**
Cindy Sagers, an associate professor in biological sciences at the University of Arkansas, has been elected secretary of the board of directors for the Organization for Tropical Studies. The organization is an international consortium of about 70 colleges, universities and research institutes whose mission is to promote research, education and conservation in tropical ecosystems ([http://www.ots.duke.edu/](http://www.ots.duke.edu/)).

Submitted by Dick Bennett

**FRESH MEDIA OFFERINGS TO CHECK OUT**

**NEW FILM, "SCARRED LANDS AND WOUNDED LIVES: THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF WAR" AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.**

"When we make war...we destroy our Earth.... In all its stages, from the production of weapons through combat to clean up, war... pollute[s] land, air, and water, destroy[s] biodiversity, and drain[s] natural resources."

Fund for Sustainable Tomorrows
Alice & Lincoln Day
2124 Newport Place, NW, Washington, DC 20037-3001
scarredlands@verizon.net

**WEBSITES FOR SOLAR, WIND, RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES IN ARKARKANSAS**

[www.arkansasrenewableenergy.org/](http://www.arkansasrenewableenergy.org/)

ArkansasRenewableEnergy.org is your Internet portal for information on solar, geothermal, and other renewable energy technologies in Arkansas! Explore these pages to find the latest renewable energy news, information on planning and designing your renewable energy systems, activities for the classroom, links to other useful sites, and more.

[Renewable Energy News](http://www.arkansasrenewableenergy.org/)

Submitted by Chris Delacruz

**PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKERS LISTED IN "AMERICA'S STORY"**
I've been exploring the Library of Congress website "America's Story" which has a sub-category "Meet Amazing Americans" ([http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa)) and was delighted to see how many people were selected for their contributions to peace and social justice. They even have a category called "Activists and Reformers." It's almost as if this stuff was made to order. I especially like that they are telling kids that it's OK to stand up for what you believe in even if others don't agree.

Submitted by Edrene McKay, OMNI-NWACC.

**LOCAL CONNECTIONS**
Email your Public Service Announcements 2 weeks in advance to KUAF radio’s Pete Hartman at phartma@uark.edu. PSAs should be about 15 seconds in length.

Submitted by Chris Delacruz

Link Carries Interactive Calendar of Events in Northwest Arkansas—
http://northwestarkansasevents.blogspot.com/

- Fayetteville Society of Friends (a.k.a. the Quaker...  
- Northwest Arkansas Sustainability Center  
- Northwest Arkansas Buddhists  
- Omni Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology  
- Interfaith and Astronomical  
- Combined Northwest Arkansas Event Calendar

Original and gathered articles from Dick Bennett are at http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/
Mike Tramill has an email network (list) on political issues, including the latest developments on possible war or invasion with Iran. You may contact Mike at wheeler65@gmail.com if you want to be on the list.
Richard Drake continues his Fayetteville blog, street jazz, at http://www.arktimes.com/blogs/streetjazz/
Fayetteville Freethinkers website/forums can be found at http://fayfreethinkers.com/forums/

From Sidney Burris:
Modern & Contemporary Poetry:  www.readwrite.typepad.com/poetry
Mindspace:  www.readwrite.typepad.com/meditation
Tibetspace:  www.readwrite.typepad.com/artibet
Institute website:  www.artibet.com

OMNI/COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION (C.A.T.) CONNECTIONS  www.catfayetteville.com

How You Can Use the Community Media Center:
1) Produce a TV Show! Let your creativity reign and watch your own show air on CAT television.
2) Take a class! Learn how to use a video camera, work the studio equipment and edit projects.
3) Be on TV! With your own short takes or star in someone else’s show.
4) Save a special day in your life! Have the professional CAT crew shoot and edit your event.
5) Sponsor a show! Send in footage from other Community Access stations to air locally here in Fayetteville.
6) Get involved! Join the community access community. Use the electronic Community Message Board.

OMNI Month In Review:
Omni Month in Review will be live on a first showing; the repeats will be thru the month on Sunday at 12:30.
This month’s topics include Earth Day: state of the earth report, local ecology and community issues; National Politics: presidential campaign; Economy, Gas prices and oil in general; International issues: Iraq: 5 yrs, 3 trillion and counting; theories on the surge and regional effects: who’s right?

Democracy NOW! Schedule:
Tuesdays, 4/22, 4/29  6:00p.m.  Democracy NOW!
Thursdays 4/24, 5/1  6:00p.m.  Democracy NOW!
Friday  4/25, 5/2  6:00p.m.  Democracy NOW!
Sunday  4/27  6:00p.m.  Democracy NOW!

Free Speech TV (FSTV) sponsored by Omni - 3:00a.m. - 9:00a.m. - FSTV: the world’s largest collection of alternative TV and numerous ideas for organizing, protesting, celebrating, researching, investigating, speaking, raising hell.  www.freespeechtv.com

FSTV broadcast schedule:
3:00 am  Daily (FSTV will not air during their fundraising drive from April 21 – May 12)

Amy Goodman Online - You can listen/watch previous Democracy Now programs by internet streaming from Democracy Now website http://democracynow.org  Previous programs (going back many years) are archived there. You can watch the current program (after they post it about noon) by going to http://democracynow.org/streampage.pl
Visit the Democracy Now Website to view:

Omni Book Samplers:
Omni Book Samplers give a five minute book report or read a five minute excerpt from a book. Omni Book Samplers include Dick Bennett, Tom Kennedy, and Claire Detels.

**Short Takes:** Taping at C.A.T.

**Taping Schedule:**
Every Monday night, from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.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 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Mondays, and on Tuesdays from 12 noon - 1:30 p.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:** 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m.

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

**Other Viewing Opportunities:**
Bill Moyers Journal on PBS, Fridays, 9:00 p.m.
http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/index-flash.html

For More Information about the US/Iran status, you can visit
http://www.buzzflash.com/search/?Query=iran or BBC at
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/default.stm

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**CASUALTIES IN IRAQ**

The Human Cost of Occupation
Edited by Margaret Griffis :: Contact

| American Military Casualties in Iraq |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Total | In Combat |
| Since war began (3/19/03): | 4039 | 3296 |
| Since "Mission Accomplished" (5/1/03) (the list) | 3900 | 3188 |
| Since Capture of Saddam (12/13/03): | 3578 | 2990 |
| Since Handover (6/29/04): | 3180 | 2663 |
| Since Election (1/31/05): | 2602 | 2400 |

**American Wounded**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Wounded:</th>
<th>Official</th>
<th>Estimated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29780</td>
<td>23000</td>
<td>100000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Latest Fatality Apr. 18, 2008
Page last updated 04/19/08 11:05 am EDT

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**IRAQI CIVILIAN BODY COUNT**

 Civilians reported killed by military intervention in Iraq

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MIN.</th>
<th>MAX.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>82,856</td>
<td>90,390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source of Iraqi Civilian Body Count: http://www.iraqbodycount.net/
A body count of Iraqi civilian deaths was published in the medical journal *The Lancet* last year; its estimate was 600,000 (min) to 650,000 (max).

**Cost of the War in Iraq**

$512,000,000,000 and counting

Source of Cost of War: [http://nationalpriorities.org](http://nationalpriorities.org)

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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 FULLY 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://www.pryor.senate.gov); [http://pryor.senate.gov/contact/](http://pryor.senate.gov/contact/)
    - Phone: (202) 224-2353 Fax: (202) 228-0908
    - Phone: (501) 324-6336 Fax: (501) 324-5320

- **Congressman John Boozman**, District 3, 12 counties from Benton to Washington
    - 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.