

S.A.L.S. JOURNAL

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Flood Relief Continues

By Jackie Asbury Wroten, DREAP Project Director

Nicholas County Community Action Council is now sending area workers to SALS for flood relief efforts under a program called DREAP (Disaster Relief Emergency Assistance Program). SALS currently has thirty-three workers for twenty-six weeks to help assist families that were affected by the flood. Four of the workers are helping at the Community Center and the others are on various job sites building new homes for the low-income families. We are the largest organization that Nicholas County has been able to find to place these workers. The program will be a great boost to our relief efforts directed to getting families who lost their homes into new up-to-code housing. Thanks goes to Nicholas County Community Action!



Aftermath: Many are still recovering from last summer's flooding. This mobile home floated downstream in July, coming to rest against bridge near Kincaid in Fayette county.

Make A Difference Day

Vickie Mullins, AmeriCorps/VISTA

Make A Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. This year's Make A Difference Day was October 27th. It's a most encompassing national day of helping others - a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors - created by USA Weekend Magazine. Everyone can participate. For Make A Difference Day this year the Southern Appalachian Labor School received a \$500.00 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation.

All of the programs under the Southern Appalachian Labor School's umbrella assisted in Make A Difference Day.

Our YouthBuild program collaborated with the DREAP Program to make a difference by building a wheel chair ramp at Mrs. Jeffries house, finishing up repairs at the Waddell's home (which was damaged by the July Flood), cleaning a vacant lot at Page for a flood replacement home, and picking up trash at the Beards Fork Center.

Several of our YouthBuild members decided to work together to make a difference. Peggy Davis and Michelle Walker cleaned the Baptist Church at Lochgelly. Terry Black and Jason Davis cleaned outside a residents home which was damaged by the flood in Page Bottom. Lunch was donated by Domino's Pizza in Oak Hill.

AmeriCorps USA, AmeriCorps Vista, DREAP, YouthBuild, and MIHOW/School Day Plus participated in a Coat & Clothing Give-Away. The event was held at the SALS community building in Beards Fork. Over forty residents were served by this project. Charlene Newkirk coordinator of School Day Plus and a MIHOW worker in Fayette County, gave out formula, diapers, baby food, and information on nutrition and child care- Proceeds from the WalMart grant were used for refreshments, wool blankets, and other door prizes.

A special thanks to YouthBuild members Missy Tincher and Amy Williams for organizing the clothes and helping with the building of a coat rack. AmeriCorps members Joyce Brown and April Waddel assisted these young women on this project. Without the help of these hard-working women we couldn't have had a successful event!

Tale of Two States

by Gary Zuckett, SALS Enviro/Health Justice Coordinator

Let's redefine "Homeland Security." Items needed for our citizens to *really* feel secure are things like – Living-wage jobs, Universal Health Care and a clean, safe environment. Universal Health Care (UHC) is probably the most important for real security.

Some folks aren't waiting for the Homeland Security team to figure out that health care is a human right and should be provided to all. They are now preparing Universal Health Care plans in their home states of Maine and Maryland.

There are several paths to the goal of providing all citizens with health care coverage. The main differences are how it's paid for. Given the economies of scale, if only one entity in the state were the sole purchaser of health coverage for all citizens this would create the largest "pool" of "covered lives" (to use industry jargon) and would be most economical for many reasons.

This "Single Payer" of services to keep our home folks healthy would have extraordinary purchasing power to negotiate lower drug prices, fair hospital fees, and other provider services. Assuming this "payer" was also set up as a not-for-profit state agency, we might expect to receive the most health coverage for the least amount of money spent.

Multimillion-dollar CEO salaries, stock profits, advertising costs, and mountains of paperwork would have no place in this system. And guess what? Every actuarial study of "Single Payer" health insurance has found this system would provide the most health care for the least cost (including the study done for WV by Governor Caperton's "Health Security Commission" during the heyday of the Clinton Health Plan). Caperton, with financial roots firmly in the insurance industry, was not impressed. (Clinton's plan, by the way, was a Rube Goldberg assemblage of many misfitted parts, not an efficient Single Payer setup).

The problem with Single Payer is that it steps on a lot of powerful toes. Big feet like the insurance, drug, HMO and medical industries howl when such health care plans are proposed to benefit the patients instead of their pocket-book. Some critics mistakenly label it socialized medicine, which it isn't. What it could be called is Social Health Insurance, an extension of our Social Security System.

Just how threatening any change of the status quo is to the fat cats who pocket health care profits is demonstrated by the lengths they'll go to keep things the same. Historical case in point was the multimillion-dollar, nationwide smear campaign against Clinton's effort to restructure health coverage. "Harry and Louise," those fictional homebodies brought to you by the Health Insurance Assoc.

of America peered out of every TV screen in the country. They voiced fears of how faceless government bureaucrats were going to be making our health decisions instead of our doctors if the Clinton plan passed. The total irony of that ploy is we now have faceless HMO insurance company hacks telling our doctors what health services they can give us. Give me elected officials over HMO penny pinchers any day.

Coming into the present, the people of Maine are now in a life and death battle with the insurance lobby over a new state Single Payer proposal moving through their legislature. In a non-binding city referendum vote in Portland last month the insurance industry, led by Anthem Blue Cross pumped 1.2 million dollars into defeating a resolution supporting the state's Single Payer Commission (which is mandated to discover a plan to cover all resident's with state-financed health insurance).

The Maine People's Alliance, a grassroots group with 18,000 members across the state, led a coalition that was outspent 50-to-one in its support of the Portland referendum. Portland voters believed the citizen group and the issue passed by a modest margin, a big win for the people. Maine's bill is the most progress a Single Payer proposal has made in our country so far. This David vs. Goliath struggle will continue as their Commission prepares its plan and the Maine legislature then takes it up. . A New York Times article on 11/16 covering the fight stated "A vote in Portland, Me., may forecast a new national health care debate." It's about time!

Organizing for UHC in Maryland is taking a different form. Maryland Citizen's Health Initiative (www.HealthCareForAll.com) has assembled an impressive broad-based coalition. They started out with a general set of universal principles instead of a single payer proposal. After assembling their coalition of over 2100 local and state-wide groups, they began sorting out a plan that a majority of the group could support. As a result they have a multi-layered plan that includes both quasi-public and private components to cover all Marylander's health care needs. The group is now in an intense public awareness campaign that will go on through next year

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Director's Report

by John David

SALS has been selected as a site for the Disaster Relief Emergency Assistance Program (DREAP). Administered through Nicholas County Community Action, approximately 35 workers have been placed with us.

Board Member Tom Bass was selected by the EPA to be part of a special assignment in checking out key federal government buildings for anthrax.

The Fayette County Commission received a flood relief grant that was partially allocated to SALS for assisting families locate adequate housing.

The YouthBuild project was renewed for a fifth consecutive cycle. Although the grant was the smallest to date, it was the same as awarded to other rural projects.

The WV Commission for Community and National Service approved continuation of the SALS Coalfield Housing Project with the condition that Life Bridge be the grantee.

Lennart Billstrom, a friend of SALS and an European financial consultant for major multinationals, spent several days with us reviewing our financial systems and making a report for upgrading processes.

SALS has received numerous modest donations from individuals, churches, and other entities for flood relief work. The funds were helpful and appreciated.

SALS personnel have attended numerous training sessions sponsored by the WV Housing Development Fund, WV Commission for Community and National Service, WV Council of Churches, Community Works, YouthBuild USA, and similar organizations.

We have received two batches of donated computers, one from American Electric Power and the other through the Upper Kanawha Valley Enterprise Community.

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Fifth Home Dedicated in Page

SALS Housing dedicated another new home in the New Page Development on December 7, 2001. Kenneth Fox, Chair of the Public Improvement Council for Kincaid and Upper Page (PICK-UP) presented the keys for the home, dubbed Page 5, to Michelle Stewart and her family. Margaret Black, owner of Page 4, passed on the candle light which will kept lit for future homeowners (photo pg. four).

Those present included YouthBuild, WIA, Ameri-Corps, and DREAP participants, along with the SALS staff. Other guests included Guy Dooley (United National Bank), Mary Skeens/Steve Bailey (WV Housing Development Fund), Matthew Wender (Fayette County Commissioner), Phillip Miles (Community Works), and President Karen LaRoe/Mike Neese (WVU-Tech). A special letter was read

from Congressman Nick Joe Rahall (see text). Refreshments were arranged by the SALS VISTAs, who also presented special housewarming gifts to the new homeowner.

Two remaining homes in the initial New Page Development - houses 6 and 7, are nearly ready as well. SALS Housing has already moved to the adjacent development, where additional homes are underway near the modular units already in place.



Kennet Fox (left) presents keys to Michelle Stewart & family as WVU-Tech president Karen LaRoe (right) observes ceremony.

Letter from Congressman Rahall

Dear Friends:

"Peace and rest at length have come / All the day's long toil is past," wrote the poet Thomas Hood. "And each heart is whispering, 'Home / Home at last.'" The houses at New Page make this sweet sentiment a reality for West Virginia families.

America is the land of opportunities. But we all could use some help as we take our first steps on the road to seizing them. Youth Build can provide those critical skills. The students learn a lifelong trade and earn a high school diploma. As these youthful builders prepare for their future, their labors create a home for a family in need. It is the essence of community, of the values that West Virginians hold dear.

The construction of a new, first home should always be celebrated, especially when completed so close to the Holidays, I thank the Southern Appalachian Labor School and its mar~ supporters for making the New Page community possible, and honor those who study and work in Youth Build for turning dreams into bricks and mortar.

But most of all, I congratulate Michelle Stewart on this special day. I hope that this house will quickly become a home, a place where you and your family will always find peace and rest.

*With warm regard and best Holiday wishes, I am
Sincerely, NICK J. RAHALL, II Member of Congress*

AmeriCorps Activities

by Jackie Asbury Wroten, SALS AmeriCorps Project Director

The AmeriCorps program has just about completed it's current one year term. Five members completed their term in October. Three out of the five have gone on to become DREAP workers and one has signed on with WIA. Three others AmeriCorps members will finish soon and hopefully one will become DREAP and the other Two will become WIA. We are currently in negotiations with LifeBridge to continue the AmeriCorps Program here at SALS. That could mean that twelve people might have an opportunity to apply for new AmeriCorps positions soon.

by April Waddell - AmeriCorps/VISTA

I have been giving the YouthBuild, WIA, and DREAP tests every Thursday to see how members have been doing with the training from the job sites and to see which ones need more help. I also helped with "Make a Difference Day" by helping organize a coat and clothing giveaway. I have helped in the housing department by getting pictures of homes that they will be doing work on. Taking photos of houses we are working on is to help get our paperwork complete for the housing projects.

I have been giving the Safety test on the days we have safety meetings and the Construction test on the days of the staff meetings. These tests are then graded and put into the members folders so they can see what progress they have made and what areas they need to work on.

At the Make a Difference Day coat and clothes giveaway , we helped families that needed warm clothing and served refreshments. We also gave out door prizes. Lots of families turned out for the event.

by Bonita Johnson, AmeriCorps/VISTA

Doing volunteer work for SALS has taught me a great deal. I've learned to use the computer and work with the children to get a reading package and help them do their homework. Also I'm trying to get another School Day Plus program started in the area of Powellton and Kimberly.

We've also contacted Linda Rhodes in an effort to get a senior program going at the SALS Community Center.

I love working with SALS. I'm always learning something new from the leadership and the rest of my teammates.



Margarte Black passes the light to new homeowner Michelle Stewart in 12/7 housewarming at New Page.

Letters to SALS

Dear John (David),

Thank you for allowing us to help with the flood relief efforts. SALS is a very diverse and positive organization and it has been our pleasure to get to know its staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries. This experience has been unique and we hope that we have contributed as much as we have learned. This flooding has been a learning experience and we appreciate the efforts you took to make our stay a good one.

Thanks again,

The members of AmeriCorps NCCC

Tale, continued from page two

and culminate in a legislative push in 2003. (See the Universal Health Care Action Network's web page www.uhcan.org for details on this and Maine too.)

This "tale of two states" is far from over. Both have ambitious goals in the coming year. Both will be engaging the faith, labor, social service and other communities in support of the needed goal to make health care a human right and a part of citizenship as it is in the rest of the industrial democracies of the world.

Universal Health Care not just a humanitarian cause, its good for the economy. Employers would have a level playing field if all workers were covered. Labor unions would have less need to strike since health benefits are cause for many labor disputes. Hospitals and doctors would get paid for all services rendered when everyone has insurance. Considering the economic state of many WV Hospitals this would be a big plus. Most important of all, medical bankruptcy, a condition unheard of in progressive democracies with UHC, would end. Right now over a third of our nations individual bankruptcies are driven by large unpaid medical bills.

West Virginia should begin a process like Maryland, bringing together a broad cross-section of citizens to discover a mechanism by which we can provide universal, comprehensive, affordable health care. Governor Wise's best legacy for our state could be to retire with health care provided for all. How about it Gov?

Youth Summit in Philadelphia

by Kathryn South, YouthBuild Project Director

As SALS YouthBuild Director, I was invited to be a team member at the Mid-Atlantic Youth Summit which was held at King of Prussia, PA in October.

Each team was divided into small groups of 10-15 people from various programs from regions all over the mid-Atlantic area. I was on a team from Region I with others on the RESA board. Ideas were exchanged, problems were discussed as to why youth are finding it so difficult to find and keep decent paying jobs.

Several of our youth have transferred to the Work for an Investment Act program. The program links youth with training to help with keeping our youth employed and hopefully, stay in the state.

A plan of action included a Youth Summit in WV to bring what was learned and discussed to a larger audience. The place and time is not definite, but plans are looking good for early 2002.

All youth are encouraged to participate in the summit. The trainers at the conference were enthusiastic and informative and were very inspiring. The facilitator for Region I's team was asked to participate in or be a trainer for the WV Youth Summit.

Rural Site Training-New Orleans

by Kathryn South, YouthBuild Project Director

Kathryn South (YouthBuild Director), Vickie Smith (Construction Coordinator), and Peggy Davis (YouthBuild-WEA Member), traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana on November 27th. The three started out on the road trip Tuesday morning.

The conference involved discussing problems rural sites have that prevent the youth or the program from being a success. We also explored how different sites could help each other with these problems. Stephen Moss, YouthBuild USA was the lead trainer. Stephen visited our site in October and spoke to the youth and the supervisors about the program. Stephen's visit came after several modular homes were placed on Page sites for flood victims. Unfortunately, he did not see the area before the flood so he could compare the improvements in the area.

The trip was long and uneventful, but the people we reconnected with were great and helpful. New Orleans was beautiful and warm and the food was spicy and wonderful. WV was well represented and well received by everyone at the conference.

Campbell's Soup Labels For Education

By Nicole Hurley, AmeriCorps/VISTA

Support SAL's Students in their collection drive!

Campbell's for Education Program Awards Free Educational Equipment. Our goal is to collect 7,000 labels. We are calling on parents, teachers, and friends in the community to help support its Students' efforts to collect labels to redeem for free educational equipment.

It's easy to pitch in. Simply save labels or clip proofs of purchase from any Of the following eligible Campbell products:

Campbell's Soup
Franco-American SpaghettiOs pasta
Prego pasta sauces
Swanson broths and canned poultry
Pace salsa and picante sauces
V8 and V8 splash juices
Campbell's tomato juices
Pepperidge Farm breads, cookies, crackers, and frozen products

Pepperidge farm Goldfish crackers
Campbell's Food service products
Since 1973, schools and organizations nationwide have received more than \$90 million of free educational equipment through the Campbell's for Education program. Send Campbell's labels to Nicole Hurley at the Southern Appalachian Labor School at 735 Beards Fork Rd. Beards Fork, W.V. 25173

WIA works at SALS

by Brenda Winter, WIA Project Director

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is in full swing at SALS. This program provides GED educational services, leadership development, and employment opportunities for youth between the ages of 16 and 21.

Patterned after the welfare to work program, WIA is designed for very low income high school dropouts and high school graduates with additional educational needs.

Program participants are also offered counseling services and job placement assistance provided by Phillip Dunford, Fayette County Youth Advisor with the Regional Education Service Agency (RESA I) in Beckley. Mr Dunford visits the job sites on a weekly basis to council youth on issues such as career, educational and personal goals.

Currently there are approximately 15 participants enrolled, working with flood relief and construction of rehabs and new homes in Page.

GRANNY D's JOURNAL/ Doris Haddock

Terrorism and Four Freedoms

Editor's Note: Granny D celebrated her 90th birthday in WV in 2000 as she walked across the nation to promote Campaign Finance Reform

Unity, Maine (Sept. 22, 2001) It is hard to think clearly as we yet rock in the wake of the recent terror attacks on our cities and our people. But think dearly we must. Politics is a serious business. Americans would rather be painting their house or going to a good ball game than listening to a speech and that is not a bad thing. We wouldn't get much done if we just argued politics all the time.

But there is a time for it, and this is that time. Our neighbors and children are being killed in great numbers because Americans are not in control of the American government, and haven't been for some time.

And now we are being killed by our own airplanes, just as we were killed in our African embassies in 1998 by our own explosives, which we gave to the Islamic fundamentalists so that they would please kill our then enemies, the Russians. And four months ago the current Bush administration gave \$43 million to the current Taliban Regime so that it would please kill our enemies, the heroin dealers of Afghanistan. Or was it to protect an oil pipeline? That's what we are now learning.

Our subcontracting of death has never done us much good, with Vietnam still the shining example, and with many other examples still bleeding in Central and South America, Africa, and in Southeast Asia.

The Coca-Cola company has been accused of financing the death squads in Columbia that kill union activists among the plantation workers. This so that our Coca-Cola is affordable to us. Wherever our large mining companies extract the value from foreign lands, we have a CIA and a military working to keep any leaders in power who will guarantee us a cheap labor supply and cheap mining products, at the expense of local people and their efforts toward democracy. This is not who we want to be.

If you ask the common American to describe the America he or she wants us to be, you will here this: "We are the country that represents freedom, opportunity and fairness. We use our strength to help people around the world. We oppose brutal regimes and work toward world health and justice and democratic participation of all people. The Statue of Liberty is our beacon to the world. " The common American wants the American government to be that - to be that every day, in every corner of the world. The common American would never answer: "America is this: We use our powerful military forces, intelligence forces, and our huge financial power to extract from

weaker countries what we need, as they keep any competing political systems out of the region. We will finance the massacre of peasants and workers, the torture of journalists and clerics, and the rape of nature and the sky itself so that we may live pleasantly today in America. "

The common American feels ill at such words. And yet, that is the vision of America that many people in the world carry in their angry hearts. They see their miserable lives and their precious children and land being sacrificed for our luxury. They see our US-made helicopters and jets and guns and rockets suppressing and killing them. Naturally, they celebrate when we are made to suffer.

The disconnection between their perception and ours is profound: Our people are stunned at the idea that we are not universally loved. In classrooms all over America this week and last, teachers and professors asked their students, "why do you suppose that some people around the world are so angry at us?" Many students no doubt suggested that differences in religion make some people intolerant and fanatically homicidal. What other reason could they have?

In a West Virginia college classroom last week, a friend of mine had something different to say. "Look at it like this, " he said to a classroom filled with honor students who couldn't imagine why America was under attack except for reasons of religious extremism. Imagine that West Virginia was a third country," he said "We have all this valuable coal, but there is one country, far away, that buys it all. They are the richest nation in the world, and they stay that way by getting our resources cheaply . They use their wealth to buy off our government officials, and to kill or torture any worker here who tries to organize a union or clean up the government. How mad would we be toward that distant country, and just how innocent would we think its citizens are, who drive around in luxury cars and live in elegant homes and buy the best medicines for their children, and otherwise live a life in sparkling skyscrapers - a life made affordable by the way they get resources from us? They admire their own democracy, turning a blind eye to what their government and their corporations do abroad "

The classroom was silent. "Well, he said, "that's pretty much what we do all over the world."Someone at the back of the room said,"Well,we may not be perfect, but this attack didn't come from Central America or Africa or Southeast Asia, it came from wealthy people from the Mideast, for religious reasons."

The class soon remembered that the US had supported the brutal regime of the Shah of Iran so to better protect the supply of oil to the US, and that the brutality of the Shah led to the rise of the Ayatollah Khomeini and the camp of violent Islamic fundamentalists, of which bin Laden was a product. The class was silent again. Then they began to discuss our problem, and they were in a position to come up with real answers.

So must all Americans see America as the world sees us so that we can strive for justice and the peace that comes with justice. The politics that killed six thousand people in New York Sept. 11 is the politics of Mideast oil, the politics of the Shah of Iran and our support for him and his torture police - supported so that we might secure cheap oil and an anti-Communist puppet at any price to the local people and at any price to their democracy. The Shah did not deliver peace or safety, but instead he delivered into the world the Ayatollah Khomeini and the present wave of violent Islamic fundamentalists - who are no more Islamic in their practices than America's radical right are Christian in their practices. Both radical fringes are beating the war drums and accusing everyone who is not exactly like them of causing last week's horror. George Bush has declared war on evil. That is a holy war as chilling as the Taliban's call for war on evil.

This is not a time for all good Americans to forget their political differences and rally behind the man in the White House. The man in the White House should apologize for the most serious breach of internal security in the nation's history, not disguise his failure in calls for war.

He has taken every opportunity to make the world less safe, first in North Korea and then in the Mideast and in Russia and in China. He needs a dangerous world to sell his military vision of the future. He is getting it. We must not go along with him.

The international community may soon have to rescue the Afghan people from the Taliban just as we had to rescue Europe from the Nazis, and rebuild it and let it find its way to self-government, but that is not the same issue and that will not resolve international terrorism at its roots. It is a diversion of our attention from Bush's catastrophic failure at home and abroad.

Sixty years and eight months ago Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered his "four freedoms" State of the Nation speech to Congress as he prepared the nation for war. In it, he laid down the sensible and humane preconditions for future world peace and democracy.

If Mr. Bush insists on preparing us for his war against evil, let him learn from that great speech. Let me read you the final paragraphs:

"In the future days which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression - everywhere in the world."

Now Mr. Bush, do not tell us that we must prepare to lose our free speech rights and our rights to privacy, so that you and your corporate-military complex can continue to abuse the world safely. Do not take away our first freedom. You have installed your closest political associate as the head of FEMA, which has its own prison camps set up across America for any coming disturbances. We are

indeed disturbed.

And now it seems we are to have an internal secret police, headed not by a law enforcement man but by Tom Ridge, and it is to be a cabinet-level position. This puts it far above the FBI, our non-political, professional internal security police, which has been discredited in an intensive campaign this year.

"The second," FDR continued, "is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way - everywhere in the world." Do not, Mr. Bush, let your vision of good and evil and your friends on the religious right overpower the religion of mainstream America, which is the religion of peace and justice. Do not take away our second freedom.

"The third," said FDR, "is freedom from want, which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants - everywhere in the world."

We cannot live peacefully if we do not work every day for the people, not the despots, of the world - for justice, not for banking arrangements and trade agreements to fatten our already fat banks and corporations. Do not deprive the third world of this third freedom, for none of us are free if some of us are yet enslaved.

"The fourth is freedom," said FDR, "from fear, which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor anywhere in the world."

Let the US stop selling the weapons of death throughout the world. We have fallen far, far away from the vision of a peaceful, unarmed world. We are now the principle source of arms and high-tech weapons for all the despots of the world. Mr. Bush, you can only give us freedom from fear if the people of the world are free of fear. This the common American knows in his heart.

I remember Roosevelt's speech well. My husband and I no doubt discussed it at the dinner table. We had already been married 11 years at the time. I hope I speak for many common Americans who cannot see our flag without getting emotional with love for it. Our dream is that it should always represent the best that human beings can do on this earth. This is a time for us to rally around its best values and its highest dreams.

To the terrorists, here is my message: You are not martyrs, but cowards. Your selfish, ego-maniacal greed for a place in heaven cannot be purchased with the deaths of other people. Look across the Khyber Pass toward the land of Gandhi, who taught us that violence makes justice harder to come by, not easier. Today in America, the work of terrorists makes the work harder for those who want reform America's policies and practices. You do not want to change American policies, or you would be using your

millions to bring your message to us in ways that we can understand and act upon. You want only your shortcut to heaven. We have the same great God, the same Allah, and he shakes his head in sad disbelief at your spiritual immaturity.

“The ultimate weakness of violence.” Dr. King taught us, “is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it ..” Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, “violence merely increases hate... adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness can’t drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Terrorism makes it hard for us to do the right thing, but do it we must. Old “Fighting Bob” LaFollette, that great reformer, said that “war is the money-changer’s opportunity, and the social reformer’s doom,” But we will not accept doom We will keep going. It is a time for all of us to speak the truth with courage and hope. America is, despite all, still the best hope for the world. But we are a work in progress, and we all have some work to do right now. It is the work of peace, of frank education, of making our lives and our communities more sustainable and less dependent on the suffering of others, and of cleaning up a campaign finance system that has allowed our elected leaders to represent not our interests and values, but those of international corporations who are set on world domination and who have the resources to buy our government away from us if we will let them. We will not, so long as we live, and so long as our four freedoms are our guiding lights and inspiration.

Doris Haddock, alias Granny D, is a 91 year-old retired secretary from Dublin, NH, who walked 3,200 miles across the country in 1999-2000 to bring attention to the need for campaign finance reform. Her book is Granny D: Walking Across America in my Ninetieth Year. See her web site at www.grannyd.com.

Don’t let it Happen Here

letter from Edith Bell, Pgh Pa.

I feel encouraged by Tom Tomorrow’s cartoon in Saturday’s Pittsburgh Post Gazette satirizing the “War at Home on civil rights”. Somebody else worries that “it could happen here”. When I grew up in Germany in the 1930’s, the German economy was faltering, suffering from the aftermath of World War I. No jobs and the stockmarket had tumbled. Then the National-Socialists took power. They promised jobs, food and the rebuilding of the armed forces. People hailed the new government. Flags were everywhere. People were again proud to be Germans.

“The others” were blamed for the difficulties: the Jews and the Gypsies, homosexuals and foreigners. It took people’s minds off the real problems. To criticize the new

policies was regarded unpatriotic. Concern about the victims caused suspicion. Soon you could not trust your neighbor or your friend. The walls in your home had ears — not wiretaps - the kids were indoctrinated in school to tell on their own family. Objection caused persecution, jail or worse with the other victims.

I am concerned about what is happening here now. My father, a “patriot”, a German army veteran, did not speak up when he still could. He died in the concentration camp. So I must speak my mind while I can; though I may be called unpatriotic, and some might tell me to go back where I came from.

As John Ashcroft accuses dissenting congressmen of playing in the hands of the terrorists, what will happen to other dissenters? Who will decide what the enemy looks like? Maybe just somebody with other ideas or pigmentation. If we withhold from engaging in public discussion we give up the freedoms that we hold so dear.

Edith Bell now lives at: 5700 Bunkerhill St. #503, Pittsburgh, PA 15206-1165 tel:(412)661-7149

Green-Labor Solidarity

by Hugh Crockard, Wheeling WV

Green-Labor Solidarity would mean that the labor movement would have an independent voice, such solidarity would advocate the interest of labor at all levels of government across the nation. The Democratic and Republican parties are not advocates of labor or reform.

The Green party and other nonviolent movements should join with the union movement and in this manner we could build a major peoples movement which could contest the power structure at all levels of government across the nation, all races and nationalities make up the working class.

Green-Labor Alliance. The Green Party should employ union organizers to organize a national Green union movement. This would mean that labor would be an instrument for the democratization of the economy which would create an economic alternative to the ruling class.

A Green-Labor Alliance should utilize nonviolent work stoppages across the nation against anti-labor legislation as a public protest to anti-democratic laws.

Green-Labor Unity could mean marches on Washington DC in support of legislation which would improve the lives and working conditions of working Americans.

A Green Labor Movement could lead to the democratization of corporations and worker administration of corporations which would lead to the transformation of the economy into an sustainable one.

A World Green Labor movement can commit work: stoppages against imperialist wars to break the cycles of wars and work non-violently for peace and World Government and a democratic and non-violent resolution of differences.

Let's Not Reinvent The Peace-making Wheel

a ZNet Commentary by Laura Flanders

If we are looking for signs that the sordid mess in Afghanistan is not hopeless, we should consider the surprising recent experience of Somalia.

Tribal conflict? Underdevelopment? Religious extremism? Superpower proxy wars? Armed intervention? Like Afghanistan, Somalia had all of those. It still does, in parts, but the backbone structures of a civil society are in place.

Today the majority of Somalia is more stable than it has been in a decade. Formerly warring clan leaders occupy seats in a transition parliament. So do 25 women who are not just token representatives, but are real leaders in their communities.

Bringing peace to an underdeveloped country that has been devastated by drought and combat, and ripped apart by local patriarchy and foreign agents who have manipulated religion and ethnicity for their own, often psychotic, ends . . . well, it sounds like an impossible task. But it's not as if it hasn't been done before.

Consider Somalia, and while you're considering, consider a possibility: When it comes to peacemaking, women may have already invented the wheel.

"It's the world's best kept secret," says Hibaaq Ossman, a Somali-born women's rights organizer. Ossman heads up the all-too-little-known Center for the Strategic Initiatives of Women that worked for a decade in Somalia after 1993.

In 1993, US troops under UN command left a lawless and chaotic place. "Women were raped, buried alive, bombs were placed in their vaginas. The brutality was unimaginable," recalls Ossman.

In August 2000, the country welcomed a president and a parliament that represented the four main Somali clans, minority clans and women. The initiative was the result of a three-month peace conference held in the neighboring state of Djibouti.

There were few reasons for hope before the Djibouti conference. Twelve earlier peace initiatives had brought together warring factional leaders, and each of the twelve meetings had failed. Djibouti gave birth to something different because the psychopaths stayed home and, for the first time, elders from all parts of Somalia, clan leaders and women, came to the negotiating table instead.

The behind-the-scenes story goes something like this: In 1993, Ossman's CSIW — a neutral group from outside the country — brought over 60 Somali women from different clans or ethnic groups together in a neutral space. "When the women came together they arrived with anger

and pain," Ossman said. "They'd all lost brothers, sons, husbands, homes . . . When they saw and listened to each other, they realized the pain was on all sides, caused by every clan."

After many meetings, and much outside support, the women developed a way, says Ossman, to "speak with one voice." Simplistic feminism? Not exactly, she explains.

"Women were the ones with everything to lose. For women, peace is a personal, not a political issue. From different clans, when they came to Djibouti, they brought something different to the table — they brought their tears. "

They also brought years of organizing experience, UN and international backing, and skill. With respect to Afghanistan, U.S. leaders have been telling the world that when it comes to including women in negotiations the Islamic tradition and culture doesn't permit it.

From her own experience, Ossman says that's bunk. Somalia's population is largely Muslim. "There's nothing about Islam that prevents women from doing what they have to do," she says .

The Somali women, who came together in a group called the Coalition of Grassroots Women's Organizations, were able to raise their voice, Ossman said, because in the intervening years they had — with international support — brought schools and potable water, and health clinics to their communities.

"They did the work that gained them the confidence of their communities, and they came to the meeting with strength and with an agenda that the men — who were just getting together for the first time — couldn't deny."

The women who came to Djibouti were what Ossman calls "women of substance," which is to say, not just some warlord's wife.

In August 2000, 25 women became members of Somalia's Transitional National Assembly. This January, the UN Security Council reaffirmed their commitment to peace in Somalia under that new government.

There's no cookie-cutter recipe for peace, but the Somali example is at least worth thinking about. Peace is a product of political work, not war-waging, the Somali lesson teaches. And peace demands the inclusion of women, which involves building and funding structures and institutions run by women — not token gestures.

CSIW is working with Equality Now and others, to bring together Afghan women together as they did Somalis in 1993. The first Afghan Women's Summit is scheduled to take place in early December, in Brussels.

For ways to support that initiative, people can check out CSIW's site or Equalitynow.org.

Also visit Peacewomen.org, where an international network of women's groups is tracking Brahimi's progress and urging him to bring women to the table in Afghanistan.

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After The Media Recount: Who Will Apologize To The People?

a ZNet Commentary by Danny Schechter, November 24, 2001

The long-awaited recount of the results of the 2000 presidential election, begun with so much hope and investigative enterprise by a consortium of leading U.S. media organizations, came and went with a whimper not a bang. Released on Sunday, November 11, in Florida, it was picked up nationwide the next day, but when that airplane went down in New York, its conclusions were driven into the margins of media coverage.

Hopes that the media might undo, or at least correct, earlier mistakes and confusing findings about who won the Florida election and why so many votes went uncounted were dashed. Reports of the study's findings were just as contradictory and confusing as earlier recounts had been and just as much of the real-time coverage of the actual events had been a year earlier.

The New York Times read the data one way and gave the election to Bush; others, on the basis of the same information confirmed a Gore win. The Times headline, above an overly edited and convoluted story on the front page, found that, no, it was not the Supreme Court that anointed Bush: "Study of Disputed Florida Ballots Finds Justices Did Not Cast the Deciding Vote." In other newspapers throughout the nation, different versions of what the study said were given prominence.

The LA Times head was originally "It's Bush. It's Gore" but later in the day, the headline was changed to make Gore the loser.

A Media Apology

I doubt that anyone's views on this matter was changed one way or the other by these contradictory and perplexing assessments. In fact, the Economist in England, as credible a mainstream outlet as there probably is, commented in its print edition on November 15 with a most unusual editorial "correction": "In the issues of December 16, 2000, to November 10, 2001, we may have given the

impression that George Bush had been legally and duly elected president of the United States. We now understand that this may have been incorrect, and that the election result is still too close to call. The Economist apologizes for any inconvenience."

"Inconvenience?" Who are they kidding? Who is going to apologize to the 180,000 voters of Florida whose votes went uncounted or discarded? Who is going to apologize to the majority of Americans who voted for one candidate only to find another being maneuvered into office with the complicity of the U.S. Supreme Court and shenanigans in the state government presided over by his brother?

Who is going to apologize for the politicized practices in the Sunshine State's 67 counties that undermined voting rights, in a state with a long history and culture of racial exclusion, disenfranchisement and discrimination against people of color and non-English-speaking Americans - all of which went largely unreported?

Who is going to apologize for the "tyranny of small" decisions that robbed the voters, the lack of voter education, the confusing instructions in some counties and even more confusing ballots in others, like the butterfly ballot in Palm Beach?

Who is going to apologize for the voter roll purges of ex-felons that targeted black voters, the lack of bilingual ballots, the overcrowded, understaffed ballot stations or the fact that the polls close at 7 p.m., a clear discrimination against working people?

Who is going to apologize for the deceptive statements and interpretations by Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris or the fact that machines in poorer counties rejected ballots at a rate faster than in richer ones?

Who is going to apologize for turning American politics into a scam and farce in the eyes of the world?

Left Hanging

Most of these issues were not written about during the campaign, despite the thousands of reporters on the story. They were only noted afterwards because the dispute over those dimpled and hanging chads was so bizarre and amusing.

They were not covered in the \$900,000 media recount either, which also did not note, as USA Today reported, that hundreds of ballots disappeared between election night and the recount - in an election that turned on a few hundred votes.

Why were 18 counties allowed to decide on their own NOT to undertake a legally mandated machine recount and get away with it? Is it any wonder that it is so "confusing?" Criminal might be a better word for it.

The news outlets that reported on the consortium's findings, and the TV networks that downplayed them because the images of that day's plane crash were so much more dramatic, did not remind viewers or readers of the

failures of the political system and the way media coverage factored into this.

(For readers who can stand more on the sordid story of the media in the 2000 election, see the MediaChannel.org book I co-edited with Roland Schatz, "Hail to the Thief".)

When will media organizations apologize for their disservice to democracy?

There Were Some Apologies

On second thought, there were some apologies for small, inadvertent "mistakes" on election night, the ones that projected first Gore and then Bush the winner. Most of the networks and the Associated Press (which acquitted itself much better) did apologize for that to Congress and the American people.

At the time, only the AP reported and clung to the truth that the election was "too close to call." Why this matters is not widely understood. If the media had clearly and unambiguously reported what really happened, there could have been no objections raised to a recount to assess the intent of the voters, which is what Florida law called for.

It was clear in so many of the so-called overvotes that voters, uneducated about how to vote, voted twice for Gore. Many wrote Gore's name in on lines that asked for write-ins, mistakenly thinking that they were being commanded to do so much in the same way that people are asked to sign customs forms or other documents. Without knowing it, they made their intent clear but then had their ballots voided.

In the fog of debates that followed, the Republicans were able to use their spin machine, legal maneuvers and even extra-legal protests like the one that was orchestrated in Miami Dade to delay, obstruct and effectively kill a fair recount. That story is told in two new investigations, Jeffrey Toobin's "Too Close to Call" and David A. Kaplan's "The Accidental President."

My colleague Faye Anderson pointed out in a letter published in The New York Times the day after their media recount story appeared: "The media have a special obligation to inform the American people about what happened in Florida, since it was their rush to judgment on Election Night that set the stage for the election impasse.

Withholding the media consortium's findings in the name of "national unity" would have further undermined the importance of counting every vote."

True enough, but now we see that even publishing the findings had the effect of deepening the political divide in the country, rather than resolving it. It just fed doubts about the credibility of our political leaders and our media leaders.

The truth is few media companies seem to have the guts to question the legitimacy of a president with high approval ratings, just as they ignored Richard Nixon's

crimes until after the 1972 election.

Burying The Lead

Even the media companies who sponsored the recount ended up downplaying it, as Jim Naureckas of the media monitoring group FAIR says in a recent analysis. "In journalism, it's called 'burying the lead.'"

A story starts off with what everyone already knows, while the real news - the most surprising, significant or never-been-told-before information - gets pushed down where people are less likely to see it.... The coverage of the consortium's findings is similar to the way earlier media recounts were handled; even the most preliminary Miami Herald/USA Today ballot stories prompted 'Bush Really Won' stories across the country."

"War or no war," Naureckas concludes, "many journalists are instinctively protective of the legitimacy of the institutions they cover, but the job of a journalist is not to promote but to question. The theory behind the First Amendment is that the system will be strengthened by an unflinching look at the system's flaws. In looking back at the results of the Florida election, the media flinched."

The Nation's Eric Alterman, writing on MSNBC.com, added a thought about the media's disinterest in their own story. "One always had the impression that the major news outlets were reluctant to report the study in such a way that it injured Bush's shaky legitimacy.

After Sept. 11, many seemed to feel it was their patriotic duty not to do anything to call into question the authority of the commander-in-chief," he wrote, also noting that a high-level New York Times reporter feared the story might reignite "partisan tensions."

Yet, despite the media muzzling the story, the public has not forgotten. "As recently as last week, according to the Gallup Organization, nearly half of Americans surveyed remain convinced that President Bush either 'won on a technicality' or 'stole' the election," he writes.

This is not just about this one election. Unfortunately, there is a bigger problem. For one thing, as many as six million votes may have gone uncounted nationwide according to a CalTech-MIT study. Democracy itself is on the resuscitator as a result of what happened and the stunning lack of public outrage as reinforced by a media machine that has "moved on."

Our media have, in effect, merged into our political system to create what I and others have been calling a "mediaocracy," which sets its agenda through discourse that, in effect, excludes the voices and concerns of the majority of the people, especially, in this case, large numbers of people of color whose votes were lost out of all proportion to their numbers.

In the aftermath of the events surrounding November 7, 2000, some electoral reforms have been enacted and others are on the way. But reforms in media practices: that's another, even more difficult challenge.

Director's Report, continued from page three

SALS has received several recent grants. On behalf of SALS, UPS driver Tony Newkirk submitted a proposal to the UPS Foundation. It was funded for \$5000 and earmarked for community center improvements.

The Federal Home Loan Bank awarded United National Bank and SALS \$100,000 for the Affordable Housing Rehab Program.

West Virginia/Pennsylvania Campus Compact awarded WVU-Tech a grant for Operation Youth ReBuild. This project permits college students in selected courses at WVU-Tech to work on preparations for the Group WorkCamps Project.

College and university students from all over have started their annual visits to help with the housing projects. The first group in 2002 came in mid-January from Tufts University. Others will be soon coming from the University of Michigan, William and Mary, Bard College, Cribini College, Manhattan College, and several others.

Workcamp Schedule for 2002

February 23-March 2: University of Michigan

March 2-10: William and Mary

March 11-15: Manhattan College

June 1-9: Global Volunteers

June 6-15: Presbyterian Church, Madison, Indiana

June 6-15: First Congressional Church - Columbus

August 10-18: Global Volunteers

September 21-29: Global Volunteers

WV Floods on the WEB

www.coalfield.com contains a sobering pictorial essay on the July 2001 floods in West Virginia. For those who haven't seen the devastation up close this will give a feel for the extent of the disaster. Commentary is provided by Penny Loeb, a writer for US News & World Report who authored an expose' of Mountain Top Removal mining in her 1997 US News feature Shear Madness. The following are some of Loeb's comments from the site:

"The relation between flooding and valley fills is being studied as part of the Environmental Impact Statement being done by the EPA under a court settlement of the Bragg v Robertson case. Preliminary results of a multi-agency examination of three valley fill areas, including that of Arch Coal's Samples Mine at the head of Seng Creek, show an increased risk of flooding.

Environmental officials who have examined the fills at Seng Creek believe that the mine had nearly doubled the amount of runoff that went down Seng Creek. Originally, it had been split between three watersheds coming off the mountain being mined. The EIS found that one fill at the Samples mine could increase flooding by 3 percent, while the other could increase it by 13 percent. At a larger fill at Arch's Hobet 21 mine on the Boone-Lincoln county borders, flooding could increase as much as 42 percent.

The amount of recent timbering was surprising. Timbering had been done in the past three years in Rhodell, Glen Fork, Oceana, Pineville, Maben, Hotchkiss, McGraws, Pax, Anawalt, Leckie, Kimball, Glen Jean, Kincaid and other areas. Runoff and erosion were obvious on the logging roads up the mountains."



Give Your Paycheck a Boost! Claim Your Tax Credits

You could be eligible!

Did you work in 2001? You may be eligible for the Earned Income Credit. If so, you'll owe less in taxes and you could get cash back. Even if you don't owe income tax, you can get the EIC!

- Were you raising one child in your home in 2001? Did your family earn less than \$28,281? You can get an EIC up to **\$2,428**.
- Were you raising more than one child in your home in 2001? Did your family earn less than \$32,121? You can get an EIC up to **\$4,008**.
- If you weren't raising a child, did you earn less than \$10,710 in 2001? Were you between the ages 25 and 64? You can get an EIC up to **\$364**.

Here's how you get it:

- If you were raising children in 2001, file federal tax return Forms 1040 or 1040A, not Form 1040EZ. Be sure to attach Schedule EIC.
- If you weren't raising children in 2001, just file any federal tax return.

Boost your take-home pay! Eligible workers with children can get Advance EIC in their paycheck. Get Form W-5 from your employer, or call 1-800-TAX-FORM.

New! Extra Credit if you earned more than \$10,000! Many families may now qualify for the Child Tax Credit — up to \$600 for each dependent child under age 17! See your tax instructions and get Form 8812.

Want more information? Want to find out how you can get your tax forms filled out for free? Call the IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-1040.

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**

J.R. Williams
John Wroten
George Hensley, Sr
Vicki Mullins
Nicole Hurley
April Waddel
Bonita Johnson
Linda Dillard

Youth Build Trainer/Supervisor
Youth Build Trainer/Supervisor
Youth Build Trainer/Assistant
AmeriCorps /VISTA
AmeriCorps/ VISTA
AmeriCorps /VISTA
AmeriCorps/VISTA
Custodian

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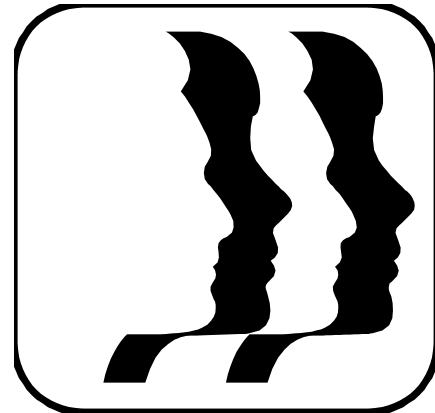
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Jennifer Hamm	Housing Specialist
Debbie Spurlock	AmeriCorps/Housing Specialist
Ron Yellets	Youth Build Counselor/Trainer
Dave Shaver	Youth Build Trainer/Supervisor
George Hensley, Jr	Youth Build Trainer/Supervisor

Bookkeeping Team

Valarie Cowley, Ruth Lanham
Tom Bass

* 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

Enclosed is: ___\$250 ___\$100 ___\$50 ___\$25 Other\$_____

Please send me a thankyou gift..

___\$50 or more: SALS Handmade Coffee Mug

___\$100 + Salton electric coffee, herb, or nut grinder

Name _____
Address _____
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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.

SALS Builds Ramps and Porches, Conducts Youth Programs in Tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.

Housing crews from SALS worked on handicap ramps and porches at various site in Fayette County on Martin Luther King Jr Day as a way of paying tribute to the civil rights leader. According to its YouthBuild Project Director, Kathryn South, the crews consisted of staff and youth from the YouthBuild, AmeriCorps USA, and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs operated by SALS. In addition SALS AmeriCorps/VISTAS conducted special cultural enrichment activities for children in their School Day Plus/MIHOW programs. The children visited the African American Museum in Ansted as well as participated in additional activities at the SALS Community Center in Beards Fork.

South explained that SALS has historically viewed the King holiday as a “day on, not a day off” to do special community service activities. She noted that many of the rebuilt and repaired homes after the July floods no longer had porches and ramps. Thus, the need was great and the work could readily fit into a special day of service.

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