

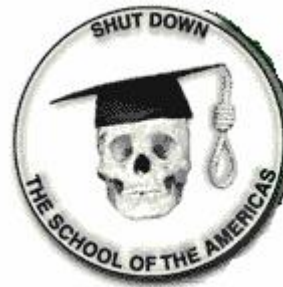
# WAR

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## Civil Disobedience (Obedience to Conscience) at Work!

by Thomas Cleary

It was 20 degrees in Wooster, Mass. on Friday morning, Jan. 31, 2003. Dave Tarbell took off all his clothes and streaked out of his dorm, and ran a long gauntlet to the gleeful shouts of his friends and admirers. One sign said, "Go, Peace". Dave was celebrating his next-day entrance into Federal prison. Protesting the training program at Fort Benning Georgia at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation of the Americas", only name Dave (former," School of the Americas"), he would give when he entered Fort Benning in November 2002. "They're basically training terrorist there", Dave explained. In February of this year he was sentenced to 3 months in prison.



Thomas Cleary and Dave Depp, both of Richmond, were also arrested in November and sentenced in February, Dave to 12 months probation, \$500 fine, and 250 hours of community service, and Thomas to 6 months in prison to be served at his home. Jonson Miller from Blacksburg was sentenced to 2 months in prison while Judith Kelly from Arlington will serve 3 months in prison. Almost 100 people were arrested as more than 10,000 protesters prayed and marched at the gate of Fort Benning. For many years the School of the Americas has provided scholarships for military training to thousands of soldiers, many of whom returned to their countries to commit crimes against their own people. Graduates have been traced to atrocities and killings in El Salvador, Guatemala, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, and Nicaragua. Mexico is now sending many soldiers to the newly named but basically unchanged program.

Approximately 80 persons have been sentenced this year. 16 were sentenced to 6 months in prison. 31 were sentenced to 3

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## rpec NEWS

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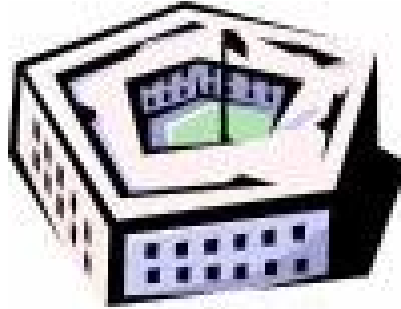
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## Reflections on Blood and the Pentagon

by Steve Baggary, Norfolk Catholic Worker

Why throw human blood on the columns and doors of the main entrance leading into the Pentagon? A quote from Albert Camus comes to mind (to paraphrase), "What the world expects of Christians is to get out of their abstractions and stand face to face with the bloody mess that is our must speak out and in such a way that never doubt can arise in the person." We tried to be between the dark red Pentagon columns—preparations for killing at the Pentagon ends blood, and we're against life, all life is holy, all image and likeness of God, all people are family, and everyone is loved by God. As people trying to follow Jesus, who opposed evil with active nonviolence and took up the cross rather than the sword, we'd rather our blood be shed than anyone else's. We tried to be clear.



history today. Christians utter their condemnation a doubt, never a single heart of even the simplest as clear as the contrast blood and the fresh white killing is wrong, are wrong, the work done with the shedding of it. Blood is the symbol of people are created in the

A brief rundown on some of the latest news from the Pentagon may help to further clarify our action. The US is preparing for a massive invasion of Iraq, this after 11 years of sanctions aimed at crippling Sadaam Hussein have claimed the lives of some 1 million Iraqis, two-thirds of them children. The stated goal of the invasion is to disarm any weapons of mass destruction (WMD) which Hussein has hidden away. These are the same weapons (including anthrax and bubonic plague) which the US Government (led by Donald Rumsfeld) and some 20 US companies helped Hussein acquire during the 1980's while it was general knowledge that he was using these weapons against his own Kurdish population as well as the Iranians with whom he was at war.

While the Bush administration seems obsessed with disarming Iraqi and also North Korean WMD, it is cranking up its own nuclear weapons industry, announcing plans to build new generations of smaller nukes better suited for battlefield use, preparing to resume nuclear testing, and creating new doctrine for its use of nuclear weapons. These doctrines include the targeting of non-nuclear states for nuclear attack, the use of nuclear weapons in pre-emptive attacks on states or terrorist groups suspected of having WMD and even using nukes in the event of "surprising military developments." While the US demands the disarmament of its opponents, it has 12,500 nuclear weapons itself, thousands of which are on launch-on-warning status, has been using depleted uranium weapons for over a decade now, and is on the road to using nuclear weapons as a regular part of its war fighting repertoire.

So, too, the recent war in Afghanistan, in which over 4,000 Afghan civilians were killed (more civilian deaths than in the 9-11 attacks), was waged against many ex-mujahadeen fighters whom the Pentagon armed and trained during the late 70's and through the 1980's during their war with the Soviet occupiers. The Al-Queda training camps in

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Reflections on Blood and the Pentagon

(Continued from page 2)

Afghanistan were built by the CIA in the 80's. Now the US is allowing the torture of prisoners taken in its "war on terrorism." And Afghans, mostly children, will be maimed and killed for decades to come by the thousands of unexploded US cluster bombs which now litter their country.

Plans for a National Missile Defense (NMD) proceed apace, perhaps ultimately putting in place the final piece of the nuclear first-strike puzzle wherein the Pentagon can launch nuclear first strikes without



Serguei, Le Monde, Paris, France

and a fear of retaliatory missile launches. NMD research will also help Washington as it races alone to

**Number and types of nuclear warheads and bombs currently in the U.S. stockpile (2002): 10,600 (7,982 deployed, 2,700 hedge/contingency stockpile)**

militarize outer space, against the wishes of every other nation on the planet. US Space Command in its document "Vision 20/20" explicitly

states its mission as "dominating the space dimension of military operations to protect US interests and investment." The document suggests that the US empire is unlikely to be challenged by a global peer competitor, but will continue to be challenged regionally because "the globalization of the world economy will also continue, with a widening between 'haves' and 'have nots.'" In the parlance, the Pentagon is pursuing "Full Spectrum Dominance," the ability to be militarily dominant anywhere in the world at any time, from nuclear war to conventional war, to quashing dissents in the streets. In this way the US can pursue its economic agenda, controlling its access to critical resources and cheap labor around the world (the US is 6% of world population and consumes 40% of the world's resources), in attempt to sustain the highest level of consumption in world history.

Toward this end, the US is the only country which has divided up the planet into military commands with commanders and troops in each one. The Pentagon has over 475,000 troops and civilians overseas both afloat and ashore, in more than 146 countries. The US sells weapons to some 150 countries, leading the world in selling every kind of weapon imaginable, from nuclear components to conventional weapons to stun guns and shock batons used by police and in torture chambers around the globe. The US sells weapons to both sides in one-third of the world's 35 currently raging wars. The Pentagon oversees the training of militaries from 120

countries, including those of more than 50 countries with horrendous human rights records, the militaries of which wage war on their own civilian populations or back regimes that arrest, exile, torture, or execute dissenters. The US has been involved in a war per year for the last 50 years, and, according to ex-CIA agent John Stockwell, the CIA breaks 10,000 laws a day in sovereign nations around the world, US covert and overt operations claiming more than 6 million lives since World War II. The \$800 billion, including financing, to be spent by the Pentagon this year is more than the rest of the world combined. The US has spent over \$16 trillion on war since 1945, including over \$5 trillion on WMD. All of this is done in our names and with our money, we are all responsible.

As the Pentagon MPs yelled and screamed at us to get on the ground after we had thrown the blood, I knew what had brought me there. War is hardest on the children and the poor. 90% of war casualties in the last 30 years have been civilians, and children have been much more likely than soldiers to be killed in war. One in every 200 hundred children in the world have been traumatized by the effects of war. The poor are not only the highest number of casualties, but war is the main creator of famine and refugees. Each minute world militaries spend \$1.7 million while 30 children die hunger-related deaths. Every penny

(Continued on page 12)

## THE WORLD RISES UP AGAINST WAR:

February 15: Millions march around the world today to say "No War Against Iraq" - Organizing begins for March 1 Emergency Convergence on the White House

It is one of the great ironies of recent history that the ultra-militarist policies of the Bush administration, threatening a catastrophic war of aggression against Iraq, have been the catalyst to a global anti-war movement unlike anything that has existed for three decades -- that is, since the close of the Vietnam War.

Large anti-war demonstrations took place in most of the major cities of the world. All told, more than 600 cities and towns were the scene of simultaneous protests. In the United States, most of the major anti-war coalitions fully mobilized for the February 15 actions.

In New York City, the people defied the upper east side broad boulevards into a sea Avenue, Second Avenue and Third Avenue. On 80th St. Second and Third Avenues, and even demonstrators who were prevented by police assembly site. The police also used horses, peaceful protesters. The National Lawyers arrested, and that many are being held in tight bathroom facilities.



police's refusal to grant a march permit by turning of humanity. Hundreds of thousands filled First First Avenue the rally stretched from 52nd St. past over to Lexington Avenue, were clogged with barricades and checkpoints from reaching the main clubs and pepper spray to carry out assaults against Guild reports that over 320 people have been handcuffs without access to water, food or

In Los Angeles, 100,000 demonstrated in the largest anti-war protest in many years. Opening the Los Angeles rally, Michel Shehadeh of the Free Palestine Alliance and the A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition welcomed the crowd with the words that "the demonstrations today taking place all over the world are revealing the fact that the Bush administration's planned war of aggression is now in direct confrontation with the will of the people everywhere."



Demonstrations took place in scores of cities throughout the United States. 5,000 marched in Houston, 7,000 in Chicago, more than 7,000 in Sacramento, thousands marched in San Jose and Detroit.

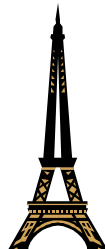
Internationally, the demonstrations included some of the biggest ever. The original call for the February 15 demonstrations came from the European anti-war movement.

In London, the demonstration was nearly two million according to march organizers.



Millions more marched throughout Europe -- in

In Damascus, 200,000 marched. Tens of took to the streets.



Madrid, Paris, Berlin, Rome and throughout the continent.

thousands marched in Buenos Aires. In Toronto, 80,000

# Consumers Corner

## Where We Get Our News and Analysis

By John Gallini

Our perception of the world is profoundly shaped by what we read and watch. If your only source of news were the Richmond Times Dispatch (RTD), you would probably think that the whole world thought that a war against Iraq was a good idea (except for those crazy French and Germans, of course). And if your only source of news was the RPEC website, you might think that all intelligent people wrote persuasively in opposition to any such war.

I guess we all need a variety of sources, if we are to maintain a healthy perspective on our nation and our world. I still read the RTD, although I can't bring myself to read the editorials. I have started subscribing to the Richmond Free Press, which offers a different perspective on the local scene. And I read a number of weekly and monthly periodicals to cover the issues of major interest. These include:

- The Nation – Weekly analysis of national and international issues from a secular/progressive perspective.
- National Catholic Reporter – Church issues plus analysis of world and national issues from a Catholic/progressive perspective – weekly.
- Yes! Magazine – A great collection of positive stories related to ecology and social issues – monthly.
- Coop America Quarterly – Dedicated to creating a just and sustainable society by harnessing economic power for positive change.
- envio – Political analysis of events in Nicaragua and Central America – monthly.
- EarthLight – A quarterly magazine of spiritual ecology

I also look at journals on the web, including the New York Times, Foreign Policy in Focus, Sojourners, and Defense Monitor.

It does help to be retired! I put those articles which I find most helpful on the RPEC website [www.rpec.org](http://www.rpec.org). To find the articles, go to the website, click on "Issues" and then on the issue or country of interest. Or you can check out "What's New" on the main page. Recently, more folks have been sending me articles from their sources, which is very much appreciated. As that process builds, the website will become more and more helpful. And we try to bring a few perceptive articles to you in rpecNEWS.

Many, of course, get their news from radio or TV. I find "All Things Considered" on public radio is usually helpful. But even that program has been overemphasizing the administration's propaganda about Iraq. I don't watch news on TV enough to know what might be helpful. (Let me know if you have some recommendations).



## Local Actions to Oppose War on Iraq

By John Gallini

January and February have been busy months for activists working to oppose the Bush administration's war on Iraq. Elsewhere in this issue of rpecNEWS are reports on the **Women in Black movement**, the **Hanover Citizens for Peace**, and the upcoming **RECLAIM Conference**. But these are just a sampling of our community's response to this outrageous war.

Part of the task is making it clear that the opposition to war is massive and intense. So in mid-February a billboard went up on Broad Street (near the Channel 6 tower) proclaiming "**War on Iraq? Not in our name!**" That same week yard signs began appearing around Richmond with the message "**Stand up for Peace**" and "**Say No to war**". And more and more cars have the bumper sticker "**Attack Iraq? No!**" Letters to the editor continue to oppose the war (although the Times Dispatch refuses to print some.) Yard signs and bumper stickers are available from RPEC.

Groups are forming throughout the state. One such group, the **Virginia Anti-War Network** has brought activists from around the state together three times to strategize about how to oppose the Iraq war. One of the agreements was that each locality would organize a protest rally at Noon on the day following a major escalation of the war. In Richmond, we will gather at 10<sup>th</sup> and Main St., the site of the Federal Courts Building. Indeed, on February 15, the date of the major anti-war rally in NYC, there were actions in at least six cities and towns in Central Virginia.

Churches are finding a number of ways to oppose the war. The third **interfaith prayer service** was held at Richmond Mennonite Fellowship, and weekly prayer gatherings were established at Richmond Friends Meeting and St. Edward Catholic Church – all with a focus on the Iraq war. A new peace group was formed at First Unitarian Church. And other churches held educational sessions on war and peace. The Office of Justice and Peace of the Catholic Diocese issued a letter with a number of suggestions about how parish communities can oppose the war, including the wearing of a black ribbon to symbolize mourning.

**Charlottesville City Council approved a resolution against unilateral war**, thanks to an effective campaign by the Charlottesville Center for Peace and Justice, and RPEC was working to introduce such a resolution at Richmond City Council. By mid-February, 79 cities in the U.S. had passed resolutions, along with the Maine Senate and Hawaii House of Representatives!

Speakers, who oppose this war, were appearing regularly on college campuses, including Dick Couto, an RPEC member who has just returned from a trip to Iraq.

In an effort to communicate all of this in a timely way, I have been sending out a weekly e-mail, listing coming events, to any who are interested. For RPEC members, you can get regular updates through the RPEC Listserv (send an e-mail to [rpec-subscribe@lists.riseup.net](mailto:rpec-subscribe@lists.riseup.net) to be added to the list).

# PEACE IS PATRIOTIC



## A Personal Reflection

By Dave Depp

During January of this year I spent two weeks in Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, visiting my son and daughter-in-law. They used to talk about returning to the United States to live, but now, after ten years away they have abandoned such thinking and have decided to stay in New Zealand. This shift in the feelings and thinking was heavily influenced by their perception of the United States government as increasingly dangerous both to world peace and the world natural environment. Many of their friends and neighbors share their perception. I saw graffiti on the streets of Wellington that was strongly anti-American. I also saw announcements of a weekly peace vigil and a well-publicized plan for demonstrations if and when the U.S. attacks Iraq. New Zealand newspapers, which frequently include European commentary, are on balance, against war with Iraq and vehemently so, if such a war is pursued unilaterally without United Nations authorization. The word imperialism is often used when New Zealanders discuss American foreign policy. New Zealanders that I met seemed perplexed by the Bush government's obvious determination to undo environmental laws and undermine international efforts to reduce armaments.

I used to wish that my son and his wife would someday relocate to the United States. Now, despite my personal loss of seldom being with them due to a 10,000-mile wide separation, I assured them that I completely understood their decision to remain in New

Zealand. In fact, I praised their decision and told them I would like to join them if I felt free to do so. Indeed, I will remain in the U.S. due to family ties, friendships and personal history. But it is difficult to continue residing in a country when you no longer respect the government, no longer feel a part of a solution to the shared problems of the human family, and see the founding ideals and values of America being disregarded or



## Peace Essay

By Suzanne Leah

On 9/11 our lives changed. Lots of people were lost. Some of our friends and family were lost. Americans' hearts were crushed.

So what can we do to overcome our lost feelings? We can make them feel good inside. We should stop fighting with others, and be friends. Friendship makes a world of love.

America is beautiful and big. Some people here speak Spanish, some speak Italian, and some speak German. But whatever we speak, we need to speak as friends. We should love each other and take care of one another. I know that one day this will happen. That is my prayer.

*Suzanne Leah is the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner in the K-3 grade level in RPEC's Annual Peace Essay*

## Civil Disobedience (Obedience to Conscience) at Work!

(Continued from page 1)

months in prison. 26 were placed on 12 months probation along with fines and community service. A total of 6000 hours of community service were ordered along with fines totaling \$40,000. Two others received the home imprisonment. Their acts were minimal, but their punishments were extremely harsh.

Last year Nancy Gowen from Richmond served 3 months in prison, as did Sue Daniels from Blacksburg and Abi Miller from Harrisonburg. Niklan Jones from Blacksburg is presently finishing a 6-month sentence.

The statements made by all the defendants after being found guilty were absolutely inspiring. Almost all connected the Fort Benning program with many other similar acts of injustice and violence perpetrated by the government of this country over the years and throughout the world, with its economic and military policies, including the present threats of war.

Their sacrifice spotlights abuses and calls other ordinary people to take heart and redouble efforts do what is necessary to create a just and peaceful world.

The struggle continues! "Ain't



# -Grassroots Anti-War Organizing- The Creation of Hanover Citizens for Peace

By Frank Grant

Interesting how a little anger and dismay can turn into a movement! I live in a little community of peace-loving people. One of them elected to protest the School of the Americas (SOA) in Georgia last November and was arrested for trespassing. Returning a bit more radicalized than when he left, and wanting to act on his concern about what our government intended to do in the Middle East, he polled a few of us living along our tranquil country road in Doswell. We agreed to meet to discuss our feeling about war with Iraq (and war in general) and see if a collective response to our government would emerge.

The meetings, held in a community member's home, were not attended by everyone in the community for various reasons, which included job security and the desire to remain less visible. However, after three weekly meetings, we decided to see if there were enough people living in conservative Hanover County willing to take a visible stand against the Bush administration's deadly and unprecedented plan to attack Iraq. We developed a flyer and asked a conveniently located local "hot spot" in Ashland to host the meeting. The owners were hesitant to be perceived as supporting an anti-war meeting so we moved the meeting to the Ashland Public Library. Posting the flyers around town was problematic: some venues don't

have public posting boards; some venue owners simply didn't want to have the flyer on their premises. However, between the flyer and word-of-mouth, there were 16 citizens of Hanover County at our first meeting.

In 1 ½ hours of a dynamic and superbly smooth group process, we decided on a plan with two thrusts: a weekly vigil protesting an Iraq war held in front of the Ashland Town Hall on Saturday afternoons from 3 to 4 P.M. beginning February first; and a series of lecture/discussions, utilizing knowledgeable staff from the local college, to help inform residents of the many issues swirling about the seemingly inevitable: a United States-led attack on Iraq.

The local newspaper published our meeting schedule as a public announcement, and other media coverage of our group's activities will be forthcoming. There is now a peace movement in Hanover County! Twenty to twenty-five people have attended the first two vigils and many passing motorists have indicated their support with the thumbs-up signs and honking horns.

It has been exciting and gratifying to see what can happen from one person's experience and commitment to an ideal. A remark was made at our first meeting that this was the first time in memory – quite possibly ever – that a public meeting was held in Ashland

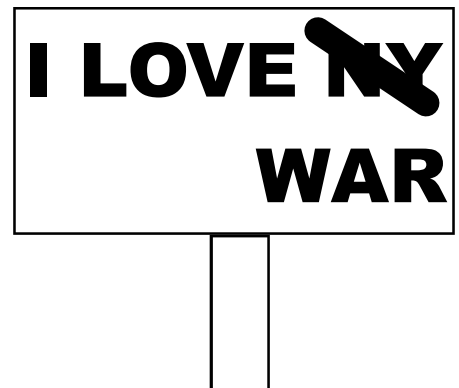
## **NYC RALLIES TO PROTEST WAR WITH IRAQ**

**A Brief Note from NYC- 2/15/03**

By Phil Bailey

As for the NYC march, it was nothing short of awesome. We departed Brooklyn via subway before 10:00 AM gathered at Columbus Circle and proceeded to spend the next 4 hours trying to get even near the rally point. There were far, far more people than the official estimate of 100,000. Here's why. The rally point only held 10,000 and spilled up First Ave for 20 blocks. BUT, it then wound around and back on 2nd Ave for another 20 Blocks plus spillover onto 3rd. In addition, with the cold, around 2:00 PM many people spilled into restaurants. So there were more like 300,000 in NY.

The best costume might have been the person with a George W mask wearing a variation of the I Love NY slogan..replace NY with War.



People loved and wanted to be photographed with George. Worldwide, obviously, the rallies and great turnout everywhere are making a difference. It's encouraging the media to cover issues in more depth, providing



## Peace Group Formed at First Unitarian Church

Jane Rosecrans Chair, PeaceNotWar

PeaceNotWar got off the ground about one month ago with a meeting between myself, Camille Harris, Nora L'Heureux, and Enid Virago, minister of First Unitarian Church. Our plan was to provide a voice for peace in the church, despite concerns by some church members that such visibility would divide the congregation. We were unanimously voted into the Social Responsibility Council and began work setting up a table and organizing meetings.

Since that time, we have mobilized women at the church to participate in Women in Black. A small group of Unitarians joined thousands of others in Washington, D.C. on January 18th. We meet weekly for one hour before our second service and on February 2 we hosted our first speaker, Robin Hoecker, an intern from the UUA Washington Office for Advocacy, who presented a slide show on her recent visit to Iraq with a National Council of Churches delegation. We have also begun to put out a two-page newsletter each week called "PeaceNotWar In the News" with excerpts from articles and editorials from the past week in addition to news and information about various actions, and we passed out 300 of these after the second service on February 2. We now have 50 people on our distribution list and 24 people have participated in the "Rice Not Bombs" campaign; we put together pre-addressed envelopes to President Bush with rice packets

*As a congregation historically honoring liberal religious principles and practices, the First Unitarian Church of Richmond affirms the inherent worth and dignity of all persons, encourages spiritual and intellectual growth, and seeks to build a more just, compassionate, and enlightened*

inside and a passage about feeding your enemy from Romans taped to



the outside, so that people could simply mail them. We are registered at the United for Peace website and will be participating in the Lysistrata Project to take place on March 3 (as it is all over the world on that day). We have connected with 4 other peace groups in the state of Virginia with whom we would like to collaborate. I have also proposed a "UUs and Peace Teach-In" for a half day in March or April to educate UUs about our own history in the peace movement. We have held several Buddhist-inspired Saturday services combining meditation and the making of prayer flags at the church to breathe messages of compassion into the world.

Much of this work has actually inspired people to embrace issues of peace; perhaps they hadn't thought about it or they were afraid to speak out in such a conservative city as Richmond or perhaps they had misgivings about the peace movement or were undecided about a possible war. Wherever members of the church were, I believe we have actually given peace a voice, and people now gather in droves around our tables, take articles, ask questions, take rice packets, and sign up to get more information. People who had voiced no opinion for weeks are now beginning to come up to us to thank us for organizing this effort. Our church is in the process of being transformed.

PeaceNotWar is not limited to members of First Unitarian Church or even to Unitarian Universalists. We invite anyone who is interested



### An Easy Way to Support RPEC

Use your Ukrop's Valued Customer Card to get points for purchases from Feb 3 to March 29.

Give your certificates to RPEC by June 1. RPEC will receive up to \$10,000 based on the number of points contributed by customers to their organization.

*Come celebrate the fine work of the...*



**RICHMOND PEACE  
EDUCATION CENTER**

*at a good, old-fashioned*

***ST. PATRICK'S DAY*** party!

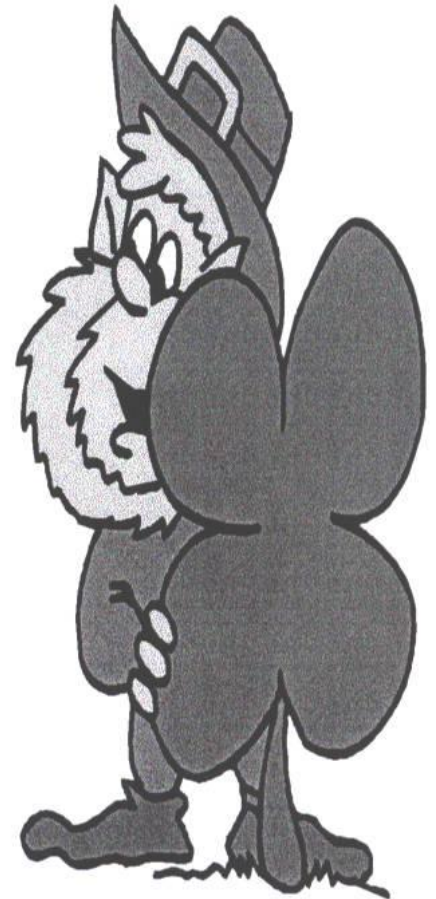
*Saturday, March 15th, 7:00 to  
10:00 p.m.*

*at the Lewis Ginter  
Recreation Association  
corner of Hawthorne and Walton  
avenues*

*There will be good food, good  
music, and good company  
for a contribution of \$20.*

*(more if you can, less if you can't!)*

***RSVP: call the RPEC office at  
804-358-1958. See you there***



**Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day!**

## CALENDAR

MARCH 2002

## Meetings of Local Groups

- Every Sunday**      **Food Not Bombs, Richmond <Meal Sharing**, 4:00 P.M. in Monroe Park. Hotline # 359-4880 for details
- Every 3rd Wed.**      **Amnesty International**, 7:00 PM at Friends Meeting. 4500 Kensington Ave. Call 320-9488
- Every 2nd Thurs.**      **Virginians Against Handgun Violence**, 7:15 PM., Jewish Community Center, B. Phillips-Taylor, 737-2975
- Every 3rd Friday**      **Sufi Dancing: Dances of Universal Peace**, 7:30-9:30 PM except Oct. Round House, Byrd Park. 353-4901
- Every Thurs.**      **Richmond Organization for Sexual Minority Youth (ROSMY)**, 7:00-9:00 PM. Call support line: 353-2077 for more information; 353-1699 for the administrative line.
- Every 3rd Sat.**      **Equality Virginia**, 12:00 noon at the office. A political advocacy group working towards equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens of Virginia. Open to the public. Contact number is 643-4816.
- Every 3rd Sun.**      **Richmond Community for Ethics and Meaning**, at First Unitarian. 1000 Blanton Ave., 5-8 PM, Susan at 784-4069.
- Every 4th Sat.**      **Pax Christi Peace Community** - Call Elaine Ogburn for details - 320-4514.
- Every 1st Mon.**      **Virginia People of Faith for Alternatives to the Death Penalty**, 4:45 PM  
Catholic Diocese Conference Room, Floyd and Cherry, Kathleen Kenney, 359-5661

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Every Saturday**      **Hanover Citizens for Peace** - a weekly vigil protesting an Iraq war is held in front of the Ashland Town Hall on Saturday afternoons from 3 to 4 P.M. Contact Dave Depp at 227-3691.
- Every Saturday**      **Women in Black March** - Start at Virginia Museum, Boulevard entrance, near Grove at 1 PM.
- March 15**      **Richmond Peace Education Center's St. Patrick's Day Party** - Saturday, March 17, 7:00 - 10:00 PM Ginter Park Recreation Center. Call the RPEC office at 358-1958 for info.
- March 21-23**      **RECLAIM: A Conference on War, Community and Oppression** - in Richmond at Pace Center and VCU. Organized by Richmond Food Not Bombs. Workshops ranging from 'how to' organizing to Sexism in the Left will be announced soon. This is the conference to attend to gain needed info and fire up the morale. A website will be announced soon with the conference agenda but mark your calendars now.



**For April Issue  
March 17**

**RPEC World Wide Web Address:  
<http://www.rpec.org>**

## Reflections on Blood and the Pentagon

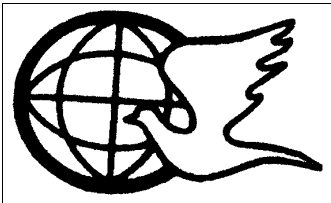
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that is spent on war has been stolen from the poor. Like other actions of his, Jesus' cleansing of the Jerusalem temple was illegal, a nonviolent defense of the poor who, from the street level on up, were exploited by the temple sacrificial and exchange systems. It is not difficult to see the Pentagon as our contemporary temple, central to US wielding of political, economic, and very real religious power, doing much to form the world view of its citizens. War is our number one business, and like every imperial people, our faith is in militarism. We believe that the violence of the

good guys is what saves the world, and we are the good guys. We really trust in our weapons, rather than God, to save us. Breaking the law is very much to the point, for it is the law which forms the protective hedge around the weapons and holds the whole violent, oppressive system together. Every new weapons system rolled out by the Pentagon, no matter how horrific, is lawful. Every contingency plan for the destruction of the planet and the entire human family through nuclear war is unquestioned by US law. Every US invasion (100 in the past century), covert action, destabilization of a foreign government, support for a brutal dictator, every act of proliferation of weapons of mass

destruction, is rubber stamped by the US judiciary. No US corporation that sold WMD to Sadaam Hussein will be held to account. No Pentagon employees who armed or trained Osama bin Laden and the mujahadeen, ensuring the resurgence of Islamic fundamentalism, will even be questioned. US law makes disarmament illegal. Jesus is our model for nonviolent civil resistance to laws protecting the masters of war and their killing machines.

The blood on the Pentagon is also in memory of Philip Berrigan, who passed away the first week of December after a lifetime of nonviolent direct action against



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