



Fall 2004

Newsletter of Eugene PeaceWorks

Outgrowing Homophobia

Most people hold freedom as a core value. Yet opponents of same sex marriage aim to deny gays and lesbians a basic freedom. They may cite concerns about effects on the institution of marriage, but it is difficult to believe that this could be the underlying reason for denying people freedom.

Simply, I fail to see how a gay couple down the street choosing to get married could possibly have an adverse impact on someone else's marriage.

The underlying reality is that some people are made uncomfortable by the sight of gays or lesbians kissing or holding hands, or by the thought of them getting married. To opponents of gay marriage I would ask, "How does your personal discomfort justify you constraining somebody else's freedom?"

Just as MLK pointed out that most white Americans are "unconscious racists," it appears that many people are unconscious homophobes.

In both cases, change involves learning to consciously override unconscious prejudice. A white person who grew up under Jim Crow may never feel completely comfortable sitting next to a black person on a bus. But he or she can consciously recognize that segregation is wrong, and that all people should be treated with dignity. In the same way, a straight person may not be completely comfortable with the idea of gay marriage, and yet recognize that dignified treatment requires allowing gays and lesbians to choose how to live their lives.

When Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers, Branch Rickey was the only major league coach who thought blacks should be allowed to play in the majors. Robinson first spent a year on a minor league club in Montreal, where the coach asked Rickey, "Do you really think a nigger is a human being?" The Dodgers radio announcer, Red Barber, was initially shocked at the idea of a black playing in the majors, and some players started a petition, saying they'd refuse to play on the same team as a black player.

But Robinson's Montreal coach and his teammates soon came to accept him. Red Barber helped the fans to accept him, and later said that Jackie Robinson did more for him than he had done for Robinsin - Robinson "matured" him.

Now is the time for Oregonians to undergo a similar transformation. We all face a challenge of becoming more aware

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Mission Statement:

Eugene PeaceWorks is a grassroots/action organization that works to educate, empower and motivate community members towards working for social and environmental justice. EPW is dedicated towards collaborative approaches in creating a peaceful, morally just, economically fair, safe, healthy, and environmentally sustainable world.

Recent EPW Events

Sunday, March 28: Merry Mask Maker's workshop: at this workshop people made masks of George W., Donny Rumsfeld, and others.

Thursday, April 1st: April Fools, Ghouls, and Jewels Masquerade Ball and Vegan Dinner, benefit for the Committee for Countering Military Recruitment at Morning Glory.

Saturday, April 17th: Wellsprings Friends School 44th Annual Peace Festival.

Wednesday, April 28th: The Eugene Global Justice Organizing Project presents: "From the streets: Local struggles and global resistance to the World Bank/ IMF"

Saturday, May 1st: "A Military Father Speaks Out." Fernando Suarez del Solar, whose son died by stepping on a cluster-bomblet in Iraq, spoke at Cozmic Pizza.

Wednesday, May 26th: The Viewing Project displayed over 100 flag draped and black cloth draped "coffins" at the UO.

Friday, June 11th at W.O.W. Hall: Youth Activism: A rally and concert, sponsored by the Sheldon Peace Club.

Saturday, June 12th: co-sponsored with Break the Chains: International Day sy Action for Jeffrey "Free" Luers.

Sunday, June 13th: Youth Activism: Training and discussion for countering military recruitment, sponsored by the Committee for Countering Military Recruitment.

July 14th: Bastille Day: A benefit for CCMR and JNW, including a re-enactment of the storming of the notorious French prison, the Bastille.

July 23-25th: Beyond conventions: A festival of alternatives to politics as usual. This forum included workshops, discussions, and a film festival. Sponsored by the Eugene Global Justice Organizing Project.

Aug 7th: EPW co-sponsored the Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemorative event at Alton Baker.

Aug 18th: EPW co-sponsored Stop the Grand Jury, an event with speakers and music.

Sept 25th: EPW co-sponsored a dinner and reception followed by a panel with Daniel Ellsberg, Medea Benjamin, and Norman Solomon. At the dinner and reception EPW's Peace Awards were given to Daniel Ellsberg and Eugene Laszowski.

EPW Launches The Viewing Project

Craig Mahaffy

"Is the American public prepared for the sight of our most precious resources coming home in flag-draped caskets into Dover Air Force Base?"

Those were the words of former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of staff, Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton in 1991 as he spoke at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government about both the efficacy and limits of future U.S. military force. Any military action undertaken must meet what he termed "The Dover Test" referring to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, which is the primary point of entry for the remains of U.S. military personnel killed abroad.

The Bush Administration's answer to "The Dover Test" has been to do away with it altogether. On the eve of the current Iraq war, the Department of Defense issued the following directive: "There will be no arrival ceremonies for, or media coverage of, deceased military personnel returning to or departing from Ramstein (Germany) airbase or Dover (Del.) base, to include interim stops."

The Pentagon states that the reason for imposing the ban is to respect the privacy of the families involved. I asked Prof. Tom Bivens, University of Oregon School of Journalism, what some other possible motivations for the ban might be:

"I can't know what their motivation really is; however, showing returning coffins would clearly affect viewers in a negative way...observing the images of war casualties certainly can, over time, affect public opinion"

When asked if he thought the U.S. media was complicit in an attempt to limit coverage of U.S. casualties, he said:

"With few exceptions... the media are neither showing the wounded nor the dead to any real extent. I believe the media in general could be more of a presence in reporting the war and its toll, both military and civilian."

While in Iraq last fall, veteran journalist Martha Brant considered the matter in Newsweek's Online Edition (Oct. 18, 2003): "...it often feels like the American public has no sense of the steady trickle of killed and wounded."

The reason she offered: "...there are no pictures. As much as I hate to admit this as a print reporter, images do sear into people's minds more than words. Nick Ut's photograph of 9-year-old Kim Phuc became synonymous with the Vietnam War. She was the terrified little girl running naked, covered in napalm. Television images of caskets and body bags also changed public opinion about the war...But there are no images of flag-draped coffins in this war to remind people of the human price being paid."

In an attempt to insert these censored images into local and national media, Eugene Peaceworks has launched The Viewing Project. The Viewing Project consists of rows of flag-draped coffins placed in prominent public spaces to represent Iraqi civilians, Iraqi soldiers and U.S. soldiers who have been killed in Iraq. The organizers hope that the physical presence of large numbers of coffins and the act of walking through them will allow people to interpret the War/Occupation in a more personal and direct way than the abstractions currently provided by mainstream media.

The first event was held on May 26, 9am-4pm on the lawn between the U of O museum and library off 13th street. It consisted of 105 coffins. Future events may occur in Portland and Salem.

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A report from the Committee for Countering Military Recruitment

The Committee for Countering Military Recruitment (CCMR) has had a busy schedule of events in 2004. Thanks to the joint sponsorship of Eugene PeaceWorks and Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC), as well as many volunteers, we are continuing to provide events, literature and counter-counseling with veterans in Lane County High Schools, LCC and UO, as well as tabling at music venues and participation in the National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY). By December of 2004, CCMR also hopes to have an extensive archive of counter-recruitment articles on our website categorized by topic and with an internet search engine to help with research or to find specific recruitment topics, articles etc. See www.counermilitary.org.

Schools

During the last school year CCMR managed to get literature in most of the High Schools of Lane County, usually in career offices. This literature contains both alternative job information and a more thorough examination of recruiter promises as well as the reality of military

life. Veterans have shared similar information, together with their personal experiences, as part of our counter-counseling program. Our main goal is to provide more accurate and complete information for youth to make informed decisions before they decide to join the military based on often exaggerated and misleading information provided by military recruiters.

Despite legal precedent requiring schools to open their doors to groups providing balancing information on “controversial issues,” CCMR has met resistance by some school administrators. These administrators have balked or flat out refused to allow CCMR to offer alternative information on what too often has become the sacred relationship of schools and the military.

CCMR has also spoken in classrooms and student conferences, as well as tabled with literature at both Lane Community College and the University of Oregon.

National

CCMR had the privilege of sitting on the

hiring committee for the National War Resisters League to fill their position for coordinator of the Youth and Militarism Program. Once hired, this staff person will immediately concentrate on counter-recruitment issues and help with the national tracking of high-tech audio-visual, army semi-trucks that are criss-crossing the U.S., attending high schools as part of their 2.7 to 4 billion dollar annual budget to recruit youth into the military.

CCMR for the second straight year has attended the national NNOMY conference in Philadelphia and has joined this national network to help plan and participate in what is a growing counter-recruitment movement.

Events

Last May CCMR organized the event “A Military Father Speaks Out.” The featured speaker was Fernando Suarez del Solar, a Mexican immigrant whose son, Jesus, was one of the first U.S. soldiers killed with the invasion of Iraq in March of 2003. Since then Mr. Suarez has been speaking out against the occupation of

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Eugene PeaceWorks’ Statement on Diversity

As an organization committed to peace and justice, Eugene PeaceWorks acknowledges its responsibility to recognize and dismantle the oppressions that prevent us from achieving our mission. A peaceful, morally just, economically fair, safe, healthy, and environmentally sustainable world is not possible until the oppressions that limit the freedom, the voice, and the participation of any group of people are eliminated. It is, therefore, fundamental to our mission to create a community and organizational culture that reflects and honors the diversity of experiences in our community.

We recognize that power and privilege play out in all group dynamics and we acknowledge our responsibility to be conscious of how we are affected by oppression. We are all responsible for the perpetuation of oppression within our culture. Our pledge is to be proactive in confronting oppression – in all its forms, including but not limited to: racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia, and ableism – both within our organization and within our community; to be allies to those in our community who have experienced and continue to experience oppression; and to educate ourselves and our community about doing anti-oppression work.

Women Nonviolence Trainers meet in Thailand

How are women defining and using nonviolence? How are the practices of nonviolence different when it is women teaching and using them? How do we integrate the personal and political into our trainings?

These were just some of the questions that came out of discussions and workshops during the international consultation “Asking the Right Questions: Gender and Nonviolence Training” held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from October 3-8. Sponsored by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation and War Resisters International, the consultation brought together forty women nonviolence trainers from around the world to share their experiences, their methodologies, and their personal stories in struggling to create peace in a horrifically violent world.

Each day started with a story from one of the women, about her life, her work, and the conditions of both. Next was a panel discussion on the theme for the day. The different themes were: Definitions, Methodologies, Integrating the Personal and Political, Working in the World, and Creating Resources. In the afternoons, there were workshops. The afternoon workshops offered times for more in-depth discussion, putting theory into practice, and just learning more about the different work women do to create peace around the world. Finally, each evening

there were small group discussions and sharing of questions and ideas from the day’s work. Of course, in addition there were mealtime discussions and impromptu late-night workshops, and poolside conversations during early morning swims.

All the models of nonviolence that we use are male models...we need models based on women’s practice of nonviolence

As the week progressed, friendships blossomed and there was a growing sense that as women we understand the importance and relevance of incorporating a gender analysis into nonviolence training. Because we are women, we face violence or the threat of violence every day. As we shared stories, some horrible, some beautiful, it became more and more clear: violence is not cultural, it’s occurrence is not limited to war zones or conflict areas. Violence is part and parcel of a system of

patriarchy that divides human beings from each other and degrades and dehumanizes women. In working for nonviolent solutions to conflict, we must confront the patriarchal system that normalizes violence.

Our questions were not so much about what and why, but about how. As women, we lack models. We are still using male models of nonviolence practice. We need to learn more about how women use nonviolence. And nonviolence work needs to incorporate a better understanding of gender justice. We bemoan the lack of participation and representation of women in governments and corporations but even in the larger peace organizations it is still primarily men who hold power, make decisions, and decide the path of nonviolence. But what is needed is more than sharing decision-making and power with women. As a culture we must begin by listening to women’s stories and respecting and valuing women’s experience. From there we begin to develop a greater understanding of how patriarchy pervades every aspect of our lives and relationships. Only then can we create better models of interrelationships and power-sharing.

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**Eugene PeaceWorks Says
Thank You!
to all our members,
volunteers,
and especially our donors!**

Appreciation and Recognition Awards

presented during the

“What’s at Stake Tour”

The Presidential Election, 2004 And Beyond on September 24, 2004

We recognize the courage and creative nonviolent actions taken by two military personnel during times of war. During WWII and the Vietnam War, respectively, Dr. Lazowski and Daniel Ellsberg made heroic decisions of conscience despite enormous risks to their personal safety. Facing the horrors of war, these men were presented with opportunities that would significantly alter the lives of thousands of people. They

recognized these opportunities and chose to pursue a humanitarian response.

As members of a community working for peace and justice during yet another time of war, we say **thank-you** to Dr. Lazowski and Daniel Ellsberg for their inspiration and for their examples of what one person can do.

Dr. Eugene Lazowski

defied the Germans, repeatedly risking his life to save the lives of thousands. He is considered a hero to many, but for him, saving others was his only option—it was simply the right thing to do. Dr. Lazowski was a soldier and doctor in the Polish Army, the Polish Underground Army and the Red Cross during World War II. In the town of Rozwadow and surrounding villages, he created a fake epidemic of Typhus, a dangerous infectious disease. As a result, the Germans quarantined the area and no additional people were sent to concentration or labor camps.



Between 1954 and 1957, **Daniel Ellsberg** spent three years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He then became a strategic analyst at the RAND Corporation, and a consultant to the DoD and the White House. Following other assignments, he worked on the *Pentagon Papers*, a top secret McNamara study of U.S. decision-making in Vietnam, and gave copies of the 7,000 page document to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and 17 other newspapers. Tried on twelve felony counts, his case was dismissed in 1973 on grounds of governmental misconduct against him, charges that led to the convictions of several White House aides and figured in the impeachment proceedings against President Nixon.



While the consultation did not aim to find answers to these questions, it was an important step in providing women with the opportunity to seek answers. It validated our experiences as women working for peace and our sense that there will never be peace while half the world’s population lives in fear, cannot

hope to realize their full human potential, or must live in the shadow of the other half of the world’s population. If we want peace, we must work for gender justice and an end to patriarchy.

Jennifer Webster, a member of the EPW Coordinating Council, attended the

women’s consultation in Chiang Mai thanks to the generous support of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation and members of the Eugene peace community. She is available to discuss her experiences with local nonviolence trainers and peace activists.

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of our unconscious biases, and learning to treat all humans as inherently worthy of equal dignity.

I would argue that outgrowing homophobia in particular is part of progress toward a peaceful world. Mark Juergensmeyer has travelled the globe interviewing members of religious-based "terrorist" organizations. Virtually all of these cultures of violence display an extreme form of patriarchy and homophobia.

James Gilligan headed a program that dramatically reduced rates of homicide and suicide in the Massachusetts state prison system. In the prisons he found intense homophobia, sexism, and hyper-patriarchy, and concluded the homophobia underlies most of the violence.

In short, terrorism and other forms of violence are often associated with homophobia and hyper-patriarchy. But why? Why did the Taliban oppress women? Why do hate groups engage in anti-gay violence? Why does Rush Limbaugh refer to feminists as feminazis? Why do some men feel so threatened?

When women are empowered by education and economic options they demand to be treated as equals, threatening men's traditional position of dominance. And gay men show that it is possible for men to express their emotions and accept

aspects of themselves that may not be deemed masculine. They threaten traditional male values.

Meri nana-ama danquah wrote of the time she and her friends visited a club on gay night. They had long known that femininity was an act. But when she saw the way gay men held hands, and when she later visited Ghana and saw the way straight men held hands, it dawned on her that "masculinity was as much a show, a well-constructed myth, as femininity." Gays expose the facade.

Because stereotypic masculine and feminine roles do not enable the expression of all of our potentials, personal

growth entails learning to accept all aspects of ourselves, and learning to accept other people for who they are. The psychologist Carl Rogers maintained that we are all born with an actualizing tendency. In other words, if we are open to our experiences we will tend to actualize our potentials as human beings. In *A Way of Being*, he wrote: "I like the behavioral impulses - appropriate, crazy, achievement-oriented, sexual, murderous. I want to accept all of these feelings, ideas, and impulses as an enriching part of me. I don't expect to act on all of them, but when I accept them all, I can be more real."

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The psychologist Carl Rogers maintained that we are all

**Morning Glory Peace Calendar
On Sale NOW
at Mother Kali's Bookstore
High Priestess Piercing
Sweet Potato Pie
and, of course, Morning Glory Cafe
\$12 each
Proceeds Benefit Eugene PeaceWorks**

Virtually all cultures of violence display an extreme form of patriarchy and homophobia

EPW Coordinating Council

David Duemler

David Zupan

Gary Kutcher

Jennifer Webster

Justine Cooper

Natalie Comstock

Phil Weaver

Advisory Board Members

Ellen Klowden

**For information on
upcoming events
check out our
community calendar at
www.eugenepeaceworks.org**

Current Eugene PeaceWorks Projects

Committee for Countering Military Recruitment

CCMR is a joint project of Eugene PeaceWorks and Community Alliance of Lane County. CCMR aims to provide young people with information they need about military service. Those considering military enlistment need more complete information to counter the inflated promises of military recruiters.

CCMR has a presence in local high schools to help provide such information. There is a special focus on informing rural, low-income and youth of color, as they are targeted more often by recruiters.

Also, under the No Child Left Behind Act, schools are required to provide information about their students to recruiters. CCMR is working to protect student privacy and help students and parents understand that they may refuse to allow schools to give their contact information to recruiters.

Eugene Global Justice Organizing Project

is a collaboration with the Committee in Solidarity with the Central American People (CISCAP). We seek to create space and opportunities for dialogue and skill building through dialogue and regular workshops. The project brings together diverse constituencies to work on locally based solutions to the inequities and injustices inherent in a global capitalist system. We are local activists are joining together to help build global resistance to the oppression of capitalist globalization. In addition, by building a strong base for organizing in our local community, we make our global struggle against injustice more creative, coordinated and effective. Recent work has been a forum on the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the Beyond Conventions conference, and supporting local activists participating in mass mobilizations.

Eugene Media Action is a committee working to educate and empower citizens to view themselves as media critics and activists. Media activism can range from lobbying mainstream media for more accuracy, fairness and diversity to supporting or even becoming the independent media. During our six-year history, we have sponsored many national and regional speakers who have addressed media issues. Last year we were a primary group helping to organize the Peace Justice and Media conference where Jim Hightower and Molly Ivins spoke. Currently we have campaigns to have the progressive column of Norman Solomon reinstated into the Register Guard newspaper and to put the public back into public broadcasting² in Oregon beginning with KLCC and the Jefferson Network. We often table at major community events with media related materials and welcome volunteers with or without media experience to join our group.

The Viewing Project in Conjunction with Concerned Faculty for Peace and Justice and The UO Survival Center is held The Viewing Project on May 26, 9am-4pm on the lawn between the U of O museum and library off 13th street. TVP is a display of over 100 flag and black cloth-draped coffins to represent U.S. soldiers and Iraqis who have been killed since the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003. There will be a reading of both U.S. and Iraqi names as well as photographs on hand for viewing.

I want to support Eugene PeaceWorks!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation for \$_____

I am interested in volunteering please contact me

I would like to:

help with phone-banking

help with tabling

help with office support

get involved with the following project _____

I I would like to become a member. My membership dues of \$25 is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

As a rule, Eugene PeaceWorks does not share our list of members, volunteers or donors with any other organizations. If you do not want your name or contact information shared for any reason, please check this box.

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Volunteer and financial contributions are desperately needed. Through The Viewing Project, Oregon's peace community can make its voice heard in a very loud way on both the local and national levels. For more info, visit www.eugenepeaceworks.org. phone: (541) 343-8548 e-mail: viewingproject@yahoo.com

The Viewing Project is endorsed and sponsored by the National War Resister's League and Concerned Faculty for Peace and Justice (University of Oregon).

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Iraq as well as lamenting the aggressive and misleading military recruitment practices in schools that are increasingly targeting Latino Youth.

CCMR, the UO Cultural Forum and CALC's Progressive Responses will host an event entitled, "Israeli Refusniks - Duty vs. Conscience". Noam Bahat and Shimri Zamaret acted on the

dictates of their conscience by refusing to serve in the Israeli military, and each served over 640 days of confinement for doing so. Look for a report from this important event in the next Eugene PeaceWorks' Peace Pages.

Volunteers and Foundation Support

CCMR has relied heavily on volunteers to accomplish its busy agenda. From our "tabling" volunteers that attend youth oriented music shows, our event organizers, pro bono legal services, classroom presenters, web techs, etc. CCMR gives a huge Shout-Out! and thank-you.

This work takes financial support. We give many, many thanks to Carol Berg for her enormous energy, organizing amazingly creative educational fundraisers to benefit CCMR. Also, thanks to Gail Brown and the staff at the Morning Glory Café for recognizing our financial needs and being willing to help "BARE" the burden with their 2005 Calendar, Power to the Peaceful. This risqué and humorous calendar goes beyond "skin-deep" support. Calendar sales will go to support Eugene PeaceWorks and ultimately CCMR.

Finally, CCMR wishes to thank the enormous support of foundations that have financially supported us this year with grants. They are: A Territorial Resource, RESIST and the Ralph Smith Foundation.



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