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25TH Anniversary at SALS

SALS celebrated its 25th anniversary with a big bash in May. The event was held at the SALS Community Building in Beards Fork. Food and live entertainment delighted the crowd of about 150. Prizes were raffled off every hour and General Ambulance was there giving free blood pressure checks.

The food and prizes were donated by local residents and area businesses. Staging was donated by the Page/Kincaid PSC and the "Brothers of the Wheel." Lighting was donated for our use by Walker Machinery.

The event was kicked off by a lively performance by Bob Cambell and the Road Station Band. Jude Binder performed original interpretive dance followed by Elaine Purkey with a stirring mix of folk and labor songs.

We also had the pleasure of having a few of our "own" sing for us. Jackie Asbury, Kathryn South, and Yvone Elswick entertained us in addition to a gospel tribute from Bonita Johnson.

The evenings entertainment was wrapped up with performances by Holly Grove Grass with bluegrass and Arlie Lester and Harold Allen. Mr. Allen and his daughter did a great rendition of "O Brother Where Art Thou."

Guest speakers for the event included Matt Werder, Fayette County Commissioner, and David Perry. Also candidates Ken Eskew and Tom Stafford addressed the crowd. John David, our director, was the M.C.

On a more solemn note, tributes were given to several folks who have recently passed on. Mike South, former president of the National Black Lung

Assoc. and board member of SALS was honored for his dedication to health care justice for miners. Laura Forman, an organizer for the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, was recognized for her tireless work for the people and mountains of our state. Jack Robertson was a professor of economics at WVU-Tech who championed social justice throughout the coalfields and a founder of SALS.

Thanks to all who worked hard to make SALS 25th a smashing success!



Elaine Purkey sings accapella at SALS Anniversary Celebration

"Community for All" A Contrast to Intolerance

On Saturday, October 26th, a Fayette Co. community proved it could peaceably resist out-of-state efforts to foment division and distrust in the form of a permitted march by white supremests. Community leaders instead organized an alternative activity in the town park. This "Community for All" event was a huge success drawing attention away from the hatemongers and affirming the diversity that makes the Fayetteville area a great place to live. See John David's Charleston Gazette article reprinted on page 13 for more on the Community for All message.

A Contrast in Values Gives Contrasting Results

A commentary reprinted from the Charleston Gazette by John David

It was the same morning newspaper. It contained stories about two Pennsylvania families. But the stories were in stunning contrast.

One article was about Harry Blaine Mayhugh and his father-in-law, along with seven other coal miners. They were trapped 80 hours underground in a Black Wolf Coal Company mine near Somerset. It was a story of miners who, by trying to make a modest living and working a dangerous occupation, had to face the reality of making plans to pay the ultimate price of life. It was a story about more than 100 people who vigilantly sacrificed and struggled days and nights to save them. It was a story of endurance, ingenuity, dedication, and faith beyond hope. It was a story of a cage that descended hundreds of feet nine times, releasing the miners one by one at the surface. It was a wonderful and incredible All-American story.

The other story was about John Rigas and his two sons who operated a firm based in Philadelphia. They headed Adelphia Communications, the sixth largest cable company with operations including the immediate vicinity of Somerset as well as nearby cities in West Virginia. Not long ago, John Rigas was viewed as a “big man”, a “mover and shaker”, and a community pillar. He was an entrepreneur who built a major company and epitomized the All-American success story. Politicians, university officials, corporate leaders, and others who hover around perceived power and wealth swooned over him and courted his favor. Then came the story with the bad news.

It was a story of arresting the Rigas family for alleged securities and wire fraud to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars and causing stockholder losses exceeding \$60 billion. It was a story of a man who reported annual compensation of \$1.9 million and took \$66.9 million in advances at a rate of \$1 million or more a month. It was a story of capture, handcuffs, and a cage in jail. It was a story of selfishness, greed, betrayal, and deception. It was not a wonderful story.

The contrasting stories that morning revealed who

the community role models really are. The people to appreciate, reward, and admire are those who have worked and continue to work every day under difficult conditions, in an unassuming way, without glamour and fanfare. Few, if any, of them rub shoulders with top executives, attend cocktail parties, or are asked for advice on substantive issues at legislative hearings. Ironically, the public is often reminded about the historic contributions of wealthy families in making this country great. One might conclude that this nation’s development was totally the product of Robber Barons and Corporate Titans, assisted perhaps with a few swindles and legal scuffles along the way. Forgotten or more likely unknown are the untold stories about the ordinary people who make this country work. Compared to the unbelievable multi-millions paid to an increasing number of corporate heads, these people work hard and take major risks for relatively little compensation and recognition. They are the backbone of the nation.

The two family stories in that morning’s newspaper provided an opportunity to reflect on values, ethics, and expected standards of conduct and service. Clearly we need more actions that bond people together, create pride, and strengthen communities consistent with our democratic principles. We do not need scandals like what has been reported at Global Crossings, WorldCom, Enron, Adelphia, and Keystone National Bank. Such actions tear apart our social fabric, create hostility, and destroy the basic integrity of our society.

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Director's Report

by John David

The past period has been one of peaks and valleys. In regard to the latter, we are sorry to note the passing of several people, including Charles Hamm, Jr. (spouse of Jennifer Hamm); Freda Hensley (mother of George Hensley, Jr. and wife of George Hensley, Sr.); the uncle of Kathryn South and Jackie Asbury; Samuel Sanson (father of Ruth Lanham); Elaine Bragg (related to Brenda Winter); Pete Lang (key leader and fiddle player with the Fayette Ramblers that played for most of our volunteer groups); Wilbert Grasty (former SALS cook and spouse of Sandy Grasty); Julie Leilich (former SALS/DREAP worker and sister to SALS/AmeriCorps Member Marion Harrell), along with several other friends of SALS in the communities directly served. On a brighter note, Vickie Smith's daughter Brandi had a baby boy. Congratulations!

After tumultuous negotiations and an outpouring of support, we were finally able to convince LifeBridge to continue as fiscal agent and grantee for the AmeriCorps Coalfield Housing Project. This project, which is in its third and final year, has twelve Members who work with Group Work Camps, YouthBuild, and many groups of volunteers on our various housing projects. LifeBridge will hire the Project Director who will work closely with Jackie Asbury, the project's Field Coordinator at SALS. We wish to again thank the many people who wrote letters to LifeBridge in support of continuation and a special thanks to the Board of the New River Health Association for being there when needed.

Many of the youth and staff participated in "Make A Difference Day" on Saturday, October 26, 2002. Sponsored by the Sunday supplement USA Weekend and several sponsors, this is one of the largest annual volunteer service days practiced in the country. Those with SALS built wheelchair ramps, cleaned up yards, coordinated youth visitations to elderly centers, worked with the Starting Points Center, and participated in a "Community for All" event that celebrated tolerance and diversity in Fayette County.

SALS has had a reasonably good period with grants. While several were rejected, those funded included the Neighborhood Investment Program (Tax Credits), HUD Regional Housing Development, YouthBuild, USDA Rural Development, WV Humani-



Out with the old: backhoe demolishes dilapidated home to make way for new construction in Page

ties Council (with Appalshop for the coal truck/weight video), Benedum Foundation, Fayette County Commission, Walmart, RESA/ Workforce Investment Board, and a host of grants/contributions to the summer's successful Energy Express program.

Kathryn South has attended Youthbuild conferences in Santa Fe and Austin. John David was an invited participant to the VISTA Welfare Reform Issue Conference at Northwestern University; Brenda Winter attended the Workforce Investment Board/Youth Council retreat at Glade Springs, and Jackie Asbury attended various housing workshops with the WV Housing Development Fund.

Kathryn South has been recently selected Secretary of the National Black Lung Association. Congratulations!

Global volunteers has added a fourth week to its planned schedule of volunteer groups for the upcoming year. The additional week will be focused on alumni and engineering faculty at the University of Wisconsin. On a related matter, John David was appointed to the International Advisory Board of Global Volunteers, which will have its initial meeting in China next May to celebrate the 100th Global Volunteer team sent to China.

Construction Director Vickie Smith and three SALS site supervisors, (George Hensley, Dave Shaver, and J. R. Williams) have been certified by the state as building construction instructors. This is part of the process to position SALS as a certified training center for various programs sponsored through the Workforce Investment Board. In addition, SALS has

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Drector's Report, continued from page three

been selected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Region I Workforce Investment Board. Presently, the SALS connection is focused on out-of-school youth. Brenda Winter is the SALS Project Director with this program and works with Gary Daniel and Phillip Dunford, who are with RESA. Recently, youth with this program had a name change from "WIA" to "YES" (Youth Enrichment Services).

SALS has received several donated vehicles from individuals. Several were obtained as a result of a partnership with the Good News Garage, which is working with SALS on a concept to establish a garage-type facility, thereby permitting SALS youth to obtain mechanical/body work experience and obtain a vehicle upon completion of their GEDs.

SALS Housing has accomplished much since the massive floods of July 2001.

The summary includes:

Coordination of over 1200 volunteers during 2002, including 800 from Group Workcamps and the others from Global Volunteers, WVU-Tech, University of Michigan, Cabrini College, William & Mary, Elon University, Manhattan College, Bard College, Madison (Indiana) Presbyterian Church, First Congregational Church of Columbus, and the First Lutheran Church of Muskegan, Michigan;

Weatherization of 104 homes;

Construction/total rehabilitation of 4 homes from the inside out;

Completed installation of 5 moducraft housing units;

Rehabilitation of 6 homes in the \$10,000 range with projected by March 31, 2003;

Rehabilitation of two manufactured units ready to be set on land parcels;

And recently obtained a batch of fifteen pending homeowner's files from the Fayette Flood Recovery folks, since its operations are closing.

Herman and Cormany has completed its annual audit of SALS with a very favorable report. The single reportable condition, which was not considered material to the financial integrity of the organization, dealt with improving the process of attaching receipts to travel and credit card expenditure forms. John David

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noted that the report was very encouraging, since auditing standards have tightened significantly. He complemented the others involved with SALS accounting, including Brenda Winter, Ruth Lanham, Valerie Cowley, and Tom Bass.

SALS has obtained the former Church of God in Beards Fork. The facility, part of which was recently built, will be used to house volunteers who came to work with the housing projects. The result will more adequately and respectfully house male/female volunteers. We can also increase capacity by housing volunteers during the peak construction period summer months when our Community Center is totally reserved for Energy Express, the county's only site for the past several years.

Agreements have been signed for Group Workcamps to return next summer. Jackie Asbury says there will be two camps of approximately 800 volunteers who will work on 120 houses. Like last year, they will be housed at WVU-Tech. This will be the first time that there will not be a partnering set of camps sponsored by the UKV-EC, which is re-focusing more on economic development activities.

SALS has been designated by the Fayette County Board of Education as its community partner for a 21st Century Learning Center grant. SALS will also work with the New River Health Association in putting together the proposal that would provide after school youth programs at the Community Center and several county schools.

Debbie Spurlock passed the test to be a Housing Counselor. Congradulations! SALS now has three certified housing counselors counting Jennifer Hamm and Jackie Asbury.

As you can see, SALS continues its commitment to improve community access to decent housing and services in a way that empowers individuals and creates new leadership.



AmeriCorps members help Elkridge family stay dry

Learning by Doing

By April Waddell, VISTA

I worked on the SALS 25th Anniversary booklet that the Labor School distributed at the SALS Cultural Festival in May. I had to design and assemble the booklets. Now I'm working on a brochure for the WIA (Workforce Investment) program. Also, I worked on donations for the 25th Anniversary. We had a rafting trip, food, and other donations for the event. The rafting trip was raffled off. Then I drove for the Learn and Serve program and for Energy Express, a summer program for youth. I look forward to more later on.

Flood 2002

By Nicole Hurley, AmeriCorps/VISTA

Thursday, May 2, 2002, less than a year since last year's flooding, another flood hit McDowell County. The folks in McDowell were in shock because they had to rebuild their lives all over. They also had a mine pond overflow. If you ever worked in the mines you'd know what that black slurry sludge is like. We asked people who were hit by the flood of 2001 (and missed by this one) if they would like to collect cleaning supplies for the new flood victims in McDowell and other counties that were flooded.

Green Thumb - Experience Works

by Vickie Mullins, AmeriCorps/VISTA

The newest addition to the SALS Building is Carolyn Crowder, working with the Green Thumb Program. Called Green Thumb/Experience Works, the program provides training and employment to seniors 55 and older. It places qualifying individuals in the fields of: nutrition, healthcare, public works, recreation, transportation, housing, social services, employment, environmental quality, education and others. Judy Prater is the field operations assistant for our area. She came down to the SALS center and interviewed Ms Crowder, helped her with the paperwork, and a few weeks later, Ms Crowder was working with

us to answer the telephone and do other tasks. She works twenty hours a week. The program gives Ms. Crowder a chance to venture out, socialize, and earn some extra money while helping at our community center. We look forward to having more "Green Thumbs" at the Southern Appalachian Labor School.

Energy Express 2002

By Vickie Mullins, AmeriCorps/VISTA

Energy Express is a six-week summer reading and nutrition program that started at SALS August 9th. AmeriCorps members served as mentors with the kids for the whole time.

Brenda Winter and Kathryn South along with Kinery McKneal interviewed and selected the site coordinator and AmeriCorps/VISTA mentors. To get children to sign up, AmeriCorps/VISTA workers took applications to all the local schools. Flyers were also on bulletin boards and notices sent to the newspapers. Energy Express serves kids K-5th grade. Children must have completed kindergarten before going to Energy Express. AmeriCorps/VISTA members also helped the coordination and mentors with paperwork. This is one of the best summer programs sponsored by WVU in the area. In fact the SALS site is the only one in Fayette County and the only site located in a community center. All other locations in WV operate from grade schools. SALS works hard every year to make sure this quality program is available so children throughout the area can receive nutrition and reading help during the summer.



Mackensie on the merry-go-round is holding a sign saying "Time spent with children is never wasted."

Congratulations and Best Wishes for Another Twenty-Five Years

*Dear John and the Many People of the Southern
Appalachian Labor School,*

You'all have done so much good work, to educate and organize for better conditions and a better world. From the early Labor Union History classes, to environmental health and safety and worker's rights — from Housing and YouthBuild, to summer and school programs, from Black Lung organizing and the fight for the right to social services, to AmeriCorps and life experience and workshops for college students. You'all have been truly amazing.

While we are sorry that we are unable to be there with you today, we share your celebrations and achievements. You play an important role in waking people up and education for change. John, you have been a wonder - to keep so many programs funded and moving.

We wish you'all the best celebration and the best future.

*David Greene & Janet Gamble Greene,
Founding Faculty Members of S.A.L.S.*

Letter to Kathryn and John:

Just a quick hello. I wanted to let you know Courtney and I won't be coming to Beards Fork this summer. I say this with mixed emotion. We decided to volunteer for 3 weeks in Xi'an China. I'm realizing it won't be very long before she won't want to be spending her summer free time with me anymore. So I'm trying to broaden her horizons while she still wants to vacation with me instead of her friends.

The mixed emotions part comes because I found my two weeks in Beards Fork to be personally very rewarding. Just last night I had another phone call from a woman from Florida who was interested in going to Beards Fork in June with her two teenage sons. Global Volunteers gives out my name as a reference. Every time I get off the phone after talking to a prospective applicant, I reminisce about the experiences Courtney and I had there.

There are two primary elements that made Beards Fork truly rewarding to me. The first was working with the Youth Build workers. Each summer there

were 4-5 youths whom I would work closely with all week. Even though I came with a lot of carpentry skills, I realized I could learn a lot from them - in many ways. The best was to see the smiles on their faces after I would give them bits of positive feedback on the work they were doing. If my only mark on the trip was to make a youth build worker feel good about him/herself for a brief moment, it was worth it.

The second element was working with you, the SALS staff. You have a great way of allowing the volunteers to jump into your multifaceted operation of helping the community improve itself. Please don't lose this trait. It really allows us volunteers to meet and work with the staff and community, allows us to feel we can contribute, and allows us to feel appreciated. Not all host volunteer organizations can do this. You do it well.

I suspect I'll be back. We have a son who will be 13 next summer. After hearing how much fun his sister had in Beards Fork, he's ready to follow her footsteps.

Sincerely, Joe Mario

SALS Board Member Receives Environmental Award

Tom Bass recently received a "Rewards and Recognitions" award from WV DEP Director Michael Callahan. The \$200 award and certificate was in recognition of his outstanding work on the Fairmont Coke Works site clean up project. This was the first Superfund site in the nation to be cleaned up under Project XL, an EPA initiative.

To complete the project, Bass worked with the EPA, Fairmont city officials, Exxon/Mobil, and local residents. His quick work resulted in the project being completed in half the normal time frame for a Superfund project, saving the state and federal governments time and money.

In addition, Bass secured \$2 million for site redevelopment to help bring the land back into productive use for Fairmont residents. Bass also negotiated \$500,000 in natural resources damages which can be used by DEP to help reestablish safe environmental conditions at the site. Tom is an environmental resources specialist with the WV DEP Division of Waste Management. Congratulations Tom!

PLEASE HEAR WHAT I'M NOT SAYING

By **Mohamed Faheem Yusuf (age 17)**

From **South Africa**

Do not be fooled by me.

Don't be fooled by the face I wear.

For I wear a mask, a thousand masks,

Masks that I'm afraid to take off,

And none of them is me.

Pretending is an art that's second nature with me,

But don't be fooled.

I panic at the thought of my weakness and fear being
exposed.

That's why I frantically create a mask to hide behind, a

Nonchalant sophisticated facade,

To help me pretend,

To shield me from the glance that knows.

But such a glance is precisely my salvation.

My only hope and I know it.

That is, if it's followed by acceptance,

If it's followed by love.

It's the only thing that can liberate me from myself,
from my own

Self built prison walls,

From the barriers I so painstakingly erect.

It's the only thing that will assure me of what I can't

Assure myself.

That I'm really worth something.

But I don't tell you this. I don't dare.

I'm afraid to.

I'm afraid that your glance will not be followed by
acceptance,

Will not be followed by love.

I'm afraid that deep-down I'm nothing,

that I'm just no good

And that you will see this and reject me.

So I play my game, my desperate pretending game,

With a façade of assurance without

And a trembling child within.

So begins the glittering but empty parade of masks,

And my life becomes a front.

Do not be fooled by what I'm saying.

Please listen carefully and try to hear

what I am not saying,

What I would like to be able to say,

But what I can't say.

You've got to help me.

You've got to hold out our hand

Even if it's the last thing I seem to want.

Only you can wipe away from my eyes

The blank stare of the breathing dead.

Only you can call me into aliveness.

Each time you're kind and gently and encouraging,

Each time you try to understand

Because you really care,

My heart begins to grow wings,

Very small wings,

Very feeble wings!

But wings!

With your power to touch me into feeling

You can breathe life into me.

I want you to know that.

I want you to know how important you are to me,

How you can be a creator-an honest-to-God

Creator-of the

Person that is in me

If you choose to.

You alone can break down the wall,

Behind which I tremble,

You alone can remove the mask,

You alone can release me from my shadow-world of

Panic and uncertainty, from my lonely prison,

If you choose to

Please choose to. Do not pass me by.

It will be easy for you.

A long conviction of worthlessness builds strong walls.

The nearer you approach me

The blinder I may strike back.

It's irrational, but despite what the book says about
man, Often I am irrational.

I fight against the very thing that I cry out for.

But I am told that love is stronger than walls,

and in this Lies my hope.

Please try to beat down those walls

With firm hands

But with gentle hands

For a child is very sensitive.

Wellstone Pushes Bold, Decentralized Plan To Guarantee Health Care for All Americans

States Will Decide How to Provide Quality, Affordable Care for All Americans

(Washington, D.C.) — At a hearing of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee to look at why more than 40 million Americans lack health insurance, U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN) today called for Congress to guarantee all Americans the basic right to quality, affordable, and comprehensive health care coverage. Wellstone pressed his universal health care proposal to accomplish that goal, “The Health Security for All Americans Act” (S. 2888), which was introduced this summer and is endorsed by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the nation’s largest health care union with 1.4 million members.

“In this time of unparalleled economic prosperity, every American certainly ought to have the right to see a doctor when they need to, a doctor of their own choosing,” said Wellstone. **“It is high time that the right to quality, comprehensive health care become a reality for all Americans, regardless of their wealth or income. And it is time that all Americans be free from the fear of catastrophic illness wiping them out financially or of being denied the care they need.”**

Wellstone’s Health Security for All Americans Act is designed to reach the goal of universal health care coverage by allowing states to decide how to provide affordable and comprehensive health care coverage for all Americans. The proposal insures the uninsured, guarantees affordable health care by limiting out-of-pocket expenses, provides comprehensive care by guaranteeing a minimum benefit package equal to that enjoyed by Members of Congress, and ensures the quality of care benefits by providing strong patient protections.

“The health insurance industry, using all of its clout and its legions of lobbyists, took universal health care off the nation’s agenda. But with this proposal, and with the grass-roots power of organized working men and women throughout the country, we are going to put health care for all Americans back on the agenda,” Wellstone said.

“Our plan tells states and governors to choose their way to universal coverage, and then backs up that promise with the federal support necessary to help get them there. This plan is both decentralized and comprehensive,” said Wellstone. **“We insist on minimum standards – the same ones members of Congress enjoy. We set the national goal of quality, affordable, comprehensive, universal coverage, but we invite the states to tailor it to the needs of their people. This approach is flexible, but we do not give up on the principle that every American has a right to affordable, dignified health care.”**

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Editor’s Note: This was one of the last releases Senator Paul Wellstone did only a few weeks before his untimely death in a plane crash in October. It engenders all of the fight for what is right that made Wellstone the conscience of the Senate, nay the whole government. He will be sorely missed, especially in this time of conservative domination of American politics.

Wellstone Stood Up for Little Guy

By Jesse Jackson

Reprinted from Dec. 1st issue of *Progressive Populist* –
www.populist.com

When Sen. Paul Wellstone voted against the rush to war in Iraq, he knew it would be used against him in his pitched battle to retain his Senate seat. He voted his principles anyway. When Paul filibustered against the bankruptcy bill that would make it easier for credit card companies to collect from families in distress, he knew that the credit card companies had lavished money on senators in both parties and that he would fight virtually alone. He fought for what was right anyway.

After his vote against the Iraqi war resolution, a group called MoveOn.org sent out an e-mail to its list, asking people to contribute to Paul and a handful of other legislators in tough races who had voted against the war. Overnight, they raised more than \$1 million - tens of thousands of small contributors had responded to help keep Paul in the Senate. They saw him as their champion.

That same weekend, one of the many business fronts in this election – ‘Americans for Job Security’ announced it would buy \$1 million in ads against Paul in the next two weeks. The big business interests knew that he fought for workers, for family farmers, for the poor against entrenched corporate interests. They saw him, correctly, as their nemesis.

I came to know Paul when he was chairman of my 1988 presidential campaign in Minnesota. He was a professor then, and a bundle of energy and enthusiasm, organizing and exhorting, constantly on the move, optimistic and utterly committed. In that effort, he built the statewide network that enabled him to win his Senate seat in a remarkable upset against a much better funded opponent in 1990.

Paul had little interest in money and little money to be interested in. He was intensely interested in ideas, in making America better, in fighting for the concerns that his neighbors in Minnesota talked about over their morning coffee. **In two terms in Washington, he never got fancy, never went national on them, never forgot who sent him there to fight for them.**

In 1996, when Bill Clinton decided to cave in to the indefensible Gingrich assault on poor women known as “welfare reform” - most Democrats’ went

along. Like Clinton, they knew the bill was mean and harsh, but feared the political consequences of standing against it. They heard the warnings of Clinton’s pollsters that Republican gibes about welfare mothers would hurt electorally.

Paul was up for re-election and facing another tough race. But he couldn’t stomach what was in the bill - the poor mothers and children who would be hurt, the immigrants who would be locked out, the big lie that poor mothers were luxuriating on welfare. He couldn’t bear that mothers going to work would lose their health care, get little help for training, transportation or child care. He voted against, and Republicans assailed him in the election, as he knew they would.

But in Minnesota - as in so much of America if any leader would give the people the chance - voters respected Paul even when they disagreed with him. They knew he cared and he voted for what he believed.

In this age of poll-driven, cynical politics, Paul Wellstone was special.

He would fight for the little guy, even against the president of his own party. He would argue for justice, even when he knew his colleagues’ minds were already closed. **He knew that true leaders mold opinion, they do not follow it.**

It is tragic that Paul and Sheila perished together, and with their beloved daughter. Tragic, but not surprising. Paul and Sheila were inseparable, with a marriage and a commitment that is rare in America, and almost extinct in Washington. He suffered more pain than he let on from the wrestling injuries that nearly crippled him. She would watch him, try to get him to rest, even as she urged him to keep pushing. They were not fancy, but they were truly fine.

Paul worked across the aisle on issues such as mental health and violence against women. But it was his very independence, his willingness to stand up against the business lobbies, against the money, against the pollsters and. argue for what he thought was right that made him so very special. He brought a true decency to a profession that has become ever more shabby. For that we will all remember him. And for that we will all miss him terribly.:

Good night, my friend. “May flights of angels sing thee to thy sleep.”

WV on the Road to Clean Elections

by Julie Archer, WV Citizen Action
reprinted from WV Environmental Council Newsletter

Thanks to the work of the People's Election Reform Coalition, the West Virginia Clean Elections Act was introduced this year's legislature. Modeled after laws in Maine, Arizona, Vermont and Massachusetts, the West Virginia Clean Elections Act would establish a voluntary alternative to the current system of funding political campaigns. Legislative and gubernatorial candidates could qualify for public funding by agreeing to limit their spending and reject all private donations.

Citizens for Clean Elections, a new coalition of groups (including SALS) and individuals formed this spring to promote Clean Money election reform in West Virginia. Citizens for Clean Elections held a candidate forum on October 15th at Christ Church United Methodist in Charleston. The forum started with the showing "On the Road to Clean Elections," a video narrated by journalist Bill Moyers, highlighting the success of Clean Elections in Maine and Arizona. Invited candidates were asked to respond to the video and share their thoughts on the Clean Elections alternative.

If you would like more information on the West Virginia Clean Elections Act or to find out what you can do to help promote meaningful election reform in WV contact Citizens for Clean Elections at (304) 522-0246 or (304) 346-5891.

House Republicans, Bush Leave Unemployed in the Lurch

from www.AFLCIO.org

Leaving hundreds of thousands of workers behind as the holiday season approached, leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives sent members home for the year Nov. 22 without extending emergency unemployment benefits. Their failure to act means 830,000 jobless workers who had been receiving these benefits won't be getting them anymore after Dec. 28.

The Republican-led House adjourned without passing a bipartisan Senate bill that would have extended the emergency benefits for three more months.

"Neglecting the opportunity to boost the flailing economy with emergency benefits for families who need the money and would spend the money is irresponsible," said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. Worse, said Sweeney, was President George W. Bush's silence as working families continue to suffer. The House Republicans' neglect was a "Scrooge-like gesture," said Sweeney, "without so much as a call for action from the Bush administration."

Members of Congress turning their backs on unemployed workers after "sneaking a \$2 billion gift for drug companies into the Homeland Security bill and agreeing to provide as much as \$100 billion to help out insurance companies in the event of future terrorist attacks is just plain mean-spirited and perverse," Sweeney said.

In addition to the 830,000 workers who will stop receiving benefits Dec. 28, some 95,000 jobless workers will run out of state unemployment benefits each week and be left without jobs or temporary federal unemployment assistance, according to an analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. By the end of March, a total of 2.1 million jobless workers who would have received temporary benefits under the Senate bill will be without aid.

The House Republicans' inaction harms workers such as Jo-Anne Hurlston, 47, who lost her job in June. Hurlston told *The Washington Post* she has mustered just two job interviews in the past five months and now lives with her mother. Her unemployment benefits will be cut off at the end of the year. "I don't even want to truly think about it," she told the *Post*. "I have a 12-year old [daughter] to support."

Coalfield Housing Project Applications now being accepted

By Jackie Asbury, Field Coordinator

On October 9th, 2002 the new SALS/Lifebridge AmeriCorps members attended the Swearing-in Ceremony at the state capitol. Governor Bob Wise led the pledge with new members from all across the state.

SALS/Lifebridge Coalfield Housing project will now continue until March 2004. **Applications are now being accepted for several AmeriCorps openings.** To apply contact LifeBridge at 100 United Way Square, Charleston, WV 25301 340-3500 or SALS at Box 127 Kincaid, WV 25119, 779-2280 or 779-2772.

Group Work Camps Will Return to Upper Kanawha Valley

By Jackie Asbury, Housing Director

Group Work Camps will be back in the Summer of 2003 to repair, build porches and paint homes in the area within 30 minutes of WVU-Tech. This is where 800 volunteers will return for two weeks in July and August. Site work-ups will start in January so any families in the thirteen communities in the region that have homes in need of minor repairs please contact Jackie Asbury at 442-3042 or Debbie Spurlock at 779-2280 or 779-2772

Preparing for Group Workcamp 2002

By Debora Spurlock, AmeriCorps USA

Early this year was the time to plan for the arrival of the Group Workcamp Program again. We started screening families for home repairs in the middle of January. Out of the 134 families who applied for the program, 123 were approved to have their homes repaired in July. Due to the extent of some of the repairs two work crews were needed for 19 of these homes. Much time and effort went into completing these applications. After determining what repairs were most needed, measurements were required and a materials list had to be included with the completed, signed application. Then complete directions with exact mileage had to be drawn up for all 134 sites.

Estimates were made on how many workdays would be needed to complete the job. Included in this



Governor Wise with our AmeriCorps Members

part of the estimate were the skill levels needed to complete the work and a total cost had to be determined. Finally a coded site number was assigned to the project which informed the reader of the town, number of crews, and priority of the project.

All of this had to be done by mid-March when two representatives came from Group Workcamps to go over our applications. After on-site reviews the paperwork was sent to the Workcamp office in Colorado.

I also attended the Homebuyers Education training in Charleston Feb. 4-8. After four days of classes I passed the test with a 91%! Now I am a certified Housing Counselor and I look forward to use what I've learned to help families achieve the honor of becoming a homeowner.

Housing Notes

By Vickie Smith, Construction Coordinator

Ron Yellets is supervising and monitoring two to three work sites. Chad Evins, Jeremy Johnson, and Adam Barnett coordinated the Gauley Bridge site. The work is now complete and a family was in this home by summer. Chad did an excellent job supervising the site in Ron's absence, and he provides an excellent role model and example for the crew members. The purchaser is in her eighties and seems very content with the progress on her new home.

Terry Black, "Master Crew Leader" is supervising the completion of one of the manufactured homes at Page. Terry seems to get along with crew and has a well-rounded knowledge of most phases of construction. Thus far Ron is Pleased with his performance.

Presently, Jason Davis and Brian Martin have been helping Jack Clark, a commercial manufactured housing mover, prepare property for the arrival of a new donated manufactured home. Again Ron is pleased with the progress that Jason and Brian are making.

Ron's job presently consists of monitoring each job site on a frequent basis, running supplies, providing instruction, dealing with discipline problems, and taking care of errands for the construction coordinator, yours truly. Other crew members not mentioned are Peggy Davis, Michelle Walker, and Joe Smith; in addition to YouthBuilders Geoffry Thomas, Steven Cooper, and Josh Persinger.

Supreme Court Rules DHHR Unfair in Welfare Lawsuit

SALS files Amicus Brief

The State Supreme Court considered a class action lawsuit filed in April on behalf of West Virginia families cut off from welfare benefits after receiving cash assistance for 60 months. The only justice to dissent from the Court's decision was Justice Elliott Maynard.

The suit, filed by attorney Larry Harless, argues that West Virginia's Constitution obligates the State to provide needy families with the "subsistence necessary for their basic well-being and survival in a humane manner." The suit also questions whether the due process rights of families who have requested an extension to the 60 month time limit on welfare benefits have been violated by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' (DHHR) current extension review policy.

The WV WORKS Extension Committee reports that only 27 families have been granted a one time extension of up to six months out of 206 families that requested an extension. A total of 556 families had received letters informing them of their approach to the 60 month time limit and informing them of the procedures to request an extension.

Under federal welfare legislation, up to 20 percent of a state's current welfare caseload can be receive cash assistance past the 60 month time limit under a 'hardship clause'. Based on West Virginia's caseload at the time the lawsuit was filed, that would mean close to 3,000 families could continue to receive cash assistance if needed.

A number of organizations, including SALS, filed an "amicus curiae", or friend of the court briefs, in support of the lawsuit. In addition to SALS, the Coalition for West Virginia's Children, the Direct Action Welfare Group, the United Mine Workers and AFL-CIO, and the State's Attorney General, Darrell McGraw, also filed amicus curiae briefs.

Many of the briefs express concern for the children in families cut off from cash assistance by DHHR. In West Virginia, as is the case nationally, approximately two-thirds of welfare recipients are children. The lawsuit notes that "more than 1,000 persons, nearly 700 of them children have already been

abruptly cut off their family assistance."

Interestingly, six states already have chosen to continue financial aid to children once the 60 month time limit has been reached.

In a Mid-December ruling, the Supreme Court directed DHHR to develop a fairer procedure for evaluating assistance extensions even while denying the constitutional claim. This was a win for families and a substantiation of the unfairness of Department policy. We'll be monitoring Departmental compliance with the Court's order.

Grant Leads to Showings of Coal Truck Outlaw

A grant from the WV Humanities Council to SALS will allow several WV educators to travel around the state to provide community viewings of Appalshop's new film Coal Bucket Outlaw. The film follows several Kentucky coal haulers with candid interviews and footage. This comes at a time when the WV legislature will be returning to take a fresh look at the long term problem in WV of overweight coal trucks.

The community showings will be accompanied by a discussion of the film and its relation to the controversial publicity policy issue before us. At this time the schedule is being drafted. If you want to help sponsor a viewing in your community contact John David at 304 442-3157 or Gary Zuckett at 304-542-8080.



SALS VISTA member Bonita Johnson sings with the Brown Singers at the Community for All celebration

VIEWPOINT

Community service day

West Virginians can

SATURDAY promises to be a day of many interesting activities. Throughout the nation, it will be observed as "Make A Difference Day." In West Virginia, multigenerational volunteers will donate a day of service in a variety of community projects. In Fayette County, for example, young adults with programs at the Southern Appalachian Labor School will construct wheelchair ramps, provide senior services and clean up the environment.

Also in Fayette County on that day will be another significant event. Several weeks ago, local residents affiliated with the West Virginia Rainbow Coalition, New River Health Association and the

JOHN DAVID



Southern Appalachian Labor School came together to plan an event that promotes tolerance and cultural diversity.

The event, which since has been endorsed by the Town of Fayetteville, Fayette County Commission and other civic, civil rights and faith-based organizations, is designed to send a message that Fayette County is "A Community

The main event will be an open-air picnic and celebration at the Fayetteville Town Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For All," in contrast to a rally the same day that promotes hate and white supremacy.

The "Community for All" message is that :

"As residents of Fayette County, we promise to work for a community where tolerance and diversity flourish. We seek a community where all people, regardless of creed or color, can enjoy comfort and well-being. Our eco-

'Make a Difference' on Saturday

nomic and social future require nothing less. We want to be known as A Community For All."

As noted by Fayetteville Mayor Jim Murdock, "We are proud of our community as a place where all people of good will live or visit in security and comfort. That is who we really are and that is the image we want to broadcast."

Posters with the "Community For All" banner and graphic are appearing by the hundreds throughout Fayetteville in businesses, homes and offices.

The main event will be an open-air picnic and celebration at the Fayetteville Town Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Performers include the Gospel Lighthouse

Choir from Beckley, the Brown Singers of Montgomery and Fayetteville musicians Gary Reynolds and Ralph Chambers, along with their friends. Speakers will include Mayor Jim Murdock, Fayette County Commission President John Witt, West Virginia author and historian Denise Giardina and officers of the West Virginia Rainbow Coalition and the West Virginia NAACP.

The organizers of the event have also made copies available at the Fayetteville Public Library of "Not In Our Town." This PBS piece tells the story of how citizens in Billings, Mont., joined together to prevent hate crimes and promote tolerance.

Saturday also will bring to-

gether many people, including busloads of West Virginians, in Washington, D.C., for a peace march against the looming war with Iraq. The protest will revive memories of Vietnam demonstrations and bring to the forefront the human and economic consequences of another war.

None of these events will end Saturday. Making a difference with community service will become increasingly significant. The importance of "A Community For All" will become more necessary. And the struggle for peace will become increasingly essential for life itself.

Dr. David, a professor at WVU Tech, is one of the Gazette's contributing columnists.



Health Care for All Conference Focus on Building Alliances

by Gary Zuckett

The 2002 UHCAN (Universal Health Care Action Network) national conference, co-sponsored by SALS, was held near Baltimore in November. Health care justice folks from across the nation gathered to discuss “building strategic alliances for health care for all.” Representatives of the faith community, labor, health providers, students, and health care justice organizations pooled resources and strategy to build momentum for a truly universal health care system in our nation.

Universal coverage is needed now more than ever as more and more Americans are losing their health coverage due to layoffs and down-sizing. The Census Bureau now estimates 41.2 million of us lack insurance, an increase of 2.5 million over their 2000 figures. According to David Himmelstein, MD, a member of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) and Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard, “Despite the economic boom of the 1990’s and massive expansions of Medicaid and the CHIP program, we’ve been losing ground on Health insurance. Between 1991 and 2001 the number of uninsured rose by 8.5 million,

and by 18 million since 1980. Health costs are soaring, and additional millions have lost job-based coverage this year. Only national health insurance can save our failing health care system.”

US Representative Donna Christian-Christiensen, Chair of the Health Care Brain Trust of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), gave the keynote address on “creating a national commitment to universal health care in 2003-4.” Members of the CBC such as Rep John Conyers, lead sponsor HCR99 - the Universal Health Care Access Resolution, have been leaders in the congressional push to address our nations health care crisis.

As a new national board member of UHCAN, I was asked to facilitate a Sunday morning workshop on “Fighting cutbacks in Medicaid and tax cuts at the state level.” Participants agreed that the fight to maintain Medicaid coverage against rollbacks is essential to the broader fight for universal coverage. Losing ground on Medicaid coverage will make the goal of health care for all that much harder to achieve.

We all left the conference with renewed energy to organize and collaborate for universal coverage by discovering new collaborators in our states and building strategic alliances with them and other established groups.

Southern Appalachian Labor School - Who We Are

**SALS Community Center: 800-515-1349,
304-779-2772, or 779-2280**

AmeriCorps/WVU-Tech: 304-442-3042

Construction Coordinator: 304-469-9721

John David, Director - 304-442-3157

Web: www.sals.info

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John Wroten	Youth Build Trainer/Supervisor
George Hensley, Sr	Youth Build Trainer/Assistant
Vicki Mullins	AmeriCorps VISTA
Nicole Hurley	AmeriCorps VISTA
April Waddel	AmeriCorps VISTA
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Share Program

Bob Friley

Bookkeeping Team

Valarie Cowley, Ruth Lanham
Tom Bass, Brenda Winter

* Indicates members of the SALS Leadership Team



Yes, in these difficult times I understand the importance of an organization like the Southern Appalachian Labor School. Enclosed is my contribution to keep your essential work on track and moving forward..

Contributions to SALS are Tax deductible: Mail to SALS POB 127, Kincaid, WV 25119

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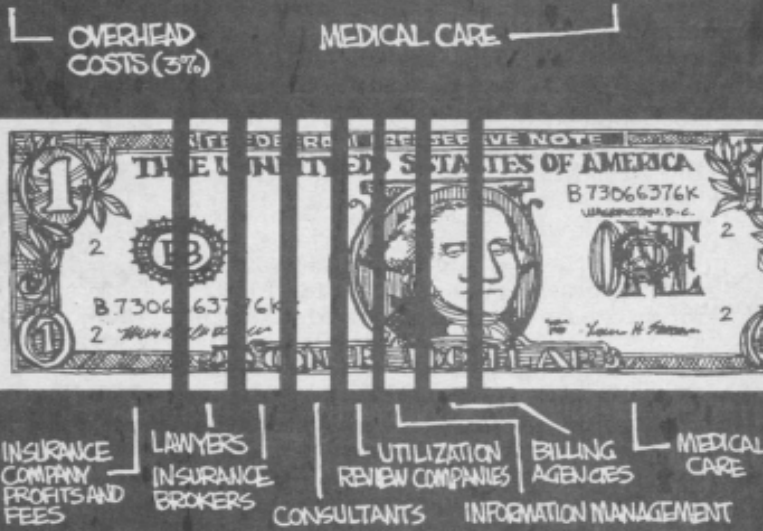
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SALS engages in solitication for the purpose of acquiring funds to support the Southern Appalachian Labor School. WV residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents for the Sec. of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

A tale of two health care dollars...

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SOCIETY FOR
POLITICAL
INTELLIGENCE
TRAINING MEDIA SERVICES

HOW A
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DOLLAR
IS SPENT:



HOW OUR
MARKET-
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HEALTH
CARE
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A SOCIALIST, CAN
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HAVE TO WAIT
UNTIL WE'RE 65
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