

FORsooth

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November 2003

Justice center begins REACTing to toxic air pollution

by Tim Duncan

Ask people who visit Louisville during the summer months about the air and you're likely to hear comments about the smelly odor. People who live in the city know the air smells bad; some environmental activists have commented that if New York City is the "Big Apple" and New Orleans the "Big Easy", then Louisville could be called the "Big Stink."

People living in Rubbertown and the West End, however, claim that the odor is more than a nuisance – they believe the toxic air pollution is making them sick.

Air pollution monitors placed in western Louisville reveal that residents are exposed to at least 18 toxic chemicals at levels that could cause a significant risk of cancer or other health problems. One chemical, 1,3-butadiene, was detected at levels 29 to 850 times the health threshold established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has determined that 1,3-butadiene can reasonably be anticipated to cause cancer and, according to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, exposure to low levels of 1,3-butadiene can cause kidney and liver disease, and lung damage.

Samples taken at one monitoring site revealed that children attending Cane Run

Elementary School were exposed to 1,3-butadiene at levels 19 to 261 times the EPA's health threshold. Three industries located in Rubbertown release 1,3-butadiene into the air — American Synthetic Rubber Co., Zeon Chemicals and Rohm and Haas.

Further studies indicate that toxic air pollution could be contributing to the alarming rate of asthma among children living in Louisville, particularly in the West End.

To respond to Louisville's environmental crises, the Justice Resource Center has launched a grassroots campaign to eliminate toxic air pollution emitted from Rubbertown factories. Known as REACT, Rubbertown Emergency Action, the campaign has worked to educate Rubbertown and West End residents of the dangers of toxic air pollution and empower community members to challenge industry and city officials to make the emission of toxic air pollution illegal.

So far the campaign has collected thousands of signatures in its petition drive and holds community meetings in Rubbertown and West End neighborhoods to distribute information and elicit support.

"We've had meetings with over a hundred people attending," said Roosevelt Roberts, a REACT member. "The response has been overwhelming."

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—photo by Eddie Davis

Tim Duncan, left, and Rev. Louis Coleman are leading a struggle against pollution in West Louisville neighborhoods.

When free trade becomes deadly

Activist saw its worst effects personalized, urges alternatives

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

Stephen Bartlett became choked with emotion and had to pause during his Third Thursday Lunch talk Oct. 16 when he described how a Korean farmer stabbed himself and set himself on fire in September outside the World Trade Organization's attempted trade negotiations in Cancun, Mexico to protest WTO practices.

The farmer's ultimate sacrifice underscored the message protestors from many nations, many of whom were farmers, tried to get across at Cancun about the free-trade policies the WTO is trying to make uniform through the world, Bartlett said.

"They said the World Trade Organization is killing farmers," Bartlett, the Latin American liaison for the ecumenical group Agricultural Missions, told the Louisville FOR's monthly lunch.

Tens of thousands of miles from the gates of the WTO meeting, similar tragedies have happened because of small farmers'

inability to pay debt or compete with cheap imported farm produce flooding their nations because of free trade, Bartlett said

"Hundreds of thousands of farmers have committed suicide," including Americans, Bartlett told the lunch.

The WTO was created in 1995 to replace the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs and has broad powers to enforce trade agreements and push nations to roll back environmental and labor protections and social policies.

At Cancun, Bartlett said, Kenya led a walkout of many small nations and Costa Rica is considering leaving the WTO altogether over the organization's pressing it to privatize state broadcasting.

Uppermost in the minds of many of the protestors, Bartlett said, was stopping the embattled Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA), which would expand the effects of NAFTA to the whole hemisphere.

"There's hope on all fronts of stopping the Free Trade Agreement (of the Americas), which isn't really a free trade agreement. It's

a corporate rights agreement," Bartlett said.

Bartlett, who once operated a small farm in the Dominican Republic, said just as encouraging is the growth of small-scale farmers markets and cooperatives, which allow people to buy food directly from the farm, instead of through the giant corporate food processing industry.

That industry's practices have forced farms to get bigger and resulted in smaller family farms disappearing, Bartlett said.

He told the 40 people at lunch that their food choices could eventually wield more power than the WTO and the big corporations it represents.

"Eating can be, must be an act of peacemaking," he said. He added that while about 10,000 very wealthy people control the marketing and producing of food grown

and distributed by modern corporate methods, the number of middle- and working-class people who could buy from alternative co-ops and farmers markets is about two billion.

"Two billion people versus 10,000 people," Bartlett said. "I think the odds are stacked in our favor."

Metropolitan Housing Coalition executive director Jane Walsh will talk on the "The Struggle for Housing Justice" at the Nov. 20 Third Thursday Lunch and will explain how current public policies promote racial housing segregation and fail to meet the need for affordable housing. Reservations, which are required by Nov. 18, can be made by calling Cathy Ford at 458-1223 or Jean Edwards at 458-8056.

Call F.O.R. at 502/458-8056

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Nineteen groups unite over metro police abuse hearing

by Anne Braden

The long struggle against police brutality in Louisville has reached a new level.

On Oct. 22, 19 community organizations — representing virtually the entire movement for justice in Louisville, and including FOR — joined State Rep. Paul Bather in sponsoring a community meeting in the Metro Chamber of City Hall. The purpose was to provide information and launch a new campaign to implement the Civilian Police Review Ordinance passed in 2000. This ordinance includes the essential element of independent investigation of incidents of police abuse of citizens.

For those of us dealing with this urgent problem, this is a matter of life and death. Six African American men have been shot and killed by police in Louisville in the last four years, and not one officer has been penalized in any way for these incidents. Meantime, citizens, black and white, are beaten and/or verbally abused every week by rogue officers.

In response to the mass outcry that followed the fatal shooting of James Taylor in handcuffs in December, Mayor Jerry Abramson appointed the city's first African American police chief, Robert White, and certain important reforms were instituted.

These include new policies on the use of force, efforts to create a new culture in the merged city-county police department that emphasizes crime prevention instead of massive arrests and better training and involvement of police in the community.

All that is good, but it does not get at the root of the problem. The majority of police are conscientious and professional and many sincerely try to be of service to the community. The recurring crises are caused by the minority of officers — the rogue ones — who have always remained totally unaffected by such reforms. Nothing is going to stop them from committing crimes except a knowledge that they will have to pay a penalty for their acts — either criminal charges, dismissal from the force, or some adequate disciplinary measures.

And that has never happened. Not only in the last four years, but throughout the entire history of Louisville, for well over 100 years, police have known by the record that they could get away with murder.

That is the basic problem that the 2000 ordinance, passed by the old Louisville Board of Aldermen under huge community pressure at that time, would deal with. It would set up an Office of Independent Investigation, staffed by trained professional investigators. No longer would the fox be watching the chicken coop. Experience has proved that police simply cannot investigate themselves. Even when an incident reaches a grand jury, all the jurors have to look at is the results of an investigation by police officers — who, whether consciously or unconsciously, interview the people favorable to police, frame their questions to support police, and thus always find excuses for the officer.

Since the massive protests over the Taylor shooting last winter, this issue has not been on center stage in the community as a whole. But groups and people who have been trying to solve this problem for years never let up the pressure. The Justice Resource Center, led by Rev. Louis Coleman, has held a vigil at Police Headquarters every Sunday afternoon — rain, snow, or shine and heat — for ten months, and carried on a boycott of Louisville businesses that has produced over \$280,000 in receipts from people shopping in Indiana. The Alliance and

CAPA (Citizens Against Police Abuse, a 30-organization coalition) have gone door-to-door in both the West End and in remote areas of what used to be Jefferson County, have organized a campaign that has produced over 700 postcards to the mayor and Metro Council members supporting the 2000 ordinance, and have quietly met with council members.

The October 22 community meeting at City Hall came about because of a totally unexpected development in the Citizens Commission on Police Accountability set up by Mayor Abramson last winter. Abramson — for reasons no one can fathom — has always been adamantly opposed to any form of civilian review or independent investigation of police, even when he was mayor before. He created the new commission in a totally unprecedented rush procedure — calling for passage the night it was introduced by the Metro Council with no referral to committee, no discussion or hearings — to head off efforts to implement the 2000 ordinance.

The 2000 ordinance was never implemented when it was passed because the FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) filed suit immediately claiming it was unconstitutional. The Kentucky Court of Appeals sent it back last winter without ruling on the suit and saying the suit was premature, because there had been no effort to enforce it. Thus it remains on the books, simply awaiting implementation and funding by the new Metro Council, and supporters who are legal experts are convinced it can stand up to any future court challenge.

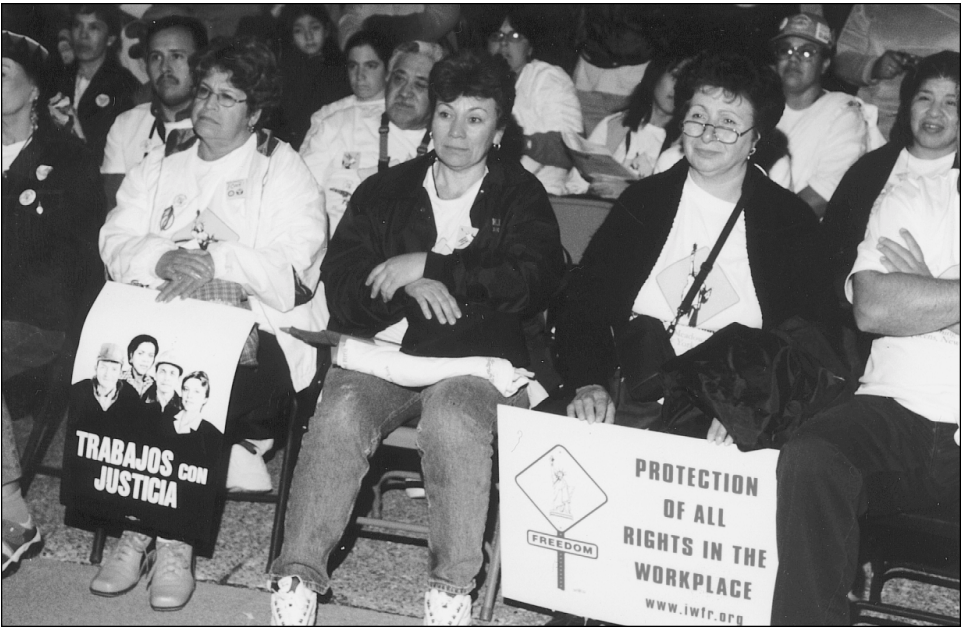
The new Commission set up by the mayor and Metro Council was given no power whatsoever. It was mandated only to look into an investigation after it had been conducted by police — and only in cases in which police shot or killed someone — and told not to suggest any different action in those cases but to recommend possible changes in police procedure. Abramson appointed 11 members to it — all business and professional people, none of whom had ever been active for police reform and most of them totally unknown to people who had been pushing for changes in the Police Department.

The Commission met regularly starting last April, organized itself and proceeded to investigate the James Taylor case. Members of the public were allowed to attend the meetings under the sunshine law but could not say anything.

At its October 9 meeting, members of the commission startled members of the justice community who were there by engaging in a long discussion in which almost all of the members expressed the opinion that something was wrong with the police investigative process. Five of the 11 actually voted to recommend to the mayor that an “independent investigative review component with no ties to the police department” be introduced into the process. No one in local justice organizations had talked with any of these people; they had reached their conclusions on their own from their study of the Taylor case.

Tom Moffett, a long-time activist in the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression who has carried on a dogged steady battle on the police question for decades, came back from that meeting and told his co-workers that a “new window of opportunity” for change now existed. Two days later, he sent a mailing to 70 key people in justice organizations asking them to help organize for new action. Most

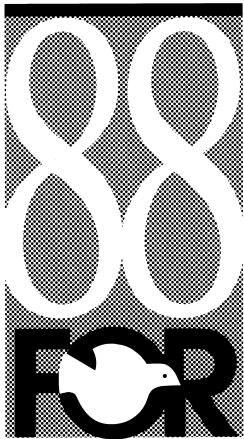
(continued on page 4)



The freedom ride is back

— photos by Eddie Davis

Performers (top) add an international cultural mix to the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride in Louisville Sept. 29. Workers (above) pushed for expanded rights and protections of immigrant laborers.



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Toxic air pollution

(continued from page 1)

REACT members are making plans to meet with local ministers, metro council members and state representatives with the goal of making toxic air pollution a top issue in future local elections.

Members of REACT are also taking their own air samples in West End neighborhoods and along the fence lines of Rubbertown industries. Working with Denny Larson, a San Francisco environmentalist who has organized and trained people around the world to collect air samples, REACT's Bucket Brigade responds to residents' complaints of odors in the air and takes air samples.

"If you can smell the air, that means you are breathing in the toxic chemicals that caused the smell," explained one Bucket Brigade volunteer.

Air samples are sent to a laboratory in California to be analyzed and results are distributed to people living in the neighborhood.

Air samples taken by the Bucket Brigade in September revealed that in spite of promises made by three companies to voluntarily reduce their emissions, 1,3-butadiene was still being released into the air at levels five to 23 times higher than health thresholds.

Greenpeace, an international environmental group, has announced that it would assist the Justice Resource Center's efforts by sending organizers and air monitoring equipment to Louisville. During a week-long visit in September, Greenpeace organizers demonstrated air sampling equipment that used infrared laser technology and a computer to instantly analyze the types and amounts of toxic chemicals in the air.

REACT members have been warned that their campaign to end toxic air pollution from Rubbertown industries has some powerful enemies and the campaign will probably be a lengthy one.

"This is a life or death issue for our community and a fight for the health of our children," said Rev. Louis Coleman, director of the Justice Resource Center. "Because it is so serious we will not quit."

If you would like more information about REACT, call 774-5267 or 368-3387.

The writer is a board member of the Justice Resource Center and Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. He is an activist with REACT and its Bucket Brigade.

Unity Dinner postponed till early in 2004

The annual Unity Dinner sponsored by the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, which is usually held in December and always brings Louisville's entire justice and peace community together, will not happen until early 2004.

The Alliance said it has been urged by many supporters to separate its annual fall fund drive from the Unity Dinner because some people are confused by being solicited for donations and asked to buy tables and ads for the Unity Dinner at the same time.

The organization does not make any significant amount of money from the dinner itself, as tickets and ads just about pay for the cost of the dinner and a substantive journal.

The annual fund drive for donations, which the alliance said is essential to the continuation of alliance activity in 2004, is underway. The alliance said it will be completed by the end of the year.

The alliance also said speakers it hoped to have for this year's Unity Dinner were not available in December. The date for the dinner will be announced by the end of December, organizers said.

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the

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September 2003 to January 2004

November 20

Jane Walsh

As Executive Director of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition, Jane Walsh works for fair, decent and affordable housing in the Louisville area. She will speak on the **Struggle for Housing Justice** and will explain how current public policies promote segregated housing patterns while failing to meet the community's need for affordable housing. Jane will also talk about how activists can get involved in the struggle.

January 15

Felix Garza & Juan Pena

Felix Garza is President of the Hispanic/Latino Coalition and Juan Pena is Human Rights Field Supervisor for the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. They will speak about **Hispanic/Latino Immigrants in Kentucky**, the importance of immigrant workers to the state's economy, the contributions they make, the obstacles they face, and how the social justice community can respond.

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Metro police abuse hearing (continued from page 2)

responded with expressions of support, and 15 people from diverse organizations came together in a series of quick meetings, starting on October 14. In eight days, they reached out to the community with mass mailings and phone calls and organized the community meeting on October 22.

That meeting itself was attended by about 65 people, very diverse in constituency and about 60 percent African American and 40 percent white. The meeting was designed to be informational, but it became also an action meeting.

A panel of knowledgeable people presented the background. Bill Allison, a member of the Board of Aldermen when the 2000 ordinance passed, related how huge community pressure caused the board to act (A Bluegrass poll at that time showed that 73 percent of the people in the community supported civilian oversight of police.). He described how an Office of Independent Investigation mandated in the ordinance, would allow citizens who believe they have been abused to go directly to that agency, thus bypassing the police department’s internal investigative process, which almost always says an action by police is justified.

Allison also talked about how holding individual officers accountable for their actions would benefit the Police Department as well as citizens because it would mean the officers who do a good job would no longer be saddled with the distrust created by the rogue officers. And he said independent investigation, although it would require city funds, would be cost effective because it would reduce the amount the city pays out in settlements to citizens who file law suits.

Janice Carter, president of the Louisville NAACP, who is a retired employee of the Jefferson County Police Department, told how her own experience made her acutely aware of the very difficult job police are required to perform, but how it also had convinced her that police who do wrong simply cannot investigate themselves.

Dr. J. Blaine Hudson, chairperson of the Pan African Studies Department at the University of Louisville, gave an overview of the long history of the oppressor role police have played in the African American community. He also recounted the history of active organization for reform of police that was carried on by African Americans here throughout the latter part of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century.

Suzy Post, a long-time leader of the American Civil Liberties Union and recently the organizer of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition, talked about the fact that the issue of police brutality has long been a priority of both the local and national ACLU. She told how as president of the local ACLU in the late 1960s she organized a broad coalition that supported the unsuccessful effort by the late alderwoman Lois Morris to get civilian review legislation at that time. Emphasizing that although the problem is most acute in the African American community, powerless whites are also victimized, she told how her interest was first aroused when white anti-war youth were harassed by police in the 1960s. She said the problem of abusive police still plagues her in her work for affordable housing because neighborhood quality of life is profoundly affected by police practices.

During discussion after the panel presentations, representatives of diverse organizations spoke out. Beverly Watts, director of the Kentucky Human Rights Commission, said that agency strongly supports civilian review and independent investigation. Rev. Coleman and Roosevelt Roberts voiced determined support from the Justice Resource Center. Tom Pierce and K.A. Owens spoke strongly for CAPA.

Ed Litsey, Jr., son of a white man recently killed by a speeding police car at Fourth Street and Winkler Avenue, spoke of that tragedy. He told how the police car rushed through the intersection without stopping at the red light, no lights on or sirens sounding, and hit the van driven by his father broadside and killing him instantly. The officer got nothing but a speeding ticket, and a grand jury later refused to indict. Litsey said he is insisting on a reopening of the case by the Commonwealth’s

Attorney and this may happen because he has brought new evidence. But he said: “A citizen should not have to do this. It is the job of the police themselves and the government to see that justice is done.”

The community meeting was designed to inform not only the public but members of the Metro Council and the Citizens Commission on Police Accountability — and special invitations were extended to all of them by Representative Bather. Only four Council members came — Mary Woolridge, Barbara Shanklin, Willie Bright and Doug Hawkins, but a few others sent regrets citing previous commitments. None of the Citizens Commission members came. Neither did Mayor Abramson, although he was extended a special personal invitation. David James, president of the FOP, and one other police officer attended.

State Rep. Reginald Meeks was present and rose during the discussion to call for a renewed community organizing drive to resolve this long-standing issue for once and for all.

Tom Moffett made impassioned comments during the discussion period, emphasizing what continued police abuse is doing to the entire community fabric. He also talked about how this problem is pervasive in communities all over the country and has become worse in recent years. He said that Louisville, if it instituted effective independent investigation, could make a name for itself nation-

ally and be a model for the country, making it truly what the mayor says he wants it to be, a “world-class city.”

Those who organized the October 22 meeting started immediately to implement follow-up. There will be individual approaches and delegations to the Metro Council members. The postcard campaign and door-to-door work will be intensified. There may be community meetings in diverse neighborhoods, both in the former city and the former county.

We need everybody committed to justice to help in this effort. We hope each organization that co-sponsored the October 22 event will appoint a committee to work actively with us on follow-up; we hope many people will find actual time to pitch in on some of the drudgery-like work that is needed.

People committed to justice and a better, more human society have many critical calls on their time and energy today; both the local and the national situation demand constant action on many fronts. But the fact is that it is unlikely that we are going to move toward solution of any of these crises unless we do something effective about police abuse of large numbers of our citizens. That is because the misuse of power by police is the basic way that people who suffer most from the present condition of our society are kept impotent and unable to organize effectively.

The writer is a veteran of civil rights struggles and longtime activist with the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

List of groups a diverse one

The 19 organizations that joined State Rep. Paul Bather in sponsoring the community meeting on independent investigation of accusations of abuse by police represented a very diverse cross-section of Louisville’s movements for justice. It included:

ACLU of Kentucky, A. Philip Randolph Institute, Association of Black Students U of L, Citizens Against Police Abuse (CAPA), Church of the Epiphany Social Concerns Committee, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Fairness Campaign, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Grace-Hope Presbyterian Church, Justice Resource Center, Kentucky Alliance, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC), Louisville Peace Action Community, Masterminds, NAACP Louisville Branch, New Covenant Community Church AME, Nurses Professional Organization (NPO), and the U of L Committee for Peace and Justice.

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- Ignacio Ellacuria (assassinated by SOA graduates November 16th, 1989)

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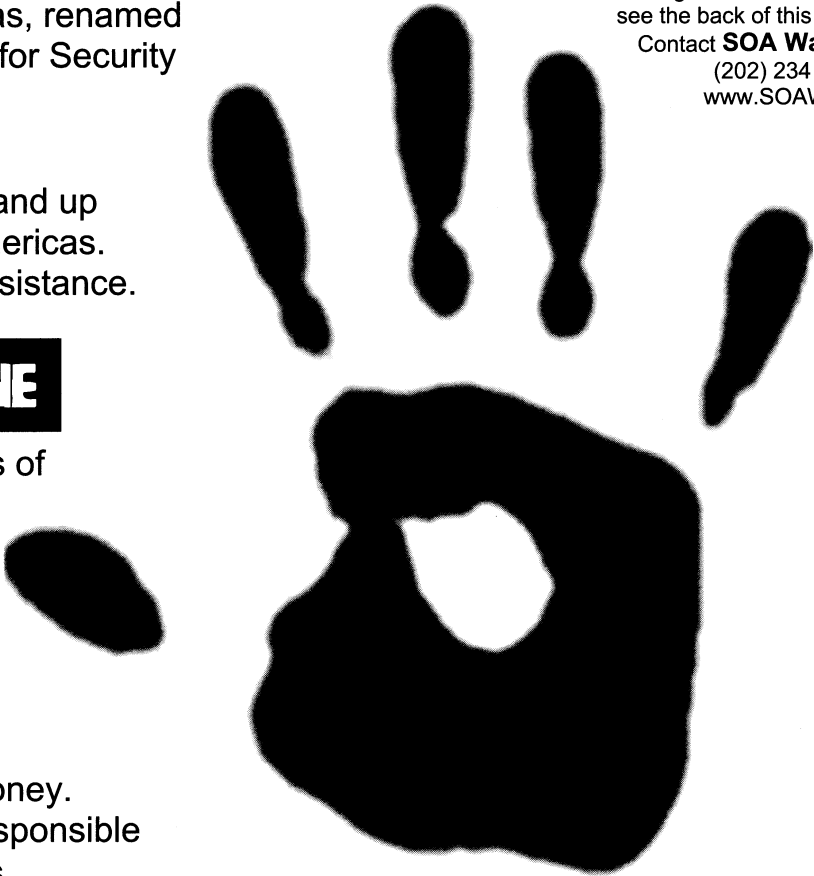
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NOVEMBER 21-23, 2003

AT THE GATES AND ON THE GROUNDS OF FORT BENNING IN GEORGIA

Designed-in flaws have weakened public broadcasting

The Decline and Fall of Public Broadcasting

by David Barsamian; 2001; South End Press; 102 pp.

reviewed by Tracy McLellan

I wouldn’t recommend this book on its merits alone, simply because it’s too short. More than a book, it’s a collection of several essays really – a short foreword by Amy Goodman, a short afterword by Mumia Abu-Jamal and three short essays and one long one by the author. There is also an appendix of 22 alternative sources of media, some of which the reader will surely already be aware, and all of which I’m sure are excellent.

The book is educational and an interesting read. Twelve dollars seems a bit steep, but a point Barsamian makes throughout, and which also no doubt applies here, is that it’s important to financially support alternative sources of information, lest they disappear. As with anything with which Barsamian is associated, this is an excellent examination of vital issues important to our lives.

Barsamian covers the history of public broadcasting in detail and rich anecdote. Much of what he catalogs of public broadcasting can be intuited by watching PBS or listening to NPR. For example, that they are under funded. Or that for that and other ideological reasons corporations have stepped in to fill the void. Or the ridiculousness of the conservative accusation that public broadcasting has a left-liberal bias.

Barsamian explains that the CPB (Corporation for Public Broadcasting) was

BOOK REVIEWS

founded in 1967 at a time when Japan and much of Europe already had functioning, well-funded public radio and television networks. It was founded on the basis of the Carnegie Commission Report to provide a voice for the voiceless, and educational *non-commercial* broadcasting. The document, and hence CPB itself, however, were “structurally flawed from (their) inception.” The Report was drafted by establishment leaders. CPB funding was depen-

Barsamian laments the lack of radical voices in the mainstream, corporatized media, including CPB.

dent on Congress and presidential-appointed members of the CPB, which made it susceptible to political pressure from the very beginning. This pressure was not long in making itself felt, as Barsamian notes. He shows that this state of affairs has forced CPB to rely more and more on corporate advertisers, compromising its integrity and making it the programming wasteland it is today.

Interesting and nauseating is Barsamian’s examination of Michael Powell, Colin’s son, as head of the FCC. Promoted by President George W. Bush, Powell believes there’s “too much regulation, too much government interference” in the nation’s airwaves, a public resource. “Among Powell’s first actions,” as FCC

chair, says Barsamian, “was an April 2001 decision to relax regulations prohibiting companies from owning multiple broadcasting networks... A few weeks earlier, Powell had expedited the approval of 32 radio-station mergers. In addition, Powell has said he will review the important ‘cross-ownership’ rule, which prevents companies from owning a newspaper and television station in the same region.

Further, says Barsamian, “Powell dismissed the FCC historic mandate to evaluate corporate actions based on the public interest at an American Bar Association panel discussion in the spring of 2001. That standard, he said, ‘is about as

empty a vessel as you can accord a regulating agency.’” This from the same Michael Powell, who previously as a mere FCC commissioner, didn’t recuse himself from the deliberations and eventual approval of the merger of Time-Warner and AOL in which Colin Powell held millions of dollars in stock.

Recently, the FCC approved increasing the number of television stations networks can own. A furious grassroots challenge to this measure prompted even the usually demure Senate to pass a law prohibiting the change; for naught, as Tom Delay prevented it from coming to a vote in the House and it appears dead.

Barsamian laments the lack of radical voices in the mainstream, corporatized

media, including CPB. He relates an incident of a Noam Chomsky interview, upon recent publication of his 1998 book, *The Culture of Terrorism*, being the subject of a rarely used, last-minute veto by a programming producer.

“On the rare occasions (Charlie) Rose has had Edward Said on,” says Barsamian, “he does not let him finish a sentence. There’s a torrent of, ‘What about, what about?’ Yet when Rose has perennial favorites like Thomas Friedman or Henry Kissinger on, he genuflects and exhibits proper awe and reverence. He has turned sycophancy into an art form.”

Free media and a rich diversity of sources of information are an important component of a strong, functioning democracy, as the Founding Fathers recognized.

Barsamian cites Ben Bagdikian’s book *Media Monopoly* to show that our media are being controlled by fewer and fewer oligopolies. Published in 1983, it found that 50 corporations dominated the media in the United States. Reviews of that time accused Bagdikian of being “hyperbolic and for not having faith in the free market economy to create more and more alternatives.”

Subsequent editions of *Media Monopoly* found this figure dwindling until the most recent edition in 2000 found that just six corporations dominate U.S. media. Moreover, according to Bagdikian, one under-states “by counting them as ‘six.’ They are intertwined: they own stock in each other, they cooperate in joint media ventures, and among themselves they divide profits from some of the most widely viewed programs on television, cable, and movies.”

Contact the reviewer at tracymacl@yahoo.com.

Kessler’s vision of solar utopia is awkwardly outlined

History of the Future

by Michael Kessler. Lincoln, Neb. Writers Club Press, 2002. 99pp.

reviewed by Eustace Durrett and Ike M. Thacker IV

There is no doubt that “History of the Future,” albeit perhaps a bit presumptuous, is a good book title. Michael Kessler of Louisville, whose book of that title suffers from some thirty typographical and grammatical errors, sets out to do nothing less than project the future of mankind, which he says must be the Solar Age, because our present choice is between utopia and extinction. Previous ages, says Kessler, have been the Stone Age, the Agricultural Age, and the current Oil Age — the last of which must be soon transcended.

Even leaving aside the fact that many

mechanical advances were made during and after the Agricultural Age, but before oil was discovered, this schema is of course an oversimplification — one of many in *History of the Future*, although this particular one comes from Alvin Toffler’s *The Third Wave*, his debt to which Kessler graciously acknowledges.

In addition to his debt to Toffler, Kessler gives due credit to the two main prophets of the Solar Age, Albert Einstein (with his theory of relativity) and R. Buckminster Fuller (with his many ideas, including Design Science and the global energy grid). Kessler’s basic thesis, simply stated, is that we as individuals have the power collectively to initiate the Solar Age, in which there will be plenty of free, renewable, solar-based energy controlled by a constitutional, democratic world government.

Kessler says that this will result in “a society so wealthy that everyone born is on a birth-to-death scholarship,” undergirded by a global energy grid that transfers excess power from the one side of the Earth that is always facing the sun to the temporarily “dark” side as needed.

All of us would like to see such a result, of course, but one criticism of Kessler (and Fuller) is that they rely too much on the concept of the global power grid to usher in Shangri-La. There is more to society than can be solved by electrical power, more economic forces that must be dealt with.

Such a Marxist paradise as envisioned by Kessler would at the least require economic underpinnings, a system where the rule is, “From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs.”

For all that, though, History of the

Future has many strengths, and basically does present at least a prima facie case for its central ideas. Each chapter is preceded by some well-chosen and appropriate “Kessler’s Kwotes” such as: “Every being, except humans, knows the purpose of life is to have a good time” (Goethe). And the four appendixes are all to their points and convincing, especially the one — Appendix II — on the global power grid.

In short, this short book, despite its shortcomings, is very thought-provoking and long on substance. It is well worth the minimum of time required to read it for anyone interested in the future.

Eustace Durrett is an activist for rail transit. Ike M. Thacker IV is a professor of history at Spalding University. Both live in Louisville.

Crossing boundaries in a search for health care reform

by Sr. Rose Marie Cummins

Newspapers recently have carried myriad stories and photos of disabled and elderly people who have had benefits taken away due to cuts in Medicaid.

Many may also have seen full-page ads taken out in newspapers urging people to get their prescription medicines filled through a program in Canada. One article spoke of one of our state senators working on legislation that would make this practice legal and easier.

One need not be a trained social analyst to know that something is wrong with this picture. Our legislators are willing to work toward getting prescriptions filled in another country, but not willing to enact meaningful legislation for health care here in our own country.

It also doesn’t take long to see that the poor and marginalized in our society are clearly not a priority these days. Indeed, the first casualties to suffer from an unprecedented increase in military spending are those already invisible to many

politicians and those making decisions about their everyday lives.

A study completed in 1999 by Harvard Medical School and the Canadian Institute for Health Information found that the United States spends roughly three times the money per capita that Canada does on health care administration — not medical care. The United States government spends \$1059 to Canada’s \$307 per capita. Why?

These researchers found that higher U.S. administrative costs can be attributed to three factors:

- The U.S. has a fragmented payment system that makes administrative costs higher.
- In the U.S., doctors and hospitals deal with hundreds of different insurance plans (at least 755 in Seattle alone), each with different coverage and payment rules.
- Private insurers have high overhead. Many U.S. hospitals and insurers (as well as some doctors) make health care a profitable business venture.

On the other hand, Canadian doctors bill a single insurance plan, using a simple nationalized form. Hospitals reserve a lump sum budget similar to how a local police or fire department is paid in the U.S.

The conclusion these researchers drew was that only national health insurance can take the waste out of the health care system so that money can be used for actual care of the sick — and not to pay the costs of people pushing and multiplying papers.

Our country already spends enough money to provide every American with excellent medical care. We spend 42 percent more than Switzerland and 83 percent more than Canada. And yet... and yet, it does not go toward the actual care of our citizenry.

We are at a time when political debates are heating up and candidates are jockeying for our votes. Sadly, we are more apt to hear slanderous attacks and accusations of partisan politics than to hear imagination from the candidates on how they can make our cities, towns and county better places to live.

Many of our doctors, too, have become “beholden” to the insurance and pharmaceutical industries. Decisions about the length of time patients should stay in the hospital, tests that are necessary, and medicines that are best for a patient are oftentimes made not by the doctor, but by pharmaceutical and insurance companies. Furthermore, some new medications cost more, but most often are not more effective than those they replace.

We can take the attitude that these “giants” are bigger and more powerful than we can ever be. We can leave it up to the politicians to make decisions that continue to make life more burdensome for the poor. Or, we can become more knowledgeable and find our voices.

Is not adequate health care the right of all?

The writer is the director of the Dominican Earth Center of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catharine, Ky. Contact her at (859) 336-7778 or rosieop@kyol.net.

At last, my own journey

My look at West Virginia was a trip to write home about

From El Salvador, Nicaragua, Palestine Cuba and Chiapas they come – first hand accounts of people struggling against injustice.

You, the FORsooth reader, learn through these pages of those coping without economic justice or opportunity.

As editor, it falls to me to place the stories written by peace and justice figures like Father Jim Flynn, Nancy Jakubiak, Cathy Ford and Angelyn Rudd about the Third World places where they go to expose injustice and rally people for new economic and foreign policies.

I also must choose the pictures and write the headlines. All this brings me a certain degree of fulfillment. But there's just one thing that bothers me.

Jim, Nancy, Cathy, Angelyn and the others: you never take me with you. I feel a little like a NASA mission control person watching astronauts walk on the moon. Like the flight controllers, I am a part of a great mission, but oh, what I would give to walk there.

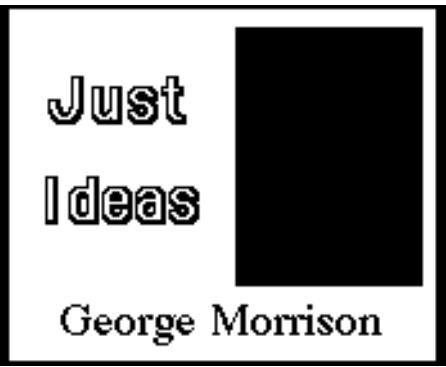
I'd recount my own meetings with people in small, threadbare living rooms and talk about walking 10 miles down a rocky road to the nearest school or doctor's office.

So let me get right into my own trip to a place that is struggling, but enduring – a place so close by that maybe we never thought to go there.

In mid-September I spent two days in West Virginia, a place often automatically thought of as, well, lacking. And to a certain extent this is true; the state lacks doctors, job opportunities and political leadership – as shown when the legislature was ordered by the state supreme court to reform education, much in the same manner as was Kentucky's.

Unlike in Frankfort, the West Virginia general assembly simply refused and the courts had to cite legislative leaders for contempt.

I don't want this column, however, to conform the shopworn, cliched findings by so many journalists who characterize West Virginia (or for that matter, the whole Appalachian region) as full of shacks, junkyards and county government offi-



cials who go around shirtless all day (CBS' 48 Hours showed a county executive in Floyd County, Ky. who did just that in a widely criticized report on the region in the late 1980s).

Everybody I saw in Logan, W. Va., the county seat of 1,630 people where I spent most of my two days in the state, was fully clothed. And, for that matter, they were proud, contented to live there and too busy working and shopping in their city's clean, neat business districts to lament their community's loss of population caused by the coal industry's shift away from labor intensiveness.

Logan County has 37,710 people, the 2000 U.S. Census reported. That was down 12.4 percent from the 1990 figure. The drop is evident in Logan's downtown, one long-time resident and observer told me.

"Twenty years ago it was just a hustling, bustling town," said F. Keith Davis, general manager of the Logan Banner newspaper. "Things have really slowed down economically. The coal industry isn't quite what it used to be."

Still, the patronage of many county residents keeps furniture stores, nice restaurants and the thriving Banner going in a picturesque downtown framed by steep mountains.

Over lunch at a trendy downtown sports bar-restaurant, Davis explained that just as much coal is taken out of the area as during the industry's peak, but new technologies mean coal firms just don't need the legions of miners whose paychecks kept Logan healthy.

He said even before the civil rights movement, black and white miners worked alongside each other for generally equal pay, and that although Logan went through a drastic example of racial profiling in the conviction of a black man for a 1932 murder of a relative of mine (researching that episode is what drew me to Logan), overall, the racial climate was better than in most of the south.

I put that claim to the test by interviewing Ernestine Coleman, 83, an African-American woman, in her living room a few blocks and across the Guyandotte River from downtown.

Coleman, a lifelong Logan resident who does not remember the murder trial, said the street she grew up on had people of both races who interacted freely and almost always without malice. Her stepfather, Joe Jones, was one of those black coal miners.

"They didn't make very much. We always raised a big garden," Coleman said. "We had plenty of food. We didn't have any money, but we had plenty of food."

While civil rights advances make a repeat of the highly questionable 1932 conviction of Clarence Stephenson, a black handyman, less likely, Coleman described a Logan where today, overall, the economic downturn of the coal region has wiped out the idea of equal opportunity for blacks or the poor.

It has also brought social problems to town we usually associate with big cities.

"So much drugs and stuff, now — I would like to see all that wiped out, but I don't know if it ever will be. It's taking our young kids, you know, they're all in jail or dead."

Coleman, who works four hours a day in a senior citizen home, said the drug trade isn't limited to the prescription pain killer abuse reportedly widespread in rural America.

"They have some of everything, they say – crack and all that stuff," she said.

The worst problem facing black people in Logan today, she said, is the choice between unemployment or moving away.

Three of her four children have. One son, who is retired after 21 years in the U.S. Air Force, lives in Texas. A daughter lives in Detroit and another daughter lives in Columbus, Ohio. A son, Ronald Coleman, who is disabled, lives with her.

Her family's story is common in West Virginia, whose 2000 population figure of 1.8 million was down about 140,000 since 1980.

"We just don't have.... the jobs," Coleman said. "They all have to leave."

Contact George Morrison at klm86@netzero.net.

FINANCIAL REPORT September 2003

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$4,545.24
General Contributions	3,902.00
TOTAL	8,447.24

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FORsooth Editing	\$150.00
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Fundraiser Letter	620.90
Office Expense	73.64
	\$1,532.54
ENDING BALANCE 9/22/03	1,532.54
	\$6,914.70

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The Louisville Middle East Peace Delegation and Louisville Committee For Peace in the Middle East

**Report Back and Return Celebration
"Peace-Making in a Dangerous Time"**
Sunday, November 9, 2003, 6:00pm-8:00pm
Central Presbyterian Church
4th and Kentucky Streets
Potluck Dinner and Presentation
Wheelchair accessible

Sponsored By:
The Peace and Justice Community in Louisville
For information call 599-0261 or 541-0758

Louisville peace activist Pat Geier recently traveled to the occupied Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip to join the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), a group that follows non-violent direct action tactics with volunteers from around the world to oppose the illegal Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. The work of these volunteers has become increasingly dangerous and this delegation was harassed frequently at Israeli military checkpoints and by settlers trying to stop their work.

One of the projects of this delegation was working in several villages assisting farmers in the fall olive harvest as part of the International Solidarity Movement's non-violent direct action to the continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands. Olive trees are destroyed and the picking of olives thwarted by the Israeli military in mass punishment actions by the Israeli government. Such collective punishment is illegal under Geneva conventions. Armed settlers also harass Palestinian farmers with impunity. Destruction of olive groves has a devastating impact on Palestinian citizens economically, and also religiously and culturally.

Geier and fellow activists Mark Chimel and Angie O'Gorman, from St. Louis, and other International Solidarity Movement volunteers were joined in the harvest by Rabbis for Human Rights.

Contributions will be directed to support the work of the International Solidarity Movement and future Louisville delegation

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Transit’s drivers and makers fighting anti-labor trends

John Mains is a bus driver for Lextran, which operates the public buses in Lexington, Ky. On July 24, 2002 he asked management to replace the bus he was scheduled to drive, saying it was unsafe. Lextran refused, ordering him to drive it.

John then called Bobbie Martin, his union vice president (local 639 Amalgamated Transit Union). She told him the OSHA manual states that if you feel there is an imminent danger of accident or death, you don’t have to drive the bus. John did not drive the bus.

And how did Lextran deal with this? First they suspended Bobbie Martin. Then they suspended John Mains. Next they suspended chief shop steward Tim Burnett, followed by suspensions of John’s replacement driver, LaDon Mackey, and then union president Stefan Lewis. Soon thereafter, Tim, Bobbie, Stefan and John were all fired for conduct unbecoming, insubordination, and providing false and misleading information.

LaDon’s five day suspension was reaffirmed by Lextran. The cases were set for arbitration. The day before Tim’s case was to be heard, he accepted Lextran’s offer of \$4,000 and went back to work — he is still owed \$17,000.

Lextran was ordered to rehire John, LaDon, and Stefan, with back pay. John chose not to return to his job.

Bobbie’s arbitrator, who reportedly has a poor record of ruling in favor of workers, ruled against her. She was the first among these righteous workers to stand up for justice, and she has paid a very heavy price.

OSHA confirmed the buses (plural — most Lextran buses) are unsafe. Transit Authority of River City (TARC), which operates Louisville’s bus system, examined the buses at the request of Lextran and deemed them unsafe.

Lexington mayor Theresa Isaac got a lot of flack recently for courageously walking a communications workers (CWA) picket line. She has been conspicuously silent as regards



Bobbie Martin and the whole mess of unsafe buses, and the union president told me on Oct. 24. that she will not meet with the union. The ATU national union, which had originally agreed to pay legal fees and insisted on legal representation other than the workers’ first choice, is now refusing to pay said fees.

And Bobbie Martin, who paid — out of her own pocket – overdue bills of a co-worker who had been fired alongside her, is still without work.

The Lexington buses are still unsafe. Please let your feelings be known to: Ann C. Render, esq., chairperson of Lextran, 167 W. Main St., Lexington Ky. E-mail: annrender@aol.com. Contact Mayor Theresa Isaac at Government Center, 12th floor, 200 E. Main St., Lexington Ky. 40507. E-mail: mayor@lfugc.com.

The serious straits in which labor finds itself, as above, unfortunately, also exist on a larger scale. The UAW (United Auto Workers) has heretofore been among the staunchest fighters for better wages, hours and working conditions. But *Labor Notes* writer Jane Slaughter wrote in the October issue: “The (UAW’s) new contracts with the Big Three auto makers (GM, Ford and DaimlerChrysler) and two top (parts) suppliers signal the union’s unabashed acceptance of a two-tier system.

“New hires at two big parts supplier companies, Visteon and Delphi, will now be paid ‘competitive wage and benefit levels’ approximately \$10 lower (per hour than presently earned).

“This year, the UAW reversed course and took explicit action to lower wages for 52,000 of its members who have not yet been hired.

“Auto workers at supplier companies have traditionally received different wages than at the Big Three. The situation worsened in the 1980s and 1990s, when the Big Three closed some of their own parts plants and increased their outsourcing from non-union suppliers. The union did virtually nothing to organize the nonunion plants.

“Now the UAW is paying for that inaction.” I am neither self-righteous nor judgmental in reporting this, dear readers. The UAW faces serious problems, ranging from speedup on the assembly line to labor-management “team concept” (sleeping with your enemy without protection).

The union allowed these and other concessions in exchange for the Big Three encouraging non-union suppliers to remain neutral in collective bargaining elections. Non-union auto plants are sprouting in Indiana and a number of southern states, and the union is up against a wall. Time will tell whether letting the Japanese and German owners of many of these factories know the UAW can be their good buddy will be successful.

Don’t hold your breath. Your scribe was, for almost 24 years, like the auto workers, part of the “labor aristocracy,” that small segment of proletarians paid wages much higher than most workers. My union, Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco and Grain Millers, accepted two-tier wages and other concessions at the Philip Morris factory here in Louisville, in a futile effort to retain jobs and keep the plant from moving. It did not work for

us then, and it is not achieving big success for the autoworkers now.

In a climate of declining union membership, Democratic Party leaders mistakenly trying to become more conservative to keep Republicans at bay, etc., organizing the unorganized, and keeping the organized organized, is not an easy task.

But there are new initiatives on the horizon. Five unions (Service Employees, Hotel and Restaurant Employees, UNITE, Laborers, and Carpenters) have formed the New Unity Partnership (NUP) to develop a plan to organize the unorganized and reconfigure the structures within the AFL-CIO.

This observer will have to await future developments before commenting further.

In the October Labor Paeans (q.v.) Alabama colleagues of mine (Jack Zylman and Gwen Patton) gave two thoughtful responses to my question: why would poor and working class Alabamians vote against their own self-interest and turn down the governor’s tax referendum?

I have received a number of replies to this, and will quote from them in the next few columns, as space permits.

Here’s the first, from Diane S. McAteer, which I have edited:

“I have an exception to (Zylman’s) comments regarding the Farmers’ Association. I was a member at one time, but was also a small farmer. I was in Young Farmers, which is a branch of it. We were courted and given a free steak dinner at our monthly meetings. It was all politics-on-the-sly.

“But now I remember that eerie subliminal smell, and now that I know what it is, it was nothing short of tricking us into backing ideology that would help no one but the big guys.

“(We) were used as publicity. We really were merely fronting (for) the agendas (of) the large timber tract owners and large agribusinesses.”

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

THREE NUNS AND GREENPEACE TARGETED BY ASHCROFT

Although no weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq, our U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft has discovered a new weapon in the United States to use against those who engage in civil disobedience. It is an obscure 1872 law originally intended to end the practice of “sailor-mongering” (the luring of sailors from their ships with liquor and prostitutes.

According to an article by Jonathan Turley in “Common Dreams News Center” (10/20/03), Ashcroft plucked the law from obscurity to punish Greenpeace for boarding a vessel near port in Miami in April 2002. He intends to use this as part of a broader campaign to protect the nation against free speech, a campaign that has converted environmentalists into “sailor-mongers” and nuns into terrorists.

The action by Greenpeace took place in April 2002. They were leading an international effort to stop the illegal importing of mahogany and to protest the Bush administration’s failure to stop the imports. They boarded the ship, the APL Jade, about eight miles from Miami. They wore Greenpeace jackets and allowed themselves to be arrested. The wood was unloaded. They pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor and were released.

Fifteen months later, the Justice Department filed an indictment in Miami against the entire Greenpeace organization under the 1872 law which has lain dormant for 125 years!

Greenpeace has been a constant irritant to the Bush administration from the very beginning when members unfurled a banner at the president’s ranch after the inauguration reading **Bush: the Toxic Texan. Don’t Mess with the Earth.**” Greenpeace is now in danger of losing its tax-exempt status.

The article by Jonathan Turley, a professor of law at George Washington University, goes on to state that Ashcroft’s jihad against free speech is now being leveled at three Dominican nuns from Baltimore who participated in a peaceful demonstration for nuclear disarmament.

On October 6, 2002, early in the morning, **Ardeth Platte**, 66, **Carol Gilbert**, 55, and **Jackie Hudson**, 68, cut one link in two chains and entered a Minuteman III N-8 nuclear missile silo site in a farmer’s field near Denver, Colorado and carried out a nonviolent symbolic disarmament action. They poured their blood in the form of six crosses on the silo cover and hammered on it. Then they carefully lowered 32 feet of the perimeter fencing to expose the ongoing crimes of threatening to use this weapon.

They brought proof of their research and carefully laid it on the silo cover. It maintained that, because of its vast heat, blast and radiation (20x the Hiroshima bomb) as well as its first-strike and high-alert status, any use of this particular missile would constitute a war crime, crime against peace, a crime against humanity and genocide as defined by the U.S. criminal code ...

The sisters sang a liturgy and prayed that the beauty of God’s earth and space be preserved for generations to come. An hour later, 21-year-old Air Force guards arrived and local authorities arrested them.

At the trial in April 2003, the Air Force witnesses for the prosecution testified that the nuns in no way interfered with or harmed the “national defense” The fencing that the Sisters lowered was easily replaced with fencing in stock by Air Force staff who regularly repair perimeter fences. In reality the actual “harm” done was no more than that routinely done by elk and tumbleweed.

The jury convicted them anyway. Judge Robert Blackburn found that the nuns had put military personnel “in harm’s way.” Accordingly, he imposed sentences:

ARDETH, 41 months – CAROL, 33 months – JACKIE, 30 months

The sisters had sat in a Colorado jail for seven months awaiting trial rather than sign



personal recognizance bonds promising that they would not commit any further crimes during wartime. But after the trial, they signed the bonds in order to say goodbye to loved ones and give away their belongings before their sentencing.

On the morning of July 25, 2003, the nuns arrived at the Federal Court in Denver, Colorado to be sentenced. They were dressed in black in solidarity with the women in black who stand together for peace around the world. They entered in silence praying for peace and repeating in silence their mantra, “**O God, teach us to be peacemakers in a hostile world.**”

Friends from all over the USA, religious community members and leadership were there to listen and speak to the sisters. There were Buddhists with their drums and people from Pax Christi with banners. The crowd filled the steps and the area in front of the courthouse and overflowed into the streets. It was to these people that the sisters delivered their presentencing statements.

On the following day, July 26, a crowd of more than 500 turned out to visit and expose all 49 MinuteMan III missiles in Colorado. Different actions took place at each silo including liturgies, theater, circling them with crime scene tape and singing. A small plane flew over the missile field displaying a banner that read, “**We found the weapons of mass destruction here in Colorado.**”

Addresses of the nuns are given here in hopes you can find time to send cards:

Sr. Ardeth Platte, OP 10857-039
FCI Danbury - Rt. 37 – Danbury, CT 06811

Sr. Carol Gilbert, OP 10856-039
RI FPC Alderson – PO Box A – Alderson, WV 24910

Sr. Jacqueline Hudson, OP 08808-039
FPC Victorville – PO Box 5100 – Adelanto, CA 92301

(Note: Much of the above description is taken from an article by Anabel Dwyer in “**Year One,**” Summer 2003, published by Jonah House, 1301 Moreland Ave, Baltimore, MD 21216)

HISTORIC SENATE VOTE WILL END CUBA TRAVEL BAN

The Senate voted on October 24, 2003 to end the ban on travel to Cuba. This came as an amendment to the Treasury, Transportation and General Government Appropriations bill. Such an amendment had already been passed by the House and prohibits funding for enforcement of restrictions on travel to Cuba.

In the face of so much gloom and doom surrounding peace efforts, this action represents a real victory to celebrate. As explained by Rachel Farley of the Washington Office on Latin America (LAWG), “The Bush Administration should recognize it is behind the times in its approach to Cuba, because Congress has clearly demonstrated it will no longer let US-Cuba policy be determined by domestic politics.”

WOMEN OF IRAQ TOUR WILL GO FORWARD

Cause for another victory comes from the FOR Action Network in the national office of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Nyack, New York. They learned on October 24 that the “Women of Iraq Tour” has received visas and their passports.

Please hold them in your hearts as they make the long and arduous journey from Baghdad to New York City. Keep informed as to events, invitations and interviews via the website www.forusa.org

These women are traveling to the United States for the first time. They have lived through the first Gulf War, sanctions, the recent invasion, and now the occupation. Their hope is to converse with American people, and they will have much to say.

Thanks are expressed to FOR constituents who called congressional representatives to advocate on behalf of their security clearances. For more information contact: packerman@forusa.org

Calendar for peacemakers

Nov 2 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE**, every first Sunday, remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign to express yourself. Bardstown Rd at Douglass Blvd. 7:00-8:00 pm. Sponsored by **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Ken Nevitt, 558-9124.

Nov 3 (Mon) **PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE**, *every weekday at 12:15*. A 15-20 minute prayer service followed by a simple lunch and conversation. James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave (at William Street). Call 896-0172.

Nov 5 (Wed) **ELAINE PREVALLET, SL: “Vulnerability: The Power of Choice and the Choice of Power.”** Bellarmine University, Amy Cralle Theater, 7:00 pm. Her presentation is part of the 40th anniversary of the Thomas Merton Collection at Bellarmine. Free. Call 452-8177 or 452-8187.

Nov 7 (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 Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Nov 8 (Sat) **RIFFAT HASSAN, writer, professor at U of L, and PAUL KNITTER, professor of theology at Xavier University: “Thomas Merton’s Dialogical Legacy: Accepting the Challenge.”** Bellarmine University, Amy Cralle Theater, 2:00 pm. Free. Marking the 40th anniversary of the Thomas Merton Collection at Bellarmine. Call 452-8177 or 452-8187.

Nov 8 (Sat) **CULINARY CONNECTIONS, international buffet with food donated from over 45 area restaurants, to benefit KENTUCKY REFUGEE MINISTRIES.** Also a silent auction and entertainment by the Harry Pickens Trio. For ticket information, contact Amelia Davis, 479-9180, x 25. E-mail: *adavis@kyrm.org*

Nov 8-16 **FESTIVAL OF FAITHS: “Faith and Justice,”** sponsored by the Cathedral Heritage Foundation. Call 587-9647 or Terry Taylor, 583-3100. *www.cathedral-heritage.org*

Nov 9 (Sun) **ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR., environmentalist – Festival of Faiths.** Memorial Auditorium, 4th & Ky Streets, 3:30 pm. **“Faith and Environmental Justice.”** Tickets \$20. Students and Seniors (\$15). VIP Reception/book signing \$100. Call 587-9647. *www.cathedral-heritage.org*

Nov 9 (Sun) **PAT GEIER, REPORTING ON HER EXPERIENCES IN PALESTINE/ISRAEL as a volunteer with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM).** Central Presbyterian Church, 4th and Kentucky Streets. Potluck dinner, 6:30 pm. Call David Horvath, 479-9262.

Nov 9 (Sun) **EARTHSAVE PRESENTS “FEAST AND FILM,”** monthly vegetarian potluck supper followed by a local speaker. Bring a vegetarian dish to serve six, plus your own reusable place setting. Non members pay \$3. Those without a dish to share pay \$3. Douglass Blvd Christian Church at Bardstown Road. 6:00-8:00 pm. Call Jennifer Beaird, 458-8515.

Nov 10 (Mon) **RON SIDER**, evangelical social activist and author: **“Rich Believers in a World of Hunger.”** Noon beans and rice lunch to benefit groups serving the homeless. \$10 suggested donation. Gardencourt, Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Rd. Reservations required. Call 587-9647 to reserve your place. Festival of Faiths event in partnership with the Seminary.

Nov 10 (Mon) **HARRY PICKENS**, international jazz musician and peace and justice advocate, **DIRECTING THE INTERNATIONAL VOICES OF PEACE**, an inter-religious choir of some 100 people from different countries. Cathedral of the Assumption, 433 S. Fifth St. 7:00 pm. Free. Reception follows in the Undercroft. To join the choir, call Harry Pickens at 479-0697.

Nov 11 (Tue) **PEOPLE’S AGENDA, “Another Community Is Possible.”** Assessing the first year of Metro Government and planning for the 2004 People’s Agenda conference. Quinn Chapel AME Church, 19th and Muhammad Ali. *www.peoplesagenda.org* Call 778-8130.

Nov 12 (Wed) **“THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE THREE ABRAHAMIC FAITHS”.** Panel discussion moderated by UL Professor **Riffat Hassan**, including Episcopal Priest, **Lucinda Laird**, Rabbi **Laura Metzger** and Professor Dr. **Fatemeh Keshavarz**, Islamic expert from Washington Univ. in St. Louis. Cathedral of the Assumption, 433 S. 5th Street, 1:00 pm. Free. Sponsored by the Festival of Faiths in partnership with the Louisville Islamic Center. Call 587-9647. *www.cathedral-heritage.org*

Nov 12 (Wed) **KITLAC (Ky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean).** Presbyterian Seminary. 7:30 pm. Call David Horvath, 479-9262, or Pat Geier, 456-6586.

Nov 12 (Wed) **CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM, MIDDLE EASTERN VEGETARIAN DINNER AND TRI-FAITH THANKS-GIVING SERVICE. Celebrating the common heritage of Jews, Christians and Muslims.** Temple Shalom, 4615 Lowe Rd, 6:00 pm. \$12.00. Sponsors: Temple Shalom, Louisville Islamic Center, James Lees Presbyterian Church. Festival of Faiths event. Call 587-9647. *www.cathedral-heritage.org*

Nov 13 (Thu) **INTERFAITH DIALOGUE: “Democracy and Faith, How do we move from our faith to citizenship and governance?”** Panelists include Rev. Arch Taylor, Rabbi Stanley Miles and Rev. John Tolbert. Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace. Westwood Presbyterian Church, 4432 Greenwood Avenue. Call Pam Yenawine, 214-7322.

Nov 13 (Thu) **ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, Festival of Faiths**, featuring **ARUN GANDHI: “Nonviolence As An Active (Not Passive) Discipline.”** Hyatt Regency, 7:30 am. \$25. Call 587.9647. *www.cathedral-heritage.org*

Nov 13 (Thu) **WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?** A panel of four neighbors will discuss the issues of Smoketown, Russell, Chickasaw, Shawnee and downtown from both church and state perspectives. Christ Church Cathedral/Festival of Faiths. 421 S Second St. Brown bag lunch, noon. Free. Call 587-9647.

Nov 13 (Thu) **DANIEL BERRIGAN, SJ and JOHN DEAR, SJ: “THOMAS MERTON, NONVIOLENCE AND ME,”** in conjunction with the **Festival of Faiths**. A discussion with two noted peace activists who have had strong connections

with Thomas Merton. Bellarmine University, Frazier Hall, 7:00 pm. Tickets \$10 (\$5 students and seniors). Call 587-9647. *www.cathedral-heritage.org* or Terry Taylor, 583-3100.

Nov 14 (Fri) **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION TO BRING DOWN THE WALL. JOIN THE WEEKLY VIGIL AT SIXTH & BROADWAY BEGINNING AT 12 NOON.** We will stand in front of a **six feet high replica of the WALL, as we condemn the illegal construction of the “Israeli Wall of Separation”** which is confiscating Palestinian land and water resources as it cuts off Palestinian towns from each other. We will present a letter of condemnation to Senator McConnell’s office. 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.

Nov 14 (Fri) **COLLOQUIUM: FAITH, JUSTICE & THE ENVIRONMENT.** Two-day event to help our regional houses of worship understand how we can educate the American public about the moral urgency of national and international environmental issues. 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Ky Center for the Arts. Morning leaders: **Rev. Carol Johnston, Art Williams, Sarah Lynn Cunningham, Gary Watrous, Arnita Gadsen, Dr. Karen Cairns.** Afternoon: **Rev. William Hammer, Wendell Berry, Michael Abelman, , Patrick Holden, Dr. Marian Chertow, Dr. Emily Cousins.** Evening presentation by **Dr. Seyyed Hossein Nasr**, Professor of Islamic Studies, George Washington Univ. Cathedral of the Assumption, 433 S. Fifth St, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Saturday location, Metro United Way, 334 E Broadway. 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Presentations by **Rev. Bill Somplatsky-Jarman, Ewert Cousins, Hari Jiwan, John Grim, Dr. Emily Cousins, Magdalene Moccasin Top.** Festival of Faiths event. Call 587-9647. *www.cathedral-heritage.org*

Nov 15 (Sat) **PEACEMAKERS SUMMIT**, hosted by Interfaith Paths to Peace, inviting representatives of 23 peace and justice groups to understand each other’s mission and explore ways to enhance and expand the peace and justice movement in our community. Clifton Center Community Room, 2117 Payne Street. 1:00-3:00 pm.

Nov 16 (Sun) **COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** First Unitarian Church, 4th & York, 3:00 pm. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Nov 18 (Tue) **NOAH FELDMAN: “Creating a New Constitution for Iraq.”** Professor Feldman of the New York Univ School of Law with a doctorate in Islamic Thought from Oxford, was head of the constitutional team with the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance in Iraq. He is serving as an adviser as Iraq seeks to draft a new constitution. Festival of Faiths event. Cathedral of the Assumption, 433 S. 5th St, 4:00 pm. Free. Call 587-9647. *www.cathedral-heritage.org*

Nov 20 (Thu) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH.** sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, featuring **Jane Walsh**, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition working for fair, decent and affordable housing in the Louisville area. Her topic: **“The Struggle for Housing Justice.”** How do segregated housing patterns hinder efforts to provide more affordable housing? Rudyard Kipling Restaurant, 422 W. Oak St, 11:30 am buffet, \$6. Reservations required. **RSVP** to Cathy Ford, 458-1223 or Jean Edwards, 458-8056.

Nov 20 (Thu) **STOP THE FTAA (Free Trade Agreement of the Americas), meeting of trade ministers in Miami.** Local action in solidarity with massive protests in Miami. Jefferson Square Park, 6th and Jefferson Streets, 5:30 pm. Anti-FTAA resolution presented to Metro Council. Details available from David Horvath, 479-9262.

Nov 20 (Thu) **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community) General Meeting. Douglass Blvd Christian Church, 7:30 pm. Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914, Ellen Schagene, 456-5288, or Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. *www.louisvillepeace.org*

Nov 24 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, #10, 7:30 pm. Visitors are welcome. Call cochairs, Pat Geier, 456-6586, or Mary Horvath, 583-4670.

Nov 25 (Tue) **KCADP (Ky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)**, monthly meeting every last Tuesday. Highland Presbyterian Church, 6:30 pm. Call 721-8885.

Dec 1 (Mon) **BOOK DISCUSSION: THE UNCONSCIOUS CIVILIZATION** by John Ralston Saul. Led by Carol Grzanka. At BORDERS in the Shelbyville Road Mall. Read this insightful author’s description of how we are destroying democracy. This short book of 190 pages transcends conventional boundaries of Left and Right. Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace. Call Pam Yenawine, 214-7322.

Dec 3 (Wed) **DINING OUT FOR LIFE.** A generous portion of your bill will go to support the House of Ruth AIDS Ministries, including Glade House. For a list of participating restaurants, call House of Ruth, 587-5080.

Dec 6 (Sat) **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**, focusing on Latin American Christmas traditions. Central Presbyterian Church, 4th & Ky Streets. Bring gifts for the Center for Women and Families. Call Nadine Wilson, 772-1341.

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

Dec 8 (Mon) **IMAGINE LOUISVILLE. Sustainable Louisville Community Workshop, “Year of the Green City: Strategies for Overcoming Institutional Barriers to Sustainability for Government, Business, Facilities Managers, Planners, Builders and Citizen-Neighbors.** Urban Design Studio, 507 S 3rd St. Call 587-7015 or 336-9440. *www.adenainstitute.org*

Dec 10 (Wed) **DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER/ JANUARY 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@aol.com*

Dec 15 (Mon) **Kentucky KIDS COUNT**, Symposium sponsored by Kentucky Youth Advocates and the Kentucky School Boards Association. Hurstbourne Convention Center, 9:00-2:00. \$50 includes lunch. Call 895-8167. *www.kyyouth.org*

Dec 18 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING at Beverley Marmion’s house.** Mark your calendar. Lend your hands for one hour; enjoy the conversation. 6:30 pm. Call 451-5658.

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

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

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

AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB – 3rd Tuesday (451-2155)

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 Thursday (778-8130)

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

C-SAW (Citizens Standing Against War) – (548-6845 or 636-5848)

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

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

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

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

COMMUNIST PARTY USA – Sunday evenings (648-8197 or 473-2659)

CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (454-4820)

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

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 583-4670)

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 Wednesday (584-1444)

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

JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (625-3724)

JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – 3rd Saturday (774-1116)

KENTUCKIANA FOR KUCINICH – 1st Thursday (454-4820 or 459-6361)

KENTUCKIANA NATIVE AMERICAN SUPPORT GROUP (635-2817)

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 (636-1330)

KITLAC (KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN) – 2nd Wednesday (583-4670)

KY RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION – (774-4000)

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

L.I.F.E. – Sunday evenings (473-2659)

LPAC (LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY) – (558-9124)

LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – 2nd Sunday (456-5261)

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

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

NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) – 3rd Monday (634-1804)

NAGASAKI/HIROSHIMA COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE – 1st Sunday (458-8056)

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)

PROGRESSIVE STUDENTS LEAGUE AT UL – Every Tuesday (635-1292)

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.