

Ground Zero

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“Because we celebrate life, we resist Trident!”

8 people arrested for closing Bangor; criminal charges “unwarranted”

By Brian Watson

Stretching a huge, colorful banner across three incoming traffic lanes, eight people symbolically closed the Bangor Trident Submarine Base in Kitsap County, WA on Sunday August 6, 2000. Reading “Because we celebrate life, we resist Trident! Hiroshima never again! No D-5 upgrade!” the banner expressed the intentions and feelings of the 50-plus people gathered at the gates of the Pacific base for the Trident nuclear weapons system.

Kitsap County Prosecutors will not bring charges against the eight. “Given prior judicial rulings in similar situations, we don’t feel criminal charges are warranted,” said Chief Deputy Prosecutor Jeffrey Jahns.

The eight people completely sealed off the main gate to the Trident facility for several minutes, until waiting Kitsap County Sheriff’s officers respectfully arrested each of the eight. The eight people are: Dick Arnold, 63, of Federal Way, WA; Marie Bernard, 63, of Seattle, WA; Mary Gleysteen, 52, of Kingston, WA; Joy Goldstein, 65, of Vashon Island, WA; Mary Hanson, 54, of Seattle, WA; Lisa Johnson, 42, of Silverdale, WA; Karol Milner, 47, of Lake Forest Park, WA; and Brian Watson, 31, of Bremerton, WA. They were booked for Disorderly Conduct and Failure to Disperse by sheriff’s officers and released.

The nonviolent civil resistance action resulting in these arrests culminated a four-day conference on--and training in--nonviolence as a tool for social change, hosted by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. The theme of the gathering and the nonviolent action at Bangor was that love for all beings compels us to take nonviolent action to confront threats to life; the Trident nuclear weapons system represents one of the greatest threats to life, and must be resisted through active nonviolence.

Kitsap County prosecutors have failed to convict activists

for acts of nonviolent civil resistance at Bangor since 1985, when a jury acquitted 19 people of charges when they sat in front of a train bringing nuclear warheads to Bangor. In June 1999, another Kitsap Co. jury found eight people innocent of charges because they felt International Law legally justified acts of nonviolent civil resistance. In Dec. 1999, a Kitsap Co.



A good day’s work: 8 people close the Bangor Submarine Base on Hiroshima Day, Aug. 6, 2000. From L to R, they are Brian Watson, Lisa Johnson, Marie Bernard, Karol Milner, Joy Goldstein, Mary Hanson, Dick Arnold, and Mary Gleysteen. *Photo by Lucy Johnson*

judge found four people innocent of charges. In Feb. 2000, Kitsap Co. prosecutors decided to not charge five people who had blocked the road to Bangor on Jan. 17, 2000, Martin Luther King Day.

Each Trident submarine is armed with 192 W76 100-kiloton warheads on 24 accurate, long-range C-4 missiles. The Navy is currently beginning a \$9 billion refit of four of the Bangor-based Trident subs to carry even more accurate, larger, and longer-range Trident II D-5 missiles. In addition, the Navy and Dept. of Energy are working on a redesign of the W76 warhead to make it capable of exploding at ground level. Both these developments further enhance the US’s ability to launch a nuclear first-strike. They also are in direct violation of international laws and treaty obligations the US has to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Brian Watson is an artist who lives in Bremerton, WA with his wife Elizabeth Roberts. He is the editor of the Ground Zero newsletter.

Nonviolence: Practice makes progress

More stories from August 3-6 at Ground Zero

Reflections on being at Bangor on Hiroshima Day

By Jennifer Pratt

"For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but lose their souls."

What I saw on August 6 were people who were gaining their souls.

"What's the point?" an on-looker might say. "This doesn't change anything. Why suffer the embarrassment of being stared at? And that guy that yelled 'F*** you!' out his car window. There was real rage in his voice. And that's all besides getting a police record."

But if you believe that all it takes for evil to prosper is for good people to do nothing; and if you believe in prayer, as I do, you believe that focused intentions can alter the course of events. And that's the point. No one can do everything but each of us can do something. It is in doing what we can that we gain our souls.



Jennifer Pratt addresses the gathering at the gates of Bangor, Aug. 6, 2000. She is an Episcopal priest at St. John's in Gig Harbor and St. Hugh's in Allyn.
Photo by Brian Watson



Participants in the Ceremony of Witnessing, Blessing, Transformation, and Healing gather on the shores of Hood Canal on Aug. 3, 2000. Led by Raven, the ceremony took place on land and water, with 8 people paddling 4 vessels to the water boundary surrounding the Bangor Trident submarine base, while 4 others remained at the launch point to pray.
Photo by Brian Watson

"I was there when Hiroshima was bombed..."

A letter to the *Bremerton Sun* from a World War II Navy veteran

Dear Editor:

It is on the 55th anniversary of Hiroshima that I am most sharply reminded of the relationship between duty to one's country and nuclear weapons, and the perilous state in which we live today. I think back 60 years, to the time when the Second World War had started and the bombing at Pearl Harbor took place. I was then a college graduate student, and it became clear that we all would be called and we all should respond.

So I went into the Navy, where I spent four years in Communications Intelligence. I was there when Hiroshima was bombed, and I also recall the mid-watch we heard about Nagasaki and the young USN commander, an Annapolis man, who wept because he had visited

Nagasaki and he knew it should not have been destroyed.

It became obvious then that the total destructive power of the new bomb was such that no one, combatant or not, man, woman or child, would escape. That, in brief, the time had come either for the end of the nuclear bomb---or the end of the world.

I am moved to write this letter because my son and daughter-in-law participated in the anti-Trident protest action at the Bangor main gate on August 6, 2000. I support the demonstrators at Bangor and all others who have taken their stand against nuclear weapons.

Pyke Johnson, Jr.
Lt. Commander, USNR (ret.)
Old Greenwich, CT

A letter to Sub Base Bangor Commander David Thomas

Editor's note: this letter was read at the gates of Bangor on August 6, 2000 and given to Base Security officers to pass on. There has been no response to this letter from Sub Base Bangor Commander David Thomas so far.

August 6, 2000

Dear David Thomas,

My son and you have the same name. Do you recall that David means 'beloved?' You and he are beloved by many people: family, friends, the people with whom you work.

I want all the Davids and each being of every name to survive and thrive. I believe that you want the same thing.

From my home in Seattle and your work inside the Trident Base we both work to protect the world.

I would like the opportunity to listen to you so I could understand your truth. I believe that each person has some part of the truth. I realize that when you joined the military you gave up some of your rights to speak freely about certain aspects of your work, and your own thought and feelings.

Recognizing these constraints, I would like to ask:

1. What is your passion in life? How do you like to spend your time?
2. Do you have concerns around the issue of the threat of using nuclear weapons? If you do, can you share some of them with me?
3. What do people misunderstand about your side of the issue? What would you like them to understand?

I believe it is only through listening that understanding will come.

Blessings,
Rosy Betz-Zall

Rosy Betz-Zall is a nonviolence trainer in the New Society Trainer Collective, works with F.O.R.'s compassionate listening project on Makah whaling, and enjoys singing with the Ragging Grannies.

We Come Here This Day: Statement Distributed at Subbase Bangor on August 6, 2000

By Brian Watson

We come here on this day, August 6, 2000, to remember the people who were burned, injured, irradiated, and killed by the atomic bomb dropped on their city, Hiroshima, 55 years ago on August 6, 1945. We come here with their suffering, carrying the memory of their lives with us, to this place, the Pacific base for the Trident nuclear weapons system. We bring with us their deepest longing, and urgent plea: that such suffering never be repeated. We deliver here to Sub Base Bangor, on this day, the message of their suffering: that what they endured be a lesson, that their suffering not be in vain, but that it serves to teach us, now, to abolish nuclear weapons, and thereby ensure that such horror never be repeated.

We come here also to celebrate life—and to show our love of all beings, all living things, all people—by acting on our deepest beliefs and our conscience. We take action at this place on this day because we feel we must. We believe that common sense, basic human decency, and simple morality compel us to speak out with our words and our actions against Trident. We believe that International Law grants us rights and imposes duties on us to nonviolently resist our government's plans to commit War Crimes, Crimes Against the Peace, and Crimes Against Humanity, as manifested in the Trident nuclear weapons system. We believe that the Trident II D-5 missile upgrade and the W76 warhead redesign represent ongoing examples of how our government is failing to honor its legal obligations to achieve nuclear disarmament, as the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and the International Court of Justice Opinion of July 8, 1996 require. Our presence and our actions here today are done with the knowledge that Trident holds all life at risk, and that because we love all life, we simply must resist Trident as we are able.

We come here too to express our care and concern for the peo-

ple who work at Bangor, who design, maintain, and operate Trident subs and their weapons. We come here because we are all equal brothers and sisters together, who share more in common than any of us might think possible. We come here knowing that you, too, want to celebrate and protect life. We honor your need for employment so you can provide for your families. We come here to where you live and work, not to separate “you” from “us,” but to challenge ourselves, as well as you, to realize our common humanity on Earth, and to ask how we can work together to meet our common human needs. We realize that many of you feel you can do the work you do on behalf of Trident so that we can have the freedom to dissent. We come here to tell you that we honor the price you have paid to your personal lives and your families. The reason we resist Trident is so we all can live in a world without nuclear weapons at all, in which you no longer feel the need to make such sacrifices.



Law Enforcement: Joy Goldstein is handcuffed by a Kitsap County Sheriff's officer on August 6, 2000. Can you spot the Trident submarine in this picture? Look closely at the patch emblem on the officer's shirt sleeve. Below the 6-point star, there is a black silhouette of a Trident submarine and 3-spined Trident symbol piercing the waters of Puget Sound. This patch is standard-issue on all Kitsap Sheriff's officers' uniforms. *Photo by Lucy Johnson*

We come here, above all, to express our strongest desire that humankind learn to live in peace with justice. We come here to resist Trident because we believe that Trident, while it might serve as a way of maintaining US dominance in global affairs, does so by constantly threatening other families, children, and the very air we all breathe, the water we all drink, and the soil from which the plants we eat grow. We come here to say that such a dominance, enforced by such a threat, is not peace and is not just. We come here to say that the responsibility for creating a world in peace, with justice, belongs to each of us. We can no longer point fingers at other people and other countries and say “They must take the first step toward peace before I do.” We each of us have the responsibility for taking such a step ourselves. We come here today, August 6, to the Bangor Trident base to take such a step, and

hope it serves as an invitation to you to take your own steps toward creating true peace. We come here to invite each of us look at our own lives, and ask what we can do to build a world that our children will be grateful to inherit.

“hammer swords into plowshares...that nation will not lift sword against nation or will they ever again be trained to make war.” — Micah 4:3

Sacred Earth & Space Plowshares

Twenty years to the day of the first Plowshares action, five women on Sept. 9, 2000, entered Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, CO to “hammer swords into plowshares” (Micah 4:3). Among the five women was Ground Zero organizer Jackie Hudson OP, as well as Carol Gilbert OP, Anne Montgomery RSCJ, Liz Walters IHM, and Ardeth Platte OP. The five women represent three religious orders in the Catholic Church. Combined, they have 220 years with the Dominicans, the Religious of the Sacred heart, and Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

At 10:15am on Sept. 9, 2000 all five women acted in concert against a Milstar communications satellite receiver and an F-18 A-1 Hornet (used extensively in Desert Storm and still active in bombing Iraq). The 5 activists hammered on each weapon 4 times, for a total of 20 hammer blows, one for each of the 20 years since the first Plowshares action at the King of Prussia General Electric Plant. They then poured blood on the F-18 A-1 Hornet and on the Milstar satellite receiver.

As they were being arrested they unfurled two banners which contained an earth-sky logo and an inscription reading “Sacred Earth & Space – Plowshares 2000.” They then began to read their statements. They were detained by Air Force security forces and were taken into custody by local police who booked them into the El Paso County jail on charges of “criminal mischief, interfering with government operations, and conspiracy to do both.” Bond was set at \$1,000.

Anne Montgomery, who was part of the Plowshares action September 9, 1980, said: “Twenty years ago, during the first plowshares action at the King of Prussia G.E. Plant, I realized that if there is a weapon before me, I must disarm it.”

Ardeth Platte added: “All within us and our religious congregations place our trust and security in the God of creation who made heaven and earth. We renew

that pledge today by saying ‘no, not in our names,’ to the idols (weapons of false security), of the U.S. Space Command and their vision of dominating and exploiting outer space to protect U.S. investments and vested interests. We refuse to allow false gods to be placed before us. We accept all sisters, brothers, resources and creatures as one with us in the



Sacred Earth & Space Plowshares 2000: from left to right: Liz Walters, Anne Montgomery, Carol Gilbert, Jackie Hudson, and Ardeth Platte.

web of life.”

In their letter to friends, Carol 52, Liz 57, Anne 73, Ardeth 64, and Jackie 65 state: “It is our love for God’s people, Earth, and all creation that compelled us to disarm directly and symbolically these war-making idols. We acted with all love in our hearts. Now we await the legal consequences of our disarmament action...”

Local peace activist Bill Sulzman, Director of Citizens for Peace in Space noted that the action was significant in that “the cutting edge of Christian anti-war resistance has for the first time come head to head with the cutting edge of futuristic, space based war making.”

Compiled from press releases and newspaper articles.

*A letter from Jackie Hudson
about the Plowshares action...*

Dear Family and Friends,

It has been some time since I wrote a letter like this. As you all well know, I remain an active worker to make the planet safe for all life. There are times when this commitment calls for more sacrifice than others. My activism has always been based in the christian scriptures, most specifically on following in the path of Jesus. Many have heard me say, “I believe in the Jesus before christi-anity.” Jesus spent his life on this earth working to right injustice in all realms. He spoke out against unjust religious and secular systems.

A “plowshare” action has been in my plans for some time and now the moment has arrived to act in concert with four women, all members of religious congregations here in the US. We will speak to the evil of nuclear weapons of mass destruction and the militarization of space. This decision came after much prayer and discernment.

The symbols of household hammers, which reflect a tool used to destroy what is evil and build what will respond to basic human needs; and blood, which reflects that instruments of war exist solely to cause bloodshed and also portrays the essential element for the lifestream if the planet is to continue existing.

It is imperative today that we speak in as strong a voice as possible unmasking the plans of our military and political leaders. “...*the way a nation makes wealth is the way it makes war. Space is critical to both military and economic instruments of power—the main source of national strength....Protecting our freedom to use space and having an ability to deny an enemy’s use of space will grow more important in the future.*”

The above quotes are from Howell M. Estes III, General, USAF Commander in

Dear Family & Friends
Continued on page 5...

Weapons Threaten Peaceful Outer Space

By Mary Ellen McDonagh, BVM

Currently, the U.S. does not have a weapon whose muzzle is located in space, but it does have weapons with sighting and aiming mechanisms located in space. For example, an anti-ballistic missile system can become an offensive tool if armed with nuclear missiles similar to those being targeted "on the other side."

This brief analysis will consider the overall role of the U.S. military in space and the ballistic missile defense (BMD) system.

Last November, the General Assembly of the United Nations voted to reaffirm the 1967 Outer Space Treaty--the fundamental international law that establishes that space should be reserved for peaceful uses.

The resolution, entitled "Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space," recognized "the common interest of all mankind (sic) in the exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes." "Master of Space" is the frightening motto of the United States Space Command, a joint Air Force, Army and Navy command set up by the Pentagon in 1985. "U.S. Space Command -- dominating the space dimension of military operations to protect U.S. interests and investment. Integrating Space Forces into warfighting capabilities across the full spectrum of conflict," reads the Command's *Vision for 2020*, a report whose flashy four-color cover depicts a laser weapon in space firing on earth.

"Space power (systems, capabilities and forces) will be increasingly leveraged to close the ever widening gap between diminishing resources and increasing military commitments." (*Vision for 2020*)

"We're going to fight from space and we're going to fight into space... That's why the U.S. has development programs in directed

energy and hit-to-kill programs." (*Gen. Joseph Ashy, in 1996 while U.S. Space Command's commander*)

Karl Grossman, journalism professor at State University New York, cites a 1996 Air Force board report, "New World Vistas: Air and Space Power for the 21st Century." "Setting the emotional issues of nuclear power aside," says the report, "this technology offers...large amounts of power in space." One specific weapon system within the overall system is the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMD).

In place of Star Wars, President Clinton created BMD and moved Star Wars funding into that system. Quite simply, it is the most expensive and complicated weapon system ever devised.

"If the U.S. is allowed to move the arms race into space, there will be no return," warns Bruce Gagnon, coordinator for the Global Network Against Weapons in Space based in Gainesville, FL. He continues, "We have this one chance, this one moment in history to stop the weaponization of space from happening. The peace movement must move quickly, boldly and publicly."

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GOOD NEWS! (sort of)

Charges dropped against Sacred Earth & Space Plowshares; US Space Command ducks for cover

On Sept. 15, 2000 charges were dropped against the five Sacred Earth & Space Plowshares women arrested Sept. 9, 2000. As Bill Sulzman, Director of Citizens for Peace in Space, reports: "The jail commander was in tears as he spoke to the sisters late this afternoon." Federal charges may still be pressed at a later time.

A statement released by the five women states: "Our release from the El Paso County Jail and the dismissal of felony charges reflects again the attempt to keep the wall of secrecy surrounding the U.S. Space Command and the complicit Aerospace Corporations. In this time of de-escalation of worldwide conflict and disarmament treaties, the U.S. Space Command Nerve Center forges ahead, keeping concealed the billions of dollars in present and future budgets and total force planning for militarization and weaponization of outer space.

"We leave Colorado Springs committing ourselves to: unmasking the whole plan of dominance and exploitation of space; continuing the 'hammering of swords into plowshares;' and joining the October 7th International Day of Protest and Actions against Star Wars.

"We will continue to preach the good news that God is our only true security, that 'nonviolence or nonexistence' is essential for future generations, that our sisters and brothers make up the entire world and should never be targeted as enemy, that we must learn stewardship of God's creation, not the destruction of it."

Dear Family and Friends, continued from page 4

Chief, [found] in the Foreword of the Executive Summary of the Long Range Plan for US SPACE COM.

The US SPACE COMMAND is under the command of Howell M. Estes III, General USAF and consists of US Army Space Command, 14th Air Force, and the Naval Space Command. These are referred to as "the joint force for the 21st Century working to achieve **full spectrum dominance: persuasive in peace, decisive in war, preeminent in any form of conflict.**" (*Joint Vision 2020*, p. 1)

...The above, and the current news regarding space-related activities which will violate present international treaties has led me to **act now** to unmask this vision of our present leaders. We cannot allow this to be developed without speaking to its dangers for the world in general as well as to the increased burden being placed on the poorest in our nation and world. The resources going into this program will soon reach trillions of dollars.

IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE IT MUST BE STOPPED!! I will continue to speak to this issue as well as to our dependence on nuclear weapons, both in our courts and in our prison system. I invite you to speak out on these issues wherever you can.

Peace to all, Jackie

Jackie Hudson is a member of the Grand Rapids, Michigan Dominican religious order and organizer with Ground Zero. She is a beautiful soul who grows a mean garden.

The little boat that could

Protesting the arrival of the USS Alabama to Seattle

By Jacob Milner

On August 2nd I went out on Elliott Bay in a 16-foot Lund boat with a friend, Mary Gleysteen, and my father, Glen Milner. We were there to protest the arrival of the Navy fleet and the Trident submarine, the USS Alabama, to the Seattle waterfront. I was there because I do not like what the Alabama represents. In my mind, the USS Alabama represents death and cruelty. It is too dangerous and evil to be welcomed to any event, especially a family event such as Seafair.

We attached a banner to our boat with a large sunflower and big letters that said "Choose Life." Around the sunflower were the names of people that we love and care about. The names of friends, family members, and neighbors were on the banner.

We entered Elliott Bay around 10:30am and headed toward Shilshole Bay. At about noon we spotted the USS Alabama entering Elliott Bay from the direction of Bremerton. I was angry when I first spotted it. I could still not understand why something like this was allowed at Seafair.

Several police boats came up to our boat and warned us that we had to stay 500 yards away from the submarine. We were not planning to be arrested and we agreed to keep the legal distance from the sub. The USS Alabama made a loop around Elliott Bay and left toward Everett. The sub was gone before 1pm.

We all decided to head north toward Edmonds to watch for the arriving Navy fleet. We first saw the fleet assembling at about 2:30pm. At 3pm we saw the USS Alabama following five warships. We followed the fleet into Elliott Bay for about 45 minutes. We were warned many times by the Coast Guard to

keep 500 yards away from the vessels and the sub. For a segment of about five minutes the water was very choppy and it was difficult for our little boat to move where we wanted it to go. I remember thinking that the boat was going to sink.



At 3:45 we were given an ultimatum by a Coast Guard boat with "Bellingham" printed on the stern. They had just gotten a phone call to keep us from going further south. We obeyed their order and stayed where we were. The only way we moved was going east or west. However, during this period, we noticed other boats in the area from which we were banned. One boat, which had a para-sailer in the air connected to it, was even going in between the Navy frigates. We all decided that it was simply a "no protest zone."

We stayed where we were until the sub docked. It was frustrating that we could not move where we would be more effective. It wasn't until after we took our rental boat back to the pier that I was angry about our treatment. Our freedom of speech rights were violated. We were not even allowed to keep a legal distance from the submarine.

I am very glad I chose to be out on Elliott Bay protesting the arrival of the USS Alabama and the Navy fleet. I strongly feel that it was the right thing to do.



Mosquito Fleet: (Top, from L to R) Glen Milner, Mary Gleysteen, and Jacob Milner in their 16' boat with their banner. (Bottom) Escorting the 560' USS Alabama as it enters Elliott Bay for Seafair on August 2, 2000. Photo stills from video by Jackie Hudson.

Jacob Milner is 14 years old and is a freshman at Shorecrest High School in Shoreline, Wash. He likes music and sports and talking on the phone.

Live Without Trident: a Campaign in Progress

By Jean Buskin

Early in June this year, the Northwest Disarmament Coalition called a meeting of activists, all of us shocked to hear that a nuclear weapons-carrying Trident submarine was coming for Seafair, a Seattle community festival. In 1997, a Trident sub at Seafair had met with massive, highly visible protests, and we thought we had made the point sufficiently to deter future visits. Instruments of mass destruction are not suitable for festivals! The "Live Without Trident" Network sprang into action.

Within a couple of weeks, a letter drafted by Martin Fleck of Physicians for Social Responsibility was approved and signatures were gathered from activists and community leaders. We asked the City Council for a hearing, and for an ordinance preventing nuclear weapons at festivals. A lobbying campaign began, and we requested meetings with City Council members. In the last days before Ancy Koppel's death on July 22nd, she actively lobbied on this issue.

Councilmember Richard Conlin agreed

to sponsor a forum, and CMs Nick Licata, Judy Nicastro, and Peter Steinbrueck lent their support. The July 31 forum was packed with 250 people spilling out into the lobby. Of those present, 80% opposed nuclear weapons at festivals - this in spite of right wing radio KVT's best efforts to get the pro-nuke forces to the meeting.

We conducted a petition campaign, with most of the 500 signatures gathered by Peace Action interns. Organizations including PSR, GZ, Seattle Women Act for Peace, and Fellowship of Reconciliation did phoning and mailings to members. Indi-

Live Without Trident cont. on p. 7

Address to the Seattle City Council, July 31, 2000

Trident Doesn't Belong at Seafair--or Anywhere

By Rev. Anne Hall

One of the successes of the Live Without Trident campaign this summer was the Seattle City Council Forum held on July 31. The City Council chambers were packed with a standing-room-only crowd of 250 people, most of who came to speak out against the presence of the Trident submarine USS Alabama coming to Seafair. After a presentation on the facts of Trident by Martin Fleck of Wash. Physicians for Social Responsibility, Rev. Anne Hall, and Brian Watson of Ground Zero addressed the forum. Below is the address Anne Hall gave.

In last Friday's Seattle Times, Rear Admiral William Marshall defended bringing a Trident submarine to SeaFair by saying that the sailors who work on Trident deserve a chance to enjoy the celebration. I believe I would speak for everyone in this room in saying, of course, Trident sailors are welcome at SeaFair - but why not have them come over on the ferry? We have good ferry service from Kitsap County. Trident crews don't need to come on a sub.

In the same article, Rear Admiral Marshall referred to Tridents, and other Navy ships, as "platforms," as if a Trident submarine were merely a harmless stage for sailors to stand on. But Trident is not harmless.

Trident could mean the end of the world.

I have been involved in nuclear resistance since 1982, when I heard Dr. Judith Lipman describe what would happen if a nuclear bomb hit Seattle. She described the incredible blast, the unbelievable heat, and the raging fireball that would engulf the city. She talked about death and burns and radiation.

And the one thing she said that I will never forget, is that if the bomb fell on a weekday, when parents were at work and children were at school or daycare, that children would die alone, without their parents ever being able to reach them. My children were 8 and 11, and I couldn't bear the thought of their dying that way.

And so I plunged into nuclear resistance, trying to do whatever I could, to ensure that neither my children, nor anyone else's, would ever again die because of a nuclear bomb.

Many of us were taught growing up that we had to have nu-

Live Without Trident, continued from page 6

viduals wrote OpEds and letters to the editors, and activists spoke on radio and TV shows. Two demonstrations were held, all day at Elliott Bay Park the day the submarine arrived, and in downtown Seattle.

We celebrate our successes: getting the danger of nuclear weapons presented on the airwaves, in the newspapers, in the streets, and in our city hall. But our campaign is not over. We need another supporter of the City Council Resolution banning nuclear weapons at festivals. We need everyone's participation: call or email the council 206-684-8888 or council@ci.seattle.wa.us and let them know what you think!

Jean Buskin is a biochemist who lives in Seattle with her 2 cats. She does NOT like nuclear weapons.

clear weapons because our enemy - the Soviet Union - had them. We believed that our being ready to retaliate kept the Soviet Union from firing at us. But nuclear weapons have always endangered us, rather than protecting us, and Trident has always been the worst. Trident roams around underwater, secretly, within minutes of its targets, forcing an enemy to launch on warning, lest its own weapons be destroyed in their silos.

When the Cold War ended, we thought we were safer. The Soviet Union broke up, and its component countries became our friends. But we all know about the economic and social chaos in Russia. And because of that chaos, the threat of accidental nuclear war is increasing alarmingly.

An example. On January 25, 1995, an ordinary day, when there were no particular tensions around the world, Russia's nuclear command center detected an unidentified missile over the Norwegian Sea, and suspected a preemptive nuclear strike by a U.S. submarine. As Russia's Strategic Rocket Forces prepared to launch their missiles, President Yeltsin was notified and given his nuclear "briefcase." Yeltsin had about four minutes to decide whether to retaliate against the U.S. Fortunately, he decided not to order a nuclear counterattack. The unidentified missile turned out to be a Norwegian weather rocket. The Russian embassy in Norway had been given notice of the rocket launch, but Russia's nuclear command had not been informed.

In a world where accidental nuclear war is ever more likely, Trident is not what we need. The only way to eliminate the threat, is to eliminate nuclear weapons, and to put into place inspections and safeguards around the world that will insure that nuclear weapons will never be used again.

A year and a half ago I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I was told that if I was willing to have a mastectomy, the threat would be gone. For many days I was in denial - I said, it can't be cancer, I feel fine. But eventually I realized that life was too precious to leave it now, and so I had the surgery, and ever since I have thanked God every day for life.

Nuclear weapons are a cancer in our society. They cause cancer in their production, when they are detonated, and in the waste that they leave, as we are learning at Hanford and other nuclear sites.

But even beyond that, nuclear weapons are a cancer. Nuclear weapons eat up the resources that we need to give healthy lives to our people. And nuclear weapons spread a culture of violence. We want our children to settle disputes at school non-violently. What does it say to our children that we adults continue to upgrade and threaten to use the most violent weapons ever invented? That we are willing to aim them at children around the globe and, if necessary, use them?

Nuclear weapons are a cancer. We need to end our denial and eliminate them. One big step toward a nuclear-free world is

Rev. Anne Hall is a pastor at University Baptist Church in Seattle. She has been involved in Trident resistance for many years and is a proud first-time grandmother.

The sinking of the Kursk

Praying for our Enemies?

By Joy Goldstein

I followed the tragedy of the Russian nuclear submarine, *Kursk*, praying for those young men. I think most of the Trident crews were praying for them also. And I think the Trident crews have a much more vivid sense of what the Russians endured than I could ever hope to have. They know what it's like to be down there and can imagine all too vividly what it must have been like to be trapped and to have something go terribly wrong.

It is reprehensible that the Russian high command did not immediately accept international offers of help. Why didn't they? Because they wanted to protect their nuclear security? Because they did not want other nations to realize that the Russian technology was "behind" that of other countries? Because, like little boys, they had to "prove" they could do it themselves?

Does it matter now?

118 bodies swim in the dark water under the Barents Sea. 118 sons, brothers, husbands, lovers, in a cold steel coffin. A crew---watches and shifts---men who knew one another, cared for one another, laughed and horsed around, endured loneliness and boredom and kept their fears to themselves.

What were those Russian submariners doing down there? Were they silently moving into position to attack an unguarded U.S.? Or China? Or were they, like our Trident Blue and Gold crews, "just doing their job" practicing what they believed they might need to do to defend their country?

Does it matter now?

Those young men in the *Kursk* were identified as our "enemies." Yet "our boys" who wear the Double Dolphin insignia have more in common with those 118 Russian sailors than they do with most of us American civilians.

Those 118 Russians were our "enemies." But many, many of us were praying for them daily, praying that there should be pockets of air left, for the submersibles to get to the hatch, for our "enemies" to live.

How is it that we can pray for our enemies---trained to destroy us---to trigger our destroying them--and to spread ruin over all our green earth?

Were they our enemies? In their ordeal and in their dying, we have been forced to see them as just human beings:

118 men---sons, brothers, husbands, lovers, nephews, grandsons, friends.

Joy Goldstein is an intern with Ground Zero. She lives on Vashon Island and is a potter.

The Price of Humanity's Hubris

By Lloyd J. Dumas

The sinking of the pride of the Russian submarine fleet, the *Kursk*, is not just another tragic loss of life at sea. It added two more nuclear reactors and perhaps nuclear warheads, as well, to the more than half-dozen reactors and nearly 50 nuclear warheads already on the bottom of the sea. No one knows just how much ecological damage this nuclear graveyard is generating or when its latent threat to human life will become manifest.

Blaming the deteriorating condition of Russia's military forces for the *Kursk* tragedy obscures a key point. Similar accidents have happened before, under different conditions. When the U.S. nuclear-powered attack submarine *Thresher* sank with 129 men and two nuclear-armed SUBROC missiles aboard, it was 1963, and the Cold War was at its height. When a Yankee-class Russian submarine carrying 16 missiles, each armed with two nuclear warheads, sank 960 kilometers northeast of Bermuda in water 4.8 kilometers deep, it was 1986, in the heady, early days of glasnost and perestroika. Eight years later, Russian scientists told U.S. experts that the sub had broken up. The warheads and missiles, they said, were "badly damaged and scattered on the sea floor" and were surely leaking plutonium and uranium. In 1993, the Russians warned that plutonium from the nuclear submarine *Komsomolets*, which sank in the Norwegian Sea in 1989 with two nuclear torpedoes on board, was in danger of

leaking and poisoning important fishing grounds.

All told, there are two U.S., one French and five Russian submarines in the underwater nuclear graveyard. But that is not the end of the story. The Kola Peninsula, off of which the *Kursk* sank, has become a junkyard for 100 Soviet-era nuclear-powered subs that are rusting away with their nuclear reactors still on board. The 50,000 nuclear-fuel assemblies from the reactors are sitting in storage tanks, some of which are probably leaking and in open-air bins on military bases and shipyards. At present rates, it will take decades to transport them to permanent storage.

The *Kursk* tragedy, in which 118 Russian sailors died, is the latest in a long line of nuclear military accidents. During the 45 years before the *Kursk* was built, there were at least 89 publicly reported military accidents involving nuclear weapons: 59 American, 25 Soviet/Russian, four French and one British.

In a larger sense, the *Kursk* is the most recent reminder of our own imperfectability and the limitations of the technological devices we have developed. We must learn to take more seriously the boundaries created by our un-

Lloyd J. Dumas is a professor of political economy at the University of Texas, Dallas. This article is excerpted from the Los Angeles Times and originally appeared in the Sept. 7, 2000 Moscow Times

Trident Resistance across the US and across the sea...

Ashland County, WI drops charge against disarmers of Navy antenna

By John La Forge

ASHLAND, WI, August 28-In a precedent-setting move, Ashland County District Attorney Michael Gableman has chosen not to prosecute peace activists who downed wooden poles supporting the antenna lines for the U.S. Navy's Project ELF transmitter, located near Clam Lake, WI. In a letter dated August 28, 2000, Gableman informed Ashland County Circuit Court Judge Robert Eaton that he will not pursue the charge of intentional damage to property originally brought against Bonnie Urfer, 48, and Michael Sprong, 37, both of Luck, WI.

Judge Eaton read into the record an August 28 letter from the U.S. Attorney's office in Madison, WI that said in part, "Baring something unforeseen, we intend to initiate federal prosecution in this matter."

In what they report was "an act of non-violent direct nuclear disarmament and crime prevention," on June 24, 2000, Urfer and Sprong used ordinary bow saws to cut down three poles supporting the antenna for the controversial Project ELF transmitter, taking it off-line for more than 24 hours. Urfer and Sprong attached documents to the downed poles explaining that the Trident submarine system stands in violation of domestic and international laws against threats of genocide and prohibiting poisoned weapons and is a first strike weapon.

After waiting at the disarmament site for more than an hour, Urfer and Sprong were arrested by a lone Ashland County Sheriff's Deputy. Initially, they were charged with sabotage as well as intentional damage to property. By the time Mr. Gableman filed a formal complaint against the ELF disarmers July 3, he had dropped the sabotage charge.

The June disarmament action is the fourth time that peace activists in Wisconsin have downed ELF poles in protest and either waited for authorities or turned themselves in to police. Each time, the

Manchester Crown Court jury acquits Aldermaston Women Trident Plowshares on one count, is hung on second count

After finding them Not Guilty yesterday on one charge, the jury in the Manchester Crown Court trial of nuclear disarmers Rosie James and Rachel Wenham has been discharged after being unable to agree on the other charge.

The women were each charged with two counts of criminal damage to Trident submarine HMS Vengeance at Barrow in February 1999.

After four hours of deliberation, the jury returned with a majority verdict of Not Guilty for both women on the second count of spray-painting "Death Machine" and "Illegal" on the vessel. However, after retiring for a total of 6 hours 13 minutes, the jury were unable to reach a verdict on the first count of hammering test equipment. The prosecution failed to meet a deadline to ask for them to be tried again. Rosie and Rachel will not



be brought to trial again on the first count.

A spokeswoman for the women's affinity group, Aldermaston Women Trash Trident, said: "We see this outcome as a victory. Our case clearly caused a serious

dilemma for the jury and it shows that instinctive morality is alive and well. If there [was] a retrial it [would] be the third appearance in the dock for these women in this case. We believe it [would] be a complete waste of public money to add to the £1.5 billion already being spent this year on the Trident system."

Ms Wenham said: "Despite the efforts of

From a press release by Aldermaston Women Trash Trident, one of 26 affinity groups part of Trident Plowshares 2000. Contact them at tp2000@gn.apc.org.

activists explained that their action was excusable as "crime prevention." In 1987 and again in 1996, protesters were acquitted of felony sabotage charges by juries in Ashland County. Experts at the two trials testified that nuclear weapons are illegal-because of being indiscriminate in their destructive power-and that deterrence is an outlawed means of coercion.

Monday's dismissal of state charges is unprecedented in over 20 years of civil protest against Project ELF, a nuclear weapon support system. Until today, Ashland County has consistently handled all prosecutions of demonstrators accused of trespassing or damage to Navy equipment at the Clam Lake ELF site.

Ms. Urfer, in jail since the June 24 action, served 65-days in Ashland County jail for refusing to pay fines

from one of three previous ELF trespass convictions resulting from protests at the site. Urfer was released on Monday, after two remaining fines, totaling \$421.00 were paid.

Since 1991, about 554 trespass citations have been issued to anti-war activists who charge that the ELF and Trident complex is a relic of the cold war, an electromagnetic danger to the local environment and enables the Trident subs to threaten a nuclear first-strike.

John La Forge is a staff member of Nukewatch, which is part of the Trident Resistance Network. For more information, contact Nukewatch at: P.O. Box 649 Luck, WI 54853 Phone (715) 472-4185 Fax (715) 472-4184 Web <http://www.nukewatch.com>

Bits and Pieces...

All the print that didn't fit anywhere else...

Thank you once!

Ground Zero recently received two grants for which we are very grateful.

We'd first like to acknowledge the generosity of the Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia's (NACC) Conscience and Military Tax Campaign (CMTC) for its \$300 grant to Ground Zero.

CMTC manages an escrow fund, composed of resisted war taxes from across the US. The \$250,000-\$300,000 fund is used to fund peace and justice groups like Ground Zero. For information on how to contribute resisted war taxes contact Geov Parrish at cmtc@igc.org or 206-547-0952.

Thank you twice!!

We would also like to thank the Abe Keller Peace Education Fund for its \$400 grant to GZ's work for peace.

In fond memory of a Seattle-area peace activist, the Abe Keller Peace Education Fund was established in 1998 to provide financial resources for peace-education activities in the Puget Sound region. They invite you to learn about, and participate in, a variety of educational programs designed to promote peace and social justice.

For more information, visit their website at www.soundhome.com/abe_keller or call Rosemary Brodie at 206-523-1127.

Thank you thrice!!!

We'd also like to thank Lynn Nadeau of Port Townsend, WA for contributing her own personally resisted war taxes to Ground Zero's Trident Campaign Fund.

Thank you once again

We also gratefully acknowledge the many donations Ground Zero has received in memory of Marygolde Hanson, who passed away this summer. We are blessed and deeply honored to receive such memorial gifts. Thank you.

Ground Zero hits the road

Ground Zero organizer Brian Watson will go on a speaking tour to Northern California Oct. 13-23, speaking about the June 1999 acquittal of Trident resisters at Bangor and how International Law obligates US citizens to resist nuclear weapons through direct action.

Brian's tour includes stops in Chico, Davis, San Francisco, Fresno, Nevada City, Santa Rosa, Modesto, Berkeley, KUMR and KPFA radio, and other locations. Let your friends in Northern California know! Call tour organizer Russ Jorgenson 707-538-1502 or email Brian at brian@gzcenter.org for a tour schedule.

Ground Zero organizer Jackie Hudson will be speaking at Peterson AFB in Colorado Springs, Co. for the Oct. 7

International Day of Protest Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. Colorado Springs is the home of US Space Command, NORAD, and many other centers for the militarization of space. For more information: visit www.globenet.free-online.co.uk or call the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space at 352-337-9274.

Got footage?

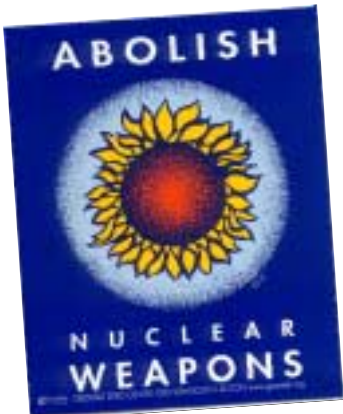
A documentary film on Trident and Trident resistance is being produced by Ground Zero friends Glen Milner and Mike McCormick. They are searching for film of Trident resistance actions/demonstrations. Originals will be returned. Contact ASAP. Glen Milner 3227 NE 198th Place, Seattle, WA 98155; e-mail gkaaajm@juno.com. Or Mike McCormick mikemc@wrq.com.

SPOT THE SUB AND WIN BIG!



Can you find the Alaska? The USS Alaska Trident submarine is somewhere in this picture. Can you find it? **Everyone who successfully identifies the Alaska will receive a free "Abolish Nuclear Weapons" bumpersticker!** Just cut out or photocopy this picture, draw circle around the Alaska, and mail it in to Ground Zero to win! We'll publish the answer in the next issue of *Ground Zero*. The USS Alaska is the first of four Trident subs that are to be refitted to deploy larger, longer-range, and more accurate (and expensive-\$60 million each!) Trident II D-5 nuclear missiles. The total cost for the Trident upgrade will exceed \$9 billion in short-term expenses alone, and more that \$20 billion in long-term costs. This is an aerial photo of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash. *Hint: it looks like a fish out of water.*

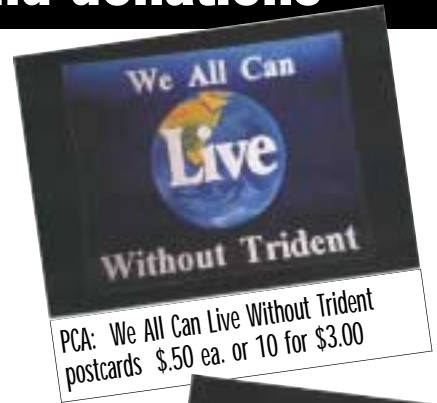
T-Shirts, bumperstickers, postcards, and donations



BS: 4"x5" vinyl bumpersticker; white lettering on dark blue background with yellow sunflower in the middle. Price: \$.25ea. or 50 for \$10.



TSC: Hefty T's -Purple with white lettering
 Front: We All Can Live Without Trident
 Back: Nobody needs a nuclear weapon
 Sizes: M, L, XL



PCA: We All Can Live Without Trident postcards \$.50 ea. or 10 for \$3.00

TSD: Hefty T's -White with black lettering
 Front: Resist Trident-Abolish Nuclear Weapons
 Back: Sow the Seeds of Peace
 Sizes: M, L, XL
 \$14 ea. or 2 for \$25



PCB: Abolish Nuclear Weapons-Resist Trident postcards \$.50 ea. or 10 for \$3.00

Your orders and donations to the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action are helping build the Trident Resistance Network and a growing movement to resist Trident and abolish nuclear weapons. Each dollar you send to Ground Zero helps build this movement: by paying for phone calls, postage, printing, networking expenses, utilities, and much more.

Item #	Quantity	Size	Description	Price Each	TOTAL

- I would like to order the following items:
- Enclosed is my contribution toward the nonviolent work of Ground Zero. \$ _____
- Please call me; I want to start leafleting at Bangor _____, in Seattle _____, or elsewhere _____
- Please send me _____ free Trident Campaign Organizing Packets.
- Please contact me about having a Ground Zero speaker come to speak to my group, church, union.
- Please contact me about bringing the inflatable missile to my town.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State/Prov: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Upcoming events and ways to take action...

Mark your calendar, or you'll miss the revolution!

**Work party at Ground Zero—
Oct. 29, 10am-4pm**

The house and grounds at Ground Zero need our stewardship! Roll up your sleeves and join others to take care of this space that is so precious to all of us. Tasks for all ability levels, indoors and out. Bring your favorite tools. Lunch provided. Come have fun!!!

*No D5 upgrade, no cruise missile upgrade
on Trident submarines*

National Day

of Trident Resistance

JANUARY 17, 2001

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Honor the life of MLK by coming to Ground Zero and Bangor for reflection and action. Save the date. Details to come.

**"The Call to Conscious
Nonviolence:**

*A Day of Reflection
During Advent"*

**Sat. Dec. 9, 9am-3pm
At Ground Zero**

Co-led by Rev. Anne Hall of University Baptist Church, Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz of University Congregational United Church of Christ, and Randall Mullins of the Center for Contemplation and Nonviolence. A day of exploring the call to nonviolence. \$10 registration fee includes all-day workshop and lunch. Call Randall Mullins 206-329-2115 or email him at cnrandall@igc.org for more information and to register. A joint project of the Center for Contemplation & Nonviolence, Univ. Baptist Church, Univ. UCC, and Ground Zero.

**Trident Campaign
Presentation in Edmonds**

Ground Zero Organizer Sue Ablao will give a presentation on Trident to Snohomish Peace Action Oct. 20, 7pm in Edmonds, Wash. Call 360-377-2586 for location and directions.

**Bring a missile to your
town!**

Ground Zero's inflatable missile has made several appearances this summer and everywhere it goes, people stop and ask "What is that?" We can bring the missile to your town too! Call 360-377-2586 or email us info@gzcenter.org.

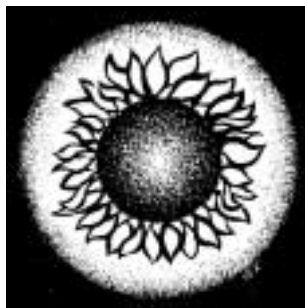


GROUND ZERO

**Ground Zero Center
for Nonviolent Action
16159 Clear Creek Road NW
Poulsbo WA 98370**

**Website: www.gzcenter.org
E-mail: info@gzcenter.org
Phone: 360-377-2586**

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