

THE MORAL REVOLUTION HAS BEGUN

Martin Luther King called for it. People young and old are responding to it.

We had a few words for Mr. Bush when he came to the Century Plaza Hotel in Century City on May 29th. We share some of those words with you here.

Good afternoon, Mr. Bush. Electric cars were sold commercially in the 1920's.

If electric cars had been tolerated, we might have made just a few improvements in the past eighty-one years. But oil was the political power and smog was the fruit of the oil business. "By their fruits you shall know them."

Should I damage one person's lungs, I would be committing a felony. But if the oil companies damage the lungs of millions of people, that is called good business.

We had an efficient rapid transit system in Los Angeles from the beginning of the twentieth century until the 1950's. An admitted criminal conspiracy between the oil companies, bus manufacturers and the tire companies destroyed the Pacific Electric. It now rests in the sea as a part of the Los Angeles breakwater.

The fight for a healthy public sector in the economy has been constant since the nineteenth century. Public schools, public libraries, public parks, public hospitals, public utilities, public welfare, and a focus on the common good. Indeed, the public sector has made life livable in the United States.

A tiny power elite in our country continues to rage battles for privatization in the name of corporate greed. We have now arrived at the

moment when the brutal and mindless thrust for privatization has become a rigid ideology of power and money.

Mr. Bush, we have a Department of Energy. But that department has become a cover for nuclear weapons of mass destruction. Rather than directing its attention to the coordination of energy nationally, the Department of Energy is directed to the modernization of nuclear devices that have the potential of destroying our planet. Far more is spent on these genocidal weapons than on the constructive pursuit of alternative energy. Comparatively speaking, only pennies have been put into research on solar energy, hydrogen power, wind energy and tidal energy. While we remain dormant, the rest of the world is using its limited resources for such research. The pollution of our air is a constant and toxic symbol of the pollution of the spirit of our leaders.

Oil is a by-product of the remains of dinosaurs, and the dinosaurs are holding on to it!

Mr. Bush, we demand that Public Utilities remain public.

We do not want the privatization of the public sector for the greed of the few.

Make the Department of Energy live up to its name. Use the endless sources of power that are available. Research alternative power rather than mechanisms of global extinction!

And now we hear that there is going to be a Military Space Corps. I am sure that every space cadet will want to be part of it. Just like the Heaven's Gate Cult, we can latch on

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to the tail of a comet and go happily along into eternity.

Having made a shooting gallery of the United States, having made a bombing range out of Iraq, now we are going to open up space to laser warfare.

Get the Department of Energy into energy for the people of the United States and stop using it as a threat to the universe.

I have even heard of the return of soft coal. Think how much soft coal did for London. One thousand people died in one day as a result of an inversion layer and a city full of soft coal fumes.

Nuclear energy is the dirtiest and most expensive form of power ever developed. The program began with a lie. They said it would be so cheap that we could take the meters out of our houses.

Now we have no way to pay for the destruction caused by nuclear power. We do not know what to do with the waste. No Super-Fund can cover the cost. Cheap indeed!

Mr. Bush, clean up the Department of Energy. Get rid of the nuclear plants and the nuclear weapons. The weapons will surely be used on purpose or by accident.

International disarmament is now doable. Let us lead the way, instead of holding back the hopes and desires of the world's people.

Use that tax **non-surplus** to research the alternative to oil, coal and nukes.

Use that tax **non-surplus** to activate the public sector, rebuild our rotting infrastructures and bring us up to the level of the many civilized nations that offer health care and education as a human right.

OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS IN ACTION

** Our New Television Program, **WORLD FOCUS** airs on Adelphia from Noon to 1:00 PM on Saturday, June 9th. Gerard Ungerman and Audry Brohy, producers of the film, **THE HIDDEN WARS OF DESERT STORM**, are interviewed and clips of the film are aired. The interview is followed by a full showing of the film from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM on the same day. The program will be replayed from 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM on Wednesday, June 13th.

** Presentation of our response to Mr. Bush's energy policy during his recent visit. Our words were expressed at a rally during the demonstration of several hundred lively people held in front of the Century Plaza Hotel in Century City on May 29th.

** OOA was the point organization for the Militarism component of the **Latin American Solidarity Conference** in Chicago last March. One of the follow up projects of that conference is a National Demonstration Against US Military and Economic Intervention in Latin America scheduled for Washington, D.C. on Saturday, September 29, 2001. Cities throughout the United States, including Los Angeles, will have demonstrations on the same day.

** We joined the Salvadoran community in a delegation to the **Consul General of El Salvador** in Los Angeles. Our discussion centered on the necessity of equitable distribution of earthquake aid and the negative impact of the dollarization of the Salvadoran economy.

Leave the legacy of your commitment to your heirs: When drafting your will, please consider making a bequest to THE OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS. We are a 501-c-3 non-profit educational corporation. All contributions are tax deductible.

** A quiet dinner visit with **Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Nobel Laureate from Argentina**. We reviewed the movement for peace and justice throughout the hemisphere and the consensus that nations must act simultaneously to re-regulate global markets and corporations in order to establish democracy, environmental protection and peace. Readers might check out the International Simultaneous Policy Organization (ISPO). www.simpol.org

** Interview with KBOO in Portland regarding Guerrillas of Peace on the Air.

Signings at Powell's Books in Portland, and Transitions Books in Chicago.

We are sorry if Blase's book titles have caused any confusion. They are similar:

1. *Guerrillas of Peace; Liberation Theology and the Central American Revolution*, Third Edition, toExcel Press <iUniverse.com>, 2000.

2. *Guerrillas of Peace on the Air; Pacifica Radio Commentaries, Reports and Other Works Which Examine and Promote the Ideology of Peace*, Red Hen Press, Los Angeles, 2000. www.redhen.org

** Receptions, media interviews and programs for **Rhoda Berenson**, mother of **Lori Berenson**, at Occidental College, Midnight Special Bookstore, The Museum of Tolerance, Temple Kol Tikvah and the Peace Center. All of these events were organized by Lisa Smithline.

** Outreach for the reception of **Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez** at the First Baptist Church of Los Angeles. 1300 people attended with the goal of returning the Pacifica Network to its Mission Statement and the removal of board members who

are not committed to this goal.

** House meetings for **Homies Unidos**, an international gang rehabilitation program, were held by OOA Board Members Alice Powell and Lois Davis. More of these gatherings are being planned. Homies Unidos now has a staffed Los Angeles Office.

** We have worked for several years with **LAANE, the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy and SMART, Santa Monicans for Responsible Tourism** fighting for a Living Wage. We rejoiced with the passing of the Living Wage Ordinance in Santa Monica. We are certain that other cities will follow the example of this vanguard legislation.

Are you an Office of the Americas Member? If we have not heard from you in the past year, please renew your membership. See the form on page 4.

** Press Conference for West Coast members returning from Witness for Peace Delegation to Colombia. OOA volunteer, Mohan Menom, a student at Occidental College and his colleague Gabe Raso gave reports on their war zone experiences.

** Interview with KPFA regarding the **Zapatista March to Mexico City**.

** Presentation on, "Colombia: A Case Study in Globalization and U.S. Intervention," at the Free Trade Conference held at CARECEN on March 31.

** Presentation at the University of California at Irvine on, "**The WTO and the War System**." This was in preparation for the U.S./Mexico Border Project demonstration at Tijuana held in conjunction with the protest to the Free Trade Area of the Americas demonstrations in Quebec City.

** Peace Award to OOA from Agape International Center for Truth and A Season for Non-Violence for being, "A Place of Peace and Non-Violence in Our Community." April 22, 2001.

** Presentation to First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, "**If You Liked Vietnam, You Will Love Plan Colombia.**"

** Hosted filmmaker Kevin Pina for a showing of the rough cut of "**Beyond the Mountains, More Mountains,**" a film of contemporary Haiti.

** Keynote in preparation for the May 19th demonstration at Vandenberg 0 Air Force Base. "**Militarism and the United States Domination of Space.**" Delivered at Echo Park United Methodist Church.

Presentation to Beverly Hills Adult Education Program on **U.S. Foreign Policy.

** Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin presentation to student body on "**Guerrillas of Peace: a Response to U.S. Foreign Policy.**"

** Leisure World Presentation, "**The Moral Revolution Has Begun.**"

** Keynote talk to the Green Assembly (Green Party USA).

** OOA served as a Trainer at the **Free Tibet Action Camp** and we have joined FREE TIBET in opposing China's bid for the 2008 Olympics. China has brutally occupied Tibet for more than 50 years and routinely commits grave human rights violations against both Tibetan and Chinese people.

**A team from UCLA arrived at the Office of the Americas and picked up our files for the year 2000. For over a decade OOA files have been available to the public. They are located at:

*University of California at Los Angeles
Department of Special Collections
A1713 Charles E. Young Research Library
(Collection number 1590)
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575*

It is our hope that this material will contribute to the development of an accurate history of the Americas in the 1980's, 1990's and into the 21st Century.

** Five and a half years in prison and still waiting for justice. The **Lori Berenson** case drags on in Peru. After the Military Court dropped all charges against her, the Civilian Terrorism Court decided to accuse her of collaboration with the rebels. This charge can be made for literally any communication with rebel groups. Conviction on this charge means a sentence of twenty years. Lori's parents have been at the trial in Lima since March. We expect a decision by the end of this month.

Widely known Peruvian poet **Winston Orrillo Ledesma**, a professor from Lima's San Marcos University, the oldest functioning institution of higher education in the Western Hemisphere, published a stunning article in defense of Lori in the Peruvian newspaper *Liberación* on Monday May 28. It marks the first time a Peruvian scholar inside Peru has publicly given support for Lori and acknowledged complete agreement with her strong critique of lack of justice and opportunity here. We are grateful to Doctor Orrillo for his uplifting commentary. The article appears on Lori's web-site in English and will soon be available in Spanish. http://www.freelori.org/news/01may28_liberacion.html.

UPCOMING

** OOA is collaborating with School of the Americas Watch and Witness for Peace in preparation for a **Delegation to Colombia** from July 6-19, 2001.

For an application call Eric LeCompte at 202/234-3440 or email him at:

<elecompte@soaw.org>

** You are invited to join the Office of the Americas **Urgent Action Network.**

Sometimes events occur that require urgent action. This may mean firing off a letter, fax, email, or telephone call to a government official or it may mean attending an event on very short notice. If you wish to participate, please fill out our response form on page 4. Be sure to include your email address, fax and telephone numbers.

** **AN ECUMENICAL EXPERIENCE.** Evaluate for yourself the impact of progressive religious approaches to Latin America. The Pacific Southwest Conference on World Christian Mission announces its Summer Conference from July 27-30, 2001 at the Asilomar Conference Grounds. Theresa and Blase will be keynote speakers. For further information call the Dean, Mary Zambrano at 909/625-4094 or email: <zambrano@cyberg8t.com>

** We recommend the book: *Addicted to War; Why the U.S. Can't Kick Militarism*, an illustrated expose by Joel Andreas. Contact Frank Dorrel for information fdorrel@hotmail.com.

** **HOMIES UNIDOS:** OOA has been actively supporting Homies Unidos for some three years. Homies mission is to offer hope to young people living on some of the roughest streets in Los Angeles and to present positive alternatives to gang life.

Directed by ex-gang member and Salvadoran immigrant Alex Sanchez, this group is making a significant difference in young people's lives. Homies Unidos leadership has credi-

Visit OOA's website:
www.officeoftheamericas.org

bility with gang members because they have survived the same poverty, hopelessness, violence and police persecution as received from LAPD Ramparts Division.

Their free, volunteer-run programs include; academic and health education, art, performance and anger management workshops.

OOA supports Homies Unidos through informal house parties and publicity. Alex and his colleagues explain their experiences and current programs. Our fourth such gathering is planned for Sunday, June 10th.

Please consider hosting one of these Homies events. The only requirements are to present us with a list of invitees and a place to have the gathering. OOA organizer Lois Davis will assist you in all stages of the meeting.

To learn more about Homies Unidos, visit their web-site at www.homiesunidos.org or call their office at 213/383-7484. The OOA web-site also has a link to Homies Unidos.

www.officeoftheamericas.org

Our guests at these Homies Unidos events have been educated, inspired and motivated by these extraordinary "survivors."

** In preparation for our eighteenth anniversary celebration to be held on Saturday, November 10, 2001, we have

requested and joyfully received acceptances from the following honorees.

Samuel Ruiz Garcia, Bishop Emeritus of San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, President of the International Secretariat of Solidarity, "Oscar A. Romero" (SICSAL), recipient of the Simon Bolivar Prize of UNESCO, three times nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and principle mediator in the conflict between the Zapatistas and the government of Mexico. **Martin Sheen** has graciously accepted granting this award to Bishop Ruiz.

Medea Benjamin, Founder of Global Exchange, Green Party Candidate for United States Senate, and one of the most effective organizers in the United States.

Aris Anagnos, President Emeritus of Americans for Democratic Action, founder and benefactor of the Los Angeles Peace Center, supporter of causes for peace and justice internationally and creator of the Carolyn and Aris Anagnos Peace Center Foundation.

OOA Board Members

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THE CLOSET LIBERAL	Recycle For Peace: Support OOA's Programs For Peace and Justice	
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Donations Needed:		
Clothing	Crystal & China	Small Furniture
Antiques	Jewelry	Art Objects
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Volunteers needed at the Closet Liberal! Free training! We are also available for Estate Disposal and related needs.		
Office of the Americas: (323) 852-9808		

Become an Office of the Americas Sustainer or Member

Members receive OOA's quarterly newsletter and the satisfaction of being part of an international movement for peace and justice. **Sustainers receive monthly mailings** of OOA issues, activities and special events.

I pledge: \$_____ each month quarter year other_____ for OOA's work.

Enclosed is my first pledge of: \$_____ (all contributions are tax-deductible).

Enclosed is my membership contribution:

Founder/\$1,000 Patron/\$500 Sponsor/\$250 Donor/\$200 Friend/\$100

Family/\$35 Individual/\$25 Limited income/\$10

Please send me information on your volunteer program. Please remove me from your mailing list.

I would like an OOA speaker for a house / church / organization meeting.

I would like to join the Urgent Action Network.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip: _____

FAX: _____ Email: _____

Note: FAX and Email addresses are assurances that you will receive more notices of special events.