

FORsooth

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February 2006

City STAR called model for cleanup

by Gracie Lewis

The Coming Clean Collaborative - a coalition which includes the Louisville group REACT — convened in Buffalo, N.Y., November 17 to 20 to address chemical industry reform.

The collaborative was formed in 2001 after the airing on Public Broadcasting Service of "Trade Secrets: A Moyer Report," which focused on chemical contamination of air, water, food and our bodies.

The group now includes more than 70 organizations, including REACT, which is working to reduce toxic pollution in West Louisville. We came together to create winning strategies to hold industry accountable for cleaning up chemical contamination, achieving chemical policy reform, protecting workers and fence-line communities, which are neighborhoods or cities next to polluting plants. No community should be overburdened by chemicals.

The collaborative has been achieving many changes in state and local policies. For example, in May 2004, Coming Clean compiled the "Louisville Charter for Safer Chemicals: A Platform for Creating a Safe and Healthy Environment through Innovation."

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Voice of the People

— photo courtesy Ken Nevitt

Some of the 300 people who protested President Bush's visit to Louisville Jan. 11 gather near the Kentucky International Convention Center to criticize the Iraq war, torture ("Who Would Jesus Torture?" one sign said) and other Bush policies while the president spoke inside. Members of the Louisville Peace Action Community (LPAC) chanted and musician and activist John Gage sang songs critical of the Iraq war.

'Gross National Happiness'

Bhutanese use living standard unrecognized by most in west

by Fred Hicks

The kingdom of Bhutan is an amazing, incredible place - a nation which has achieved a high degree of self-sufficiency and very low unemployment, but which is still troubled by illiteracy and infant mortality.

Squeezed in between India and Tibet in the foothills of the Himalayas, it is about the size of Switzerland, and has a population of about 650,000. Thimphu, the capital and largest city, has a population estimated at about 70,000. I recently spent about 12 days in the country, on a tour organized by People to People Ambassadors. We met with people of the Centre for Bhutan Studies (a teacher training institute) and other institutions concerned with folk culture, crafts and medicine.

We visited a couple of private homes, several Buddhist temples and monasteries and dozens of large buildings that were originally forts but now generally administrative buildings.

The country has spectacular moun-

tains — forested and green — roaring rivers, and fertile valleys cultivated by family farms — there were no large plantations, all were organic and self-sustaining. But the social structure and political outlook is even more impressive. The Bhutan program for development stresses raising what they call "Gross National Happiness" rather than "Gross National Product," because the latter does not measure what is really important. For example, getting cancer helps raise Gross National Product because money must be spent to treat it, but it does not raise happiness.

This may sound funny from a non-Buddhist perspective, or to an American economist, but they are very serious about it, and they have been host two at least two international symposia devoted to this idea. They have discussed how to define happiness, what brings it about and how to measure and increase the things that cause happiness. Some American economists are apparently unable to conceive of happiness

as anything more than material wealth, but as one symposium participant noted, the U.S. is losing the war on drugs because, among other things, they do not ask why their people are so unhappy that they must turn to drugs to try to find a little happiness.

Free international trade, it was noted, might raise incomes for everyone, but it would do so very unequally, and the resulting inequality would make people unhappy. A proposal for development should be evaluated not by how much money it would bring in, but how much happiness it would bring the people. Gross National Happiness as the guiding philosophy was pronounced by King Jigme Singye Wangchuk soon after his enthronement in 1972.

It has four pillars: sustainable and

equitable socio-economic development, conservation of the environment, preservation and promotion of the national culture and promotion of good governance.

First, an introduction to Bhutan, the country. Here are some of the things Bhutan does not have: severe poverty or unemployment (since 1998 the unemployment rate has risen from 1.4 to 2.5 percent), bothersome street vendors, shantytowns, chain fast food outlets, large department stores (just small shops), agribusiness, high rise buildings, a U.S. diplomatic presence (and they don't want one), political parties, "separation of church and state" and tap water safe to drink.

Some of the things Bhutan does have

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Bhutan

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are: a king and four queens; free education through secondary school and some higher education; free health care, as universal as possible; apparently full rights for women; television, internet, and cell phones; some UN missions; a National Assembly; a serious concern with environmental conservation; Buddhist temples and monasteries; and lots of stray dogs.

Sixty-plus percent of the people are farmers. They grow most of their own food, plus a surplus to sell in the weekly markets, and there are grocery stores. Farmhouses, in distinctive Himalayan style, are substantial and well-built, using cooperative laborexchanges, with professionals hired for details such as the paintings that decorate many exterior walls. If a farmer needs additional land, perhaps to support a growing family, he applies to the king for a grant of land. The king refers it to the regional governor, who finds some land to give him.

As an alternative, if a rich farmer has more land than she can work herself, she rents part of it to families, on a sharecropping basis, and they operate it as a family farm. Sometimes there is no free land in the vicinity, and people prefer this to moving away. There are no gangs of farm laborers, but there are gangs of temporary construction workers, recruited from India. They have a border patrol to keep out illegal Indian immigrants.

Large portions of the country are set aside as preserves, for forests, wildlife, etc. One should not kill a sentient being (flies and mosquitoes don't count), and one should help any creature in distress, even an insect. They feed stray dogs. They do eat meat, and there are meat shops, but most meat is said to be imported from India or slaughtered by low-caste non-Buddhist Indians.

They have a 10,000-person army, and in the 19th century they beat back a Tibetan invasion and held off British forces. Native dress styles are commonly worn; they are mandatory in certain formal settings. Native styles of architecture are also encouraged, and they use native craft products rather than imported items to the extent possible. There are research institutes, for agriculture, botany, wildlife, economics (but they are critical of Western econom-

ics), social organization, and other useful or interesting things, such as history.

Many professionals have advanced degrees from Western or Indian universities. They are working on a modern but equitable infrastructure. The main export is electricity, generated in plants based on hydroelectric power, but constructed so as not to desecrate the rivers with big dams. English is taught in all schools and most people know at least some. The main language is Dzongkha (closely related to Tibetan), but there are some nine or ten other languages, none of them spoken outside of Bhutan, so one can't get well educated with only Bhutanese languages. All of this, plus a Buddhist ethical outlook, probably favors reception of Gross National Happiness as a goal.

Bhutan was not always this way. The country was first unified in the 17th century.

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The kingdom was only established in 1907 and serfs and slaves were not freed until 1956, but when they were, estates were broken up and they were given land. And there is danger that it may not always remain this way. They are debating joining the World Trade Organization, which many Bhutanese fear would undermine efforts to create, on their own terms, the conditions for nationwide happiness.

The country was pretty much closed to the outside world until 1971. Many parts of the country can only be reached by many days of walking over mountainous terrain.

Roads are few, and the country has only one airport. Such innovations as electricity and telephone service have not yet reached everywhere, so there is still high illiteracy, and a fairly high rate of infant mortality. Yet the Bhutanese are not nearly as poor as statistics (such as GNP) would suggest. Although it is very picturesque, Bhutan is not a relic of the past. For many countries, it would make a good model for the future.

The writer is a retired professor of anthropology and activist for fair economics. He lives in Louisville.



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Every person in Kentucky and the United States deserves access to affordable, quality healthcare. Over half a million Kentuckians have no health insurance. Millions more have insurance too costly or inadequate to protect them.

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KY Rep. Joni Jenkins is sponsoring a resolution, HCR 40, in the House this session. HCR 40 urges the U. S. Congress to pass HR 676, the United States National Health Insurance Act, single payer healthcare, sponsored by Congressman John Conyers, D. Mich.

Representatives Tom Burch, Jim Wayne, and Mary Lou Marzian have signed on as cosponsors of HCR 40.

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91 Years on Peace Frontiers

Since 1915, the Fellowship of Reconciliation in the United States has led campaigns to obtain legal rights for conscientious objectors, win civil rights for all Americans, end the Vietnam War, oppose U.S. intervention in the Third World, and reverse the superpowers' arms race. An interfaith pacifist organization, the FOR has members from many religious and ethnic traditions. It is part of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, with affiliates in 40 countries.

In the development of its program FOR depends upon persons who seek to apply these principles to every area of life. If you are not already a member, we invite you to join us in this endeavor. Membership consists of signing the Statement of Purpose, indicating that you agree with FOR goals. To receive more information, please call 458-8056.

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Weather events could be forecasting trouble for planet

By Sister Rose Marie Cummins

Hurricane Katrina is only one in a series of recent events that tells us that the Earth is crying out for our attention. This was brought home to me starkly by the 20 Eucharistic Missionaries of St. Dominic who fled the flood-deluged city of New Orleans to seek refuge here at St. Catharine, Ky.

We all feel a sense of compassion for those in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who have lost homes, work, a sense of stability and well-being. They do not know how they are going to be able to put their lives back together again.

Having compassion and then acting on that compassion are very important steps for each of us to take. This terrible tragedy has brought forth an ocean full of compassion. But, perhaps, we are also being called to something else. Could it be that we are being called to come away from our unconsciousness and denial about global warming to look at how we might be contributing to it?

In 2004, the United States and the rest of the world had many hurricanes. During that same year, Japan had a record-breaking year for typhoons. Their 10 typhoons broke the previous record of seven. Also in 2004,

science textbooks had to be re-written because they had previously stated: "It's impossible to have a hurricane in the south Atlantic." The first ever hurricane took place in Brazil last year.

The United States also had an all-time record for tornadoes in 2004. There were, in fact, 1,717 — mostly because some hurricanes generated tornadoes. Last year, 200 cities in the western United States broke all records for high temperatures. Reno, Nev. had 39 consecutive days of above 100-degree temperatures. And, it wasn't so long ago that a tsunami devastated the fragile lives of myriads of people in several countries.

The purpose of this writing is not to point a finger to blame others for the most recent devastation in our country, but, rather, to look at *why* all of this is happening. If there are lessons from this catastrophe, let us begin to open our eyes and ears and hearts to them before history repeats itself again.

Al Gore recently spoke to the Sierra Club convention in San Francisco in September, Common Dreams reported September 12. Gore said that he is reminded of the quotation from The Bible, "Where there

is no vision, the people perish." It is vital that our leaders and those all over the world pay attention to the scientific community about what is happening to our Earth.

A scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology published a study long before hurricane Katrina which showed that since the 1970s, hurricanes in the Pacific and the Atlantic have increased in intensity and in duration by 50 percent.

As Katrina emerged from the southwestern tip of Florida, the danger for the Gulf Coast became even greater because it was passing over waters in the gulf that are getting increasingly warmer.

Scientists have predicted this pattern for the last 20 years. Two thousand scientists from 100 countries have collaborated on global warming; their consensus tells us that we will face catastrophe after catastrophe unless we act to prepare ourselves by looking at the underlying causes of global warming.

What will it take for our leaders and those throughout the world to hear these warnings and see the scientific evidence before it is too late? How can we keep denying that there is such a problem as global warming? Where can we as

individuals begin to make different choices?

It won't do a lot of good to point fingers at local and federal officials for their response (or lack of response) to Hurricane Katrina. We must, however, hold our leaders accountable. We must see to it that they (and we) take these warnings seriously so that we are not just dealing with tragedy after tragedy. As Al Gore said in his speech, "We have to rise with this occasion. We have to connect the dots."

The circumstances of our lives probably are different than they've ever been in the history of the world. We have the opportunity to understand better than ever the relationship between our actions and the consequences for the earth. We have the know-how to create and use the technologies we need to build more fuel-efficient cars, to heat, to power, to conserve, to share. We are learning how individually we can make choices. We need leaders who will have the vision to lead the way.

The writer is the director of the Dominican Earth Center of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catharine, Kentucky. Contact her at earthcenter@kyol.net or (859) 336-7778, September 19, 2005

City STAR called model for cleanup *(continued from page 1)*

Along with the charter, Coming Clean participants have also written a set of background papers which correspond with each aspect of the charter. There has also been an informative website set up — <http://www.louisvillecharter.org>.

The leadership came from such groups as the Environmental Health Fund in Massachusetts; the Ecology Center in Michigan, Women's Voices for the Earth, the Center for International Environmental Law and the Body Burden Workgroup and the Pesticide Action Network, both in California. The Coming Clean Coalition then broke down into subgroups to discuss where we are headed for 2006.

Group members felt very strongly that the Strategic Toxic Air Reduction (STAR) Program, even with its many changes, is a "model program." With the intense struggle that went on for a quarter of a century, it was indeed good news when it was passed by the Metro Council June 21. Now, the real work begins - implementation of the STAR program.

Hilton Kelley of the Community in Power and Developmental Association (CIDA) discussed the health effects of deadly chemicals on workers, as well as on the surrounding communities. The workers need to know the full extent of the health problems associated with the deadly chemicals they handle every day.

For example, prolonged contact with 1,3-Butadiene can cause cancer. It also produces reproductive toxicants, blood toxicants and respiratory problems. Exposure to Benzene, a carcinogen, can damage a developing fetus. Suspected toxicants can affect the kidneys, the liver and the endocrine. Every chemical has a side effect. So, workers and the community must exercise caution in determining what level of harm is acceptable.

We need to become familiar with the plants that are adjacent to our communities. Toxic chemicals can lead to skyrocketing medical costs. Time lost on the job and the cost of long-time care for long-term illnesses, make us all stakeholders.

We toured some of the toxic waste

sites in Buffalo. A hazardous waste site is located on East Ferry Street in a low-income African American community on the east side of Buffalo, across the street from True Bethel Baptist Church. High levels of lead, up to 46,700 ppm, along with PCB contaminated sediments have been found off-site.

The communities have mobilized to clean up these sites. The Toxic Waste/Lupus Coalition was formed in response to the East Ferry Superfund site. The coalition has collected names of residents who have contacted lupus and developed a registry of affected individuals to determine if there is a connection.

True Bethel Baptist is one of the churches which is intimately involved in holding these industries accountable. It was agreed that more churches should be involved in the environmental justice movement. Toxics are affecting their church members.

We also heard a report from the Cheektowaga Citizen's Coalition Inc. (C.C.C.), which was formed by a group of concerned residents in a suburb of Buffalo known as the Town of Cheektowaga, which is within two miles of three landfills. There were reported deformities in the deer, fish and frogs that drink from the streams. The citizen's coalition conducted a survey and found large amounts of respiratory diseases, cancers, and autoimmune (lupus, arthritis, etc) problems in the area.

The Community in Power and Developmental Association located in Port Arthur, Tex., has built its own Community Environmental Health Center. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina and Rita this is indeed timely.

In New Orleans it was the refineries that did the most damage. Can you imagine that a refinery was completely uprooted and much of its oil seeped into the houses in the 9th Ward? The residents were forced to evacuate and many are now living in Port Arthur and elsewhere across the country.

It is so important that Louisville and Rubbertown industries, as well as REACT, take a serious look at evacuation and clean-up plans in the aftermath of a disaster like

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The damage that can be done to our health and environment is unbelievable.

The Working Group on Community Right-to-Know, a project of OMB Watch located in Washington, DC, informed us about EPA's proposal to cut the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) in half by letting companies report their pollution every other year instead of annually.

The Collaborative was encouraged to "make a difference" by e-mail/mail/fax to just say "no way!" The Collaborative developed a letter and members were encouraged to sign on, considering the risk the TRI plan poses to emergency prepared-

ness. EPA's formal public comment process ended on December 5.

In 2006, we have to stay vigilant and not allow any more plants to move into Rubbertown or anywhere else in the West End. We must be ready to take immediate action. Even before the STAR program is implemented, another company is seeking to open a biochemical production facility in the West End.

So, stay tuned. There will be many opportunities for you to do your part!

The writer is an activist with REACT and the Kentucky Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression.

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A city, state feel labor's response to curbs on workers

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"House Speaker Pro Tem Larry Clark, an electrician who belongs to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 369, said the bill would have a 'very difficult' time passing the (Kentucky) House." (Courier-Journal 1-7-06). I wouldn't be so sure.

The Democrats have a perfect opportunity, locally and nationally, to posit an alternative to the most reactionary segment of monopoly capital, personified by Dick Cheney and his administrative assistant, George Bush.

An election for Kentucky State Senate in November 2004 was won by a Republican right-winger over a liberal Democrat, Virginia Woodward. Woodward went to court, saying the Republican did not reside in the district. The knuckleheads on the state Supreme Court said neither candidate could serve on the basis of that election, since the Republican did not in fact live where she said she lived, and the Democrat came in second to the person who should not have been running in the first place!

So what do Democrats do? Democratic district party leaders recently met and chose a Republican-like libertarian former state representative over Virginia. This guy, Perry Clark, introduced, for example, a bill that would prohibit municipalities from enacting environmental standards stricter than state standards.

Nationally, "Howard Dean is appearing on shows like CNN's Sunday Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer, complaining the Bush administration has pushed the people of Latin America to vote in leftist leaders, which is against the wishes and best interest of the American people here in the US. (Dean) is against the recent victories in Bolivia and Venezuela, because the righteous and just democratically elected Presidents are from the left. In Latin America one is either on the left or on the right, the latter being among those regimes that have always been repressive and oppressive, keeping their citizens poor and hungry," George Quinones reported in Portside.

Were no lessons learned from when John Kerry tried to ape George Bush? Why vote for an ersatz right-winger when you can elect a born bottom-feeder?

Let's turn to the labor front. In December, Local 100 of the (New York City) Transport Workers Union (TWU) and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced settlement of a massive transit strike. The city gave up its demand for concessions on pensions and the union agreed to have all workers pay a portion of their health insurance premiums.

Three and one-half million people rely upon the subway. The strike, timed to coincide with the Christmas shopping season, paralyzed New York City. As an early 1900s labor song put it: "Should your strong hand just will, All wheels will stand still!"

It took only three days to settle the dispute. I asked my brother, Lewis, retired Chief Shop Steward of Local 1101 of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), for his assessment, which he sent me on December 23: "Contract talks continue. The strike was precipitated by the Metropolitan Transit Authority's call for the union to give back an additional six percent toward their pension. The Union was being fined \$1 million a day by the courts and only had \$5 million in the bank.

"I recall a similar attempt to break the United Mine Workers' Union in Virginia in 1989. The Union's fines by the courts left it bankrupt. The difference was they still stayed on strike.

"Roger Toussaint (president of TWU) appears to be a popular union leader, and perhaps returning to work while the bargaining continues was the best course. But I'm sure it made a lot of militant union activists angry.

"(Billionaire) Mayor Bloomberg called the transportation workers 'selfish,' as if the sacrifices demanded by the strike — the workers were fined two or three days' pay for every day they stayed out — was an act of selfishness. New York Governor Pataki said the MTA shouldn't even have negotiate(d) while the TWU was on strike, and played on the inconveniences suffered by the commuting public."

Although the TWU was strong-armed into giving in on several key demands, the 33,700 bus and subway workers showed courage at a time when unions nationally are getting their teeth kicked in.

Speaking of justice, as this column is being submitted, U.S. Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito sits before a U.S. Senate confirmation hearing. As the court consolidates its anti-worker, pro-big business bent, Alito will make a good fit. Civilrights.org questions his stances on civil rights, privacy rights and executive power. Also at stake, they say, is his credibility.

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Executive Director Wade Henderson said that



on issues ranging from voting rights to the rights of criminal defendants. Alito has been on the "wrong side," adding: "Equal rights for all Americans is a fundamental principle of our democracy, yet Alito is on record favoring curtailment of those rights."

The U.S. has a dual history of promoting and also stifling democracy. In 1692, nineteen men and women were accused of being witches, and were hanged. Hundreds of others were accused of being witches, and had to endure a living hell.

In the 1950s, people on the left were called "communists," and fired from jobs. Some, like Frank Wilkinson and Louisville's Carl Braden, went to jail in 1958 rather than testify before the vicious smear campaign of the House UnAmerican Activities Committee (HUAC). Your reporter was in the New York audience welcoming Frank

when he was released from prison in 1958 (Carl had gone directly back to Louisville).

Frank Wilkinson died Jan. 2 at 91. Honor to his memory, and to Carl's as well.

Our last column ran out of space for an exchange on Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. Metrosweep, which hopes to make Louisville public accommodations accessible to unassisted wheelchair users, posted the following, after which is my response:

"Mary Johnson, editor of the Ragged Edge magazine. (www.raggededgemagazine.com) sent this out several years ago as a nice message for all of us working for disability rights.

"A popular song which sends an excellent message about inclusion."

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, had a very shiny nose — and if you ever saw it, you would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names. They never let poor Rudolph join in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve, Santa came to say, "Rudolph with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Then how the reindeer loved him, as they shouted out with glee, "Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer, you'll go down in history!"

Now, for your scribe's response (Note: Butterfly Garden is a Louisville restaurant still inaccessible to wheelchair users [a/o a few weeks ago], despite numerous promises taken on faith by the MetroSweep majority).

Dear Metrosweep:

Mary Johnson's clever positioning of Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer is wonderful — but entirely insufficient. Santa, as leader, had to validate Rudolph's differently-colored nose before the other reindeer could see themselves clear to validate Rudolph.

This elitist view, top-down, pseudo-messianic, ersatz-organizational — is idealistic, mechanistic and wrong. While it often takes a charismatic leader to galvanize and cohere a movement for social change, the grassroots, from-the-ground-up, approach has time and again been the glue to cohere an oppressed, or discriminated-against grouping.

In Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, Cassius reminds Brutus that Caesar is not a god (like Santa Claus?), but just a person, and that it is what we do with our lives to make things better that is the ultimate arbiter of justice:

"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars. But in ourselves, that we are underlings."

So, as we ho-ho-ho our merry way, let's not wait for Santa to lead us to the Butterfly Garden Restaurant (is it accessible yet?), but let us show there is vested self-interest in all the reindeer organizing as a group. In this joint struggle, Rudolph's assets as a fighter for justice will push Dasher and Dancer and Prancer et al to include her/him in the battle for justice, and Santa will no longer hold the whip, but will either become involved in the struggle as well, or pay the price.

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation

February-April, 2006

February 16

YOUTH NONVIOLENCE ON THE STREET AND IN THE CLASSROOM: A Revolution in Conflict Resolution

Eileen L. Blanton, Executive Director, Peace Education Program, will describe the current work of the Program which involves youth who are experiencing high levels of conflict and the adults in their lives.

March 16

A VITAL PRESENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY—THE AMERICANA COMMUNITY CENTER

Edgardo N. Mansilla, Executive Director of the Americana Community Center, will talk about the history of the center, the populations served, the programs, the challenges the center faces and the impact of its service on the Metro area.

April 20

VENEZUELA—HOW CITGO GAS FUELS DEMOCRACY

Walter Tillow, a Latin American solidarity activist, will explain how Citgo gas, wholly owned by the Venezuelan state oil company, gives a direct link to solidarity with the Venezuelan people.

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Theologians say humans can make planet thrive or die

by Eustace Durrett
and Ike M. Thacker IV

“One Earth, Many Faiths, Sharing Responsibility” through common action was the theme of the last-day symposium of the Cathedral Heritage Foundation’s Tenth Annual Festival of Faiths Nov. 12 at the Bomhard Theater of the Kentucky Center for the Arts in Louisville.

A video presentation began the day, and was followed by several speakers whose opinions certainly produced others — whether of agreement, disagreement, or simple new questioning.

“EarthSpirit” author and ecological theologian Rev. Michael Dowd began the day’s post-video presentations by centering on the “four great gifts” of the universe/evolutionary story (“meaningful” evolution), which he said would come to be viewed as *the* biggest achievement in human history — a creation story not reliant on one tradition. He said those four gifts, which can be found at www.TheGreatStory.org or www.Co-Intelligence.org, make the story:

- Reconcile science and religion, and different religions;
- Transform our view of chaos, bad news, and death: they are essential;
- Broaden the circles of care, cooperation, and commitment; and
- Evoke empowering *this*-worldly visions of the future.

At www.EvolutionaryChristianity.org, Dowd added, one can similarly find an enthusiastic embracing of evolution from a Christian viewpoint.

In his explication of the above, Dowd noted that for some 80 percent of human existence, there was no language (2 million out of 2.5 million years). Likewise, he pro-

vocatively said that, “Creation pervades the universe in a nested, directional sense” — from within atoms all the way to between galaxies. Dowd also said that we must create systems where benefiting the whole benefits the part(s) involved, and that, “we are the universe” becoming conscious of itself.

The next major presenter at the “One Earth, Many Faiths” symposium was Ambassador Thomas Graham, Jr., president of the Lawyers Alliance for World Security and general counsel of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. He has been involved with nuclear weapons for the past 15 years.

The threat of nuclear and biological war, Graham said, is humankind’s greatest threat. Humans, he said, are the only species which can make the whole planet flourish or die; and the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were very small by today’s standards.

Graham noted that each killed 100,000 people in seconds and another 100,000 during the next five years. And it was not just animal life that was destroyed, Graham added, but *everything*: trees, grass, etc.

Our weapons are now measured in multiple megatons; and *one* megaton is the equivalent of a train of TNT stretching from Los Angeles to New York, Graham said, adding that some current weapons are nine megatons. If just a one-megaton bomb hit the Washington monument, all of the District of Columbia to the Beltway would be leveled, he said; beyond that Beltway an 18-mile radius would be all but decimated, he added. No wonder, Graham said, that atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons was banned by common agreement way back in 1963: radiation was getting into the food chain (e.g. Strontium 90 in milk).

So powerful are our weapons now that detonation of most or all of them would likely produce a phenomenon called “Nuclear Winter,” in which the smoke from all the burning buildings etc. would block the sun’s rays from reaching and warming the Earth, Graham noted. *If* we were not otherwise destroyed by nuclear war, we would likely be made extinct by

this manmade ice age, he explained. And all of this would have been perpetrated, not by ignorant men, but by people with advanced educational degrees, Graham said.

This is a fate that young Jordanian pianist Zade Dirani is working diligently to avert. Dirani has won many awards both for his music and for his activism (for example his work with the Peace Action Network); he began the after-lunch part of the program by playing original music some of which was titled “All That Is Beautiful” (and which was part of what it described). Dirani has been the prime moving force behind a sojourn planned to begin in May 2006 and called the “Road to Youth Tour,” in which under-30 musicians will travel to global “hot spots,” staying for about a week at each one and promoting peace and understanding.

Dirani suggested that Louisville could be one of the stops and gave out related contact information. The tour will last until May 2007; after announcing this, Dirani played another soulful tune and the program moved on.

What it moved on to was a powerful tour de force by a septagenarian crusader named Sister Paula Gonzalez who has done more than 1,400 “eco” presentations, and who since 1980 has constructed two completely solar buildings. Sister Gonzalez describes herself as a “planetary missionary,” an “agent” rather than a professor (despite her PhD in Biology).

Quoting from the Preamble to the Earth Charter, she said that the Charter will prepare our descendants to live “really well in the 1980s:” the “global transformation” continues, but our ideas about it have not kept pace. Sister Gonzalez said the population problem is real, but is secondary to the consumption problem: there may be 25 billion of us by 2050 — and the planet simply cannot support that number of people *consuming at present levels*. “We are the only species with choice,” she said, and so far we have chosen radical global economic inequality: 3.6 billion people live on less than \$2 a day, which is about 60 percent of the population.

The rest of Sister Gonzalez’s

presentation focused around a set of what she called “Conversations That Matter” — a set of (so far) six discussion courses designed by the Northwest Earth Institute about which more can be learned by contacting the Cathedral Heritage Foundation in Louisville at (502) 583-3100.

The six courses are: Voluntary Simplicity; Exploring Deep Ecology; Discovering a Sense of Place; Choices in Sustainable Living; Globalization and Its Critics; and Healthy Children — Healthy Planet. In delving into these subjects, Sister Gonzalez put current Earth human population at 6.4 billion, said that we do not need nuclear energy (she is a solar enthusiast), said that we in the industrial North have lost touch with the “real” world, and asserted that we should re-learn to buy only what we need. Sister Gonzalez also noted the possibility of having high-mileage cars *now*; all we have to do is send Detroit a clear message that that’s what we want.

Sister Gonzalez ended her sermon with the notion that faith traditions should teach us how to see with sacred eyes — then things look sacred to us and we display the proper sense of reverence. After all, she said, “The universe is the way in which the divine is revealing itself to us.”

After this, it was left to the inimitable Wendell Berry to provide the closing remarks, which he did with aplomb, speaking of how coal has ruled over all else in the mountaintop mining of (particularly eastern) Kentucky and of how religion still has meaning for many of us.

In quoting at length from one of his many essays, “The Burden of the Gospels,” Berry says that the sense of John 10:10 (“life more abundantly”) is all wrapped up with the concept of love. One can hardly imagine Dowd, Graham, Dirani, or Sister Gonzalez disagreeing.

Eustace Durrett is an advocate for economic equality and rail transit. Ike M. Thacker IV is an advocate for radical socioeconomic equity, focusing especially on housing issues. Both live in Louisville.

This bird is no fighter, talks tough

by Eustace Durrett
and Ike M. Thacker IV

Haiku for Chicken-Hawks

The Chicken-Hawks Cackled,
Lied and Broke Their Eggs
To Smear Iraq
With Slime.

A chicken-hawk is someone who avoided serving in some war (particularly the Vietnam War) as a young man for whatever reason, but when the question came up in 2002 of whether or not to launch an invasion of sovereign Iraq with our current crop of young boys, supported the idea.

Chicken-hawks tend to be Republican, rich, and rotten, being like Bush and Cheney (and others) willing to send *other* people’s children (mostly from the lower and middle classes, of course) to die for little but the chicken-hawks’ *own* wealth.

Though at the time of not serving he/she might have claimed to be a conscientious objector, he/she is not since when they reach middle age or their senior years they become advocates of war and are more than willing to waste the blood of the new generation.

In the halcyon days of the 2000 election theft; of the 9/11 opportunity, Afghanistan, the lies toward the Iraq invasion, the invasion itself, the “Mission Accomplishment,” the PATRIOT Acts, and the 2004 election steal, these birds loudly crowed lies, strutted their stuff, flapped their wings, and laid their lethal egg.

Every little rooster and hen of this flock has a pet name, a tradition begun by their very own “Texas Cock” of the walk. But let’s just stick to their givens. Of course, an argument could be made that these are the names of the unjust; well, as some would say, there are Bush, Cheney, Rice, and Rove.

Also Rumsfeld, DeLay, “Brownie” Brown, David Safavian and Joe Abramoff — but no Rudolph, no shining light.

Their wings have been clipped; their feathers droop and drop like falling voter opinion polls, criminal indictments, criminal convictions, and firings, and echo McNamara. Even the big Texas Cock thinks this is “Syri”ous.

Activists keep city delightfully ‘weird’

As a native Louisvillian who moved back here from Chicago several years ago, I have been thinking about what makes Louisville so special — so “weird.” I am heartened by the “Keep Louisville Weird” campaign, urging us all to support local independent businesses. But the hidden infrastructure that gives Louisville its true heart is a long list of local peace and justice activists. We all know that Greater Louisville Inc is responsible for a certain agenda in Louisville but even more important is the daily work done by volunteers for a living wage, clean air, jobs with justice, affordable housing, single payer health insurance, international peace, nuclear disarmament, solidarity with Latin America, and so on.

These committed activists led Louisville through some turbulent times — open housing, the Vietnam war, school desegregation, civil rights, at least two waves of feminism, Roe v. Wade, nuclear power at Marble Hill, Fairness, air toxics



Letters to
FORsooth

reduction — and still have their principles and good humor intact.

Many out-of-towners honor Louisville’s bragging rights when it comes

to the Arts; Louisville is celebrated as the originator of a combined Fund for the Arts, thanks to the leadership of Mayor Charles Farnsley (whose sculpture graces a park bench down on Main Street). We have the ballet, opera, orchestra, and live theatre just about every week of the year.

In addition, however, we have a host of organizations devoted to challenging us all to be better citizens of the world community. The local branch of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a national peace and justice organization that is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, has a monthly newspaper, ForSOOTH, which publishes a calendar of local peace and justice activities. More than 50 Louisville groups list their meeting times and contact information. You don’t have to wade through the ads to get to the good stuff.

Kate Cunningham
Louisville

Gaza program plagued by polemics

I had the misfortune of attending the “discussion” session at Bellarmine University on November 30 that was billed as “The Israeli Pullout from the Gaza Strip: What does it mean for Israeli/Palestinian peace?”

The facilities were excellent, there were capable panelists and a good-sized, eager audience; but almost immediately the session deteriorated into a vitriolic, finger pointing and blaming session that could hardly have been more acrimonious and self-defeating. Battle lines were drawn and audience members applauded when verbal points were made that pleased them. It was strictly “Hooray for my side.”

All the panelists made some good points

but after only a few minutes no one was really listening and a chance to respect and listen to the ideas of others in order to form coalitions and build bridges was lost. The brochure did proclaim “A discussion on the U.S. role in ending the conflict and securing peace.”

Afterward there were comments and questions from the audience which were much too long and at times insufferable. The moderator never exercised any control and the bitter atmosphere only got worse.

One panelist, Mr. Bashar Masri, tried to move forward by stating more than once “let’s not dwell in the past; let’s talk about the future.” But the moderator and other panelists ignored him and never tried to

seek any common ground or a starting place. Apparently, no one realizes that we’re all victims of this conflict; that we all need a peaceful solution. Is it too much to expect that people would acknowledge that they must work together?

The Louisville community that I know and want is tolerant and respectful of others and their viewpoints. There is much good interfaith dialogue and compassion throughout the city in so many venues. Unfortunately, there was none the night of November 30. An important opportunity was missed.

Kenneth George
Louisville

Killed by soldiers, defamed by the US, nuns 'presente'

by Rev. James E. Flynn

"The United States doesn't do torture." Or that's what so proudly he hailed. President G.W. Bush that is. Not only does the U.S. continue to torture anyone it wants to torture, but the U.S. did "do torture" in little countries like El Salvador in recent history.

When 200 other North Americans and I recently made a pilgrimage to El Salvador we remembered the torture and deaths of 4 Maryknoll women 25 years ago, Dec. 2, 1980. Their deaths came at the hands some members of the infamous "death squads" of the 1980s, "death squads" supported by the U.S. government, if not financed by it as well. Torture and death is nothing new in U.S. policies, and anyone, including George Bush, who says "we do not do torture" is blind to history and dissembling.

The 4 Maryknoll women, Ita Ford, Maura Clarke, Dorothy Kazel and Jean Donovan are present as martyrs in El Salvador - as well as to the 200 of us pilgrims there on Dec. 2, 2005 as well.

It was quite a pilgrimage to travel the lonely, dirt and bumpy country road to the site of their torture and martyrdom. Merely riding out that road touched me, my two Louisville priest colleagues, Frs. Joe Graffis and John Burke, as well as three women from the Sisters of Loretto Community, JoAnn Gates, Susan Klassen, and Donna Mattingly.

We could not but think of and feel the terror and fear the four women must have felt in the dark of that Dec. 2, 1980 evening. They had been stopped on a highway a few miles from the Salvador airport by 3 heavily armed men. They were then driven farther and farther into the countryside by their abductors. Finally stopping in a very lonely spot on that dirt road they were raped, tortured, murdered and hastily buried in a shallow grave. Neighbors later notified officials, and a day later members of Maryknoll, as well as Ambassador Robert White, went to the site and unearthed their mutilated bodies.

Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, Maryknoll Sisters, were buried in El Salvador. Dorothy Kazel, Ursuline Sister, was buried in her Motherhouse grave yard in Cleveland, and Jean Donovan, missionary from Cleveland, was buried in a family lot in Cleveland.

At the site of their martyrdom on Dec. 2, 2005, we 200 pilgrims were joined by many Salvadoran people, some of whom knew and worked with the four women. Today the site of their torture and murder is simply marked by white painted stones and a marker with the names of those four martyrs. Standing at that site I felt the presence of "the holy" - the holy ground where the blood of four more martyrs was spilled.

At that holy site, we pilgrims also remembered the words of then Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, who told U.S. Congress that these four women "may have tried to run a road block" and "there may have been an exchange of gunfire".

Similarly, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Reagan's nominee to the United Nations, made outrageous remarks that "the nuns were not just nuns. They were activists on behalf of the *Frente* (guerrillas)."

Ita and Maura had just flown from a Maryknoll meeting in Managua, and in the spirit of lies of the U.S. government, Haig and Kirkpatrick fanned the fears of U.S. citizens with the prospect that Sandinista Government was sending weapons to spread "communism" to El Salvador.

Ambassador White insisted to the State Department in Washington that such comments were completely out of line. He was later removed from his Ambassadorship to El Salvador.

At the site of the martyrdom the names of these 4 women and the names of many other Salvadoran martyrs were read out in a Litany. Two hundred of us responded with a loud "Presente," the familiar way that Central Americans respond to the names of their thousands of martyrs.

Our pilgrimage also took us to the capital, San Salvador, and to chapel on the grounds of the hospital where Archbishop Oscar Romero lived and was martyred on March 24, 1980 - also 25 years ago. That chapel in the center of the hospital grounds

also feels like such a holy place.

Sitting in the pews of the small chapel we pilgrims heard the story of his assassination from a young nun, obviously one who had told the story many times to other pilgrims. I stood outside the chapel doors, trying to imagine the scene that March evening: as Romero was finishing his short homily, a Volkswagen pulled up in front, a soldier dressed in civilian clothes walked up to the front doors and fired one shot into Romero's chest. The small group of worshippers ran to his fallen body. As it turned out a photographer happened to be present, and was composed enough amidst the terror to take dramatic pictures of the whole event. Romero died within minutes.

While the floor of the chapel has been cleansed of his blood, we pilgrims went to Romero's small quarters on the hospital grounds. Displayed there we saw his blood-stained vestments amidst other memorabilia of this martyr's life and death.

Once again in this chapel and in the simple homely quarters where Archbishop Oscar Romero lived I felt the presence of "the holy."

Our pilgrimage also took us to the lively campus of the University of Central America in San Salvador - and again "holy ground." There next to the chapel are the simple living quarters where six Jesuit Professors at the UCA lived. In the wee hours of Nov. 16, 1989 about 2 a.m., 24 Salvadoran soldiers broke into those quarters, dragged two of the priests

out of their rooms, and slaughtered them in a garden outside. They murdered the others in their rooms.

In the brutality of it all, some soldier even carved the brain out of Fr. Ignacio Ellacuria and deposited it at his side. I have vivid pictures of that and have often wondered who taught someone else how to do that - and who was it who actually did it. So outrageous and offensive - and indicative of many things.

The six Jesuit priests were all Spaniards who taught at the UCA for a number of years: Ignacio Ellacuria (President of the UCA), Amando Lopez, Ignacio Martin-Baro, Segundo Montes, Juan Ramon Moreno and Joaquin Lopez y Lopez.

Earlier that evening before the massacre, the keeper of the grounds, Jose Ramos, had asked the priests to let his wife and 16-year-old daughter to stay in the living quarters. There had been a lot of fighting between a guerrilla group and the Salvadoran military in San Salvador, and the father felt his wife and daughter would be safe in these quarters.

The soldiers did not want any witnesses, so they machine gunned Elba (mother) and Celina Ramos (daughter).

Jose Ramos later planted roses in the garden where the blood of the Jesuits was spilled. He lovingly kept those roses blooming all year long - and they still bloom, though Jose died a few years ago.

It is worth noting that of the 24 soldiers

who committed the massacre, 19 had only recently returned from Ft. Benning, Ga., and from the infamous "School of the Americas" located there. The U.S. has trained thousands of Latin American military there, including many who have committed terrible atrocities throughout Latin America.

On the campus of the UCA there is a museum of memorabilia from that night of Nov. 16, 1989. I took a picture of one display: a dictionary that belonged to one of the priests with a straight line of bullets riddled through it. Interesting too another photo I took: a book belonging to one of the priests titled "El Dios Crucificado" - "The Crucified God". It has bloodstains all around its edges.

The priests are buried in the chapel floor on the UCA campus, and once again being in that small chapel one senses "the holy." It seems that all of El Salvador is holy ground.

On the outside wall of the chapel are huge letters quoting Archbishop Romero: "Si me Matan Resucitare en el Pueblo Salvadoreno" - "If they kill me I will rise in the Salvadoran people".

His words echo an ancient dream: "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of Christianity." Martyrs of El Salvador: PRESENTE!

The writer, a former Louisvillian, is a Catholic priest and longtime activist for the poor of Latin America and for civil rights in the U.S.

BLOQUEO

Looking at the U.S. Embargo Against Cuba

Two young American filmmakers, Rachel Dannefer & Heather Haddon, travel to Cuba for the first time to discover the story behind the U.S. blockade. They join the Pastors for Peace Caravan that annually calls attention to this policy by defying U.S. law and traveling to the island.

Featuring voices from the streets of Havana, the Cuban countryside, and those involved in the Cuba solidarity network, **BLOQUEO** lets Cubans speak for themselves about how they have been affected by this policy and what it means to live in Cuba today.

In addition to exploring the blockade's tremendous impact on the lives of the Cuban people, **BLOQUEO** looks at the successes that have made Cuba a model in healthcare, environmental stewardship, and other areas. The film demonstrates how Cuba's policies in these areas have forged an alternative and more sustainable system.

BLOQUEO was the official selection of a number of U.S. and international film festivals including in Havana and Venezuela.

"A must see!" Ana Perez, Global Exchange

JOIN US

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1st AT 7:00PM

**Highlands-Shelby Park Branch
Louisville Free Public Library
(Mid City Mall)
1250 Bardstown R**

Sponsored by: Louisville Free The Five Committee Fueldemocracy@yahoo.com 917-623-1021

FELLOWSHIP MAGAZINE BRINGS HOPE WITH ARTICLE BY DOUG HOSTETTER

It is always a joyous occasion when Fellowship magazine arrives in our mailbox, but the January/February 2006 issue created unusual excitement. We turned quickly to the article by Doug Hostetter, "Seeds of Reconciliation Sprout in the Shadow of Genocide." He refers to the days following 1993 when as the Interfaith and International Coordinator of the Fellowship of Reconciliation he established the **Bosnian Student Project**.

It was because he learned that many Bosnian high school and college students were not permitted to continue their education in Bosnia, due to ethnic cleansing, that he embarked on this daring experiment. The program sought to find and smuggle out of the war zone talented students and then to locate homes in the US to offer food, shelter and love to these young people.

The program was greatly assisted by the Jerrahi Order of America in making the connections with organizations in the war zone and identifying qualified Bosnian students in urgent need. The Louisville **FOR** chapter accepted two students (Elma Balic and Anel Alisic) and Spalding University provided full scholarships. Thus we were intensely interested in reading Doug's article.

In April, 2004, at the ten year reunion of those students still living in the U.S., about twenty attended and shared information on their advanced degrees, successful careers and adopted families. This was a gratifying experience described by Doug: "through the cooperation of people of many faith traditions, we had saved lives and secured an education for students at risk in the midst of a genocide."

For two weeks in October 2005, Doug went to Bosnia to look up the students who had returned there after finishing their education. He visited nine and found them overflowing with gratitude to **FOR** and the Bosnian Student Project and the education that they acquired. "All of the students are actively involved in working to build a more just and equitable society for their families, their country, and their world." However, they face some difficulties.

"The elites from the former Yugoslavian socialist society, and the nationalist parties that emerged from its breakup, are still entrenched in the government and universities, and have viewed the return of well educated BSP alumni to Bosnia as threats to their positions. They have moved effectively to block Bosnian recognition of US academic degrees. The process of degree accreditation is long and humiliating, costing US\$1,800 for the paperwork alone, and involving a battery of tests with no guarantee that an advanced degree from MIT, Stanford or Harvard will be recognized in Bosnia. This obstacle has steered BSP graduates away from older, often corrupt, institutions into emerging democratic nongovernmental organizations and an economy oriented toward the European Union. European NGOs and corporations have welcomed the returning BSP alumni with their American degrees, fluency in English, democratic values, and internationalist perspectives."

The discussion about **Prijedor** was of utmost importance to us. That is where **Anel Alisic** grew up and where he now lives again. Soon after he arrived in Louisville to study at Spalding University under the **FOR** Bosnian Student Project, his parents joined him. Nurka and Husein Alisic had been teachers in **Prijedor** before they were forced out. Despite the language barrier, their leadership skills and vibrant personalities were recognized. They quickly settled in, found jobs and endeared themselves to the peace community. Now the story becomes full circle.

With the help of the Yugoslav army, Serbs took over the government and police force of **Prijedor** and sent Bosnian and

Croat civilians to three concentration camps. Prijedor's Bosnian mayor, chief judge, police chief and some 3,000-4,000 others died in those camps. In August 2004, Mittal Steel of the United Kingdom bought the **Omarska mine** in the nearby village of Omarska. The Bosnian and Croat survivors of Omarska petitioned the company to build a memorial at the mine; but the management felt that might antagonize Serbs. A British NGO, The Soul of Europe, offered to help mediate and hired **Anel Alisic** as project manager for the Omarska Memorial Project!

After several months of meetings with the survivors, the mine union, and local Serb officials, broad agreement has been reached on the establishment of a memorial. It will be located in a small four-room building where most of the torture and killing at Omarska took place. Anel will be working with the local interethnic committees to create the memorial and monitor its effect on community relations in **Prijedor**.



Anel has been preparing himself for such work since returning to Prijedor in 2000 to participate in a work camp sponsored by the Bosnian Student Project. He then continued his studies there, receiving an M.S. in human rights and democracy from a joint program in Sarajevo. In 2002 he received an M.S. in local development for the Balkans from the Free Universities of Trento and Bolzano, Italy.

In concluding, Hostetter states: "The spirit of interreligious solidarity that many are searching for today was alive and functioning during the Bosnian Student Project. That spirit has now communicated itself to a second generation of activists among the young people who were personally affected by the project. These students are the seeds of a better future."

I WILL NOT KILL

The Fellowship of Reconciliation has launched a new initiative called "I WILL NOT KILL" (IWINK) that offers young people the opportunity to affirm their right not to kill other human beings, and to resist military recruitment. Through an advertising campaign young people will be directed to its Web site, www.iwillnotkill, where they may sign the youth pledge. It will also be a starting point in the process of creating an individual conscientious objector file.

The youth pledge states that: As a young person concerned about my future and the future of all young people, I pledge that:

- I will not kill
- I will not go to war
- I will not support war against other nations
- I will resist recruitment into the military
- I will encourage others to do the same

This initiative will also serve as a national resource to support individuals, especially young people and current members of the armed forces, who affirm the moral right to refuse to kill other human beings or to participate in armed conflict. It will specifically target populations most affected by the "poverty draft" — youth of color and youth from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.

F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE NEWS

In accordance with our by-laws, a committee is appointed at this time each year to fill vacancies and restructure our steering committee, to take effect in March. Please help in this process by volunteering yourself or suggesting someone. Nominees must be members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Each person on the committee assumes some responsibility for the ongoing work. To offer suggestions, please call Pat Geier, 456-6586, Mary Horvath, 479-9262, Dennis Bricking, 895-8516, or Jean Edwards, 458-8056, e-mail edwardsfor@bellsouth.net

The Reel Revolution Film Series

A project of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression
presents

Looking for Langston

Written and directed by Isaac Julien, 1989, 46 minutes

The critically acclaimed and controversial *Looking for Langston* is what writer-director Isaac Julien describes as neither documentary nor narrative. Rather, he considers it a meditation on the gay black American poet Langston Hughes and the repressed lives of similar artists, as lived beyond the public gaze.

From the film's strikingly bold opening, starting with the words from Hughes' memorial mass over an image of the dead artist in his coffin, extracts from Hughes' poetry are interwoven with the work of cultural figures from the 1920s and beyond, including black poets Essex Hemphill and Bruce Nugent, and photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. The result is a lyrical and multilayered narrative that examines the underworld of all-male, mainly black homosexual Harlem society from the 1920s to the 1950s and beyond.

Shot in black and white, *Looking for Langston* combines archival footage with newly staged set pieces, fantasy sequences, and an imagined love story. The result is a beautiful and ultimately celebratory piece about artistic expression and the nature of black gay desire.

Thursday, January 26th, 7 pm

The Kentucky Theater
651 S. 4th Street

Suggested donation \$5-25; no one turned away for lack of funds.
Wheelchair accessible.

All proceeds support the work of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; call (502) 558-3568 for more information.



FINANCIAL REPORT December 2005

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$6,186.24
Money Market interest	39.77
Contributions	<u>2,910.00</u>
TOTAL	\$9,134.01

EXPENDITURES:

FORsooth Editing	\$150.00
FORsooth Layout	100.00
FORsooth Printing	280.20
FORsooth Mailing	212.00
FOR National Dues	75.00
Mailing permit	150.00
Kentucky Alliance ad	50.00
30/90 Anniversary Event ...	2,192.00
EJ Printing Inc.	180.56
Banking fee	3.00
Office Expenses	<u>282.69</u>
	\$3,675.45 \$3,675.45

ENDING BALANCE	\$5,460.56
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Please make your check payable to the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Your gift is tax deductible.

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Tim Scheldorf, Treasurer
Fellowship of Reconciliation
2917 Beaumont Road
Louisville, KY 40205



Calendar for peacemakers

Jan 24 (Tue) **“COMMON ACTION” MEETING FOR A LOUISVILLE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND.** Representatives from “Kentuckians for the Commonwealth” and the “Coalition for the Homeless” discussing the reality of affordable housing and organizing to turn out 150 Louisville citizens on Feb. 23! In the Undercroft, Cathedral of the Assumption, 433 S. Fifth St, 7:00pm. Sponsored by the Cathedral Heritage Foundation: Many Faiths, One Heart, Common Action! Call 583-3100.

Jan 26 (Thu) **“LOOKING FOR LANGSTON”** - Film meditation on the gay black American poet, Langston Hughes and the repressed lives of similar artists. Written and directed by Isaac Julien. Part of the Reel Revolution Film Series, a project of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. Contributions requested. Kentucky Theater, 651 S. 4th St., 7:00 pm. Call 778-8130.

Jan 27 (Fri) **NOON VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**, including a news update. **EVERY FRIDAY AT SIXTH AND BROADWAY**, in front of the Federal Court House (where Senator McConnell’s office is located). We vigil in solidarity with the **“Women in Black”** who vigil every Friday at noon in Israel. Sponsored by the Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Jan 30 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, #10, 7:30pm. Visitors welcome. Call cochairs, Pat Geier, 456-6586, or Mary Horvath, 479-9262. (Please note that the meeting this time is on the **5th Monday** due to the holiday schedule change).

Jan 31 (Tue) **KCADP (Ky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)** every last Tuesday. Highland Presbyterian Church, 1011 Cherokee Road, 6:30pm. Call Kaye Gallagher, 721-8885 or Mark Meade, 541-9998. kcadp@earthlink.net

Feb 1 (Wed) **WORKSHOP: “Empowering the Angry Child for Positive Leadership.”** Strategies provided for working with youth whose angry disruptive behavior is getting them kicked out of the schools and community centers. Sponsored by the Peace Education Program, corner of 4th and Kentucky, 8:30-3:00. Continental breakfast and box lunch provided. Call 502/589-6583.

Feb 1 (Wed) **BLOQUEO—Looking at the U.S. Embargo Against Cuba.** Two young American filmmakers travel to Cuba to discover the story behind the U.S. blockade. They join the Pastors for Peace Caravan. The film features voices from the streets of Havana, the Cuban countryside, and those involved in the Cuba solidarity network. **BLOQUEO** lets Cubans speak for themselves. Sponsored by the Louisville Free the Five Committee. Public Library, Mid-City Mall, 1250 Bardstown Rd, 7:00 pm. Call 917-623-1021. fueldemocracy@yahoo.com

Feb 5 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE** every first Sunday evening remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign. Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. 7:00-8:00 pm. Sponsored by **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. pcunity@yahoo.com www.louisvillepeace.org

Feb 6 (Mon) **PLANNING MEETING for the NATIONAL GUARD BOOT DISPLAY.** Fourth Ave United Methodist Church, corner of 4th and St. Catherine streets, 6:00 pm. Contact Mark Lancaster, Coordinator, 569-5816 or 1-888-728-7228, ext.5816.

Feb 6 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF FORsooth.** Contact **George Morrison, editor**, 944-6460, E-mail: kmm86@netzero.com **Note: For calendar listings**, contact Jean Edwards, 458-8056. E-mail: edwardsfor@bellsouth.net

Feb 8 (Wed) **Laurie Garrett, author of *Betrayal of Trust and The Coming Plague***, medical and science writer for Newsday, NYC, sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana and the Brown-Forman Corporation. Her topic will be **“Global Health Challenges of the 21st Century: The Coming Plagues.”** Kentucky Center, Bomhard Theater, 501 W Main St, 6:00 pm. For tickets (\$15) call 502/584-7777. www.kentuckycenter.org

Feb 11 (Sat) **DISMANTLING CLASSISM: We Are Worth More Than Money.** All day workshop sponsored by **Women In Transition** to enable low income people to become leaders in the struggle against laws and policies that oppress, silence, and conceal the poor. Wesley House, 803 E Washington St. 10:00 to 4:30. Sliding scale fee, \$1-\$20. Call Jennifer Jewell at 583-8317, ext. 259.

Feb 12 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter recruitment. Every 2nd Sunday at 6:00 pm, 2236 Kaelin Avenue at the **FOR** office. Please note change in meeting place. Call Mike Slaton, 636-5848, cheslaton@hotmail.com This group would welcome invitations to speak about conscientious objection, military recruitment, and the possibility for highschool students to “opt out” of having their names given to recruiters.

Feb 15 (Wed) **“RELIGIOUS LIBERTY”** discussion sponsored by the Ky American Civil Liberties Union Foundation. Main Library, 4th & York, 7:00 pm, Centennial Room. Free. Reservations requested. Call 581-9746.

Feb 16 (Thu) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH** sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, featuring **Eileen Blanton**, Executive Director of the **Peace Education Program**, presenting **“Youth Nonviolence on the Street and in the Classroom: A Revolution in Conflict Resolution.”** Eileen will describe the current work of the Program which involves youth who are experiencing high levels of conflict and the adults in their lives. Ruddyard Kipling Restaurant, 422 W Oak St, 11:30am buffet, \$6. Reservations required. **RSVP** to Polly Johnson, 473-8435 or Jean Edwards, 458-8056 by Tuesday beforehand.

Feb 16 (Thu) **SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE.** Monthly meeting, every third Thursday, 5:30 pm. The meeting place has been changed to the downtown Free Public Library, 4th and York Sts., Room A downstairs. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

Feb 16 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING at Beverley’s house, 6:30 pm.** You are needed to put your fingers to work to keep this important news flowing. Please come and help for one hour. Call Beverley at 451-5658.

Feb 16 (Thu) **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Monthly meeting every Third Thursday evening. Douglass Blvd Christian Church, 7:00 pm. Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914; Ellen Schagene, 451-6392; or Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. www.louisvillepeace.org

Feb 19 (Sun) **COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** (Every Third Sunday) First Unitarian Church, 4th & York. 3:00 pm. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Feb 28 (Tue) **FORUM: “Ripped from the Headlines - Utilizing the Media to Affect Social Change,”** featuring **DR. NEAL BAER**, Executive Producer of *Law and Order, Special Victims Unit*. Luncheon hosted by Jewish Family & Vocational Services at the Hyatt Regency. \$40. Call 452-6341.

Mar 12-15 (SMTW) **FESTIVAL OF THEOLOGY & REUNION**, Presbyterian Seminary, featuring **Dr. Frank Anthony Thomas** of Memphis, **Dr. Robert M. Franklin** of Atlanta, **Dr. James Hudnut-Beumler** of Nashville, and **Dr. Barbara Z. Barnes** of Ohio. The speaker at the Moderator’s Dinner on March 14 will be **RICK UFFORD-CHASE**, Moderator of the **General Assembly**, well-known for his work on the US/Mexico border and as cofounder of **Borderlinks**, providing experiential education on border issues such as trade, globalization, and migrants’ concerns. Rick is also co-moderator of the **Presbyterian Peace Fellowship** which has provided emergency assistance to migrants in the borderlands of southern Arizona. For more details and to reserve tickets, call David Sawyer, 895-3411. dsawyer@lpts.edu Deadline is March 1.

Mar 15 (Wed) **GAY & LESBIAN RIGHTS**, discussion sponsored by the Ky American Civil Liberties Union Foundation. Main library, 4th & York, 7:00 pm. Centennial Room. Free. Reservations requested. Call 581-9746.

Mar 16 (Thu) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH** sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, featuring **EDGARDO N. MANSILLA**, Executive Director of the **AMERICANA COMMUNITY CENTER — A VITAL PRESENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY.** He will discuss the history of the Center, the populations served, the programs, the challenges the center faces and the impact of its service on the Metro area. Ruddyard Kipling Restaurant, 422 W Oak St, 11:30am buffet, \$6. Reservations required. **RSVP** to Polly Johnson, 473-8435 or Jean Edwards, 458-8056 by Tuesday beforehand.

Mar 25 (Sat) **STATEWIDE YOUTH RIGHTS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE** sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky for ages 18 and under to become empowered by learning about their constitutional rights and how they apply. From this conference a diverse group of young people will commit to serve on a Youth Advisory Council to the ACLU of Kentucky. Muhammad Ali Center, 401 W Main, 9:30-4:30. Call 502/581-9746. jenessa@aclu-ky.org

Mar 26-27 (SM) **LECTURE: DR. KATIE GENEVA CANON**, the first African-American woman to be ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian denomination. Sponsored by the Women’s Center at Louisville Seminary, Justice for Women Committee & Presbyterian Women of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery. www.lpts.edu

Apr 8-16 (The week before Easter). **EYES WIDE OPEN: THE HUMAN COST OF WAR. The National Guard Memorial Exhibit prepared by the American Friends Service Committee, consisting of over 300 pairs of combat boots, each labeled with the rank, name, age and state of a National Guard member who has died in Iraq.** Help is needed. To volunteer, call Mark Lancaster, 502/569-5816

Apr 13 (Thu) **CELEBRATION OF FAIR HOUSING MONTH**, featuring Ed Goetz, author of *Clearing the Way: Deconcentrating the Poor in Urban America*. Cosponsored by the University of Louisville and Metropolitan Housing Coalition. Call 584-6858. www.metropolitanhousing.org

Apr 19 (Wed) **LECTURE: MARILYN ROBINSON**, winner of the 2006 **Grawemeyer Award in Religion**, and author of **GILEAD**. Call the Presbyterian Seminary, 895-3411 or 800-264-1839. www.lpts.edu

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Feb 12-25 **FOR DELEGATION TO COLOMBIA.** Stand with the people of Latin America, share briefly in their lives, and gain an understanding of their reality through meetings with a wide range of contacts. Call 415/495-6334. www.forusa.org

Feb 15-Mar 19 **JOIN THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT CAMPAIGN! ACT TO END THE US WAR AGAINST IRAQIS. COME TO DC.** 33day fast and vigil with nonviolent civil disobedience/resistance and lobbying, sponsored by Voices for Creative Nonviolence, (formerly Voices in the Wilderness), 1249 W Argyle St, #2, Chicago, IL 60640 info@vcnv.org Tel: 773-878-3815. Demand an end to this never ending war.

Mar 18/19 (SS) **THIRD ANNIVERSARY** of the start of the criminal war and occupation of Iraq. Peace actions in New York City and across the country coordinated by the International Action Center founded by Ramsey Clark. Call 212-633-6646. www.iacenter.org

Mid-April **F.O.R DELEGATION TO IRAN**, a Fact-Finding & Friendship Delegation reflecting all segments of the United States in its ethnic, religious, and social diversity. \$3,300 covers round-trip air fare from NY to Teheran, room & board, and all other costs and fees. Call 845/358-4601, ext.27. e-mail: iran@forusa.org www.forusa.org/programs/iran

Apr 23-25 (SMT) **Washington Vigil to CLOSE THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS.** Join activists from around the nation for this annual spring event. Demand that your Representatives and Senators represent your interests and vote probably in June to close this school. Call 202/234-3440. www.soaw.org

June 23-28 (FSSMTW) **WORLD PEACE FORUM, Vancouver, British Columbia: “Cities and Communities: Working Together to End War and Build a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World.”** Call 604/687-3223. admin@worldpeaceforum.ca Web: www.worldpeaceforum.ca

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

AD HOC COALITION FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION – (778-8130)

ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – 2nd Thursday (585-3375)

AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB – 4th Tuesday (459-0616)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (637-8951)

BIONEERS / SUSTAINABLE LOUISVILLE – Tuesdays (336-9440)

BREAD FOR THE WORLD – 2nd Tuesday (239-4317)

CAPA (Citizens Against Police Abuse) – 2nd & 4th Thursdays (778-8130)

C.E.A.S.E. [Citizens for Equitable Assignment to School Environments] – (778-9427)

CLARK & FLOYD COUNTIES AIDS COALITION – 3rd Thursday (288-2706)

CLOUT [Citizens of Louisville Organized and Working Together] – (583-1267)

COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST – 2nd Monday (456-6586)

COMMON CAUSE – 1st Tuesday, every other month (228-1534)

COMMUNIST PARTY USA – Sunday evenings (473-2659)

CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (454-4820)

CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD – Books by Neale Donald Walsch. 1st Monday (468-2305)

COUNTER RECRUITMENT, “Aim Higher” – Second Sunday (636-5848)

EARTH SAVE LOUISVILLE – 2nd Sunday (569-1876)

FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)

FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (456-6586 or 479-9262)

GREATER LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB – 3rd Tuesday (897-3335)

GREEN PARTY – 1st Tuesday (456-9540)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays (583-6599)

HATE FREE SCHOOLS COALITION – 3rd Thursday (454-3300)

INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE – 1st Tuesday (214-7322)

JEFFERSON COUNTY WELFARE REFORM COALITION – 2nd Friday (585-3556)

JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (625-3724)

JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – 3rd Saturday (562-6737)

KENTUCKIANA FOR KUCINICH IN 2008 – 1st Thursday (473-2659 or 459-6361)

KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday, jointly with POWER (589-3188)

KY AIDS LIFE ALLIANCE (KALA) – Every Thursday (479-7884)

KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 3rd Monday (778-8130)

KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY – Last Tuesday (721-8885)

KITLAC (KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN) – 2nd Wednesday (479-9262)

KY RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION – (774-4000)

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP – 2nd and 4th Thursdays (587-6225)

LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES – 3rd Sunday (451-5658)

LOUISVILLE MEDIA REFORM COMMUNITY – 3rd Wednesday (584-4811)

LPAC (LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY) – 3rd Thursday (558-9124)

LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – Meditation 1st & 3rd Sundays (473-8435)

LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (454-3300), www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org

LOUISVILLIANS IN FAVOR OF EQUALITY (L.I.F.E.) – Sunday evenings (473-2659)

METRO SWEEP FOR ACCESS – 3rd Tuesday (895-0866 or 899-9261)

METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION – 4th Wednesday (584-6858)

NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) – 3rd Monday (776-7608)

NAACP Youth Council – 3rd Saturday

NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) – 2nd Monday (245-5287)

PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) – 3rd Sunday (329-0229)

PAX CHRISTI – Last Wednesday (456-9342)

PEACE & COMPASSION BUDDHA CIRCLE/CML – (451-2193, brozier@bellsouth.net)

PEOPLE’S AGENDA – 2nd Tuesday (778-8130)

POWER [PEOPLE ORGANIZED AND WORKING FOR ENERGY REFORM] – 2nd Monday, jointly with KFTC (778-2687)

RCRC [Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice] – (585-3050)

RESULTS (a hunger lobby) – 2nd Saturday (451-4907)

SHADHULIYYAH SUFI SPIRITUALITY GROUP – Thursday nights (893-6122)

SINGLE WOMEN’S GROUP – 3rd Sunday (812-866-1667)

Note: If your group would like to be added to this list or if information needs to be updated, please let us know by calling 458-8056.