

Ground Zero

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Prosecutors try, try, try...and try again:

Ground Zero activists face first trial in years

By Glen Milner

Four Ground Zero peace activists were arraigned in Kitsap County Court on December 8, 2005, for an August 8, 2005 demonstration at the Trident submarine base at Bangor. They all pled "not guilty." At this time, they are the only four being tried out of a group of 19 activists arrested on August 8.

On August 8, 2005, 70 people walked at early dawn from the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action to the demonstration against Trident nuclear weapons at the Bangor base. Nineteen demonstrators blocked the highway entrance into the base with a long banner that stated, "We Can All Live Without Trident," for the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Incoming traffic was blocked for approximately 40 minutes during peak traffic when Navy and support personnel were arriving for work at the base.

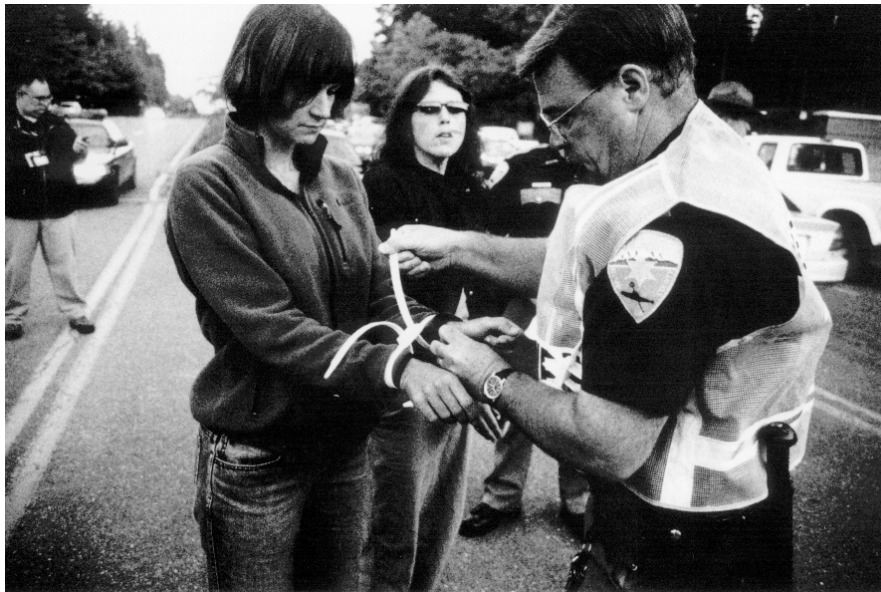
The arraignment marks the first charges against nonviolent demonstrators since February 2000. Kitsap County prosecutors have been unable to win convictions against nonviolent activists arrested at Bangor the last three times they have tried them. Juries and judges have found that people arrested at Bangor protests have the legal right to redress grievances under International and US law with nonviolent direct action.

In a strange turn of events, the Kitsap County prosecutor has charged only four of the 19 demonstrators; all four are from Olympia, Washington. The charge is for the failure to disperse, RCW 9A.84.020, in which the failure to disperse when ordered creates a "substantial risk" of injury to persons or to property. The charge is a misdemeanor with a possible penalty of 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Alice Zillah, of Olympia, stated, "Kitsap County should charge the Navy

"Kitsap County should charge the Navy instead with failure to disperse. The risk of harm to persons and property brought by nine Trident submarines, each with up to 192 nuclear warheads, is much greater than our blocking the highway into the base."

--Alice Zillah



Can you find the Trident in this picture? Alice Zillah (L) being fitted with plastic handcuffs by a Kitsap County Sheriff's deputy on August 8, 2005. Patricia Imani (on R) waits to be handcuffed. The Trident is on the shoulder patch of the deputy's uniform. *Photo by Brian Watson*

instead with failure to disperse. The risk of harm to persons and property brought by nine Trident submarines, each with up to 192 nuclear warheads, is much greater than our blocking the highway into the base."

The four who are facing a trial in Kitsap County are Alice Zillah, 32, Bryce Brown, 31, Shannon Bushnell, 28, and Patricia Imani, 43, all of Olympia.

The fifteen also arrested by Kitsap County Sheriff's deputies, who are not facing charges at this time are: Moona Cancino, 26, of Portland; Joy Goldstein, 70, of Vashon; Roger Thorson, 60, of Carnation; Dan Goldstein, 54, and Liz Rivera Goldstein, 47 of Port Townsend; Fr. Bill Bichsel, 77, of Tacoma; Marion Ward, 66, and Genny Kortess, 65, of Vancouver; and Shirley Morrison, 83, Jean Sundborg, 65, Rev. Anne Hall, 60, David Hall, 59, Mary Hanson, 59, Dorli Rainey, 78, and Glen Milner, 54, of Seattle.

It appears that the prosecutors have not yet made a decision as to whether to charge all or some of the remaining 15, and may be waiting to see how jurors and Kitsap County residents respond to the trial of the first four.

Glen Milner is the media liason for Ground Zero and one of the 19 arrested August 8, 2005. He lives in Seattle.

Back in the swing of leafleting at the shipyard

By Lynne Greenwald

Right now I am caught up in the enthusiasm of a wonderful experience leafleting at Bremerton's PSNS (Puget Sound Naval Shipyard). I wanted to take a few minutes to tell you how much I appreciate all the hard work everyone has done to keep this good peace work going. It just proves that this work is greater than 1 or 2 individuals. It's about community--and you all are inspiring.

The gathering on Saturday October 29, 2005 for the annual Ground Zero meeting was wonderful and it brought back lots of positive memories. More importantly, being with everyone gave me the energy I needed to do something (besides vigils, demonstrations, bumper stickers, etc.). Well, I was arrested a few times at Bangor's gates--but my energy has been focused on raising 3 children.

Today was the first day in about 17 years that I've leafleted at the shipyard here in Bremerton. Sallie Shawl and I, of course, had a wet, cold and windy time. But, it was worth it! I saw folks I've known for several years, and I believe my being at the gate leafleting impacted their day. One man said, "Jeez, you're into everything--this, PTA, soccer..." My reply was, "It's all about peace, and family." We shared brief updates on our daughters and sons.

Although a man said, "I'm into nukes, Republicans, things like that," another young woman passed as it was starting to get light outside. She walked by, reading the poem by Andrea Ayvazian [see poem on this page] that Joy Goldstein, another leafleter, provided for today's leaflet. She came back and put her hand on my arm, looked me in the eye and said "Thank you."

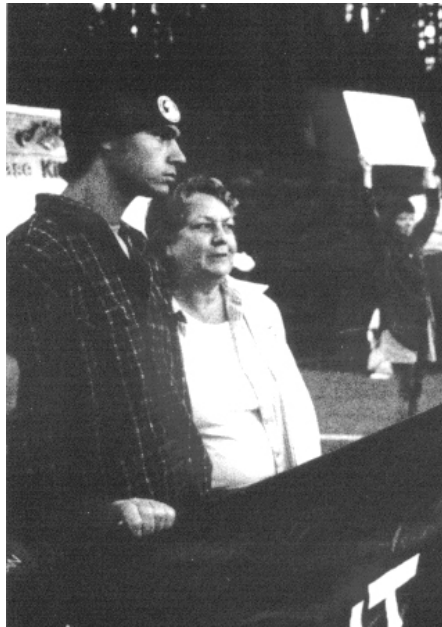
I'm hooked again. Leafleting is up-close and personal--and now I'll be passing the few left-over leaflets out in a couple of friendly businesses here in Bremerton.

So thank you for what you do, and the spirit in which you do it.

Lynne Greenwald moved to Kitsap County in 1983 to join the Ground Zero Community and to become a neighbor to military workers in Kitsap County. Her youngest child, Noah, recently turned 18.

if you intend to send my son to war

Poem by Andrea Ayvazian from Souls Floating By; passed out as a leaflet at PSNS



Lynne Greenwald and her son Noah at the Bangor gates on August 8, 2005.
Photo by Brian Watson

if you intend to send my son to war
come tell me
sit with me at the cherry table in my kitchen
look me in the eye
look into the eyes of all the mothers
I will gather in my kitchen
maybe ten thousand mothers
in dresses and aprons
veils and head scarves
saries and kimonos

tell us about the enemy
we need to hear their names
and why our sons
should make them suffer

tell us what our sons
will do
in detail
do not omit a detail

say the real words
like kill and fire
bomb and destroy
estimate the number lost hurt
missing gone
dead

say the number
tell us the chances
our sons will return
alive
unhurt
not terrorized
still gentle
able to sleep

listen while we tell you how we carried these boys
and birthed them through
tears and sweat
with screams and prayers
blood and unending
gratitude

stay seated in my kitchen
as we explain
that our love is more
extravagant than all
our beating hearts
times one million

learn how we defend these sons
protect them kiss their matted hair
softly stroke their precious cheeks as they lay sleeping

our sons will flee while we are
speaking
we will keep you with us
until your need for war
has passed

Olympia, WA officially declared a "Nuclear-Free Zone"

By Bernie Meyer

On August 23, the Olympia City Council declared the city a Nuclear-Free Zone with an ordinance by a vote of 5 to 2. Derided by some and hailed by others, this act culminated a year of activity in Olympia. The City Council had turned down the visit of the nuclear submarine, the USS Olympia, in the spring of 2004. Later in the year, protests met the Port of Olympia for allowing shipments to Iraq. The passage of the ordinance has not stopped the community buzz.

According to *The Olympian*, door-to-door campaign workers for City Council candidates reported that the number one question was the candidate's position on the Nuclear Free Olympia Ordinance. Letters to the editor have been continuously running pro and con about the appropriateness of the ordinance. The former mayor testified at the hearings and has recently written to the editor about the seriousness of the issue.

For me, after 35 years involvement with nuclear weapon issues, this is the first time that I have felt the issue to be a "community" concern. People actually talked about the weapons and their use!

Last year I attended the Council hearings after the rejection of the invitation to the USS Olympia submarine. People passionately testified. Those opposed came from everywhere. The hearings went from 8:00 PM until 1:30 AM. It seemed that the pros and cons were about even in numbers. I testified at 12:40 AM or so. What was important to me is that voices from all perspectives were heard. Though not exactly a mature dialogue, this may be as close as we can get. At this point, I do not know who is really listening to whom. At least, the possibility is there.

In support of the ordinance, a constant string of activities to generate understanding and education has been running in the community. In February the Council passed a Resolution, "Placing the City of Olympia on Record in Support of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign and the US Conference of Mayors' Resolution Calling for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons by the Year 2020." In May, TJ Johnson, the Councilman who provided the leadership for the ordinance, attended the UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation meeting. Throughout the summer educational activities and community hearings gave people an opportunity to listen and voice ideas. The week leading up to the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki contained a wide variety of events with the theme "Beyond Hiroshima." It was in this context that the Council considered the ordinance. The presence of the Hanford-Bangor Peace Walkers in Olympia also made a timely statement.

The ordinance establishes the City of Olympia, Washington as a "Nuclear-Free Zone in that the development, production, transportation, storage, processing, disposal and/or use of nuclear weapons is prohibited within the city limits." This means city contracts and business should be directed away from doing commerce with those who do these things. With the limits on the city budget, it will be up to someone else to keep watch on the contracts. Those of us active with "Beyond Hiroshima" are beginning to work in this direction.

At Ground Zero's recent annual meeting, someone made

the comment that we need to make the entire Puget Sound area a nuclear-free zone. The hubbub seconded the comment. Later, I heard the observation about "all the military" around the Sound. Well, we have been raising the issue of Trident since the base was built. As one of our leafleters, Joy Goldstein, reported, a Bremerton Naval Shipyard employee recently whispered something like, "We agree with you."

I think that we need to make connections between issues in all that we say and do. These connections include Trident as protecting an Empire bent on dominating the world with fear according to the vision of the "New American Century." This implies the connections with pre-emptive war, the worldwide US military posturing for oil and natural gas, the implications of privatization of almost every government function, the destruction of democracy, and the diversion of American society from preparing for the depletion of fossil fuels. As we replied to those who criticized the Olympia City Council for not attending to City business, *this is everyone's business*.

Bernie Meyer is a Ground Zero activist who lives in Olympia, WA. He is a long-time activist and does portrayals of Gandhi around the world.

Earth and Space Plowshares II update: Federal Judge to reconsider punishments for convicted activists

On November 8 Judge Robert Blackburn issued an order for consideration of modification of Sister Carol Gilbert and Sister Jackie Hudson's terms of supervised release to provide for reasonable community service in lieu of restitution.

Carol and Jackie are including Sister Ardeth Platte in their response even though she is still in prison.

The Sisters have until December 12 to file their plan and then the government has eleven days in which to respond.

The judge will then rule on the papers or schedule appropriate in-court proceedings.

They are offering:

- 1) \$595,969.50 in alternative restitution in which people gave money to various organizations in their names,
- 2) their lives of community service, and
- 3) that they are indigent as Roman Catholic Sisters.

They are also requesting that the supervised release be rescinded since the probation offices are so overcrowded. In addition, a documentary film about them shows the former US Attorney John Suthers and US Prosecutor Robert Brown saying the charges could just as easily have been misdemeanors with penalties of 0-6 months.

A wonderful gift would be if this is granted before Ardeth is released on Dec. 22 and comes home a "free" woman! She is still being told to report to Colorado, but will return to Jonah House in Baltimore, MD.

Old submarines don't die.

They just keep wasting (everything) away

By Raven

The four oldest Trident SSBN submarines, USS Ohio, USS Michigan, USS Florida, and USS Georgia--after the Start II Treaty and old age appeared to make them good candidates for the smelter--are being refueled, refitted, and generally made over. In a seemingly astute application of the "Waste-Not-Want-Not" principle, the four former SSBN subs, instead of carrying 24 nuclear-armed missiles, will be renamed SSGNs and will be armed with up to 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles plus amphibious attack personnel.

This refit is good news for General Dynamics Electric Boat Division, the Gold and Blue submariner crews, Raytheon, and the Navy.

It's not such good news, however, for the people of Port Townsend, WA, who recently learned that the oldie-but-goodie fleet of rejuvenated Tridents will soon be docking in the local bay to load their cruise missiles at the Naval Munitions Depot, right across the bay from Port Townsend. It's also not such good news for the people and places on the receiving end of these re-made Trident SSGNs.

The news came through the local paper, the *Port Townsend Leader*, back in early October, just one month before the USS Ohio was due to be finished at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) in Bremerton, WA. The USS Michigan, also at PSNS, is due in the early Spring of 2006, and the others, being refurbished in Newport News, VA, are due by 2007.

Tomahawk cruise missiles are satellite guided. They can follow a map and the topography and fly sub- or hyper-sonically at low altitude as they elude radar and infrared-seeking anti-missile systems with their skinny little 18-foot bodies and low-heat, fan-jet engines. They are all-weather, flexible flyers--launchable from land, sea or air--that can zip around in a holding pattern till someone tells them the "smart" place to go and explode.

Tomahawks presently carry three different types of things to "smart" the other guys with: a 1000 lb regular ol' bomb; a fragmentation bomb; or a deep-digging, penetrator model. Of course, they can carry a nuclear warhead too; in fact, that's what the Tomahawk was originally designed for. Now priced at \$1.9 million a bird, that's a little shy of \$300 million for one flock of cruise missiles on a refitted Trident. Add that to the billion dollars-a-boat refit, plus the yearly operational cost of \$50 million per boat, and you're talking serious money.

Of course, there's nothing new about having Tomahawk cruise missiles loaded in Port Townsend Bay. They've been shipped out on Aegis cruise missile ships for years. And, there's nothing new about radioactivity and weapons of mass destruction being loaded in these waters. Depleted uranium

munitions and components have also been in the local arsenal for years. But the impending arrival of Ohio-class nuclear-powered submarines in the immediate neighborhood of Port Townsend demonstrates a new dimension in the expansion of militarism in the Puget Sound region: nuclear-powered vessels of unimaginable destructive capability right on the couch in Port Townsend's maritime living room.

What are these submersible launching pads for and why do we need them? What's the big hurry to get them in operation? Why are they coming to the well-populated Port Townsend vicinity without citizen review and oversight?

Short of a nuclear holocaust by design or accident, what might be the effects on Port Townsend? What exactly are the environmental, security, surveillance, safety and nautical ramifications?

Trident submarines exist and operate in violation of international law and treaties. They are the most archaic way of thinking applied in the most sophisticated of modern technology.

The purpose of Trident, especially the SSGN variation, is neither defense nor deterrence. Trident submarines exist to exert violent and coercive power and control in a genocidal and suicidal game. They also exist because there's a lot of money in them.

We are traveling down the wrong path in the wrong direction at an alarming and ever increasing pace.

What are we doing about it? Concerned citizens are responding to the Navy's plans in a variety of creative ways. Want to put your oar in? Contact:

Glen Milner at info@gzenter.org

Doug Milholland at doug49@waypointcom

Raven at info@allmyrelations.org

David Jenkins at distaem@hotmail.com



Getting loaded: A Trident sub being armed with a MK 48 torpedo. Loading cruise missiles is the next task for four refurbished Tridents. Photo: <http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/usa/slbm/731-p05.jpg>

Want to bone up further on subs and missiles? Visit any of the following sites or Google away. It's all there.

www.fas.org/nuke/guide/usa/slbm/ssbn-726.htm

www.fas.org/man/dod-101/sys/smart/bgm-109.htm

www.fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/RS21007.PDF

*Raven lives in Port Townsend, WA. A life-long nuclear abolitionist, he is the President and Co-founder of All My Relations, which has hosted a weekly vigil at the gate of the Naval Munitions Depot in Port Hadlock, WA for nearly three years. A portion of this piece originally appeared as a Letter to the Editor in the *Port Townsend Leader* on October 19, 2005.*

Editor's note: For a different perspective on what the cruise missile refit means see page 5.

Four Tridents taken out of nuclear weapons service is...

A reason to celebrate

By "Nemo"

This coming January when we commemorate Martin Luther King Day, instead of lamenting the upcoming load-out of the USS Ohio with cruise missiles (a new class of submarine called the SSGN), we might be celebrating the first removal of the Trident Weapons System from an Ohio Class submarine. This is a landmark event in Ground Zero's history. First USS Ohio, then USS Michigan, followed by USS Florida, and USS-Georgia – four complete Trident weapons systems are being permanently dismantled!!! Why aren't we rejoicing???

I know, I know, but they're converting the hulls to carry Tomahawks and SEALs, and they're upgrading the other four Pacific Tridents to D5. I've read Bob Aldridge's Pacific Life Research Center (PLRC) article which argues eloquently against the SSGN conversion (<http://www.plrc.org/docs/990610G.pdf>). Of course we'd all be happier if the first eight hulls were dismantled, but that doesn't seem to be in the cards for now – the important thing for us is that the first four are no longer Trident capable.

My experience employing submarines in a previous life has led me to the conclusion that the SSGN conversion just doesn't pass the "so what" test.

There are well over 100 Tomahawk-capable platforms in the US Navy's inventory, including over 50 attack submarines. Since the First Gulf War, surface ships have conducted almost all of the Tomahawk attacks. PLRC has an article that summarizes the Tomahawk attacks conducted in recent history (<http://www.plrc.org/docs/960301H.pdf>). Submarines haven't been significant players. The third world nations that are potential Tomahawk targets have essentially no long range surveillance capability, much less sea control in the open ocean. There is little opportunity to detect the missiles during their flight to landfall. A cruiser or destroyer standing off the coast has just as much chance of having its missiles make landfall as a submarine platform shooting from close-in. Operational commanders have seen no advantage in using submarines in the past. I see no reason for that to change in the future.

The bottom line is a few more Tomahawk capable platforms are simply redundant, no matter how many missiles they carry. You probably noticed during the invasion of Iraq that

there's no shortage of Tomahawk shooters.

Ohio Class SSGNs will be high value, politically sensitive assets (politically sensitive because the SSGNs are visually indistinguishable from Trident SSBNs, which are armed with Trident II D5 nuclear missiles). Fleet commanders aren't going to risk SSGNs when conventional surface ships can do the job just as well. If you look at the places where Tomahawks might be used, most of them involve shallow near-land areas, environmentally unsuitable for submarine operations without significant risk.

I think that Ground Zero's strength lies in its focus. Abolish Trident. Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Support other initiatives, but stay focused. Removal of the Trident Weapons System from the first four hulls reduces the number of Trident capable platforms from 18 to 14, decreasing the Trident launch capability by 22%. For us, this is a watershed event, regardless of what they do with the hulls afterwards. Remember, Trident is a weapons system, not a submarine. This is a reason to celebrate!

"Nemo" is a retired naval officer and former submarine captain, who wishes to remain anonymous for the time being.

Arrest totals

220 arrests at Bangor since 1997

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
May 2004:	14
August 2004:	13
January 2005:	11
May 2005:	9
August 2005:	19

8 years.
220 arrests.
20 civil resistance actions.
2 trials.
2 acquittals.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Action to
Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Sunday January 15, 2006

8:30am -4pm

DARE TO BUILD A NONVIOLENT WORLD!

See enclosed flyer for details. See you there!

“The greatest possibility for nuclear disarmament in our globe will come from the U.K.”

GZ emissary visits Scotland's Trident resistance

By Father Bill "Bix" Bischel

My long-held hope to visit my friend and fellow Jesuit, Gerry Hughes, in Birmingham England, also led to another long-held hope to visit the Faslane Peace Camp in Scotland. The Faslane Peace Camp is located next door to the Faslane Trident Submarine Base and has existed for 24 years. It is the site from which many protest actions against Trident take place. When actions are not taking place, the peace camp and its residents stand vigilantly as a sign that Trident is illegal, immoral, and a menacing threat to all people of our globe.

I had made arrangements with Jane Tallents to visit the Faslane Peace Camp and other organizations and people who were working for peace in that area. Jane had lived at Faslane Peace Camp with her children for seven years. She now lives in Helensburgh, which is the largest city near Faslane, and is a member of the Trident Ploughshares Group and a member of the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). She also serves as a coordinating person among the Faslane Peace Camp, the Trident Ploughshares Group, and CND.

The Trident Ploughshares Group is distinct from the Peace Camp but works in conjunction with it in many actions. The Ploughshares Group holds peace vigil gatherings in the summer for whole families. These gatherings last about two weeks at a time. This group gathers in tents on land that is not at the peace camp for the purposes of education, communal living and direct action against the Trident threat.

The CND of which Jane is a member is the premier UK umbrella organization for religious, political, and social justice groups and individuals who oppose the present presence of any nuclear weapons in the UK. The CND started in 1958 and opposed the placing of Cruise and Pershing missiles in the UK in the 70s and 80s and the replacement of US Polaris missiles with Trident. It stands strongly for the abolition of all nuclear weapons. The CND gave rise to the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp in the early 80s, in which so many courageous women lived in very harsh circumstances to stand in opposition to the placing of US missiles at this US base.

Jane and David McKenzie and a young woman from Switzerland, Hilda, who wished to become acquainted with the Anti-Trident work, met me at the train in Helensburgh. They took me on a tour of the Trident Submarine Base. We stopped at the main gate where many Trident protest actions have taken place and many arrests occurred. The whole base is surrounded with strong metal fencing with razor wire on top. From there we traveled to Coulport which is nearby and is where the nuclear weapons are stored. Jane and David chatted with some of the MOD (Ministry of Defense) security police who were at the entrance to the storage depot. The police knew Jane and David from previous nonviolent actions and arrests and were on chatty terms with them. Next we stopped at the site where the Trident Ploughshares Group holds their gatherings. This piece of property is over 40 acres, and was sold by



Faslane Peace Camp, just outside the gates of the Faslane Trident submarine base in Scotland. Photo by Dexter. Go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/64581254@N00/sets/657802/show/> for more photos.

the MOD to a woman who, unbeknownst to the MOD, was a strong peace activist. She reserved the land for the peace and resistance activities of Trident Ploughshares.

After the tour we drove back to the Faslane Peace Camp where I stayed that night and the next day. The Peace Camp sits on a narrow strip of property which is about 35 feet wide and 400 feet long. It is bordered on one side by the highway and on the other side by a four foot stone fence which runs the length of the property. The land on the other side belongs to the MOD. The local municipality owns the property and allows the Peace Camp to continue as long as there is a consistent presence of at least 3 residents in the camp. The living area of the camp is made up mostly of small trailers and RVs which are showing signs of their age, but are enlivened by creative and colorful peace and resistance paintings. There are a few large tent areas for meetings and recreational gatherings and a few buses that are used for living and storage areas. Besides the outdoor stove there are two trailers that serve as kitchens.

I met and lived with about 9 members the short time I was there. For the most part these were young people in their 20s or 30s – a few maybe older. Some had lived in other peace camps in Scotland and migrate between the camps. One member had been there from the beginning, no longer lived directly in the camp, but still came on a regular basis. There are young people whose desire to resist and confront nuclear proliferation and American imperialism leads them to live a communal life that does not have the supplies and the amenities and comforts that an ordinary home has. Most trailers have a small wood

Faslane peace camp...continued on page 7

stove for heat. Some depend on many blankets at night. I lived in a small trailer that had a small wood stove. It was the trailer of a Swedish woman who was away from the camp for two weeks. That night after we ate, we sat around and talked about nuclear weapons, US imperialism, religion, sexuality, and where people grew up.

I praise these young people for keeping the spirit of resistance alive. Besides their witness and their actions they are there to aid and facilitate any vigil or action that local people and/or people from other countries wish to engage in.

The next evening a man by the name of Eric Wallace picked me up at the camp and took me to a gathering of people from the CND, Trident Ploughshares, the Scottish Church, and peace activists who meet monthly for dinner and discussion. Our hosts were Jean and Andrew Morton. Andrew is a retired Church of Scotland minister. The house and setting were very beautiful and the dinner was superb.

We discussed the fact of Scottish opposition to the Trident submarine. Some thought that the fear of loss of jobs and the fear that there would be no deterrence if Trident was scrapped were the main reasons why the move to eliminate Trident was not moving ahead more briskly. But I was pleasantly surprised by how much resistance there was among the Scottish people at every level. The Church of Scotland's statement against Trident and the Catholic Bishops of Scotland's letter opposing Trident are strong testimonies against the nuclear menace. The general feeling seems to me to be one of anger at Tony Blair's government for cooperating with US militarism and imperialism. In arrangements with the US Department of Defense the

Bold resistance proposal from Scotland: Shut down Faslane Trident Base for 365 days Anti-nuclear activists from North America invited and needed (that's you!)

Trident Ploughshares UK (TP) wants to shut down the Faslane Trident Submarine Base for 365 days, beginning in October 2006. Faslane is the home of the UK's Trident submarine fleet, which carries all of the UK's nuclear weapons. The UK leases Trident missiles from the US to arm its fleet.

Pressure is building in the UK to scrap Trident completely and become the first "nuclear club" nation to abolish its own nuclear weapons.

The campaign, **Faslane 365**, is a civil resistance project focused in Scotland to apply critical public pressure for the disarmament of Britain's nuclear weapons by a continuous peaceful blockade of the Trident base at Faslane.

(TP) is asking for North Americans to take on a complete 48 hour block, to make the links between the US and the UK Trident.

To get involved with the planning for this exciting project email Stephen Kobasa at skobasa@snet.net, who is moderating North American discussion about Faslane 365.

UK builds the Faslane Trident subs and bombs in England and leases the missiles from the US. It seems there is an agreement with Washington, DC when the missiles can be used.

These are momentous times for the UK. The government is deciding whether to maintain Trident as its primary nuclear deterrent or whether to scrap it. There are those who say that Tony Blair and his administration have already said yes to Trident – no matter what the opposition. There are those who say now is the time to work tirelessly to scrap Trident. This would be a gigantic move toward nuclear disarmament.

With very limited experience and knowledge I venture to say that the greatest possibility for nuclear disarmament in our globe will come from the UK. The Scottish resistance seems to me to be the catalyst that will move this along. There is a movement among members of the anti-Trident groups in Scotland which is calling for 365 days of Trident blockade possibly beginning in October of 2006. The movement is looking for volunteers from different countries that will come to Faslane for the blockade and/or help as liaison persons for the movement. The organizers would especially invite persons from the US to join. There is mention of national groups taking on 48-hour block times. More information and clarification is needed but I believe the 48-hour block times can be repeated as often as there are national blockaders for the actions. The movement is called Faslane 365 and one of the organizers, Angie Zelter, has left an email: reforest@gn.apc.org. Bringing up Trident Ploughshares Scotland or Indymedia Scotland Ploughshares on the web will give you access to Jane Tallents and many other committed activists along with photos of their actions.

While I was in England I also visited with Patricia Gaffney, who is the English national director of Pax Christi, and with Bruce Kent, who was the outstanding Chairperson of CND during the 80s and is at this time the vice chair of CND and strongly involved with Pax Christi as well.

Pax Christi is the international Catholic organization working for peace and justice. Pat Gaffney informed me that the Trident issue is one of Pax Christi's prime concerns at this time and that they are putting together information packets about Trident to be sent out to the parishes in the 22 English dioceses. These informational packets will prepare parishes for Lent of 2006 in which the elimination of Trident will be the focus. Bruce Kent who works internationally to abolish war and nuclear weapons believes now is the best time to put the pressure on the English government to scrap Trident.

It seems to me that Ground Zero and the UK Anti-Trident movement can work cooperatively to support each other. If in some way Ground Zero can communicate and coordinate its Martin Luther King Day Action with the Pax Christi Campaign in England it may give the UK movement a boost. It can also help to invigorate the Ground Zero campaign to be linked internationally with peace efforts coming out of the UK. Pat Gaffney's email address in London is paxchristi@gn.apc.org.

Father Bill "Bix" Bischel is a Jesuit Priest and lives in Tacoma, WA. He is involved in many peace and justice movements, including the Tacoma Catholic Worker and the effort to close the School of the Americas.

Goodbye and Hello...

By Brian Watson
Ground Zero Newsletter Editor Emeritus

I've been the editor of the Ground Zero newsletter since 1999. After editing and laying out upwards of 20 issues (!), I've decided I need to let somebody else have a chance for a change.

So, this issue will be the last one I directly design and edit. I'm looking forward to being able to spend more time with my family, and working on sculptures in my art studio.

I'll still write articles and take photos, and you'll still see me at GZ events.

Taking over the post of Editor is **Alice Zillah** of Olympia! Hello Alice! She is a committed peace activist and has been deeply involved with Ground Zero as secretary of the Stewardship Council for several years.

As always, Ground Zero (and this newsletter) depend on your ideas and contributions. Please send any thoughts, suggestions, and criticism to your NEW editor at alicezillah@yahoo.com.

Many warm thanks to all of you,
--Brian



Fundraising appeal update

Our most sincere thanks to the folks who have responded to our November 2005 fund appeal. Despite the fire that gutted the Ground Zero house in April 2005, Ground Zero still seeks to be an *oasis of peace* right next to the Bangor Nuclear Submarine Base in Kitsap County, WA. With your generous and on-going support, you make this possible. If you haven't sent a donation yet, please take this opportunity to do so. We are humbled by your belief in us and your financial support of this work. Blessings for a more peaceful tomorrow!

Rebuilding the GZ house...

A progress report

By Brian Watson

There has been careful and steady progress toward rebuilding the Ground Zero meeting house since it was gutted by a fire in April 2005.

As anyone who has ever built anything knows, building a house can take a long time. It takes even longer when you are an organization and not just an individual. It takes still longer when you need to raise money and find volunteer labor and expertise.

Given all that, the Ground Zero Rebuilding Committee has made good progress clarifying our building needs, coming up with initial design ideas, and finding volunteer experts to help shepherd this project along.

Our insurance claim has resulted in an \$80,000 settlement, which forms the bedrock of our rebuilding fund. In addition, you all have sent in donations large and small for the building fund, which we really appreciate. Keep those donations to the building fund coming! We're going to need it! (See page 9 for the donation form.)

The Rebuilding Committee has already met with Kitsap County officials to discuss our needs and plans. Additionally, an architect has stepped forward to do some design work for GZ, and a contractor has offered to oversee the building project. Many of you have also told us you'd be willing to come help with construction. THANK YOU!

In all of this process, we are being duly careful and deliberate. We see the rebuilding project as a chance to build a structure that serves Ground Zero's needs for many years, and which serves as an expression of our values and beliefs.

We still need your help. Financial donations are very much needed. The Rebuilding Committee needs your participation. Please let us know if you have design and building skills to donate.

Email info@gzcenter.org to lend a hand!

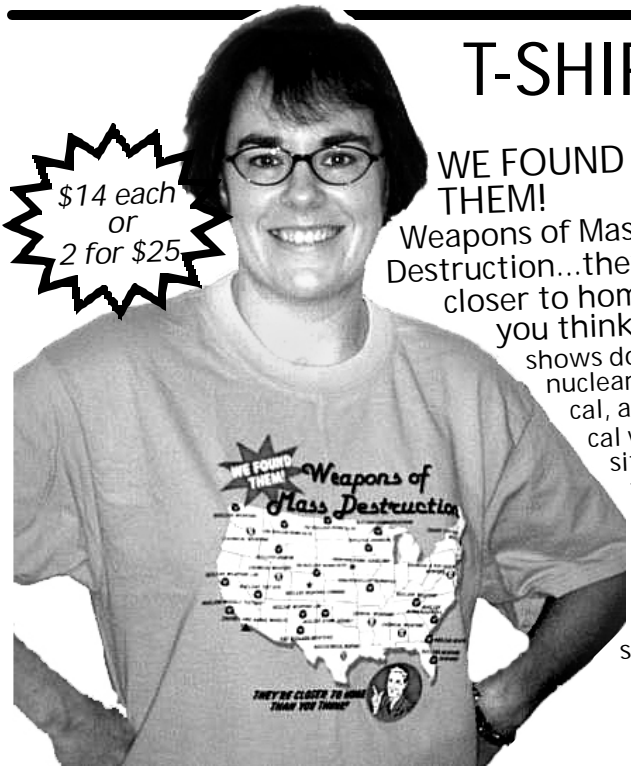
Still available and apropos!

Cut through the hypocrisy! Adorn your car!

**NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
BEGINS AT HOME**
ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS--RESIST TRIDENT
Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action www.gzcenter.org

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

T-SHIRTS and BUMPERSTICKERS



**\$14 each
or
2 for \$25**

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.

NEW



SAY IT WITH SUNFLOWERS!
New round bumper-sticker, 5.5 inches diameter. Gorgeous! Brilliant full-color sunflower and yellow text on bright blue background. The sunflower is the international symbol for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Price:
1-10.....\$1.00 ea
11-100.....\$.75 ea
101+.....\$.50 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 the rebuilding of the Ground Zero house.

Quantity	Size for shirts	Description	Price Each	TOTAL
Shipping: please add \$3.50 per shirt and/or \$1.50 per 10 bumper stickers			SHIPPING =	
We request <u>US funds</u> 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 donation toward the Ground Zero Building Fund. \$ _____
- ___ Please call me; I want to start leafleting at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard • or, downtown Seattle • .
- ___ 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: rebuilding • house & grounds • newsletter • special events • website • other • _____ (specify)

Name: _____
 Address: _____ City _____
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 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

WHAT IS TRIDENT?



Trident is the sea-based leg of the US nuclear weapons "triad." Trident is an integrated nuclear weapons system made up of 14 nuclear-powered Trident submarines, which each carry 24 Trident II D5 nuclear missiles. Each missile is armed with up to 8 nuclear warheads. Each Trident sub carries the equivalent of 1,000 Hiroshimas.

With nearly 2,700 warheads, the Trident fleet comprises nearly 50% of the deployed US nuclear arsenal.

The Trident fleet is based on the Atlantic coast at King's Bay, Georgia, and on the Pacific coast at Bangor, Washington. The Bangor base is now home to 9 Tridents, making Bangor one of the largest concentrations of nuclear weapons on Earth and the *only* nuclear weapons depot on the entire west coast of the western hemisphere.

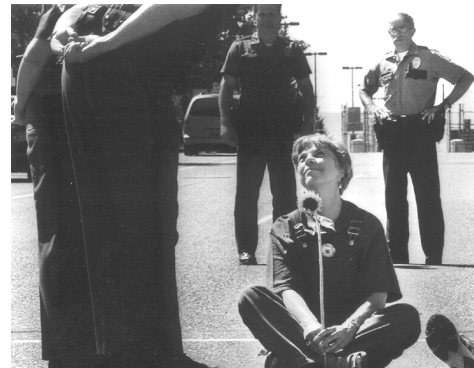
WHAT IS GROUND ZERO?

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action is a group of ordinary people from all walks of life committed to peace and the abolition of all nuclear weapons. We strive to create such a world through nonviolent living, nonviolent resistance, building community, education, and outreach.

Founded in 1977, Ground Zero owns 3.8 acres of land adjacent to the Bangor Trident Submarine Base.

We strive to live out our vision of a world of peace and justice. Toward this end, we focus our work on ending the nuclear threat posed by the Trident nuclear weapons system.

Do you share our hope? **Join us.**



Rev. Anne Hall, August 1998.

GROUND ZERO

GROUND ZERO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENT ACTION

16159 Clear Creek Road NW
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Phone: 360-779-4672

Website: www.gzcenter.org

E-mail: info@gzcenter.org

Address Service Requested

“Our present policies, plans and postures governing nuclear weapons make us prisoner to an age of intolerable danger. We cannot at once keep sacred the miracle of existence and hold sacrosanct the capacity to destroy it. It is time to reassert the primacy of individual conscience, the voice of reason and the rightful interests of humanity.”

-- Lee Butler, former 4-star US Air Force General, head of Strategic Air Command

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If you no longer want to receive our newsletter, just let us know and we'll take you off our mailing list.

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