

Peter Hamilton

From: "Jan Barham" <jbarham@nor.com.au>
To: <ian.cohen@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 7 February 2003 9:21 AM
Subject: Harold Pinter speech



Harold Pinter speech Turin Honorary Doctorate - November 27th 2002

I am deeply honoured to receive this degree from such a great university.

Earlier this year I had a major operation for cancer. The operation and its after-effects were something of a nightmare. I felt I was a man unable to swim bobbing about under water in a deep dark endless ocean. But I did not drown and I am very glad to be alive. However, I found that to emerge from a personal nightmare was to enter an infinitely more pervasive public nightmare the nightmare of American hysteria, ignorance, arrogance, stupidity and belligerence; the most powerful nation the world has ever known effectively waging war against the rest of the world. "If you are not with us you are against us" President Bush has said. He has also said "We will not allow the world's worst weapons to remain in the hands of the world's worst leaders". Quite right. Look in the mirror chum. That's you.

The US is at this moment developing advanced systems of "weapons of mass destruction" and it prepared to use them where it sees fit. It has more of them than the rest of the world put together. It has walked away from international agreements on biological and chemical weapons, refusing to allow inspection of its own factories. The hypocrisy behind its public declarations and its own actions is almost a joke.

The United States believes that the three thousand deaths in New York are the only deaths that count, the only deaths that matter. They are American deaths. Other deaths are unreal, abstract, of no consequence.

The three thousand deaths in Afghanistan are never referred to.

The hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children dead through US and British sanctions which have deprived them of essential medicines are never referred to.

The effect of depleted uranium, used by America in the Gulf War, is never referred to. Radiation levels in Iraq are appallingly high. Babies are born with no brain, no eyes, no genitals. Where they do have ears, mouths or rectums, all that issues from these orifices is blood.

The two hundred thousand deaths in East Timor in 1975 brought about by the Indonesian government but inspired and supported by the United States are never referred to.

The half a million deaths in Guatemala, Chile, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Argentina and Haiti, in actions supported and subsidised by the United States are never referred to.

The millions of deaths in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia are no longer referred to.

The desperate plight of the Palestinian people, the central factor in world unrest, is hardly referred to.

But what a misjudgement of the present and what a misreading of history this is.

People do not forget. They do not forget the death of their fellows, they do not forget torture and mutilation, they do not forget injustice, they do not forget oppression, they do not forget the terrorism of mighty powers. They not only don't forget. They strike back.

The atrocity in New York was predictable and inevitable. It was an act of retaliation against constant and systematic manifestations of state terrorism on the part of the United States over many years, in all parts of the world.

In Britain the public is now being warned to be "vigilant" in preparation for potential terrorist acts. The language is in itself preposterous. How will or can public vigilance be embodied? Wearing a scarf over your mouth to keep out poison gas? However, terrorist attacks are quite likely, the inevitable result of our Prime Minister's contemptible and shameful subservience to the United States. Apparently a terrorist poison gas attack on the London Underground system was recently prevented. But such an act may indeed take place. Thousands of school children travel on the London Underground every day. If there is a poison gas attack from which they die, the responsibility will rest entirely on the shoulders of our Prime Minister. Needless to say, the Prime Minister does not travel on the underground himself.

The planned war against Iraq is in fact a plan for premeditated murder of thousands of civilians in order, apparently, to rescue them from their dictator.

The United States and Britain are pursuing a course which can lead only to an escalation of violence throughout the world and finally to catastrophe.

It is obvious, however, that the United States is bursting at the seams to attack Iraq. I believe that it will do this not just to take control of Iraqi oil but because the US administration is now a bloodthirsty wild animal. Bombs are its only vocabulary. Many Americans, we know, are horrified by the posture of their government but seem to be helpless.

Unless Europe finds the solidarity, intelligence, courage and will to challenge and resist US power Europe itself will deserve Alexander Herzen's definition (as quoted in the Guardian newspaper in London recently) "We are not the doctors. We are the disease".

Harold Pinter

Mr. V. Turner
28 Seaview Street
Byron Bay 2481
6th February, 2003

The Director, Urban Assessments
GPO Box 3927
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: alistair.mein@planning.nsw.gov.au

Re: **SEPP 71 - Master plan - "Seadrift"**
Lots 1,2,3 – DP 538412 - Lots 74,75 – DP 755695
Jonson and Browning Streets, Byron Bay

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to submit my opposition to the above "Master plan".

Exhibition of this proposal has not met requirements in that signage has not been evident at the site and the Master plan has not been available for examination at Byron Bay Library.

This is a major problem as this proposal takes residential development into a new untried area. That is medium density development with its minimal public open space constrained by its use as greywater irrigation area and the resultant harvesting of nutrients from shrubbery growing on the "open space" to extract the greywater nutrients. This greatly reduces the potential use of these open space areas.

The development proposes to treat the Sewerage load generated by the development "On-site", to export the solid waste portion and irrigate the re-claimed grey water portion over the development site.

I believe this proposal to be an inappropriate given the fact that the development is surrounded on three sides by existing residential and commercial development, and

the site includes Sepp 14 land and areas zoned 7a by Byron Shire Council. The proposed stormwater treatment area and weir falls within the 7a/SEPP14 boundary. This is not permissible use of these zones and not consistent with Council's objectives for 7(a)/SEPP 14 areas.

The potential cumulative impacts of this and two other proposed developments in the immediate area that also propose to utilize similar sewerage management need to be examined before any approval can be considered. Impacts on the adjoining Cumbebin Wetland and the 'water table' in the area must be considered.

My concerns include the ongoing management of the proposed system. If the "Body Corporate" has that responsibility, what safeguards are in place should the Body Corp. fail? Does the responsibility then fall on the general community via the Council? This is not acceptable.

It is my understanding that there is a statutory requirement that an EIS must be completed due to on-site water reclamation and treatment of sewerage. There is no evidence that this has been the case

Further concerns include:

- An additional/alternate irrigation area of 900 square metres is located at the southern end of the proposal. Buffer zones between this and existing residents do not appear to be adequate. (refer DCP C2.3)
- Access to the proposal will be from Jonson Street with a cul-de-sac constructed within the 7(a)(wetland zone). This is inconsistent with Council's objectives for 7(a) zone.
- I believe that the proponent has underestimated of the potential number of residents per dwelling, given the three/four bedroom size and proximity to Byron Town Centre. The actual experience of neighbourhoods within the area is that medium density development leads to increased street parking

and if resident numbers are accepted at this under-estimation the situation becomes worse.

- The development style is inconsistent with the existing amenity of the area. The development to the south-east, which abuts this proposal, is all single storey dwellings. All existing older homes to the east are also single storey. (refer DCP 2002 C5.6)

In conclusion, I believe that the notion of Medium Density development using on-site sewerage treatment and effluent irrigation within existing town urban areas must be refused.

Specific areas must be set aside for the purpose of dispersment of grey water and these areas not be included in open space calculations. Medium Density development requirements for open space must offer residents what is "un-constrained open areas" for their recreation. The proposal to turn these areas into densely vegetated damp boggy areas will lead to open space stress and health problems within the development.

I believe that the appropriate use of alternative sewerage options in such a situation would be Compost toilets and on-site treatment and irrigation of household grey water on unconstrained "purpose allocated" areas.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr. Veda Turner

Peter Hamilton

From: "Parijat Wismer" <parijat@wellness.net.au>
To: "fiona parsons" <fi_ster@hotmail.com>
Cc: "peter hamilton" <peterh@nor.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 February 2003 10:34 PM
Subject: Re: Jonson Street Submission

Hello Fiona and Peter,

heres my Submission, thanks for your work. I'll look forward to any feed-back if you get a chance before I send it tomorrow.

Veda

Australian Wellness Centre
 For Health & Longevity
<http://www.wellness.net.au>

Accredited College ICPKP
 Professional Kinesiology Training PKP
 Three-in -One Emotional Healing Courses
 Self-help Courses
 Accredited "Heartmath" Coaching & Materials
 Herbs for Kinesiologists
 Distributors of:
 Herbs (NSP),
 Food Extracted Supplements (GNLD),
 Organic Natural Skin, Mouth and Haircare (Intelligence/Mi-Essence),
 Bio-Energy Field Enhancement Generators (BEFE),
 Chi- Machines
 Water Purifiesr/Shower Filters.

----- Original Message -----

From: fiona.parsons
To: parijat@wellness.net.au
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2003 12:12 PM
Subject: re: Jonson Street Submission

Hi Veda, here it is so far...I am sure you can elaborate on my comments, and add much valued information. Just thought of another point. He states in his documents

"The Water Reclamation Plant will have the capability of achieving water quality criteria for theoretical maximum population of 156 people (4.5 persons average x 35 units). Clearly he believes the population of this proposal will be far greater than that of statistics available.

Anyway let me know what you think, will email planning nsw tomorrow morning.

There address is:

alistair.mein@planning.nsw.gov.au

Tired of spam? Get [advanced junk mail protection](#) with MSN 8.

Jim Staples
23 Articles on econ. consequences of 9/11/03
a war with Iraq!

www.^Aaldaily.com

2nd article →

www.nthposition.com/politics-
a. ~~not~~ nodhaus.1.html
space.

Peter Hamilton

From: "Jan Barham" <jbarham@nor.com.au>
To: <jbarham@nor.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 3 February 2003 5:41 PM
Subject: CLARIFICATION - THIS IS AN INVITATION TO WOMEN - please pass on to partners, family & friends in byron shire

CLARIFICATION - This is an action i am supporting and therefore circulating, it is an initiative by Grace Knight, please treat it with the respect it deserves and pass on and join in

AN INVITATION TO THE WOMEN OF THE SHIRE OF BYRON

DISROBE TO DISARM

To the wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts and girlfriends of Byron shire

If, like us, you are stunned that John Howard is taking us to war; if you are angry that George Bush is rallying our forces to attack another country's citizens; to kill, maim and violently torture its men, women, children, little tiny babies, birds and animals; if you are feeling the anguish of this prospect, fearful of its consequences yet powerless over its inevitability, we urge you to join us in a protest action that will show this Government **exactly how you feel**.

In recent weeks, a group of American women – mothers, school teachers, shop assistants, lawyers, couriers, actresses, hippies and housewives – joined forces, took off their clothes and lay down in a paddock to spell out their protest. Their naked female bodies, arranged in letters that spelt out "**NO WAR**" made a powerful picture to present to their president and the world. We are planning a similar action in the Byron Shire next week and invite you, whoever you are, to join us.

As women, we generally do not understand the blinding need to kill and control. We do not endorse bullying. We are ashamed of the gladiator mentality of the men we have mistakenly put our trust in. Our overwhelming desire, if acknowledged, is to nurture, protect and love. Our responsibility is to **say so**.

WHY NAKED?

1. Because it attracts attention. We need the male-dominated political parties of Australia to hear us. They are unlikely to listen unless we get their attention.
2. Because of its powerful symbolism. Stripped bare of any clothing or adornment that label and separate us, we become united as a single entity. We are simply female human beings who, in this moment in time, want one thing – PEACE.
3. Because although it's difficult, it makes a powerful statement. For some free-spirited Nimbin babies, this might not mean a lot, but for most of us it is at best an uncomfortable idea and at worst, absolutely excruciating. Many of us have already signed petitions which have their value, but how useful does that really make us feel? Do you ask yourself – "what more can I do?" "How much of a sacrifice am I willing to make?" If nakedness is uncomfortable and embarrassing for us, think how uncomfortable and embarrassing the pictures of Iraqi citizens or Australian soldiers blown to smithereens will be.

LET'S DO SOMETHING

We urge you, we encourage you, join in, disrobe and show them we are willing to go to any lengths to have our feelings

4/02/2003

 respected.

WHEN 8.30a.m. Saturday 8th February, 2003

WHERE Go to Federal Hall and follow the signs

WHAT TO BRING A sarong; sunscreen and a willing heart

.....

please can you help us out with this protest by forwarding this invitation on to like minded women. We need 50 or so, but pray for hundreds to turn up. Please encourage them to travel in groups to support each other.

A great big NO WAR across a hill in federal. We have a female photographer for the shoot. And the possibility of a hang glider to fly over and do some shots too. depending on the weather.



Peter Hamilton

From: "Jan Barham" <jbarham@nor.com.au>
To: <jbarham@nor.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 3 February 2003 4:53 PM
Subject: THIS IS AN INVITATION TO WOMEN - please pass on to partners, family & friends in byron shire

AN INVITATION TO THE WOMEN OF THE SHIRE OF BYRON

DISROBE TO DISARM

To the wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts and girlfriends of Byron shire

If, like us, you are stunned that John Howard is taking us to war; if you are angry that George Bush is rallying our forces to attack another country's citizens; to kill, maim and violently torture its men, women, children, little tiny babies, birds and animals; if you are feeling the anguish of this prospect, fearful of its consequences yet powerless over its inevitability, we urge you to join us in a protest action that will show this Government **exactly how you feel**.

In recent weeks, a group of American women – mothers, school teachers, shop assistants, lawyers, couriers, actresses, hippies and housewives – joined forces, took off their clothes and lay down in a paddock to spell out their protest. Their naked female bodies, arranged in letters that spelt out "**NO WAR**" made a powerful picture to present to their president and the world. We are planning a similar action in the Byron Shire next week and invite you, whoever you are, to join us.

As women, we generally do not understand the blinding need to kill and control. We do not endorse bullying. We are ashamed of the gladiator mentality of the men we have mistakenly put our trust in. Our overwhelming desire, if acknowledged, is to nurture, protect and love. Our responsibility is to **say so**.

WHY NAKED?

1. Because it attracts attention. We need the male-dominated political parties of Australia to hear us. They are unlikely to listen unless we get their attention.
2. Because of its powerful symbolism. Stripped bare of any clothing or adornment that label and separate us, we become united as a single entity. We are simply female human beings who, in this moment in time, want one thing – **PEACE**.
3. Because although it's difficult, it makes a powerful statement. For some free-spirited Nimbin babies, this might not mean a lot, but for most of us it is at best an uncomfortable idea and at worst, absolutely excruciating. Many of us have already signed petitions which have their value, but how useful does that really make us feel? Do you ask yourself – "what more can I do?" "How much of a sacrifice am I willing to make?" If nakedness is uncomfortable and embarrassing for us, think how uncomfortable and embarrassing the pictures of Iraqi citizens or Australian soldiers blown to smithereens will be.

LET'S DO SOMETHING

We urge you, we encourage you, join in, disrobe and show them we are willing to go to any lengths to have our feelings respected.

WHEN 8.30a.m. Saturday 8th February, 2003

WHERE Go to Federal Hall and follow the signs

WHAT TO BRING A sarong; sunscreen and a willing heart

please can you help us out with this protest by forwarding this invitation on to like minded women. We need 50 or so, but pray for hundreds to turn up. Please encourage them to travel in groups to support each other.

A great big NO WAR across a hill in federal. We have a female photographer for the shoot. And the possibility of a hang glider to fly over and do some shots too. depending on the weather.

Peter Hamilton

From: "Pip Wilson" <almanac@acay.com.au>
To: "Aiders and Abettors" <aaalmanac@yahoogroups.com>
Cc: "Wilson's Almanac" <WilsonsAlmanac@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Friday, 7 February 2003 3:47 PM
Subject: Myths of the 'War on Terrorism' ... please distribute.

*Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it.
 Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.
 Begin it now.*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe[1] (1749-1832)

This email is the Feb 7 edition of
Wilson's Almanac daily ezine,
AAA, the premium Almanac,
Daily Planet News
 and Almost Prophetic Quotes

Myths of the 'War on Terrorism'

<http://www.wilsonsalmannac.com/myths.html>

(The online version is easier to navigate, with hyperlinked footnotes)

By Pip Wilson; Researched by Jeannine Wilson and Pip Wilson

© Pip Wilson, 2003

May be forwarded or reproduced in not-for-profit ways, in its entirety – in fact I encourage it (and fast!), but only reprinted commercially with the written permission of Pip Wilson, *Wilson's Almanac*,
<http://www.wilsonsalmannac.com>

Jeannine Wilson has just created an email group for Daily Planet News at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dailyplanetnews>

Send a blank email to dailyplanetnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

For Wilson's Almanac send one to WilsonsAlmanac-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

For the premium edition (pay ezine with opportunities for free subs) aaalmanac-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

For Almost Prophetic Quotations almostprophetic-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Introduction

Do you sometimes feel that we are not being told everything by those who are leading us all into war? Do you feel that perhaps we are even being told lies?

I'm reminded of Detective Milton Arbogast (Martin Balsam) in the 1960 thriller, *Psycho*[2]. Faced with conundrums aplenty, he says, "If it doesn't gel, it ain't aspic. And this ain't gelling". That's how this feels.

Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein might be guilty as hell. All I know is that the week the Enron scandal broke in the USA was the week that Bush turned his attention from the former to the latter, and it seems that the media followed like a pack of hounds. It sure ain't aspic.

I felt it necessary to jot down some of the things that don't gel for me. I do not pretend to have the

X-From : BrentAllan.MCCRACKEN@add.nsw.gov.au Tue Oct 10 21:04:06 2000
Return-Path: <BrentAllan.MCCRACKEN@add.nsw.gov.au>
X-Authentication-Warning: cheetah.nor.com.au: Host 63.19.davnet.com.au [202.53.63.19] (may be forged) claimed to be mail.add.nsw.gov.au
From: MCCRACKEN Brent Allan <BrentAllan.MCCRACKEN@add.nsw.gov.au>
To: Denise Nagorcka <regcoord@nor.com.au>
Subject: RE: Please contact RCP re NGO directory
Date: Tue, 10 Oct 2000 22:02:35 +1000

Hi Carlene,

Sorry for the delay in responding.

The Ageing and Disability Dept funds about 100 organisations on the Nth Coast but no Peaks or other overarching services so given the definition for this section I have no specific services NGOs to list in the directory.

regards
Brent McC

-----Original Message-----

From: Denise Nagorcka [mailto:regcoord@nor.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 6 October 2000 14:01
To: wayne.bartley@dcs.nsw.gov.au; peter.ch@waterways.nsw.gov.au;
greg.cloak@det.nsw.edu.au; peter_collins@rta.nsw.gov.au;
rhonda_kosters@rta.nsw.gov.au; PHernage@dsr.nsw.gov.au;
crawfordc@nrhs.health.nsw.gov.au; JUDYF@nrhs.health.nsw.gov.au;
mccairng@housing.nsw.gov.au; murphypr@housing.nsw.gov.au;
HOULTOGV@housing.nsw.gov.au; BrentAllan.MCCRACKEN@add.nsw.gov.au;
Nick.Paris@dj.nsw.gov.au; stever@sf.nsw.gov.au;
forster.rayward@dpws.nsw.gov.au; mrichmond@fairtrading.nsw.gov.au;
paul_ruse@agd.nsw.gov.au; dschroder@dlwc.nsw.gov.au;
hpartridge@dlwc.nsw.gov.au; frank.shaw@det.nsw.edu.au;
csmith2@odpp.nsw.gov.au; withnem@fisheries.nsw.gov.au;
webbaf@housing.nsw.gov.au; philip.webster@det.nsw.edu.au;
colleen.williams@det.nsw.edu.au
Subject: Please contact RCP re NGO directory

On 7 June we contacted your organisation about compiling a directory which listed all RCMG information. The directory will also have information about Non government organisations you wish to have included.

To date, we have not received any information from your organisation. Could you please phone Carleen on 02 6620 1630 on Monday 9 October and let her know whether you have any information about NGOs to be included in the directory or whether you have a nil response. Alternatively, you could email the information to her. Address: regcoord@nor.com.au

Could you please contact Carleen as early as possible on Monday preferably by 12 noon. (NB Carleen works in the office only one day per week)

The files we emailed to you in June are also attached for your information. Thanks for your assistance.

Denise Nagorcka



answers. I'm just glad I have some questions, because (have you noticed?) Western media seem to have fallen strangely dumb.

Pip Wilson

Myth: War is the only way to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction

Fact: War is always a sign of a failure of human imagination and a loss of faith of human ingenuity. It should not just be the course of last resort, but the course of *absolute* last resort. On the whole, the global community has not been persuaded that all options have been tried. War is futile. "War is a vestige of our common ancestry with the apes, one that we can deliberately shed as surely as that vestigial, unnecessary organ, the appendix. But we need to be seriously dedicated to the task, and we need to commit serious resources to it." [3]

There are still many things that could be tried; let us consider one that, while imaginative, is not fanciful. A sum of money equivalent to the US military budget (approximately one trillion dollars), could be applied to an international quest for solutions to this particular problem (which might end up costing more than a trillion dollars and let loose weapons that might kill and maim hundreds of thousands of people). Only the most cynical of people could be sure that the certainty of such a quest's failure would outweigh the enormity of its alternative. We do not teach our children to bully, but to reason, for we know that reason and not playground fights are to the advantage of all.

Weapons of mass destruction are more likely to be eliminated by negotiations and treaties than by their use, as history has shown. Regrettably, on several occasions recently, US administration officials have publicly indicated that nuclear weapons might be used against Iraq. Such an unthinkable action would not only release toxins into the air we all breathe, it would also be similar to provoking a hornet's nest with a stick. The most elementary mind can see that almost no conceivable circumstance on Planet Earth could justify the use of nuclear weapons, which have been roundly condemned by so many of the great thinkers of the last few decades, including many scientists who helped create them. We must let our politicians know that nuclear war talk is entirely unacceptable to humanity.

Myth: In the Gulf War of 1991, the Iraqi people were largely protected because America used 'smart bombs' that hit buildings and similar military targets accurately

Fact: Seventy per cent of the 88,500 tons of bombs dropped on Iraq and Kuwait – the equivalent of more than seven Hiroshimas – completely missed their targets, falling on civilian populations.[4]

Estimates of the numbers of people (men, women and children) killed by the coalition forces are generally in the hundreds of thousands.[5]

According to a UN World Health Organization (WHO) report[6], as many as half a million civilian casualties are to be expected in the invasion of Iraq now being planned.[7]

Non-governmental agencies, such as Oxfam[8], dealing with the tragic humanitarian crisis[9] caused in Iraq by the Western sanctions[10], report similar projections for human misery should Iraq be invaded.

Myth: At least not many Western coalition soldiers suffered in the war

Fact: "As of May 2002, the Gulf War casualties include 8,306 veterans dead and 159,705 veterans injured or ill as a consequence of wartime service to our nation.[11] The official May 2002 Department of Veteran Affairs report classifies 168011 individuals as "disabled veterans". That reflects a staggering casualty rate of 29.3 per cent for combat-related duties between 1990 and 1991." Doctor Doug Rokke, quoting US government figures. [12]

Myth: The war in Afghanistan produced few casualties

Fact: Casualties were not low by any stretch of the imagination, and number in the thousands of innocent civilians. More information is coming to hand all the time.[13]

Myth: The coalition forces in the Gulf War of 1991 acted honourably at all times

Fact: The Clark Commission, which investigated the Gulf war, chaired by former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark, heard how US pilots massacred thousands of Palestinians, Bangladeshis, Sudanese, Egyptians and other nationals towards the end of the war.

Myth: In the Gulf War, CNN and other news agencies told the public in the West what was going on, honestly and thoroughly

Fact: The US military, with the aid of huge transnational public relations (PR) corporations, confined journalists away from the true events of the war. The media organizations themselves were largely compliant

with this manipulation, and still are today

Journalist John Pilger has written, "Unknown to journalists, in the last two days before the cease-fire, American armoured bulldozers were ruthlessly deployed, mostly at night, burying Iraqis alive in their trenches, including the wounded. Six months later *New York Newsday* disclosed that three brigades of the 1st Mechanised Infantry Division - 'The Big Red One' - used snow plows mounted on tanks and combat earth movers to bury thousands of Iraqi soldiers – some alive – in more than 70 miles of trenches".

Myth: CNN has nothing to gain by being pro-war or compliant with military PR

Fact: CNN was scarcely known in global infotainment until the Gulf War. Following are examples of CNN-related personnel whose careers and bank accounts were boosted hugely by the Gulf War: stockholders, executives, editors, chiefs-of-staff, journalists, camera operators, on-air presenters and anchor-people, and so on. A similar situation exists today: war is excellent for journalism, even if it has been co-opted by the military. CNN is renowned for its sloppy journalism and pro-aggression politics.[14]

Myth: We can trust the media to tell us the truth about the war

Fact: Media corporations – which today are huge and powerful[15] – rely on advertising, and some of their biggest advertisers have vested interests not only in Iraq, but in an Iraqi war. For example, Kodak supplied Saddam Hussein with rockets, and Honeywell provided Iraq's regime with sophisticated computer equipment. [16] Oil companies, aviation companies, chemical companies, vehicle companies – big advertisers – all have dirty hands over Iraq, but you have to dig for the data.[17] I am sometimes asked, "Why do we not hear these things of which you speak?" When almost all of what we "hear" comes from advertising-reliant media, how can one answer this question in any way apart from raising an eyebrow?[18]

US President George W Bush's January, 2003 State of the Union address, which was markedly bellicose, was a case in point. CNN's coverage was gushingly in favour of his every word. Various commentators were employed to discuss the speech, but not one of them represented a view that was against invasion of Iraq.[19]

Furthermore, the Gulf War of 1991 and the current planned war, have been media-managed by huge public relations firms. Executives of the large PR firm, Hill & Knowlton[20] (the public relations firm hired by Citizens for a Free Kuwait, the Kuwaiti government front group that lobbied Congress for military intervention), were involved in arranging for a speech to be made by a 15-year-old girl, 'Nariyah', to the US Congressional Human Rights Caucus on October 10, 1990. To the caucus she told of being an eyewitness to babies in hospital incubators being killed by Iraqi soldiers. Even Amnesty International, normally an excellent organization, swallowed the story, which goes to show how scientific and persuasive PR is today. 'Nariyah' played a significant role in turning public opinion towards the George Bush Sr administration's war plans.

'Nariyah' turned out to be the daughter of Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States, and Congress had been conned by PR. The Congressional Human Rights Foundation was actually housed in Hill & Knowlton's Washington headquarters.[21]

Other clients of Hill & Knowlton have included Turkey and the former dictatorship of Indonesia, when both were at the height of human rights abuses.[22]

Myth: At least the Gulf War wasn't a nuclear war

Fact: The US fired an estimated 944,000 rounds of Depleted Uranium (DU) ammunition in Iraq and Kuwait. Cancer and leukemia victims are the human tragedy of this ammunition.[23]

Myth: Iraq is a big, oil-rich country that presents a threat to the west in general, and the USA in particular

Fact: Iraq does indeed have vast oil reserves. However, it is a poor nation, especially when compared to western nations such as the USA..

The GDP of the United States is \$10,082,000,000,000 (\$10.82 trillion). The GDP of Iraq is \$59,000,000,000 (\$59 billion). The GDP of the United States is 174 times bigger than the GDP of Iraq.

The population of the United States is 280,562,489. The population of Iraq is 24,001,816. The United States has 11.7 times more people than Iraq.[24]

Myth: This surely isn't about oil; America has plenty of its own

Fact: America produces about 8 million barrels of oil a day[25], but consumes about 20 million barrels a day. Because of its citizens' consumer lifestyle, just one country of 190 causing more than 25 per cent of the world's oil consumption, it is dependent upon 12 million barrels per day from outside its own borders, and increasingly

so.[26] The Bush administration is attempting to allow oil wells in National Park wilderness in Alaska[27], but public and political opposition to this, on the grounds of protecting the environment, has been great, so Alaskan oil is an unreliable possibility for future consumption.

The Chairman of British Petroleum (BP) recently in public bemoaned the fact that in a post-invasion Iraq, the spoils would go to America, and BP and other corporations would be disadvantaged.

War will be profitable to some rich people in your neighbourhood, as in mine. Oil is at the heart of it, as we in the West are addicted to it.[28]

Myth: Iraq is a major nuclear threat

Fact: Even the UN weapons inspectors and Iraq's detractors agree that Iraq has not one nuclear weapon. By comparison, the USA has approximately 10,000, and numerous other countries are nuclear armed already: Russia, India, Pakistan, France, Great Britain and Ariel Sharon's[29] Israel being examples. The United States is the only country in world history to have used nuclear weapons. Senior US administration officials have stated that they are considering the use of nuclear weapons against Iraq, as reported in the *Los Angeles Times*, January 25, 2003[30], and in many other media worldwide.

Myth: Iraq has defied the world by creating chemical and biological weapons

Fact: No sane person could condone Iraq's possession of these weapons of mass destruction, but they did not defy the international community by making them – and UN inspectors are still trying to find some evidence they exist.

At the end of the Gulf War, the Kurds of northern Iraq were encouraged by the USA to rise up against Hussein. When they did so, the USA did not come to their aid, as the Kurds had been promised; as they feared, Hussein systematically destroyed thousands of their villages (almost every village in the north), and used poison gas against many people. At the time, the USA did not condemn Iraq for this atrocity but, according to the *New York Times*, actually helped Saddam Hussein. In fact, according to a US Senate investigation the capability for making the weapons came from the United States.[31]

It should be noted that many other nations also have these terrible weapons: the USA used chemical weapons in Vietnam, notably napalm and Agent Orange.

Myth: Iraq has acted badly and Western coalition nations have acted well

Fact: UNICEF reported (August 1999) that the under-five mortality rate in Iraq has more than doubled since the imposition of sanctions.[32]

Western nations and their corporations have been instrumental in arming Saddam Hussein and supplying him with chemicals and biological agents (as affirmed by President Clinton). Donald Rumsfeld, America's Secretary of Defense, was formerly involved in this disgrace.[33]

Myth: In 1998, Saddam Hussein expelled UN weapons inspectors from Iraq, because they found weapons of mass destruction

Fact: Richard Butler, head of the UN inspection team, withdrew the team on his own accord, and the next day the USA commenced a bombing raid on Iraq.[34]

Myth: Saddam Hussein is preparing to attack the USA

Fact: No one knows what is in the head of Saddam Hussein. Certainly, if he was planning do such a thing, the CIA would have recordings by now, considering the highly sophisticated digital equipment and satellites at their disposal. However, such a 'smoking gun' has not been forthcoming. There are many good reasons to believe that he has no plans to attack America or arm proxies to do so. Journalist Michael Elvin considers questions about Hussein's intentions:

"Are these scenarios realistic? They presuppose first that he has something he will gain by doing this, and second that the US will buckle under and somehow fail to deploy an arsenal the likes of which the world has never seen before."[35]

Myth: Saddam Hussein is arming Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda terrorist organization

Fact: We simply do not know this, and if Western politicians knew for sure, we *would* know it. There is no evidence of this that has been produced, yet such evidence should not be difficult for Great Britain and the USA, with their vast intelligence resources, to discover. In fact, officials from Iraq are adamant that their party and al-Qaeda do not share the same ideology. Like Christianity and Communism, Islam has many different and even opposing strands. It is impossible to know all the details, but it might be that the notion of Hussein arming

bin Laden is as preposterous as Stalin arming Trotsky, who was also Communist, but his mortal ideological enemy.

Moreover, it does not seem likely that a poor nation surrounded by rich nation aggressors would part with his weapons at such a time. This is not to deny the evil of Hussein's regime, nor its potential for causing damage to regional security. However, this is true of many nations that are not being invaded. Libya, for example, has just been elected unopposed to the Chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights.

Myth: When a nation defies United Nations resolutions, they should be invaded and forced to comply

Fact: No nation that now intends to invade Iraq has applied this dictum to the nation of Israel, which for decades, by its illegal occupation of Palestine, has defied many significant UN resolutions.[36] American allies such as Morocco and Turkey[37] flout UN resolutions, but their citizens and those of Israel appear in no imminent danger of a superpower conflagration.

Myth: The Hans Blix[38] weapons inspection team progress report[39] of January, 2003, condemned Iraq for its weapons of mass destruction and Iraq's opposition to assisting his team

Fact: The report of Mr Blix's United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC)[40] did no such thing. Most media reports sounded like the journalists had not even read it, which might well have been the case. While not exonerating Iraq, Blix made a point of stating that Iraq had been very helpful. In fact, Blix took issue with what he said were US Secretary of State Colin L Powell's claims that Iraqi officials were hiding and moving illicit materials within and outside of Iraq to prevent their discovery. He said that the inspectors had reported no such incidents.[41]

Colin Powell's speech before the Security Council of the United Nations on February 5, 2003[42], which supposedly presents reasons for this massive war, is so unpersuasive as to be risible. Mr Powell seems to want us believe that a water pistol is a smoking gun. Saddam Hussein, we all know, is a monster, like many dictators in the world today. However, no evidence has been given that indicates he is a danger to anyone but the benighted inmates of Iraq.

Sad to relate, Donald Rumsfeld, Condoleezza Rice and other senior Bush administration officials have repeatedly said that the forthcoming invasion will not be determined by any evidence reported by Blix's team. [43] No evidence is evidence; heads we invade, tails you get invaded.

Myth: In December, 2002, the USA demanded from Iraq a complete written survey of Iraq's military capabilities. Iraq was slow to comply, and when the report was received, UN members condemned it for the weapons of mass destruction it revealed

Fact: Iraq handed over a 12,000-page report to the UN, but America commandeered it (much to the dismay of many other nations in the UN). To do so, it had to obtain the permission of the tiny nation of Colombia, which in December, 2002 was the President of the UN Security Council. The USA released only 3,000 of these pages; most UN nations, including major powers such as Germany (which opposes unilateral US action against Iraq), were not privy to the contents of the missing 75 per cent of Iraq's document.[44]

Myth: Saddam Hussein is deliberately making things difficult for the USA, much like the Taliban did when it would not hand over Osama bin Laden

Fact: Many people have forgotten that the Taliban dictatorship of Afghanistan consistently offered to hand bin Laden over to a neutral third country for trial in the World Court if damning evidence about his role in the September 11, 2001 outrage were provided.[45] Just as consistently, President George W Bush refused to give Afghanistan's rulers a 'smoking gun', and he is repeating that formula in the case of Iraq: the formula implies that war plans have not been related to the *casus belli* (ostensible cause for war) in either case. Ulterior motives must be suspected.

The fact that many have forgotten the Taliban's offer is, no doubt, a consequence of the negligible reporting that it received in mainstream media, which was as gung-ho to invade Afghanistan as it is to invade Iraq.

It must be remembered that bin Laden consistently denied responsibility for 9/11[46],[47], although it is quite usual for terrorist groups to glory in their crimes. The Taliban also claimed that bin Laden could not have been involved in the terror attacks because there is no flight training school in Afghanistan and because the regime had cut off bin Laden's communications with the rest of the world.[48]

One cannot conclude whether al-Qaeda performed the outrage or not, because to this day the Bush administration expects you and me to take it on trust. Osama bin Laden might or might not be the culprit, but not one shred of evidence – no 'smoking gun' – has yet been given you, me, nor the relatives of the victims. By what stretch of the imagination must we believe that the US administration, with the most sophisticated and highly funded intelligence agencies in the world, could not find incriminating evidence? By what stretch of the

imagination must we believe that it would *not* flaunt a smoking gun?

Myth: Like Afghanistan. Iraq should be punished for September 11

Fact: No Iraqis or Afghans were on the planes that crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.[49] They were mostly Saudi citizens. Saudi Arabia is an ally of the USA and a major source of oil for US industrial and domestic consumption, but is under no threat of invasion at the time of writing.

Myth: Neighbouring states in the Middle East fear Iraq enough to want it invaded

Fact: According to the *Wall Street Journal*[50], 80-90 per cent of people in Turkey, Iraq's neighbour. NATO member, and the closest ally to the United States in the region, do not support an invasion of Iraq.

Myth: Most people in the West want this war

Fact: US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, even acknowledged that the war is unpopular even before it has begun. In January he said:

"You know what the opinion polls are in various countries. People would rather not see a war. You can look at our own opinion polls and there's, you know, there's ambivalence about it. There's more than ambivalence. People would rather not see a war."[51]

There is a huge and growing groundswell against the war[52], but much of the media is under-reporting it. Every day there are rallies of thousands of people protesting the invasion of Iraq. This is happening in countries that are not committed to war, as well as those that are, such as Great Britain[53].

For example, in my own small (50,000 population) and conservative-voting town of Coffs Harbour[54]. Australia, on Sunday, February 1, 2003, fully 3,000 people rallied and marched against the war.[55] It was, however, not reported widely as the significant news story that it was. Rallies of tens or hundreds of thousands of people in Great Britain, the USA, and elsewhere, have scarcely made the back pages of most newspapers, many of which have been editorialising in favour of war.

The Australian government is preparing to be part of the invasion coalition of nations, but for this its Prime Minister has been censured by the Australian Senate with a no-confidence motion supported by the other three major parties, all of which are firmly against the current plans.

On January 18 hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated[56] against the war across much of the United States. Almost 50 American cities[57] have passed resolutions against the war. February 15 will be a day internationally on which rallies will occur against the war. (I publish important details below, so spread the word please)[58] Even families of victims of 9/11 have been demonstrating.[59]

Time magazine ran an informal online poll[60], asking which nation the readers considered to be the greatest threat to world peace: Iraq, North Korea, or the USA. Approximately 70 per cent, a remarkably high figure, voted for the USA. Poll after poll shows that most Westerners do not support[61] President Bush's apparent personal obsession.

A fast-growing movement has begun to impeach president George W Bush[62]. Ramsey Clark, former US Attorney General during the Johnson Administration has drafted articles of impeachment setting forth high crimes and misdemeanors by President Bush and other civil officers of his administration.

Myth: It will be good for the economy of the USA and the world to have a war

Fact: There is a respectable, but contested, school of thought in political and economic circles that war is good for the economy, and that that is precisely why war happens so regularly. This school of thought basically says that capitalist economies require 'booms and busts', and war is an assured way to have a 'boom'. However, there are very good reasons (such as to oil trafficking, and the Venezuelan oil strike[63] that has seriously depleted reserves[64]) to believe that even the global economy[65] could be severely damaged by an invasion of Iraq.[66]

Myth: It is worth giving up a few freedoms to prevent terrorism

Fact: From time immemorial, governments and regimes have used various societal fears in order to increase their own power. Many Western nations are now experiencing this phenomenon, especially since September 11, 2001. Australia's government is progressively removing long-hallowed rights enshrined in common law, and citizens are no longer assured of the support given them by previous governments.[67]

In the United States of America, the Total Information Awareness Office[68] part of the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)[69], has been established under the leadership of convicted felon John Poindexter[70], and there are grave concerns about the massive and widespread computerized surveillance the American people may now expect as normal and usual.

Myth: The invasion and conquest of Iraq will help put an end to terrorism

Fact: A moment's reflection will almost certainly reveal that the reverse case is true. While many countries and their citizens are no friends of Saddam Hussein, there is a common feeling of outrage against this war, and this is especially true in the worldwide Muslim community[71]. While most Muslims practice Islamic values of peace and tolerance, there seems little doubt that there is a considerable number of fanatical Islamists who do not, and for whom this war, based on the flimsiest of causes, will be an outrage worthy of retaliation.

It does not require organizations (such as al-Qaeda) to commit acts of terrorism. This option is available to a single disaffected and angry individual, who can cause untold grief and havoc with implements cheaply and readily obtained.

Myth: A US-led coalition will invade Saddam Hussein

Fact: Saddam Hussein is not being invaded. In a sense, it is not even Iraq, because in many ways, nations are just abstract concepts.

It is millions of men, women and children who will be invaded. Family members who, as I write, are no doubt beginning to dig shelters in their backyards, and watch the skies for signs of raining death – the same death that took scores of thousands of their fellows not so long ago. These are mostly abjectly poor people who have already lost relatives. Even the soldiers will quite likely have been conscripted against their will, or have taken a military job so they can send money to their families for food.

We cannot afford to dehumanise and demonize the people who happen to have been born in Iraq. To do so is to lose part of our own humanity. I happen to have been born in Australia; had I been born in Iraq, I would probably think like an Iraqi. War is obsolete in the 21st century, and bridge-building between people is the only way that you and I, as well as they, will survive. Our grandchildren depend on our wisdom at this juncture in history. I believe that Mr Bush, for all his qualities, is not exercising wisdom, but is acting like a hothead. In his passionate obsession with the man who tried to kill his Daddy, he seems to have entirely forgotten that multitudes of human beings will be his targets, and he has dragged his whole Cabinet with him. Mr Bush, this is not 'Gunsmoke', this is us you're playing with.

Myth: The US-led coalition will liberate Iraq

Fact: The wrong people will probably get hold of the reins of power. There are many undesirable people waiting in the wings[72], and how can we be sure they are truly democratic? Indeed, how can we know that they are not pawns or leaders of the oil industry?

One must ask how an occupying force led by the USA can maintain stability in Iraq. We are now witnessing the devastation being caused in most of Afghanistan (except Kabul) by the warlords who have returned to power following the American-sponsored 'regime change' there. As much, if not more, opium than ever is being grown, and armed bands and militias are popping up throughout that benighted country. Top-down transformation of societies does not have a good track record in world history; usually only a few rich people at the top ever benefit, and the poor get poorer.

Myth: We are powerless to stop this war

Fact: Society and nations are made of individuals. The American anthropologist, Margaret Mead, once said, "Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."[73]

"Where can I start?" is the question that comes to most of us sooner or later. Don't be dismayed or fearful, there is much each of us can do, and the institutions are already in well place so that we don't need to struggle alone.

As you are probably reading this on the Internet, you are already halfway there. The Net is the most powerful tool for peace and humanity that has ever been devised, but it is also a tool being used by negative forces, so our participation is needed today.

Use the Internet to join the movement

The Internet can connect you to groups already working for peace, and they are calling out for support. Join one of these groups, help them, and make new friends. If you are a very private person, and if you prefer, you can join them and stay in the background and not socialize much if at all. But you can make a difference. If your politics are quite conservative, you will not necessarily be mixing with counterculture freaks: in the words of Rene Ciria-Cruz, "It's not yesterday's Peace Movement"[74] – it is much more mainstream these days.

Soon, *Wilson's Almanac* will be publishing a directory of groups and institutions that are working for the good of humanity, but in the meantime, here's a 5-minute way to connect and unleash that idealism that might not yet

be fully realised – I am confident you have this quality or you probably would not have read this far. Here's what to do:

Go to <http://www.google.com> and type in keywords such as peace, "peace group", and your local town. If this doesn't deliver what you are looking for, get creative with your keywords. When you find groups that you can connect with, don't delay – the war is scheduled for a date within a few weeks. Join up, send money or volunteer your services to do whatever you can do. Maybe it's just to seal envelopes and lick stamps, but you will be welcome like you have never been welcome before, because things are moving very fast now and human energy is needed. Remember, the ocean is made of drops of water, and a beach is made up of grains of sand. That's me I'm talking about – and you.

Spread the word

If you think this article might help add a grain of sand to the scales in favour of peace and humanity, I ask you to forward it. How many people are in your email address book? Please send this article on. You might help by using <http://www.google.com> to find radio stations, TV channels and newspapers in your town and in your state. Within most websites of these media organizations, you will soon find email addresses of individual journalists, disk jockeys and presenters. Send them this article, someone else's article, or a personal letter explaining how you feel about the plans for a war that could turn nuclear. *That* is how things change in 2003.

You could go to <http://www.google.com> again, and look up the names of your political representatives. Send them something like this article today, with your personal passionate (but polite) message – their staff are counting the emails and letters they get, you'd better believe it. That is one thing that politicians do take notice of – votes and voters.

And remember, research has shown that taking part in demonstrations might be good for your health![75]

Abundance and gratitude,
Pip Wilson

Acknowledgements

A number of people have provided information that I have used in this article. I would like especially to thank Jeannine Wilson, whose column in *Wilson's Almanac* ezine (<http://www.wilsonsalmanac.com>). *Daily Planet News*, is unfailingly an essential resource for lovers of peace and this Planet Earth. Jeannine's research forms the greater part of the citations in this article. I'm delighted that today she has founded her own ezine, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dailyplanetnews>

The webpage, *Is Iraq A Threat to the United States?* by Lawrence McGuire (*Dissident Voice*, January 27, 2003, http://www.dissidentvoice.org/Articles/McGuire_Iraq.htm) inspired me to write this article and provided many good ideas and links.

(Ends)

© Pip Wilson, 2003 <http://www.wilsonsalmanac.com>

Footnotes

[1] <http://www.econ.jhu.edu/people/fonseca/goethe.htm>

[2] <http://us.imdb.com/Title?0054215>

[3] Chuckman, John, *The Futility of War*, <http://vt.org/article.php?sid=978>

[4] Pilger, John, *Hidden Agendas*.

[5] According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the: "military devastation of Iraq combined with the effects of sanctions imposed by the Security Council – had been responsible for the deaths of more than 560,000 Iraqi children."

The London-based Medical Educational Trust said that up to 250,000 children, women and men were killed or died as a direct result of American led attacks on Iraq. Other estimates by American and French intelligence agencies have placed civilian deaths at over

200,000.

US General Norman Schwarzkopf, who led Operation Desert Storm, estimated that 100,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed. He did not mention civilian deaths, nor the numbers of people injured, burnt or maimed. ('Stormin' Norman' Schwarzkopf has been highly critical of Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld's sabre rattling over Iraq: http://www.indymedia.org/front.php3?article_id=231999&group=webcast)

"... 158,000 Iraqi men, women and children died during and shortly after the Persian Gulf war". Philadelphia Inquirer, January 2003

[6] <http://www.guardian.co.uk/Print/0,3858,4593608,00.html>

[7] <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines03/0107-09.htm>

[8] <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/whatnew/iraq/iraq28jan03.html>

[9] <http://www.megastories.com/iraq/children/children.htm>

[10] <http://www.megastories.com/iraq/children/dates.htm>

[11] Rokke, Doug, *Gulf War Casualties* <http://www.rense.com/general29/gulf.htm>

[12] Dunn, Travis, *Depleted Uranium: War Hazard?* <http://www.disasternews.net/news/news.php?articleid=1687#more>

[13] Bearak, Barry, *Uncertain Toll in the Fog of War: Civilian Deaths in Afghanistan*,

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/wtc/analysis/2002/0211fog.htm>

[14] For a viewer's appraisal, see <http://www.onlinejournal.com/Media/Deak011603/deak011603.html>

[15] http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Corporate_Media/CorpMedia_ThreatDemocracy.html

[16] <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/02/02/104412258580.html>

[17] While mainstream media, due to their vested interests, are treating their readers with contempt, there are many places on the Internet that are in touch with what is happening before our eyes. Jeannine Wilson's *Wilson's Almanac Daily Planet News* <http://www.wilsonsalmanac.com/news.html> has constantly updating news from many online sources, as well as a large index of links to organizations providing news and opinion. *Wilson's Almanac Planet Directory*

<http://www.wilsonsalmanac.com/links/themeindex.html> also has a large number of links in various categories, such as 'Peace and nonviolence', 'Alternative general', 'Political', and 'News and newsfeeds'

Here are a few more to bookmark:

<http://www.yellowtimes.org>

<http://www.indymedia.org/>

<http://www.commondreams.org/>

<http://www.zmag.org/>

<http://www.antiwar.com/>

<http://www.dissidentvoice.org/>

<http://www.alternet.org/>

<http://www.counterpunch.org/>

<http://www.afsc.org/iraq/guide/10reasons.shtml>

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/lnl/default.htm>

[18] The media are clearly not reporting opposition to the war. A rally of hundreds of thousands of anti-war demonstrators in London in late 2002 was actually not reported in most US media, while reporting a much smaller anti-foxhunting demonstration in London on the same day. Organizers of the anti-war rally in Washington, DC on January 18 estimated that 500,000 people attended. However, most newspapers 'buried' the story or hugely underestimated the numbers. *The Washington Times* reported: "Tens of thousands of protesters endured subfreezing temperatures yesterday to demonstrate on the National Mall ..."

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A12060-2003Jan18.html>

[19] <http://www.alternet.org/story.html?StoryID=15052>

[20] "The man running Hill & Knowlton's Washington office was Craig

Fuller, one of Bush's closest friends and inside political advisors." Stauber, John and Rampton, Sheldon. *The Selling of the Gulf War*, t

[21] <http://www.hbo.com/films/livefrombaghdad/related.shtml>

[22] See also: Solomon, Norman. *The PR Industry and Despots*. <http://www.alternet.org/story.html?StoryID=8318> ; Riemer,

Matthew, *Welcome to the Information War*, <http://www.yellowtimes.org/article.php?sid=269>; *PR Watch website*

<http://www.prwatch.org/index.html>; Klein, William S, *Faking the voice of the people*, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0131/p11s01-coop.html>

[23] "DU is not only radioactive. It is a toxic heavy metal which, when penetrating armour plates of tanks, becomes an aerosol that di

According to the British *Guardian* newspaper, the Basra maternity and

pediatric hospital reported an increase in cancer cases from 80 in 1990 to

380 in 1997. More than half the Iraqi childhood leukaemia cases occur in

the region, which has less than 20 percent of the country's population."

Casualties increase from depleted uranium, http://www.wsws.org/articles/1999/sep1999/gulf-s08_pn1.shtml

"Unborn children of the region [are] being asked to pay the highest price, the integrity of their DNA." - Ross B. Mirkarimi, The Arms Control Research Centre, from his report: *The Environmental and Human Health Impacts of the Gulf Region with Special Reference*

- to Iraq, May 1992, <http://www.web-light.nl/VISIE/extremedeformities.html>
- [24] CIA World Fact page, <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>
- [25] <http://www.eia.doe.gov/>
- [26] <http://www.hubbertpeak.com/us/>
- [27] Connelly, Joel, and Lewis, Mike, *Jimmy Carter Opposes Alaska Oil Drilling*, <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines01/0203-01.htm>
- [28] Rockwell, Llewellyn H, Jr, *A Capitalist War?* <http://www.lewrockwell.com/rockwell/capitalistwar.html>
- [29] <http://www.danpal.dk/vidensbase/baggrund/bg-033.htm>
- [30] <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines03/0125-01.htm>
- [31] <http://www.counterpunch.org/blum0820.html>
- [32] See http://www.nonviolence.org/vitw/pages/myth_reality.html and <http://www.afsc.org/iraq/guide/deadly.shtml>
- [33] <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/02/02/1044122258580.html>
- [34] The media and many politicians continue to feed us on the lie that Iraq expelled UN weapons inspectors in 1998. "This mistake has been made not only by hawks such as President George W. Bush in his January 29, 2002 State of the Union address <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/01/20020129-11.html> (the "axis of evil" speech), Dick Cheney <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/students/pop/21CHEN.html> (before he became vice-president), Alexander Rose <http://www.casi.org.uk/discuss/2001/msg00621.html>, the Canadian right-wing Washington correspondent of the *National Post* <http://www.nationalpost.com/>, and the editorial writers of London's *Sunday Times* <http://www.casi.org.uk/discuss/2000/msg00934.html>. It has also been repeated by those who have shown concern for the humanitarian situation in Iraq, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross <http://www.icrc.org/lcrcong.nsf/Index/040171E49481B741412568A20030CA99?Opendocument>, UK Liberal Democrats foreign affairs spokesperson Menzies Campbell, and the usually superb *Guardian* Middle East editor Brian Whitaker (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/Article/0,4273,4362857,00.html>). Source: http://www.iraq.be/ned/archief/exit_UN_weapons_inspectors_1998.htm

The truth? On December 15, 1998, Richard Butler, the Australian head of UNSCOM, recommended the unilateral withdrawal of the weapons inspection mission from Iraq. The following day.

"... (on) the basis of Butler's report, the United States and Great Britain (began) a massive air campaign against Iraq. They act(ed) before the Security Council (had) a chance to examine the report." Source: <http://pilger.carlton.com/iraq/history3>

- [35] Elvin, Michael, *The Madman Theory*, <http://www.yellowtimes.org/article.php?sid=747>
- [36] <http://www.jewsagainsttheoccupation.org/UNresolutions.html>
- [37] Solomon, Norman, *Colin Powell Is Flawless – Inside a Media Bubble*, <http://www.alternet.org/story.html?StoryID=15123>
- [38] <http://www.world-nuclear.org/sym/2001/blixbio.htm>
- [39] http://www.gopbi.com/partners/pbpost/epaper/editions/tuesday/opinion_e3534caa36e001490097.html
- [40] <http://www.un.org/Depts/unmovic/>
- [41] <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/01/31/international/middleeast/31BLIX.html>
- [42] <http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,2763,889531,00.html>
- [43] "... the fact that the inspectors have not yet come up with new evidence of Iraq's WMD program could be evidence, in and of itself, of Iraq's noncooperation." – US Secretary for Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, <http://counterpunch.org/norris01182003.html>
- [44] See Al-Atraqchi, Firas, *Who Leaked Iraq's Arms Declaration?* <http://www.yellowtimes.org/article.php?sid=1027&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0>
- [45] 'Taliban Met With U.S. Often', *Washington Post*, October 29, 2001, <http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/completetimeline/2001/vpost102901.html>; see also CNN, <http://www.cnn.com/2001/US/10/14/ret.afghanistan.attacks/>

[46] "The attackers could be anybody, people who are part of the American system yet rebel against it, or some group that wants to make this century a century of confrontation between Islam and Christianity," (Osama bin Laden) said. http://www.ananova.com/news/story/sm_410936.html?menu=news.latestheadlines

[47] This statement received scant attention in the Western media, and was remarkably difficult to locate on the Net. We had to finally locate it on a Muslim website.

"In the name of Allah, the most beneficent, the most merciful. Praise be to Allah, Who is the creator of the whole universe and Who Made the earth as an abode for peace, for the whole mankind. Allah is the Sustainer, who sent Prophet Muhammad for our guidance. I am thankful to The Ummat Group of Publications, which gave me the opportunity to convey my viewpoint to the people, particularly the valiant and Momin [true Muslim] people of Pakistan who refused to believe in lie of the demon. I have already said that I am not involved in the 11 September attacks in the United States. As a Muslim, I try my best to avoid telling a lie. I had no knowledge of these attacks, nor do I consider the killing of innocent women, children, and other humans as an appreciable act. Islam strictly forbids causing harm to innocent women, children, and other people. Such a practice is forbidden ever in the course of a battle."

– Osama bin Laden, in an interview conducted by a "special correspondent", published in the Pakistani newspaper *Ummat* on 28 September, *The Al-Qa'idah group had nothing to do with the 11 September attacks*, <http://www.khilafah.com/home/category.php?DocumentID=2392&TagID=2>

- [48] *Taliban considers warning over bin Laden*, <http://www.cnn.com/2001/WORLD/asiapcf/central/09/17/afghan.pakistan/index.html>
- [49] The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), *World Trade Center and Pentagon Terrorists' Identity and Immigration Status*, <http://www.fairus.org/html/04178101.htm>
- [50] Seib, Gerald F, *Bush's Predicament: Case For Iraq War Is Lacking*, <http://www.interesting-people.org/archives/interesting-people/200301/msg00119.html>

[51] [ibid](#)

[52] <http://www.alternet.org/story.html?StoryID=15018>

[53] <http://www.washtimes.com/world/20020320-27353240.htm>

[54] <http://www.visitcoffsharbour.com/>

[55] <http://www.wilsonsalmanc.com/ed5.html>

[56] <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines03/0119-01.htm>

[57] <http://www.citiesforpeace.org/>

[58] "On Feb. 15, hundreds of thousands of people will converge on New York City to stand with millions around the globe against Bush's plan for war on Iraq. While we are still unable to announce a location for this march and rally, one thing is certain: It is happening. We urge everyone to continue mobilizing full speed ahead for Feb. 15. Continue with your plans to come to New York City -- we are confident a permit will come through.

Confirmed speakers and performers include:

- * Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu
- * Patti Smith
- * Angela Y. Davis
- * Martin Luther King, III
- * Rosie Perez
- * Julian Bond
- * Pete Seeger
- * Def Poetry Jam poets
- * Holly Near
- * Tony Kushner
- * Danny Glover

We are, however, facing a major fight over our basic democratic right to public protest. At our February 4 meeting with lawyers for New York City and the NYPD, our request for a march permit was again refused. We have asked to assemble near the United Nations, march directly past the U.N., and then continue through Manhattan to a rally at Central Park. We are consulting with our lawyers and will announce our next step late on Wednesday, February 5.

TO RECEIVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT WHEN WE KNOW THE LOCATION FOR FEB. 15, CLICK HERE**

<http://unitedforpeace.org/email>

<http://www.voice4change.org/stories/showstory.asp?file=030206~ufp.asp>

Protests Around the World

Anti-war protests are already being organized on every continent for Feb. 15, and the list of host cities is growing rapidly. Globally, February 15 will likely be the single largest day of protest in world history.

If you know of a demonstration not represented on this list, please send the information, with a link if possible, to: feb15global@unitedforpeace.org

Cities Involved

Amsterdam <http://www.wereldcrisis.nl/>

Aotearoa <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/>

Athens <http://users.otenet.gr/~ergatiki/main.htm>

Barcelona <http://www.unitedforpeace.org/www.nodo50.org>

Berlin <http://www.15februar.de/>

Berne <http://www.gssa.ch/antiguerre/>

Brussels <http://www.motherearth.org/nowar/>

Budapest <http://www.humanista.hu/>

Calgary <http://calgary.activist.ca/view.php?id=0-5375>

Cape Town http://www.sabcnews.com/politics/the_parties/0,1009,51744,00.html

Chicago <http://www.chicagoantiwar.org/>

Copenhagen <http://www.nejtilkrig.dk/>

Dublin <http://irishantiwar.org/>

Edmonton <http://www.wage-peace.org/>

Glasgow <http://www.banthebomb.org/news/2002/Sep/15feb.shtml>

Helsinki <http://members.surfeu.fi/ewk/eiiskuairakiin/>

Istanbul <http://www.iraktasavasahayir.org/>

Lisbon <http://olifante.netropolis.pt/>

Ljubljana <http://www.acimolotov.org/>

London <http://www.stopwar.org.uk/>

Los Angeles <http://www.answerla.org/>
 Luxembourg <http://www.lesverts-lorraine.org/index1.htm>
 Madrid <http://www.nodo50.org/csca/>
 Mexico City <http://www.geocities.com/noennuestronombre/>
 Montreal <http://www.fiiq.qc.ca/>
 Oslo <http://www.ingenkrig.no/>
 Ottawa <http://www.nowar-paix.ca/>
 Prague <http://www.mujweb.cz/www/irak/>
 Reunion Island <http://site.voila.fr/PENN974>
 Reykjavik <http://www.fridur.is/>
 Rome <http://www.fermiamolaguerra.it/>
 San Francisco <http://www.unitedforpeace.org/calendar.php?calid=1138>
 Seattle <http://www.feb15.org/>
 Stockholm <http://www.stoppakriget.tk/>
 Sydney <http://www.cpa.org.au/campaign/anti-war.html>
 Tokyo <http://peaceact.jca.apc.org/>
 Toronto <http://www.tcaswi.org/>
 Valetta <http://www.movimentgraffitti.org/>
 Vancouver <http://www.geocities.com/stopthewaroniraq>
 Vienna <http://www.socialforum.at/sf/antikrieg/20030215>
 Warsaw <http://www.republika.pl/stopwojnie/>
 Source: <http://www.unitedforpeace.org/article.php?list=sub&sub=30>

[59] <http://www.peacefultomorrow.org/>
 [60] <http://www.time.com/time/europe/gdml/peace2003.html>
 [61] <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/01/27/1043534003807.html>
 [62] <http://www.VoteToImpeach.org>
 [63] http://biz.yahoo.com/rm/021230/venezuela_oil_repeat_2.html
 [64] http://biz.yahoo.com/rm/030103/energy_eia_oil_1.html
 [65] <http://www.globalexchange.org/economy/>
 [66] <http://yt.org/article.php?sid=1018>

[67] For example, an Australian citizen named David Hicks was arrested by US military forces and imprisoned by them on the island of Cuba, firstly at the notorious 'Camp X-ray' at Guantanamo Bay. Normally, when an Australian citizen is arrested by foreign agencies, the Australian government gives them considerable support through the good offices of Australian embassies and consulates. Mr Hicks, however, has had no such treatment.

Despite the fact that he has been incarcerated by a foreign government that has torn up the ancient legal principle of *habeas corpus* (the principle that people should not be held in prison without reasonably speedy due process of law – a principle of great importance in democratic nations), Mr Hicks has been held without charge since 2001.

David Hicks (who has been consistently vilified by Australian media, who show him in a photograph holding a weapon, without telling the readers that the photo was taken when he was fighting on the side of the Western coalition in Bosnia) is being held in the same appalling conditions as the many other prisoners arrested in the Afghan war. That is, in a concrete cell, measuring 6 feet by 8 feet, under constant light, without access to lawyers, without charges having been laid, and allowed out of his cell to exercise for two, 20-minute periods a week. On December 27, 2002, the *Washington Post* revealed that US officials have admitted that physical violence has been used against 'detainees' (see <http://www.alternet.org/story.html?StoryID=15108>).

Rather obviously, these uncharged men are being confined in illegal concentration camp conditions that, if not actually designed to cause physical, mental and emotional breakdown in the victims, will no doubt have that consequence. On February 7, 2003, ABC Radio National, Australia <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/> reported that 15 suicide attempts have been recorded amongst these men. See also <http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/AMR511642002?Open&of=COUNTRIES%5CUSA>

As former Beirut hostage, Terry Waite, writes, is this "justice, or revenge?" (<http://www.counterpunch.org/waite1.html>)

[68] <http://www.darpa.mil/iao/TIASystems.htm>
 [69] <http://www.darpa.mil/>
 [70] <http://www.hereinreality.com/bigbrother.html>
 [71] <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines03/0124-05.htm>
 [72] Al-Atraqchi, Firas, *When the Rats come out of the Sewers*, <http://yt.org/article.php?sid=958&mode=thread&order=0>
 [73] <http://www.mead2001.org/aboutus.html>
 [74] Ciria-Cruz, Rene, *It's Not Yesterday's Peace Movement*, <http://www.alternet.org/story.html?StoryID=14874>
 [75] Slave, Wage, *Protesting May Be Good for Your Health*, <http://thunderbay.indymedia.org/news/2002/12/2599.php>

This free method is the best list-growing device *Wilson's Almanac* has found:
<http://www.subscriptionrocket.com/cgi-bin/r.cgi?r=2379>

BN 6.2.03

History book now completed

By ROBYN GRAY

Some books of history take longer to appear than others.

The history of Byron Bay by one of the town's leading citizens, S.J. (Jack) Dening almost completed before his death in 1967, has now been published by his daughter, Marie Aspinall.

The Denings came to live in Byron Bay around 1930 and Jack immediately immersed himself in a wide range of pioneering community groups - the hospital, the surf club, Byron Shire Council to name a few.

He was very well placed to document the development of the town and some of its by now sacred institutions.

He compiled a lot of material from many different sources and his previously unpublished work has been of huge value to local historians who have drawn extensively from it.

Perhaps one of the most interesting sections of the book is the notes he took from an early Byron Bay newspaper, the Byron Bay Record which was published from 1902 to 1924.

Jack's grandson Glen Aspinall can tell you more if you ring 6624 2286.

FAX DOCUMENT FROM PETER HAMILTON

✓ 1/50 Paterson Street, Byron Bay, 2481 (02) 6685 8648 (F/T) email: peterh@nor.com.au
Pan Community Council Homepage:- <http://www.nor.com.au/users/pancom>

TO: Megan

FAX No: DATE: 7-2-03

Number of pages (including this sheet): 1

SUBJECT: Extract from "Age Pension" News put out by Centrelink for

COMMENTS: your information. Summer Issue 2002/3 Issue 52

NEWS

'Miracle' cure scams

From the Consumer Affairs Division of the Treasury

Health scams prey on human suffering, desperation and lack of knowledge. They offer 'miracle' cures where none exist or simplify the complex health treatments of various illnesses, from cancer and AIDS to arthritis and colds.

Often featuring exotic pills and potions, newly discovered 'treatments', ancient remedies and special diets, the scams contain false and misleading information on the effectiveness and safety of these products and services.

Health scams are particularly nasty because they usually increase health and emotional stress, are costly, and can be dangerous if they prevent consumers from seeking proper medical attention.

Health scams are promoted by people who simply want your money, anyway they can get it. They usually have no medical qualifications and cook up phoney reasons why conventional doctors do not support their products. They will talk about medical industry conspiracies to silence them, or secret ancient techniques that challenge modern practices or any number of fictions that simply don't check out on examination.

To give credibility to their scams, promoters often disguise their scheme as alternative medicine or use the testimony of well-known celebrities.

It is likely to be a scam if it:

- professes to be a treatment for a wide range of ailments; or
- diagnoses medical conditions from a questionnaire and consequently prescribes 'medication', vitamins or supplements; or
- is sold outside normal commercial distribution

channels such as the internet, unqualified individuals, mail order ads or television infomercials; or

- relies on some guru figure, or gives mystical properties to certain ingredients; or
- claims to be an alternative medicine, and provides no scientific evidence or demonstrated link between the cure and effects of the promoted program.

People looking for easy solutions for health problems often get ripped off in these scams.

Remember if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Follow these simple tips:

Say 'NO' or hold off: refuse to commit to anything under pressure, including your own emotional pressure.

Look further: seek expert advice from your doctor, pharmacist or health care professional.

Question: ask for published medical and research papers. Ask your doctor whether the product or service is safe and suitable for you

Decide: if you have checked that the company and offer are genuine, then you might decide to try the product or service. Check if it might be possible for you to try a small sample before agreeing to the full treatment.

Consumers who have complaints about health products or services, or suspect scams, should contact their local consumer protection agency.

CALL: NSW 13 3220; VIC 1300 558 181;
QLD (07) 3246 1500; WA 1300 304 054;
SA (08) 8204 9777; TAS 1300 654 499;
ACT (02) 6207 0400; or NT 1800 019 319. ■