

HUMAN RIGHTS NOW!

Newsletter of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute

<http://mcli.org>



FALL 2004

MCLI WINS IN ARKANSAS '04 ELECTION

June '04: Lindsley Smith, an MCLI intern in 1996, will sit in the Arkansas State House of Representatives starting in January, 2005. She ran, uncontested, in the Democratic Party primary in the spring; no Republican will run against her in November. She is already planning to introduce legislation to increase funding for public libraries, improve workers' compensation benefits, increase the minimum wage, and offer a constitutional

(Continued on page 4)

SEEKING UN OBSERVERS FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION

The Economic Human Rights Project (EHRP) is working on a petition to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) asking ECOSOC for UN observers to monitor the U.S. presidential elections in November.

In July 2004 Congress members petitioned UN Secretary General Kofi Annan for provision of UN election observers. He responded that he did not have the power, as Secretary General, to provide observers absent a request from a government. The Congress members then wrote a letter to Secretary of State Colin Powell requesting that he formally ask for UN observers on behalf of the U.S.

Then the Department of State invited the Organization for Security and Cooperation in

(Continued on page 5)

EXCESS WAR PROFITS ACT of 2004 INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

On July 13, 2004, Congress member Major Owen (D NY) introduced H.R. 4825 "To amend the Internal Revenue Code ... to impose an additional tax on taxable income attributable to contracts with the U.S. for goods and services for the war in Iraq."

The excess profits tax is to be fifteen per cent. The Whereas clauses include:

"(2) While large corporations continue to net billions of dollars from the War in Iraq, the Bush Administration continues to cut funding for vital domestic programs." (4) lists Halliburton, Bechtel Group, Fluor Corp, Parsons Corp, Louis Berger Group as benefiting "from the biggest reconstruction projects since the Second World War."

home page: <http://www.house.gov/owens>

email: <http://www.house.gov/writeerep/>

WORKING ON THE ELECTION? MCLI HAS REPORTS OF 183 HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS SINCE 9/11

Can you use the facts on what elected federal government officials have been doing, and refusing to do, since 9/11?

They are spelled out clearly in 183 brief reports on violations of the rights of people in the U.S., and of the duties of the U.S. Government, since 9/11. First the right not to be killed or tortured and to free speech and assembly, and to equal protection. The duties of the Government include: to count the votes accurately; to obey the Constitution and law of nations; to protect people's due process rights; to properly fund the general welfare; and to report violations to Congress and the UN.

***The Berkeley Daily Planet* will publish the abbreviated Reports in a bi-weekly column starting Sept. 9.**

Amy Rogers worked with Soula Culver to post a short piece for the MCLI web page on chapters 1-3 of MCLI's new book, "Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations Since 9/11". It will also list the 183 Reports, with citations to web pages.

"CHALLENGING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS" SENT TO THE PUBLISHER

Aug. 17: MCLI staff and volunteers sent the 630-page manuscript of "Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations Since 9/11" to the publisher, Prometheus Books, today. The Report is the culmination of 16 months' work collecting information from Government and NGO reports, newspapers, magazines, emails, web

(Continued on page 5)

A CALL FOR HELP

If you have time before November 1 to help on the book, please look on the MCLI website for the table of contents. Send us up-to-date information on any of 183 reports, We can make corrections before Nov. 1.

Publication is set for March 2005. We can really use your help in getting your book store onto the book tour list, or hosting your own book party.

Highlights in this issue:

The Seville Statement on Violence	p. 2
Not Enough \$ To Pay Jurors	p. 3
Rwanda and North American Genocides	p. 5
MCLI National Tour	p. 9

THE SEVILLE STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE

Five years ago UNESCO adopted a statement on violence and war that had been made by a group of twenty scientists from eleven different countries. We believe that statement is still timely and important enough to warrant reprinting it here, somewhat abbreviated for reasons of space.

The Seville Statement on Violence

Believing that it is our responsibility to address from our particular disciplines the most dangerous and destructive activities of our species, violence and war...we, the undersigned scholars from around the world and from relevant sciences, have met and arrived at the following Statement on Violence...

Misuse of scientific theories and data to justify violence and war is not new but has been made since the advent of modern science. For example, the theory of evolution has been used to justify not only war, but also genocide, colonialism, and suppression of the weak. We state our position in the form of five propositions...

1. It is scientifically incorrect to say that we have inherited a tendency to make war from our animal ancestors. Although fighting occurs widely throughout animal species, only a few cases of destructive intra-species fighting between organized groups have ever been reported among naturally living species, and none of these involve the use of tools designed to be weapons...

2. It is scientifically incorrect to say that war or any other violent behavior is genetically programmed into our human nature. While genes are involved at all levels of nervous system function, they provide a developmental potential that can be actualized only in conjunction with the ecological and social environment...

3. It is scientifically incorrect to say that in the course of human evolution there has been a selection for aggressive behavior more than for other kinds of behavior. In well-studied species, status within the group is achieved by the ability to co-operate and to fulfill social functions relevant to the structure of that group...

4. It is scientifically incorrect to say that humans have a 'violent brain'. While we do have the neural apparatus to act violently, it is not automatically activated by internal or external stimuli. Like higher primates and unlike other animals, our higher neural processes filter such stimuli before they can be acted upon...

5. It is scientifically incorrect to say that war is caused by 'instinct' or any single motivation. The emergence of modern warfare has been a journey from the primacy of emotional and motivational factors, sometimes called 'instincts', to the primacy of cognitive factors.

We conclude that biology does not condemn humanity to war, and that humanity can be freed from the bondage of biological pessimism and empowered with confidence to undertake the transformative tasks needed in this International Year of Peace (1986) and the years to come. Although these tasks are mainly institutional and collective, they also rest upon the consciousness of individual participants for whom pessimism and optimism are crucial factors. Just as 'wars begin in the minds of men', peace also begins in our minds. The same species that invented war is capable of inventing peace. The responsibility lies with each of us.

The complete statement is available at www.unesco.org/shs/human_rights/hrfv.htm.

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<http://Bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/meiklejohn/project.html>

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NOT ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY JURORS AND PUBLIC DEFENDERS

"Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations Since 9/11" describes 11 of the basic rights of U.S. residents and 19 of the basic duties of the U.S. Government under the Constitution, U.S. statutes, UN Charter and other treaties.

The first basic right is the right not to be killed or disappeared. The book prepared by MCLI includes 13 Reports of alleged violations of this right.

The first basic duty of the Government is to count the votes accurately and report to the people honestly. The book includes 9 Reports of alleged violations of this duty.

One of the least known basic duties of the Government today that is being violated is described in

E. THE GOVERNMENT'S DUTY TO PROPERLY FUND THE GENERAL WELFARE

Report 28.1 Federal Budget Creates Crisis in the Judiciary

For Fiscal Year 2005, Congress and the Bush Administration agreed to cut all non-defense spending. In the federal courts the 1% cut in discretionary-budgetary spending translated into a cut of 32%. The reason for this is that only 60% of the federal judiciary's budget is fixed, while the other 40% is discretionary.

In addition to the cuts in discretionary spending of courts, in 2004 the Congress and the Bush Administration considered keeping the 2005 budgetary allowances for fixed costs of the federal judiciary at the same rate as in 2004. Since the "fixed" costs such as rent and security go up each year, not increasing "fixed cost" budgetary needs means that the federal judiciary will not be able to cover all of its costs and thus not be able to function. Just to stay even, Chief Justice Carol King of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals says, the federal judiciary needs a 6% increase in funding each year

Since 2002 the federal judiciary's budget has been cut despite ever increasing caseloads.

The judiciary's portion of the national budget is just two-tenths of one percent (0.2%). The judiciary has enormous responsibility as it composes one of the three branches of the U.S. federal government. The judiciary depends on the legislative process since it is the legislature that controls the budget and the judiciary has no lobbyist working in Congress.

If the federal judiciary does not get the funding that it needs in 2005, the result will be "draconian."

- The money to pay attorneys representing indigent defendants will run out by summer 2005.
- There will be no trials of indigent defendants, since a trial cannot take place without attorneys.

- Many criminals will be released since federal statutes require defendants to be released if they are not tried within 70 days of their arrest and the courts will be so backed up that they will not be able to process defendants quickly enough.

- In many jurisdictions the systems will run out of money to pay jurors in civil cases.

- Up to 5000 of the federal judiciary system's 21,000 employees could be laid-off.

- The technological systems that courts rely on in order to operate efficiently will fall into disrepair.

- Probation and parole officers will not be able to process parolees as quickly, which will mean that more money will have to be spent to keep these people in jail or prison until they are processed.

- Probation officers as well as essential programs -- drug testing and rehabilitation services -- which probation officers oversee, may have to be cut.

- Personnel cuts mean that investigations and various other services will not be done as well.

In summer 2004, the federal judiciary asked Congress to exempt it from any across the board budgetary freezes or cuts. (Nina Totenberg, "Morning Edition: Federal Courts Face Budgetary Crisis," *National Public Radio*, August 12, 2004, <http://www.npr.org/features/feature.php?wfId=3847586> accessed August 12, 2004.)

How Can Buying or Selling a HOME Help Protect Civil Rights?

20% of the commission on a real estate transaction will be donated to MCLI if you work through Mickey Tenenbaum or Kate Tanaka. Tell them you want MCLI to get the donation and let your move be a productive one.

Mickey Tenenbaum (510) 843-8075
Mickeyten@aol.com

Kate Tanaka (510) 839-4767
KateTanaka@aol.com

Do you have a **Creative Way** to help MCLI?

**MCLI WINS ARKANSAS '04 ELECTION
cont. from p. 1**

amendment to reform the regressive tax structure that relies heavily on the sales tax.

Ms. Smith graduated from the University of Arkansas Law School in 1998, then served as a law clerk for the Arkansas Court of Appeals and the U. S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit.

She is a Research Assistant Professor of Communication at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, where she teaches political communication and legal communication. She and her



**David Saffold, Lindsley Smith, Ann Ginger, Joel Feinman, & volunteer intern Blaise Bess at MCLI June 1, 2004.
Photo by J. Richard Challacombe**

husband, Stephen, a former member of the Arkansas House of Representatives, carefully planned her candidacy as a progressive, environmental candidate. As she spoke to groups everywhere in her district, possible opponents got the idea that she would win easily based on support from labor, student, environmental, trial lawyer, and progressive Democratic Party groups.

<http://www.smith4representative.org>

**MCLI ARTHUR HOROWITZ INTERN
DAVID SAFFOLD**

While helping to research and write "Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations Since 9/11" as an intern at Meiklejohn this summer, I learned a great deal about the political landscape in America, NGOs and non-profits, and about the law.

As a consequence of my research at MCLI the whole Bush Administration and all of its myriad abuses were systematically laid out before me so that I can now more intelligently discuss how this Administration is destroying the American way of life and the way of life of many of those outside the U.S.

I also learned a great deal about what other NGOs are doing to educate, organize, strategize and act against the Administration and against U.S. imperialism and what the strengths and weaknesses of these NGO's are. I also learned what it

takes to run a successful and economically viable non-profit organization from paying attention to Ann, Soula, Sarah and Jeff who are the life-blood of MCLI.

Finally, the tasks that I was assigned at MCLI for the "Challenging" book, for weekend assignments to conferences, in preparation for a CLE course that Ann taught, and for general questions that Ann had about various legal matters, both reinforced what I had been taught at Vermont Law School as well as taught me much more about environmental law, law governing treaties, international human rights law, etc. I was also exposed to various innovative, pre-adjudication petitions, innovative federal, state and municipal statutes as well as many promising legal theories.

**MCLI HAYWARD BURNS INTERN
JOEL FEINMAN**

There is no sensation quite like the knowledge that you have done good work, the feeling you get when you are proud and confident that you have given your time and effort to fighting the good fight -- such is how I feel when I think about my time at Meiklejohn.

This past summer helping Ann and Soula and Sarah ready the "Challenging" book for publication was a crash course on the pressing legal and political issues facing our nation, indeed our planet, today. The knowledge I gained, and the friends I made, have left an indelible impression.

In a culture dominated by self-interested commercial acquisition, Meiklejohn's principles of peace and justice and human rights for all have become more relevant than perhaps ever before. The importance of Meiklejohn's work and mission, which I was fortunate enough to share in, if even for only a little while, can be seen everyday -- from the prisons of Guantanamo to the battlefields of Baghdad.

It is with this in mind that I smile to myself every time another law student, fresh off a job with a top corporate firm, approaches and smugly asks what I did with myself this summer. I give a little grin and shrug my shoulders, and reply, "Well, I hope I did my part to make our world a better place." Rarely can they say the same.



MCLI Interns Joel Feinman and David Saffold

RWANDAN AND NORTH AMERICAN GENOCIDES

Recently the American University, Washington College of the Law, has inaugurated a Rwanda Commemoration Project to encourage law schools, universities, community groups, and so on, to plan programs to mark the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. humlaw@wcl.american.edu The project clearly deserves our support, as does any project to further education about the history of genocide, the law that bears on it, and the importance of prompt action to prevent it.

There is, however, a more important and pressing project that needs to be undertaken in the United States, and that is the acknowledgment of the genocide against the indigenous peoples of North America. Scholars are still disputing the extent of this genocide, with estimates running from several million to as high as twelve million.

Until there is a public, official, government acknowledgment and historical account of the genocide against Native Americans, together with an apology, it will remain in a moral and historical twilight. And this means it will continue to be difficult to eliminate racism against Native Americans, for some will continue to mistakenly believe that the war against Native Americans was a war against savages, was fully justified, and was a necessary part of "civilizing" North America.

Having written the above, I was happy to discover that a group of senators -- Brownback (KS), Inouye (HI), and Campbell (CO) -- have introduced a joint resolution to "acknowledge a long history of official depredations and ill-conceived policies by the United States Government regarding Indian tribes and offer an apology to all Native peoples". The apology resolution, as it is being called, can be found on: <http://thomas.loc.gov>. Type in 'S.J.Res.37'.
--Jim Syfers

"CHALLENGING" BOOK *cont. from p. 1*

pages, MCLI Board members and friends, etc.

This Report to the people of the U.S. will provide information to chart new paths for action to stop the violations and to enforce the Government's duties under the Constitution, US statutes, UN Charter, and the UN human rights treaties.

MCLI will send relevant Reports to the Office of Inspector General for each Government department and agency allegedly involved.

Then MCLI will send the whole Report to the U.S. Department of State to use in preparing its long-overdue reports to the three UN human rights committees that administer the three treaties the U.S. has ratified: Human Rights Committee (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), Committee Against Torture (CAT), and Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

Next MCLI will send the Report directly to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and to the three UN Committees for their work in assisting the U.S. Government to uncover and overcome all obstacles to full enforcement of these treaty rights

throughout the U.S. and all territories it governs, and wherever U.S. agents operate.

BASIC RIGHTS

The eleven basic rights of all people are:

1. not to be killed or disappeared,
2. not to be tortured,
3. to peaceably assemble,
4. to equal protection regardless of race or national origin,
5. to equal protection for women,
6. to free exercise of religion,
7. the right of the media to report facts,
8. the right of all to privacy,
9. rights of libraries and library users,
10. rights of universities to accept foreign scholars and students,
11. the right to travel.

BASIC DUTIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

There are 19 basic duties of the U.S. Government in five broad categories:

1. to count the votes accurately and report to the people honestly on this and every issue (9/11, WMD, etc),
2. to obey the Constitution and UN Charter and law of nations,
3. to protect the peoples' rights,
4. to properly fund the general welfare,
5. to report violations periodically to Congress and to the UN.

EACH REPORT GIVES THE BASIC FACTS

Each Report gives date and description of incident(s), names of victims and of alleged wrongdoers, and relevant laws. All sources for each Report are given at the end of the Report.

(Examples of Reports are on pages 3 and 6.)

UN OBSERVERS *cont. from p. 1*

Europe (OSCE) to monitor the election. They agreed. Observers will come from the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. (David de Sola, CNN, Aug. 9, 2004.) This will be the first time such a team has been present for a U.S. election.

However, OSCE impartiality is not assured and it is unclear whether the U.S. Government can dictate the terms of OSCE's access to the elections process. So, EHRP would like the UN to be invited as well, to insure impartiality, a greater number of observers, and a more well-recognized process of elections monitoring.

EHRP is including in its petition statistics on voters who were illegally and unjustly disenfranchised during the 2000 election, and other instances of U.S. violations of voters' rights in the federal election process. EHRP is also seeking other organizations that are willing to sponsor this petition to ECOSOC, and contacted MCLI for advice and ideas.

For more information: Economic Human Rights Project at 49 Francesca Ave., Somerville MA 02144, or info@econhumanrights.org
Website: www.econhumanrights.org

OUR READERS WRITE AND CALL US:

From **Ed Everts**, Lt. Col., USAF Retired; Veterans for Peace:

Yes, I'm on a No CARB diet (see *Human Rights Now!* Spring -04).

And I'm also against The World According to GARP: George, Ashcroft, Rumsfeld, Powell.

From **Joseph J. Kuciejczyk**, St. Louis

A long letter arguing that the state of Missouri should make changes in the Missouri voter registration application form.

He writes that the Missouri Legislature will be petitioned to comply with the U.S. Constitution by:

1) adding "or affirm" to the voter registration form for prospective voters who do not want to "swear" that their answers to the questions on the form are true;

2) removing prohibitions on registering to vote if one has disabilities;

3) permitting people to vote who have been convicted of felonies or misdemeanors, which is the law in many other states.

Phone call from **Jennifer Uhlman** in East Jerusalem: She is writing about the International Labor Defense (1920-1930s) and wanted information on David Freedman, a solid Left lawyer in NYC with ILD and later the National Lawyers Guild.

MARTHA JANE SCHAFFER PRESENTE

If Meiklejohn wanted someone to pick up a project and see it through to the end, commas, correct spelling and all, we called on Martha Schaffer, who died in Santa Cruz on March 2, 2004.

She was born in Brooklyn in 1917 to union firebrand Clara Lemlich (memorialized in the film "I'm not Rappaport"). In San Francisco, Martha worked for the California Nurses Association and Marine Chartering, and was active in the Bridges-Richardson Defense Committee, the NAACP, the SF Mime Troupe, the American Federation of Teachers, the ILWU, and the United Farmworkers Organizing Committee.

Later in San Diego she worked for the Kind Corporation and was a member of the Democratic Party Central Committee. In Santa Cruz Martha was involved in the Jane Weed City Council campaign and was a student at the Cabrillo College Stroke Center.

She was preceded in death by her brother Charles Velson and her husband of 56 years, Arthur M. Schaffer. Martha is survived by her sister Rita Margules of New York, her sons Evan of Santa Cruz and Joel of Orinda, and her grandson Adam.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

From "*Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations Since 9/11*"

E. THE GOVERNMENT'S DUTY TO PROPERLY FUND THE GENERAL WELFARE

27. Environmental Protection

Report 27.1 (excerpts)

Bush Charged with Replacing Government Science with Corporate Science

In October 2001, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton responded to a Senate committee inquiry on the effects of oil drilling on caribou in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. She claimed that the caribou would not be affected because they calve outside the area targeted for drilling. Later Norton explained that she had somehow substituted "outside" for "inside." She also substituted findings from a study financed by the oil industry for one that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had prepared for her.

In 2002, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) scientists studying a process used in extracting oil and gas known as hydraulic fracturing found that it contaminated ground-water supplies in excess of federal drinking water standards. Halliburton, Vice President Cheney's former company, was the leading practitioner of this process. One week after reporting their findings to Congressional staff members, the EPA revised the data to indicate that contamination levels would not exceed Government standards. In a letter to Rep. Henry Waxman, EPA officials said the change was made based on "industry feedback."

In June 2002, the EPA also held back a report exposing the impact of mercury on children's health, "as a favor to utility and coal industries, America's largest mercury dischargers." The report, released in February 2003 after being held up for nine months, found that the bloodstream of one in twelve women in the U.S. "is saturated with enough mercury to cause neurological damage, permanent IQ loss and a grim inventory of other diseases in their unborn children." In April 2003 the EPA disbanded an advisory panel that had spent almost two years developing rules for stringent industrial emissions of mercury.

In July 2003 the EPA's Everglades regional office accepted a report which stated that wetlands discharge more pollutants than they absorb. The study was accepted without public comment or peer review, and was used by the EPA to justify giving credit to developers for "improving water quality" by developing in wetland areas. ...

After the study was accepted, EPA water-quality specialist Bruce Boler resigned in protest. "It was like the politics trumped the science," he said. ...

(Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., "The Junk Science of George W. Bush," *The Nation*, March 8, 2004.)

A SAMPLE C.O. LETTER

Every 17 year old male gets letters from the U.S. Selective Service System informing him that at age 18 he must register for the draft.

MCLI frequently talks to young men who do not want to register because they are against war and are not willing to fight in a war. MCLI describes the right to register as a Conscientious Objector to war and encourages every man who has registered for the draft who is under the age of 45 to write a letter NOW stating that he is a CO and send it -- registered, return receipt requested, keeping a copy -- to his draft board or to the national draft board office. For detailed instructions, see http://www.mcli.org/law/federal/conscientious_objector.html

The following is an edited version of a strong letter by a young man from a little-known CO background: not Christian or Jewish or political.

— 4 —

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you to inform you that I am a Conscientious Objector to War. I believe war does not solve problems but perpetuates violence and makes most situations worse.

[RELIGIOUS TRAINING]

I am _____ years of age. I was raised in a home that embraced Buddhist philosophies of love and service to others and belief in the existence of karma. My understanding of karma is whatever you do to others will come back to you. Therefore, if I harmed another person, that action would draw negative consequences to me.

I agree with Buddhist master Thich Nhat Hanh: "All violence is injustice. Responding to violence with violence is injustice, not only to the other person but also to oneself. [It] ... resolves nothing; it only escalates violence, anger and hatred. It is only with compassion that we can embrace and disintegrate violence. This is true in relationships between individuals as well as in relationships between nations."

A friend took me to a local ashram, in _____, when I was _____ years old, and we meditated with hundreds of other people. The orientation of the teachers there was spiritual, kind and loving. I found a sense of peace, balance and inner calm when I attended these events, even as a young child.

At the age of _____, I began _____ years of training in the _____ (school) in _____ (location). The courses teach leadership skills, what it is to be human and that communication can solve any conflict arising in human relationships. This training supported my belief that violence solves nothing and that mediation and talking things out is the only effective solution to problems in human communication.

[RELIGIOUS QUOTATION]

Growing up in a country with Catholics, Protestants, and Jews, I really related to another statement by Thich Nhat Hanh: "Many people in America consider Jesus Christ as their Lord, their spiritual ancestor and their teacher. We should heed His teachings especially during critical times like this. Jesus never encourages us to respond to acts of violence with violence. His teaching is, instead, to use compassion to deal with violence. The teachings of Judaism go very much in the same direction."

[PARTICIPATION in ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT]

I have attended numerous anti-war rallies and demonstrations in _____. In _____ (year) I worked at _____ on _____ (issue).

[PERSONAL EXPERIENCE ILLUSTRATING COMMITMENT TO NON-VIOLENT REACTION TO PROVOCATION]

On _____ (date), I was driving in _____ (location), when I glanced over at a man driving a fancy car. We exchanged glances and after that he changed lanes, got behind me and drove dangerously close to my rear bumper. I tapped my brakes to let him know to back off; this seemed to enrage him and he speeded up to get ahead of me. Fearing what he might do if he was in front of me, I sped up to get away.

He chased me through the side streets of _____ into a dead-end street. When I reached the end of the cul-de-sac, he was walking towards my car with something in his hand. I immediately made a u-turn and hit the gas pedal. As I drove by him he smashed my driver's window with the club he was carrying and then shot into my car. The bullet hit me ... I went into hysterics. I drove two blocks, then stopped and called for help. The police came but the gunman has not been found.

While I would testify in court against the attacker, I do not seek violence against him as this would contradict my beliefs. I hope the government might help rehabilitate him to keep him from doing more harm.

Since this shooting incident I have been experiencing uncontrollable mood swings, lack of appetite and overwhelming fears.

[APPLYING FOR 1-O OR 1-A-O (ALTERNATIVE SERVICE)]

If the draft were instituted again I would choose the CO classification of 1-O. I am not willing to be in the military services. I am not willing to attend boot camp and have to hold a gun or rifle. I am not willing to be a soldier. War perpetuates war. It is time for humans to evolve to something higher than killing one another when we have disputes.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR'S DIARY

June 6-10: On first **MCLI National Tour** - (see page 9). Had a **wonderful and inspiring time** talking to old and new friends about our common deep worries about where the U.S. is being taken, and a common vision of some of the paths to stop this rush to destroy democracy and engage in endless wars.

On the way, I learned a new way to travel -- in a disabled chair at the airports. Since I can't trust myself to walk alone without my right eye, I asked an attendant to push me through the airports. That makes even the Denver airport a breeze.

Learned something, too, about the **out-sourcing** business. Airlines and airports don't hire attendants to help the disabled now -- they contract this out. One attendant was making \$8/hr working for the airline, is now doing the same job for a small company making \$6/hr with no benefits. Another attendant works 4 hrs/day at that job, 8 hrs/day for United at a "regular" job, plus taking an MA program at night!

June 11: Spent a **classical** evening among African and African-American art works at the upper Harlem apartment of Mary Louise Patterson, daughter of **William L. and Louise Patterson** during a meeting of Committees of Correspondence for Democracy & Socialism. Patterson was the lawyer-organizer in the International Labor Defense and Civil Rights Congress from the 1920s to the Scottsboro Cases of the 1930s through the Truman/McCarthy Col War period.

June 19: Back in Berkeley, welcomed **Arthur Horowitz MCLI Intern** from Vermont Law School: **David Saffold**. And he went right to work on "Challenging"!

July 18: **MCLI Board meeting** at **Yolande Adelson's**. Good basic discussion on where MCLI is and where it needs to go. Afterwards watched "OutFOXed" that **Steve Birnbaum** brought. Fun ... and infuriating.

July 29: Said Goodbye to **Haywood Burns NLG Fellow Joel Feinman**, on his way back to his second year at U of Arizona Law School. He worked hard, and very well.

Aug. 13: **Jeff Melcher's** last day at MCLI. He's going on to parenthood and Pacific School of Religion. He certainly initiated many programs for finding funds and volunteers for MCLI!

Aug. 17: Heard a missioner from **Venezuela** tell what is really going on there. **Chavez** is on TV for 60 -- sometimes 120 -- minutes every Sun. --

when he talks to whoever calls! No wonder he won!

Aug. 18: Sent the 630 page manuscript of the "Challenging" book to Prometheus Books only 2 days late! Intern David and Soula and Sarah and Volunteer Blaise and I all breathed a deep sigh! (And Intern Joel called from AZ in the same spirit.) **Getting the facts**, and the law, and the sources, and the web page (and the accession date of the web page) all right for 183 Reports of human rights violations **is ... impossible!** But I think we came close. Now on to the Index of names, Table of Cases cited, and citations to all the Relevant Laws!

Aug. 23: At their request, sent 10 MCLI "Human Rights Now!" copies to **Donate Direct** for them to use in their fund-raising efforts for worthy NGOs.

Aug. 22: Heard "**Mrs. Warren's Profession**" by G. Bernard Shaw (1892) on KALW. What fun!

Aug. 28: Talked with **Pat Birney** in **Tucson** about picket at **Raytheon** for their projected missiles to use in space. Suggested using UN Charter and urging messages to AZ Congressmembers and Senators about need to enforce the Charter and U.S. Constitution "general welfare" clause.

Aug. 29: I attended the first Party for MCLI in **Hawaii** -- by phone! (See below.)

It brought back memories of my first trips to Hawaii -- speaking at the large high school with a large ROTC ...against the Vietnam War and about the right to be a conscientious objector!

Oct. 17: Don't forget the **Million Workers March** in Washington, D.C.

FIRST MCLI GATHERING IN HAWAII

August 28: Steve Birnbaum hosted the first MCLI party in Hawaii, with Mililani Trask as a special guest. Old friends, and new, got together to talk about the impact of the PATRIOT Act and the loss of jobs on the people, and the culture, of Hawaii.

Wason Chow and Ah Quon McElrath and union members from several unions, and from the Center for Labor Education and Research all agreed we are in serious trouble.

Steve had a copy of Report 27.6 of the 183 Reports in the "Challenging" book, about the U.S. military ignoring the environmental and cultural standards of Hawaii.

Then Ann Ginger called from MCLI in Berkeley for a nice chat on speaker phone with everyone.

By the end of the gathering, there was talk of starting a Friends of MCLI in Hawaii! Ann said she thought that is a fine idea ... and the sooner the better!

MCLI NATIONAL TOUR

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

June 6th: The MCLI national tour began in Kansas City with a quick meeting with Delta Giess and his wife, then on to an afternoon session with the Community of Reason, the Sunday School for Freethinkers. Ann Ginger talked about "The Urgency of Action for Human Rights" with Fred Whitehead and his friends who have been meeting and debating together for many years. People came from many backgrounds, (some started out reading the Little Blue Books of Haldeman Julius), all committed to thinking for themselves, even in 2004 -- or perhaps especially in 2004!

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

June 7: MCLI held a get-together at 1st Unitarian Church to share experiences in the current post PATRIOT Act period. Ann Ginger met with college friends Bill and Ruth Boothby, with Janet Sondin of BFUU, MCLI Alum Wendy Surinsky (see T-shirts in col. 2) and her parents, and many other Missourians active in their communities.

The two meetings in one state helped the MCLI coffers, and will encourage MCLI never to forget that what's happening in Missouri must go into the mix in deciding what MCLI should focus on in the struggle for human rights and peace.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

June 8: Judge Claudia Morcom and Leonard Grossman and Dick Goodman and other Lawyers Guild and Buck Dinner folks organized a warm and wonderful event at Flood's Bar & Grill to meet and talk about what's happening in Michigan, and around the country, since 9/11 -- and what people are doing about it. Twenty-five or thirty lawyers and legal workers and other friends of MCLI shared their recent experiences with Ann Ginger -- Jeanne Mirer, Val Newman, John Philo and Julie Hurwitz and Charles Brown and so

many other busy, active folks. City Council staff members were there, and unionists, as well as counsel, which is why some things get done in Detroit.

The pitch for MCLI was short and successful!



NYC party for MCLI

NEW YORK CITY

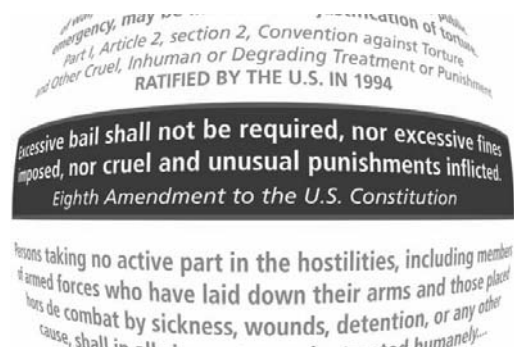
June 10: Friends of MCLI put on an afternoon event at the impressive Church Center for the UN, gathering in the Dag Hammarskjold Room across from the United Nations, with the help of Marvin Stender of SF and NY. Many old friends of MCLI attended: Victor Rabinowitz and JoAnn Grant, Peter Weiss and John Burroughs, Bob and Fran Boehm, Heidi Boghosian and Ann Schneider of the Lawyers Guild, and Al and Rochelle Dorfman. MCLI Alum Suzanne Sherbell talked about what she remembers from her summer at MCLI. NGOs and professors were well-represented by Beth Lamont and Sumner Rosen and Selma Brackman and Jean Fagan Yellin and Michael and Blaze Jones-Yellin, and many more joined in the event.

Many people made many donations and some people bought MCLI books. A splendid ending for the Tour.

1st and 8th Amendment T-Shirts



Ann and Judge Claudia Morcom celebrating in Detroit



T-shirt fronts say "Make the Fabric of Democracy Visible." Back design of 8th Amendment shirt partially shown above. Designed by MCLI alum Wendy Surinsky. Not for profit, available at <http://democracyshirts.com>

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Los Angeles, CA
Saturday, Sept. 18, 9am-5pm
CLE with Michael Avery, Marjorie Cohn,
Ann Fagan Ginger, et al.
Southwestern University School of Law
675 S. Westmoreland Avenue
*For details: Jim Lafferty, National Lawyers Guild
sponsoring bar association (323) 653-4510*

SAN DIEGO, CA
Tuesday, Sept. 21, 7:00 pm
"Matters of Controversy" Series
Ann Fagan Ginger in conversation on Challenging U.S.
Human Rights Violations Since 9/11
First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4190 Front St.
UU Peace & Democracy Action Group (858) 459-4650

Alameda, CA
Saturday, Sept. 25. 7-9 pm
Alameda Public Affairs Forum
Speaker: Ann Fagan Ginger "Challenging U.S.
Human Rights Violations Since 9/11"
Home of Truth Spiritual Center
1300 Grand St./ for info: (510) 814-9592

San Rafael, CA, Sunday, Nov. 14, 12:30 pm
UU Congregation of Marin Social Concerns Luncheon, Speech by Ann Fagan Ginger
240 Channing Way, Reservations: Joan Nelson (415) 453-6221

San Francisco Main Public Library
Thursday, Sept. 30, 6-8pm
Ann Ginger speaks about the history of
the struggle for women's suffrage for
Coalition of Labor Union Women

Richmond, CA, Main Public Library
Wednesday, Oct. 6, 6:30 pm
"The Human Rights Video Project" Series:
"Every Mother's Son"
with speaker Ann Fagan Ginger

BIRMINGHAM, AL
Sunday, Oct. 24, 9 am
**NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
CONVENTION**
Workshop: Challenging U.S. Human
Rights Violations Since 9/11
John Brittain, Nancy Hormachea,
& Ann Fagan Ginger

