

Ground Zero

April 2006

Volume 11 Issue 2

Honoring the Legacies of King and Parks

By Glen Milner and Alice Zillah



Sheriff's Deputy Scott Wilson gives the three minute warning to (L to R) Anne Hall, Dave Hall, Ellen Kohjima, Ray Kelleher, Mary Hanson, and Father Bix Bichsel. *Photo by Brian Watson*

Dr. Martin Luther King, in his acceptance speech for the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, warned of the dangers of nuclear weapons: "The fact that most of the time human beings put the truth about the nature and risks of the nuclear war out of their minds because it is too painful and therefore not 'acceptable,' does not alter the nature and risks of such war. The device of 'rejection' may temporarily cover up anxiety, but it does not bestow peace of mind and emotional security."

On January 15, 85 people gathered at the main gate of Bangor Submarine Base to honor the legacies of Dr. King and Rosa Parks by following their example of active non-cooperation with unjust systems. Their actions challenged the "device of rejection" which allows good people to live with machines that can annihilate humanity.

On that Sunday afternoon, demonstrators walked from the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action to the entrance of Naval Submarine Base Bangor. Ten demonstrators then took a replica of a bus in honor of Rosa Parks onto the highway, which stated, "Dare to Create a Nonviolent World." After

the ten were arrested, six more demonstrators blocked the highway with a long banner with statements by Dr. King, including one stating, "When scientific power outruns moral power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men." During this time, one demonstrator attempted to deliver the Ground Zero flyer to the base commander and was arrested on federal property. Incoming traffic was blocked for approximately 30 minutes.

Those arrested by Kitsap County Sheriff's officers were: Joy Goldstein, 70, of Vashon; Alex Daye, 25, Katrina Olthof, 19, Jody Tiller, 39, Ray Kelleher, 53, Tim Russell, 40, and Jennifer Olson, 36, of Olympia; Larry Kerschner, 59, of Pe Ell; Roger Thorson, 60, of Carnation; Ellen Kohjima, 55, and Fr. Bill Bichsel, 77, of Tacoma; and Rev. Anne Hall, 60, David Hall, 59, Mary Hanson, 59, Dorli Rainey, 78, and Glen Milner, 54, of Seattle.

Tom Krebsbach, 55, arrested on Navy base property, was given a letter barring him from entering Naval Submarine Base Bangor and released. In addition, Krebsbach was given a citation for trespass. The citation warned that he could face up to six months in jail or a \$5,000 fine if convicted. The citation was later rescinded because the Navy only issues barring letters to first-time offenders.

Krebsbach explained why he had tried to meet with the base commander: "These weapons are very dangerous and we need to eliminate them from the face of the Earth," he said. "People need to become aware of them."

Brian Watson connected the day's spirit of resistance to those who have come before us by saying, "Rosa Parks broke a law, too. Martin Luther King broke laws. Sometimes there are things that compel citizens to break laws to draw attention to something more important."

Glen Milner and Alice Zillah are members of the Ground Zero Stewardship Council, and both participated in the January 15th action.

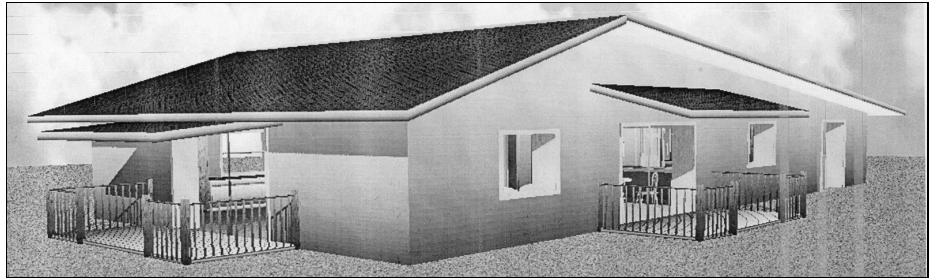
Plans Move Ahead for More Spacious Ground Zero Center

New Home Rising!

By Dave Hall

Following the fiery demise of our old home in April 2005, the Ground Zero Community has strongly affirmed our intention to rebuild.

We are uniting behind a house plan designed by Ted Bower, retired Lopez Island architect, and strongly endorsed by the Stewardship Council on February 12. The house is one story with an apartment for a fulltime live-in couple or small family. The center of the house is the Great Room, which measures 30



A basic idea of what the new house will look like. Add trees, a grassy field, the Peace Stupa in the background, and many passionate Trident resisters to get the full picture.

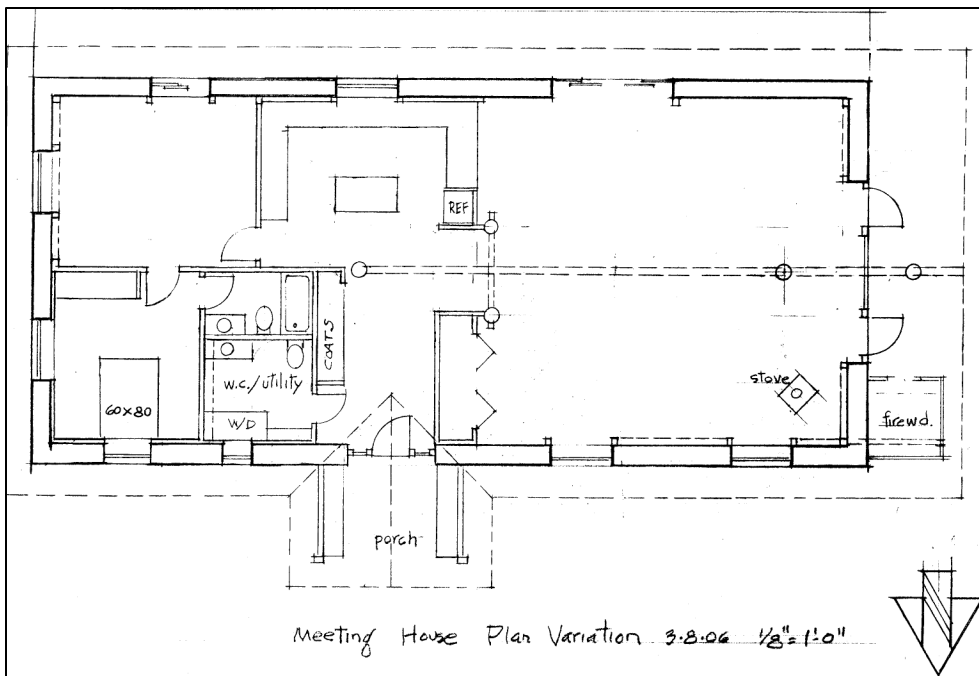
by 32 feet, sitting on the west end of a rectangular building. The kitchen adjoins the Great Room with a passthrough window and hallway door. The apartment, with its sitting room and bedroom, are tucked behind the kitchen on the east end of the house with bathroom facilities accessible to both the Great Room and the apartment. We've moved away from the idea of a green roof (too expensive). A metal or asphalt roof will go up first with posts and beams supporting it, followed by strawbale filler in the exterior walls. A skylight highlights the center of the Great Room. Extra compost toilets are planned outdoors nearby for larger gatherings.

The house will be airy with large sliding glass doors and half-slider windows. The main entrance is on the North

side. West and South side doors provide direct access to the Great Room.

Environmental friendliness is key to the design. The sun exposure of our site is limited by large trees along the south property line, but will help heat on sunny days. Heating (and some hot water) will be largely delivered by a masonry stove in the Great Room, and floor heating by electric cables or piped hot water in the concrete floor (cost will likely decide which option is chosen). Baseboard heating backup is required by the building code. Water hookup from Kitsap County is already paid for from their new water main that was just installed along Clear Creek Road, so we will be off the old well. Electricity, as before, will come from the local grid.

The floor plan for the new home. The footprint of the house will measure approximately 70 x 34 feet or 2175 square feet total, nearly double the size of the previous home. The Great Room, on the right, has dimensions of 30 x 32 feet.



The Stewardship Council approved a survey of the property, which we will do shortly, to assist in deciding where the house will go, cars will park, and utilities and drainage would be best located. I'm still looking for someone in Kitsap County to be our representative to the Kitsap County building department.

The footprint of the house is about 70 x 34 feet or 2175 square feet. The likely house site is nestled against the northeast driveway on the grassy area north of the old house.

Timetable: if we get all the permits in time, we could start pouring the slab foundation in August, and erect the house shell in September or October. My office building is planned for demolition in October, so we can use the salvage from that as soon as we get it into a container and over to Ground Zero.

We will need a core work crew to live onsite or nearby for perhaps three

New Home... continued on page 6

A Year at Faslane: Proposal for a Blockade

By Stephen Vincent Kobasa

As Trident is indifferent to all boundaries, so resistance to Trident should also ignore them. This equation informs the proposed Faslane 365 action - a yearlong series of affinity group blockades of forty-eight hours each at the Trident base in Scotland, beginning on October 1 of this year - the anniversary of the judgment of the Nuremberg Tribunal.

According to organizers, the purposes of the campaign are "to bring people to witness and impede the nuclear base where Britain's nuclear weapons are deployed, and enable them to demonstrate the range of serious concerns - from human rights to climate change - that people in the real world consider to be the vital challenges for the 21st century."



Heavenly intervention? Women dressed as angels face arrest at a 2005 Faslane action. Photo from www.tridentploughshares.org/gallery.

All groups would commit to a basic set of nonviolent guidelines that stress openness, accountability, and respect for all. All groups must also commit to the main demand of the blockade which is: *Trident is to be taken off patrol; a clear timetable for dismantling the UK's nuclear weapons is to be made and a commitment given not to develop any new nuclear weapons.* Note that the demand is not for the closure of Faslane but for the nuclear component of the base to be eliminated. This is to ensure that there is the widest possible alliance of people joining in the blockade.

The proposed model is to have to have a minimum of one hundred blockaders risking arrest each day plus a minimum of twenty supporters. This number is demanded by the logistics of effectively blocking all entrances to the base.

The project will not go ahead unless one hundred groups commit for the first one hundred days (Oct. 1st to the end of December 2006). As of the end of February, thirteen groups had already booked their dates in the schedule with another forty plus groups in various stages of completing the process. The first blockade has been arranged for a women's action that will link Faslane 365 with one of the biggest successes of the peace movement, the removal of cruise nuclear weapons and closure of the Greenham Common airbase.

In addition, some thirty organizations have signed up in support of the campaign along with Members of Parliament from Westminster, Scotland and Wales, academics, authors and other public figures.

An invitation has been extended by Angie Zelter to

anti-Trident and other activists here in the United States to take on one of the scheduled blockades. This would be an opportunity to highlight the interdependence of the US and UK Trident programs, along with the encompassing issue of the two countries' complicity in a destructive and imperious foreign policy.

The numbers being suggested are significantly large that no one anti-Trident group could be expected to meet them. The question is whether an alliance of a number of organizations and individuals, possibly including those from Canada and Latin America, could make up a working coalition.

The Faslane 365 group will help provide lodging near the site. All other arrangements and trainings will be the responsibility of individual affinity groups, using legal briefings and other information provided by the main organizers.

The Resource Pack is on the web site www.faslane365.org as are the Statements of Support that can be downloaded and signed and returned by e-mail. Any who are interested should contact Stephen Kobasa at skobasa@snet.net to discuss the issues of economics, legalities and logistics that would be involved.

Stephen Vincent Kobasa is a writer, activist and teacher in New Haven, Connecticut.

Peace Walk This Summer

The Bainbridge Island Buddhist Temple and the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action invite nonviolent advocates to walk for world peace from Chief's Seattle Grave Site to the World Peace Forum in Vancouver, BC. The goal of the World Peace Forum, held June 23rd to 28th, is to end war and build a peaceful, just and sustainable world.

The 300-mile walk will begin June 9, at the Suquamish Reservation, near Bangor Nuclear Submarine Base. Walkers will average about 15 miles a day, and all are welcome to participate for any part of the walk or for the whole distance. Guest peacemakers from various organizations will share their concerns about peace and justice and issues along the route.

The Bainbridge Island Temple is a chapter of the international Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist order. The main practice of the monks and nuns of the Nipponzan Myohoji is to walk and chant "Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo" while beating their drums as a call for peace in the world.

For more information, contact Gilberto Perez at Gilberto@nipponzan.net.



Trident, Despair, and A Force More

By Brian Watson

On Sunday Feb. 19, 2006, a 23-year-old Navy petty officer on board the Trident submarine *USS Louisiana*, docked at the Bangor Submarine Base, shot himself with a Navy-issued firearm. He died the next day at Harborview Hospital in Seattle.

I did not know this young man. But I grieve for him, and his family and friends nonetheless.

I do not want to speculate on the reasons for his suicide, since I did not know him. But I do know that the feelings that lead to suicide often come from deep despair. I don't know what was tormenting this young man, who joined the Navy in 2002. I now know, too late, that something was, and the universe aches with a void that cannot be filled.

I suspect that there is a relationship between whatever despair made him think that pulling a trigger was the answer, and the despair that maintains thousands of nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert. One despair is personal, the other is social, and they are very different in many ways. But they both stem from a crisis of faith, hope, and trust so deep that death is seen as the final, and only solution.

The Trident nuclear weapons system is built on this foundation. Trident—and the US nuclear weapons infrastructure as a whole—has at its root the belief that the threat of overwhelming and absolute death, even if it consumes us and all life along with it, is the answer. Such a belief is reflected in statements like “*Nuclear weapons prevent nuclear war,*” or “*Trident is what keeps the peace and defends freedom.*” At the bottom of such statements is a profound absence of hope in anything other than the threat of apocalypse to maintain “security.”

It reminds me of a friend I had in college, who kept a hangman's noose hung from the ceiling in his dorm room. He said he had it to keep him from using it. I thought such reasoning was disturbing and illogical. If you didn't want to use it, why have it?

Trident is like that noose. Except it is not just hanging there, empty, in the

corner. Trident is my friend sticking his head through the noose, hands tied behind his back, ready to knock the chair out from under his own feet. But it is not just my friend whose head is in the noose. It is everyone's.

The Trident program is now entering its third decade, and is scheduled to go on for at least another 30 years. The Navy, having just completed converting all Trident subs to carry Trident II D5 missiles, will now be upgrading those very missiles to the Trident II D5 LE (for “Life Extension”), so they can be operational through 2042. The Navy is also already looking ahead to the next generation of submarine to take the place of Trident. The first of this new fleet will be launched in 2029, when the oldest of the Trident subs retires. In addition, the Navy is improving the accuracy and flexibility of its Trident warheads so they can hit within *10 feet* of a target, and so they can explode at varying elevations.

But Trident is more than a noose, too. It is a warning, a threat. It is also an ongoing death, exacted upon the weakest and poorest in our world. As Jim Douglass, one of the founders of Ground Zero, says in his book *The Nonviolent Coming of God*, Trident is the modern-day equivalent of the crucifixion in Roman times. It serves as a psychological symbol of power, of empire, to cast fear into the hearts of anybody who even contemplates upending the economic and social “order” of the empire.

That very same “order” enforced by the threat of Trident is the same one that allows—even requires—the death of some 30,000

children from preventable disease, hunger, and want every day, while a handful of people aggregate the wealth of the world into their own hands. The Trident system itself exacts a toll on us all to pay for it, as well: *one* Trident II D5 missile costs \$66 million.

Trident is the embodiment of a crisis of faith, hope, and trust. It is despair made real. It is death, looming over us all, exacting its price from the lives of children every day.

But is it the final solution? What other force can overcome death?

I recall a scene from a documentary film made in the 1980s about the Tracks Campaign, in which Ground Zero members sat on the train tracks leading to the Bangor base, blocking the trains that carried nuclear warheads and missile motors onto the base. In this scene, a man is talking about his experience sitting on the tracks, watching the train creep toward him. In that train, and its cargo of hydrogen bombs, he saw the power to destroy the world. And then he saw that power coming toward him, closer and closer, casting a shadow to darken the world. And then, just as it got to him, the train



Prowling the peaceful waters: A Trident sub surfaces in Hood Canal. *Photo courtesy of US Navy.*

“Trident is the embodiment of a crisis of faith, hope, and trust. It is despair made real.”

A Force More Powerful...continued on page 5

Powerful

A Force More Powerful...continued from page 4

stopped.

In that story lies an answer to what force can overcome death. It is an answer both reassuring and disturbing because, ultimately, the power that can overcome death is *in our selves*, and in our ability and willingness to tap into and harness that power, one that runs through and around *all life*.

Life is crying out to us to pay attention, to listen, and to act. Will we let the Navy have its nuclear weapons for 30 more years? Will we let it develop the next generation of Trident? Will we let death have the last word? Or will we accept the gift and responsibility of the life-force coursing through us, and act with love, justice, and mercy, like that man on the train

tracks, to stop the march of death?

I believe life and love are a force more powerful, and that death is an idol that Trident and our whole political, social, and economic system pays tribute to. What we choose to pay tribute to, what actions we take, and what consent we give is something that each of us alone determines. In that power, I believe, is the resolution to the crisis of faith, hope, and trust plaguing us. In that power is the ability to see the end of the world approaching, and to halt it. It is the ability to untie the noose. It is the ability to put down the gun.

Brian Watson is a sculptor who lives in Bremerton. You can see his art-work at his website www.bwatsonstudios.com.

Peace Fleet Skipper Tried in Coast Guard Hearing

By Glen Milner

Our culture of nonviolence has taught me to speak truth to power always, even against overwhelming odds. On April 6, 2005, I received a 44-page case file and \$10,100 fine for allegedly being within 500 yards of Navy vessels during a 2004 Peace Fleet demonstration at Seafair. The Coast Guard had no evidence to support this charge except for statements by Coast Guard personnel. I decided to present my defense to the best of my ability.

On December 13, 2005, from 8:00am to 8:00pm, the Coast Guard hearing was held in the Jackson Federal Building in Seattle, before Hearing Officer Lane McClelland. Ten Coast Guard personnel testified (one by telephone). One Coast Guard Intelligence Officer testified and one Navy lieutenant from the USS Bonhomme Richard testified by telephone. Eight Peace Fleet activists testified (three in written statements).

I greatly appreciated the presence of my Ground Zero friends and colleagues and my family at the hearing.

Hearing Officer McClelland allowed me to question all witnesses. I was not allowed, however, to question witnesses regarding their failure to process a number of Freedom of Information Act requests and three withheld Coast Guard statements.

Remarkably, one of the Coast Guard lieutenants admitted in the hearing that Mike McCormick and I were following Coast Guard orders while we were leaving Elliott Bay, after our voyage was terminated. This is when we were boarded a second time, escorted back into downtown Seattle and held at armed-guard while the Coast Guard determined whether to arrest us.

I presented a legal brief at the hearing stating that my case was more than a "civil" proceeding due to the large fine. As might be expected, Hearing Officer McClelland insisted, as she had throughout pre-hearing communication, that she was authorized to conduct my trial as an "informal administrative hearing." She acknowledged that I was denied legal process

that would be due in a criminal proceeding.

After the hearing, my case remained open until March 2. Coast Guard District Thirteen, after over a year of discussion, admitted they had destroyed radar records that would have established the location of Navy vessels at Seafair. The Navy and the Coast Guard stated in the hearing that their radar, on Navy and Coast Guard vessels, and for Puget Sound Vessel Traffic Services, cannot locate an 11-foot inflatable boat.

On March 1, I received a statement from Hearing Officer McClelland thanking me for my "thoughtful and well-organized participation" in the hearing. She is giving District Thirteen 30 days for rebuttal if they choose to do so.

It did not occur to me until after the December 13 hearing that most people, upon hearing about this case, would assume I was guilty. I realized then how our commitment to truth and nonviolence had guided me through this entire process.

In my closing statement at the hearing, I stated,

A judgment against me will not necessarily be a defeat.

What is happening in this country is a collision between our government and peace-loving people throughout the United States.

There are limits to the enforcement policies that promote militarism and war. Those in our society who embrace violence do not choose this, but support such a system out of fear. People need peace. People want peace.

There are no limits to people's desire for peace.

The violence of those in authority might temporarily gain victory. Our desire for peace is infinite.

We will not be fearful. Love will prevail.

The next Peace Fleet action at Seafair will be on August 2, 2006.

Glen Milner is the media liaison for Ground Zero. He lives in Seattle.

months until we have the house finished enough to lock it up. They will organize the materials, set the work plan, and lead the volunteer crews that would come in on weekends or other shorter time periods. If you have time and interest to help out, please let me know what you'd like to do and when. We need both skilled construction people and unskilled but willing hands. If you're not building, you could help cook, shop, entertain. Just for example, plastering the straw could be accomplished in three to four days with the assistance of 30 to 40 people willing to play with mud for a long weekend.

Meanwhile the Building Committee will pursue development of the house plans for submission to Kitsap County for permits to build.

The plan calls for building a frame to support the roof, then filling in the walls with straw bales outside the post and beam frame. Posts, beams and cross supports will be visible inside.

Any feedback on the plans, whether global or minute, should be sent to me as soon as possible. The larger plan is to build a house that builds and deepens the Ground Zero Community.

Dave Hall is the chair of the Ground Zero Building Committee. He can be reached at dchall@wolfenet.com.

Update on Olympia Four Trial on April 10th

The trial for four Ground Zero activists arrested for resisting Trident has been set for April 10. Nineteen people were arrested for blocking the main entrance to the Bangor Base early in the morning on August 8, 2005, but only the four from Olympia are being prosecuted at this time for failure to disperse.

The first pretrial hearing for the four was held on January 20. Seattle Attorney Ken Kagan, who is representing the activists *pro bono*, requested access to all records within the Kitsap County Sheriff's Department related to their planning for traffic control, traffic safety, and pedestrian safety in connection with the action. These records would indicate that, like all Ground Zero actions, the Sheriff's Department was notified several weeks in advance and told what to expect, and planned accordingly. Ken also asked to have access to all reports, statements, logs, internal memoranda, photos, video, and audio recordings from August 8 that may be in the possession of the sheriff's department. Judge Marilyn Paja approved both motions.

The charge of failure to disperse states that the defendants allegedly caused a "significant risk of injury to persons or property." By obtaining the records related to planning a safe action, as well as videos and photographs from the event, Ken and the defendants hope to show that the action was well-organized and the participants were careful to not pose a safety risk to anyone.

The defendants would like to be able to testify to the larger issues of safety — safety for humanity and the world at large — and a second pretrial, on March 29, will determine whether they are allowed to do. The prosecution is trying to disallow testimony about nuclear weapons, the military, international law, and even the arrestees "mindset" at the time of the action.

The trial will be on April 10, at 9:00am at the Kitsap County Main Courthouse in Port Orchard. Friends and supporters are welcome to attend.

Natalia and Trident — the Choice

By Joy Goldstein

My great-granddaughter was born on August 8, 2005, just about the time I was walking out of the Port Orchard jail after being arrested, for probably the 15th time, for blocking the gate to the Trident nuclear submarine base. I walked out into a changed world — a world where there was one more New Person. Life had decided to take another chance on our family's DNA.

Her name is Natalia. She weighed some seven pounds and was 21 inches long. She was — and is



Will Natalia see a world free of Trident? *Photo by Amber Matusky.*

— completely defenseless. And she is absolutely beautiful. (There are ugly babies in the world, but Natalia isn't one of them.)

All it took to make her was love — two people, and love.

I don't know how much the Trident subs weigh, or exactly how long they are, or how many people it has taken to make each one. They are not beautiful.

I want to take Natalia to the White House and show her to George Bush. I want to say, "See, this is why we have to disassemble the Trident system. And we have to start right now. This one New Person is worth more than all the weapons in the world."

Joy Goldstein distributes leaflets at Bangor Submarine Base every month.

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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 the rebuilding of the Ground Zero house.

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The Original World Peace Day

Mother's Day Proclamation, 1870

Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of fears!

Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience."

We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm, Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

Blood does not wipe out dishonor nor violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.



Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after their own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.

Julia Ward Howe
Boston, 1870

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"America cannot credibly preach nuclear temperance from a barstool. We can't tell Iran, a country that has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, that they can't have [uranium] enrichment technologies while simultaneously carving out a special exemption from nuclear proliferation laws for India, a nation that has refused to sign the treaty."

-- US Representative Ed Markey
(D-Mass.)
February 24, 2006

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