

Ground Zero

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Bush administration favors nuclear free-for-all

The next nuclear bomb used for war likely will be delivered by a Puget Sound-based Trident submarine

By Glen Milner

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The next nuclear bomb used for war, because of changes in deployment and proximity to new Asian targets, likely will be delivered by a Puget Sound-based Trident submarine.

For the past 40 years, U.S. Navy ballistic missile submarines have been deployed as a deterrent to nuclear war. The potential for provoking a full-scale nuclear exchange was too terrifying to consider the limited use of nuclear weapons.

New U.S. war-fighting plans and the promotion of more useable nuclear weapons will affect the deployment of the Trident submarine system. Most notable is the doctrine of pre-emptive first strike, where any nation considered a threat to the United States could be attacked.

In December 2001, the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review called for the development of new tactical nuclear weapons and a resumption of nuclear tests. The review claimed, "Many buried targets could be attacked using a weapon with a much lower [nuclear] yield than would be required with a surface burst." The report also called for more "flexible, adaptable strike plans," including "options for variable and reduced yields, high accuracy and timely employment."

The Bush administration favors a nuclear free-for-all, confident that it will be able to intimidate or destroy all adversaries with a varied arsenal of increasingly sophisticated weapons. Numerous international arms-control treaties, including the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, have been abandoned or ignored by the United States.

In November 2003, Congress approved an administration request for continued research on nuclear earth-penetrators and a new generation of tactical nuclear weapons for possible use against terrorists or so-called rogue states such as Iran or North Korea. By doing so, Congress and the administration repealed a 10-year-old ban on research for the development of new nuclear weapons with yields less than five kilotons, often referred to as bunker-busters or "mininukes."

A Dec. 5, 2003 memo from Linton F. Brooks, of the National Nuclear Security Administration, to the three U.S. nuclear weapons laboratories, stated, "We are now free to explore

a range of technical options that could strengthen our ability to deter, or respond to new or emerging threats without any concern that some ideas could inadvertently violate a vague and arbitrary limitation." Addressing new endorsements by Congress and the repeal of the ban on low-yield nuclear weapons development, Brooks stated, "We should not fail to take advantage of this opportunity."

The Trident missile system has been studied and tested for use with a conventional (non-nuclear) warhead. Also discussed by war planners is the delivery of a low-yield nuclear weapon by a Trident missile.

While specific issues addressing the delivery of small nuclear weapons have been kept secret, there are numerous reasons war planners would choose the Trident delivery system, including high accuracy, speed of delivery and 4,500-mile range for the missiles.

A Trident missile can reach its target in 10-15 minutes, much faster than land-based ballistic missiles, aircraft or cruise missiles. The speed of the missile and high trajectory also provide the burrowing effect desired for bunker-buster bombs.

The secrecy of submarine deployment further advances the use of Trident missiles in a tactical strike. The delivery would not encroach upon the airspace of hostile nations. Those targeted likely would never know the missile was coming.

Nuclear weapons, even ones smaller than used on Hiroshima or Nagasaki, will kill on impact and create a surrounding firestorm. The resulting radioactive dust will cause slow and agonizing death.

With the advancement of tactical nuclear weapons we must ask ourselves, who will give the order to launch? Should we let them?

On Jan. 17, 2004, 12 people were arrested while blocking the entrance to the Trident submarine base at Bangor. The next planned non-violent action at Bangor, on May 8, will honor Mother's Day.



<http://nuclearweaponarchive.org/Nwpaper.html>

Glen Milner lives in Seattle and is a member of Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Poulsbo; www.gzcenter.org. This article first appeared in the Feb. 23, 2004 Seattle Post-Intelligencer and re-appeared on commandreams.org, truthout.com, and antiwar.com.

Beyond the Labels at Bangor:

Martin Luther King Action, 2004

By Lauren Preston

I left Seattle at six in the morning. An hour and half later, when I reached Poulsbo and pulled off onto the two-lane highway that was to take me to Ground Zero, a fog had settled so thick that I had to drive at fifteen miles per hour because I couldn't see where the road was going. Inching along the highway, I caught sight of the Ground Zero parking sign just two seconds too late. After turning around, I drove through some trees onto the grassy parking lot and pulled in next to a bright red Volkswagen van. I grabbed my contribution to the potluck lunch (a tub of hummus and some carrots) and headed toward the small house situated at the edge of the trees that dominate the 3.8-acre lot bought by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in 1977.

A man with glasses and a white beard opened the door for me before I could knock. "Welcome. I'm the official greeter. Come on in," he said.

I had wanted so badly for these people not to be hippies, not to fit the stereotype I had of peace activists. My heart sank when I walked into the house. It was musty. That hippie-musty smell that I remember so well from college. But, to be fair, the house is closed up most of the year. It's only really

used for this, their 4th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Action, and two other days of action the center holds each year to protest nuclear weapons. No, the smell did not necessarily mean they were hippies.

However, the Volkswagen van I parked next to was not the only one that showed up, the man with the glasses and beard was not the only one so adorned, and I was not the only one who brought hummus for the potluck. Not that I'm a hippie. My hummus was city

hummus. Sophisticated, with Tabasco sauce and kosher salt.

In 1999, some people from the college social action group I was involved with came to Seattle for the WTO protests. They came looking to get arrested. They wanted the cops angry so that they could cry "oppression!" The sincerity of their commitment to nonviolence and their concern for human rights, or the environment, or for whatever, disappeared amid the crowds, the chants, the signs, the giant puppets, and eventually the tear gas. I attended that group's meeting immediately following the trip to Seattle, but not one more. I had been disillusioned by their fickleness, although not entirely surprised by it.

Back in Poulsbo, I put my hummus in the refrigerator and looked around for a place to stash my backpack. While stuffing it in between one of the folding chairs and the living room wall, I was ap-



Blocking the road to Bangor: L to R, Anne Hall, Larry Kerschner, Lynn Greenwald, Ellen Kohjima, Bill Bischel, and David Hall holding placards showing what else Trident could pay for. The sign held by Anne Hall is incorrect, though: there are 24 missiles on each of 14 subs, not 14 missiles on 24 subs. *Photo by George P. Hickey*

proached by Karol Milner, who offered to take me out back to show me the fence the lot shared with the naval base. Karol, a 50-year-old housewife and mother of three, and I walked back through some trees and she told me about when her husband, Glen, 52, started going to meetings at the Ground Zero Center in the 1980's. She had told him "Go ahead and go. Leave me out of this." She'd thought it was a cult... a bunch of hippies.

The Ground Zero folks, and the realization of the reality of the weapons next door, finally got to her about eight or nine years ago; she can't remember exactly when. Nor can she remember how many times she's been arrested with the group since. But one of those times, her daughter was arrested with her, and another, one of her sons. She didn't look like a hippie, but she was clearly still one of *them*.

Plenty more showed up, 60 to 70 people in all. There were a few teenage kids, but the majority appeared to be 50 or older, plus maybe a couple of thirty and forty-somethings.

Beyond the labels...contd. page 3



Silent courage: A Veteran for Peace member, standing in front of a car whose driver threatened to push through (over?) other protesters blocking the road. His act of courage protected those blocking the road. *Photo by George P. Hickey*

Beyond the labels...from page 2

We packed into the dim living room and listened to the plan of action. We were to walk a half-mile to the entrance of the naval base. There was to be a



Hand-cuffed: Larry Kerschner being arrested by Kitsap County Sheriffs officer. None of the 12 people arrested have been charged. They were not booked or even given citations, simply released. *Photo by George P. Hickey*

silent vigil at the roadside. Then, a life-size inflatable missile would be brought out onto the street to block the three lanes of traffic into the base. The missile was to be joined by people holding signs and a banner with a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. Those planning to be arrested were told to remember to bring quarters for the phone and to find a buddy to look after their valuables.

During the potluck I got to talk to a few more folks. Jean Sundborg, 64, hadn't been to the Poulsbo house in three years, but every month she hands out anti-nuke leaflets in downtown Seattle. She was sympathetic towards peace and civil rights protestors in the 60's, but wasn't involved. Now, she said, she has more time. Raven ("R-A-V-E-N, and that's all") will have "been around the sun 53 times this Spring." He

mostly talked to me about another organization he's involved with and the van he drove up in that runs on biodiesel fuel. Elaine Edmonson, 75, seemed a bit shy. She had been arrested with the group before and actually spent three days in jail. She stayed at the house and washed dishes while the rest of us went down to the base entrance.

The police, with whom the Ground Zero Center has a good relationship, were waiting for us at the entrance. They knew exactly what was going to happen and how many people were planning on being arrested for refusing to leave the roadway after a five-minute warning period. It all went as expected. Some of the people trying to get onto the base were a little unhappy. "I'm for Bush. I'm for America. And I'm for you getting the hell out of the front of my car," said one irate woman. Another man, determined not to let the protestors keep him from getting onto the base, got out of his car and sternly walked through their line with his fists clenched at his sides.

I would have to say that the obvious difference I noticed between these activists and those of my early college years, is that they are older, more committed, and thoughtful.

Their signs did not proclaim that "Bush is a moron," or anything else negative. Rather, their signs depicted social programs which could be funded by the money currently spent on weapons. These people are not antagonistic, they are trying to communicate and influence change. Maybe that's something that comes with the time and experience that many college students just don't have.

In the center's

27 years, Ground Zero's protests have been met only by more submarines and more warheads at the base. Members and participants continue in part because of their commitment to abolishing nuclear weapons, but it seems also for the community and purpose their collective resistance gives them.

When I asked Jean why she decided to come for this day of action after three years without visiting the Poulsbo house, she said: "It was just time to come back. I do get energized by being around these people. It's like church."

As the 12 who were taken into custody were led away by their arresting officers, the remaining people began singing "We Shall Overcome," which brought me back to thinking about my stereotypes of peace activists and hippies.

What makes an activist? What makes a hippie?

It seems that any person who commits to nonviolence and works for peace is given one or both of those labels. I myself have been labeled a hippie before and know the frustration that it can bring. People start focusing more on what they think you are, and less on the issue at hand. Unlike the activists I worked with in my early college days, these people have a level of focus and commitment that shines through the hummus, the beards, and the Volkswagens.

Lauren Preston drives her own Volkswagen to the University of Washington in Seattle, where she is studying journalism and Spanish.



Vigiling at the gates: about 70 people braved the cold and came to Ground Zero for the MLK action. *Photo by George P. Hickey*

Letter from imprisoned Ground Zero activist Jackie Hudson

Epistle Four from Victorville, Federal Prison Camp, February 2004



Jackie Hudson: There is an inmate that takes pictures on visiting day. A "picture card" costs \$1.00. This was taken in November 2003.

Jackie, along with my sister-in law, Evelyn, in your prayers as they both deal with cancer.

Christmas Eve mass was beautiful with carols and candle-light. The Hispanic women reenacted the Posadas prior to mass.

The holidays in general provided an escape into Fantasyland. Our unit was decorated as Disney's Magic Kingdom. The "castle," floor to ceiling, was lit with blinking lights 24/7. Windows were painted with Disney characters. The phone booth alcove was the "mine of the seven dwarfs." Crumpled brown wrapping paper created the mine entrance. All seven life-sized dwarfs were present with their tools. Coming out of the mine was a train loaded with the fruits of the days labor. Very professionally done. The women are so creative and talented.

I awoke one morning and all I could think of was the sheer fantasy both inside and out. The women were able to escape into a Disney fantasy for the holiday. Blinking Christmas lights inside – and huge yard lights outside. I look out the window and see the new gray cement, maximum-security penitentiary with all its guard towers and double fences that are covered with five layers of coiled razor wire.

My thoughts then went to the fantasy of empire being carved out by our president. I heard on the radio (Democracy Now) of his call for a permanent base on the moon – an expanded military presence in space. A fantasy for which he is willing to spend \$170 BILLION to (possibly) achieve. In the meantime, the reality of dwindling funds for education, little or no health care for the poor and working poor, and rising numbers of the homeless in our cities continues. Is it any wonder that more and more are attempting to escape into "fantasy land?"

Thanks be to God that there are folks like you who are able and willing to confront reality, ask the hard questions and work for change before the whole system collapses!!

We must not buy into "W's" new plan called the

The Holidays have come and gone, routine has set in again. I will try to answer some questions that came from the unbelievable numbers of cards and letters that came in the past several months. Thank you for this overwhelming expression of love and support.

First, I offer my prayers and sympathy for those of you close to Fr. Bill O'Donnell. I have been inspired by the loving tributes and memories so many have shared of Fr. Bill. We have all lost a treasure.

I had wonderful visits on Thanksgiving and Christmas with my dear friends Sue Ablao and Jackie Bennett. Please keep

"ownership society." Individual "medical savings accounts" and "retirement savings accounts." How many of the poor have any savings? It's impossible on \$6.00 an hour!

Meanwhile, according to James Steingold writing in the Dec. 12, 2003 San Francisco Chronicle, "Congress has provided over \$6 BILLION for research, expansion and upgrades for the country's nuclear capabilities...the administration succeeded in pushing through the repeal of the law banning development of smaller, more useable low-yield nuclear warheads... approved funding for study of a new "bunker-buster" warhead...approved money for manufacturing new "pits" (the plutonium cores of warheads)...and tritium, a radioactive gas used to boost the power of warheads..."

All of this in the same year that the US-votes in the UN were:

1. against bringing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) into force
Yes - 173 No - 1 (US) Abstentions - 4
2. against compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation treaty (NPT) calling for total elimination of nuclear weapons
Yes - 164 No - 2 (US and India) Abstentions - 14
3. against compliance with the 2000 NPT treaty which includes missile defenses, weapons of mass destruction, weaponization of space, and reduction of non-strategic weapons
Yes - 128 No - 6 (including the US) Abstentions - 41
4. against pursuing in good faith the obligation of nuclear disarmament as a follow-up on the 1996 opinion of the International Court of Law on the illegality of nuclear weapons
Yes - 165 No - 4 (US, France, Russia, and Israel) Abstentions - 4
5. against prevention of an arms race in outer space and prevention of the weaponization of space.
Yes - 174 No - 0 Abstentions - 3 (US, Micronesia, and Marshall Islands)
Whew!! Our work is cut out for us!

Reports are that crime is down but prisons are being expanded. If nonviolent offenders were released, this camp would have to be closed. I don't have the exact figures, but the majority of women who have arrived here at Victorville are returnees – probation violators. They were late for an appointment, drove out of area, had a "dirty urine," arrived late to a half-way house, etc., etc, etc. So the revolving door keeps moving.

Many of my women companions had little when they were arrested; others lost home, bank accounts and cars. Some have no job skills or education.

Education, rehabilitation, and development of job skills are a joke here. True, women who cannot produce a high school diploma must take GED classes. Remember Frieda from my last letter? She graduated in 1942 and records are not available – result she is assigned to GED. I am told that the prison

Letter from Jackie... continued on page 5

Keeping the Navy's feet to the fire GZ lawsuit against Navy continues

By Glen Milner

In February 2004, Judge Burgess refused to reopen our lawsuit in District court against the Trident II (D-5) missile upgrade at Bangor. Judge Burgess ruled against reconsidering new evidence even though the 9th Circuit

Court of Appeals had requested the case go back to his court. We are challenging the U.S. Navy for its failure to disclose and review the environmental impacts associated with transporting and handling the D-5 missile at Bangor.

The Navy had previously presented testimony to Judge Burgess that stated, "there has never been an accident involving the handling, loading, or unloading of a Trident C-4 or D-5 missile." A document released in July 2003, however, through a separate lawsuit concerning a Freedom of Information Act request from January 2001, proved that this statement was untrue. The evidence released in federal court also revealed the Navy had been withholding documents that, by law, should have been disclosed to Judge Burgess.

The document released was a 1986 Navy missile safety study, disclosing that the Navy had created an artificial distinction between the terms "accident" and "incident." While the Navy's 1986 document reported no "accidents" involving Navy missiles, it documented a

GZ lawsuit against the Navy needs your financial help!

Many thanks to all of you who have donated so much already. The lawsuit is keeping the Navy's "feet to the fire!" Make checks out to "Ground Zero" and note "BEDF" on the memo line, so your donation goes to the Bangor Environmental Defense Fund.

THANK YOU!

total of 53 "incidents" prior to 1986. Sixteen of the identified "incidents" were classified by the Navy as "potentially serious events; incidents which had the potential to cause nuclear material dispersal." Some of the "incidents" involved the Trident missile system. In March 2004, our attorney, David Mann, will file a new brief with the 9th

Circuit Court of Appeals. We are asking the appeals court, due to possible catastrophic consequences of an accident involving the Trident D-5 missile and the Navy's past history of handling missiles mated with nuclear warheads, to consider possible environmental damage to the Puget Sound region.

We believe it is a reasonable request.

Correction: In the December 2003 Ground Zero newsletter, a statement in an article by David Hall about the GZ lawsuit said "...documents released since the suit was filed show over 50 'incidents' involving weapons handling at Bangor." This is incorrect. It should have said that some of the 53 'incidents' involved the Trident missile system, not all of them, and that it is unclear where these 'incidents' have occurred.

Letter from Jackie ... continued from page 4

gets federal dollars for each GED student. Where does the money go?? Not for teachers, the inmates teach; not for textbooks; these are limited in number and are frequently outdated. Students must make copies from workbooks. Textbooks outside the classroom are considered contraband. So much for encouraging education.

Job training? Non-existent. This again, another reason for the revolving door.

Let me close with this "food for thought": A Native America boy was talking to his Grandfather. "What do you think of the world situation?" he asked. Grandfather replied, "I feel two wolves are fighting in my heart. One is full of anger and hatred. The other is full of love, forgiveness and

peace." "Which one will win?" asked the boy. To which the Grandfather replied, "THE ONE I FEED."

Our question - Which one do WE feed?

Know that I treasure each and everyone of you and will keep you in my prayers. "As the journey through the coming year may we LIVE with courage; LOVE with compassion and BE the Voice of Peace on Earth!" - from a card received.

My love, Jackie

Jackie Hudson is serving a 30-month prison sentence for a Plowshares action she did, along with Carol Gilbert, and Ardeth Platte, at a Minuteman missile silo in October 2002. If you would like to receive e-mail updates on how Jackie is doing, let Sue Ablao know at sabla01@yahoo.com. Write to Jackie at: Sister Jacqueline Hudson, OP, #08808-039; FPC Victorville; PO Box 5100; Adelanto, CA 92301. The address must be exact.

The resistance grows Arrests at Bangor

"Step by step the longest march
Can be won, can be won.

Many stones can form an arch,

Singly none, singly none.

And by union what we will,

Can be accomplished still.

Drops of water turn the mill,

Singly none, singly none."

-- Traditional folk song

August 1997:	2
August 1998:	22
August 1999:	4
January 2000:	5
August 2000:	8
January 2001:	20
May 2001:	17
August 2001:	19
January 2002:	7
May 2002:	10
August 2002:	7
January 2003:	5
May 2003:	7
August 2003:	9
January 2004:	12

6+ years.

154 arrests.

15 civil resistance actions.

2 trials.

2 acquittals.

NEXT ACTION: Saturday May 8, 2004 Mother's Day action to abolish nuclear weapons. See orange flyer insert. Please come...and bring your family!

Excerpts from

Dear Gandhi: Now What? Letters from Ground Zero

By Jim & Shelley Douglass

Editor's note: "Dear Gandhi" was a much beloved column in the Ground Zero newspaper, which was published from 1982-1992, written by Ground Zero co-founders Jim and Shelley Douglass. These helpful hints for nonviolent living were compiled into a book entitled *Dear Gandhi: Now What? Letters from Ground Zero*, published by New Society Press. Printed here are a few of the more humorous excerpts from "Dear Gandhi." Enjoy!

Dear Gandhi,

Now that I have led our nation to victory in the Persian Gulf War and am a shoo-in winner in next year's presidential campaign, I am wondering what I can possibly do as a follow-up to such success. What do you suggest?

Sincerely,
George Bush

Dear George,

Success is in the eye of the office holder. I suggest that you reevaluate your success in the eyes of the Iraqi people, submit the record of your successes in Iraq, Iran, Nicaragua, and elsewhere to the World Court, and prepare for judgment.

Gandhi

Dear Gandhi,

I am a vegetarian proud of my ability to overcome carnivore habits but with a compulsive habit of biting my nails. As I chew on the tips of my fingers, I am aware that this mini-meal comes from my body, and I am mortified and guilt-stricken at the thought of breaking my vegetarian vow. This makes matters worse because the pride I have taken in following that vow makes me doubly anxious and nervous at violating it, thus driving me to bite my nails even more compulsively.

When I approached a friend with this concern of conscience, I was told that it's worse than I thought: Eating one's fingernails is a first step into cannibalism.

Yet I can't seem to break free from



Illustration by Bill Livermore

this vicious cycle of proud commitment, nervous nail-biting, and still more compulsive nail-gobbling as I realize my veggie violation.

Gandhi, what should I do?
Sincerely,
Guilty Veggie

Dear Guilty,

Swallow your pride, not your hide.
Gandhi

Dear Gandhi,

The USA is once again celebrating the fall climax of our national pastime, baseball: the World Series. Have you been tuning in, Gandhi? What do you think of the World Series?

Sincerely,
Joe Fan

Dear Joe,

The world is not well represented.
Gandhi

Dear Gandhi,

If it is as easy for a rich person to get to heaven as it is for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, what hope is there for a camel to learn how to sew?

Sincerely,
Randall Riddle

Dear Randall,
Sew what?

Gandhi

Sub City Daycare Disarms!

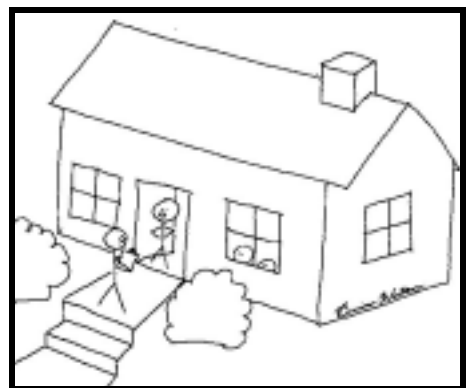
The landmark alerting visitors to Ground Zero's upcoming driveway for many years has been a big blue sign for Sub City Daycare with a smiling Trident submarine emblazoned across it.

But now the smiling sub is gone and the daycare's name has changed to Cedar Kids Daycare, now with a sign picturing forest animals and trees.

Katina Hamilton, the new owner of the daycare center, which is Ground Zero's neighbor to the south, said that she "didn't care for the [old] name." Cedar Kids Daycare, she said, seemed "more fitting" given that the daycare center is "in the trees with the squirrels and all."

Asked if the name change reflected a desire for a more peaceful future, she simply responded "We all want that."

-- Brian Watson



"I'm sorry, but we can neither confirm nor deny the presence of a nuclear family."

Cartoon by Brian Watson

Paper Leaflets against Nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction

by Jean Sundborg

On the third Thursday of every month I am in downtown Seattle at the corner of First Avenue and Marion Street at 6 AM to hand out Ground Zero leaflets. The ferry commuters on their way to work in the Seattle area come from homes in Bainbridge, Bremerton and Vashon Island, homes that are very close to the Trident missiles at Bangor Naval Sub Base. Some of these people are family members of people on active duty in the US military and show varied responses to my action. Knowing that America's weapons of mass destruction are just 20 miles from Seattle gets me up early once a month, and it constantly troubles me. During my four years of handing out Ground Zero printed messages, I have discerned what motivates me, what sustains my protests of nuclear war, and what concerns me.

I am motivated by earlier experiences of living in Iran in 1957 as an American teenager and later as a college age exchange student in Israel. I evolved into a citizen of our world with curiosity and respect for numerous religions, languages and political systems.

During the 1960-70s peace and anti-war activism, I was at home with the two infants we adopted, so I missed those events. Five moves around the US with my IBM spouse kept me busy and apart from activist groups. The Puget Sound Women's Peace Camp in south King County in mid-1980s first showed me the power of group discussions and actions. When my husband, Pierre, and I travel overseas, I locate a peace camp or action group to visit. It motivates and educates me to be with other groups that resist nuclear weapons. I made brief visits to Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp near London, England, in the 1980s, and to Faslane Peace Camp near Glasgow, Scotland, in the 1990s.

Anne Hall, and the Agape community, motivated me in the Seattle area in the 1980s. They showed me how to feel comfortable standing on a corner handing out messages about peace, love and nonviolence. In 1999, I concluded that getting to Bangor Sub Base by ferry from Seattle in time to leaflet was impossible. Getting to downtown Seattle was possible.

The GZ newsletter and participation in GZ actions got me started. Once motivated, I struggled with how to sustain my initial commitment to action. What seems to sustain me now is a mixture of pleasures and successes. It's easy for me to reach out to strangers, and I get bolder and better as I approach my 65th birthday. I use this personal skill in my Unitarian-Universalist church, in my Uptown neighborhood, on buses. After four years on the "Ground Zero corner of the street" several anonymous friendships have been

formed. These are the folks who see me with leaflets, hold their hand to receive it and greet me as they pass by.

Some other benefits that sustain me are great views of the downtown skyscraper that is home to Seattle's nesting peregrine falcons. On the warmer, spring mornings on the "GZ Corner" I can observe these birds of prey nesting and fledging. I used to work in the building where we stand, so I can visit former coworkers to warm up. Speaking of warming up, I reward myself with a cup of tea and a cinnamon roll at my favorite Pioneer Square bakery at the end of the three hours on a cold, windy corner.

I'm not alone on the corner. Over the years I've been joined by Pat Herbert, Bob Loeliger, Shirley Morrison and, for the past two years, by Joy Goldstein. Friendships are forged and opinions shared during the lull between arrivals of the ferryboats. My respect for our guaranteed free speech is now deeper because I exercise this freedom.

The GZ house and grounds adjacent to the Bangor base fence is a physical, earth-based touchstone that sustains me in my opposition to the nuclear missiles. One must face the stark reality of what is on the other side of the fence. Reading the facts about the base, the boats and the missiles is educational, but standing on the GZ parcel of Pacific Northwest forestland bordering the sub base sustains me in my monthly leafletting.

-- Jean Sundborg

I occasionally think about not leafletting. It's easy to wonder if the leaflets make any difference. We can always use more people to write the leaflets, to hand them out, and to attend the GZ events. At the Martin Luther King Day action in January 2004, (attended by 70 people), it was pointed out that we could have 1000 people demonstrating at the gates of Bangor. I take that as a personal challenge and am inviting ten friends and family to join me at the Ground Zero Mother's Day event on Saturday, May 8.

Wanted: more people to join the Seattle area leafletting for Ground Zero. No salary, no training required, but benefits. Choose your own neighborhood corner. One morning (Thursday suggested) per month from 6 AM to 9 AM, or whenever you must leave to get to work. Applicants need not commit to attend regularly. Part time helpers welcomed. Apply to Jean Sundborg 206-283-6140 or jpensund@aol.com. Peace. Salaam. Shalom. Pax.

Jean Sundborg is a farm-raised Oregonian who now lives happily retired in an urban Seattle condo with husband, Pierre, three cats, and a garden plot (P Patch).

Time to get out on the water: Meet the Seafair fleet this summer!

By Glen Milner

The next U.S. Navy fleet arrival at Seafair is August 4, 2004. Although the arrival date has not been publicized, it has always been on the Wednesday before the hydroplane races, about the time the Blue Angels come screaming over the horizon.

Ground Zero plans to meet the U.S. Navy again this year in Elliott Bay. We are inviting all with the spirit of nonviolence, a sign, and a boat to join us on August 4th. Please note that there has never been an arrest at this event and we have always left with all our boats. Why would we demonstrate for peace at a Seattle maritime festival?

Because the celebration of warships in our harbor help bring about the normalcy of modern war.

The fleet arrival at Seafair is a **public relations and recruiting event** for the U.S. Navy. Previous years have brought Trident nuclear submarines and Navy warships used to launch Toma-

hawk cruise missiles in the first and second Wars on Iraq and the War on Afghanistan. The fleet is displayed for five days in downtown Seattle **at tremendous cost to taxpayers** while crucial social services in education, health care and transportation are being cut for lack of funds.

Each year at Seafair, the Navy has brought ships into Puget Sound used to fire **depleted uranium bullets**. The Close-In Weapons System, aboard almost every U.S. Navy vessel, must be test-fired twice a month for calibration. The depleted uranium rounds are fired **off the Washington coast** or wherever the Navy chooses to leave them.

Beat the Seafair blues and meet



Meeting the fleet in 2003: Mary Gleysteen and Bryan Shrader on Elliott Bay near Seattle. Bring your boat out and beat the Seafair blues in 2004! *Photo by Neal Liden*

the fleet! August 4, 2004.

For more information, please contact Mary Gleysteen at (360) 297-3894, Glen Milner at (206) 365-7865, or info@gzcenter.org

Peace vigil at ammunition depot marks one year...and counting

By Raven

Rain or shine, All My Relations (AMR) and the Cedar Island Center for Nonviolence and Peace have made the park across the street from the entrance



Keeping vigil at the gates of the Indian Island Naval Munitions Depot on New Year's Day 2004, Anna Bachmann is given \$150 to help her return to Iraq. This depot is where ammunition for Pacific-based Naval ships and troops is loaded. *Photo by Michael Mullin*

to the Naval Munitions Depot in Port Hadlock, WA a site for weekly vigils and a witness for peace. Every Thursday, from noon to 2pm, anywhere from 2 to 40, but usually about 6, people have met,

sat, and found community in standing up for nonviolence and peace. On special occasions the vigils have been expanded into Community Peace Picnics. At the New Year's Day vigil, Anna Bachmann was presented by AMR with a check for \$150 towards the expenses of her return trip to Iraq with Voices in the Wilderness.

On March 25th, 2004 there will be a Special Peace Picnic - complete with campfire and refreshments - to observe a full year of weekly vigils. The vigils have been

highly effective in providing a nonconfrontational venue for discussion and communication with passersby: travelers, locals, munitions carriers, military personnel and base employees.

In this exchange, it is seldom that the vigilers receive any negative gestures or words and frequently they get enthusiastic support. One wonders why people respond the way they do because the group displays no signs and, other than discussion, is largely silent.

It's no secret though; the Cedar Island Vigilers are keeping watch, holding a space for peace and envisioning the day when the Munitions Depot will be fully transformed into a Center for Nonviolence and Peace.

For information call: 360-344-4267; or email: info@allmyrelations.org.

Raven lives in the Port Townsend, WA region. In addition to his work with All My Relations, he is a member of the Ground Zero Stewardship Council, as well as a musician and actor.

Shameless Commerce Division: Supplies for peacemaking



WE FOUND THEM!
Weapons of Mass Destruction...They're closer to home than you think! Map shows dozens of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons sites across the US, with a full list on the back. Sage green shirt. S, M, L, XL, 3XL

NEW!

\$14 each or 2 for \$25



4"x5" vinyl bumper sticker; white lettering on dark blue background with yellow sunflower in the middle. Price: \$.25ea., 10 for \$2, or 50 for \$10.



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



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



Buttons: Red, white, & blue, \$.50 ea or 3 for \$1.00.
Bumperstickers: 4 x 5", red, white, & blue, \$.50 ea or 3 for \$1.00.
IDEA: Cut it with scissors to make it say "NO WAR"!



NEW! 3 x 12" Bumpersticker. White and red on blue. Price: 1-10: \$1.00 ea.; 11-100: \$.50 ea.; 101+ \$.25 ea.

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, organizing, utilities, and more.

Quantity	Size for shirts	Description	Price Each	TOTAL
Shipping: please add \$3.50 per shirt, \$1.50 per 10 postcards or bumper stickers, or \$2/10 buttons.			SHIPPING =	
We request US funds from all our supporters. <i>This helps save bank charges.</i>			TOTAL =	

- ___ Enclosed is my contribution toward the nonviolent work of Ground Zero. \$ _____
- ___ Enclosed is my contribution to the Bangor Environmental Defense Fund. (Make checks out to Ground Zero and memo it BEDF) \$ _____
- ___ Please call me; I want to start leafleting at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
- ___ Please send me _____ free Trident Campaign Organizing Packets.
- ___ Please contact me about having a Ground Zero speaker come to speak to my group, church, school or union.
- ___ I have these skills I'd be willing to share in the work of Ground Zero: _____
- ___ I would like to become a member of a committee: house & grounds newsletter mailings special events website _____ (specify)

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State/Prov: _____

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

Mail orders and donations in US funds to Ground Zero at 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370
Phone: 360-779-4672 E-mail: info@gzcenter.org Website: www.gzcenter.org

Not-so classifieds and announcements...

Leafletters wanted:

to join the Seattle area leafleting effort for Ground Zero. No salary, no training required, but benefits. Choose your own neighborhood corner. One morning (Thursday suggested) per month from 6 AM to 9 AM, or whenever you must leave to get to work. Applicants need not commit to attend regularly. Part time helpers welcomed. Apply to Jean Sundborg 206-283-6140 or jpensund@aol.com.

Help wanted!

Plumber needed at Ground Zero.

The house at Ground Zero is in need of someone with plumbing skills. The pipes seem to be clogged with rust in the bathroom and the kitchen. If you can help with repairs, Ground Zero will pay for material.

Please contact Betsy Collins at (360) 297-2890 or info@gzcenter.org if you can help.

Ground Zero Open House and Work Party, Saturday, April 10, 2004

Please come to our Ground Zero Community open house and work party on Saturday, April 10, 2003. We are hoping to visit with Ground Zero friends and others in the Kitsap County community.

Open house at 10 am. Potluck lunch at noon. Stewardship Council meeting is at 3 pm. All are invited. Please do not feel you need to work if you come. Hang out with friends and walk the beautiful grounds of Ground Zero! Several films will be available to watch. We will even supply the popcorn!

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action is part of a larger peace community in the Pacific Northwest extending across geographic boundaries, gender, race and time. We invite all to come and share with us your ideas for a peaceful and larger world community and to continue our resistance to the Trident nuclear submarine system.

Please contact Betsy Collins at (360) 297-2890 or info@gzcenter.org for more information.

Looking for a retreat space?

Ground Zero is a great place to have a retreat for your organization, church, committee, or other group. Woodstove, open room, kitchen, chairs, tables, wooded setting, meditation areas... Ground Zero has it all. All we ask is a donation of money or sweat. E-mail Brian at info@gzcenter.org to reserve Ground Zero!

Many thanks to all the contributors for this issue of Ground Zero. Thanks also to Mack and Lisa Johnson and Glen Milner for proofreading it. — Brian Watson, Editor

GROUND ZERO

**Ground Zero Center
for Nonviolent Action
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Poulsbo WA 98370**

**Website: www.gzcenter.org
E-mail: info@gzcenter.org
Phone: 360-779-4672**

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**Mother's Day Action
to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**

Saturday, May 8, 2004

**Show your mother
some love!**

**BE THERE...for love
and for life.**

Details inside.

