



Editor: Melanie Dietzel, 479-305-0520

Pease send upcoming events to this email address:

melaniedietzel@yahoo.com

OMNI CENTER---UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS and CALENDAR

ON BEING VOCAL AND VISIBLE

From April until last Saturday, OMNI had a presence on the Square every Saturday morning at the Fayetteville Farmer's Market. A variety of folks stopped by to sign petitions, pick up free information, purchase buttons and bumper stickers. Some were curious about who we were; a few we're angry that we were there.

These were people who, with great sincerity, stated that we had no right to promote peace in a time of war. How dare we, they wondered, question our government's actions when our young men and women were fighting for our country in Afghanistan and Iraq. Our consistent response was, and is, that it is not only our right to do so, but our duty.

Our legacy from those who gave us a framework in which to function as a republic had foresight as well as an understanding of human nature. They established three branches of government to represent the citizens, their goal being that no one branch gain too much power.

Today, we face the grave danger of an executive branch that is running roughshod over our civil rights and a congress that will not, or can not, rein it in. So, the responsibility falls to us as "we, the people." We can not allow ourselves to be intimidated by increasing efforts to discredit us. We must join with other activists across this country, our country. Now is the time to gather strength by standing together and by raising our voices until we are heard and recognized from one end of Pennsylvania Avenue to the other.

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

www.catfayetteville.com

How You Can Use the Community Media Center:

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

Joe Carnes Guinn Series on Critical Thinking Joe Carnes Guinn-Even More Slants

Tuesday, 11/26 8:00 pm

Wednesday, 11/27 4:30p.m

Friday 11/29 12:30 pm

Telecom Board Meeting

Thursday, 11/28 9:00 pm (November 15, 2007 Meeting Date)

Omni C.A.T. Forum Schedule:

Tuesdays, 11/27 and 12/11	6:00p.m.	Democracy NOW!
Thursdays, 11/29 and 12/13	6:00p.m.	Democracy NOW!
Friday 11/30	6:00p.m.	Democracy NOW!
Saturday 12/1	4:30p.m.	Omni Open Mic and Duane Carr CD Release Party

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.freespechtv.com

FSTV broadcast schedule:

3:00 am Daily

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

Visit the Democracy Now Website to view:

["What Would Jesus Buy?": As Holiday Buying Frenzy Begins, New Film Tracks Anti-Consumerism Gospel of Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping](#)

The Activist Studio - These are broadcast times for *The Activist Studio* [ep 1] on Free Speech TV [DISH Network - channel 9415].

Note all times are Eastern Standard.

Wednesday November 14 @ 1:30pm; 11:30pm

Thursday November 15 @ 6:30am

Sunday November 18 @ 12:30pm

Tuesday November 20 @ 1:30am

The Activist Studio brings together activists and non-profits to talk about their projects, issues, hurdles, and success stories. Host Ashara Ekundayo talks with immigrant rights

activists Luis Espinoza from the United Food and Commercial Workers, and Jordan Garcia from the American Friends Service Committee.

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, Tom Kennedy

Short Takes: Taping at C.A.T.

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 Viewing Opportunities:

AETN (PBS) Tuesday, November 27, 9:00p.m. - *Frontline*, "Spying on the Homefront,"
Bill Moyers Journal on PBS, Fridays, 9:00p.m.

[http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/index- flash.html](http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/index-flash.html)

For More Information about the US/Iran status, you can visit

<http://www.buzzflash.com/search/?Query=iran> or BBC at

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/default.stm

OMNI CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

--November 27, Tuesday , 7:00p.m, A Forum on Naomi Wolf's book, The End of America: A Citizen's Call to Action. United Campus Ministry, 902 W. Maple, (Corner of Maple and Storer, Parking on Maple, Storer, campus parking lot a block north as well as behind UCM). -

Five citizens in the humanities will discuss the new book by Naomi Wolf, where she describes ten steps dictators have taken to shut down a democratic, open society—from Mussolini, Hitler, and Stalin to Pinochet. Each of those ten steps is now under way in the United States today. The book is an impassioned call to return to the aspirations and beliefs of the Founding Fathers for a nation of, by, and for the people. **PANELISTS:** **Addie Adamson**, Ed.D. professor of English for 40+ years, taught the last seven as a teacher of English as A Second Language at the U of A, Fayetteville. **Claire Detels** is UA Professor in Music History and Humanities active in arts education reform and feminist theory; keyboard performer and director of the Butcher-Detels Four-Hand Duo; author of *Music in the Western Tradition* and *Soft Boundaries: Re-Visioning the Arts and Aesthetics in American Education*. **Thomas C. Kennedy** is UA Professor Emeritus. of History Emeritus) and former Chair. He was President and Program Chair (three times) of Western Conference on British Studies, President of the Friends Historical Society (Great Britain,

1995), and Distinguished Alumnus, University of Dayton (1989). His publications include: *British Quakerism, 1860-1920* and *A History of the No-Conscription Fellowship, 1914-1919*.

Leonard Schulte was raised Catholic in a small town in southwestern Missouri, attended seminary for six years, and became highly skeptical of his religious belief. He studied philosophy at three different universities, most recently at the University of Arkansas from 1989 to 1993, where he completed all degree requirements for a Doctorate except for the dissertation. He has since taught philosophy courses, including Introduction to Philosophy and Introduction to Ethics and Logic, at North West Arkansas Community College. **Doug Thompson** is a reporter and columnist for *The Morning News of Northwest Arkansas* and for the Arkansas News Bureau. The bureau provides state government news for newspapers in Fort Smith, Jonesboro, Conway, Pine Bluff and other regions of the state. He is a resident of Fayetteville, where he contributes a column to the *Fayetteville Free Weekly*. He's a long-standing critic of the current administration's policies on domestic spying and use of torture, among its other intelligence-gathering failures. **MODERATOR: Dick Bennett** is UA Professor Emeritus in English, co-founder of the OMNI Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology, and compiler of *Peace Movement Directory*.

--December 1, World Aids Day (See Commemoration Vigil announcement below under Other Organizations)

--December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, AL, bus, sparking a bus boycott.

--December 2, Sunday, 8:30a.m. - 2:00p.m. St. Paul's Alternative Gift Market, 224 N. East St. - Once again the Omni Center will participate in St. Paul's Alternative Gift Market. Here's your chance to turn your back on the corporate message, give a meaningful gift instead and support non-profits. This year, you can sponsor, in your gift recipients' names, a Christmas Eve visit to area nursing homes from the Omni Center Carolers led by Still on the Hill (Kelly Mulhollan and Donna Stjerna). Gift Cards will be available for your recipients.

--December 2, Sunday, at 7:00p.m., Open Mic for Peace, United Campus Ministries 902 West Maple Street in Fayetteville. Hosted by Kelly Mulhollan and Donna Stjerna (Still on the Hill).

--December 3, 1984, more than 4,000 people were killed in Bhopal, India, by the negligent release of pesticide gas. Union Carbide has paid only a pittance to survivors and injured, and no corporate official has been tried for the crime.

--December 9, Sunday, 7:00p.m. Video Underground, United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville - *Who Shot My Brother*, will be shown. This is a film about the current political situation in Colombia, Our guest speaker will be Prof. Luis Restrepo from the University of Arkansas.

VIDEO UNDERGROUND shows FREE political, social, and current event videos every second and fourth Sunday of the month. These movies are shown at the OMNI CENTER FOR PEACE, JUSTICE, AND ECOLOGY located 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/>

--December 10, Monday - United Nations Human Rights Day, 1948

--December 11-13, 1981 - The Mozote massacre of civilians by El Salvadoran troops, some of whom were trained at Fort Benning, GA.

--December 15, Bill of Rights Day, 1791

--December 16, Sunday, 6:30P.M. HOWL: Women's Open Mic at Nightbird Books, Old Mill Building, Corner of School and 6th Streets, Fayetteville - 2007 HOWL SOMETHING NEW:

HOWL happens the third Sunday of each month at Nightbird Bookstore. At HOWL, women are invited to read poems (their own or another woman writer's), share short prose or sing at an open mic forum hosted by Mendy Knott. So come read, sing or play your work to a really receptive audience. It's a great place to "try out" new work, share your masterpieces, or read for the very first time. Men and women are warmly invited to attend this celebration of women's words. Nightbird Books is located in the old mill buildings at the corner of School and 6th ST. Their phone number is 443-2080. Reading starts at 6:30 but come early to sign up to read, browse the books and enjoy the good company. For HOWL questions or to join our mailing list, email howl@herwords.org. HOWL is a collaboration between Herwords and the Omni Center, supported Nightbird Books in Fayetteville, AR.

--December 31, 1961 - The Marshall Plan expired after distributing more than \$12 billion in aid to Europeans. Subsequently, instead of following this pattern for the solution of world ills and conflicts, the US mainly chose armed force.

--January 9, Wednesday, 7-9p.m., Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 901 W. Cleveland, Fayetteville, Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow(Connie at 6-6:45pm; Michael at 7-9pm) - Most writers would be thrilled to have a Nobel laureate endorse their new book. For author Michael Dowd, no less than five Nobel laureates — most in the sciences — have written glowing reviews of praise for Dowd's unique take on evolution. But add in the fact that Reverend Michael Dowd was once a conservative evangelical who protested the teaching of evolution and things get interesting! With new polls showing Americans as deeply divided as ever over the origins of life, Dowd's brand new book, *Thank God For Evolution!: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life* (Council Oak Books) is already being celebrated on both sides of the debate. For more information on the presenters see www.thankgodforevolution.com and also their older website www.thegreatstory.org (look for the "version 1.0" link) to find writings as well as free audio and video presentations on both websites. If you would like to attend a preview screening of DVDs on the work of Dowd and Barlow, please email leigh@herwords.org or call 582-9209 for more information.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS---UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

--November 29, Thursday, 5:30p.m. - THE INAUGURAL BIG GREEN DREAM MIX - Come down to the BOARSHEAD PUB at POWERHOUSE Seafood & Grill in Fayetteville, for an evening of FUN and SOCIALIZING with the USGBC (United States Green Building Council) Western Branch Arkansas Chapter. We welcome all members, guests, and anyone interested in learning more about the USGBC. You may also have the opportunity to MEET THE 2007 NOMINEES for the Western Branch STEERING COMMITTEE'S upcoming elections. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Announcements and Nominee Introductions to follow at 6:30 pm. Light appetizers to be served until 8 pm. Cash bar and full menu will be available. For more information contact:

Stephan Pollard at stephan.pollard@gmail.com or Tahar Messadi at tmessadi@uark.edu

--November 29, Thursday Night, George's Majestic Lounge on Dickson St., Heifer

International Benefit Concert - A student chapter of Heifer International is having a benefit concert with tunes from the Fayetteville Funk Ensemble and Charliehorse. It's for a good cause: Heifer International works to end world hunger, and all of the proceeds will go to buy livestock for impoverished families and villages in Africa. For more information, Contact Stuart at 479-651-4038

--**November 29, Thursday, 7:00p.m., Giffels Auditorium, Old Main, U of A Campus -Israel Among the Nations: Israel's new diplomacy with Russia, China, India, Eastern Europe By Professor Jonathan Adelman** - Jonathan Adelman, Ph.D. is currently a professor in the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver. He specializes in Soviet and Chinese politics, and in Middle East issues. He served as the Ph.D. dissertation advisor for US Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice. Professor Adelman has taught at the Russian Diplomatic Academy, Central European University, and Chinese People's University where he was named an Honorary Professor. He has been on fifteen international speaking tours for the US State Department to over a dozen countries from 1988 to 2007 and has authored ten books including the soon-to-be published *The Rise of Israel: A History of a Revolutionary State* (Routledge, 2008). His visit is sponsored by Hillel: Jewish Student Association, the King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies, and the Jewish Federation of Arkansas.

-- **Saturday, December 1st, 1-4p.m. at Patrice Gros' home (owner of Foundation Farm) in Eureka Springs**

--**Saturday, December 8th, 1-4p.m. at the Fayetteville Public Library (Henry Board Room)** - Foundation Farm gardening/farming workshops: These 2 in-depth workshops explain the farm's organic, no-till methods. The information is the result of 12 years of successful organic gardening and farming. It is valuable for situations ranging from a small size garden up to a 10 acre commercial vegetable farm. The first 2 hours will cover the cultivation and fertility system used at the farm. The last hour will focus on crop planning, financial management, and will describe the 2008 farm-trainee program. A \$25 fee will cover materials and organizational costs.

Call 479-253 7461 or email mamakapa@yahoo.com for details and to reserve. Visit the farm's website at www.foundationfarm.com.

--**December 1, Saturday, 4:30 - 6:00p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, World AIDS Day Vigil** - NWA Positive Links Buddy Program is sponsoring a candlelight vigil to commemorate World AIDS Day and to bring greater AIDS awareness to Northwest Arkansas.

--**December 15, Saturday, 10a.m. - 3p.m., Memphis Center for Independent Living, 1633 Madison Ave., Memphis, Free Media Training** - Do you sometimes feel like the message about your issue is not getting out to the public? That you need to learn more about how the media works? How to get airtime? How to develop a long-term communications strategy? How to come across better on television interviews? How to get your message down to a 30-second "sound bite"? You are invited to a FREE MEDIA TRAINING sponsored by the Common Message Project. This exciting media training will address issues such as media literacy, framing a message about your issue, developing a consistent message based on your values, and crafting a communications strategy. You will also have an opportunity to speak about your issue on-camera and get professional feedback. Our trainer will be Nora Ferrell of Valerie Denney

Communications, based in Chicago. Lunch will be provided. We do hope you will join us at this informative free meeting. Please RSVP to this email jacob@midsouthpeace.org or call 901.725.4990. We look forward to hearing from you!

--December 19, Wednesday, 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m., Fayetteville Public Library (Walker Room), League of Women Voters Open Forum: Water Conservation and Protection

- A panel will discuss onsite water treatment systems and their impact on development, water quality and regulation. Speakers are Kevin Harrison, Beaver Lake's Grandview Heights Condominiums; Fred Jacks, Mayor of Bethel Heights; John Gray, Mayor of Greenland; and Alison West, ADEQ District 1 Field Inspector Water Division. Bring a sack lunch if you wish. Drinks are provided. For Further Information: Contact - Joyce Hale 527-2777

--December 31, Monday 3pm - January 1, Tuesday, 3p.m., New Year's Meditation Retreat at Wattle Hollow

- A silent Vipassana meditation retreat will occur at Wattle Hollow, with full guided instructions in the various techniques, plus journaling exercises and yoga sessions. Supper and breakfast will be potluck, with Wattle providing the usual peppermint tea, brown rice, and oatmeal in the morning. Beginners are welcome, along with our usual sangha members.

This retreat will be run on dana (the pali word for donation/generosity).

--NIGHT-COURSE ON HISTORY and PRACTICE OF NON-VIOLENCE OFFERED BY PROFESSOR SIDNEY BURRIS and GESHE DORJEE

- Professor Sidney Burris and Geshe Dorjee will offer their course on the history and practice of non-violence in the Spring of 2008. The course will meet every Tuesday night from 6:00-8:50 p.m. in Old Main. HIST 399V (Special Topics, 3 hours credit): "Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Dalai Lama: The Fate of Non-Violence in the 21st Century."

Course Description:

This course will examine the history of non-violence by studying the careers of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Dalai Lama. Professor Burris will provide the socio-historical lectures surrounding these three figures, while Geshe Dorjee will teach the philosophy and practice of non-violence that directed the lives of these three extraordinary individuals. The course will familiarize the students not only with the philosophical context for these revolutionary ideas, but will also examine the historical consequences of its practice, from India's fight for independence to the Civil Rights movement in America. The course will conclude with an in-depth examination of the community of Tibetans in exile as they are currently being led by the Dalai Lama. A substantial component of the course will also be given to understanding how the principles of non-violence might be profitably adopted in our own lives as cogent responses to the political and social crises that are erupting both here in America and abroad. Aside from anthologies of work by Gandhi and King, a selection of other books and films central to an understanding of non-violence will be consulted.

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

LOCALLY:

PEACE WRITING INTERNATIONAL WRITING AWARDS

These awards are offered annually for unpublished books. PeaceWriting encourages writing about war and international nonviolent peacemaking and peacemakers. PeaceWriting seeks book manuscripts about the causes, consequences, and solutions to violence and war, and about the ideas and practices of nonviolent peacemaking and the lives of nonviolent peacemakers. There are three categories: Nonfiction Prose (history, political science, memoirs); Imaginative Literature (novels, plays, collections of short stories, collections of poetry, collections of short plays); and Works for Young People. Open to any writer. Deadline: December 1. Prize: \$500 in each category. For more information or to submit: Peace and Justice Studies Association and Omni: Center for Peace, Justice & Ecology, 2582 Jimmie, Fayetteville AR 72703-3420. (479)442-4600. E-mail: jbennet@uark.edu. Website: www.omnicenter.org. Contact: Dick Bennett.

OMNI LOOKING FOR A TV READER

Would you want to get experience speaking at a TV station? OMNI needs someone to read from our newsletters 5 minutes at CAT every other week (OMNI News), and/or tell about a book (OMNI Book Sampler) and/or express an opinion (OMNI Commentary).

BETSEY WRIGHT ORGANIZING GIFTS FOR DEATH ROW INMATES

It will be time for Christmas and seasonal celebrations by each of you, as well as by Arkansas's death row inmates.

I am coordinating the production of a bag for each guy to contain two t-shirts, two pairs of socks, pads of writing paper, writing pens, pre-stamped envelopes, hot chocolate mix, and some nuts and candies. (How I wish we could add a couple of oranges and apples, but they are forbidden fruits, as the prison management says some inmates make wine from them!)

In addition, the Dept. of Correction has made a contract with one of its commissary vendors to offer a food sack for relatives and friends to give to an inmate. The maximum sack costs \$111.00. Ten of the 38 guys on the Row have someone who will buy the sack for them as a gift. With your help, we will see to it that the remaining 28 men also receive a food sack.

So, I am asking for your help in putting together enough money to make both of these Holiday and Christmas sacks possible. Any contribution will be helpful and my gratitude will be enormous! Checks should be made out to me please.

Betsey Wright
15156 Dutchman's Drive
Rogers, AR 72756
betseywright@cox.net
479-925-4440
925-4443 fax

THE 2ND ANNUAL LITTLE ROCK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2008 DATES

This popular festival to begin accepting entries November 15, 2007. The 2nd Annual Little Rock Film Festival("LRFF") will be held May 15th-18th, 2008 in Downtown Little Rock, Arkansas. Coming off of a successful first year, it will once again showcase films from around the

world and honor local filmmakers through its Best of Arkansas award. Last year there were more than 20 Arkansas films showcased throughout the festival along with multiple panels and workshops that were geared in educating the local film community.

Call for Entries begins November 15th, 2007 and films can be submitted through the LRFF's website, www.littlerockfilmfestival.org. Fees for films submitted by January 2nd, 2008 are \$10 for Shorts under 35 minutes long, and \$25 for features 35 minutes or over. Films submitted after this date and on or before February 15th, 2008 are \$20 for shorts and \$35 for features.

For more information about the Little Rock Film Festival, please contact Co-Coordinator/Director of Arkansas Program Jack Lofton via cell 501.352.5687 or email Jack@LittleRockFilmFestival.org.

NONVIOLENCE, WHISTLEBLOWER, INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS COLLECTION IN UA'S MULLINS LIBRARY

The collection now contains 263 items. You can browse the complete list of available titles by searching the subject *Nonviolent Peacemaking and Victims of Violence and Wars* in InfoLinks, the Libraries' online catalog.

The current endowment is \$63,092.34. Since fiscal year 2003-04, a total of \$9,317 has been spent to help cover the cost of the books and films. Mullins hopes to continue to purchase items at the rate of approximately \$3,200 per year from the interest of the endowment.

2008 \$500 ANNUAL OMNI CRITICAL THINKING AWARDS FOR TEACHERS IN WASHINGTON AND BENTON COUNTIES, ARKANSAS

What is Critical Thinking?

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

Why do we need it?

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

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

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

INVITATIONS TO TEACHERS, THE OMNI CRITICAL THINKING AWARDS

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

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

NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

WHO IS REAPING THE WINDFALLS OF WAR?

The Center for Public Integrity brings us the top 100 Private Contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004-2006. For the complete list visit:

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/WOWII/database.aspx?act=toponehundredcontractors>

Below, are the top 5 contractors:

1 KBR Inc (formerly known as Kellogg Brown and Root)	\$16,059,282,020
2 DynCorp International (Veritas Capital)	\$1,838,156,100
3 Washington Group International Inc	\$1,044,686,850
4 IAP Worldwide Services Inc (Cerberus Capital Management LP)	\$901,973,910
5 Environmental Chemical Corp	\$899,701,070

UMA THURMAN AND TOMMY LEE JONES TO CO-HOST NOBEL PEACE CONCERT

Nobel Peace Concert to Honor Al Gore and Panel on Climate Change

Written by: Stacey Eisenberg 16-Nov-2007

<http://thecelebritycafe.com/features/12360.html>

Organizers announced Wednesday that Uma Thurman and Tommy Lee Jones will co-host December's Nobel Peace Concert, which will honor former Vice President [Al Gore](#) and the U.N.'s climate change panel, according to a report by the Associated Press.

The concert will be held in Oslo, Norway on December 11, the day after the Nobel Peace Prize is presented. Top [musicians](#) like [Alicia Keys](#), Annie Lenox and [Melissa Etheridge](#) will perform in the concert, which will air in more than 100 countries.

Tommy Lee Jones and Al Gore were roommates at Harvard [University](#), and Etheridge won

an [Academy Award](#) this year for the "I Need to Wake Up" that was featured in Gore's "[An Inconvenient Truth](#)."

Uma Thurman "brings iconic style and substance to the event and will help us tremendously in our mission of spreading the global message of peace," said Geir Lundestad, the secretary of the Nobel Peace Prize committee.

The Nobel will go to both Al Gore and the intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for their efforts in spreading awareness about man-made climate change.

NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE - A GROUP YOU'LL WANT TO KNOW ABOUT

It may be hard to recognize human transformation while we're in the midst of a war like this. But there are signs and symbols of it happening around the world, when you look for it. The quick evolution of the Nonviolent Peaceforce is one of those signs.

The group only began training its first unarmed civilian peacekeepers in 2002, but in July it was awarded Special Consultative Status by the UN. That indicates that the group has a special competence in fields of activity important to the UN Economic and Social Council. It also means they can designate official representatives to the UN in New York and Geneva, and allows them the right to address and advise UN agencies.

Nonviolent Peaceforce placed peacekeepers in several intense hotspots since 2002. NP Peacekeepers are trained to deescalate tensions between violent actors. Last May, an NP team went to Mindanao in the Philippines. Most people there live under very harsh conditions, and yet carry on through poverty, exploitation, pollution, violence and fear with enormous strength and perseverance. A village leader gave this report:

"Thanks to NP we did not evacuate our village earlier this month. We are 1000 people living here. NP came to our small village many times in the week following a recent clash when two armed sides were only separated by 200 meters. NP was communicating with the armed parties and with us by cell phone during and after the clash. Their continued presence gave us reassurance. They even offered to sleep here with us. The people said after one week they had enough confidence for their own safety and they would not flee. Send more civilian unarmed peacekeepers so we can stay in our village and not evacuate."

We in the peace movement need to be aware of powerful work being done around the world for peace and nonviolence. This is work every bit as dangerous as military service, but is done by brave and peaceful people no different from you and me. These groups deserve support from us. Find out more about the Nonviolent Peaceforce at www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org.

WOMEN STILL SEEKING EQUALITY AND DEFENDING THEIR RIGHTS

- The US dropped six places, going from 25th in last year's gender equality study to 31st.
- The Colorado Supreme Court ruled 7-0 this week to allow a proposed ballot initiative for the November 2008 election that would define a fertilized egg as a person. Colorado for Equal Rights, the anti-abortion group advocating the initiative, now has six months collect 76,000 signatures in order to place the initiative on the November 2008 ballot.

NEW FILM ON ENVIRONMENT

Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives: The Environmental Footprint of War will appear soon, by Alice and Lincoln Day, fund for Sustainable Tomorrows, www.fundforsustainabletomorrows.org. Omni Center had the pleasure of hosting filmmakers Alice and Lincoln Day on Earth Day, 2006.

NEW 2008 CALENDAR

"Salaam, Shalom, Solh: Nonviolence and Resistance in the Middle East and Beyond," by War Resisters League. Phone toll free 877-234-8811, or at www.warresisters.org
It's packed with information day by day.

ONLINE PETITION TO VISIT

Robert Greenwald and Brave New Films has a new Internet petition for FOX assault on Decency, sign an online petition to Congress for a la carte cable service so cable subscribers will not be forced to support Fox News. <http://foxattacks.com/decency>

CBS REPORT TITLED SUICIDE EPIDEMIC AMONG VETERANS

from November. 13, 2007

They are the casualties of wars you don't often hear about - soldiers who die of self-inflicted wounds. Little is known about the true scope of suicides among those who have served in the military.

There are some videos at the following link.

http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/11/13/cbsnews_investigates/main3496471.shtml

FROM MOVEON.ORG GETTING READY FOR THE 2008 ELECTION

Why not leave voter turnout to the parties and candidates? Because we believe it's going to take a sustained progressive movement to get principled leaders elected and then hold them accountable on our issues. As the late Sen. Paul Wellstone said, "Electoral politics is one crucial way we contest for power in America, and progressives need to get better at it."

Why start this early? So we have time to add innovations to boost our program even further, including:

- Cutting-edge new technology to connect volunteers directly with people who might not vote without a reminder
- Fun and effective house parties to reach more voters—modeled on our 2006 calling parties
- "Microtargeting," a sophisticated targeting technique to find every progressive voter, even those in Republican neighborhoods
- A huge program to persuade swing voters and independents to vote our way
- A new effort to reach people who vote by mail, and make sure they hear from us as early as possible

We'll also work with our allies in the progressive movement to get every vote counted—and stop dirty Election Day tricks. But the best defense is a good offense. If progressives turn out in

unprecedented numbers, the election won't be close enough for those dirty tricks to change the outcome.

From Adam Ruben, MoveOn.org Political Action" <moveon-help@list.moveon.org>

IPCRI PEACE EDUCATION WORKSHOP

On January 4-5, 2008 IPCRI (the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information) will be convening a two-day workshop on peace education. The Workshop will bring together peace educators, curricula writers, encounter facilitators, peace studies practitioners, conflict resolution practitioners, mediators, and activists from academia, research sector, governmental and community organizations and others from Israel, Palestine and beyond.

The Workshop will be a tremendous opportunity for dialogue, debate and visioning with collaboration and cooperation between the body of theory and practice. The Workshop will be meeting grounds for dialogue and mutual learning from the field of peace education from the viewpoint of academia and from the field of practitioners. The Workshop will raise critical issues and acquire new insights into the profound peace education developments in Israel, Palestine and around the world. Furthermore, the Workshop will provide an excellent opportunity to build connections across multi-disciplinary sectors.

Main Themes for the Workshop

- Moving from a Culture of hate to a culture of peace
- Resources for peace educators
- Peace education curricula - research and development
- Coping with existing curricula in Israel and Palestine
- Using media in peace education
- Using the arts in peace education
- Virtual Peace education - using the internet in peace education
- Peace education in the informal educational arena - youth centers, youth movements, clubs, etc.
- Institutionalizing peace education - confronting the formal education systems

Participation - Call for Abstracts

IPCRI is calling on potential participants to submit an abstract for making a presentation at the workshop. This is not a formal academic conference therefore; abstracts will be evaluated on a wider basis than the normal academic criteria. We are looking for creative, exciting and innovative approaches to peace education.

For more information on cost and registration, visit Gershon@ipcricri.org Or fax to: 02-676-8011

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

THANK YOU TO THE FARMER'S MARKET CREW

Thanks to all of you who did a shift at Fayetteville Farmer's Market this season. Special thanks to those of you who did many shifts (you know who you are). Omni had great visibility throughout the spring, summer and fall. This gave us an opportunity to share our message, as well as recruit new members, and get lots of signatures on petitions to present to members of congress. We will be setting up shop again in April, 2008, and hope that some of you who did not have a chance to work this summer will volunteer in the Spring. Two hours on a Saturday morning brings Omni a large return for a small investment of your time.

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Here is a link to a slideshow of photos from various OMNI folks.

<http://omni-slideshow.blogspot.com/>

Please note: If you click on a photo, you will get some info about the photo.

If you move your mouse near the top of the photos, some control buttons will appear to pause, resume and adjust the speed of the slideshow.

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Link Carries Interactive Calendar of Events in Northwest Arkansas—

<http://northwestarkansasevents.blogspot.com/>

- Farmers' Market Schedules
- 2007-2008 Razorback Football Schedule
- Fayetteville Society of Friends (a.k.a. the Quaker...
- Northwest Arkansas Sustainability Center
- Northwest Arkansas Buddhists
- Omni Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology
- Interfaith and Astronomical
- Combined Northwest Arkansas Event Calendar

Original and gathered articles from Dick Bennett are at <http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/>
Mike Tramill has an email network (list) on political issues, including the latest developments on possible war or invasion with Iran. You may contact Mike at wheeler65@gmail.com if you want to be on the list.

Richard Drake continues his Fayetteville blog, street jazz, at <http://www.arktmes.com/blogs/streetjazz/>


Fayetteville Freethinkers website/forums can be found at <http://fayfreethinkers.com/forums/>

Casualties in Iraq

The Human Cost of Occupation

Edited by Margaret Griffis :: [Contact](#)

American Military Casualties in Iraq

Date	Total	In Combat
		
American Deaths		
Since war began (3/19/03):	3876	3181
Since "Mission Accomplished" (5/1/03) (the list)	3737	3073
Since Capture of Saddam (12/13/03):	3415	2875
Since Handover (6/29/04):	3017	2548
Since Election (1/31/05):	2439	2285
American Wounded	Official	<u>Estimated</u>
Total Wounded :	28530	23000 - <u>100000</u>

Latest Fatality Nov. 22, 2007

[Page last updated 11/25/07 11:40 am EDT](#)

IRAQI CIVILIAN BODY COUNT

Civilians reported killed by military intervention in Iraq

MIN.

77,327*

MAX.

84,244*

Source of Iraqi Civilian Body Count: <http://www.iraqbodycount.net/>

*A body count of Iraqi civilian deaths was published in the medical journal *The Lancet* last year; its estimate was 600,000 (min) to 650,000 (max).

Cost of the War in Iraq

\$472,000,000,000 and counting

Source of Cost of War: <http://nationalpriorities.org>

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. Fax: 479-725-0408, 213 W. Monroe, Suite K, 72745. Stacy McLure, Deputy Chief of Staff (STACEY.McCLURE@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV) Web site (with contact link): <http://www.boozman.house.gov/> 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.