



Editor: Melanie Dietzel, 479-442-8600 Please send upcoming events to this email address: melaniedietzel@cox.net

OMNI CENTER---UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS and CALENDAR

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENT MAKE YOUR RESERVATION

--June 9, Saturday, Annual Peace and Justice Heroes Banquet, St. Paul's Parish Hall.

Social Hour at 5:30p.m. with dinner and program to follow. This is one of Omni's brightest annual events. We will award four Peace and Justice Heroes Awards, and recognize our nominees from around the state. Recipients for the 2007 Awards are Eleanor Johnson (Fayetteville), Bill Kopsky (Little Rock), Sam Totten (Springdale), and Rennell Woods (Jonesboro). More information about each Awardee and Nominee is posted on Omni Center's website, www.omnicenter.org. Peace and Justice heroes are worth getting to know, and we will hear from each recipient about his/her perspective and programs. Every year attendees tell us that stories from these fascinating people are the highlight of the evening. We will be served a gourmet vegetarian meal prepared by Sue Lovett and be entertained by John Joseph Ray and Off the Wall Band. **By paid reservation only. We need you to get your reservation in as soon as possible. The cost is \$20.00. To make a reservation, contact Gladys Tiffany 973-9049 or gladystiffany@yahoo.com or mail check made out to Omni Center (please write P & J dinner on memo line) and mail to Omni Center, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville, AR 72701. If you would like to receive an invitation next year, please notify the Omni Center with your mailing address.**

Omni/Community Access Television (C.A.T.) Connections

Omni C.A.T. Forum Schedule:

Tuesdays, 6/5 and 6/12 6:00p.m. *Invisible Children*

Thursdays, 6/7 and 6/14 6:00p.m. *Invisible Children*

Saturday, 6/10 2:00p.m. *Invisible Children*

Free Speech TV (FSTV) sponsored by Omni - 3:00a.m. - 9:00a.m. - FSTV: the world's largest collection of alternative TV and numerous ideas for organizing, protesting, celebrating, researching, investigating, speaking, raising hell. www.freespeechtv.com (FSTV will be off the air on C.A.T. until May 20 due to the FSTV Fundraiser).

Democracy NOW with Amy Goodman: Daily 7:00a.m., Sundays 6:00p.m. From Amy Goodman, we hear the news that will never be reported in the mainstream media.

May 29's Democracy NOW focused on the new documentary made by Norman Solomon, *War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death* (based on Solomon's book by that title which OMNI discussed in a panel last year). The film brilliantly juxtaposes Johnson, Nixon, Reagan, Bush I, Bush II (and Clinton) repeating the same words and phrases to justify "staying the course" and rejecting "cut and run."

In addition to her one to three features like the above, every morning she surveys events not found in our newspapers.

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

Short Takes: Taping at C.A.T.

New Taping Schedule:

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

For the folks who don't want to go on camera live, you can still record your short take from 6:00p.m.-6:30p.m Mondays, and on Tuesdays from 12 noon - 1:30p.m. Both the live and recorded short takes will air the following week as usual. If anyone has any comments or questions, please feel free to contact C.A.T.

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

Omni News and Current Events featured on Short Takes:

Presented by Cliff Hughes, Dick Bennett

Other C.A.T. Shows of Interest:

Tuesday 6/5 12:00noon and Saturday 6/9 6:00p.m. - On the Air with Richard S. Drake:
An interview with Rachel Townsend, Director of Workers' Justice Center

Wednesday 6/6 2:00p.m. and Friday 6/8 7:30p.m. - Step Up to Critical Thinking with Ms. Joe Carnes Guinn

Wednesday 6/7 4:00p.m. and Friday 6/9 7:30p.m. - Code Pink with Co-Founder and Peace Activist Medea Benjamin

--June 10, Sunday, 7:30p.m., Video Underground - THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE TELEVISED -This important documentary details the story of the Coup in 2002 against President Hugo Chavez from INSIDE the palace. This is the single biggest tool to disprove the lies of the opposition and demonstrates people's resistance to fascism.

It shows events before and leading up to the coup, the coup itself and the rise of people's resistance to regain their democratically elected President. 74 minutes

Video Underground shows FREE political, social, and current event videos every second and fourth Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm. These movies are shown at the OMNI CENTER FOR PEACE, JUSTICE, AND ECOLOGY located at 902 W. Maple in Fayetteville, on the main floor of the Presbyterian and Disciples United Campus Ministry.

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

--June 9, Saturday, 6:00p.m., Omni Center's Peace and Justice Heroes Awards Dinner. (see details above)

--June 16, Saturday, 10a.m. - 3p.m., 2007 Omni's Peace Garden Tour - OMNI Center for Peace, Justice, and Ecology announces its Annual Peace Gardens Tour This year seven gardens are featured at the homes of Ed Laningham, Emily Kaitz, Candy Clark and Teddy Cardwell, Ginger and Gary Belew, Hamsa and Moshe Newmark, Nancy Maier, and Dick Bennett. Watch for our posters

and flyers and other advertising for directions. In addition to the beautiful flowers, shrubs, and trees, each gardener will offer a special additional feature, such as food, music, drink, sculpture, or design. Enjoy the day with us. Tickets for the tour can be purchased in advance by sending your check for \$10 to OMNI, 2103 Loren Circle, Fayetteville, AR 72701, at OMNI's Farmer's Market table in Fayetteville Saturday mornings, or at any of the gardens on the day of the event. Omni Garden Tour 2007 ticket holders will receive a free copy of *Feeding Your Friends: Gardening With Nature* by poet and gardener Leigh Wilkerson. This booklet will debut the day of the tour and feature basic tips for gardening with nature in mind. Additional copies will be available for \$5 each with all proceeds benefiting OMNI. *Connecting with nature as garden and habitat helps us to discover ourselves in relation to the abundant life and beauty of our locality, and to define the kind of society we wish to inhabit.*

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS---UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

---May 30th, Wednesday -June 2nd, Saturday, Wal-Mart Shareholder's Meeting Protest

It's been a year since we last confronted the Wal-Mart shareholders-- another year of poor healthcare, gender discrimination, environmental degradation, poverty wages, the destruction of local businesses and union busting. The Wal-Mart shareholders are meeting again and **Against the Wal** is gearing up for another exciting week of resistance. Let's ask the shareholders to make this year a year of people over profit, a year of human rights, living wages, and respect for communities!

visit our website: [AGAINST THE WAL](#)
[Download Against the Wal 2007 Handbill](#)

2007 Calendar of Events:

Wednesday, May 30th 6:00 PM &

Thursday, May 31st 6:00 PM

Walton Bros. Circus: The Greediest Show on Earth!

Street Theatre

Meet up at Bike City (546 West Center St. Studio C) and suit up for some radical clowning on Dickson Street. For 2 nights in a row we will bring our message of change in a fun & accessible way! Bike City Recyclery and Infoshop is located at 546 West Center St. Studio C, behind Razors Salon by the Bike Trail

[click here for map](#)

Friday, June 1st 9:30AM - Noon

Wal-Mart Shareholders Meeting Protest

Meet up in the Fayetteville High School Parking Lot, 1001 Stone Street, Fayetteville
March to the shareholders meeting in the Bud Walton Arena, University of Arkansas Campus

[click here for map](#)

If you haven't heard Wal-Mart is very scared of our annual protest—so scared that an employee wearing a wireless microphone was sent to infiltrate our meetings! You can read all about it on our website. Instead of spending million dollars on glossy advertising campaigns and high-tech spy gear, why doesn't Wal-Mart just stop its destructive practices? Come join us as we demand real change!

See againstthewal.net or contact info@againstthewal.net for maps and information.

[Read our 7 Demands for change](#)

--**June 2, Saturday, 1:00 P.M., FULL CIRCLE of Northwest Arkansas meeting, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fayetteville, 901 W. Cleveland.** - FULL CIRCLE is an adoption search and support group. Anyone whose life has been directly impacted by adoption; birthparents, adoptees, adoptive parents, will find this a safe place to explore their feelings or get needed information. Although targeted to members of the adoption triad, all are welcome. Questions? Marty Smith - (479) 445-6883 - msmith@nwark.com

--**June 2, Saturday, 10 a.m.** - Spinstervhagen will hold its annual meeting and a short work day at the Patrick land site on with the meeting scheduled to last no longer than 11:30. There will be a pot luck lunch from 11:30 until 12:30. Work projects will begin after lunch and continue until 3:30 when everyone is invited for a swim in the White River.

--**June 3, Sunday. Little Rock Capital Pride Event** - Little Rock Capital Pride is holding their third annual Capital Pride event at the River Market Pavilions. LRCP would like to draw from the ENTIRE state and as such is looking for groups, entertainers, vendors, advertisers and sponsors that would like to participate. For more information, please contact Joe LaFountaine joe@lrcpride.org or visit <http://lrcpride.org> "

--**June 2 to July 14, Saturdays 2-4p.m., 6 weeks, Masks for Change: A personal growth group** - Are you ready to recreate your life through art? Here is your hands-on opportunity to make your own MASK OF CHANGE. We use the metaphor of the Mask to look at our lives, see what we need to do and find the courage it takes to make the changes. Jo Ann has created a supportive, non-judgmental setting, where creativity and search are welcome. You will work with a varied array of art materials, journaling, sound and movement to develop your own "spirit" mask to bring forth transformation in your life. Highlights include: Visual arts experience, Movement, Drama, Personal exploration in a supportive group. The workshop is led by Jo Ann Kaminsky, Art Therapist, Play Therapist, Counselor, Artist In Education, artist and puppeteer. She has led classes, public art projects, workshops and groups for all ages in a variety of settings, for over 15 years. Her masks and puppets have been seen in First Night Fayetteville. She enjoys working with people on issues of healing and change, using the expressive arts. Fee \$160, Materials included. For more information, contact Jo Ann Kaminsky, The Art Experience, 641 W. 6th Street, Fayetteville AR 72701, 479-442-0557

--**June 4, Monday, 7:00p.m., Rachel Townsend of Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center to be guest on "On the Air with Richard S. Drake"** - Discussion topics include age, sexual and racial harassment that many workers in Northwest Arkansas face on the job, and how the Workers' Justice Center helps to educate workers about their rights under the law. Additional showings will be: Monday, June 4 -7pm, Tuesday, June 5 - noon, Saturday, June 9 - 6pm.

--**June 8, Friday, 7pm to Midnight, Annual Linking Together As One Gala, An Affair to Remember** - Dine and Dance the Evening Away to Celebrate our New Community Center - that is celebrate a "virtual" community center and raise funds for a "physical" community center - at the Clarion Inn, Fayetteville, AR. Buffet Dinner, Cocktails, Entertainment, Dancing, Silent Auction, Speakers, Room at the Clarion for 2 Raffle \$1 per Ticket, Tickets on Sale Now for only \$30. Call Toll Free 1-888-391-9222

Upcoming Events at Wattle Hollow

--June 9, Saturday and June 10, Sunday, Explorations in Contact Improvisation - Amy Oelsner (Yes, Leslie's daughter) will be coming from Oberlin University to share her training in this spontaneous improvisational dance form with us....including dreamwork, meditation and journaling.. It is suitable for shy beginners, she informs me. Cost: \$95. for the weekend includes everything.

--June 16, Saturday and June 17, Sunday, Lovingkindness Meditation with Amita Schmidt
- Amita returns to Wattle Hollow after several years, from New England. This is a wonderful opportunity to get quiet at Wattle and develop a metta practice. Amita spent several years at SW Sangha, which she co-founded with Michael Freeman, and at I.M.S. (Insight Meditation Center) in Barre, MA. Cost for the weekend: \$60.

--July 14, Saturday, 9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m., Dharma Day - A day of Buddhist contemplative meditation, sitting and walking in silence, with a dharma talk/discussion in the afternoon. No charge, but bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch, please. Wattle will provide peppermint tea and rice. Go to wattlehollow.com for more information or to register for any of these events. Or call Joy, at 479-225-2381

--June 11, Monday and June 18, Monday, 6:30-8:30p.m. or June 28, Thursday, 1-5p.m.,

What is Mine to Do? - Clarify and claim the truth of your unique self, relate this truth to your highest purpose, your mission, create your own mission statement. This workshop assists you to discover your own particular "calling." Listening to the truths and values that are at the heart of your own identity, you can, with deeper confidence, satisfy needs of individuality, authenticity, purpose/meaning, and effectiveness. The facilitator for this workshop is Pattie Williams, M. Ed., LPC and the meeting space is at Office of Soul Matters, 230 W. Center, Fayetteville. To register, call 479-443-2096 or register online at info@soulmatters.org

Fee: \$45. Send \$20 deposit to Soul Matters, 230 W. Center, Fayetteville, AR 72701

Pay remaining \$25 at workshop.

--June 12, Tuesday, 7:00p.m., from 7-8:30 PM, United Campus Ministries in the Deep End,

Friends of the Environment - I was moved by John Seed's talk at St. Paul's recently, and inspired to help create a group of people who are ready and willing to start taking action in support of lightening our load on the planet. This is an invitation to come and share your ideas for what this group might focus on and how we will operate. My vision is for sharing ideas and resources that we all have on how we can start doing positive things now, both individually and collectively. So, I invite you to our inaugural meeting at the Deep End at United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple. Let's get together, share ideas, have fun and see where this goes. If you have any questions, feel free to email me. Brad Volz, bdvolz@yahoo.com

--June 14, Thursday, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, "Free Consumer Conservation Class: "More in the Bank, Less From the Environment" - This mini-workshop to be held at the Washington County Cooperative Extension 2536 North McConnell Ave (east of the county fair grounds) will explore how to reduce your personal environmental impact, save money and increase personal satisfaction. Participants of Nurtured World's innovative workshops report an average cost savings of \$1,600 per year and an average carbon dioxide footprint reduction of 1.6 tons, as well as other environmental and personal benefits.

The interactive workshop will include a discussion of the relative impacts of consumer versus industrial activities, the types of consumer activities that have the largest impact on the

environment, and personal action case studies. Approaches for effectively addressing personal environmental impacts will be explored, including how personal satisfaction, environmental impact, and finances are related. Attendees will have an opportunity to explore how daily activities and our relationship with money affect the environment and how our personal goals can be met more effectively with lower negative environmental impacts.

Case studies of successful personal environmental behavior change, including sustainable food choices, green building, and a multitude of additional personal choices will be presented along with results from Nurtured World's workshops conducted at venues such as Heifer International, The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Intel, the National Guard, The City of Dallas, and numerous other organizations.

Registration is free, but required for material preparation. Please send your name and number of attendees to touei@bmswd.com or call 479-846-4601 to register by Friday June 8th.

Sponsored by the Boston Mountain Solid Waste District.

Snacks will be provided.

--June 22-24, July 6-8, July 13-15, July 20-22, Spring International Language Center seeks homes for one weekend this summer - Call Erin Grantz at 575-7600 or egrantz@uark.edu

. The June 22-4 students are graduate and Ph.D. students from all over the world working on degrees in social justice. Intermediate English fluency. July 6-8 undergrads from Africa native or near native speakers of English studying the US Civil Rights Movement. July 13-15 English teachers from Mexico and Ecuador. July 20-22, students preparing for graduate studies in US universities, students proficient in English. Almost 100 weekend hosts needed.

--July 5-8, Thursday - Sunday, 3rd ANNUAL AFRICA IN THE OZARKS FESTIVAL, Eureka Springs, AR

- Drum and Dance Classes each day by Master Teachers
- Performances by Master Drummers and Dancers on Fri and Sat nights
- African Dinner on Thur evening
- Dancing to West African pop band AKWAABA
- African Market vendors

Advanced tickets on sale soon. More information coming soon at the Afrique Aya website

<http://afriqueaya.org>

--July 10, Tuesday - July 13, Friday, The ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) USA 2007 National Workshop to be held in Fayetteville, Arkansas

- The theme this year: *The Economic Benefits of Local Climate Action*. This is an opportunity for local government staff and elected representatives from across the U.S. to share stories and strategies on how to save money and create other community-wide benefits through local climate protection initiatives.

<http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=392>

WHAT'S GOING ON?---CURRENT EVENTS

LOCALLY:

100 WHITE PEACE POLES READY FOR THE RED, BLUE AND "PEACE"

Thanks to the time and energy of Leonard Schulte, Omni now has over 100 peace poles painted white, and ready for volunteers to paint red and blue stripes and add the word "Peace." We are seeking a coordinator to organize volunteers to get the poles ready for distribution. If you think this is a position that you'd like to take on, please contact Melanie Dietzel 442-8600 melaniedietzel@cox.net or Gladys Tiffany 973-9049 or gladystiffany@yahoo.com.

OMNI NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF TABLE AT FARMER'S MARKET

Want to volunteer to help Omni, but you're limited on time. If you have an hour or two to donate on a Saturday morning, Omni needs you. We have an information table set up at Farmer's Market every Saturday morning throughout the summer and fall. People stop by to sign petitions, pick up free information sheets, buy buttons or bumper stickers, or, sometimes, just to visit. This is a great way to offer some time to Omni's mission for a culture of peace in an earth restored. It's also fun to be in the social hub of Fayetteville on a Saturday morning. If you'd like to spend an hour or two staffing the Omni Table, please contact Melanie Dietzel 442-8600 or melaniedietzel@cox.net

GLOBAL WARMING PRESENTATION OFFERED BY DR. ART HOBSON

Retired physics professor Dr. Art Hobson has worked up a 60-minute PowerPoint presentation on global warming that he recently presented to the League of Women Voters, followed by questions and discussion. He'd be happy to give this presentation/discussion to other groups. Phone him at 479-575-5918 (days), or email ahobson@uark.edu, if you know of a group that would like to invite him to speak.

OMNI SEEKS STORIES ABOUT PEACEMAKERS

Do you have a story about a peacemaker in Northwest Arkansas that you'd like to share? OMNI Center wants to publish your story. For more information visit www.omnicenter.org

OMNI'S 24TH BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKS AND FILMS

Omni Center's 24th Bibliography of Books and Films may be found in OMNI's Web Site. Go to www.omnicenter.org and click on the Biblio icon. These bibliographies together assure us a knowledge base for our nonviolent peace, justice, and ecology work. We have given thought to our actions. Go there for books on such subjects as activism, African women, Al Jazeera, animal protection. Entries are cross-referenced: Abu-Ghraib (Bush, Civil Liberties, Imperialism, Torture,

War), Advertising (Information Control, Commercialism, Media), Afghanistan (Bush, Empire, Iraq, Terrorism), Affirmative Action (Civil Rights, Equity, Women).

OMNI MULLINS LIBRARY PEACE BOOK AND FILM COLLECTION

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

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

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

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

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

Or, you can view it directly through the feeds at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/info/whatsnew.asp>. Notice on that "What's New?" page, we have added a new link to "Collection News," which features the Omni Center Collection. You can access it directly on <http://libinfo.uark.edu/info/collectionnews/collectionnewsfall06.asp>.

NATIONAL

THE WORLD SAYS NO TO ISRAELI OCCUPATION

On Sunday, June 10 and Monday, 11, in Washington, DC , US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation and United for Peace and Justice Coalition will mobilize to mark the 40th anniversary of Israel's military occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip.
www.endtheoccupation.org

THE AFSC OFFERS RESOURCES FOR ORGANIZING DURING THIS YEAR LEADING UP TO APRIL 4, 2008

On April 4, 1967, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. took the pulpit at Riverside Church in Manhattan and delivered a powerful speech against the U.S. war in Vietnam. King's speech, delivered exactly one year before his death, stands as a prophetic voice not only against the Vietnam War, but against war in general, against racism, and against policies which keep people poor. See: www.afsc.org/mlk April 4th Project - Taking Up Dr. King's Challenge: A Year of Reflection, Education, and Action

LINK TO A VIDEO ABOUT A NEW SATIRICAL NOVEL ABOUT MEDIA CONSOLIDATION

This is the link to the promotional video for a satirical novel about media consolidation:

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9UqFW5cu1U>)

Some humorous promotional audio is also available here: www.enpress.com.

the subject matter of the novel (*\$everance*) is media consolidation, it's a satire that pokes fun at the mainstream broadcast media (especially talk radio and cable news).

The author, Rick Kaempfer was a radio producer and host in Chicago for twenty years.

WE'RE # 1! A NATION OF FIRSTS ARMS THE WORLD BY FRIDA BERRIGAN

They don't call us the sole superpower for nothing. Paul Wolfowitz might be looking for a new job right now, but the term he used to describe the pervasiveness of U.S. might back when he was a mere deputy secretary of defense -- hyperpower -- still fits the bill.

Face it, the United States is a proud nation of firsts. Among them:

First in Oil Consumption:

The United States burns up 20.7 million barrels per day, the equivalent of the oil consumption of China, Japan, Germany, Russia, and India combined.

First in Carbon Dioxide Emissions:

Each year, world polluters pump 24,126,416,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the environment. The United States and its territories are responsible for 5.8 billion metric tons of this, more than China (3.3 billion), Russia (1.4 billion) and India (1.2 billion) combined.

First in External Debt:

The United States owes \$10.040 trillion, nearly a quarter of the global debt total of \$44 trillion.

First in Military Expenditures:

The White House has requested \$481 billion for the Department of Defense for 2008, but this huge figure does not come close to representing total U.S. military expenditures projected for the coming year. To get a sense of the resources allocated to the military, the costs of the global war on terrorism, of the building, refurbishing, or maintaining of the U.S. nuclear arsenal, and other expenses also need to be factored in. Military analyst Winslow Wheeler did the math recently: "Add \$142 billion to cover the anticipated costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; add \$17 billion requested for nuclear weapons costs in the Department of Energy; add another \$5 billion for miscellaneous defense costs in other agencies.... and you get a grand total of \$647 billion for 2008."

Taking another approach to the use of U.S. resources, Columbia University economist Joseph Stiglitz and Harvard Business School lecturer Linda Bilmes added to known costs of the war in Iraq invisible costs like its impact on global oil prices as well as the long-term cost of health care for wounded veterans and came up with a price tag of between 1 trillion and \$2.2 trillion.

If we turned what the United States will spend on the military in 2008 into small bills, we could give each one of the world's more than 1 billion teenagers and young adults an Xbox 360 with wireless controller (power supply in remote rural areas not included) and two video games to play: maybe *Gears of War* and *Command and Conquer* would be appropriate. But if we're committed to fighting obesity, maybe *Dance Revolution* would be a better bet. The United States alone spends what the rest of the world combined devotes to military expenditures.

First in Weapons Sales:

Since 2001, U.S. global military sales have normally totaled between \$10 and \$13 billion. That's a lot of weapons, but in fiscal year 2006, the Pentagon broke its own recent record, inking arms sales agreements worth \$21 billion. It almost goes without saying that this is significantly more than any other nation in the world.

In this gold-medal tally of firsts, there can be no question that things that go bang in the night are our proudest products. No one makes more of them or sells them more effectively than we do. When it comes to the sorts of firsts that once went with a classic civilian manufacturing base, however, gold medals are in short supply. To take an example:

Not First in Automobiles:

Once, Chrysler, General Motors, and Ford ruled the domestic and global roost, setting the standard for the automotive industry. Not any more. In 2006, the U.S. imported almost \$150 billion more in vehicles and auto parts than it sent abroad. Automotive analyst Joe Barker told the *Boston Globe*, "it's a very tough environment" for the so-called Detroit Three. "In times of softening demand, consumers typically will look to brands that they trust and rely on. Consumers trust and rely on Japanese brands."

Not Even First in Bulk Goods:

The Department of Commerce recently announced total March exports of \$126.2 billion and total imports of \$190.1 billion, resulting in a goods and services deficit of \$63.9 billion. This is a \$6 billion increase over February.

But why be gloomy? Stick with arms sales and it's dawn in America every day of the year. Sometimes, the weapons industry pretends that it's like any other trade -- especially when it's pushing our congressional representatives (as it always does) for fewer restrictions and regulations. But don't be fooled. Arms aren't automobiles or refrigerators. They're *sui generis*;

they are the way the USA can always be number one -- and everyone wants them. The odds that, in your lifetime, there will ever be a \$128 billion trade deficit in weapons are essentially nil.

Arms are our real gold-medal event.

First in Sales of Surface-to-Air Missiles:

Between 2001 and 2005, the United States delivered 2,099 surface-to-air missiles to nations in the developing world, 20% more than Russia, the next largest supplier.

First in Sales of Military Ships:

During that same period, the U.S. sent 10 "major surface combatants" like aircraft carriers and destroyers to developing nations. Collectively, the four major European weapons producers shipped thirteen. (And we were first in the anti-ship missiles that go along with such ships, with nearly double (338) the exports of the next largest supplier Russia (180).

First in Military Training:

A thoughtful empire knows that it is not enough to send weapons; you have to teach people how to use them. The Pentagon plans on training the militaries of 138 nations in 2008 at a cost of nearly \$90 million. No other nation comes close.

First in Private Military Personnel:

According to bestselling author Jeremy Scahill, there are at least 126,000 private military personnel deployed alongside uniformed military personnel in Iraq alone. Of the more than sixty major companies that supply such personnel worldwide, more than 40 are U.S. based.

Rest assured, governments around the world, often at each others' throats, will want U.S. weapons long after their people have turned up their noses at a range of once dominant American consumer goods.

Just a few days ago, for instance, the "trade" publication Defense News reported that Turkey and the United States signed a \$1.78 billion deal for Lockheed Martin's F-16 fighter planes. As it happens, these planes are already ubiquitous -- Israel flies them, so does the United Arab Emirates, Poland, South Korea, Venezuela, Oman and Portugal, not to speak of most other modern air forces. In many ways, F-16 is not just a high-tech fighter jet, it's also a symbol of U.S. backing and friendship. Buying our weaponry is one of the few ways you can actually join the American imperial project!

To read the complete article by Frida Berrigan, visit:

<http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/05/18/1333/>

THE COST OF WAR

It's been 1488 days since the beginning of the war in Iraq

American Military Deaths in Iraq

	Total	In Combat
<u>Since war began:</u>	<u>3467</u>	<u>2854</u>
<u>Since 5/1/2003:</u>	<u>3328</u>	<u>2746</u>
	<u>Official</u>	<u>Estimated</u>
Total Wounded:	25,549	23000 - 100000
	<u>Iraqi Dead</u>	
	Min	Max
	64,575	70,724

Cost of the War in Iraq
\$430,086,500 and counting

OMNI SEEKS A WORLD FREE OF WAR AND THE THREAT OF WAR, A SOCIETY WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY PERSON'S POTENTIAL MAY BE FULFILLED, AN EARTH RESTORED. GRASSROOTS NONVIOLENCE, WORLD PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL and ECONOMIC JUSTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROTECTING SPECIES AND THE EARTH.

CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

- Senator Blanche Lincoln: Web Site (they have contact links): www.lincoln.senate.gov;
<http://www.lincoln.senate.gov/index.cfm>; <http://www.lincoln.senate.gov/webform.html>
- Washington Office: 355 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-0404
Phone: (202) 224-4843 Fax: (202) 228-1371.
 - Fayetteville office: 251-1380
- Senator Mark Pryor: Web Site (see contact link): www.pryor.senate.gov ;
<http://pryor.senate.gov/contact/>
- Washington Office: 217 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-0403
Phone: (202) 224-2353 Fax: (202) 228-0908
 - Main District Office: 500 Pres. Clinton Ave., Suite 401, Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: (501) 324-6336 Fax: (501) 324-5320
- Congressman John Boozman, District 3, 12 counties from Benton to Washington
- Lowell office: 479-725-0400. 213 W. Monroe, Suite K, 72745. Steve Gray, coordinator of office. Web site (with contact link): <http://www.boozman.house.gov/> Heath Hasenbeck,

intern (one of them). Boozman's new office in Lowell is located at 213 West Monroe in Lowell between I 540 and Business 71. To reach that office take Exit 78 off I - 540 and go east. You will be on Hwy 264 which is also West Monroe. The office is in the Puppy Creek Plaza, past the McDonald's on the right. His suite is in the back of the complex to the left.

- **Ft. Smith office: 479-782-7787**; 30 South 6th St. Rm 240, Ft. Smith 72901.
 - **Harrison office: 870-741-6900**; 402 N. Walnut, Suite 210, Harrison 72601.
 - DC address: 1708 Longworth House Office Bldng., **Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-4301.**
- Leslie Parker, appointments secretary: 202-225-4301.**