

NEWSLETTER UNAA SA Division

Issue No. 8 WINTER SOLSTICE 2009

21/6/09

[On June 5th, World Environment Day, we celebrated the Interconnectivity
of all creation]

Sojourns in the Parallel World

We live our lives of human passions, cruelties, dreams,
Concepts, crimes and the exercise of virtue
In and beside a world devoid of our preoccupations,
Free from apprehension - though affected, certainly ,
By our actions. A world parallel to our own, though overlapping.
We call it "Nature"; only reluctantly admitting ourselves to be Nature too.
Whenever we lose track of our own obsessions, our self-concerns,
Because we *drift* for a minute, an hour even, of pure (almost pure)
Response to that insouciant life : cloud, bird, fox, the flow of light,
The dancing pilgrimage of water, vast stillness of spellbound ephemerae
On a lit windowpane, animal voices, mineral hum, wind conversing with rain,
Ocean with rock, stuttering of fire to coal -
Then something tethered in us , hobbled like a donkey on its patch
Of gnawed grass and thistles, breaks free.
No one discovers just where we've been , when we're caught up again
Into our own sphere (where we must return, indeed, to evolve our destinies)

But we have changed , a little

Denise Levertov

mail@unaasa.org.au Phone 08 8226 4141 Fax 08 8271 4433

Web: www.unaasa.org.au



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACEKEEPERS

29 May 2009

The international community's reliance on United Nations peacekeeping continues to deepen. Deployment is at a record high, with the number of troops, civilians and police totaling more than 113,000.

The personnel who serve under the UN flag do so in some of the most difficult and inhospitable areas on earth, where they face instability, disease and violence on a daily basis. These brave men and women have shown tremendous dedication, making a tangible difference in the lives of many while showing to the world the caring and committed face of the United Nations.

These efforts often come at high cost to the peacekeepers themselves. In 2008, 130 peacekeepers lost their lives in the line of duty – the highest one-year total in the history of UN peacekeeping. ~~Whether felled by acts of violence, disease or accidents,~~ each left an important legacy.

The loss of ten women among those who died reminds us that female personnel are playing an increasingly important role in peacekeeping, and that they now shoulder grave risks as well.

It has been nearly a decade since the Security Council adopted its landmark Resolution 1325 – the first omnibus text to recognize that women bear the brunt of armed conflicts, and should have a commensurate role in their prevention and resolution.

Since then, the United Nations has pressed forward with intensive efforts not only to involve more local women in peacemaking and peacebuilding, but also to recruit more women into our own operations. The point is not to achieve gender parity for its own sake; the imperative is to draw on the unique and powerful contribution women can make. Female blue helmets, human rights monitors and other mission staff offer new skills and styles of functioning in the ever-evolving field of peacekeeping. Often, they can better communicate with local women, generating a greater sense of security while serving as an example of women's empowerment.

MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

22 May 2009

The global decline in biodiversity remains alarming, despite agreement at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to significantly reduce the rate of loss by 2010. The main causes include deforestation, changes in habitat and land degradation, often linked to the growing impact of climate change. Another threat – the focus of this year's observance of the International Day for Biological Diversity – is the spread of invasive alien species.

An unwanted by-product of globalization, non-native species are harming ecosystem services, livelihoods and economies throughout the world. The Government of South Africa alone is spending as much as \$60 million per year in an attempt to eradicate plants, such as wattles, that are invading valuable farmland, river systems and economically important tourist sites such as the Cape Floral Kingdom.

In the Great Lakes of North America, zebra mussels are affecting shipping, fisheries and electric power generation. Throughout the islands of the Pacific Ocean, rats from foreign ships are exterminating indigenous birds. In many countries in Africa, water hyacinth is clogging lakes and rivers, to the detriment of aquatic wildlife and the communities and industries that profit from it.

The Graziers and National Park Rangers in the Flinders area are at war with the Wagon-Wheel Prickly Pear, and also with a local escapee, the Oleander!

TERRA NULLIUS NO LONGER !

June 3rd was "Mabo Day" The Murray Islands in Torres Strait had been home to the Meriam people from time immemorial, but were annexed to Queensland in 1979 according to colonial law. In 1982, Eddie Mabo with four others began a ten year native title claim in the High Court, successfully leading to the Native Title Act 1993.

Sadly, Eddie died aged 56, five months before the historic decision.



WODLIANNI - Stolen Generations Coming Home

Healing and Reconciliation Event



Left: Neil Gillespie, MC;
right: The Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR

The 173rd anniversary of the 1836 Letters Patent establishing S.A. was celebrated with a difference, on Feb. 19th on Gov't House lawns Kurna land. ANTaR SA and Roma Mitchell Human Rts Group planned the event collaboratively.

As part of the national initiation of the Wodlianni Stolen Generations Coming Home Healing event, Kurna hosts have defined a new set of *seven words* to describe this journey of healing. Those words, like the word reconciliation, all begin with R. The seven words are:

Recognition, Respect, Rights, Reform, Reciprocity, Responsibility, Reparations

The Governor in his speech emphasized on the seven words beginning with R.

View the Governor of South Australia's speech - "Commemoration of the issuing of the 1836 letters patent">>

The ceremony involved several cultural sections, several significant speeches, the lighting of a candle on a ceremonial cake, the presentation of ceremonial gifts to the Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, by representatives of the Kurna, Ngarindjeri and Kokatha Mula Nations, and a healing ceremony.

The speeches given on that day were: by His Excellency the Governor of South Australia, John Browne (Chair Journey of Healing, SA), Shaun Berg, (Lawyer) & Dr Robert Foster (Historian).

The ceremony invoked several cultural items, in the following symbolic sequence:

- The woomera - its launching mechanism,
- The Coolamon - a broad wooden vessel used for storing and transporting food, water, babies and other precious items that are vital to nurturing communities,
- The smoking ceremony: performed by Major Sumner, Lynette Crocker's (nurturing Kurna Elder woman) gave the welcome talk,
- The healing dancers, culture bearers, official party and guests were led by Major Sumner, to the ceremonial cake cutting area.

The lighting of the candle on the cake symbolised awakening senses, new beginnings and moving forward together.

The Music Sticks: passed ceremonially around the circle, handed from Aboriginal person to non-Aboriginal person to Aboriginal person. Professor O'Donoghue led guests in singing the deeply moving "Journey of Healing" song before presenting the Governor with a 'half-caste' teddy bear to display in Government House, representing the so-called 'half-caste' Aboriginal children forcibly removed from their families. Guests were then invited to shake the hands or hug the person next to them, before the event was called to a close

*Come join the Journey
Journey of Healing
Together as One
Across this land"*

28 May 2009

Today we call for urgent action to address the world's growing human rights deficit.

When economic times are tough, it's crucial that we hold true to the core human rights values of dignity, freedom, justice and equality.

For months now, world attention has been focused on the global financial crisis.

Around the world and here in Australia, governments are going into deficit to bail out banks, big companies, and to boost their economies. Governments of course have a responsibility to solve such problems, but they also have a moral and legal responsibility to deal with another deficit – the human rights deficit.

Human rights are not just a luxury for the good times. The Amnesty International Report 2009 documents widespread human rights violations, as well as significant steps to improve the situation, in 157 nations.

We believe particular attention must be paid to the record of G20 nations because they're taking on an ever more important role in addressing world problems. Our report found that the list of human rights abuses in G20 countries is alarmingly long.

If the G20 is going to lead us out of the global financial crisis such grave human rights abuses cannot continue. The G20 must start showing the same kind of commitment to addressing the global human rights deficit that it is showing in dealing with the global financial crisis. Global leaders will not be credible -- or effective -- if they fail to confront their own tarnished records and double standards on human rights.

"Global leaders will not be credible or effective if they fail to confront their own tarnished records and double standards on human rights."

Claire Mallinson



Mallinson, National Director

A
M
N
E
S
T
Y

I
N
T
E
R
N
A
T
I
O
N
A
L

not just the economy - It's a human rights crisis

Jobs crushed, dissent silenced, human rights defenders attacked and detained, people forced from homes. While world leaders focus on rescuing their failing economies, a human rights catastrophe is unfolding beneath the radar.

Amnesty International Report 2009 exposes some of the worst abuses committed around the world. Here are some top-level facts and figures from the Report.

Freedom of expression was restricted in at least 81 countries.

People seeking asylum were forcibly returned by at least 27 countries to states where they faced detention, torture, even death.

Prisoners of conscience were held in at least 50 countries.

People were subjected to forced evictions in at least 24 countries.

World leaders slow to invest in human rights

"To be truly global leaders, the G-20 must subscribe to global values and confront their own tarnished records and double standards on human rights."

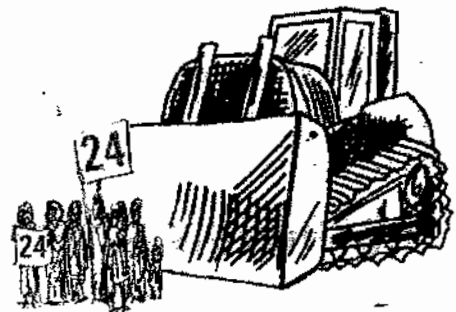
Irene Khan, Secretary General, Amnesty International

G-20 claims the mantle of world leadership, but how can it lead with credibility when its own human rights record is riddled with violations? In 2008, Amnesty International found evidence of the following:

78% of executions took place in G-20 countries.

At least 2,390 people were executed worldwide. China, Saudi Arabia and the USA – all G-20 member states – accounted for the highest number of executions.

Facts and figures



People were subjected to forced evictions in at least 24 countries

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter"
Martin Luther King

On Sunday, May 17, a very happy event was held at SouthTerrace. 2009 is the UN Year of Natural Fibres and our resident organiser extraordinaire, Sathavy Suos, gave 80-odd people an educational and social event of a high order. A keen eye may be able to pick out members Glenn, Rosemary and Heather among the "models"

[A superb book for the year, for use in Schools, was produced by the Global Ed. Centre (SA) especially for the UN International Year of Natural Fibres]



Natural Fibres are either extracted from plants from the leaf, the inner bark or fruit /seed crop; or from animal wool/hair; or insect secretions; or from mineral product. Plant sources of fibre include cotton, hemp, kenaf, ramie, sisal, flax, linen, lime, jute, seagrass, bamboo and abaca. Animal sources of fibre include sheep, alpaca, llama, goat, and camel, and can be either wool, hair or leather. Insect fibre is predominantly from silkworm cocoons.

The Natural Fibres Resource Pack allows teachers to integrate English, Mathematics, Science, Society and Environment and Design and Technology. Prepared activities give opportunities for labelling, classification, research, sequencing, mapping, and analysis of information.

Hidden harm of Google searches

[This article is expected to generate Energy ... probably more Heat than Light]

Jonathan Leake
Richard Woods

PERFORMING two Google searches from a desktop computer can generate a similar amount of carbon dioxide to boiling the kettle for a cup of tea, according to new research.

While millions of people tap into Google without a thought for the environment, a typical search generates about 7g of carbon dioxide. Boiling a kettle generates about 15g.

Alex Wissner-Gross, a Harvard University physicist whose research on the environmental impact of computing is due out soon, said: "Google operates huge data centres around the world that consume a great deal of power. A Google search has a definite environmental impact."

Google, which refuses to divulge the locations of its dozens of data centres, denied the company was harmful to the environment. However, with more than 200 million internet searches estimated globally every day, the level of electricity consumption and greenhouse gas emissions generated is provoking concern.

A recent report by Gartner, the industry analysts, said the global IT industry generated as much greenhouse gas as the world's airlines — about 2 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions.

Evan Mills, a scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California, said: "Data centres are among the most energy-intensive facilities imaginable."

Banks of servers storing billions of web pages require power both to run and cool them.

Google says it is in the forefront of green computing.

"We've committed to being carbon-neutral worldwide — that is, zero net emissions — for 2007 and beyond, by creating what we believe to be the most energy-efficient data centres in the world, using renewable energy sources and investing in high-quality carbon offset projects," a Google Australia spokesman said yesterday.

However, its search engine generates high levels of CO₂ because of the way it operates. When you type in a Google search for, say, "energy saving tips", your request doesn't go to just one server.

It goes to several competing against each other. It may even be sent to servers thousands of kilometres apart.

Google's infrastructure sends you data from whichever produces the answer fastest. The system minimises delays but raises energy consumption. Google has servers in the US, Europe, Japan and China.

Mr Wissner-Gross has submitted his research for publication by the US Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and has also set up a website www.CO2stats.com.

"Google are very efficient but their primary concern is to make searches fast and that means they have a lot of extra capacity that burns energy," Mr Wissner-Gross said.

Nicholas Carr, author of *The Big Switch, Rewiring the World*, has calculated that maintaining a character in the Second Life virtual reality game, requires 1752 kilowatt hours of electricity a year. That is almost as much used by the average Brazilian.

The Sunday Times

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY Dollars & Emissions

A. Filling your Tank : [This advice comes from an experienced Manager of a huge (4 million L. per day) Petroleum Distribution Centre]

- i) Fill only in the early morning when the ground temperature is low. The cooler the ground, the denser the fuel. You get more molecules for your buck. A one degree rise in temperature is a big deal in the mega-distribution industry.
- ii) Do *not* squeeze the nozzle trigger to a fast mode. Be patient, thereby minimizing the creation of vapours by the stirring action.
- iii) Fill up when your tank is about half full* The more fuel you have in your tank, the less AIR is occupying the space. The rate of evaporation of petrol is significant. [Petrol storage tanks have an internal floating roof, giving zero clearance between the fuel and the atmosphere, so minimising evaporation]
- iv) Don't fill up if there is a fuel tanker pumping into the storage tanks. Most likely the diesel/petrol is being stirred up by the incoming fuel, and you might pick up some of the dirt that inevitably settles on the bottom

(Info from Steve Caines, Durban, SA)

N.B. It can be argued that your vehicle will be carrying extra weight if its 60L tank on average carries 45 L rather than 30 L average. Sure, but the difference would be only about 12kg - not a heavy consideration.

True story...

A celebrity with honour!



Don't know whether you heard about this but Denzel Washington and his family visited the troops at Brook Army Medical Center, in San Antonio, Texas (BAMC) the other day. This is where soldiers who have been evacuated from Germany come to be hospitalized in the United States, especially burn victims. There are some buildings there called Fisher Houses. The Fisher House is a Hotel where soldiers' families can stay, for little or no charge, while their soldier is staying on base, but as you can imagine, they are almost filled most of the time.

While Denzel Washington was visiting BAMC, they gave him a tour of one of the Fisher Houses. He asked how much one of them would cost to stay. He took his cheque book out and wrote a cheque for the full amount right there on the spot. The soldiers overseas were amazed to hear this story and want to get the word out to the American public, because it warmed their hearts to hear it.

The question is - why do:

Britney Spears, Madonna, Tom Cruise and other Hollywood fluff make front page news with their ridiculous antics and Denzel Washington's charity doesn't even make page 3 in the Metro section of any newspaper except the Local newspaper in San Antonio.

Snippets of History :-

Early Troubles :-

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND REPRESSION IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA ---- A Legal Study by the International Commission of Jurists, published by the Catholic Institute for International Relations & the ICJ, - order from: American Association for the International Commission of Jurists, Inc. 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

\$2.50 postpaid

The war for the liberation of Zimbabwe occupies more and more US press and media coverage. There are virtually daily casualty and combat figures, all emanating from Salisbury. A subtle effect is accumulating, depicting a besieged minority (white) holding out against murky and terroristic (black) forces. A USA role in that conflict flared up in Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's speech in Lusaka late in April, buffered by talk of negotiations and framed by a series of threats of retaliation against Russia and particularly Cuba for an assumed "intervention" in Southern Africa. Ronald Reagan has supercharged the issue with talk of sending American troops to Rhodesia, after some sort of consultation with the Ian Smith regime and in pursuit of peaceful change to majority rule.

More dangerous are the hand-in-hand manoeuvres of the United States and the South African governments to ease the Zimbabwean situation into majority rule, squeezing Ian Smith and searching for some compliant African "leadership" to install in Salisbury. Secretary Kissinger and South African Prime Minister Balthazar Johannes Vorster plan to meet somewhere in Europe in the latter part of June - "a natural followup" to Kissinger's recent tour of Africa.

Our Flag :-

UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

44 Martin Place, Sydney.

THE UNITED NATIONS FLAG



The Story of the United Nations Flag begins with the emblem which was prepared by the Presentation Branch of the United States Office of Strategic Services in April 1945, in response to a request for a button design for the San Francisco Conference at which the United Nations Charter was drafted and approved.

The San Francisco design was a circular representation of a map of the world, extending to the 40th parallel south and with the 100th meridian west of Greenwich in the lower vertical position.

At the second part of the first session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Secretary-General urged that it was desirable for the Assembly to adopt a design to be the official seal and emblem of the United Nations.

On 7 December 1946, the Assembly approved with slight modifications the San Francisco design. The revised emblem was described as a map of the world representing an azimuthal equidistant projection centred on the North Pole, inscribed in a wreath consisting of crossed conventionalized branches of the olive tree.

In the earlier design, the United States had been given the central position, chiefly because it was there that the 1945 conference had been held. On the revised emblem the vertical meridian - the centre of the line of vision - falls on the International Date Line and the Meridian of Greenwich. The projection of the map previously extended only to the fortieth degree South Latitude; the new design extends to the sixtieth degree South Latitude including all lands except the Antarctic continent.

(for detail will find it in File UN 1B at the Office)

A few weeks before his inauguration as President of the United States, Barack Obama won the approval of the environmental world by appointing what is being hailed as an unprecedentedly 'green' U.S. Cabinet. Most notably, he created the post of Energy and Environment Coordinator for **CAROL BROWNER**, who was head of the Environmental Protection Agency under former President Bill Clinton. As Obama's Climate Czar, Browner's job will be to coordinate the White House's work on climate change across all the different energy, climate and environment entities. Browner



is the longest-serving head of the EPA, with a reputation for toughness that should prove invaluable as she spearheads the new administration's policy on climate change. The President-elect's other notable green appointments include Steven Chu as Secretary of Energy and John Holdren as Science Adviser. Nobel Prize-winning physicist Chu — who is one of the world's top researchers on alternative and renewable energy — was an early advocate for finding scientific solutions to climate change. Holdren, a professor of environmental policy at Harvard University, has focused on the causes and consequences of climate change and advocates a strong and rapid global effort to address it. Browner, Chu and Holdren will be the cornerstone of Obama's plan to create jobs, achieve energy security and combat climate change. The new team's task will include enrolling the support of Congress for any legislation to cap the U.S.'s carbon emissions, while a new international post-2012 climate treaty will have to gain a two-thirds majority in Senate.

Italian architect **RENZO PIANO** is no stranger to accolades: his buildings — encompassing the iconic George Pompidou Centre in Paris — earned him the Pritzker Prize, considered the 'Nobel of Architecture', in 1998, and he has also won the AIA Gold Medal, the Kyoto Prize and the Sonning Prize. His latest work, the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, did not just open to rave reviews, it also received top marks from the Green Building Council, which encourages environmentally friendly architecture. The structure's insulation is made of old blue jeans, solar panels provide up to 10 per cent of its energy needs, and it has a 'living roof' that gives off oxygen instead of absorbing heat. "The San Francisco museum is an interpretation of the green revolution on the march," Piano says. "Environmental constraints should not be seen as an assault on freedom. You find that the planet is vulnerable. Does this have to be a crisis?" Piano argues that "architects should be able to interpret the changes of their times and



live with their times" — and indeed, his own workshop in Genoa has a glass roof that lets in the sun for natural heat and light.

DESMOND TUTU — activist, anti-Apartheid hero and Nobel Peace laureate — has always been vocal in his defence of the most vulnerable. Over the last few decades, the South African cleric has used his high profile to fight for the oppressed and to campaign against HIV/AIDS, poverty and racism. His latest cause is the environment: during the UN climate talks in Poznan, Poland, in December, Tutu led a group of singers, writers, actors and campaigners in urging rich nations to



take the lead on climate change. In a letter to the London Times, Tutu and 18 other famous signatories, including broadcaster David Attenborough, actress Scarlett Johansson and singer Angelle Kidjo, said developed nations must "show leadership" in Poznan. The letter, organised by Oxfam, notes that the effects of global warming are hitting the poor the hardest. "Wealthy nations, who are in their advantaged position because of heavy industrialisation, are the most responsible and most able to lead the world in tackling climate change," it says.

European Commission Vice President **MARGOT WALLSTRÖM** is a long-time environmentalist, having left her mark as the EU's Environment Commissioner from 1999 to 2004. The Swede is now leading the 'Road to Copenhagen' Initiative alongside Gro



Harlem Brundtland, the UN Special Envoy on climate change, and Mary Robinson, the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The aim of the interactive project is to ensure that business, parliamentarians,

NGOs and individual citizens "have a direct input" into the climate change negotiations leading up to the Copenhagen meeting in December, when governments must agree on a post-2012 climate deal. The website — www.roadtocopenhagen.org — invites open debate and opinion on key issues, including adaptation, technology, finance and mitigation. In June, the organisers will submit "detailed policy inputs" to the negotiators based on all the feedback submitted to the website. A communiqué and issue papers will be submitted to the negotiators in December, just before the meeting.

ABIOLA OLANIPEKUN, a Chief Environmental Scientist in Nigeria's Environment Ministry, was awarded the 2008 Special Recognition



Award from the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) for her "work and leadership in the African region in many of the most important international chemicals management negotiations and processes of the last decade." Over the last few years, she has become widely recognised as a leading voice in many international chemicals management negotiations, serving twice as chairperson of the G77 and China during the intergovernmental negotiations for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. She is also the African Regional Focal Point for the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. In 2007, at the 24th session of UNEP's Governing Council, Olanipekun secured a breakthrough decision on the prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic substances.

PHOTOGRAPH BY THE NEW YORK TIMES

The world UN Assoc. has over 100 national United Nations Associations (UNAs) members - connecting hundreds of thousands of people in every region of the world to the United Nations. UNAs have a unique role to play:

Disseminating information and educational materials about the UN.

Lobbying the government, political parties and interest groups in support of the UN

Conducting Model UN conferences

Stimulating the media to provide frequent and accurate coverage of the UN and its programs

Working with other voluntary organisations on projects related to the work of the UN: peace, human rights, anti-discrimination.



Worldbeaters

Taking aim at the rich and powerful

Job: Defence Organization of the Atlantic-European World.

Reputation: Global Cop; Champion of Western Civilization; Provocation Inc.

NATO

Way back in April 1949, when the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded, its first Secretary General, Lord Ismay, had no doubts about the new military alliance's purpose – 'to keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down'. One can't argue with immediate results, but the long-term fallout is something else again.

NATO is very much a product of the post-World War Two military standoff between the US and the late (and little lamented) USSR. But, like so many of the products of the Cold War (huge military budgets, wars throughout the Global South, national security paranoia), NATO has not, as many hoped, withered away. Far from it, since the collapse of the USSR it has expanded eastward, with most countries of the former Warsaw Pact joining. Today it counts for 70 per cent of the world's total military spending. The most recent candidates for membership, Georgia and the Ukraine, have set alarm bells ringing in Moscow.

NATO has also taken on an ever-expanding role as a global police instrument controlled by the Atlantic powers (predominantly the US) but operating anywhere in the world. Its most recent adventure is a very long way from the North Atlantic – the military quagmire in Afghanistan. NATO is the

philosophy of 'exterminism' associated with the constant upgrading of nuclear weaponry. This movement saw NATO as reinforcing the most authoritarian and recalcitrant elements in the communist world. Similarly, the main political beneficiary of NATO's eastern march today has been Vladimir Putin and his KGB-style 'managed' democracy. Another cost of the continued reliance on a US-dominated NATO has been the failure of the European Union to develop an autonomous voice in global affairs. Writing in the *International Herald Tribune*, a former State-Department bureaucrat, E Wayne Merry, points out that, 'The failure is at heart psychological. Europeans are so accustomed to using the United States like a pair of crutches for security that they do not notice that their injury is long healed and that using crutches is artificial, awkward, and causes serious strains on the European organism.' European costs include pressure to maintain unreasonably high defence expenditure, weakening the European social state, and body bags returning from 'defending' some remote corner of the US Empire.



SENSE OF HUMOUR



LOW CHANNING

Military alliances aren't known for this. A few years ago the wags were saying NATO stands for Now Almost Totally Obsolete. Alas!

NATO presents itself as a champion of democracy, but maintains friendly contacts with dubious regimes in Central Asia, including President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan.

Sources: Wikipedia; *International Herald Tribune* (4/2/04); William Kristol, 'The Future of NATO', www.newamer/cancentury.org; Paul Rogers, 'The New Atlantic Century', www.opendemocracy.org (24/01/08); Aviel Roshwald, 'NATO: the West and The Peril of Progress', www.opendemocracy.org (23/9/08); Institute for War and Peace Reporting (www.iwpr.org); Ghail Hassan, 'NATO: A Tool of US Imperialism', www.crosscurrents.org (25/8/08).

MISSILE DEFENCE

Victory for Czech peace campaigners

The Pentagon's plans to install a US military radar base in the Czech Republic, an integral part of its 'Star Wars' missile defence scheme, has received a major setback. In March, the Czech Government halted its attempts to ratify an agreement to host the base when it appeared that the Chamber of Deputies was likely to vote 'no'. According to Jana Gliyicka, a leader of the No Bases Initiative, this was a very significant retreat.

Two-thirds of Czechs have consistently opposed the radar ever since it was first proposed in 2006. Anti-radar activists repeatedly called for a referendum, but were rebuffed and in 2008 the Czech Government signed the agreement with the US to proceed anyway. However, it could not be implemented until the Chamber of Deputies ratified it, and thanks to tireless grassroots campaigning – including a high profile hunger strike that spread across the world – popular opinion has remained strongly against the radar. This public opposition has culminated in the Government backing down – at least for now.

SPEECHMARKS

ONLY TWO THINGS are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former.

Albert Einstein (1879-1955),
theoretical physicist and
Nobel Prize winner

Dreams of a united world

YOUTH WEEK I
EMILY CHARRISON

AT 21, Catriona Standfield's aim in life is to educate her peers on issues of local and global importance.

For the past nine months, the Toorak Gardens university student has run an anti-nuclear weapons campaign - Drop Da Bomb - for the United Nations Youth Association of SA (UNYA).

"I love being able to empower youth and make a difference in the world," she says. "Nuclear weapons are very serious problem and very relevant to young people because we will basically be inheriting them one day when we step into leadership."

Born and educated in the state's Mid North, Ms Standfield moved to the city in 2006 and that was when



Catriona Standfield

"the opportunities really opened up". She earned a trip to the UN's Geneva headquarters last July for her award-

winning essay on students for a nuclear-free world.

Upon her return, she took on the role of UNYA SA's policy vice-president, and continued volunteering for the Australian Red Cross Telecross service, which checks on isolated and elderly people with daily phone calls.



STOP THE WAR FAIR

30 JUNE - 2ND JULY ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

TO

THROUGH DIRECT ACTION AND

PROTEST.

OPERATIONAL BRIEF

CORPORATE ARMS DEALERS ARE COMING TO THE ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE TO BUY AND SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS. PROFITS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN EXCESS OF \$10 BILLION. THESE WEAPONS WILL BE USED TO FUEL WARS ALL AROUND THE GLOBE.

TARGET LOCATION

THE ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

30 JUNE - 2 JULY 2009

Festival State
To
Defence State
...NO WAY!

WWW.DEFENCEANDDISARMAMENT.COM

ACTION AGAINST WAR INDUSTRIES

Concerned people are meeting in Adelaide to plan how they can campaign against the militarisation of South Australia's economy.

Watch for information about how to become involved before and/or during the DIE exhibition. For info call mobile: 0403 679 742

'I invest ethically because I do not want to be responsible for the next uranium mine within our national parks.'



JAMES

Sydney,
Humanities lecturer,
Activist

Louisy dancer

2ser73

australianethical
investment + superannuation



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 28
Foyer, Torrens Bldg, 220 Victoria Square
Time, 4:00 pm with Guest Speakers
Youth Panel
5:00 pm approx. Afternoon Tea
5:30 pm AGM Formal

*[We look forward in particular to the report from UNYAss'n
on their activities, especially the "Northern Safari" taking in
Regional Centres on the Peninsula, Mid-North and beyond.
Other youth will be telling of new initiatives, recent ventures]*

**There are more than 20 newly registered members of UNAA (SA) since the last
AGM. We, the members of the Exec. C'tee, would really like to meet all of you
during the prolonged Afternoon Tea, and to hear your ideas.**

ADVANCE NOTICE

Annual UN Day Dinner, Sun. Oct. 25th Mings

Khmer leader admits torture and executions

GRANT PECK
PHNOM PENH

THE man who ran the Khmer Rouge's most notorious prison accepted responsibility yesterday for torturing and executing thousands of inmates and expressed "heartfelt sorrow" for his crimes.

Kaing Guek Eav, better known as "Duch", told the U.N.-backed genocide tribunal that he wanted to

apologise for the acts of the Khmer Rouge, whose genocidal rule of Cambodia from 1975-1979 left an estimated 1.7 million people dead.

"I recognise that I am responsible for the crimes committed,"

Duch told the tribunal, standing in the dock as he read from a prepared statement: "I would like to express my regretfulness and heartfelt sorrow."

Duch, now 66, commanded the group's main S-21 prison, also known as Tuol Sleng, where 16,000 men, women and children were believed to have been brutalised before being sent to their deaths.

He is charged with committing crimes against humanity and war crimes, as well as torture and homicide, and could face a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Cambodia has no death penalty. He told the court he took responsibility "for crimes committed at S-21, especially torture and execution of people there."

While Duch's statements amount to a confession of guilt, defendants at the tribunal do not enter pleas.

The tribunal says its primary goal was to determine the facts of what happened three decades ago during

Khmer Rouge rule. Co-prosecutor Chea Leang vowed to get justice for the 1.7 million victims of the country's radical communist regime.

Prosecutors displayed historic photographs and video records from the Khmer Rouge years, which began with executions of loyalists of the previous regime and the brutal forced evacuation to the countryside of the capital's two million residents.

(from Adelaidenow, 1/4/09)

WHO-IAEA Join Forces to Fight Cancer

New Joint Programme Cements Partnership, Promotes Synergy

Vienna/Geneva, 26 May 2009 -- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) today announced the launch of a Joint Programme on Cancer Control, aimed at strengthening and accelerating efforts to fight cancer in the developing world.

The groundbreaking agreement reflects growing international concern over the global cancer burden and its projected increase. Latest statistics indicate that cancer will be among the leading causes of deaths, with more than 70 percent of all cancer deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries.

UNITED NATIONS ASSOC OF AUST
South Australian Division

Double Feature Film Night
Eats and Drinks
Sunday 26th July 2009
4pm

WALLIS THEATRETTE
139 Richmond Road, Richmond

4.00 pm BRIDE WARS (PG)
Comedy/Romance

Starring Kate Hudson & Anne Hathaway

5.45 pm Meal and Drinks / Raffle

6.45 pm The Secret Life of Bees (PG)
Adventure/Drama

Starring Dakota Fanning & Jennifer Hudson

8.30 pm Coffee and Cake

Price: \$20 / \$15 Concession.

Bookings: 8271 4433 hjs@internode.on.net

8262 1248 kathsmith@three.com.au