

Blase's newly published book: COMMON SENSE FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

"Blase Bonpane is a true guerilla for peace, an exception to the rulers. From the occupation of Iraq to the war at home; from the coup in Haiti to the prisons of the US, Bonpane cuts through the lies to tell it like it is.

For years, his commentaries have been broadcast over the airwaves of Pacifica station KPFK in Los Angeles. Today, in a world dominated by occupation, war and a crackdown on civil liberties and human rights, these commentaries become an essential counter-balance to the lies. "Common Sense" is evidence that the voices of the silenced majority can and must be heard."

--Amy Goodman, Host of Democracy Now!

"Tom Paine was a pamphleteer who proclaimed the need for revolution in 1776. Common Sense for the Twenty-first Century is based on the need for a moral revolution in our own time.

This was the call made by Dr. Martin Luther King.

This is the call today made by Blase Bonpane who rejects the ancient tools of clubs, spears, guns and bombs while

promoting the non-violent tools of dialogue together with militant grass roots action. Blase believes firmly that we can have a future of international participatory democracy directed toward distributive justice.

Blase is a news commentator for KPFK in Los Angeles and host of the weekly radio program WORLD FOCUS which is directed toward ending the war system and building a global peace system. This new book also includes Blase's interviews with Chalmers Johnson, Jonathan Schell and the Reverend James Lawson.

Blase and Theresa are the founders of the Office of the Americas on whose board I have had the privilege of serving since its inception in 1983."

--Martin Sheen, Actor, Activist

The demands on the Office of the Americas have been so great that we are in the midst of a severe deficit. Can you assist us with some extra help at this time?

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OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS

FOCUS: Peace Now!

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OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS COMES OF AGE OUR TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Please join us for this blessed event to be held at The University Synagogue on Sunday, November 14, 2004. We are proud to announce the following honorees:

EDWARD ASNER

One of the most honored actors in the history of television, Edward Asner has been the recipient of seven Emmy Awards and 16 nominations, as well as five Golden Globe Awards. He served as National President of the Screen Actors Guild for two terms, and was inducted into the TV Academy Hall of Fame in 1996. Asner received the Ralph Morgan Award from the Screen Actors Guild in 2000, presented periodically for distinguished service to the Guild's Hollywood membership. In March 2002, he was again honored by The Guild as the 38th recipient of the prestigious Life Achievement Award for career achievement and humanitarian accomplishment, presented annually to an actor who fosters the highest ideals of the profession.

In addition to his professional versatility, Edward Asner has consistently served and committed himself to the rights of the working performer in addition to advocating for human rights, world peace, environmental preservation, and political freedom. A passionate and informed spokesperson for the causes he supports, Asner is a frequent speaker on labor issues and a particular ally for the acting industry's older artists. Some of the many honors he has received throughout his

career include the Anne Frank Human Rights Award, the Eugene Debs Award, Organized Labor Publications Humanitarian Award, American Civil Liberties Union's Workers Right's Committee Award and the National Emergency Civil Liberties Award.

DENNIS KUCINICH

We believe that Congressman Dennis Kucinich conducted one of the most admirable presidential campaigns in U.S. history. His platform was clear, honest and courageous. As chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus (which is the largest congressional caucus), Kucinich has promoted a national health care system, preservation of Social Security, increased Unemployment Insurance benefits, and the establishment of wholesale cost-based rates for electricity, natural gas and home heating oil.

While hundreds of community hospitals have been closed throughout the country, Kucinich, as Mayor of Cleveland, led a powerful citizens' movement which reopened two Cleveland neighborhood hospitals. His efforts on behalf of Cleveland's poor gained the recognition of the National Association of Social Workers. He continues to be a local and national advocate for the homeless.

Congressman Kucinich acts upon his belief that protection of the global environment is fundamental to preserving the life of all species. His advocacy of a Department of Peace seeks not only to make nonviolence an

organizing principle in our society, but to make war archaic. His is a powerful, ethical voice for nuclear disarmament, preservation of the ABM treaty, banning weapons in outer space, and a halt to the development of a 'Star Wars' - type missile defense technology.

He has been recognized for his advocacy of human rights in Burma, Nigeria and East Timor. Together with the late Rep. Joe Moakley (D-Mass), he has led a concerted effort to close the School of the Americas, which has been an incubator of human rights violations in Central America. Kucinich marched with workers through the streets of Seattle protesting the WTO's policies and with students through the streets of Washington, DC, challenging the structural adjustment policies of the IMF.

RAMONA RIPSTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ramona Ripston is Executive Director of the ACLU of Southern California and the ACLU Foundation of Southern California. The Southern California affiliate has over 35,000 members, making it one of the largest in the country. Ms. Ripston is the first woman to direct the activities of a major affiliate. She is responsible for all phases of ACLU programs, including litigation, lobbying and education, and she supervises a staff of 46 employees.

She recently served as a member of the California Commission on Judicial Performance for a six-year term, and she has been a visiting lecturer for the UCLA Polit-



OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS

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All contributions are tax-deductible. 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.

Sustainers

- I pledge: \$_____ each month quarter year other _____ for OOA's work.
- Enclosed is my first pledge of \$_____ Please charge my first pledge of \$_____ to my
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- 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 receive OOA's weekly email calendar.
- Please send me a copy of Blase Bonpane's new book, *Common Sense for the Twenty-First Century* @ 16.95
- Getting duplicate mailings? Misspelled name and address? Please let us know so we can update our records.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
FAX: _____ E-mail: _____

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

ical Science Department, guest host for "The Daily Review" on KPFK radio, talk show host for KABC, and has served on the board of directors of the First Amendment Foundation and of the Office of the Americas.

Ms. Ripston was a founding member of Death Penalty Focus, and was honored with their Abolition Award for 2003. She has also been awarded the William J. Brennan, Jr. Civil Liberties Award by the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law. The Western Society of Criminology presented her with the June Morrison Founder's Award. It is given yearly to a non-criminologist who makes an outstanding contribution to justice in the criminal justice system. She was recognized as a Woman of Achievement by Women For, and honored by a number of other organizations and entities, including Women in Communication, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the People's College of Law, the Los Angeles City Council, and the Mayor of Los Angeles. Ramona has lectured at a number of law schools, including Harvard, Yale, and UCLA.

OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS IN ACTION VIGILS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

* On August 29th, at the Santa Monica pier, OOA along with the Coalition for World Peace, joined in spirit with a half million people in New York as we protested the behavior of the incumbent administration. Never in United States history has there been such a massive denunciation of a sitting president.

* As the disaster in Iraq reaches new levels of horror, we have supported both large demonstrations of this summer and

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the small and ongoing vigils for peace. Nationally there were over seven-hundred vigils in commemoration of 9/11, Forty of those vigils were in the greater Los Angeles area. Alice Powell's Thursday evening vigils continue with the distribution of tens of thousands of appropriate bumper stickers. We also joined hundreds to denounce Mr. Bush's policies as he arrived at the Santa Monica Airport.

* Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark presided over the War Crimes Tribunal at New York's Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium. When we speak of a criminal administration, we do not consider our words to be hyperbolic. One of the best legal minds of our times laid out nineteen crimes committed by the current administration. We give our affirmation to the decision of the tribunal after hearing the testimony of international experts including combat veterans. See our website for a complete copy of the charges against the Bush Administration. Commentary of September 8, 2004. <officeoftheamericas.org>

* Meeting in Washington, D.C. with organizations in solidarity with Haiti to plan a national strategy. Contributing to the production of a superb new book on Haiti: Let Haiti Live; Unjust U.S. Policies Toward Its Oldest Neighbor, Edited by Melinda Miles and Eugenia Charles, Educa Vision Inc., 2004. <educa@aol.com>

* Entering into an exclusive OOA dialogue with Haitians selected by the State Department who are visiting the United States. Only one member of this classically coup-partisan delegation spoke on behalf of the actual president of Haiti, Jean Bertrand Aristide.

* Our recent guests on WORLD FOCUS (10:00 AM Sundays, KPFK, 90.7 FM) Maria Elena Durazo, Elaine Pagels,

Rosemary Ruether, Sgt. Jimmy Massey, Gila Svirsky, Jerry Lembcke, Rev. Simon Harak, Deborah James, Nicolas Von Hoffman, George Lakoff, Bruce Gagnon, Larry Birns, Sarah Arid, Barbara Lubin, Melinda Myles, Jack Healy, Kathy Kelly, Alan Minsky, Vivian Rothstein, Charles Derber, Michael Paradies Shoob, Joseph Mealey, Col. Ann Wright, David Mac Michael, Matt Eisenbrandt, Heather Boushey.

* Our commentaries air on the 6:00 PM nightly news and/or on the 12:30 afternoon news at KPFK. We have sent out hundreds of free copies at the request of listeners.

* Doctors from Family Medicine at UCLA Harbor Hospital invited us to speak about OOA at their outreach project located at Banning High School in Wilmington. Medical students, residents, faculty and high school students participated in an afternoon of discussion and planning on developing a peace system. We are especially grateful to Jyoti Puvvula, MD and Gilbert Granados, MD for making this presentation possible.

* California State University Los Angeles. An excellent mid-summer turn out for an in-depth coverage of the history of Haiti up to the coup of 2004.

* We are very pleased with the salons we have initiated at the Warszawa Restaurant in Santa Monica. Recent speakers: Dolores Huerta, Robbie Conal and Vivian Rothstein. With the unfortunate closing of Midnight Special Bookstore, many groups have followed our lead to use this venue..

* The Thursday Night Forum in North Hills. A presentation on the current disaster of U.S. foreign policy.

* The Ruskin Art Center: Book signing for the newly released *Common Sense for the*

Twenty-first Century, Blase Bonpane, Red Hen Press, Los Angeles, 2004.

* Presentation to Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting on the current massacre in Iraq.

* Presentation on Building a Peace System to the Pacific Unitarian Church.

THE LIVING WAGE

* Our relationship to the Living Wage Campaign and union struggles in Los Angeles has continued for several years now. The lack of job creation has reached a crisis point in the United States. We joined a massive gathering of Hotel and Restaurant Workers at the intersection of Fifth and Figueroa to demand a living wage and medical benefits.

LORI BERENSON

* We have served on the steering committee of the Committee to free Lori Berenson for over eight years. We expect a decision in her case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights this month. See her website:

<FREELORI.ORG>

STUDENTS

* Some of our lesser-known work includes responding to the queries from students of Latin American Studies and International Relations.

DOCUMENTARIES

* For twenty-one years we have assisted the work of documentary filmmakers.

We have worked with Gerard Ungerman and Audrey Brohy since their initial film, *The Hidden Wars of Desert Storm*, to the present. We worked with Barbara Trent since her initial films on Central America, to her winning of the Academy Award for *The Panama Deception* up to and including her latest film *Waging Peace*. And recently we have supported the formation of a film collective by the dynamic group known as

Code Pink.

COLOMBIA

We continue to direct people to ways of seeing international crisis areas personally. Currently we are promoting a Women's Delegation to Colombia sponsored by Witness for Peace from October 31st to November 11, 2004.

Contact Gail Phares for information: <RPhares105@aol.com>

MARCH FOR IMMIGRANTS RIGHTS

With continuing violent attacks by vigilantes, massive raids in predominantly Latino communities as well as at airports there will be a large demonstration on October 16, 2004 for immigrants rights. Call 323/269-6069 for information.

CLOSE THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS

Join thousands at the gates of Fort Benning, November 19-21, 2004. See their website <SOAW.org>

THE SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK

The wisdom of the ages, the wisdom of the spirit is not conventional. It is unconventional. What happened on the streets of New York during the Republican National Convention was an outpouring of unconventional and spiritual wisdom.

People in the Castle of Madison Square Gardens spoke the conventional wisdom, of personal wealth, of the rich and the famous. But 500,000 people on the street were there on behalf of the poor of the earth. That is the wisdom of the ages. It is unconventional and it is true wisdom.

People in the Castle of Madison Square were there on behalf of continued mean spirited behavior and revenge, but vast majority of the people on the streets of New York represented the gentle of the earth. They

made their witness completely vulnerable to the violence of the militarized police. That is the wisdom of the ages.

Conventional wisdom prefers to deny suffering, sickness and death; but those who understand true wisdom were on the sidewalks of New York on behalf of the suffering, the sick and the oppressed. This is true wisdom.

The people in the Castle of Madison Square Garden were speaking on behalf of those who hunger and thirst for wealth and power. But people on the streets of New York were hungering and thirsting after justice.

The people in the Castle of the Madison Squares had access to the media of the world.

But the people in the streets were there to be the voice of those without a voice.

Political campaigns are full of duplicity but the wisdom of the spirit is single minded and sincere. What the people on the street were saying is precisely what they meant. They were not there for personal gain.

The people in the Madison Square Castle were there on behalf of a war system. The people on the streets were there on behalf of eternal wisdom echoing, "Happy are you peacemakers, you shall be called the children of God."

And as Washington knows so well. No good deed will go unpunished.

So those in the streets were fearlessly speaking the truth to power and willing to accept severe and unwarranted punishment for their witness (over 1,800 arrested). Happy are those who are persecuted in the cause of justice, theirs is the castle of heaven."

The streets of New York were full of the wisdom of the ages during the Republican National Convention. How proud we are of the sheer goodness they have demonstrated.

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