

FORsooth

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July/August 2005

Low wages mean a home eludes many, report says

by Ike M. Thacker IV
and Eustace Durrett

Most of us have long known, and acquiesced in the fact that about a third of this nation's households are condemned to the Sisyphean task of paying rent rather than owning their own homes.

However *When Work Doesn't Pay: The Challenge of Housing Our Essential Workforce*, a paper released June 20 by the Louisville Metropolitan Housing Coalition, makes at least two critical additional points. First, the report said many entire categories of jobholders, including some of those most critical to society — such as child-care workers and preschool teachers — are priced out of the housing market.

Second, it said that many of these lower-paying jobs don't even pay enough for their holders to rent a two-bedroom apartment (or even, in some cases, a one-bedroom apartment).

"In the thirteen-county Metropolitan Louisville Region, there is a significant gap between what workers earn and the cost of safe, decent housing. This gap creates a local affordable housing crisis for working people and families." So begins *When Work Doesn't Pay*. There just is not enough housing affordable at the wages people make. Even a fire fighter, police patrol officer or licensed practical nurse making median wages cannot afford a median-priced home, the report said.

The standard, very widely-accepted federal definition of "affordable housing" is a situation whereby a family pay no more than 30 percent of their income for housing

and utilities combined; using this definition, an annual income of \$23,880 is needed to rent a two-bedroom apartment in the Louisville MSA region as a whole and in Jefferson, Bullitt, and Oldham counties.

This translates into about \$11.48 per hour that an employee needs to earn to afford such an apartment; in 2003 a figure of \$11.17 was derived somewhat differently by figuring how much pay was required to pay "fair market rent" (fair market rent is set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development using a complicated formula that HUD believes is the best measure of housing costs).

By the way, an hourly wage of \$9.10 per hour, much more than some workers make, was needed to afford even a one-bedroom apartment.

With facts such as these, it should not be surprising that the following types of employment do not pay their median employees enough to rent a two-bedroom apartment. The percentage of income required to rent (other MHC literature said this includes utilities) such an apartment is in parentheses: child care worker (44 percent); janitor (41 percent); preschool teacher (40 percent); teacher assistant (38 percent); retail salesperson (36 percent); home health aid (35 percent); and bank teller (34 percent).

There are literally thousands of essential workers out there in the Louisville region who can't even afford safe, decent housing!

To make matters worse, "12 of the 20 fastest growing occupations in the

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Palestinian youth visit city

by Gracie Lewis



We who seek to build bridges across the world — particularly in the Middle East — received an education concerning the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict July 7 and, at the very end, entertainment. We watched the children of the Al-Rowwad ("The Pioneers") Cultural and Theatre Training Center from the Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem, Palestine present "We Are the Children of the Camp."

Their performance at the Cardinal Playhouse on the University of Louisville campus was a part of their 2005 U.S. tour. The children toured New York, Connecticut, Vermont and finally Louisville.

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— photos by Sonja de Vries

Children from the Al-Rowwad Cultural & Theatre Training Center at the Aida Refugee Camp in Palestine, top, walk to Chickasaw Park July 6 as part of their visit to Louisville, where they performed, above, the next day at the University of Louisville in "Beautiful Resistance," a program of art and drama about their people's recent history.

Activists broadcast their desire to reform area's media



— photo by Eddie Davis

John Baker, right, speaks about media reform July 12 while he and others gather in front of WDRB-TV in Louisville, a station they accused of abusing the public trust.

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

First, one of them used government-supplied "video news releases" disguised as news. Then another refused to air progressive Amy Goodman's radio show. All along, they stereotyped the African-American community as a place of murder and mayhem.

Louisville media suddenly face a new citizens movement determined to change these priorities, all based on the seemingly lost fundamental notion that the public owns the airwaves — which federal law indeed stipulates that it does.

The Louisville Media Democracy and

Reform Coalition formally launched its campaign July 12 with a rally and news conference outside WDRB-TV, a Fox affiliate which broadcasts on channel 41.

The coalition's forming comes just as all of Louisville's television stations' licenses are up for renewal, a process that includes public comment on the job the stations are doing.

WDRB's being named in a *New York Times* story in March as a user of U.S. Government-generated video news releases designed to fool viewers into believing they were watching news led to the forming of the group and selection of the rally's site.

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Civil rights hall to get new members July 29 at KSU

Fourteen activists from a group of 60 nominees living or deceased will be inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame July 29 in a ceremony from 2 to 4 p.m. EDT at Kentucky State University in Frankfort.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, which established the Hall of Fame in 2000, said the event will be held at KSU’s Bradford Hall, 400 E Main St. in Frankfort.

The deadline for ordering tickets in advance has passed, but they can be purchased at the door, the commission said, adding that tickets cost \$15 and include a reception. For more information call the commission at (502) 595-4024 or 1-800-292-5566.

The 60 nominees include many civil rights activists in the Louisville area and some known nationally for their work. President Abraham Lincoln, a Hodgenville native, is on the list, as are area activists Gerry Gordon-Brown, Tom Moffett, Gracie Lewis, Willie Gray (who died in 1998), Rhonda Washington Mathies, retired University of Louisville professor Joseph McMillian, Carla Wallace, Suzy Post, Beverly Watts and former U.S. Senator Walter “Dee” Huddleston.

The nominee list also includes Andrew and Charlotte Wade, the couple who integrated the Louisville suburb of Shively

in 1954, only to have their house damaged by an explosive (today the neighborhood is integrated and peace reigns there).

The rights commission said volunteer judges — including activists, historians and journalists — from many parts of the state have chosen the inductees based on their:

- Exemplary leadership and achievement toward civil rights in Kentucky in areas such as race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, and age.
- Advocacy for civil rights through actions and deeds in Kentucky.
- Serving as role models and beacons in the struggle to eliminate discrimination, prejudice and barriers of equality in Kentucky.

“Nominated candidates may be either living or deceased; their contributions may cover a wide range of civil rights issues in present or past eras,” the commission said in a news release. “The nominees are men and women, both living and deceased, from historical and recent eras, who have made significant contributions to Kentucky’s progress toward equality, human rights, and mutual respect and understanding. The list of nominees for 2005 includes those who have fought for the rights of the disabled, immigrants, children, women, minorities and the elderly.”



Still an active activist

— photo by Sonja de Vries

American Indian Movement leader Dennis Banks, left, talks with legendary Louisville justice activist Henry Wallace June 12 during a celebration of Wallace’s 90th birthday at his home in eastern Jefferson County, where he and family members have organized actions for civil rights, peace and economic justice for 50 years.

LPAC takes it to the streets

by Carol Rawert Trainer

Members of the Louisville Peace Action Community (LPAC), a group dedicated to countering war and military recruitment, participated in their first Adopt-A-Highway cleanup July 2. LPAC is responsible for maintaining an area of Bardstown Road from Speed Avenue to Baxter Avenue, and also an area of Blankenbaker Road from Shelbyville Road to Ellingsworth Lane (across from Southeast Christian Church).

The Adopt -A-Highway program allows us to serve and care for our community as well as help our name become known. We will clean the highways at least four times a year or whenever they are in need of cleaning.

On our first outing we had a great turnout. Thankfully, the morning weather was perfect as we started down Bardstown

Road wearing our orange safety vests and carrying Santa Claus size trash bags. As we worked our way down the road, we were greeted by many passersby and residents with hearty thanks for our service. We even had a few who wanted to know how they could join the cleanups and learn more about our group. We cleaned up both sites in about four hours. Afterward, we got together for a cookout to celebrate the success of our first cleanup.

If you are interested in joining our cleanups or want more information for your own group contact me at 500-6915. If you are a multi-tasker, it is a great way to serve the community, get some exercise and have fun at the same time.

The writer is a member of LPAC and the coordinator of its Adopt-A-Highway cleanup efforts.

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90 Years on Peace Frontiers

Since 1915, the Fellowship of Reconciliation in the United States has led campaigns to obtain legal rights for conscientious objectors, win civil rights for all Americans, end the Vietnam War, oppose U.S. intervention in the Third World, and reverse the superpowers’ arms race. An interfaith pacifist organization, the FOR has members from many religious and ethnic traditions. It is part of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, with affiliates in 40 countries.

In the development of its program FOR depends upon persons who seek to apply these principles to every area of life. If you are not already a member, we invite you to join us in this endeavor. Membership consists of signing the Statement of Purpose, indicating that you agree with FOR goals. To receive more information, please call 458-8056.

Cochairs: Mary Horvath 479-9262
Pat Geier 456-6586

Prisoners’ abuse a scandal at home and internationally

by Kris Philipp

In listening to and seeing the atrocities being committed at Abu Graihb prison in Iraq, it seems to me the behavior should come as no surprise.

Admittedly, the troops (we refer to individual soldiers as ‘troops’ because it sounds more impressive and powerful) are mostly those with civilian law enforcement background who have been called to active duty through their reserve service commitment.

As was noted in a letter in a recent Sunday Courier-Journal, some of the troops involved with this prison come from the Los Angeles Police Dept., a department with some members notorious for their cruel and inhumane treatment of those in their custody, especially ethnic minorities. Others came from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, an agency known for intolerance and heavy-handedness, the Seattle Police Dept. (whose behavior at the World Trade Organization meetings held there a few years ago was so outrageously over-reactive)

It is no wonder prisoners are being forced to do the most degrading, humiliating acts, by police officers called up for active duty The police culture has allowed them to stretch the limits of decency and the law, in order to get a confession, identify a

suspect, or control an inmate in custody. The majority of these assaults have been perpetrated on members of ethnic minorities. Consider the man who was assaulted and raped with a broom handle in the men’s room at police headquarters in New York City; the planted evidence in homes; the shooting of unarmed, innocent men; the brutal beatings in our own jails

location could only lead to these results. Their military training condones the superiority — think racist — attitudes of troops (police officers, who have been accustomed to the privilege of cover). Then sending them to guard minority inmates meant an atrocity was waiting to happen. The inmates are being treated like ‘animals.’ Because inmates have no power,

be degraded, considered less than human, and treated as ‘animals’ — here and in Iraq — and with no accountability.

Currently, our Metro Council has an opportunity to establish and fund an office of independent investigation, with subpoena power, in compliance with the 2000 Civilian Review Ordinance. As it has been proven, lately in the case of officer McKenzie Mattingly (who requested a reversal of his termination, a clean employment record and back pay), the police cannot police themselves.

The 2000 Civilian Review Ordinance would establish an office of independent investigation, with subpoena power. This civilian-lead committee would investigate resident/community complaints concerning the conduct of police officers and hold police accountable for their actions.

Call your Metro Council member. Tell her or him to establish and fund the 2000 Civilian Review Ordinance, and protect our community from police abuse and systemic racism by means of police accountability.

The writer is an activist with the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression and CAPA (Citizens Against Police Abuse).

*Because inmates have no power, they receive no respect
(not even the respect for human dignity and life).*

and prisons; perpetrated on ethnic minorities. The police culture shields errant members from facing criminal charges and prosecution for their crimes.

When police officers take their prejudices into the military, they are trained as U.S. — the Good Guys vs. all others (minorities, or whoever has been given little power) as the enemy. And it’s been typical that this country’s police can get away with assault, torture, even murder of minorities, so putting these ‘trained’ soldiers in a secure, secluded (away from public scrutiny)

they receive no respect (not even the respect for human dignity and life).

Here in Louisville, our metro police department or jailers have been involved in many shootings and killings of minority men. Our minorities (especially African American men) are at risk of being detained, harassed, humiliated, even murdered while in or out of police custody, by the police themselves. And the judicial system has protected the police from accountability.

Until the racism stops throughout our judicial system, minorities will continue to

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1945-2005

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Please circulate this information and urge your constituency to participate as much as possible.
For more details contact Terry Taylor, 299-7591. tatduende2@yahoo.com

Monday, August 1, Book Signing and Discussion with Arch Taylor about his new book, *Pearl Harbor, Hiroshima and Beyond: Subversion of Values*. Carmichael’s Bookstore, 2720 Frankfort Avenue, 7:00 pm.

Tuesday, August 2, “A Night of Poetry and Music.” Rudyard Kipling Restaurant, 422 W. Oak Street, 6:00 pm. 3lotus@digitalskeleton.net

Wednesday, August 3, Concert for Contemplation and Nonviolence by Harry Pickens. Cathedral of the Assumption, 443 S. Fifth St. 7:00 pm. Donations welcomed at the door.

Thursday, August 4, Action Day. Visit offices of mayors and congressional representatives.

Friday, August 5, Public Reading of John Hersey’s book, *Hiroshima*. Corner of 4th and Muhammad Ali. Seven persons will be reading from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Saturday, August 6, Cars leave for action at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 5:30 am. Join this delegation to the Y12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge which produced the highly enriched uranium that destroyed Hiroshima. And it continues to build nuclear weapons today. Moreover, aging US warheads are being refurbished and upgraded at Oak Ridge to last for 120 more years under the Stockpile Life Extension Program. The schedule includes a march, rally for peace and a peace lantern ceremony. If you can travel with this delegation (returning late Saturday night) contact Pat Geier, 456-6586. E-mail: pgeierfastmail.fm. There is also a possibility of a bus going from Nazareth.

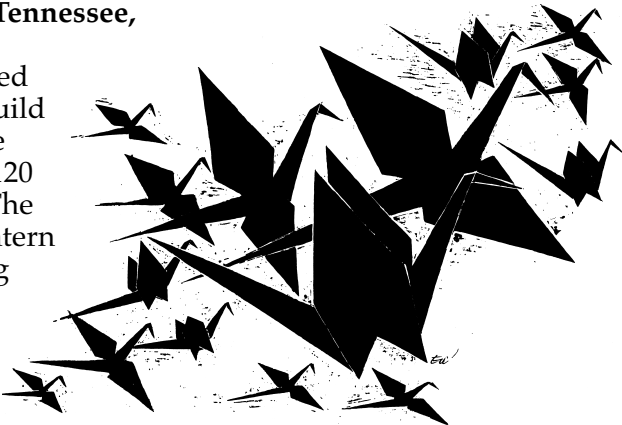
Saturday, August 6, Remembering in Silence, Friends Meeting House, 3050 Bon Air Avenue, 8:00-9:00 am.

Saturday, August 6, Japanese Lantern Floating Ceremony, Cherokee Lake, Lexington Road at Grinstead Drive, 8:00 pm. Please bring a ground cover to sit on. In case of inclement weather, this event will be cancelled.

Sunday, August 7, Soka Gakkai Peace Conference, U of L, Shelby Campus, 2:00-4:00. During break- out sessions we will share how our faith guides us to create peace in our daily lives as we interact with others. Speaker **Darnell Pulphus**, Vice General Director of **Soka Gakkai International-USA**, will highlight the 2005 Peace Proposal to the United Nations.

Monday, August 8, Readings and Video Discussion: “Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes.” James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Avenue, 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, August 9, Nagasaki Day. Tolling of the bell, once for each of the sixty years. Christ Church Cathedral, 425 S. Second Street. Noon, in the garden.



A Birthday Verse For George W. Bush

Hoisted and unfurled
The flags flutter.
Carried warward
They flutter
and swirl,
their candycane colors
like flippant coquettes
or perhaps the thirst
of barber poles
winding streams of blood.

The screams of wounded youth
Are muted by the wind
and slapping sounds
of nearly dropped banners,
which finally do fall
into blooded mud.

Some stripes are ripped into strips
For tourniquets and bandages.
Others are quietly stretched
For makeshift shrouds.

Eustace Durrett
3-6-04

One For All Store
Shop at One For All Store at 1975 Douglass Blvd in the Douglass Loop and the proceeds benefit Glade House. You can also donate usable furniture, household goods, jewelry and other items by calling **451-1963.**

Two big wins come against backdrop of labor troubles

Two important victories recently in Louisville need to be celebrated. The first big win is for the Nurses Professional Organization (NPO), that courageous group that has been trying to organize Louisville nurses for many years. Jane Gentry, a critical care nurse who worked in the Coronary Care Unit and the Open Heart Unit at Norton Audubon Hospital for 18 years, was fired in July 1999.

The NPO filed charges and vigorously pursued this case.

A July 13 NPO press release reports: “A three judge panel of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals has ordered Norton Healthcare (parent of Audubon Hospital-I.G.) to reinstate Jane Gentry, RN, give her back pay, and reimburse her for her expenses in defending her nursing license. The Court found that Norton Audubon Hospital unlawfully fired Jane Gentry, legislative director of the Nurses Professional Organization, because of her union activities. The Court also found that Norton Healthcare unlawfully reported her to the Kentucky Board of Nursing [on trumped-up charges-I.G.]”

An administrative law judge had upheld NPO’s charges, and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), not known for its pro-worker proclivities, affirmed the judge’s finding. This victory is all the sweeter because the hospital had retained the biggest law firm in Kentucky, and an internationally-known law firm, to objectively try to break the union. NPO and nurse Gentry are to be congratulated. The fight to organize hospital workers in Louisville has taken a big step forward.

The second victory is over air pollution in Louisville. REACT, a grassroots group fighting industrial pollution in Rubbertown, a predominantly African-American Louisville section with many factories, was part of a coalition that helped push Louisville Metro Council to pass a cleanup program called STAR.

Then, a bonehead on the Council introduced an ordinance to further study — read: delay — the decision. REACT, the American Lung Association of Kentucky, Greater Louisville Sierra Club, Louisville Audubon Society and several other groups mounted an effective lobbying and letter-writing campaign, and the bonehead’s resolution was defeated.

The local labor movement was not unified in this struggle, some, in effect, taking the narrow view that the dirtier the air, the less likely polluting factories would up and leave.

This column is being put to bed one and one-half weeks before the July 25-28 national AFL-CIO Annual Meeting. A labor coalition of five major unions, Change to Win, states it is “a new alliance devoted to creating a large-scale, coordinated campaign to rebuild the American labor movement.”

The unions are: Laborers’ International Union of North America, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, United Food and Commercial Workers Union, UNITE-HERE, and Service Employees International Union.

“There is a wide gap between current AFL-CIO leadership proposals and true reform,” the new group states. “There has been virtually no progress on the major issues under debate, and any action taken since our Executive Committee last met with the federation has been mainly window dressing.”

John Sweeney AFL-CIO president, responded on June 15 in a statement titled “Formation of Union Coalition Outside the AFL-CIO”:



“Workers are under the biggest assault in 80 years — now more than ever we need a united labor movement. The clearest path to growing the union movement and helping more workers form unions is by exercising our greatest strength — solidarity. Now is the time to use our unity to build real worker power, not create a real divide that serves the corporations and the anti-worker politicians.”

Your columnist has not had an easy time figuring all this out. The AFL-CIO is hemorrhag-

NPO and nurse Gentry are to be congratulated. The fight to organize hospital workers in Louisville has taken a big step forward.

ing members — the unorganized are not getting organized. Change to Win may have neither the critical mass, nor the perspective, nor the perspicacity, nor the cajones (to quote the word used by former U.N. Ambassador Albright on the U.N. floor) to be a force to be reckoned with on its own. One of their constituents, the Teamsters Union, has not been known for its political progressivism. Further, Change to Win may be able to force the AFL-CIO to change course from within.

In the 1930’s, John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, led a walkout from the craft union-oriented AFL, and helped form the CIO, with its astute focus on organizing along industry lines.

There were also serious attempts at multiracial unity. So, a split is not always a bad thing.

Yet, I would have to question Change to Win’s timing of a split, the forces it can marshal, and, more importantly, its lack of a delineated analysis needed to develop a strategic vision. But it is also clear that the constituency of unorganized service workers, the group to which Change to Win and the AFL-CIO would need to focus on, is composed mostly of people of color. And both leaderships are, sad to say, mostly white.

Let’s now look at the mailbag. Labor Paeans received two upbraidings.

Cary Stemle, editor of LEO (Louisville Eccentric Observer) wrote: “I noticed your (June) column in FORsooth and your mention of LEO being gobbled up by a larger fish, the implication being several things.

“First, I’d ask you, what do you know about LEO’s situation? What is that bigger fish? How much influence does our parent company have on our operations?

“I know these answers, but have you ever done any investigation thereof?

“Did you see Tom Peterson’s column about the (media) conference you wrote about? Have you seen our stories on the Immokalee workers, or our other stories about CDBG funding? Or our large piece about bankruptcy reform?

“How about the piece on mountaintop removal mining? Military recruitment in high schools?

“It’s awfully easy to make sweeping statements without knowing the facts. It sounds so predictable - alt weekly sold, alt weekly sells out. That’s decidedly not the case here, and while I’m accustomed to criticism from the

Tom Peterson wrote a whole column on this violation of the public trust – the only print or broadcast journalist to have done so in the city (Hey, Amy Goodman: Democracy Now was not the first to be refused Louisville public access; I beat you to the punch!).

All this having been said, the fact remains that LEO was without a doubt gobbled up by a larger fish. Check out the Louisville business listings in the white pages telephone book. It does not list “Louisville Eccentric Observer” but does list “LEO Acquisitions LLC,” which does not connote the message its editor seems to want to convey.

Your correspondent was also taken to the woodshed by a union official. He responded to a point also made in the June column, where I wrote: “The racial divide was also a topic closer to home, at a press conference in our state capitol, Frankfort. The Laborers Union was the only union present in force at this press conference. As I looked around I noticed the conspicuous absence of the state AFL-CIO, the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council, and the three unions that broke away from the CLC.”

Writes this union official, who is also my friend: “Ira, I also notice the ‘conspicuous absence’ of numerous groups and individuals at numerous events that I attend and support. I don’t make a point of identifying or criticizing those who don’t show up at press conferences events or the like. If I did I would be making comments like yours about conspicuous absences every week. Sometimes folks are simply unaware of certain events or are not available.”

My union brother is, of course, technically correct. But the labor movement faces an uncertain future, with the possibility of two competing labor federations. With the downsizing of the manufacturing sector and the increase in the service area, most of whom are people of color, it would behoove the labor movement to not be “too busy.”

For an excellent historical treatment of this, please see *Organized Labor and the Black Worker*, by Philip Foner.

Contact Ira Grupper at: irag@iglou.com.

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Loud rally counters firms’ designs on Social Security

by Ike M. Thacker IV
and Eustace Durrett

The really radical right, led by erstwhile “compassionate moderate” George W. Bush, has unleashed a broadside attack against the very foundations that were laid by the New Deal and fortified during the years of the Great Society.

But we need fear not (too much), because a group of 75 to 100 enthusiastic opponents of Social Security privatization staged a raucous rally at Charles Schwab local headquarters in downtown Louisville March 31.

The protesters were among thousands across the United States mobilizing that day at Schwab offices nationwide; probably

The first of several speakers was Attica Scott of Jobs with Justice. Scott called Social Security “the most successful security program in U.S. history,” adding that it is a social program in that it guarantees benefits for life and affords its recipients the dignity of security, and is an important countervailing force to racism (4.7 million blacks benefit, she said).

Scott was followed by the aforementioned Mr. Whitely, and then by State Senator Daniel Mongiardo (who nearly defeated U.S. Sen. Jim Bunning last year). Mongiardo said that the proposed privatization would take \$2 trillion away from Social Security, thereby speeding up

no change. Instead of privatizing the very centerpiece of our nation’s “safety net,” she said, the government should do other things, such as reforming health care.

Raoul Cunningham (President of the Louisville NAACP) and workers’ compensation attorney Dan Borsch picked up on this last theme of Tanner’s, with Cunningham saying that if we really want to help blacks and increase their lagging life expectancy, then what we need to do is fix our health care system and the racism in

it. (The People’s Weekly World says this causes 83,000 deaths every year.)

The response to these speakers, and especially to the music, was perhaps best symbolized by TARC trolley drivers: as they steered their vehicles around the corner, virtually all of them rang their bells in support of the protesters. Let us hope that the ringing is still sounding in the ears of those Senators and congressional representatives who can and should prevent the privatization of Social Security.

Area’s media (continued from page 1)

The fact that WDRB didn’t even venture out of its building with a camera is part of the problem, coalition members and supporters said. No news station or daily newspaper covered the rally, despite organizers saying they faxed all media outlets a news release about the event.

”They’re not here. Doesn’t that tell you something?” asked Justice Resource Center director Rev. Louis Coleman, who spoke to lend his center’s support to the coalition.

The weekly Louisville Eccentric Observer (LEO) did cover the Media Democracy Midwest Convergence, a forum the coalition held in the spring to help the cause here and in neighboring states, but a search of the Courier-Journal’s online archives, using many key word combinations, indicated the daily paper has not written about the convergence or the coalition.

Furthermore, coalition member David Silverman said Louisvillians would have to rely on the *New York Times* for news of WDRB’s misdeeds, a matter on which a Courier-Journal archive search also came up blank.

“This is front page, *New York Times*... and not a word of that has appeared in any local media that I know of — nothing about the WDRB connection, the Fox News connection, to this story,” Silverman said just before the rally.

When asked for comment on the coalition’s criticisms, WDRB acting news director Barry Fulmer referred questions to station manager Bill Lamb, who was on vacation until past press time.

Coleman and others called for letters to the Federal Communications Commission and signatures on a petition to the agency calling for more coverage in Louisville of social justice, labor, racial justice, environmental and foreign policy matters. For more information, go to louisvillemediareform.org.

Many coalition members and backers from other groups said during interviews or at the rally that coverage of Louisville by all stations is racially biased.

“Last month, State Rep. Reginald Meeks and State Senator Denise Harper-Angel held a forum on what privatization of Social Security would mean for African-Americans and what privatization would mean to retirees,” said Gracie Lewis, a member of the Black Caucus of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. “There was no television coverage. Yet there was ongoing coverage of ‘cruising’ and the arena.”

The annual Kentucky Derby festival cruising along West Broadway, which resulted in a shooting death in May, is only one side of the black community, she and others said at the rally.

Kentucky Alliance member Shameka Parrish said crime and human interest stories about people overcoming obstacles dominate coverage of African Americans, crowding out equally worthy stories of people organized to overcome oppression.

“These are inspiring (human interest) stories and they serve a worthy purpose of letting others know that they too can struggle to overcome difficulties. But this omits entirely the situation of the vast majority of African Americans,” she said.

Many coalition members said they will pursue a “Citizens Agreement” with television stations, an option the FCC makes available to viewers and listeners to prompt broadcasters, which the FCC licenses, to shape their programming more along the lines the public wants.

“We need a citizens agreement to bring about diverse programming that shows the many contributions that the African-American community is making daily,” Lewis said.

Coalition member Victoria Strange, an executive secretary for a business, said television stations have failed the public by substituting spot news and sensationalism for in-depth analysis of Louisville’s mounting problems with pollution, particularly in the Rubbertown neighborhood.

“We hear about the latest homicide. We hear about the latest traffic pileup,” she said.

Coalition member John Baker, a career counselor with the Jewish Family and Vocational Services, said a theme the group is using is “become the media.”

That means visiting stations to inspect their broadcast logs and using citizens agreements to prompt more diverse and in-depth coverage, he explained.

Backing alternative media is also part of the ‘become the media’ idea, Baker said, noting that a planned alternative radio station, WXBH-92.7, a commercial-free low power outlet that should have a range of about 20 to 24 miles, is trying to raise start-up money.

If it can raise its goal of \$75,000, it will be run by the Brick House, a youth-oriented community center in Old Louisville, Baker said.

Station organizers have said they plan to broadcast Amy Goodman’s Democracy Now, a left-of-center show which Louisville’s established public radio stations have chosen not to air.

Marsha Weinstein, vice-president of the Louisville chapter of the League of Women Voters, called at the rally for support for the Our Democracy, Our Airwaves Act in Congress, which she said would require broadcast stations to air at least two hours a week of discussion of issues before an election. Weinstein said the act would also let qualifying candidates air some free ads.

Louisville television stations made over \$2 billion in ads from candidates, parties and political advocacy groups in the last election, she added.

“These same stations provided minimal coverage of campaign issues,” Weinstein said. “Current law allows the broadcast industry to auction off the rights to free speech to the highest bidder before election.”

A labor activist gave his support to the coalition, citing what he called an “anti-union spin” in Louisville’s media.

Larry Hujo, an organizer with the Indiana/Kentucky Regional Council of Carpenters, and a Kentucky Jobs with Justice steering committee member, said workers a few blocks away illustrate that.

“Since November of 2004, my union has had between 20 and 40 people a day every day of the week on the streets talking about area standards for working carpenters, what they should earn, what kind of benefits they should have, what kind of conditions they should enjoy while they’re working,” he said. “Not one time has the media covered that.”

Citizens Against Police Abuse activist K.A Owens told the rally he supports the coalition, adding this description of the airwaves:

“It’s something we are allowing them use to make money. But in return for that privilege of allowing them use what we call channel 41, they’re supposed so do something good with it. So we have to make sure that they do that. I’m glad to... stand here with you.”

Instead of privatizing the very centerpiece of our nation’s “safety net,” Lisa Tanner said, the government should do other things, such as reforming health care.

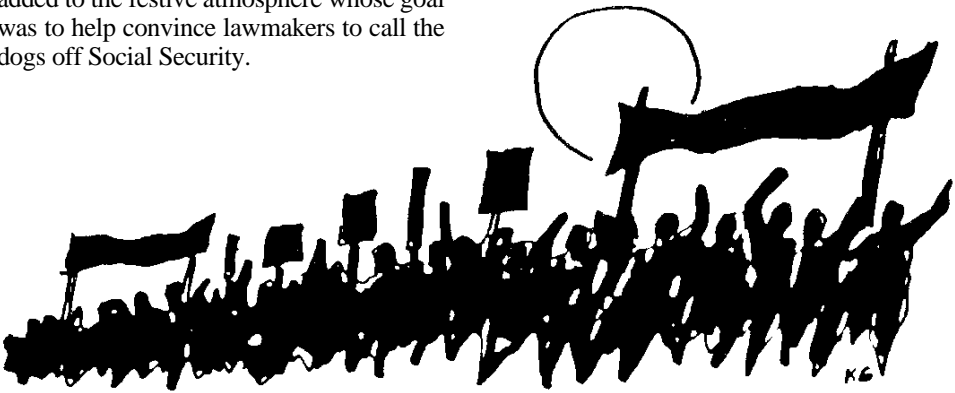
Schwab was chosen over other brokerage firms because it hasn’t been doing well financially in recent months and gives the appearance of seeking rescue at the hands of present and future pensioners.

The demonstration, organized and sponsored by the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO), was attended by many union members, one of whom led the crowd in “making some noise.” The chants led by Paul Whitely included, “Stop corporate greed;” “We’re not buying;” “Fix it, don’t privatize;” “Fix it, don’t risk it;” and (most originally) “U-G-L-Y / Bush ain’t got no alibi / It’s ugly, / Absolutely ugly.” The musical strains of, “Who Let the Dogs Out?” added to the festive atmosphere whose goal was to help convince lawmakers to call the dogs off Social Security.

by 25 years the date of bankruptcy.

A vice-president of the Kentucky AFL-CIO then read a letter being sent to Charles Schwab, urging the company not to support privatization. Next up was one Lisa Tanner, speaking on behalf of youths.

Tanner pointed out that young people nowadays change jobs more often than in the past, thereby failing to qualify for private pension plans and having an even greater need for Social Security than their forebears. Social Security, she said, is important to people’s daily lives, and is safe for nearly the next 40 years, even with



The Reel Revolution

Film Series

A project of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression presents

The Revolution Will Not Be Televised

By Kim Bartley and Donnacha O'Brian, Ireland, 2003, 74 minutes

In Spanish with English subtitles

Hugo Chavez, elected president of Venezuela in 1998, is a colorful, unpredictable folk hero, beloved by his nation's working class and a tough-as-nails, quixotic opponent to the power structure that would see him deposed. Two independent filmmakers were inside the presidential palace on April 11, 2002, when he was forcibly removed from office. They were also present 48 hours later when, remarkably, he returned to power amid cheering aides. Their film records what was probably history's shortest-lived coup d'état. It's a unique document about political muscle and an extraordinary portrait of the man *The Wall Street Journal* credits with making Venezuela "Washington's biggest Latin American headache after the old standby, Cuba."

Thursday, July 28th, 7 pm


The Kentucky Theatre

651 S. 4th Street

Suggested donation \$5-25; no one turned away for lack of funds.

Wheelchair accessible.

All proceeds support the work of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; call (502) 558-3568 for more information.



WHY WE CAN'T
GET OUT OF IRAQ

From all sides, pressure is being brought on the Bush administration to set a date for our troops to leave the war torn battleground in Iraq. Public doubts about the war have risen steadily even in the African American community where young recruits are usually eager to sign up. Nevertheless, President Bush has explained in a recent article in the Associated Press (C-J 6/25/05) that “this is not the time to fall back.” He expressed optimism about the training of Iraqi troops and the moves toward democracy. He claimed, “We’re making good progress.” When Iraq’s new constitution is approved (hopefully by August 15), elections may take place by December 15, he speculated.

Two days after these remarks by Bush, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld stated that it might take as long as 12 years to defeat the insurgency; but he emphasized that this will be done with Iraqi security forces taking the lead, not US and foreign troops. The top US commander in the Middle East, General John Abizaid, said Americans “need to be patient.” (C-J 6/27/05)

A different analysis of “why we can’t get out of Iraq” was presented in *The Nation* (5/2/05) by Naomi Klein. In her article, “The Rise of Disaster Capitalism,” she explains that the opportunity for rebuilding is an incentive to drag out the war as long as possible. Although colonialism is dead and there are no new places to discover, there is plenty of destruction —”countries smashed to rubble, whether by so-called Acts of God or by Acts of Bush (on orders from God). And where there is destruction there is reconstruction, a chance to grab hold of the ... devastation and fill it with the most perfect, beautiful plans.”

Corporate globalization and militarization can come marching in. The reconstruction industry works so quickly and efficiently that the privatizations and land grabs are usually locked in before the local population knows what hit them, Klein explains. “We see this as a plan of action amidst the tsunami crisis to hand over the sea and the coast to foreign corporations and tourism, with military assistance from the US Marines.” The tsunami literally wiped these coastal areas clean of the communities which had previously stood in the way of plans for resorts, hotels, casinos and shrimp farms.

In Iraq, Paul Wolfowitz (as then Deputy Defense Secretary) designed and oversaw a similar project. The fires were still burning in Baghdad when US occupation officials rewrote the investment laws and announced that the country’s state-owned companies would be privatized. Paul Wolfowitz accomplished there what the World Bank is already doing in virtually every war-torn and disaster-struck country in the world.

While response to wars and natural disasters has traditionally been the domain of United Nations agencies working with NGOs to provide emergency aid and temporary housing, now “*reconstruction work has been revealed as a tremendously lucrative industry.*” So today, Klein explains, it is the World Bank, already devoted to the principle of poverty-alleviation through profit-making, that leads the charge.

Demonstrators in Louisville often wear a t-shirt stating *WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER*. However after reading this article I now understand that *WAR IS THE ANSWER* for the Bush administration and the world economy. There is much going on in Iraq besides the war, and much to gain by staying as long as possible.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

The long-awaited book by Arch Taylor has arrived just in time for the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Week of Remembrance and Action in Louisville (August 1-9). It will be available at the book signing event on August 1 at Carmichael’s Bookstore, 2720 Frankfort Avenue, at 7:00 pm.

The title, *Pearl Harbor, Hiroshima, and Beyond: Subversion of Values*, indicates that Arch is trying to dispel some of the misinformation that has circulated about the dropping of the bomb and the end of World War II. Following is his brief summary of the main points discussed in the book.

NOW WE KNOW! DECLASSIFIED
DOCUMENTS REVEALTHAT:

President Franklin D. Roosevelt followed a careful strategy to entice Japan to attack Pearl Harbor, blamed this day of infamy on Japan, and led us to believe that good America was the innocent victim.

Truman and Churchill delayed negotiating with Stalin till they knew the atomic bomb worked. They believed that by having the bomb they could dictate terms to Stalin; so they used it on Japan as a demonstration.

Soon after the bombs destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it was clear Japan was already on the brink of collapse. Washington promulgated the story that the bombs saved a million lives, making this horrible doomsday weapon a really good thing.

Emperor Hirohito was completely involved in Japan’s imperial aggression, but General MacArthur wanted to use him as a tool in governing post-war Japan. He declared Hirohito innocent of war crimes and rebuffed proposals that the emperor abdicate.

MacArthur gave Japan the Peace Constitution that renounced armed forces and war as an instrument of national policy. Then he turned this good thing into something evil by ordering the formation of Japan’s Self Defense Force, which is now one of the most powerful in the world.

The CIA used gold, silver, diamonds, and other assets Japan plundered from other nations to rebuild the old Zaibatsu industries and finance the dominant Liberal Democratic Party founded by former war criminals.

Americans believe we are a righteous, innocent people who fight only when evil enemies attack us. Then we respond with overwhelming power to accomplish great good.

This false self-image subverts our values and leads us into policies harmful to ourselves as well as those we call enemies. We are arming space and preparing new nuclear weapons for future wars. This course puts us on track to destroy all life on earth.

(Note: The Rev. Archibald Taylor is a retired Presbyterian minister and a long-time member of the Louisville Hiroshima/Nagasaki Committee. He was a missionary to Japan for some 30 years. His book was published by Trafford Publishing of Vancouver BC, catalogue #05-0981. On the web, www.trafford.com (1/888-232-4444)

SISTER LIL MATTINGLY
WRITES FROM PRISON

While serving her sentence for crossing the line at the School of the Americas, Sister Lil keeps our spirits up with fascinating accounts of prison life. The following excerpts from a letter written July 3, 2005, discuss the Bush administration, inefficient health care in prison, and the possibilities of a tomato slice.

“This weekend of July 4th has me reflecting on what it means to be part of the U.S. when this country is in such a moral crisis. I’m thinking that prison is a good place to be for resisting a government that is making endless war in order to create an Empire; killing the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan in order to exploit their resources; sacrificing its own men and women to dangerous missions and to the harmful effects of uranium radiation which is being used in U.S. dirty bullets, bombs, and missiles.



And who pays for all of this? A quote from the A.N.S.W.E.R. coalition seems to answer that: The people of the U.S. are witnessing a vicious attack against working class communities by the Bush Administration and the Military-Industrial Complex. While the government has allocated more than \$300 billion to make war against the people of Iraq, it cries ‘poverty’ when it comes to funding education, health care, housing, jobs and job training, and other programs and services that meet the needs of working people. Bush claims that there is a lack of funds to maintain Social Security while the National Treasury is plundered to finance the endless Imperial war. Instead of offering young people a decent education and decent jobs with decent wages, the government has deployed an army of military recruiters to snare young people into the armed forces. Bush and the corporate and banking elites view young people in the U.S. as nothing more than cannon fodder in the war for Empire. ...” www.internationalanswer.org

Meanwhile here at Danbury Correctional Institution, time continues to roll along quite rapidly. There have been some serious illnesses which highlight the inefficiency of the health care system, unfortunately. One young woman, only two days after her arrival, had a severe asthma attack and almost died. It took so long for the Emergency Service to be called that she passed out. Then we heard that she had to be resuscitated in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. Now that she’s back, the heat and humidity keep her indoors and limited to a room with a fan, or to a couple of rooms where there are air conditioners. She’s facing a five year sentence in this place, like many, for conspiracy, which can mean that someone else got her in trouble just by knowing someone who was dealing drugs or dealing in money fraud.

There have been many cases of rashes and allergies, which include Sister Ardeth Platte and another friend. Both had reactions to medications, seemingly. They have gone through such frustrating times trying to get treatment.

Most recently, a woman spiked a temperature of 105 degrees and was unable to eat because of her abdominal pain. But it was five days before she was taken to a hospital. She continues to be in critical condition....

One of the exciting things happening is watching the tomato plants growing and thriving due to Alice’s ingenuity. When no seeds were given to the Greenhouse, Alice had the idea to save the seeds from a tomato slice she was served at lunch! With the help of two women inmates (who also work in the garden), the seeds were dried, planted, transplanted, and are now producing baby tomatoes as Alice continues to talk to them before and after she goes out to collect the litter all over the compound. Little signs of LIFE and HOPE mean a lot.

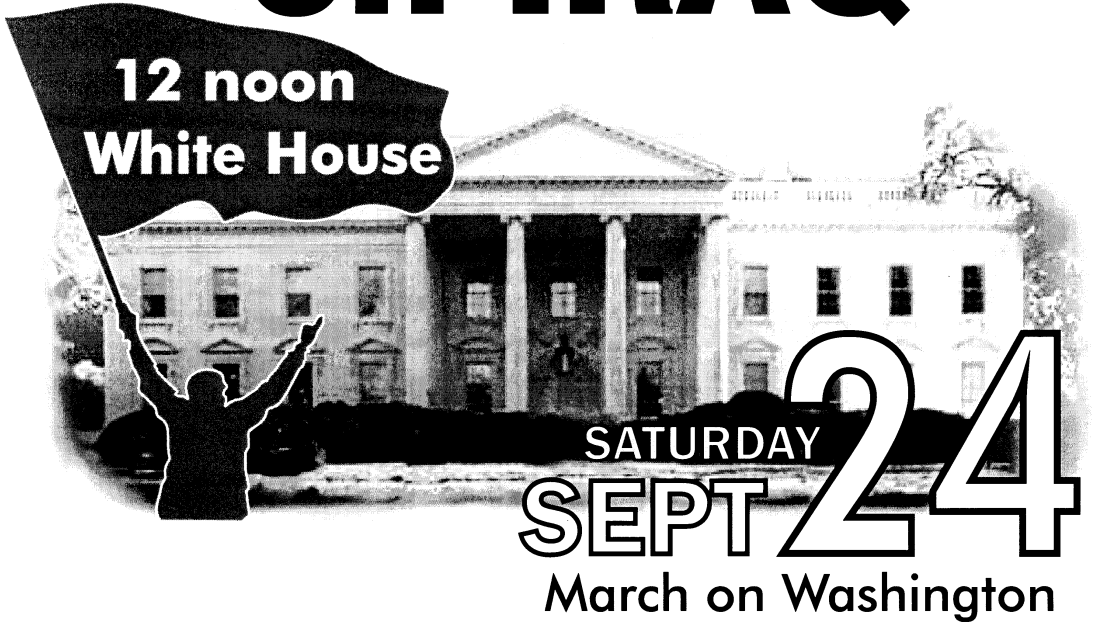
I want to take this chance to say ‘thank you’ to everyone who is praying for us, and to so many who have written. We join the other Voices in the Wilderness crying for the elimination of nuclear weapons here in the U.S. too, and for authentic efforts against poverty, that the U.S. can apologize, make amends for its immoral wars and join other countries in working for a peaceful world with justice. This is my prayer for July 4, 2005.”

(Note: Sister Lil’s address is: Lelia Mattingly 92460-020, Route 37, 331/2 Pembroke Station, Danbury, CT 06811)

JOIN THE LOUISVILLE MEDIA
REFORM COMMITTEE

Receive meeting and action alerts, and join the discussion group.
<http://louisvillemediareform.org/mailman/listinfo/lmr-announce>
<http://louisvillemediareform.org/mailman/listinfo/infor-discuss>
Add your voice to local initiatives to hold media accountable.

STOP the WAR
on IRAQ



GET ON THE BUS TO D.C.

Sponsored by the Louisville Peace Action Community (LPAC)

Depart from Louisville: Friday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m., (location TBA)
Leave D.C.: immediately after the demonstration, about 6:00 p.m.
Return to Louisville: Sunday morning, Sept. 25, about 7:00 a.m.
Cost: \$100.00

Contact: Nancy Jakubiak at nancyjak@hotmail.com or 812-280-9034 to reserve a seat on the bus.

Make your check to: *F.O.R.* (Fellowship of Reconciliation - marked LPAC)

Mail to: LPAC, PO Box 5481, Louisville, Ky, 40255-0481

Payment deadline: September 2nd

Scholarships: Please consider making a donation to our scholarship fund for students & community people who want to attend this important event. Email nancyjak@hotmail.com about the scholarship fund and other questions.

Terrible loss painfully illustrates need for nonviolence

Just as I was starting my shift at my job in a telephone call center, news came that jolted me into thinking about far deeper matters than the nearly eight hours of some-times monotonous work that lay ahead.

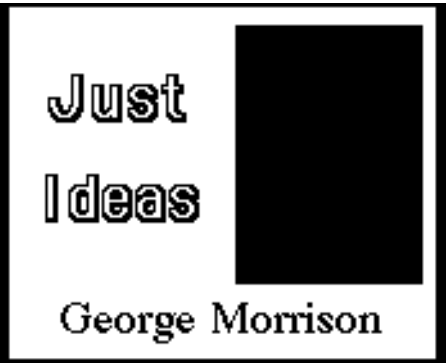
The brother of one of our supervisors had been severely injured in a bombing in Iraq, where he had been serving in the U.S. Army. His sister had taken time off to be with relatives and the other supervisors were asking us to pray for their colleague’s brother, who was being airlifted to a hospital in Germany.

I asked his name, explaining that I could request a moment of silence for him at our next FOR steering committee meeting.

I was barely beginning to grapple with the news of the bombing when word came that the soldier, Chris Phelps of Louisville, had died.

Suddenly, this phenomenon of the Iraq insurgency took on a most human face, as his picture was posted in our call center and newspaper coverage described him as a hardworking student and high school football quarterback before pursuing a career in the military.

The dead weren’t numbers any more. Each was a person, I now understood in a way not possible before. The fallen man’s sister is a very professional supervisor and decent person and I tried but — I’m sure — fell short trying to imagine the pain she was experiencing.



About one week later, similar suffering gripped one of the great cities of the western world when the bombs went off in the London transit system. A Courier-Journal editorial writer soon wrote a personal observation, which was published with photos of the city, including one of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi.

Far from regarding Gandhi as an enemy, the British correctly see him as one who did the United Kingdom many great services, including sparing the lives of the thousands of young British men who would have died in a war of Indian independence.

Many more would have died if the many other British colonies which gained their independence in the 1950s and 60s hadn’t been inspired by Gandhi’s nonviolent example.

Sadly, too many people – many of whom think their aims to be virtuous and fully justified – have simply been shut out of learning about Gandhi’s satyagraha, or “soul force,” the love-based way of winning struggles without war or terrorism.

The United States, where Gandhi’s life and methods are often celebrated in books, cinema and academia, nonetheless acts toward the rest of the world as if there is no alternative to using military force to win struggles, such as – and lets accept for the moment that this was a sincere and just cause —freedom from tyrants like Saddam Hussein.

Our government — and the mainstream news media that usually limit their frame of reference to the paradigms the government sets forth – simply disregard the examples of People Power nonviolently ousting seemingly invincible dictatorships in the Philippines, South Africa, Haiti and East Germany, to name a few.

Those who want the U.S. out of Iraq also need to consider Gandhi. The desire to see a western power out of their region is one thing the insurgents and their backers have in common with the Indian independence leader.

Gandhi, however, described a plan of action that totally eschewed violence, stressing love of the adversary as much as the cause of independence itself.

Indian-born author Eknath Easwaran,

in *Gandhi the Man, the Story of His Transformation* (a Nilgiri Press book I bought at the 1998 FOR National Conference), described those who practice satyagraha and another Gandhian term, ahimsa, in the following way:

“Because he wants nothing for himself, the true satyagrahi is not afraid of entering into any conflict for the sake of those around him, without hostility, without resentment, without resorting even to violent words. Even in the face of the fiercest provocation, he never lets himself forget that he and his attacker are one. This is ahimsa, which is more than just the absence of violence; it is intense love.”

Studying Gandhi’s philosophy allows us to see that the U.S. policy makers who gave us this war and the insurgents who kill innocent people in supposed opposition to it are really allies — both adhering to the same horrible and ultimately futile notion that violence is the way to freedom and justice.

In the most simple and local sense, learning to think beyond the dominant paradigm of violence clung to by governments, the media and those who resort to terrorism, would have saved the life of a fine young man from Louisville and spared his family indescribable suffering.

In the global sense, making this transformation to nonviolence and love is the only hope for survival.

Movement achieves some first steps in ending poverty

by Kim Smith

It has been a very exciting few weeks for The ONE Campaign! Thank you for following the campaign’s progress through FORsooth again this month. To date, over 1.4 million Americans are joined with ONE, but this campaign is only just beginning. As Americans we have a responsibility to let our leaders know just how much we care about the emergency facing Africa and the world’s poorest countries.

At the July 2 LIVE 8 Concerts held in 10 cities around the world, which were viewed by over 3 billion people, over 38 million people signed on to the Global Petition to the G8 Leaders asking for a comprehensive debt, aid, trade deal for Africa. Over 400,000 Americans signed on to a letter to President Bush asking for the same thing.

Sir Bob Geldof, member of the Commission for Africa and creator of LIVE 8 said: “It is only time that will decide whether this summit is historic or not. What is true is that never before have so many people forced a change in policy onto the global agenda, and that policy has been addressed.”

On July 8 the leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) committed to a comprehensive package of aid to Africa. British Prime Minister Tony Blair announced the G8 would increase aid to Africa by \$25 billion, more than doubling of 2004 levels; increase global assistance by around \$50 billion per year by 2010; provide near-universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment drugs; cancel the debt of some of the world’s poorest nations; and address trade reforms in the near future.

The ONE Campaign is encouraged by

the commitment at the G8 Summit to fighting the crisis of extreme poverty and global AIDS. We must remain vigilant to ensure that those promises are made a reality. These pledges are a positive step forward in a comprehensive debt-aid-trade deal to reduce extreme poverty in the poorest countries. Based on the outcomes of this summit, the United States has moved a step closer to achieving the ONE campaign’s goal of devoting an additional one percent of the budget to reducing extreme poverty.

ONE will continue to advocate for more and better aid, expanded debt relief and trade reform that helps poor countries trade their way out of poverty. In cities all across America, including right here in Louisville, we must begin building on the

progress we have made so far and push forward to September when the U.N. holds its summit on the Millennium Development Goals, and December, when the World Trade Organization meets. The G8 agreement is the beginning to the end of extreme poverty, but more work is needed to ensure we make poverty history.

The writer is the Louisville field organizer for ONE, which is a coalition of 11 respected nonprofit and humanitarian organizations, including Bread for the World, Care, DATA, PlanUS/Childreach, International Medical Corps, International Rescue Committee, Mercy Corps, Oxfam America, Save the Children, World Concern and World Vision. For more information, visit ONE.ORG.

Palestinian youth *(continued from page 1)*

The scripture says “a little child will lead them.” (Isaiah 11:6) The cast ranged in age from 10 to 16. Surely we were led into a realization of the impact of war on children.

Children in times of military occupation have fears and needs that require extreme care. As we seek to minister to children whose parents are in the war and to children who come from wars across the world, it is important that we understand their feelings and deeply held convictions. For young children, the chief fear is “Who will take care of me?” This fear is heightened because of what they read or hear in the news.

These children of war have been able to cope by practicing peaceful means of self-expression through theater, poetry, dance, film, art and puppetry. Such opportunities enable children to work through their fears and other feelings. In their presentation, “We Are the Children of the Camp,” there were twelve scenes in which the children told their stories about what was happening during the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

They began with a peaceful scene: “Children Playing in Palestine.” Then came the Balfour Declaration, 1917; Resistance and Exile; 1948; Refugee Camps; The Pupils; The Intifada (now dormant, was a popular uprising against Israeli rule); The Encounter; News; The Permits (what the children witnessed at checkpoints); The Cadres (Framework) Peace (the struggle for self-determination and a desire for a

homeland); and of course, ending with “Children Playing in Palestine.” The play was written by AbdelFattah Abu-Srou, the founder of the theatre.

For those in attendance, the scenes were dramatic. One could see and hear the sounds of war, the bombings, buildings crumbling, people running and screaming, children seeking somewhere to hide.

The children gave us a real history lesson about what was happening on the West Bank and Gaza Strip — including the struggle to receive an education during times of war and what it means to encounter resistance while having a desire for peace in the Middle East.

Palestinians want to see a withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories. They want to see thousands of Palestinian prisoners released. They want their own homeland and security. Everyone wants a home.

The night concluded with the full cast dancing on the stage. What a remarkable performance this was! I wish it could have been witnessed by all of Louisville, especially African American youth. As a peacemaker, I want to see children live in what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned as “The Beloved Community.” And this is possible, even though life looks dark now. (Revelation 21:1-2)

The writer is a member of REACT, a group fighting air pollution in Louisville.

Low wages *(continued from page 1)*

Louisville region do not provide workers with incomes that enable them to rent a two-bedroom apartment.” Thus it is that one third of renters and 26 percent of renters and homeowners combined, or almost 80,000 households, pay more than 30 percent of their incomes for housing. And not a single one of the occupations considered (which included fire fighter, licensed practical nurse, teacher assistant, emergency medical technician, paramedic, bus driver, and police patrol officer) paid enough for its workers to afford a median-priced home (\$132,000 in 2003). Things are only going to get worse, unless we do something about it, pronto.

This untenable housing situation, *When Work Doesn’t Pay* said, carries with it a heavy price. The employees affected — just think of childcare workers, LPN’s, and bus drivers — are critical assets to our community who deserve better. Yet at the current pay rate of \$7.66 per hour, a childcare worker would have to work 57 hours a week to afford even a \$70,000 home, which is about half the median Louisville-region price, the MHC report said.

This unstable housing in our neighborhoods hurts our children’s ability to learn and damages family life, the report said, adding that students who move from home to home and change schools are “more likely to miss school and have academic problems than their peers who have dependable housing.” In short, it said: “[t]he

region’s continued economic growth, the lives and opportunities of our children, and the long-term health of our neighborhoods are each dependent on closing the gap between housing costs and wages.”

So, what can we do about this severely deleterious gap between what workers earn and the cost of safe, decent housing? We can and should attack the problem at both ends: by raising wages (Living Wage campaigns are a good start) and by creating new forms of housing subsidies. Currently, assistance is provided mostly through federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG’s) and Section 8 housing vouchers, along with a State Affordable Housing Trust Fund whose funding is unstable and inadequate.

This paper on housing and wages said we should create a local Affordable Housing Trust Fund that gets its monies from a dedicated, significant, and renewable funding source.

Even such a fund, of course, said *When Work Doesn’t Pay*, would be no panacea. But at least it would let Sisyphus get up the hill with his stone each month and allow a few souls to get off the eternal treadmill of paying rent altogether.

Ike M. Thacker IV has taught history and computer science at the university level. Eustace Durrett is an advocate for economic equality and rail transit. Both live in Louisville.

Calendar for peacemakers

July 25 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, #10, 7:30 pm. Visitors welcomed. Call cochairs, Pat Geier, 456-6586, or Mary Horvath, 479-9262.

July 26 (Tue) **COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY MEETING.** Review the year’s successes with Mayor Abramson and imagine upcoming possibilities. Also featured will be a HOMEward Bound Update and presentation of Hometown Partnership Awards, plus induction of new officers. National City Tower, Leatherman Room, offices of Greenbaum Dill and McDonald. 2:30-4:30pm. Parking garage available.

July 28 (Thu) **THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE TELEVISED**, another film in the Reel Revolution series. Documentary by two Irish film makers who were inside the Presidential Palace in Venezuela during the attempted coup against President Chavez. Kentucky Theatre, 651 S 4th, 7:00pm. Donation requested to benefit the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. Call 778-8130.

July 29 (Fri) **NOON VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**, including a news update. **EVERY FRIDAY AT SIXTH AND BROADWAY**, in front of the Federal Court House (where Senator McConnell’s office is located). We vigil in solidarity with the **“Women in Black”** who vigil every Friday at noon in Israel. Sponsored by the Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

July 29 (Fri) **NEWBY NETWORK**, *every* Friday, West Broadway United Methodist Church, 3620 West Broadway, 5 to 6:30 pm. **Bill Allison**, former alderman, will discuss the 2000 ordinance about Civilian Police Review. Call Cyd at 772-1178 or the Kentucky Alliance, 778-8130.

Aug 1-9 **NO MORE HIROSHIMAS! NO MORE NAGASAKIS! Days of Remembrance and Action sponsored by the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration Committee.** See the listing of events elsewhere in this newsletter. Call Terry Taylor, 214-7322. www.InterfaithPathsToPeace.org

Aug 2 (Tue) **INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE**, Board Meeting every first Tuesday at Christ Church Cathedral, 425 S 2nd St., 3rd floor. Call Terry Taylor, 214-7322. director@InterfaithPathstoPeace.org

Aug 5 (Fri) **STATEWIDE FAIRNESS DINNER.** The Brown Hotel, 4th & Broadway, Louisville, KY Tickets \$50 and \$100. To RSVP call the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, 502/897-1973.

Aug 6 (Sat) See flyer in this issue of **FORsooth.**

Aug 7 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE** every first Sunday evening remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign. Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. 7:00-8:00 pm. Sponsored by **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. E-mail: pcunity@yahoo.com www.louisvillepeace.org

Aug 10 (Wed) **KITLAC (Ky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean).** Every second Wednesday, Presbyterian Seminary. 7:30 pm. Call David Horvath, 479-9262, or Pat Geier, 456-6586.

Aug 11 & 25 (Thu) **CAPA** (Citizens Against Police Abuse) - Every second and fourth Thursdays. 325 W. Oak Street. Call 778-8130.

Aug 11 (Thu) **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Monthly meeting every Third Thursday evening. **(Please note change in date for this month only).** Douglass Blvd Christian Church, 7:00 pm. Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914; Ellen Schagene, 451-6392; or Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. www.louisvillepeace.org

Aug 14 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter recruitment. Every 2nd Sunday at 6:00 pm, 2263 Frankfort Ave. Call Mike Slaton, 636-5848, cheslaton@hotmail.com This group would welcome invitations to speak about conscientious objection, military recruitment, and the possibility for highschool juniors and seniors to “opt out” of having their names given to recruiters.

Aug 15 (Mon) **KENTUCKY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION.** Braden Center, 3208 West Broadway. Call 778-8130.

Aug 15 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF FORsooth.** Contact **George Morrison, editor**, 944-6460. E-mail: klm86@netzero.com (For **calendar listings**, contact Jean Edwards, 458-8056. E-mail: edwardsfor@bellsouth.net)

Aug 18 (Thu) **SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE.** Monthly meeting, every third Thursday, 5:30 pm. Central Presbyterian Church, 4th & Ky Streets, lower level. Use the rear entrance. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

Aug 18-28 **KENTUCKY STATE FAIR. Help needed at the LPAC BOOTH.** Focus will be on the war in Iraq, the Kentucky war dead, cost, implications, and latest developments. If you can sign up for a time to help staff the booth, please contact Jamie McMillin: jmcmil55@bellsouth.net

Aug 21 (Sun) **COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** (Every Third Sunday) First Unitarian Church, 4th & York. 3:00 pm. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Aug 22 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, #10, 7:30 pm. Visitors are encouraged. Call cochairs, Pat Geier, 456-6586, or Mary Horvath, 479-9262.

Aug 25 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING at Beverley Marmion’s, 6:30 pm.** We’d love to see your smiling countenance there in person! Call 451-5658.

Aug 30 (Tue) **KCADP (Ky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)** every last Tuesday. Highland Presbyterian Church, 1011 Cherokee Road, 6:30pm. Call Kaye Gallagher, 721-8885. E-mail: kcadp@earthlink.net

Sept 4 (Sun) **LABOR IN THE PULPITS.** Call **Jobs With Justice**, 625-3724.

Sept 5 (Mon) **LABOR DAY PICNIC** sponsored by **Jobs With Justice.** Call 625-3724.

Sept 11 (Sun) **HARRY PICKENS CONCERT and COMMUNITY CHOIR.** Like to sing? Join this 100 person choir. Call the Peace Education Program to sign up, 589-6583. peaceeducation@iglou.com

Sept 22 (Thu) **ACLU BILL OF RIGHTS DINNER and FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**, featuring national ACLU President **NADINE STROSSEN** as the speaker. International Convention Center. Call 581-9746.

Sept 23 (Fri) **GET ON THE BUS TO D.C., 7:00pm, and ATTEND THE RALLY ON SEPT. 24. Bus costs \$100. Reserve your seat now.** Payment deadline is September 2 **Call Nancy Jakubiak, 812-280-9034. E-mail: nancyjak@hotmail.com**

Sept 30 (Fri) **PUTTING LOCAL FOOD ON THE TABLE: Farms and Institutions in Partnership.** Pre-conference workshop designed for farmers, food service staff and administrators interested in providing healthy, local food in Kentucky schools, parks, and other institutions. No fee. Registration required. Bellarmine Univ, 9-5.

Oct 1 (Sat) **HEALTHY FOOD, LOCAL FARMS CONFERENCE**, featuring **Eric Schlosser**, author of *Fast Food Nation*. Workshops on health and environmental effects of industrial agriculture; real costs of cheap food; how to make a local food economy work; food and the family. \$40. Co-sponsored by Sierra Club and Community Farm Alliance. Contact Aloma Dew, Sierra Club, 270-685-2034. E-mail: aloma.dew@sierraclub.org **or** Community Farm Alliance, 502-223-3655. E-mail: cfarma@bellsouth.net

Oct 8-10 (SSM) **EDWARDS LECTURE: “Sowing Seeds of the Beloved Community”** led by **Harry Pickens**, jazz pianist and peace educator. Sponsored by the Presbyterian Seminary. The weekend will include workshops, worship, and discussion gatherings. Call 895-3411. Or visit Lifelong Learning on the website, www.lpts.edu

Oct 25,26,27 (TWT) **FALL COMMUNITY INSTITUTE**, sponsored by the Peace Education Program. Three days of hands-on training in interpersonal conflict resolution, the mediation process and prejudice reduction skills. Limit 40. \$200. Some scholarships available for faith-based affiliation. Register by Oct 17. (589-6583)

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

July 30-31 (SS) **US CAMPAIGN TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION**, 4th annual national organizers’ conference, Georgia State Univ in Atlanta. One car from Louisville will be going. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658. www.endtheoccupation.org

July 31-Aug 1 (SM) **INTERFAITH CONVOCATION ON THE GLOBAL NUCLEAR CRISIS**, Knoxville, TN, with speakers, panel responses, discussion, workshops. Featuring **Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Gyoshu Utsumi, Rick Ufford-Chase**. For a brochure, or to register, call Mary Dennis Lentsch at the OREPA office, 1/865-483-8202. E-mail: dennispbvm@aol.com

August 6 (Sat) **REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION, Hiroshima Day**, at Oak Ridge, TN. 6:00am Names Ceremony at the gates of Y12, reading the names of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, memorializing them with peace cranes tied to the barbed wire fence surrounding the plant, and the pealing of a bell for each name read. Special guests will be Japanese survivors (hibakusha). Then breakfast, followed by a march to the Y-12 Plant, accompanied by puppets, signs and banners, for a rally and acts of conscience. At 8:15 the Peace Lantern Ceremony begins. For details, contact **OREPA** (Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance) www.stopthebombs

Sept 22-25 (TFSS) **JOBS WITH JUSTICE ANNUAL MEETING.** St. Louis, MO. Call Laura Bogle, 202-393-1044. laurab@jwj.org www.jwj.org Note: The Student-Labor Pre-Conference & Faith In Action Gathering will take place on Thursday from 1-6pm, followed by Friday breakfast from 7-9am.

Oct 27-30 (TFSS) **NCADP 2005 - National Conference Sponsored by the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.** Austin, Texas. Call 1/888-286-2237. Visit www.ncadp.org E-mail: conference2005@ncadp.org

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

AD HOC COALITION FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION – (778-8130)

ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – 2nd Thursday (585-3375)

AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB – 4th Tuesday (459-0616)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (637-8951)

BIONEERS / SUSTAINABLE LOUISVILLE – Tuesdays (336-9440)

BREAD FOR THE WORLD – 2nd Tuesday (239-4317)

CAPA (Citizens Against Police Abuse) – 2nd & 4th Thursdays (778-8130)

C.E.A.S.E. [Citizens for Equitable Assignment to School Environments] – (778-9427)

CLARK & FLOYD COUNTIES AIDS COALITION – 3rd Thursday (288-2706)

CLOUT [Citizens of Louisville Organized and Working Together] -(583-1267)

COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST – 2nd Monday (456-6586)

COMMON CAUSE – 1st Tuesday, every other month (228-1534)

COMMUNIST PARTY USA – Sunday evenings (473-2659)

CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (454-4820)

CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD – Books by Neale Donald Walsch. 1st Monday (468-2305)

COUNTER RECRUITMENT, “Aim Higher” – Second Sunday (636-5848)

EARTH SAVE LOUISVILLE – 2nd Sunday (569-1876)

FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)

FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (456-6586 or 479-9262)

GREATER LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB – 3rd Tuesday (897-3335)

GREEN PARTY – 1st Tuesday (456-9540)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays (583-6599)

HATE FREE SCHOOLS COALITION – 3rd Thursday (454-3300)

INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE – 1st Tuesday (214-7322)

JEFFERSON COUNTY WELFARE REFORM COALITION – 2nd Friday (585-3556)

JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (625-3724)

JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – 3rd Saturday (562-6737)

KENTUCKIANA FOR KUCINICH IN 2008 – 1st Thursday (473-2659 or 459-6361)

KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday, jointly with POWER (589-3188)

KY AIDS LIFE ALLIANCE (KALA) – Every Thursday (479-7884)

KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 3rd Monday (778-8130)

KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY – Last Tuesday (721-8885)

KITLAC (KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN) – 2nd Wednesday (479-9262)

KY RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION – (774-4000)

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP – 2nd and 4th Thursdays (587-6225)

LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES – 3rd Sunday (451-5658)

LPAC (LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY) – 3rd Thursday (558-9124)

LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – Meditation 1st & 3rd Sundays (473-8435)

LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (454-3300), www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org

LOUISVILLIANS IN FAVOR OF EQUALITY (L.I.F.E.) – Sunday evenings (473-2659)

METRO SWEEP FOR ACCESS – 3rd Tuesday (895-0866 or 899-9261)

METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION – 4th Wednesday (584-6858)

NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) – 3rd Monday (776-7608)

NAACP Youth Council – 3rd Saturday

NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) – 2nd Monday (245-5287)

PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) – 3rd Sunday (329-0229)

PAX CHRISTI – Last Wednesday (456-9342)

PEACE & COMPASSION BUDDHA CIRCLE/CML – (451-2193, brozier@bellsouth.net)

PEOPLE’S AGENDA – 2nd Tuesday (778-8130)

POWER [PEOPLE ORGANIZED AND WORKING FOR ENERGY REFORM] – 2nd Monday, jointly with KFTC (778-2687)

RCRC [Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice] – (585-3050)

RESULTS (a hunger lobby) – 2nd Saturday (451-4907)

SHADHULIYYAH SUFI SPIRITUALITY GROUP – Thursday nights (893-6122)

Note: If your group would like to be added to this list or if information needs to be updated, please let us know by calling 458-8056.