Vermont Yankee – Shut It Down Now!

The women of the Shut It Down affinity group rang out the old as they rang in the new year on January 1, bringing solar panels to replace the nuclear energy from the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon.

Nine women blocked the driveway at Entergy Corporation’s aging, leaky reactor. Their message was clearly communicated with solar photovoltaic panels as props and a banner reading “No More Leaks and No More Lies – Shut It Down Now.” They stressed that solar, wind, and water power along with efficiency can replace Vermont Yankee’s nuclear energy without endangering health and at lower cost.

Police arrested and booked the women, releasing them to appear in Windham County District Court in Brattleboro on February 28. It was Shut It Down’s eleventh witness against nuclear power at Vermont Yankee since the women began appearing there in December, 2005. Despite the women’s repeated insistence that they would appreciate follow-through on a court date, the state’s attorney has dropped all previous charges, and on February 18, the latest charges were dropped as well.

The nine arrested are Julia Bonafine, Martha Hennessy, Robin Lloyd, and Nina Swaim from Vermont, and Frances Crowe, Marcia Gagliardi, Ellen Graves, Hattie Nestel, and Paki Wieland from Massachusetts. Ages range from Bonafine, 40, to Crowe, who is 91.

While blocking the driveway, the women read the following statement:

“We are here on New Year’s Eve to shut down Vermont Yankee now. Vermont, New England, and America can not wait until 2012 to end the dangerous, wasteful, inefficient, and expensive nuclear power generated here.

In its place, we bring Vermont the safe, sustainable, and expensive nuclear power generated here.

Out with the old and in with the new. The future is now. We can be carbon-free and nuclear-free. For more information, contact Marcia Gagliardi, 800-215-8805 or haley.antique@verizon.net. (Thanks to Shut It Down for this report.)

Nonviolent Direct Action Tributes to Dr. Martin Luther King

This year’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday weekend coincided with the 20th anniversary of the 1991 U.S. attack on Iraq that began a war continuing to this day. Across the country, anti-war events featured King’s eloquent denunciations of militarism, poverty, and racism, while his leadership in the practice of nonviolent direct action to confront injustice was honored by resisters for Social Responsibility, gave a presentation on the threats posed by these nuclear weapons stored at Strategic

Weapons Facility—Pacific and deployed on the Trident nuclear submarines based at the Kitsap-Bangor Navy Base. The Center shares a back fence with the base, home to the largest single stockpile of nuclear warheads in the U.S. arsenal, housing as many as 2,000 nuclear warheads.

After nonviolence training, demonstrators went to the nearby Trigger Avenue gate. Twelve activists risked arrest during the afternoon shift change.

Washington State residents Shirley Morrison, 88, Roxy Betz-Zall, 60, and Anne Hall, 65, all of Seattle; Larry Kerschner, 64, of Centralia; Brenda McMillan, 77, of Port Townsend; and Denny Moore, 66, of Bainbridge Island, walked onto the road with a banner reading “BILLIONS FOR LIFE, NOT BILLIONS FOR DEATH.”

Kitsap County sheriff’s arrested the six protesters. They were taken to the county jail where they were issued citations for blocking traffic and later released.

At the gate, another six activists crossed the blue line marking federal property. Gordon Strurrock, 52, of Eugene, Oregon, was arrested along with Washington residents Patti Bass, 63, of Poulsbo; Carolyn Dorisdotter, 72, of Seattle; Norm Keegel, 71, of Bainbridge Island; Sam Tower, 68, of Tacoma; and Robert Friend Weber Whitlock, 32, of Olympia. Naval security personnel took them into custody for processing and they were later released with citations for trespass.

For more information, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370, www.gzcenter.org, 360-286-9036, info@gzcenter.org.

LOCKHEED MARTIN

On a frigid holiday Monday, January 17, nearly seventy-five people gathered in front of Lockheed Martin’s corporate complex in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The Brandywine Peace Community has been honoring King’s legacy of nonviolent action for 33 consecutive years, and since 1993, with annual vigils and civil disobedience actions at Lockheed-Martin.

Along half a block, people holding banners and signs stood next to large free-standing pictures of Dr. King, and listened to an audio broadcast of excerpts from his sermons and speeches. A memorial litany drawn from King’s writings concluded with the toll of a bell as eight people, prepared to be arrested in civil disobedience, walked into the crosswalk at Lockheed Martin’s main driveway. They wore sandwich board signs – one side with a graphic of King and the words “It’s About Justice ... Make War No
Reflections on the ANZUS Plowshares 20 Years Later

New Year’s Day 2011
Little Flower Catholic Worker Farm
Virginia, USA

by Sue Frankel-Streit in collaboration with Helen Loden

I don’t know what effect hammering on a B-52 bomber actually had on the first Gulf War (other than that particular bomber not bombing). But I know that the effect that action had on me was immense; likely immensa-
re. I don’t think too much about the ANZUS Plowshares action that often. I don’t speak about it unless someone asks it. It was 20 years ago, after all. There have been so many cre-
ative, active, joyful, and responsible acts of resistance before and since, that I don’t dwell often on that one.

Still, though, those few solid thwacks of my hammer on that huge plane in the early hours of the New Year 1991, and all the preparation leading up to them, and all the court time and, most especially, all the jail time that followed, have pretty much informed every aspect of my life since.

For one thing, I believe without doubt that there is a power greater than that I support liberation and creativ-
ity, and that any time we enter into the flow of that spirit
power greater than I that supports liberation and creativ-
ity, has taken. Though I lost a part of my freedom forever
that jail time. And it took a great action (“an act of per-
sonal and political disarmament”, as Phil Berrigan used to say) to bring me there.

So, in the years since, I’ve continued to try and build community, and to engage in direct actions against systemic violence.

If this planet is going to survive much more of us, we first-worlders are going to have to learn how to live togeth-
er again. “Living together is to love each other,” Dorothy Day said, “and we know each other in the breaking of the bread”. And if we break bread together, we can at least start to build a commu-
ity, authentic living, and authentic loving. But we have to engage in direct action; because we are not solely re-
ponsible for our household or our children, but we have community and can therefore act boldly.

Over the last 20 years, Bill and I have spent a lot of time and energy on what Gandhi referred to as “the constructive program” – living simply and communally, growing food and raising kids, offering hospitality to strangers, organizing and supporting marginalized activists and young people. We’ve made, and continue to make, our share of mistakes. We continue to struggle with community, authentic living, and authentic loving. But we have continued to engage in direct, action directed at the center of our lives. We have never regretted any direct ac-
tion that either one of us, or any member of our communi-
ty, has engaged in.

The freedom I gained when I went to jail, I also gained a part of my freedom when I wrote to the Tacoma Federal Public Defender, 1331 Settle, U.S. Federal District Court Tacoma, 1717 Pacific Ave. Room 3100, Tacoma, WA 98402-3200. Please send a copy to the Tacoma Federal Public Defender, 1331 Settle, U.S. Federal District Court

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

The Nuclear Resister is available on microfilm as part of the Alternative Press Research Collection (1986–present) and the Alternative Press Center Supplement of the Underground Press Collection (1969–1980) distributed by ProQuest Complete 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

Since 1980, the Nuclear Resister has provided comprehensive re-
porting on anti-nuclear civil resistance in the United States, with an emphasis on providing support for the women and men jailed for these actions. In 1990, the Nuclear Resister also began reporting on anti-war actions in North America, plus anti-nuclear and anti-war resistance with the same emphasis on prisoner support.

The Nuclear Resister is published about five times/year and serves to network this nonviolent resistance movement while acting as a clearinghouse for information about contemporary nonviolent resis-
tance to war and the nuclear threat. We believe that in any sig-
nificant movement for social change, many committed individuals are imprisoned. Bill and I never stop thinking of the people and their resistance activity is limited. Broaden awareness of their actions and jail support for the imprisoned activist are essential to the movement’s survival.

Each issue provides the names and jail addresses of currently im-
prisoned anti-war and anti-nuclear activists. Readers are encouraged to provide active support through personal letters to those behind bars and in other ways requested by the prisoners.

Felice & Jack Cohen-Joppa, editors

Thanks

Thanks to Jim, Betty, Jerry, Sonia, Charlotte, Paige, Roger, John and Sue for helping to mail the last issue!

Felice & Jack Cohen-Joppa, editors

Writing to Plowshares Sentencing Judge

Sentencing of the Disarm Now Ploowshares group is scheduled for July 17, 2011 in Tucson, Arizona federal court. They are facing a maximum possible sentence of ten years in prison for entering the nuclear weapons stor-

Since their December conviction for trespass, felony damage to federal property, felony injury to property and felony conspiracy to damage property, many people have helped the five – Fr. Bill Michael, Susan Crane, Lynne Green-
wald, Fr. Steve Kelly and Sr. Anne Montgomery – that the federal government’s charge against them.

“Considering the illegal treatment of the Guantanamo prisoners and the thousands of people held unjustly in U.S. prisons,” the defendants write, “it’s hard to ask peo-
ple to write on our behalf. At the same time, we appreciate and need the support, and suggest these talking points:

• The nuclear weapons at the U.S. Naval Base
Kitsap-Bangor and on the Trident submarines are horren-
dous, capable of destroying all life on earth.

• The nuclear weapons at the U.S. Naval Base
Kitsap-Bangor are illegal according to the rules and prin-
ciples of humanitarian law, U.S. war crimes (18 USC 2441, International Crimes Act, 1999), statutes and military law. It is the responsibility of every citizen in the U.S. to find nonviolent ways to confront these weapons.

• We are NOT asking for leniency from the judge, but for justice. The weapons are illegal. We shouldn’t be in prison.

• Further, we say that you speak of us as a commu-
nity of resisters rather than individuals.

• We are asking the judge to join us in disarming these weapons that can end life on earth. Although Judge Settle made a decision before the trial to preclude us from using constructive defense of necessity and humanitarian law, he could do some-
thing about that and stand with us now.”

Send your letters by mail to: Judge Benjamin H. Settle, Jr., U.S. District Court, 1717 Pacific Ave. Room 3100, Tucson, WA 98402-3200. Please send a copy to the Tacoma Federal Public Defender, 1331 Broadway, Suite 400, Tucson, WA 98402. Finally, send a copy by email to: disarmnowploowshares@gmail.com.

For a schedule of public events planned around the sentencing, visit www.disarmnowploowshares.org.

In Memory of
Sr. Rosemary Lynch, OSF
March 18, 1917 - January 9, 2011
Peacemaker,
Franciscan sister,
co-founder of the Nevada Desert Experience and Peace e Bene, Storyteller, Poet

In full bloom this desert Rose
tour four score years and ten
spreading its petals, the rose of the desert gardens the spirituality of nonviolence through the generations.

Peter Ediger, marking Sr. Rosemary’s 90th birthday

Photo by Mario Intino, Jr.
Support Letters Needed for Bradley Manning

Army private Bradley Manning remains in maximum security custody at the Marine Corps prison at Quantico, under the designation of a Prevention of Injury watch sustained despite the repeated recommendation to the contrary of big forensic psychologists.

For two days after more than 150 people rallied for his freedom on Martin Luther King Day, Manning was placed without justification on even more restrictive Suicide Watch. Pentagon officials insisted Manning’s conditions of confinement were no different than other pretrial detainees, but his lawyer David Coombs documented the falsehood of the claim and has filed a formal complaint against the unique conditions. Still, no hearing has been scheduled and Manning has yet to face formal charges.

After being detained and questioned the previous weekend until visiting hours were over, Bradley Manning Support Network member and friend David House was allowed to visit the accused WikiLeaker whistleblower at Quantico on both January 29 and 30. He reported Manning displayed some classic symptoms of prolonged solitary confinement, but became most animated when told of the democracy demonstrations in Tunisia and Egypt.

Support Action

Supporters are asked to write to Quantico commanders and demand an end to the inhumane, degrading conditions of pretrial confinement and respect for Manning’s human rights, specifically, lifting the “Prevention of Injury (POI) watch order.” This would allow Bradley meaningful physical exercise, uninterrupted sleep during the night, and a release from isolation. The request is not for special treatment, but in fact for an immediate end to the special attention.

In late February, PayPal made an “internal policy decision” to shut down the account of the Bradley Manning Support Fund, administered by Courage to Resist. The dispute had been brewing for more than two months, since WikiLeaks’ account was shut down by the internet money transfer company. Protest ensured once news of the holdup hit the internet by the end of the day, the account was restored without further comment.

For more information, visit www.bradleymanning.org.

Appeal for Leonard Peltier’s Urgent Medical Transfer

The prostate biopsy that was ordered by a physician last November was finally performed on Leonard Peltier on February 23. Peltier will receive the results in seven to ten days. The feedback from the physician wasn’t positive.

Peltier had experienced symptoms of prostate cancer for over a year. After months of pressure by attorneys, he underwent blood tests in June, 2010. Those results were positive, however.

In February, 2011, he had served 35 years in federal custody despite proof of his innocence, and also despite clear evidence that he was convicted on the basis of fabricated and suppressed evidence, as well as coerced testimony. The United States Courts of Appeal have repeatedly acknowledged investigative and prosecutorial misconduct in this case but, by their decisions, have refused to take corrective action. A model prisoner, Leonard Peltier also has undergone false diagnosis of prostate cancer.

For more information, visit www.whoisleonardpeltier.info, or contact the Leonard Peltier Defense Office at 718 North 10th Street, Fargo, ND 58106, contact@whoisleonardpeltier.info.

Nancy H. Smith 94641-020
FCI Danbury, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811.
(6 months – out 7/3/11. Trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, during the annual vigil to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC, 11/10)
Christopher Spencer 94642-020
(In transit) c/o the Nuclear Resister, POB 43838, Tucson, AZ 85737.
(6 months – out 11/13/11. Trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, during the annual vigil to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC, 11/10)

Frank Donnelly
3247 Elrod Avenue, Quantico VA 22134.
乡村振兴、共同富裕、绿色发展

Another Six Months for STRATCOM Line-Crosser

Mark Kenney was sentenced to a six month prison term on February 25, for stepping across the line at Offutt Air Force Base. The Nagasaki Day (August 9) demonstration was part of an annual vigil and protest at the heart of the U.S. Strategic Command, overseer of the nation’s nuclear weapons arsenal. Federal Magistrate Judge Thomas D. Thalken of the Omaha, Nebraska federal court, and noted that Kenney’s prior record of line crossing at Offutt resulted in his serving 30 days, 45 day and two six month sentences (the two six months sentences being given by Judge Thalken).

Kenney, 53, spoke briefly to the court, concluding.

“If I am guilty of anything, it’s that I desire to hold onto my faith in Jesus the Christ more than I wish to hold onto the manufactured myth of the American Dream. If I am guilty of anything, it’s that I fear God more than I fear the courts.

“For these reasons, I do what I do. For these reasons, I will try to accept as faithfully as I can whatever the court or the society have in store for me.”

Thalken said he respected Kenney’s personal convictions for peace, and admitted that any prison time given to Kenney would not be a deterrent but only punishment. He sentenced Kenney to the full six month maximum jail time because of Kenney’s prior sentences. Kenney will self-surrender within four to six weeks.

Two codefendants are considering a plea agreement, and the third, Fr. Jack McCasin, 81, was set to appear before Judge Judge Thalken.

Frank Donnelly
15 Ash Lane, Lamoine, ME 04650.
(One year – out 1/1/11. Trespass at military recruiting office 1/15/10, Line-Crosser)

Carl W. Steward 09105-088
FPC Montgomery, Federal Prison Camp, Max, 7509 Air Force Road, Montgomery, AL 36118.
(2 years – out 5/3/12. Non-public war tax resister pled guilty to underreporting income, 10/09)

Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. 10-0237
Lancaster County Prison, 1000 Hill DAVY, Drawer-C, 625 East King St., Lancaster, PA 17602-3199.
(18 months less 20 days – out 6/25/11. Trespass at military recruiting office 1/15/10, violating probation from prior action)

Name ID # [if needed] prison or support address
(Sentence - in/out date if known. Action & date)
Updates to this list are posted at www.nukeresister.org/inside-out

NUCLEAR RESISTERS
Helen Woodson 03231-045
FMC Carswell, Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127.
(106 months - out 9/9/11. Parole violation with anti-war activity at the federal court house, Kansas City, Missouri, 3/11/04)

Leonard Peltier 89637-132
USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837.
(Life, Native American political prisoner framed for murder while defending traditional indigenous from threats including uranium mining on sacred lands)

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS
Rafii Dhahir 11921-052
FCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.
(22 years – out 4/26/22. Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

Bradley Manning
c/o Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave #41, Oakland CA 94610.
(Heid pending charges. Alleged to have leaked military video and documents showing evidence of U.S. war crimes)

Louis Vitale 25803-048
FCI Lompoc, 3600 Guard Road, Lompoc, CA 93436.
(6 months – out 5/21/11. Trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, during the annual vigil to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC, 11/10)

Michael David Omondi 94638-020
McKee Correctional Institute, P.O. Drawer 30, McRae, GA 31055.
(6 months – out 5/20/11. Trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, during the annual vigil to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC, 11/10)

Nancy H. Smith 94641-020
FCI Danbury, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811.
(6 months – out 7/3/11. Trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, during the annual vigil to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC, 11/10)

Christopher Spencer 94642-020
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Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. 10-0237
Lancaster County Prison, 1000 Hill DAVY, Drawer-C, 625 East King St., Lancaster, PA 17602-3199.
(18 months less 20 days – out 6/25/11. Trespass at military recruiting office 1/15/10, violating probation from prior action)
While the Air Force enthusiastically enforces its boundaries at Vandenberg Air Force Base, the U.S. attorney and federal court show no comparable passion for prosecution. In a curious situation, where the main gate sits at an intersection along a stretch of California State Highway 1 that crosses the base.

On first Wednesdays, a monthly peace vigil at the gate of the base (where missiles to launch nuclear war are tested) is closely monitored by military police. If participants are identified from a large binder of photographs of those previously banned for crossing the line, they may be ordered to leave the area and quickly arrested if they don’t. When they get to the federal circuit court in Santa Barbara, charges are dropped or the penalty is modest.

Dennis Apel and Bud Boothe were arrested for defying their banishment as they vigilied on January 5, Boothe, a World War II veteran as well as veteran of resistance at Vandenberg after nearly 30 years of protest there, was roughed-up once when arrested last year. This day, he came to the vigil with his wrists taped to protect his skin from the handcuffs. He was again tightly handcuffed for more than an hour before being released, and his requests for the painful experience be stopped were ignored.

A month later on February 2, Apel, Boothe, and Fr. Steve Kelly were again arrested for ignoring their ban and bar orders as they vigilied outside the gate.

In the interval, others who had crossed the line last August 7 had trespass charges dropped, as were citations served that day on Dennis Apel and Brian Wiens, who were vigilant in spite of active bans. On February 17, Apel and Kelly reported to federal court for a hearing on their November 3 citations. First, however, Apel was handed a poorly written citation for violating his ban and bar order at the December 1 vigil. He told the judge that he noticed two different dates presented on his citation.

“...I was wondering about that, too...” the judge offered. Without prompting, the prosecutor then asked for and received a summary dismissal of the charge.

Because their November codefendant, Fr. Louis Vitale, is currently serving a six-month prison sentence, Apel then asked if the November matter could be taken up later, after Vitale’s May 20 release date. The prosecutor said the third Thursday in June would be okay, even while noting that her main military witness expects to be re-assigned to Korea by then. The case was continued to June 16.

Meanwhile, two appeals challenging the Air Force’s claim of jurisdiction along the highway easement by the gate including the Air Force’s claim of jurisdiction are pending before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

For more information, contact Vandenberg Witness, 4575 9th St., Guadalupe, CA 93434, 805-343-6422, info@vandenbergwitness.org.
Two More Get Six Months, cont.

continued from page 1

transfer to McRae led to speculation he might be deported after completing his sentence, but he’s been told that will not happen. Recently Omondi was notified that he would be transferred to another federal prison in California, where he’s part of the Los Angeles Catholic Worker community.

Back in Columbus, the School of the Americas Watch Legal Collective has filed a round of motions for those facing jail time, including one for a jury trial. The appeals from municipal court have yet to be docketed. When they are, they will be consolidated with the trial cases.

In late December, a letter to “Friends of the Movement to Close the School of the Americas,” signed by 27 SOAW volunteer organizers, former prisoners of conscience, and staff addressed the circumstances that led to significant police infiltration of the 2010 action group and multiple municipal and state charges.

As part of the collective leadership of our movement, we must tell you that we remain very concerned and disturbed by the actions of the Columbus police at the close of the demonstration and violent entry at the School of the Americas – and that this has been confirmed by the independent coroner who has been examining what happened and will do whatever is in our power to make sure that no November arrests of innocent people will not happen again.

As a community, we must take the negative energy that was generated by the conduct of law enforcement and parts of the judicial system and transform that into passion to close the SOA/WHINSEC and to bring about justice.

Anger is the first response of the heart to injustice. It is a light that points us to what is wrong, and it is important. Anger needs, however, her sister Cour-age to change the injustice and to create hope.

A lot of money went into bail and fines for people in our movement. People were very generous. This shows the strength of our movement. We assure you that the SOA Watch movement remains financially healthy and able to continue our struggles. As usual, we are going to be asking you for money to help our organization continue to grow, but just know our movement is OK.

Finally, we know that transparent evaluation is necessary in movements for justice. We are gazing with a humble and thorough eye at all facets of our 2010 gathering and how our movement should respond. We do this in a spirit of openness and creativity to help us build a movement that reflects the best of who we are as a community. If you have thoughts to share with us, please do - we need your participation.

Email feedback to nic@soaw.org, or mail to SOA Watch, P.OB 4566, Washington, DC 20017.

All social justice movements face resistance from systems of power. One of our struggles is not to begin to reflect the abuses of power, of person, and of values in our own movement as we seek change. This means we need to continuously evolve to reflect a healthy, open, justice-loving whole. We are committed to that ongoing evolution as we create a safe and justice-loving whole in our 2011 gatherings.

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Letters of support should be sent to Fr. Louis Vitalie, Michael David Omondi, Nancy Smith, and Chris Spicer at the addresses listed on page 3, Inside & Out.

Before going to jail, Nancy Smith asked not to have money deposited to her commissary account, for numerous and well-considered reasons. While she is not wanting for her personal needs, she will not be purchasing stamps. “Please know that while I appreciate any correspondence you may send, I light the stove to reciprocate,” she wrote, just before going to prison.


Corrections:

Due to a memory and editing error, our original report of the 2010 SOAW vigil in the last issue mistakenly conflated the names of two retired federal judges into one Robert “Maximum Bob” Faircloth and sentenc ing frt. Benning line-crossers: Robert “Maximum Bob” Elliott, who retired in 1999 at age 90, following a career as an associate judge.

The line-crossers: Robert “Maximum Bob” Faircloth who also routinely imposed maximum jail terms on SOAW defendants.

The Innocent the Empire

Faith and Resistance retreat. They took action December 29 at Northwood, the British military headquarters in a leafy London suburb, joined by another 20 anti-war activists on the crime scene reenacted from a nearby tube station.

Seven Catholic Workers went ahead with a can of red paint to once again mark the “Northwood Headquarters” sign with symbolic blood, but the sign had been temporarily removed, likely for the occasion. The paint was instead poured on the driveway in the shape of a cross, and six of the group blocked the gate entrance. Ciaran O’Reilly, wearing a large photo of Bradley Manning, scaled the fence, carefully moved through the razorwire on top, and dropped inside the barrier to a rather inaccessible space. For over an hour, he spoke through the fence to police, military, and other demonstrators. Tim Saunders tried to follow but was pulled back and questioned by police before being let go to rejoin the vigil. Eventually, O’Reilly read the group’s statement aloud and then surrendered. He was taken inside the base for questioning but soon rejoined the vigil as well, with no charges.

For more information, contact the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, 202-882-9649, DCatholicWorker.wordpress.com and the London Catholic Worker, 020 8348 8212, londoncatholicworker.org.

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Dhahir Awaits Re-sentencing

Jailed Iraqi-American physician and philanthropist Raif Dhahir now waits for a re-sentencing date to be set. Dhahir was originally sentenced to nearly 52 years, but the federal appeals court, when remanding the case to the trial judge for re-sentencing last year on technical grounds, suggested an even longer term might be in order.

Dhahir founded Help the Needy, a charity that directed more than $300 million in aid to Iraqi civilians during the era of U.S. sanctions, 1991-2003. He was arrested February 26, 2003, on the eve of the invasion of Iraq and repeatedly branded in public as a funder of terrorism. He was found guilty and sentenced to 30 years in prison for his role in Laundering related to the unregistered charity and Medicare billing violations. Dhahir’s conviction is still cited by the Department of Justice as a successful anti-terrorism prosecution, although any mention of such public allegations was specifically forbidden at his trial.

In another case of humanitarians being prosecuted, Seattle physician Bert Sacks is the target of a civil suit by the U.S. government over his refusal to pay a $10,000 fine, levied in 2002 over his 1997 violation of the Iraq sanctions. Sacks had joined Voices in the Wilderness and brought embossed medical supplies into the suffering nation. Trial begins September 19 in federal court in Seattle.

For more information about supporting Sacks and Iraqi children, visit www.iraqkids.org. For more information about the case of Dr. Dhahir, visit www.dhahirtrial.net.

WITNESS AGAINST TORTURE

On January 11, one full year after its promised closure, the rogue prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba is still in busi-
ness. Witness Against Torture hosted their annual public fast and nonviolent actions in Washington, D.C. to high-
light the plight of the men held captive in a legal limbo.

After a warm and somber reunion the night before, more than 300 fasters and supporters rallied in Peace (Lafayette) Park, opposite the White House. Dozens were orange jump-suited black hoods over their coats, representing the 173 prisoners still at Guantanamo. Two by two, they marched first to the White House, and then to the Department of Justice (DoJ). There, at least 60 of the “detainees” first blocked one, and then all three entrances for half the afternoon. Police warned the blockaders but then relented, and no one was arrested.

The fasters, about 35-50 in Washington of more than 100 nationwide, returned to the DoJ on each of the next ten days of fasting, and were also present at the White House, FBI, Pentagon, Congress and the federal courts.

A letter was sent to the Attorney General asking him to come and break bread with the fasters outside the DoJ on January 19. He didn’t come out, so for four hours that af-

ternoon, 22 fasters are lockdown at the locked the doors and then the garage entrance. Police unrolled crime scene tape and a jail wagon was brought in, but again no arrests were made. The group maintained the experience where they vigilied overnight before breaking their fast.

Coordinated vigils and fasts were held in several other cities. In Chicago, ten people were arrested January 11 and released after an hour in custody. They tried to deliver a letter to Chief Justice Roberts at the D.C. Death Row Building, urging him to help the prisoners get justice. Af-

ter being denied entrance, some of the doors were blocked by vigilers in orange jump-suited and black hoods, who knelt in prayer for over an hour before being arrested.

For more information, visit witnessfortorture.org.

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March 1, 2011

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

(untitled)

For Grace and Arunal

Angels all around me
In the dungeons of Atlanta USP
Guiding me through the heat of love
And daily humed luminosity
Listen, still, pray, still —
Silence clomours through the night
Watch, patient, still silent —
Quietly desire flee.

For blessings come when
Least expected.

Though mind and flesh
In constancy may seek
Refire through material
ThedoubleValue.
Through the din
To peace
And sublime
And ethereal
Yet congruent, tangible
Simple and simply imintesmal.

The freedom of captivity
Angels whisper
In a penitentary.

David Omondi
January, 2011

[David Omondi is serving a six month sentence in federal prison for trespass at Ft. Benning, Georgia, in November, 2010.]
It's Just the Way Things Are

by Chris Cole

January 18, 2011

In 2009, the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) exhibition was held to showcase Britain’s arms industry. The aim of the "U.K. Defence Conference 2009" was to bring together defense officials, the monolithic arms industry? What is the point of going to war when the power lines erected to carry nuclear-generated electricity across northwest France. The judge considered the serious and careful preparation of the activists to avoid injury, and gave a suspended sentence...

In a similar way, the powers that be tell us that there is no alternative. A classic example of this type of confrontation would perhaps be Rosa Parks’ refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man in 1955. That direct confrontation with the power of institutional racism in a concrete situation produced a wider circumstance of choice – the Montgomery Bus Boycott – where people had to choose life, so that you and your children may live.” (Deut 30:19)

Nonviolent direct action is about trying to make visible the choices that we are making – or that are being made on our behalf – and articulating the fact that there is an alternative. A classic example of this type of confrontation would perhaps be Rosa Parks’ refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man in 1955. That direct confrontation with the power of institutional racism in a concrete situation produced a wider circumstance of choice – the Montgomery Bus Boycott – where people had to choose to side with the power (a Power which insisted that there was no choice) or to stand against racism and on the side of equality and life.

In a similar way, the powers that be tell us that there is no choice with regard to peace and security in our world. But the reality is that, in this nuclear age of destruction and security, they say, is through the gun, the drone and the nuclear deterrent. “It’s the way things are and always will be” is the cry, and I have heard it from schoolboys in the classroom, from CEO’s in the boardrooms, and politicians in the parliamentary committee room. The powers have managed to convince us that armed force is our salvation, that in a similar way, the powers that be tell us that there is no choice with regard to peace and security in our world. But the reality is that, in this nuclear age of destruction and security, they say, is through the gun, the drone and the nuclear deterrent. “It’s the way things are and always will be” is the cry, and I have heard it from schoolboys in the classroom, from CEO’s in the boardrooms, and politicians in the parliamentary committee room. The powers have managed to convince us that armed force is our salvation, that in a similar way, the powers that be tell us that there is no choice with regard to peace and security in our world. But the reality is that, in this nuclear age of destruction and security, they say, is through the gun, the drone and the nuclear deterrent. “It’s the way things are and always will be” is the cry, and I have heard it from schoolboys in the classroom, from CEO’s in the boardrooms, and politicians in the parliamentary committee room. The powers have managed to convince us that armed force is our salvation, that
white house

Veterans’ peace organizations joined by a broad array of activist groups will gather en masse at the White House on March 19 as they did on December 16, 2010, and again last April, as part of the "Plan of Attack Against the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, March Forward!", Vietnam Veterans Against the War and Veterans For Peace have joined forces with "three civil disobedience lawsuits that are now pending. Exposure the Lies. Free Bradley Manning." For more information, visit www.stophesewars.org, or email stophesewars@gmail.com.

nevada test site

The 2011 Sacred Peace Walk from Las Vegas to the Nevada National Security Site (formerly the Nevada Test Site) will take place from April 18-25, 2011. The 65 mile journey is a walking meditation. It is also an opportunity for civil resistance calling for an end to development, testing and production of nuclear weapons. Nevada test site activists are participating in the Nevada Test Site and Creech Air Force Base. Most nights are spent camping with help from a Las Vegas support circle. Nevada test site activists are publicly invited to join us. "White pilgrims" are welcome. Visit NevadaDesertExperience.org for schedule details.

For more information, contact Nevada Desert Experience, 1420 W. Bartlett Ave, Las Vegas NV 89106, 702-646-4814, info@NevadaDesertExperience.org.

hancock airfield, ny

Join a peace walk from Ithaca, N.Y. to Hancock Airfield near Syracuse, concluding in a rally and nonviolent civil resistance action on April 22 (Earth Day, Passover, Good Friday and a day of prayer for Muslims). Hancock is the national recruitment center for the Reaper drone. For more information, contact Ellen Grady at demotrulygr66@gmail.com.

chernobyl day

Plans are underway around the world for protests and actions to mark the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power catastrophe on or around April 26. It will be a day to declare, together with millions of others around the world, NO to nuclear power, nuclear weapons, nuclear testing, uranium mining and radioactive waste and YES to a nuclear-free future! Post your Chernobyl events at www.chernobyl-day.com/spip.php?page=actions.

sweden

Sweden, the Swedish anti-racist network, invites international activists to next summer’s action camp against the new factory under construction around the small village of Läckö, which is situated a few hours’ drive north of Stockholm. The retreat will focus on the new factory under construction there for special nuclear weapons parts, with a non-arrestable actions. For more information, email londoncatholicworker@yahoo.co.uk.

Y-12 NUCLEAR SECURITY COMPLEX

Y-12 NUCLEAR SECURITY COMPLEX at a January pre-trial hearing, Federal Magistrate Judge Bruce Gayton agreed to hear pre-trial testimony from international law expert Charles Moorely, and at that time decide if it can be raised in defense of thirteen people arrested for trespass last summer at the nuclear weapons facility in Oak Ridge. Federal prosecutors have fired a motion in limine against the testimony, arguing that legal precedent is settled against the proposition that international law is a factor in such protests trespass cases. "I argue for the defense Francis Lloyd explained that international law is not something that relies upon a set of statutes, but that it develops and evolves along with norms, customs, cases, and even treaties. Thus the need for an expert who was learned in the subject to inform the court’s decision." "I do not want the court to know if he will provide helpful information to the jury without knowing what the information is?" Francis asked. He closed by quoting Thomas Jefferson, the only legal jury as the only anchor of Virginia: “I consider trial by jury as the only anchor of a free Constitution.” For more information, email Nico@soaw.org, phone +1-202-343-3440 or nicolinux@soaw.org.

kansas city

The Midwest Catholic Worker annual Faith & Resistance Retreat will be in Kansas City, April 29 - May 2. The retreat will focus on the new factory under construction there for special nuclear weapons parts, with a non-arrestable actions. For more information, contact Cherith Brook Catholic Worker, 816-241-8047 or Nico@soaw.org.

faith & resistance

Dorothy Day Catholic Worker in Washington, D.C. and Jonah House in Baltimore, Maryland will host a Faith and Resistance retreat leading up to Easter, April 24. Please consider joining SOAW field organizer at the White House on April 10. Please consider joining SOAW in nonviolent direct action in Washington, D.C. If you are interested in engaging in arrestable actions, please contact SOAW field organizer at the White House on April 10. For more information, email dcaworker@gmail.com.

CIA Detector Beat Up at State Department

Ray McGovern, career CIA, agent turned whistle-blower, was arrested and b ...
"Peace Review: A Journal of Social Justice" seeks essays on the themes Prison, Peace, and Social Justice. Issue 23.3 is dedicated to exploring the intersection of Peace Studies and Prison Studies, two burgeoning interdisciplinary fields that promise to challenge basic assumptions about the modern world and offer radical analysis and possible solutions. Essays are welcome on any aspect of this issue’s theme, broadly conceived. Submissions that address global issues and perspectives are especially encouraged. Topics may include but are not limited to: militarism and the carceral society— theorizing the domestic and foreign “enemy” – critiquing deterrence based arguments for war and prison – books not bombs, education not incarceration: a penal/war economy, public education, and democracy – peacemaking as a viable alternative to aggression and banishment – philosophical arguments against the Dumbarton Court inside the court building and on the front door of the building. Barbara Dowling painted “This J.P. Court does not uphold international law” in red paint at the top of the steps in the newly renovated court. Janet Fenton painted the brass "Justice of the Peace Court" plaque outside the front door, changing it to "We Want A Peace Court". The women were taken into custody and held overnight. They were released the next day, and a plea hearing has been postponed until May 16. The four are appealing the £500 fine to the Scottish High Court March 30.

ALDERMASTON, U.K.: Three British activists who opened a path for disarmament by cutting through the fence at the nuclear weapons establishment last September have entered not guilty pleas. Susan Clarkson, Chris Cole and Fr. Martin Newell next have a pretrial hearing.

At Vandenberg AFB: USAF MILDENHALL, U.K.: Another date for trial, October 16 that blocked three entrances to the federal building. Janet Felton Davis of the New York Catholic Worker has made available for the internet a special collection of articles from the Catholic Worker newspaper, appearing between 1955 and 1961, that address nuclear weapons and the involvement of Catholic Workers in the civil disobedience campaign against New York City’s compulsory air raid drills. Writers include Dorothy Day, Karl Barth, Ammon Hennacy, and more. The text can be downloaded from the Nuclear Resister’s blog, www.nukeresister.org. Davis, who has been jailed several times for nuclear protests tells us, “You can’t just erase from historical memory a half-century of anti-nuclear work, and re-educate the public as if several generations of activists had not lived and struggled over this issue! Before many of us were born, and while some others of us were little children, our Catholic Worker predecessors agonized over the thought that atomic weapons meant the end of human life. They agonized, they protested, they went to jail, and they wrote down their thoughts and reflections.

"Let us recover this special history and ponder it close-ly, as we continue to insist that what was unthinkable yesterday, is still unthinkable today, and will continue to be unthinkable tomorrow and forever."

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SAN FRANCISCO: Charges were also dismissed for 26 people arrested at a veteran-led solidarity action December 16 that blocked three entrances to the federal building. At a preliminary hearing February 17, it was noted that the citations did not accurately reflect where each person was arrested.

EDO-ITT, U.K.: Early Monday morning, December 13, three people locked themselves to the closed gate of the Brighton, England, arms factory, blocking the first shift from getting in. Police responded but took no action, while EDO executive Paul Hill cut the fence to open the gate and let his workers in. After a jury last year acquitted three people locked themselves to the closed gate of the EDO-ITT, U.K. was arrested.

At a preliminary hearing February 17, it was noted that the motion would be the first issue addessed before the grounds of abuse of process. The judge said a hearing on the post-9/11 Serious Organized Crime and Police Act.

Due to the failure of prosecutors to disclose all subpoenaed information under the Protection from Harassment Act, demand order under the Protection from Harassment Act, demand orders were once again adjourning the trial while the proper trespass trespass. The judge said justice would not be served by the blockade, yet persisted with a charge of aggravated assault.

Prosecutors knew the men had not been asked to leave to correct an error in the charge against Andreas Speck: By 2002, he stayed away from the factory for five years...