

Living Simply to Boycott the War Machine

By Don Schrader

No job, no salary, no relationship, no degree, no house, no car, no art, no furniture, no trip, no gadgets, are worth paying federal income tax to rob, terrorize, blind, cripple, paralyze, make homeless and murder our sisters and brothers worldwide.

The main purpose of the U.S. war machine is to make sure that most Americans, especially the greediest, keep on stealing and hogging the wealth of the world.

The best way to boycott the U.S. war machine, with no fines and no threats from the IRS, is to live simply—under the taxable level.

The taxable level this year for a single, sighted, under 65-year-old person is \$7,800. I lived well last year on \$3,760.

I have owned no car since I returned to Albuquerque in 1988. The last time I rode in any car was April 7, 2001. I hate cars because I hate wars for oil, poisoned air, the horrors of global warming, highways smothering fertile soil... I love to WALK!

I would not trade my 12' x 14' apartment home for the most luxurious mansion in the world.

I am glad I have no refrigerator, no TV, no VCR, no gun, no computer, no credit cards, no business suit, no jet travel, no phone, no microwave, no air conditioner... I wash my clothes by hand at home.

I am glad I consume no booze, no cigarettes, no restaurant meals, no junk food, no meat, no dairy, no cooked food, no illegal drugs, no prescription drugs. I am glad I have no doctor, no dentist, no medical insurance. I am an all-raw foods vegetarian devoted to natural health.

I yearn for passionate lifelong romance with a man, but I will not surrender or compromise my war tax refusal and my living simply for any man on earth!

If a father gives his son a switchblade, how can the father be shocked if his son eventually stabs someone? Many U.S. peace activists for decades have paid thousands of dollars to the U.S. war machine. So how can they be shocked when the U.S. empire uses the weapons

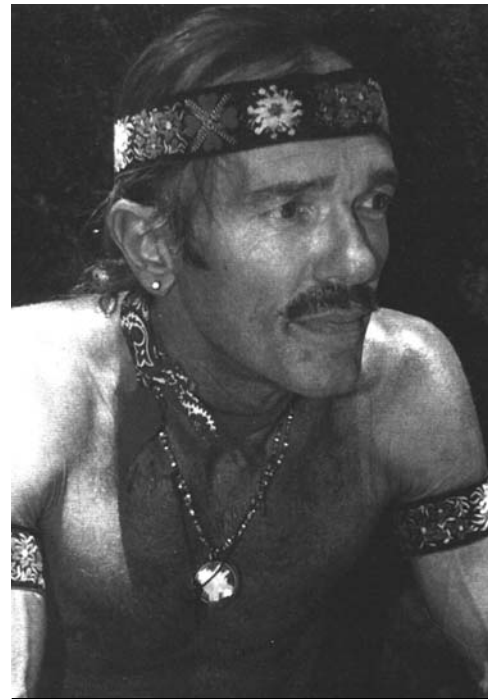
purchased by the peace activists to mass murder worldwide? We get what we pay for.

Many U.S. actors, entertainers and other obscenely rich Americans say "Not in my name" against the U.S. war on Iraq, but they pay far more for war than many minimum wage workers who proudly send their soldier sons and daughters to battle. How much good is it to proclaim "Not in my name" unless that means "Not with my money?"

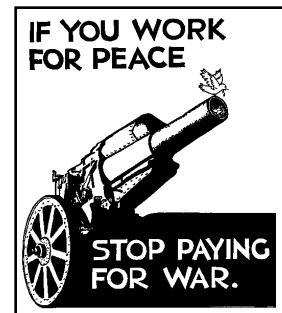
I refused to be a soldier in 1969 during the Vietnam War. For me as a conscientious objector, to pay federal income tax to train other Americans, largely the poor and people of color, to become professional hired killers to murder on command with no conscience, would be more evil than being a soldier myself.

My life is an all-out public boycott of the U.S. Empire everyday as long as I live.

Gandhi said, "Be the change you want to see in the world... My life is my message." ▼



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More than a paycheck

NEWS FROM THE WAR TAX RESISTANCE MOVEMENT

June 2003



New York City, outside the IRS. Ruth Benn and Wendy Schwartz (l-r) interact with a passer-by. Melissa Jameson, back right, persons the penny poll. Photo: Ed Hedemann

A Good Time to Promote WTR!

By Ruth Benn

Given the world that we are facing these days, I'm concluding that it is a great time to become the NWTRCC coordinator. I'm not thinking this just because it is bound to be an interesting time for war tax resistance, but mostly because of the personal comfort of being able to talk regularly with people who are actively trying to decrease the militarism of the U.S. government. I hope that we will see many people join our numbers in the coming months as the repercussions (economic, international, and what else?) of this administration's aggressive war policy become clearer and clearer.

During the last year I have been organizing more actively around war tax resistance than in recent years (coincidental to applying for this job). While I have been a war tax resister (telephone tax; income tax file/don't pay) for more than 20 years now, I have not consistently participated in or led community workshops. The ones that we organized in the past months, although not exactly drawing crowds, each offered insights into the motivations to resist, the problems people have as war tax resisters, and the various reasons for resistance to resisting. I expect that sort of experience to serve me well in this new position.

As many readers know, I worked on the national staff of the War Resisters League for many years (1987-2000 with a year off in the middle when I worked for a knitting magazine). I spent six years as editor of *The Nonviolent Activist* and six as

Tax Day Actions Around the Country

In a year with an obvious military buildup and invasion preceding Tax Day, over 50 NWTRCC affiliates around the country were out on April 15 to make their voices heard. Many other groups held tax day events this year, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Iraq Pledge of Resistance both encouraged people to speak out against the amount of money spent on killing and not on urgent domestic needs.

Here's a snapshot of some of the many creative NWTRCC actions that took place around the country.

NEW YORK CITY

The Brooklyn-Manhattan War Resisters League and the NYC War Tax Resistance sponsored a noon-time demon-

stration in front of the midtown Manhattan IRS office that included a penny poll and holding signs and banners. Though many of the business-suited midtown office workers were not interested in the WTR message, last minute filers as well as several news reporters (including an AP camera crew) were.

That evening war tax resisters set up three literature and counseling tables at Reverend Billy's "Peace Revival and Tax Revolt" at St. Mark's Church in the Bowery. Performance artist Bill Talen ("Rev. Billy") along with his gospel choir and several speakers pushed the idea of rerouting taxes away from the war and IRS to community groups. Lots of pie

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IF YOU WORK
FOR PEACE



More than a paycheck

Editor

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Design & Layout

Susan Quinlan

Printing

Lakeside Printing
Cooperative

Printed on Recycled Paper

More Than a Paycheck is a bimonthly publication of the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, a clearinghouse and resource center for the conscientious war tax resistance movement in the United States. NWTRCC is a coalition of local, regional and national affiliate groups working on war tax related issues.

NWTRCC sees poverty, racism, sexism, homophobia, economic exploitation, environmental destruction and militarization of law enforcement as integrally linked with the militarism which we abhor. Through the redirection of our tax dollars, NWTRCC members contribute directly to the struggle for peace and justice for all.

Subscriptions to
More Than a Paycheck
are \$10 per year.

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COUNSELING NOTES

IRS Going After the Poor

While the IRS spends less time trying to root out fraud and recover the estimated \$70 billion for offshore accounts and \$46 billion for corporations lost to the Treasury, they are tightening regulations for those who apply for the earned-income tax credit. Claiming \$10 billion in fraud from persons applying for this credit, the 19 million low income recipients who benefit from it will find it harder to apply. Marriage certificates and other more elaborate records will be required as proof and may lead many applicants to forgo the credit or be forced to pay tax advisors to help with the application. Readers who have used this

credit may want to prepare in advance for the next year's filing. Please let NWTRCC know of any repercussions.

—From a report in *New York Times*, 4/27/03

STOPPING PENSION PLAN WITHHOLDING

We seem to be running into a lot of war tax resisting pensioners who need answers about their various plans and pensions. At a recent meeting someone was asking about stopping federal income tax withholding from pension payments. It can be done using Form W-4P, available as a download from the IRS website: http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-fill/fw4p_03.pdf.

—From DC WTR's ▼

...Ruth Benn

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Director of the National Office. Even with those job titles, war tax resistance was either in my purview or in my heart to keep visible within the WRL. I have researched and written the annual tax pie chart since 1988. In the early 1990s the war tax resistance and disarmament task forces of WRL created the Alternative Revenue Service and the "EZ Peace Form." We kept that campaign going for three years, and this year I found myself thinking that the "EZ Peace Form" or something like it might be a good tool these days. Recently I learned that Conscience: the Peace Tax Campaign in England created a form this year based on the EZ Peace Form. As an organizer I've always found that when you plant seeds you never know where they will grow, and this recognition has helped to sustain me over the years.

I hope that many of you have seen the new edition of *War Tax Resistance: A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military*. Ed Hedemann and I spent most of the winter researching and editing the book in a desperate effort to get it out before tax day, and Rick Bickhart did a terrific job on the design, including the cover. I understand from the WRL office that the book is selling well. While many anti-war activists may have gotten discouraged that we didn't stop the war, others are definitely looking to strengthen their resistance. In my many years in the peace movement I don't think I've seen a time when so many people have made the connection to their tax dollars and war, so this should be an area we can build on. As the state and local service cuts hit people around the

Many Thanks



Thanks to the following groups who have given to NWTRCC since the last newsletter. Your support helps keep us going!

War Tax Resisters Penalty Fund/FOR
(Indiana)

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Working Group
on Conscience, War Tax Concerns
& Militarism

Philadelphia War Tax Resister/WRL

Pioneer Valley War Tax Resisters
(Massachusetts)

Military Tax Resistance of Lane County
(Oregon)

country in the coming year, more and more people will ask, "Why is there always money for war?"

My introduction to war tax resistance came in the late 1970s when I was living in Western Massachusetts and worked with the Northampton office of the American Friends Service Committee. Between the Quakers and the Pioneer Valley War Tax Resistance folks just up the road, I think I got a fairly quick immersion into why this form of resistance made sense. I moved to New York City in 1985 to work for Middle East Research and Information Project. I

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Mary Heads Outdoors

By Mary Loehr,
Outgoing NWTRCC Coordinator

Beloved war tax resisters,

I am leaving the job as NWTRCC Coordinator in a few days. It has been a very good four years. I thank you for the trust you all placed in me. I've enjoyed the variety of tasks; setting my own daily priorities and schedule; talking to people on the phone.

Most of all, I enjoyed getting to know all of you! A friend of mine, who is not a war tax resister, commented once that the decision to become a WTR is a deep spiri-

tual and moral one, requiring a lot of soul searching and self-understanding. I have found this to be true. Most WTRs have a good sense of humor, integrity, groundedness—and other qualities which I find hard to put into words, but which I respect and enjoy being around.

The past six months have been, for all of us and here at the office, particularly intense. My partner Pete and I have had long discussions about how to build a movement in these times. I'm still not sure that I know the answer. Why is it that some people become WTRs and others do not? I believe part of it

must come from the support a person feels in his/her decisions. It is a rare person who undertakes the path of WTR alone. We need one another on this journey. That is a key concept in organizing: building relationships.

We're in an interesting time politically. These past few months have seen a dramatic rise in interest in WTR. Will all those people who asked for information "stick?" Will WTR become a bigger movement as the obvious becomes clearer: money spent on wars is being taken out of urgent domestic needs? I know that these are long term questions.



Mary Loehr with fellow war tax resister and sweetie Pete Meyers, who she met through NWTRCC. Photo: Pam Crawford

...Ruth Benn

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was only going to live in this big, crazy, wonderful city a couple years, "just to get out of a rut," but then I found my way to the WRL staff, and then I met Ed Hedemann, and we have managed to make quite a comfortable life together in Brooklyn, new home to NWTRCC.

I've cleared a little space for a NWTRCC office in a small room of our apartment (I think it's rather nice, but a young person who was just visiting referred to it as a closet!) and look forward to working at home more and being in contact with many of you. I'll also

continue to do some other freelance work, including producing outreach and marketing materials for a geriatric day center and bookkeeping for a progressive organization that analyzes the city budget.

It does seem ironic to find myself becoming coordinator of this organization that Ed helped to found 20 years ago, and I hope I can do as good a job as the coordinators who have proceeded me: Kathy, Larry, Carolyn, Karen and Mary. Finally, if you find yourself headed to or through New York City and want to check out NWTRCC's "closet," please do give a call. I look forward to working with old friends and meeting many new ones. ▼

This past month has been, for me, particularly intense. I've been interviewed by many journalists and received 150 emails, most of them angry, in response to an article about war tax resistance on the Yahoo website. It has left me feeling a little bit raw, but also wanting to hone my arguments even more. I want to systematically study nonviolence: King, Gandhi, and others, so that I can speak more articulately about what I believe and what the solutions may be.

I got help in answering many of those emails, and we're finding that with some of them a dialogue is springing up. A WTR answers; the "angry writer" replies; the WTR replies back. Again, building relationships.

While I have enjoyed this job, my heart and body are much happier being outside. I will be growing organic vegetables and selling them at Farmer's Market, with a friend, part-time, this season, and doing odd jobs on the side (landscaping, substitute teaching), as I did before I began with NWTRCC. That suits my personality better. I sincerely hope not to lose touch with many of you. Please call if you're ever in Ithaca, and I hope to see you all, somewhere, maybe at NWTRCC meetings...?

The NWTRCC office wall is covered with quotes and poems that sustain me. Here is one; "Wage Peace" by Judyth Hill:

Wage peace with your breath.

Breathe in firemen and rubble, breathe out whole buildings and flocks of red wing blackbirds

Breathe in terrorists and breathe out sleeping children and freshly mown fields.

Breathe in confusion and breathe out maple trees.

Breathe in the fallen and breathe out lifelong friendships intact.

Wage peace with your listening: hearing sirens, pray loud.

Remember your tools: flower seeds, clothespins, clean rivers.

Make soup.

Play music, learn the word for thank you in three languages.

Learn to knit, and make a hat.

Think of chaos as dancing raspberries.

Imagine grief as the outbreath of beauty or the gesture of fish.

Swim for the other side.

Wage peace.

Never has the world seemed so fresh and precious.

Have a cup of tea and rejoice.

Act as if armistice has already arrived.

Don't wait another minute. ▼

History of Jailings and Seizures

Since the modern war tax resistance movement began over 60 years ago, some 30 people have been convicted (a couple dozen of whom were jailed) for issues related to war tax resistance, mostly for contempt of court, aside from a bunch in the early 1970s who were charged with falsifying W-4 forms. The most comprehensive list available about this history can be found at www.warresisters.org/convicted_wtr.htm. If you have corrections or additional information for this list (or need a copy mailed to you), please contact NWTRCC.

Also, that web site has a list of cars and houses of war tax resisters seized in the last 20 or so years. Please send corrections and additions to that list as well.

Finally, we need corrections and additions to a third list: war tax resisters who have gotten an "order to show cause." Email, mail, or call NWTRCC if you have anything to add to these lists.

The Lockheed Martin Tax

Each American household pays a "Lockheed Martin Tax" of \$202.66. The average individual taxpayer pays a "Lockheed Martin Tax" of \$94.15.

Background to reach these figures:

- 105 million households in U.S., according to 2002 census.
- 226 million individual taxpayers, according to IRS.
- Lockheed Martin reported \$26.6 billion in sales in 2002, and boasted that "nearly 80%" of their business is with the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. federal government agencies. 80% is \$21.28 billion.

Compiled by Frida Berrigan, World Policy Institute. ▼

War Tax Resistance Ideas & Actions

Tax Day Actions Around the Country



Oregon war tax resisters make a delivery from redirected tax dollars to a local food pantry. Per Fagereng, front right, played "The General," in a tax day skit.

...Tax Day

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charts and other literature were given out to the 250 people in attendance.

PORTLAND, OREGON

Oregon Community for WTR (OCWTR) and its supporters gathered in downtown Portland, with ten shopping carts full of groceries for a soup kitchen about 15 blocks away. NWTRCC member Bruce Huntwork read the letter he and his wife Ann were sending to the IRS this year, explaining why they are withholding 100% this year, instead of the military percentage, as they've done for the last 20 plus years. (Ann is serving a six month sentence for crossing the line at the School of the Americas in Georgia.) OCWTR then gave away over \$5,000 to six groups: victims of war (Voices in the Wilderness, Mennonite Central Committee MidEast Branch); two local homeless groups (St. Francis Dining Hall, Crossroads); the local anti-war organizing coalition, and the local Indymedia. They

reported that over \$12,000 from local individuals and the group was withheld from the military and redirected to life affirming work this tax season! This included one man who gave out \$550 in \$10 increments to passers-by in the public square with a letter explaining about his objection to war. At the end of the rally they paraded their carts to another soup kitchen calling out chants like "feed the poor, not the war," and donated \$400 in groceries to them.

SACO, MAINE

Twenty activists locked together by metal pipes and barrels brightly painted to resemble crayons and other schools supplies blocked the entrance to the General Dynamics Munitions Plant in Saco, Maine. The protest called attention to massive increases in military spending at a time when local towns and cities are considering raising taxes or cutting educational and social services.

"We're here to remind people that 47 cents of every dollar in taxes they pay goes to pay for past and current military

expenditures, while only three cents goes to education. For the cost of producing a single stealth bomber, we could hire 38,000 elementary school teachers," explained Emily Posner. "Where would you rather your money be spent, MK19 grenade launchers or schools?"

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Holding a series of "Burma-Shave" style signs for motorists who queued up to the mail slot, about a dozen activists organized by Austin Conscientious Objectors to Military Taxation protested military spending at the Central Post Office in Austin, Texas on Tax Day evening, 2003. The group had composed slogans with rhymes, such as: "Instead of Bombs, Let's use the tax, To feed more kids, Ours AND Iraq's." The messages were spread out over several posters held in series. They also distributed some 750 WRL pie chart fliers to motorists as they passed our display. One driver who refused to take a flier later parked and walked back to us, saying, "I see that you really are about peace, and I apologize for being rude."

One local TV station filmed the protest and included the story in their evening broadcast.

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE NATIONAL

WRL printed 110,000 of their annual pie chart—a record. This does not include the many downloads of the flyer from the WRL website (for the first time including a Spanish version). On April 15th the WRL web site got 40,000 hits—second only to the record 43,000 hits that occurred on March 20 (the day after the U.S. invaded Iraq). After the homepage, the most frequently visited pages were the pie chart and the two main WTR pages. The 5th edition of "War Tax Resistance" has been a very hot seller.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Voices In the Wilderness, a group that focused on ending the sanctions in Iraq, and which sponsored people who stayed in Baghdad throughout the recent bombing, urged its members to consider war tax resistance this year. Many of its

staff are already war tax resisters. They featured war tax resistance on their homepage (www.vitw.org) with links to the NWTRCC homepage and the WRL war tax resistance pages.

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

A War Machine puppet was busy eating tax dollars while people were leafletting in front of the Post Office in New London.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

War tax resisters dressed as bakers handed out pieces of pie and the WRL "pie chart" in front of the main post office.

FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION (FOR)

FOR issued a press release on Tax Day, excerpted here:

"...Instead of a day that marks the fulfillment of an important civic duty, this year Tax Day marks the shameful and unconscionable feeding of a seemingly unstoppable war machine, which is more aggressive and a danger to true global security and economic justice than ever.

"...We object that less than 1% of our tax dollars are spent on diplomacy or peaceful alternatives to conflict, while more than 50% of our discretionary federal tax dollars pay for war or expenditures related to the war system.

"...Therefore, we call upon all citizens and taxpayers to fully consider the prophetic words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to work in the spirit of nonviolent discourse and direct action to demilitarize our national budget priorities and redirect our resources to the building of human community and the enhancement of life in this nation and throughout the world.

"...Only when our 'war taxes' are used to fight homelessness, hunger, and human suffering will April 15th become a day of moral significance, not one that marks the feeding of the machinery of militarism and war."

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Top Excuses Why Peace Movement People Aren't Tax Resisters

Despite the obvious connection between taxes and war, many peace movement people do not become war tax resisters. In an attempt to correct this problem, war tax resister Ed Hedemann is hoping to develop a brochure addressing these concerns. It would list the excuses and give short responses. The first step is to find a list of reasons why people are so reluctant. What follows are some possibilities. Which of these are the most important? Anything missing from this list? Feel free to respond to Ed via the NWTRCC office, or to email him at: hedemann@compuserve.com.

- 1) I'll go to jail.
- 2) Can't afford it because they'll collect with interest and penalties.
- 3) I might lose my job.
- 4) The IRS might take my house or car.
- 5) It would create interpersonal problems with my spouse/parents.
- 6) It's wrong to break the law/tax laws.
- 7) Taxes are good; we shouldn't refuse to pay them.
- 8) It'll hurt my credit rating.
- 9) I never owe anything; the IRS always sends me money.
- 10) War tax resistance is too complicated.
- 11) It'll call attention to me, and the IRS may invalidate my [questionable] deductions.
- 12) I would have to change my life-style.
- 13) It might jeopardize the position of a relative.
- 14) It might look bad to my employer or cause them trouble.
- 15) It might affect my ability to get student financial aid or loans.
- 16) I need my 401 K/pension/IRA/Social Security to live on when I am older. ▼

May NWTRCC Meeting a Success

Rekindling Connection, Realizing Strength During the Reign of W was the theme of the war tax resistance conference and NWTRCC meetings May 16-18. The weekend was hosted by Sonoma County Taxpayers for Peace in Santa Rosa and Sebastopol, California, just north of San Francisco. More than 70 conference participants agreed that weekend presentations, workshops, and informal discussions accomplished the goals of making us feel more connected and strong in our resistance.

Special presentations included Legal Aid attorney Steven Bingham speaking on the Patriot Act and Sebastopol politician and activist Larry Robinson speaking on the view of war tax resistance in the wider peace movement. Robinson emphasized that the question of some war tax resisters feeling marginalized in the movement is a non-issue for him; each section of the movement adds a piece to the ongoing effort for social change. Bingham is new to war tax resistance, but discussed the growing power of the justice department through the Patriot Act and Patriot Act II, if it passes. The ramifications are most obvious on immi-

grants, but he gave a stern warning to be aware of how these bills are broadening search powers, including anything on the internet, and targeting political groups for special attention.

There was a session to talk about tax day actions and other local organizing that gave us all a chance to hear new ideas and share experiences, such as with local post offices and their varying rules for demonstrations on federal property. Eugene (OR) was especially annoyed—and amused—by a compromise that allowed die-in participants to lie on the post office steps, speakers on a patio, while those carrying signs and leafletting had to be further away on the sidewalk. A math teacher talked about how he uses budget priority problems as lessons in his class.

Sonoma county hosts for the weekend are spearheading the One Million Taxpayers for Peace campaign and are especially interested in seeing a united, national campaign grow. Other national efforts were offered, among them, Iraq Pledge of Resistance and War Resisters League are building a new “Hang Up on War” phone tax campaign, and the Appeal

to Conscience petition will continue to be circulated. Symbolic levels of resistance were endorsed by many as a way to broaden our outreach, and interest in some national campaign is high.

The NWTRCC Coordinating Committee met on Sunday morning to discuss a fairly light decisionmaking agenda. The transition of the office from Mary Loehr in Ithaca, NY, to Ruth Benn in Brooklyn was described, and questions were raised about reviving committees on literature, fundraising, and outreach in particular. Chicago was chosen as the meeting site for November 7-9, if enough organizing support is in place, and new members of the Administrative Committee were agreed upon. The Committee members are Paula Rogge (Austin), Jessica Stewart (Ithaca), Peter Smith (South Bend), and Rick Bickhart (Colorado Springs), and alternates are Lincoln Rice (Milwaukee) and Sasha Vodnik (Richmond).

Finally, a concert Saturday night featuring local Raging Grannies, 85-year-old folksinger Faith Petric, and comic/singer Dave Lippman was a weekend highlight. Special thanks to the Sonoma County folks for their excellent organizing. We hope that many readers will join us at the November conference. ▼

for the next hour until picketers outside who were in support of those getting arrested left. Later that night picketers lined both sides of the street at the main post office downtown to educate last minute tax filers.

ATHENS, OHIO

Activists in Athens held a rally at the Department of Job and Family Services. About 60 people attended, and seven excellent speakers made connections between the cost of the war and cuts in human services in this area. About 35 people then marched to the military recruiters’ offices and delivered more speeches about tax resistance and civil disobedience. Three people then “died” in front of the doors to the Army, Air Force, and Navy offices after making a statement. They were arrested for trespassing,

The story made the evening TV news, the radio, and the three local papers.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

A war tax resister held an impromptu WTR teach-in at 7 pm in front of the San Francisco Federal Building on tax day. About ten people were already there for a separate vigil, about eight showed up for the teach in, and two passers-by stayed to listen.

An earlier WTR workshop, also held in San Francisco, was attended by a phone company employee who said “I’ve read so many customers’ statements about refusing the federal tax on the phone bill that I decided to come find out more about it.”

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...Tax Day Actions

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MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Three anti-war activists were arrested in celebration of War Tax Resistance Day at Milwaukee’s Federal Plaza. The three activists dressed as a victim of war, a boy scout, and a student to represent different groups that are affected by the war and war spending. The Milwaukee Three picketed with supporters for 30 minutes then proceeded inside the Federal Building. Once inside they commenced a skit with statistics about military spending and spoke of war tax resistance. Immediately after they went inside, police and security officers closed the federal building (even to employees wanting to return to work)

...Tax Day

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YORK, PENNSYLVANIA

A small group of activists gathered on the steps of the main post office in York. They had the usual posters and flyers from the War Resisters League, but with a little twist. The military was also there, recruiting away, with a jeep that kids could climb on. The activists had made up some fact sheets that debunked the GI scholarship by showing who actually

benefits from the scholarship (virtually nobody). Some activists joined conversations between the soldiers, who were dressed to kill, and their gullible victims and got their information out, while the others focused more on the tax information.

BOSTON, MASS.

New England War Tax Resisters held an Introduction to War Tax Resistance workshop on April 8 that 23 people came to (a record, at least for the past ten years). They used the old “More Than a Paycheck” slideshow to start it off, which despite being 15 or 20 years old, is still very effective and was well received.

EUGENE, OREGON

Military Tax Resistance (MTR) of Lane County and Eugene PeaceWorks spent a rainy day at the post office with a penny

poll, leafletting, guerrilla theatre, and a presentation of tax dollar redirection. Some of the groups benefiting from more than \$1,500 in redirected taxes and support donations included Axis for Peace Campaign, Food for Lane County, Voices in the Wilderness, and the White Bird

at a Peace Festival on the University of Oregon campus and has experienced a big increase in interest over the last few months.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

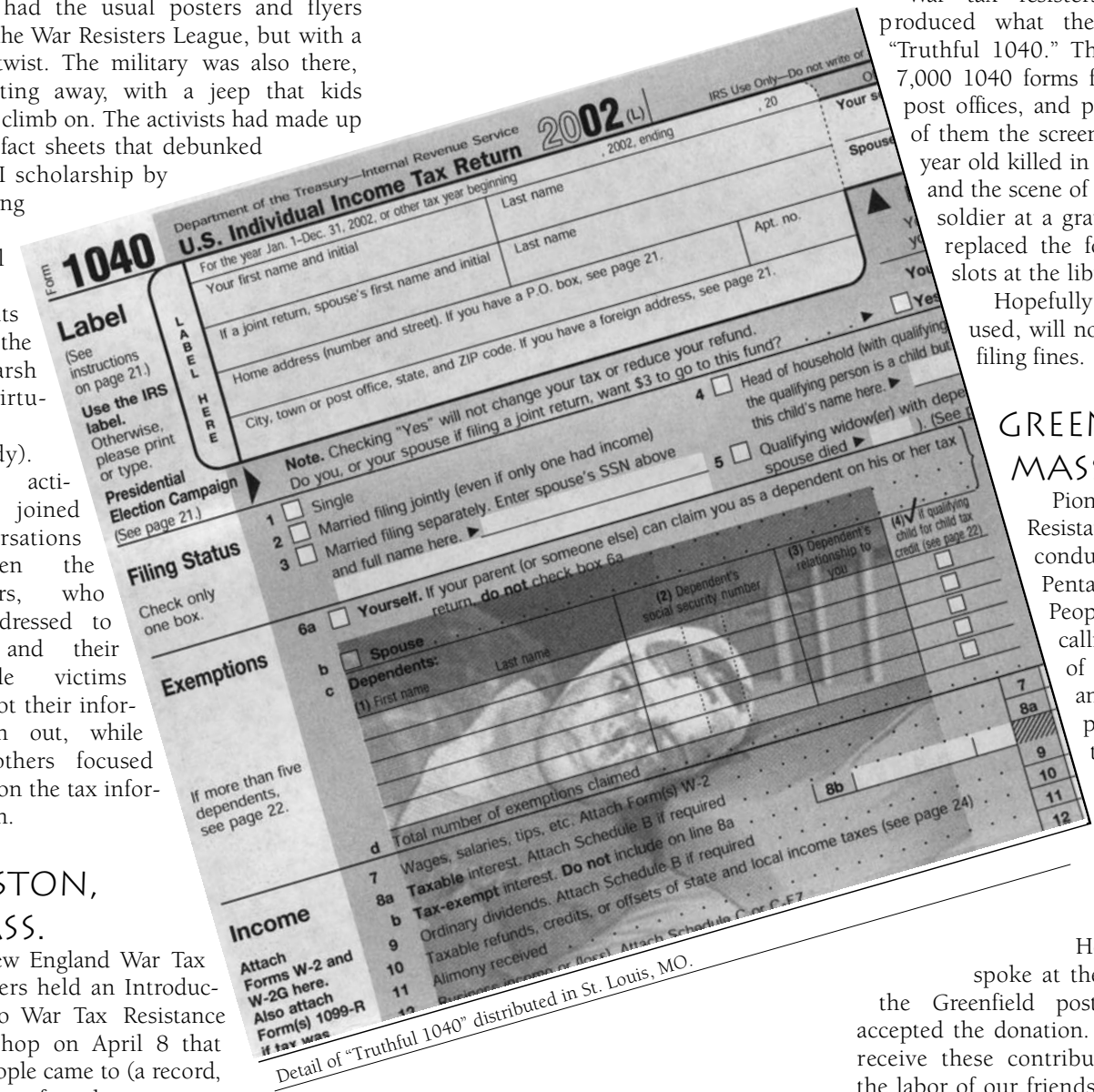
War tax resisters in St. Louis produced what they are calling a “Truthful 1040.” They gathered over 7,000 1040 forms from libraries and post offices, and printed on the face of them the screened images of a 13 year old killed in Baghdad last week and the scene of the coffin of a U.S. soldier at a grave site. They then replaced the forms in the 1040 slots at the libraries.

Hopefully these forms, if used, will not garner frivolous filing fines.

GREENFIELD, MASS.

Pioneer Valley War Tax Resistance (PVWTR) conducted a “Starve the Pentagon, Feed the People” campaign calling for redirection of federal tax dollars and leading up to presentations of these funds to human needs groups on tax day. Dr. Sarah Kemble, a founder of the Community

Health Center, spoke at the tax day event at the Greenfield post office as she accepted the donation. “It is an honor to receive these contributions freely from the labor of our friends and neighbors.... Never before has a government engaged in aggressive, preemptive war costing billions of dollars while proposing a \$1.6 trillion tax cut to benefit the wealthy.” PVTWTR organized war tax resistance clinics up to and following tax day, with press releases to the area community inviting wide participation for discussion whether or not people expected to become war tax resisters. ▼



Clinic. This year the Postmaster appeared when the “Billionaires for Bush” began their presentation citing chapter and verse as to why they couldn’t be on post office property. The group pointed out that no traffic was being blocked, and eventually a compromise was reached allowing part of the group on the steps, part on a patio, and the rest on the sidewalk. MTR also ran a successful workshop