

Local Progressive News from the **Nashville Peace & Justice Center**

Radio Free Nashville: Alive and Kicking

For those of you who have been following the adventures of Radio Free Nashville (RFN) for the last six years or so, this is going to be hard to believe: **RFN has received our construction permit from the FCC!**

Beau Hunter ~ Radio Free Nashville

We now have about 17 months to put a low-power FM station on the air.

As things stand right now, we will be heard in the area from Bellevue out to around Fairview, and from Pegram to around north Franklin. We have applications in for "translators" that could enable us to send our signal to many areas within Nashville itself, but that is still pending and we really don't know how soon a decision will be made.

This is news, folks.

I know it has taken a very long time, and we have been frustrated and disappointed on several occasions by delays, obstacles, and general opposition from corporate media and their congressional assistants. We have had to settle (for now) for less than we wanted - but we also got a lot more than the FCC and NAB ever wanted to give us.

The construction permit is an open door for Nashville's progressive community. Still, we have no house for the door to open -- or even a lot on which to put the house.

story continued on page 11



Tim O'Brien, Jonell Mosser, and Darrell Scott at the December 3 NPJC Belcourt Benefit. Over \$4,000 was raised. Photo by Al Levenson

Letter from the Coordinator Matt Leber

Dear NPJC Friends,

Thank you for an incredible year of 2003 with the Nashville Peace and Justice Center! It is true that socio-political sphere of this country and globe has been and continues to be drastically restructured to divert more and more resources to less and less people, leaving the majority of the people and the earth in a devastating state of poverty.

It is also true that people across the globe are uniting to form people power through new grassroots organizations. In the words of David Kinnick's CD dedicated to the Nashville Peace and Justice Center: "We are Connected."

At the national level, organizations are connecting through the newly formed United for Peace and Justice, linking the NPJC and other organizations across the country. In Tennessee, the Tennessee Alliance for Progress (TAP), TN Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, Festive Revolution, the TN Independent Media Center, and others are developing links with social justice organizations across the state. In Nashville, Food Not Bombs, Veterans for Peace, Adhoc for Equity, Peace Roots Alliance, the NAACP, Homeless Power Project, Women in Black, the Peace Coalition and many others have been

born or grown in size and direction in the last 18 months.

As you know, at the Nashville Peace and Justice Center, we continue to localize global justice. In the past months we:

- Sent over 30 people to Fort Benning, GA to protest the School of the Americas, and did press support for Rev. Don Beisswenger.
 - Sent over 15 people to Miama, FL to demonstrate for Fair Trade and against the FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas), did press support for TERN, organized a report back, and helped facilitate the creation of a video on police violence.
 - Organized Peace Rallies to bring light to the reality of the Occupation in Iraq.
 - Supported local unions through panels, discussions and rallies with the AFL-CIO and member unions.
 - Supported BURNT's work to end spraying and TCASK's work to abolish the death penalty and stop specific executions.
 - Provided volunteers for the newly fledged Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition Conference.
- Presented and spoke on panels at the Belcourt Theatre, at congregations, local universities, and many other venues.

article continued on page 10 with new NPJC job description

CAFTA: a (very) Short Primer

Christina Van Regenmorter ~ NPJC

CAFTA: acronym for the US-Central America Free Trade Agreement. Rhymes with NAFTA. More on page 9.

White House CAFTA Claims

Our Reality

* Will benefit American farmers, businesses, workers, and consumers, just like NAFTA.	*NAFTA's hurt the income of nearly 15 million Mexican farmers and lost 93,000 Tennesseans their jobs.
* CAFTA will support Democracy in Central America.	* The majority of the people in Central America (especially indigenous) are very opposed to CAFTA.
*CAFTA will advance the FTAA.	* Yes, but that's not necessarily a good thing.
* CAFTA will provide Economic Reform.	* Since NAFTA began, ConAgra and Archer Daniels Midland have tripled their profits (\$413 million and \$301 million, respectively). Your paycheck?

www.stopcafta.org
 join NPJC CAFTA team
 call Christina at 321-9066

Nashville Peace and Justice Center

A community-based, multi-issue center for the Middle Tennessee region seeking to promote peacemaking, social justice, and environmental issues in our society and the world.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Americans United for Separation of Church and State
- Amnesty International
- Bring Urban Recycling to Nashville Today
- Church Women United
- Clergy and Laity Concerned
- Common Cause
- Community Relations Committee / Jewish Federation
- Cumberland Greens Bioregional Council
- The Emma Center
- Earth Matters
- First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville
- Greater Nashville Unitarian Universalist
- Interfaith Alliance of Middle Tennessee
- Latin American Central American Solidarity Association
- Living Wage Campaign of Nashville
- Middle Tennessee Presbytery / Peace With Justice Committee
- Mideast Peace Coalition
- Nashville Friends Meeting
- National Organization for Women
- Pan Africa
- Radio Free Nashville
- Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
- The Scarritt Bennett Center
- Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing
- United Nations Association
- United Nubian Congress
- Veterans for Peace
- War Resisters League

ALTERNATIVES

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EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

Christina Van Regenmorter, Jean Lynch-Thomasen, Karl Meyer, and Gene Kelly

SUBMISSIONS

We seek cartoons, articles, letters, and photos related to peace and justice issues relevant to the Tennessee progressive community. We will try to respect the integrity of your submissions, but we reserve the right to edit for clarity, grammar, spelling, and length. Objections? Write us a letter.

Fax: 615-320-8897 P: 615-321-9066

christina@nashvillepeacejustice.org

Mosquitoes, Poison, and Nashville

www.nospraynashville.org

Eleanor Snyder and Rachel Sumner ~ BURNT

In June 2003, BURNT met with the Metro Public Health Department regarding their decision to spray the pesticide Anvil to "control" West Nile virus. Anvil contains toxic ingredients that have been linked to breast cancer, endocrine disruption, respiratory illness and abnormal neurological symptoms.

Soon after the Health Department began spraying, BURNT started hearing reports of people being sprayed and becoming sickened. Many citizens were unaware of the West Nile virus spraying program. If they did know about it, they often had no idea when their neighborhoods were being sprayed.

The result was that many people were unable to take appropriate precautions, such as bringing children and pets into the house.

BURNT and a group of citizens calling themselves the No Spray Coalition had meetings with officials, made NO SPRAY signs (available at NPJC), began collecting incident reports and sent up a website (get an incident report here). The following examples are some of the incidents reported to BURNT during the spraying program:

A resident in Bellevue who suffers from Multiple Chemical Sensitivities stated, "I stayed two nights at a hotel and two nights at a friend's house when my neighborhood was being sprayed. When I came back I had problems breathing. It was so bad, my husband had to drive me out of the area, which relieved my problems. I spent another night sleeping in my car. If they spray again, I think I'll have to move."

A resident in north Nashville observed the spray truck going down 22nd Ave. North with the spray on: "He was not stopping when he was passing people on the sidewalk."

A resident in West Meade reported, "The truck sprayed my friend's yard and two other neighbors who had NO SPRAY signs and were on the opt-out list. I got in my car to confront him. As I did, another truck came down the opposite side of the street and sprayed the houses again! I followed the second spray truck and approached the driver. When I pulled up along side of him, he cut off his spray. He spoke to me briefly, turned on the spray and pulled away. The spray poured into the open window of my car."

BURNT also held a public forum "West Nile Virus: Poison or Prevention Which is the Better Strategy? The diverse panel represented government health officials and

distinguished scientists. All of the panelists agreed that spraying is the least effective form of mosquito control and comes with risks. These are some of the statements made by the panel members:

Ms. Gottfried, entomologist for the Tennessee State Health Department stated, "Spraying should be used only as a last resort or in an emergency." She recommended the Metro Health Department put more emphasis on the most effective methods (and far less toxic) of mosquito control, larviciding and reducing standing water.

Dr. Wingfield, Chemistry Professor, Fisk University, warned, "Although the Health Department recommends staying in for 30 minutes after spraying, as a chemist, I would recommend avoiding the area for 24 hours."

Dr. Zwiebel, Professor of Biological Sciences, Vanderbilt University, said, "The risk of West Nile virus has been overblown by the media. I do not think that spraying in Nashville is warranted. The likelihood of getting West Nile virus is about the same as getting struck by lightning."

Dr. Hager, Director of Environmental Services, Metro Health Department stated, "Despite some opposition, most Nashvillians favor the program. Metro has received 429 requests from residents who don't want their property sprayed but five times that number are asking to be sprayed."

The Health Department has operated their spraying programs without opposition for 30 years. This is the first year they have implemented mass spraying. They have been open to listening to the public's objections but more people need to speak out to make a difference in their policies. BURNT is encouraging citizens to call the Health Department. Tell them you do not support mass spraying and ask to be placed on the 2004 NO SPRAY list. If you did this in 2003, you will need to renew your NO SPRAY status.

Complain and Join 2004 No Spray List
Dr. Brent Hager: 340-5653

Voice your Opinion!
Dr. Bailey, Director of Health: **340-5622**
stephanie.bailey@nashville.gov
mayer@metro.nashville.org



Colombia: Drugs, Oil, Markets, and the School of the Americas

Don Beisswenger ~ Presby. Peace Committee

When I went to Colombia in 1959, it seemed beautiful and productive. When I returned in 1980 to learn about the work of the Colombian religious base communities, I was very sobered by the violence. It hasn't stopped. Now, in 2004, with full knowledge of my country's role in the continuation of Colombia's civil war and human rights violations, I will be going to jail in the US -- hoping that my civil disobedience and imprisonment opens a few more eyes.

Colombia, with over 10,000 troops trained by the SOA, is the largest customer of the newly renamed "Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation" in Ft. Benning, Georgia. Not surprisingly, Colombia has the worst human rights record in all of Latin America. SOA graduate Hernan Orozco was sent to prison for complicity in the Mapiipan torture and massacre of 30 peasants by a paramilitary group. There are countless other human rights violations meticulously accounted for by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and UN groups.

In August of 2000, Congress approved \$1.3 billion in response to President Clinton's request to implement Plan Colombia. Part of the war on drugs, Plan Colombia was built on fumigating the places where coca and poppies are grown, thus supposedly eliminating the flow of drugs. It backfired. By making drugs more difficult to transport, prices rose, and drug trafficking became even more profitable.

So why are we still sending all of this money if it's not about stopping drugs? Well, because, in truth, it's about stopping insurgents (our government's name for people who are fighting against a government or policy that the US supports). A top policy advisor to President Bush was recently quoted as saying, "We cannot continue to make a false distinction between counterinsurgency and counternarcotics."

Why are we concerned about insurgents in Colombia? The answer lies in two things: 1) the high US consumption of oil and 2) our need for expanding markets.

Beneath the coca fields in southern Colombia lie the largest undeveloped oil deposits in the Americas. Oil is already being piped from fields farther north, where paramilitaries have been most active. One company with large investments in Colombian oil development is Harken Engineering of Houston, which George W. Bush helped to manage when he was in the oil business.

In addition, there is talk of building a major highway that would cut across Colombia, connecting Brazil with the Pacific Ocean. There is also a rumor of an interoceanic canal that could accommodate vessels too large for the Panama Canal. Small farmers stand in the way of such developments, and they are being driven off the land by the fumigation (which kills more than coca plants) into cities where they have no resources at all. Thus, without people around, the land becomes more secure for

oil development.

The situation in Colombia is complicated by the long civil war in this nation so rich in resources. Between 1899 and 1902, Conservatives and Liberals fought a vicious civil war which claimed 200,000 lives (depicted in Gabriel Garcia Marquez' book, One Hundred Years of Solitude). Two groups seeking change emerged: one very active to this day, The Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC). The Army of National Liberation (ELN), a newer group, has strength in the northern oil country where indigenous groups defend their habitat against encroachment from the oil industry. These two groups are fought against by the Colombian army and the paramilitaries.

Paramilitaries are mercenaries -- easily recruited from the large population of young, urban, unemployed. At first, the paramilitaries were financed and used by large landowners to defend their property against the guerillas. Later, they were used to protect the drug lords (often the same landowners) in their illegal activity. More recently, paramilitaries have been used by the Colombian army to do the dirty work of terrorizing the campesinos and community leaders who speak out. This collusion is, of course, denied. However, both Human Rights Watch and the US State Department have verified the links. A United Nations report states that "Members of the military participated in massacres, organized paramilitary groups, and spread death threats. The security forces also failed to take action, and this undoubtedly enabled the paramilitary groups to achieve their exterminating objectives."

Among the human rights abuses (kidnappings, murders, tortures, rapes, massacres), 70% are thought to be done by the paramilitaries. Several villages have seen residents forced into an open space and the people gunned down, with bodies cut up and left exposed. Community and labor leaders (like the dead union organizers at Colombian Coca Cola plants) are the first to be killed.

Both the Colombian army and the paramilitaries contain people trained at the SOA in counterterrorism. Counterterrorism, in a civil war situation like Colombia, simply means that they are being trained to make war upon their own people. If we look at the victims of that war, it is not the "terrorists" who die but those who are trying to seek redress of grievance, seek to organize, and wish to keep their homes. **An amendment to U.S. law currently prohibits military aid to units linked to human rights abuses.**

Please write to your senator and representative, schedule meetings, and ask them to hold our country accountable to its own laws and stop military aid to Colombia. Also ask them to sign on to HR1258 to close down the SOA and start investigating the roots behind the US's horrific Latin American foreign policy.

Contact christina@nashvillepeacejustice.org (615-321-9066) to get involved in the NPJC's work on Latin America.

**NOT
IN OUR NAME
AND WITH
OUR MONEY**



TennCare: Broken Solutions

Tony Garr ~ Tennessee Health Care Campaign

You have heard the saying, "When you come to the fork in the road, take it." The Governor has made it clear that TennCare has come to the fork, and he plans on fixing TennCare by making it work better, primarily by keeping it within its 2003-04 budget. Bredesen received a gift in 2003-04 of a one time relief of \$175 million dollars from the federal government.

At the budget hearings in November, Bredesen got both good and bad news when Manny Martins, Director of TennCare, said that TennCare would not need an additional appropriation this year. For 2004-05, however, it would be \$200 million short, despite freezing provider reimbursement, eliminating the \$100 million payment to Essential Provider Hospitals, and adding or increasing co-payments for prescription drugs. The Governor's response was that TennCare needs radical change, but he has not revealed what "radical" means.

State legislators are also standing at the fork and are waiting for the Governor to decide. State legislators will not spend any of their political capital on TennCare but at least for now. However, legislators are looking down one fork and they see a \$200 million deficit. They are not happy about this choice. They are standing behind, not in support of, the Governor waiting to see which fork he will take. Legislators are taking a pass and will wait for the Governor to come forth with his "radical" plan.

The Governor is waiting to receive the McKensey report which is supposed to tell the Governor whether TennCare is sustainable and, if it is not, what his options are. Most likely there will not be any new options (forks). **TennCare is not sustainable as long as double digit medical inflation in this country goes unchecked** and prescription drug prices are allowed to continue their annual increase of more than 17 percent. Tennessee is not immune to medical inflation. There is a Tennessee "fork" in the road that includes two home-grown items that need serious consideration: a provider tax and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Tennessee.

In 1992, Tennessee initiated a voluntary provider tax on hospitals that sustained Medicaid when it was facing similar medical inflation. This was before TennCare. This voluntary tax disappeared when TennCare was created. This tax now needs to become mandatory.

The other home-grown item is Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Without Blue Cross/Blue Shield there is no TennCare. Since the beginning of the program, BCBS has consistently operated at the lowest administrative costs and put together the broadest network of medical providers. BCBS is currently the only managed care organization that has a state-wide network and that can negotiate deep discounts with hospitals and other medical providers.

The solution for TennCare's survival is right here in Tennessee. And the solution is a must. The difference between a Medicaid program and a TennCare program is the lives of over 260,000 Tennesseans, of whom over 50,000 are our children and 100,000 who have serious medical problems.

There are solutions. The question is whether the Governor will be bold enough to look in Tennessee for a home grown solution.

Tony Garr is Executive Director of

Tennessee Health Care Campaign, 1103 Chapel Ave., Nashville, TN 37206. Phone 1-800-280-8682, e-mail tgarr@thcc2.org, website www.thcc2.org and www.tenncare.org.

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Tennessee Alliance for Progress

www.TennesseeAllianceForProgress.org

Nell Levin ~ Tennessee Alliance for Progress

Tennessee Alliance for Progress has a new vision for the future of Tennessee. It includes:

- **good schools**, including an outstanding higher education system
- **clean water and air**
- a **fair** and balanced **tax structure**
- **good wages** and the expansion of economic opportunities for all
- a **fair** criminal **justice system** that rehabilitates prisoners
- a **political system** that is **open** and **accountable** to all citizens, not just special interests,
- programs that **protect and support** the most vulnerable members of society, including **children**, the **elderly**, the **poor**, the **sick**, and the **disabled**
- **civil rights** for all, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, or religion
- a **reformed TennCare** system that could be a national model for health care.

We need your help to make this new vision a reality.

How can you help?

Come to **The Compass II Conference: The Campaign for Tennessee's Future**. It will be on Friday and Saturday, March 26-27, 2004 at the Vanderbilt Marriott Hotel in Nashville. To RSVP, email info@tennesseeallianceforprogress.org or call TAP at 226-8070.

Many individuals and groups are working to change Tennessee. The main goal of the Compass II Conference is to bring together these individuals and groups so that we can get to know one another and the work we are doing and begin to craft a long-range strategy for Tennessee's future. **When we work together, we become a powerful force in the state!**

Still Bearing Witness: Women in Black

Christina Van Regenmorter ~ NPJC Staff

It's noon on a Thursday, and Women in Black are standing on Broadway between 11th and 12th -- right where it becomes a bridge over the now-defunct Nashville train station. The Women (and men) have traded their water bottles and sun umbrellas for knit scarves and long underwear, but they're still standing in about four different shades of black, holding clearly lettered signs:

"We Stand in Witness to the Suffering of Victims of Violence All Over the World."

"Bearing Witness to the Senseless Tragedy of War."

"We Stand in Silence because words can not alone express the tragedy that wars and hatred bring."

"No War in Iraq."



Julie Russel and Beth Lewis vigil on Broadway nearly every week. **photos by Chris Lugo**



John Davidson is not the only Man in Black, but Nashville needs more of them.



Beth Lewis and Patti George. Patti is the lead organizer for WIB in Nashville.

The first thing you notice is the traffic. So many cars, trucks, SUVs, and busses...each of them holding 1-40 human beings.

The next thing you notice are the birds. There are hundreds of them in the air north of the bridge, wheeling around in quick clusters between their perches on the roofs of the Lifeway building and the Tennessean. Sometimes, when they curve quickly and the sun is out, the white feathers on their bellies blind you.

What do you do in silence for an hour? Pray. Meditate. Make eye contact with drivers. Smile at the thumbs up, the thumbs down, the raised fists, and the raised fingers that our presence provokes. Watch Tennessean employees lighting up cigarettes. Bless the city. Go through songs in your head. Listen to drivers' angry shouts at you. Make up self-righteous speeches in response. Clear your head. Try to root yourself to the concrete. Breathe out peace. Watch the birds.

The hour goes quickly, divided into sections by yells of "Go to Iraq \$#@^" and "%^*& You" and the occasional "Hurray!" When the station clock hits 1:00pm, Patti George, Nashville's WIB organizer, starts to gather the signs.

Ten minutes later, the vigilers who have extra break time on Thursdays are sitting at the cafeteria in the Frist Center, talking. This week, it's Patti George, Beth Lewis, Julie Russel, John Davidson, and myself.

"We started in Nashville a year ago last September," said Patti over a chicken salad. "A couple of us had been to Seattle the summer of 2002 and ran across a WIB group vigiling against the occupation of Palestine. Once we started hearing speeches by Bush about attacking Iraq, we wanted to get out there and get visible."

Julie Russel looks up from her lentil and spinach soup. "I was

at a peace rally at the bicentennial mall in September of 2002, and they were handing out papers. I started coming the next week."

The Nashville Women in Black isn't large in numbers. Now, after 15 months of vigiling, it averages from 4-6 each week.

"Our membership has fluctuated widely," said Patti. "Our highest attendance was 70 people, except for when the United Methodist women's conference joined us."

Except for Thanksgiving and Christmas in 2003 (both of which occurred on Thursdays), Women in Black hasn't cancelled for rain, snow, or the Tennessee sun.

"Do you remember the Women in Black during that blizzard last winter?" said Julie Russell.

"That was the day we had a special effort to get people there and all the press got stuck in traffic," said Patti.

"It was a three hour drive with all of the traffic, and I thought no one would be there when I arrived," said Julie. "Then I saw Matt [Leber] on the street. There ended up being 20 people! Barb McCloud walked there from her office, and others walked three miles to get there."

I remember the blizzard as well. Pam Beziat and I put on extra sweaters, tied plastic bags over our socks, grabbed umbrellas, and walked through the drifts from North Nashville to Downtown. We passed every car on the road.

"Women in Black is kind of an organic thing, not an organization," said Patti. "It started in 1988 in Palestine with Israeli women protesting the occupation of the West Bank, and it's spread across the world with each group of women taking on different focuses."

"I came across two this summer," said Julie. "One in Portland, Maine and one in Topshan, Maine. They weren't large, probably 6 at the most, but I nearly burst into tears when I saw them."

"My sister organizes in Las Cruces, Mexico," said Beth Lewis. "There are 350 dead women and 400 more missing from Las Cruces, and Women in Black are trying to bring the murders into the public. A lot of the murdered are really, really young; sexual torture sport by rich young men."

The women who stand in Nashville and those at Las Cruces stand at different times in different countries for different reasons, but they share the same mission.

"It's a silent voice we're expressing," said Juliana Ericson, "I come because I feel that Women in Black represents the conscience of the people here in Nashville."

A Trip for Justice: the NPJC at the SOA Protest

photos by Edward Belbusti ~ Peace Coalition

Nearly 10,000 persons, 30 from Nashville, gathered at Ft Benning in Columbus Georgia in a witness aimed at ending the funding of the School of the Americas. Teaching its students about violence, war, and torture, it perpetuates suffering in each country it teaches.

The name of the school has changed, but the aim of American Foreign policy in Latin American countries remains much the same: to “protect US interests in Latin America.” Since US interests often conflict with the interests of these countries’ populations, the SOA is necessary to control any resistance that affects profit, also known as “stability” and “economic prosperity.”

In the US congress, there is a bill to close the SOA (renamed WHINSEC). HR 1258 now has 101 congress persons who have signed on the bill. We need to write our congressional persons and ask them to do the same. We will close down the school eventually, but we need your help for this to be the year.



Reverend Don Beisswenger arrested at the SOA protest on Sunday, November 23.

“There’s a profound sickness in our culture, and we have such a legitimization of violence in this culture that we usually don’t notice it. Yet, sometimes that sickness is manifested so clearly we are unable to ignore it. The School of the Americas/ WHINSEC is a manifestation of that sickness, and I feel called to act.”



After getting wanded at the Columbus Police’s barricades, Nashville’s very own Maaret Houghton, Pam Beziat, and Ryan Husak contemplate their next steps: listen to speakers, help create puppets, or chop vegetables for the enormous free lunch.



Veterans, students, families, nuns, monks, and refugees -- all are welcome.



Pete Seeger, a long-time supporter of the movement to close the SOA, sings to the crowd of protestors. He is nearly drowned out by the base’s massive sound system pumping out “The Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” and “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.”



On Saturday, the day of mass education, the fence separating the protestors from the base is clear and free. Saturday night, when a carload of Miami FTAA protestors got in, the NPJC people ended up hosting 18 Nashvillians in two of their hotel rooms.



Crosses with the names of the victims of the graduates of the School of the Americas -- from Archbishops to elderly campesinos to infants -- block the view to the base on Sunday. Dress uniforms, pictures of assassinated loved ones, and prayers join the crosses.



Werthan...

and the rest of us

~ a look at global and local injustice ~

Christina Van Regenmorter ~ NPJC Staff

On December 10, alongside many other cold members of the NPJC community, I stood in front of Werthan Industries, singing union songs and trying to keep my hands connected to the rest of my body. Our frigid vigil, marked by flickering candles and the lights from two accompanying police cars, didn't have a large audience. Neither the media nor Werthan representatives came, but we spoke out anyway. Here are some of my words:

Corporate greed, of which Werthan is an example, has very little to do with an equitable sharing of resources, and a lot to do with people intentionally making decisions to act unjustly.

I don't know what dictionary the corporate lawyers are using, but last time I checked, which was at about 2:44 this afternoon, justice requires "conformity to the law," "treating or judging fairly," and "a fair distribution of benefits and burdens." Unless they're using a different dictionary, Werthan fails on all counts. Besides breaking the law and denying benefits to their employees, they are denying people the right to make decisions that affect the health and welfare of themselves and their families.

When I think about Holy Scripture and all of the time God and the prophets spent yelling at the "fatted cows of Bashan" who "sell their souls for a pair of sandals" by oppressing the poor, I am left asking myself, "How do they sleep at night?"

Yet, I know the answer already. They sleep pretty well. They might have indigestion every once in a while, but ignorance is bliss...and so is wealth...unless you happen to be one of the casualties.

Some of us here are casualties to the US' general state of ignorance about its role in Global injustice. You've lost your jobs to NAFTA sweatshops. You've had to pick up 2 extra part time jobs to pay the bills, and you've watched your kids breathing the air of 20 million exhaust pipes, coughing with asthma.

Yet, as I look over this audience, I have to admit that most of us, myself included, fit more in the perpetrators of injustice category than with the casualties.

No, we'd never pay money to Colombian paramilitaries to kill union organizers, sign the FTAA into law, or deny someone health benefits, but, we are not blameless. Each time we walk in a Walmart, pick up a Coca Cola, and drive to the other side of town to buy cheaper out-of-season strawberries from Mexico, we are participating in Global injustice.

It's hard to escape it. From when we were born, we've been trained that 1) we deserve lots of things and 2) the cheaper the better and 3) that's The Way Things Are.

Well, believe it or not, I'm here to affirm the first two messages.

We *do* deserve a lot of things. We deserve to get paid enough to

eat, raise our kids, and live in a warm house. We deserve health insurance. We deserve good schools, better teachers, and the assurance that our social security money isn't being spent on money to: 1) bomb a bridge, 2) repair that bridge and 3) bomb it again. That's no way to take care of our elderly.

I'm also a big fan of "the cheaper the better." The more cheaply we can pay the CEOs and board members and chief financial officers of organizations, the better. Perhaps if they realized that \$2,000 less a year in their budget might mean true hunger, they might start putting a human face to those stock reports.

As far as agreeing with The Way Things Are, I have to admit I don't. Our economy is being manipulated to "benefit" a very small portion of the population by lifting trade tariffs, subsidizing corporate greed, and allowing multinational corporations to have more power and autonomy than sovereign nations.

I don't know how much you've read about the Free Trade Area of the America (FTAA), the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), and the forced privatization of essential services (like water) by the World Bank/IMF, but it's easy to feel pretty helpless. There's a lot of power in very few hands right now.

Repeat that phrase: there's a lot of power in very few hands.

And all those hands have names and addresses.

Repeat that: All those hands have names and addresses.

Now, I have two tasks for you:

1) Just Say No. Say no to Coca Cola. To Walmart. To Starbucks. Say no to every non-necessary monetary decision that gives a tithe to global injustice. If we didn't all tithe to ConAgra every week, they wouldn't exist -- much less be spending thousands of dollars of our money to convince our Congress to let them bilk us. Save your splurging for local-owned businesses.

2) Get those names, addresses, and Speak Up. Make an appointment to talk to a member of Werthan's board; ask him if *his* family has health insurance and why he thinks his work is worth more than yours. Take your family to Lama Alexander's office (call 615-736-5129 to schedule an appointment) and tell him that if he signs CAFTA in the spring, you could lose your job and some indigenous family in El Salvador could lose the right to the water underneath their soil. Go to Frist's office and leave him a package with your uninsured family's prescription costs in it. Put a face to the legislation you agree or disagree with.

The people in power are making decisions that are, literally, killing us, but it is *we* who put them in power in the first place. We all vote -- even if it's only with our credit cards.

Ignorance is bliss...and so is wealth...unless you happen to be one of the casualties.

Democracy in Action: NPJC members Speak Out

While the decisions of our leaders may belie the fact, this is still a democracy. And, one of the privileges of being a citizen in this democracy is that, though your representative may never represent you, he/she still has to: 1) write you back when you write him/her and 2) have someone show up at an appointment when you make an appointment. So, what if your pockets aren't as deep as the Hospital Corporations of America or the National Pork Producers Council? Do your bit for democracy...and tell us about it.

On CAFTA

On December 17th, Jennifer Tlumak joined Jean Lynch-Thomasen, Chris Lugo, Lisa Abell, and Christina Van Regenmorter at Representative Cooper's office to talk about CAFTA. They left a packet of information from both sides of the issue along with a list of questions. Former Metro Councilman Don Majors, was their encouraging host, and they left inspired to make a habit of this. Jennifer Tlumak followed up the next day with a letter to Senator Alexander, which she (and hopefully many others) will follow up with by visiting.

Jennifer Tlumak's Letter to Senator Alexander

I am interested in hearing the Senator's position on the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). The plan is slated to come before the Congress in the spring of 2004. I am concerned that this agreement, as currently being negotiated by the Bush Administration, would have a number of negative consequences, some of which are foreshadowed by NAFTA, including job loss (Tennessee ranks number four in the nation in terms of jobs lost as a result of NAFTA).

Additionally, I am worried that the plan will have negative environmental, human/worker rights, and economic consequences. I am concerned that CAFTA, if it were enacted, would:

- Cause a further "race to the bottom" of environmental and human rights and labor standards as large corporations move their operations to the cheapest possible location.
- Demand open markets for U.S. exports such as corn and beef, while postponing indefinitely imports of an important Central American cash crop, sugar, thus creating economic imbalance.
- Further increase the dependency of these countries on the U.S.
- Flood Central American markets with highly subsidized U.S. products and displacing countries' traditional subsistence agriculture.
- Give corporations the power of national governments by allowing them to sue countries who make laws that would limit their boundless profits (an expansion of Chapter 11 of NAFTA).
- Increase the privatization of essential services, including water and energy, thereby eroding local control.

I would encourage the Senator to carefully review this plan, as its consequences would be far reaching and impactful. I hope he will take into consideration some of the issues I have raised herein.

I look forward to hearing from Lamar! Thank you!

- Jennifer Tlumak

On Medicare

Frank Newbell was one of many NPJC members who wrote to their representatives on the Medicare bill. It passed, but that doesn't mean the debate is over on healthcare, rising prescription costs, and reform. Frank sent us this letter from Congressman Jim Cooper. We are printing excerpts.

...I spent most of the night before the vote reading this bill, which was nearly 700 pages long.... Seniors know that it really comes down to one question: will I be better off with this plan? For too many, the answer will be no. Here's why:

The bill does nothing to really lower drug prices. Not only would it prevent you from buying drugs from Canada and other countries, it makes it illegal for the U.S. government to even ask for real discounts from U.S. drug companies. ...Analysts at the investment firm Goldman Sachs & Co. predict that drug company profits will increase by \$13 billion a year as a result of the bill. Moreover, the drug discount cards that will be offered by next April are (1) already available from the major drug companies, (2) offer very small discounts, and (3) tie you to that particular company's products, regardless of whether they are best for you.

Seniors will pay high prices for modest benefits. For example, a senior with relatively low drug costs of \$500 a year will have to pay \$838. A senior with high drug costs of \$5,000 will have to pay \$4,050. A giant \$400 billion bill should do a better job of helping seniors.

Millions of seniors will be left out of the plan.... Lower-income seniors won't qualify for extra help if they own more than \$6,000 in assets.

.... For the first time in history, caps on total government spending on Medicare may trigger mandatory benefit cuts or higher Medicare taxes.

Massive waste.... Instead of taking a direct approach to offering seniors affordable medicine, this bill subsidizes private business in the hopes that seniors might benefit as a result....This amounts to tens of billions of dollars of unnecessary corporate welfare.

...make(s) it illegal for our government to ask for discounts from drug manufacturers.... We are the only people left in the world who pay retail drug prices.

The job of helping seniors with affordable medicine is not finished, but only just beginning. With your input, Congress can ensure that seniors get the help they need and deserve.

- Jim Cooper, Member of Congress

**Make a meeting with your Senator or Representative:
Senator Bill Frist: 615-352-9411
Senator Lamar Alexander: 615-736-5129
Representative Jim Cooper: 615-736-5296**

If you want moral support, some good background info, or some compadres, call or email the NPJC.

Miami Madness

Tennesseans support anti-FTAA efforts

photos and text by Chris Lugo ~ Emma Center/ TN IMC

As riot police were beginning to gather on the streets of Miami and helicopters were preparing to hover over the city and as protesters were getting ready to go to the streets, representatives of transnational global capital were meeting behind closed doors in an exclusive hotel complex that was walled off by a 20 block perimeter fence constructed specifically because of the people's resistance that was gathering in Miami, Florida.

However, on the other side of the fence in humble spaces like a poor storefront convergence space in North Miami and in Methodist Church on Biscayne Blvd and at a Unitarian Church in South Miami and in countless homes and temporary gathering spaces there was a convergence of people. This gathering represented the face of global conscious, the face of the workers, of the poor, of those who care about the planet and about the future. This was a gathering of representatives from

- help in publicizing the Nashville leg of "Tell Us the Truth" tour with Steve Earle, Billy Bragg and David Rovics
- setting up a live web stream through the Free Radio Area of the Americas which allowed audio to be transmitted globally in real time from the protests.
- participation with Food Not Bombs in serving food to thousands of hungry and thirsty protesters
- transportation of over 30 activists at low cost to and from the Miami protest from Tennessee
- organizing work with the Steelworkers for a rapid response gathering and participation in public protest and dialogue around the issues of corporate globalization
- organizing forums like "How to fight Corporate Globalization in Your Communities"



the Global South, from the United States, from Tennessee, from around the World. People who came together in creativity and compassion and in a spirit of resistance to corporate globalization.

The reaction of the police was brutal and the level of violence instigated by the police was completely out of proportion. For several days Miami was basically in a state of martial law as police tear gassed the elderly, women, and children and shot protesters with rubber bullets and billy clubbed them. Helicopters hovered 120 feet over union rallies and snipers sat on top of tall buildings, waiting to shoot protesters.

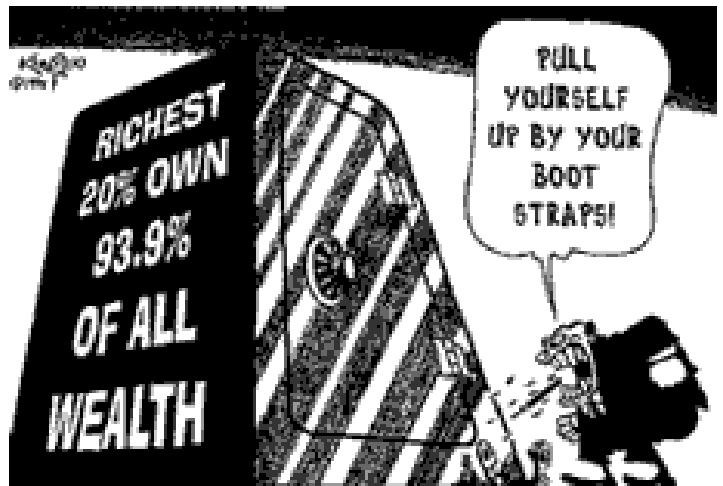
The Tennessee Independent Media Center was well represented at the recent anti-corporate globalization protests in Miami, Florida. Representatives of the Tennessee Independent Media Center participated in live web streams, video documentary work, audio documentary work, and print media. Other representatives of the Tennessee Independent Media Center participated in Food Not Bombs. In addition to the Tennessee Independent Media Center, Tennessee was also represented by many other organizations and individuals including members from the Tennessee Industrial Renewal Network, Katuah Earth First, the Nashville Peace and Justice Center, the Fifth Estate, and the Mid South Peace and Justice Center.

Tennesseans were also critical in many aspects of the resistance that happened at the FTAA in Miami including:

- direct action to stop the FTAA
- nonviolent civil disobedience on the streets of Miami

As one of the many Tennesseans who attended the FTAA protests I would like to say personally thank everyone so much for all the support that was lent to the community that travelled there. To the best of my knowledge everyone who left from Tennessee has returned safe and sound. We have gathered a potpourri of inspiring audio, video and print from the streets, workshops and public gatherings that are on the Tennessee IMC site now.

www.tnimc.org



We lifted this cartoon off of member org TIRN's website. Check out the Tennessee Industrial Renewal Network at www.tirn.org

Letter from the Coordinator Matt Leber

continued from page 1

At the same time as we have continued to support and organize the above mentioned Movement-Based activities, we have begun to develop plans for concrete education and training program for activists and organizers to be hosted through NPJC. In order to bring about real change in a nonviolent, democratic method, we must ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE. Thanks to you, we have not only organized dozens of activities to raise awareness and generate action, but we have also raised enough funds to hire a NEW full-time organizer. That is right! Since June 2003 we have raised:

- \$14,000 in annual funds through the Sustainability Campaign (auto-bank withdrawal and monthly checks)

- \$10,000 from a Matching Challenge Grant

- \$10,000 from those of you who matched it.

- \$ 4,000 from those of you who helped us over-match it!
- \$ 4,500 from those of you who attended the JUST PEACE x2! Concert

That \$40,000+ in new funds has set the NPJC Personnel Committee on a quest to hire a new organizer. The partial description to this job is on this page. If you would like to learn more about the position or would like to receive the full application, **please call Matt at 615-321-9066.**

THE NASHVILLE PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER HIRING: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION Organizer for the Localizing Global Justice Program Area

Full Time Position

Competitive Salary, Plus Benefits

Start Date: Spring 2004

Application Deadline: January 23rd, 2004

Please send Resume and Cover Letter to: NPJC/ c/o Dan Rosemergy / 1016

18th Ave South / Nashville, TN / 37212 / or email danrosemergy@bellsouth.net

OUR VISION is to develop and expand the base of activists and organizers in Nashville. The addition of the **Localizing Global Justice Organizer** will directly expand NPJC's capacity to support individuals and organizations to organize effectively, and transform the political and social consciousness in this region.

WHAT YOU WOULD DO

Co-Lead NPJC's expansion as **Director of Education** and the Localizing Global Justice Program Area.

PRIMARY

Training and Education:

- Design, Coordinate, and Implement comprehensive trainings and workshops for activists and organizers within NPJC Organizational Membership and the Middle Tennessee area;

Developing Regional, National and Global Network:

- Provide Nashville network of prospective and experienced activists with access to life-changing experiences. Develop connections with experiential learning programs across the region, country and globe such as Global Exchange, Highlander Center, Witness for Peace, etc. Entails network development, giving of presentations, and 1-on-1 coaching within Nashville Community.

SECONDARY

Administration and Support

- Support NPJC, Movement-Based activity such as anti-war rallies, MLK March, Poor People's March, "Globalization" activities. Share basic administrative responsibilities for maintaining life of the Center.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Community Organizing, 3 – 5 yrs experience.
- Experience working with a diversity of communities.
- Training and facilitation, popular education / experiential learning styles, in small and large groups.
- Working understanding of consensus and commitment to group process.
- Proficient or fluent in Spanish (not required, but highly valued).
- Proficient in Microsoft Office or related programs, Bachelor's Degree or equivalent.

A Church/State Look at Evolution

Charles Sumner ~ Americans United

Evolution is considered controversial by a substantial minority of Americans. Religious opposition explains this, but this opposition is comprised of a broad continuum of religious views. It runs from "young earth creationism" through "old earth creationism" (including "day-age," "gap," and "progressive creationism") to "theistic evolutionism."

Historically, antievolutionists have attempted to ban evolution and to present it on an equal footing with "creation science." Scholars largely ignored antievolutionism until efforts to pass "equal time for creation and evolution" laws stimulated both political and scholarly activism.

Lately, there are efforts to discourage the teaching of evolution by requiring teachers to read disclaimers before teaching it to teach it as "theory, not fact," or to present fancied "evidence against evolution."

Recently, "intelligent design theory," a restatement of William Paley's Argument from Design, has surfaced. Although rejected by scientists, intelligent design arguments and publications are appearing at the college level (in nonscience courses) as accurate representations of scientific scholarship.

For a comprehensive look at this subject, check the archives of www.church-state-tn@yahoo.com. Subscribers to this list receive periodic messages on Tennessee events, legislation, as well as background on issues. You may subscribe or ask for assistance. We limit the number of messages so as not to overburden you. If you don't have web access but wish to receive a copy of the complete article (which is quite lengthy), write to Nashville Chapter Americans United for Separation of Church and State, PO Box 210005, Nashville TN 37221. You may also communicate with Charles Sumner, President at (615) 646-9946 or President@Nashville-AU.org. We invite your participation to preserve an American principle.

Radio Free Nashville: Alive and Kicking

continued from page 1

In short, we need *everything*:

- ~ Money ~ Equipment ~ Experience and expertise
- ~ A space ~ Volunteers. ~ Interest. ~ Ideas.
- ~ Enthusiasm. ~ Curiosity.

Member organizations of the NP&JC should consider RFN to be your direct radio voice, to be utilized as best fits your needs. Some organizations might want to do, say, a weekly show, while others might want to do less or even more. We will be happy to meet with any member organization to discuss the possibilities. We also hope to include other interested groups such as rank and file labor, minority communities, and especially high school students.

We also encourage individuals who used to be called "Sympathizers, Fellow Travelers, and Dupes" (SFTD) to get in touch. We are certainly looking particularly for input from people within the broadcast area, but no one should exclude themselves from participation if they happen to live elsewhere.

What sort of programming do we envision? It's way too early to get into minute detail, but here are some general thoughts.

We want to be *listened to*. We want people to enjoy it. We expect to play a lot of music that is or has been quite popular: Louis

Armstrong, Glenn Miller, Elvis, The Beatles, Bob Dylan, The Clash, Bob Wills, Bill Monroe, Ellington, Funkadelic. We should certainly try to find the most exciting local musicians and new artists. And sure, stuff that's just plain weird.

At the same time, RFN acknowledges that we as American citizens are at war, and are responsible for it. Of course, "the war" still seems to be quite nebulous to many of us (not least the Commander-in-Chief): today Saddam, tomorrow Osama, next week anarchist Luddites or Democrats or Hugo Chavez or maybe France - who knows?

So RFN should strive seriously to be an Office of War Information. As distinct from war propaganda or war cheerleading. This means that we will no doubt hurt some people's feelings. (War does that.) We will have to distress and depress some people. And, some folks might get very, very angry. Yet, let's face it. If they don't, we'll have to figure out what we are doing wrong.

I think Radio Free Nashville can make a difference. I think we're going to.

www.radiofreenashville.org

615-331-4857 Radio Free Nashville
 radiofreenash@aol.com 2923 Vault Lane,
 Nashville, TN 37204

Classifieds

As this is our first attempt to do a Classifieds in Alternatives, I'd like to explain some things. First, we use a sliding scale. So, if you have something to give, or something you need to receive, anywhere from \$0-\$15 would be very appropriate. Our community has many diverse needs and gifts, and we at the NPJC would like to help connect those together.

Wanting to Buy: A Car. Contact Alicia Benjamin-Samuel. Call: 615-424-8696.

Amplifier Repair: Oldest Amp Repair shop in Nashville. Owned and run by NPJC volunteer Jon Davidson. Call: 615-578-2493.

War Tax Resistance: Don't like the fact that 30% of your income (more now) goes to support war? Contact Karl Meyer at 615-322-9523.

NPJC Automatic Bank Withdrawal Registration

Name: _____

Monthly Donation: \$ _____

Bank Name: _____

Branch: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

BK Transit/ABA No. (9 digit # at bottom of check):

Account Number: _____

YES! I can donate to the NPJC.

\$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Monthly Sustainability Donor

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Annual Donor

\$25 individual membership

\$10 limited income membership

\$50 supporting or family membership

I am interested in Volunteering

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

Note for **donations by check**: write annual, monthly, or one-time in the "memo" line of check



1016 18th Avenue, S.
 Nashville, TN 37212
 tel. (615) 321-9066
 www.nashvillepeacejustice.org

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Nashville, TN
 Permit, No. 1716

Address
 Service
 Requested



Educate those in Power
 write. call. visit.

- President George W. Bush**
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington D.C. 20500
 (202) 456-1111, FAX (202) 456-2461 president@whitehouse.gov
- Citizen Comment:** (202) 456-1111
 (A 1-minute call before 8 am costs 29 cents)
- Congressional Switchboard:**
 1(800) 648-3516
- U.S. Senator Bill Frist**
 461 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington DC 20510
 (202) 224-3344 senator@frist.senate.gov
- U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander**
 302 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington DC 20510
 (202) 224-4944 senator@alexander.senate.gov
- U.S. Representative Jim Cooper**
 1536 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515 phone: 202.225.4311
- Gov. Phil Bredesen**
 Governor's Office, Tennessee State Capitol, Nashville TN 37243-0001
 (615) 741-2001 phil.bredesen@state.tn.us
- TN Senator Jim Bryson**
 310 War Memorial Building, Nashville, TN 37243-0023
 (615) 741-2495 sen.jim.bryson@legislature.state.tn.us
- TN Senator Thelma Harper**
 2 Legislative Plaza, Nashville, TN 37243-0219
 (615) 741-2453 sen.thelma.harper@legislature.state.tn.us
- TN Senator Joe Haynes**
 5 Legislative Plaza, Nashville, TN 37243-0220
 (615) 741-6679 sen.joe.haynes@legislature.state.tn.us
- TN Senator Douglas Henry**
 11 Legislative Plaza, Nashville, TN 37243-0021
 (615) 741-3291 sen.douglas.henry@legislature.state.tn.us

February
 January Calendar Winter 2004

- January 1: **Women in Black** noon-1pm on Broadway between 11th and 12th.
- January 6: **TCASK** 5:30-7pm at NPJC*. Join TCASK's board in their work to abolish the Death Penalty in Tennessee. Contact randytatel@earthlink.net for more information.
- January 7: **Peace Coalition** 6-7:30 at NPJC*. Help the Peace Coalition plan educational events and protest venues. Newcomers welcome.
- January 12: **BURNT** 6:30-7pm at NPJC*. Bring Urban Recycling to Nashville Today has been working on environmental issues in Middle Tennessee for 15 years. Join them as they work and grow. Contact burnt-tn@mindspring.com with questions.
- January 13: **National Organization of Women** 5:30-6pm at NPJC*. Join the National Organization of Women as they plan Tennessee turnout for the March on Washington. Contact: cynthianashnow@aol.com.
- January 15: **United Nations Association Lunch** 12-1:30pm at NPJC*. Eat lunch with Nashville's United Nations Association and learn about what's going on in the world.
- January 20: **Amnesty International Letter Writing** 6-7:30pm at NPJC*. Support imprisoned people of conscience around the world.
- January 20: **Going to Jail for Justice: Rev. Don Beisswenger, the SOA, and Civil Disobedience.** 7pm. Location TBA. Show support for Don before he goes to trial. Call Christina at 615-321-9066 to help with preparations.
- January 26: **NOW** 7-9pm at NPJC*.