

IF YOU WORK  
FOR PEACE



STOP PAYING  
FOR WAR.

# More than a paycheck

NEWS FROM THE WAR TAX RESISTANCE MOVEMENT

December 2004

## Longtime Resisters Honored

"Friends, I'm home when I'm with war tax resisters," said Wallace Collett, who was one of the longtime resisters honored during NWTRCC's November gathering in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Wallace and his late wife Carrie began their war tax resistance in 1983, redirecting the military portion of their income tax to Quaker organizations and having an immediate run-in with the IRS over the assessment of a \$500 frivolous fine. Wallace, who turned 90 in November, served for many years as chairman of the American Friends Service Committee, was on the board



Who refuses to war?

Only a few,

Those who will not kill their brother,  
Those who follow the inward teacher,  
Those who accept derision and prison.

Excerpted from "Who Wants to War?" by Wallace Collett, 1984.

Photos by Ruth Benn

of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, and has been a good friend to NWTRCC over the years. Some of his thoughts on war tax resistance can be found in the *Handbook on Military Taxes and Conscience* published by the Friends Committee on War Tax Concerns (1988, available from NWTRCC). In addition, Wallace has authored a book, *McCarthyism in Cincinnati: The Bettman-Collett Affair*, about a formative incident in his life. Asked

about the ordeal by a book reviewer, he said: "I learned a lot about human nature. And, in the end, I learned that truth will overcome lies."

Speaking truth to power has been the undercurrent of Robin Harper's years as a war tax resister. Since Robin began his resistance in 1958, he

has had many opportunities to present his deeply held convictions to IRS agents, federal court judges, tax court judges, along with friends, co-resisters, and family members. Of one four-hour meeting with IRS agents Robin said, "We established complete agreement on the figures and complete disagreement that I should pay the IRS." Robin was a Korean War conscientious objector and, after four years of tax-paying, the contradiction of paying for war became too troubling to continue. He has found his support community through war tax resisters connected to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and he is



"Wars will cease when men and women refuse to fight them, refuse to pay for them, and refuse to profit by them."

a co-chair of PYM's Working Group on Conscience, Militarism, and War Tax Concerns. He's been a supporter of all the permutations of the national war tax resistance network over the decades and has generously provided his expertise and support to NWTRCC since its founding in 1982. Robin's story appears in the War Resisters League book, *War Tax Resistance*.

Other longtime resisters who were recognized but could not attend the gathering included George and Lillian Willoughby, Quaker activists who celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays in November with a grand party and fundraiser for Training for Change in Philadelphia.

All of us are grateful for the commitment and example of each of these dedicated war resisters and activists for peace and social change. ▼

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## More than a paycheck

Editor  
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Layout  
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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 \$15 per year.

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## COUNSELING NOTES

### COUNSELOR'S WORKSHOP SUMMARIZED

Listed here are a few tips gleaned from the Counselor's Workshop led by Peter Goldberger and Ruth Benn at the recent NWTRCC gathering.

\* Know the resources available from NWTRCC, the IRS, on the web, and from other organizations. Re-read them occasionally and watch these "Counseling Notes" for updates.

\* As counselors we are nondirective, offering options, laying out the various arguments and consequences, but not telling people what to do.

\* Respond to questions as quickly as possible. People interested or involved in war tax resistance are generally anxious about the consequences and often just need reassurance. Even just calling to say "I don't have time right now but I'll call you back," is important contact.

\* One suggestion for dealing with fear: Walk the person through their worst-case scenario and then work backwards to the likelihood of that happening.

\* On picking up certified letters from the IRS: As a lawyer, Peter doesn't see any reason to *not* pick up the letters. Legally it makes no difference, since the IRS's only obligation is to send the letter to the best known address; saying that you didn't see it doesn't usually delay any procedures. On the other hand, there is a benefit to showing that a particular notice was not sent, so tracking all mail from the IRS could be helpful. Others are less inclined to cooperate with any aspect of IRS collection (or have seen most of the letters before) and thus do not feel a need to pick them up or sign for them.

\* Student financial aid: Information for wtrs is

still being collected, but one tip for nonfilers is to fill out 1040s every year and keep the documentation even if you don't file it with the IRS. If you need this information down the road to prove your level of income these forms could come in handy. Seek financial aid options outside of the federal system.

\* Non-citizens: We are seeking more information on this. Peter noted that conviction for a tax crime under \$30,000 is not a deportable offense, but we don't know if there are other ramifications. Contact the NWTRCC office if you have information on this. We hope to write a legal brief in the coming months.

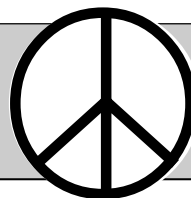
\* Social Security seizures: Individuals having 15% deducted from their social security payments can also have their bank account seized, even if the funds are 100% from social security. The 15% limitation does not protect the money once it is received. An open question: are all social security payments by direct deposit now or can one still request it by check?

*Let the NWTRCC office know if you have more information or ideas on any of these topics. ▼*

#### Where is [www.hanguponwar.org](http://www.hanguponwar.org)?

For those who have looked for the Hang Up On War website, we apologize for its temporary disappearance. This had to do with a server crash, but we have shifted the pages to the NWTRCC server. You can find HUOW at [www.nwtrcc.org](http://www.nwtrcc.org); click on Projects and Campaigns and then "telephone tax," or maybe by the time you read this it will also show up at its original address, [www.hanguponwar.org](http://www.hanguponwar.org). ▼

## Many Thanks



## Network List Updates

Birmingham War Tax Objectors  
New England War Tax Resistance

Jim Stockwell, formerly of Maine and now living in North Carolina, volunteered to be our first-ever Fundraising Clerk at NWTRCC's recent meetings. He'll be helping to create a fundraising plan and give our efforts in this area a boost. Some of you may be hearing from him in the coming months. The November fund appeal should have arrived in your mailbox recently. Thank you for your support both monetary and active!

If you or your group is interested in joining the NWTRCC network by being an area contact, counselor, or affiliate, please contact the NWTRCC office. We will send you an outline of what is expected and the benefits of being listed with us. Thanks!

# Reasons for Hope: International Conference Report (Part II)

By Daniel Woodham

*This is a follow-up article to the report of the conference in the August 2004 MTAP, with exciting tidbits from movements in other countries that were not included last time.*

Sometimes events come along that inspire and bring optimism to the everyday normalcy of life.

I'm not talking about the results of our recent national elections!

Rather, I hope to impart what caused me to have this sort of elation at last summer's International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns (WTR/PTCs) in Brussels, Belgium. This will serve as a follow-up article to the report of the conference in the August 2004 MTAP, with exciting tidbits from movements in other countries that were not included last time.

First of all, a wake up call: It seems the rest of the world is wondering what we are doing in the USA with Bush in office and the seeming complacency with the administration's policy of preemptive strikes. Some of these voices can be heard in an interview project on the web entitled: "Messages: USA to the World" and "The World to the USA," at [www.wrlpdx.org/messages](http://www.wrlpdx.org/messages).

The conference theme of increasing international collaboration was mentioned in the last article, especially linking WTR/PTCs with the "antiglobalist" or anti-free trade movements. Many think now is the time to increase the visibility of withholding taxes for militarism at protests during the conferences for the WTO, G7, FTAA, etc.

Many, however, believe this is not enough. There are those who propose more active stances for nonviolence. For example, Conscience Canada proposed an international project that is an attempt to "generate wider public discussions about the concrete alternatives to war and traditional military defense" and examining new models of security. This was chosen as the international project by the conference, and there is more information at [www.consciencecanada.ca](http://www.consciencecanada.ca). Peaceful resistance to military support is also being worked on by Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI) in its attempts to get non-

violent stands of conscience recognized by the United Nations. They participate regularly in hearings at the UN Commission on Human Rights. CPTI is also working to get the European Economic Community to recognize conscientious objection to paying for war. See <http://cpti.ws> for more details on their work.

The delegation from Ghana spoke of the Youth Peacekeeping Organization started by their Mennonite Church, which seeks to empower refugee youth with some trade skills to better find employment and stay away from crime. Another delegate from Ghana spoke of her "Voices of African Mothers" project ([www.vamothers.org](http://www.vamothers.org)) that promotes conflict resolution and helps women engage in dialogues on peace building and women's advocacy.

Ricardo Esquivia Ballestas, delegate from Colombia, is a very inspiring man who opened my eyes to the realities of "Plan Colombia," another sinkhole for death and destruction that comes from U.S. tax dollars. So much more than "a war on drugs," the U.S. subsidizes the civil war that is raging between the national army, the paramilitary, and several guerrilla groups, with the rural poor as the principal victims. Ricardo sits at the negotiation table with these groups, and he seeks to put on a widely publicized WTR conference in Colombia to help take away the culture of war. Please contact me if you are interested in helping to organize this.

In the Netherlands PTC people have also started a program following the model of the "Clean Footprint" initiative that seeks to raise consciousness about living cleanly on the earth. Titled the "Clean Handshake" campaign, they are trying to raise awareness on how various consumer goods are produced in conflict zones around the globe, such as some cellular phones made of materials from conflict areas.

Here are a few more snapshots from the conference to conclude:

- One group handed out a flyer asking people to boycott the following corporate sponsors of the Bush administration: Kraft, Exxon-Mobil, Chevron, Pepsi, Coca Cola, and McDonald's.

- In Germany a PTC case has gone to the highest court.

- Soon a listserv connected to the CPTI website will enable anyone to network with wtrs from around the world. Sign up by sending an email to [wtr-ptc@cpti.ws](mailto:wtr-ptc@cpti.ws).

- The best antiwar exhibit I've ever seen was the "In Flanders Fields" museum in Ypres. There we toured the bloodiest battlefields of World War I, where the earth pushes up old war relics to this day.

*Copies of the conference report are available online at <http://cpti.ws/confer/04/04.html> or contact NWTRCC about receiving a photocopy of the report for a small fee.*

*Now located in Greensboro, NC, Daniel can be reached at [danielwoodham@yahoo.com](mailto:danielwoodham@yahoo.com). ▼*

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Coordinating Committee  
PO Box 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215  
1.800.269.7464 · [www.nwtrcc.org](http://www.nwtrcc.org)

One of two new camera-ready ads available from NWTRCC.

## CMTC Grants Announced

The Nonviolence Action Community of Cascadia in Seattle recently announced recipients of their 2004 Conscience and Military Tax Campaign (CMTC) Escrow Account grants.

This year 21 applicants requested a total of \$36,135, from which nine organizations were given grants totaling \$7,000. The choices were exceedingly difficult to make, and NACC members wished that funds allowed every organization grants for the full amount requested.

The 2004 awardees are:

Austin Conscientious Objection to Military Taxation, Austin: \$500 to continue educating and lobbying representatives to support the Peace Tax Fund bill.

Casa Maria Catholic Worker House, Milwaukee: \$300 to help the children of house residents learn about and sell fair trade chocolate, with proceeds going to three international groups (chosen by the youth) and a portion as earnings for their work.

Columbia River Fellowship for Peace, Hood River, Oregon: \$1,500 to increase counter recruitment efforts in area high schools and the number of students who opt out from letting the school give recruiters their contact information.

Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project, Olympia: \$500 to help further the establishment of the sister city relations begun by Olympia resident Rachel Corrie (killed while protecting a home from demolition).



Peter Goldberger & Priscilla Adams. Photo by Ruth Benn

Palestine Solidarity Committee, Seattle: \$300 to fund an increased education and outreach effort throughout Washington state about justice for Palestinians, and the creation of a response network on media and legislative issues.

Peace and Justice of Sonoma County, Santa Rosa: \$1,500 to continue counter recruitment work and translate all outreach materials.

Prisoner Express, Ithaca: \$500 to help fund a books-to-prisoners project, and also soliciting creative work from prisoners.

Student Environment Action Coalition, Philadelphia: \$1,500 to continue the Militarism and the Environment campaign on college campuses, educating and organizing around the large impact that U.S. militarism has on the environment.

Swadhina, Calcutta, India, \$400 to help fund a multifaceted effort to reduce domestic violence and social violence in a context of empowerment and nonviolence.

*This information and guidelines for grant applications are available on their website, <http://seanacc.org>.* ▼

## Mixed Ruling for PYM in Federal Tax Case

by Gregory Barnes, Central Philadelphia Meeting

Reprinted from PYM News, Sept/Oct 2004

June 21, 2004, federal court decision requiring Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) to pay ten years' back taxes of employee and war tax resister Priscilla Adams held as much good news as bad for the Quaker community. The ruling means PYM must remit about \$40,000 to the Internal Revenue Service (and Priscilla would then reimburse PYM); however, the court said PYM need not pay the 50% penalty demanded by the IRS.

In a nuanced decision, U.S. District Judge Stewart Dalzell acknowledged that PYM raised legitimate questions, under the 1994 Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), concerning the burden IRS placed on the Yearly Meeting to abandon core Quaker beliefs when it ordered PYM to garnish Priscilla's wages for the taxes she had refused to pay as a matter of conscientious objection to war. After PYM refused to honor an IRS levy on Priscilla's wages, the IRS filed suit last year to make PYM directly liable for her unpaid taxes.

PYM's Interim Meeting on June 24 agreed not to appeal the decision but to remit the appropriate amount of tax money to IRS. Further, it decided to review PYM's policy on support for war tax resisters, which was adopted in 1988, because among the positive outcomes of the case were suggestions from the court as to conditions under which the RFRA might better protect future war tax resisters.

In his memorandum to Interim Meeting about the court decision, PYM General Secretary Thom Jeavons noted that, "we have established that the RFRA does apply to the IRS's conduct in dealing with an organization like our own, and that it might provide the basis for a successful future case for a special accommodation for our policy supporting employees who are conscientious war tax refusers." ▼

### RESOURCES

#### Student outreach flyer

"Students and War" is the title of our latest flyer, and it's available free as a download from the NWTRCC website or call the NWTRCC office for a copy (most readers should have received the flyer in our November mailing).



## New WTR Exhibit Available to All Peace Groups

by Ginny Schneider  
and Stephen Snow-Cobb

Juanita Nelson was attending one of the Pioneer Valley War Tax Resister's (PVWTR) meetings more than four years ago when she suggested that the group create an exhibit about war tax resistance. A couple of other innocent members of PVWTR volunteered to work with her. Little did they know it would lead them on a four-year odyssey into the twisted world of the computer age. Since Juanita is a luddite (not to label her or anything), she stuck to the editorial side of the project. The others delved into Quark Express, Adobe Photoshop, MGI Photosuite, pdfs, jpgs, tifs, bitmaps and scanners. They started on the computer of a local cable access station, which kept moving the exhibit from computer to computer. It was interesting searching for it each week...sort of like cat and mouse or hide and seek. Finally, Steve Snow-Cobb raised the flag of surrender and upgraded his computer equipment at home. The trials and tribulations didn't end there. The files were either too big, too small, too fuzzy or the graphics not to be found. Hours and hours were spent formatting, sweating, freezing, looking for files as they disappeared into the ether, scanning, cooking (Steve kept Ginny Schneider going with great organic food and lots of decadent coffee concoctions), looking for new software as we maxed out old ones, and requesting graphics from across the country.



So what finally happened? A deadline appeared after four years of struggle and a case of carpal tunnel. Ginny was moving to Mexico. So, the group pressed fast forward with others jumping in. Numerous PVWTR members pitched in with proofing, purchasing shipping tubes, transporting the exhibit to NWTRCC's office in New York City and funding the initial printing costs.

So what have we got? A great organizing tool available to any group that would like to use. The National War Tax Resistance exhibit consists of six posters measuring 22" x 34" each, which can be mounted on foam core. One panel depicts war tax resistance around the world. The other five are a timeline of war

tax resistance from 400 BCE to 2000. Most of the material in the exhibit is from *War Tax Resistance: A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military* published by the War Resisters League. The exhibit's large format and graphics make it a perfect tool to use at peace events. Moreover, it can be displayed in a variety of venues such as libraries, school, shopping centers, food coops, your office or a decorative piece for your home. A fee of \$30 is being charged to cover printing, shipping and handling. The exhibit is sure to make your events and anti-war organizing work more visible.

Order now while supplies last! Contact NWTRCC at [nwtrcc@nwtrcc.org](mailto:nwtrcc@nwtrcc.org) or (800)269-7464. ▼

## Increasing Interest in War Tax Resistance

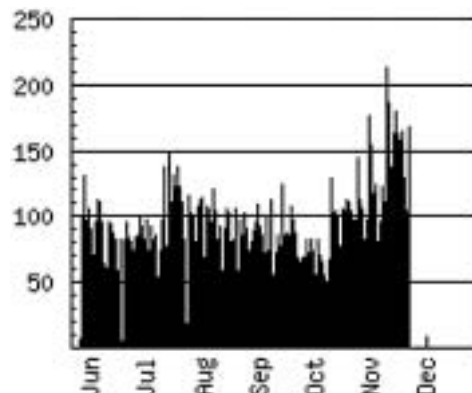
By Ed Hedemann

In late May, after changing Web servers, the NWTRCC website was averaging a little under 100 visitors a day (we've observed that there are about 10 "hits" for every "visit"\*). However in October, the number of visits began a steady rise that escalated to about 150 visitors a day by November. One possible explanation is the realization that because voting against the current regime didn't work an

escalation in tactics is called for.

\* Visits – More or less equivalent to individual visitors to the site, but if the same person looks at the site every day, each of those looks is a "visit."

Hits – A visitor requesting a web page including two images registers as three hits on the server. While the volume of hits is an indicator of web server traffic, it is not an accurate reflection of individual visitors. Thus, our graph reflects visits and shows a positive trend. ▼



# NWTRCC in Swarthmore

Swarthmore College, with its historic Quaker roots, was a perfect setting for the November 5-7 NWTRCC gathering and Coordinating Committee Meeting. The weekend program was planned and hosted by the Working Group on Conscience, Militarism, and War Tax Concerns of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) and held at the Swarthmore Friends Meeting located right on the campus.

Friday evening's program featured long-time war tax resister, Philadelphia WRL activist, and actor Steve Gulick who spoke about the value of using street theatre with our organizing efforts. Some of his tips appear on the next page. He made us all instant actors by giving out sets of props with which to create skits. Creativity abounds in NWTRCC!

After basic war tax resistance and counseling workshops on Saturday morning, most out-of-town attendees trekked across campus for a special visit to the Swarthmore College Peace Collection ([www.swarthmore.edu/Library/peace](http://www.swarthmore.edu/Library/peace)) housed in the campus library. Many of the big national peace organizations have archives at Swarthmore, along with individuals including Jane Addams, A. J. Muste, and Mildred Scott Olmstead. NWTRCC sends its papers to the collection, and visitors left feeling much more connected to this important resource.

Three panels in the afternoon covered the Peace Tax Fund Campaign, a report from the July 2004 International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns, and updates on legal cases with Philadelphia-based lawyer Peter Goldberger. Suzanne Day and Stevik Kretzman updated us on the U.S. Peace Tax Campaign and some of the developing plans. They role-played a lobbying session to encourage others to get involved.

Daniel Woodham represented NWTRCC at the international conference (read his articles in the August 2004 *More Than A Paycheck* and in this issue), and Lyle Jenks represented PYM. After telling stories from workshops and presentations, Lyle spoke about the moving experience of the visit to Flanders Fields organized by the hosts in Belgium. The area is the site of a terrible battle in the spring of 1915, which inspired the poem "In Flanders Fields" by the Canadian army physician John McCrae.



Coordinating Committee meets in Swarthmore.

Photo by Ruth Benn

Peter Goldberger and Priscilla Adams then spoke about the tax court cases in which they have been involved, and the June 2004 decision against PYM related to Priscilla's war tax resistance (see story page 4). In addition, we were joined by members of the Restored Israel of Yahweh community in southern New Jersey who are faced with criminal charges, including conspiracy, for their conscientious resistance to paying for war (MTAP, June 2004). We agreed to help with publicity, attend the trial if possible, and write letters of support as appropriate.

On Saturday night Peter Goldberger gave the keynote address. He spoke about his early influence as a draft counselor and found that those techniques transferred well to war tax resistance when he found himself called on for advice over the years. He credited Vicki Metcalf with translating tax rules into understandable language for war tax resisters and joined her in working on the first counseling manual written for the WTR movement. Today he sees the Bush Administration calling their endless pursuit of terrorists "war," because during wartime they can justify any kind of statement or policy, such as the current Attorney General nominee calling the Geneva Accords "quaint" and the repression of civil liberties.

On the more hopeful side, Peter noted two recent court decisions that are heartening. In October 2004, the Ninth Circuit Court (CA, OR, WA, AK, HI) ruled that the government's "free speech" zone during a demonstration in San Francisco was a repression of the right of assembly, and the Eleventh Circuit (GA, FL, AL) ruled that the local police cannot search everyone attending a School of the Americas Watch demonstration. "While the government is getting away with a lot, I'm not in utter despair after seeing some of these good signs," said Peter.

## Business Meeting

The Coordinating Committee's business meeting was attended by nineteen people representing about twelve different states, and groups from California, Oregon, Washington, DC, North Carolina, South Bend, IN, and Philadelphia, PA. We agreed to produce a flyer for student outreach and a returnable protest/resistance form for use during the 2005 tax season and to distribute the war tax resistance exhibit created by members of Pioneer Valley (MA) War Tax Resistance (see pages 4-5). We will add a page on our website requesting donations with the possibility of setting up a Paypal account for people who want to pay online.

Get out your 2005 calendars and note the upcoming NWTRCC gatherings: first weekend of May in Nashville, TN, hosted by Nashville Greenlands, and fall 2005 (possibly in October) in New York City. The latter is to be a larger strategizing meeting, and we hope that all of our groups will send representatives to the gathering to help review and discuss "where we've been, where we want to go, and how we will get there." Travel subsidies are available for the fall gathering.

The November meeting passes the budget for the next fiscal year (December 1 - November 30), which is at \$32,920 for 2005. We also approved objectives for the coming year, including standard items like producing the newsletter, keeping up with legal information, and publicizing tax day activities, and we added an increased effort at student outreach, sending representatives to the February United for Peace and Justice conference, and seeking interns for the Brooklyn office. If you would like to see minutes from the meeting, please ask for a copy from the NWTRCC office. ▼

# Street Theatre Tips

By Steve Gulick

Steve Gulick has been active with Philadelphia WTR/WRL (now Philadelphia WRL) for more than 20 years and works as much as possible as a freelance actor; the PeaceMeal Player. He brought his expertise to the NWTRCC gathering in Swarthmore to encourage us to use street theatre to enliven and expand our outreach and educational efforts. Here are some tips for effective presentations, and some pictures from the NWTRCC files for inspiration.



- Use street theatre to provide fun, entertainment, and defuse tension; explore issues in a safe environment ("real" behavior in imaginary circumstances); get across a central point and point of view.



- Rehearse as much as you can ahead of time.
- Try to be ready to go as soon as you are in position. Lots of set up time can create missed opportunities. While you get ready try to have at least one person who can relate to passers-by, hand out flyers, invite people back for the "show."
- Be visible and "attractive": have some signs with the main message, have interesting props or set pieces, costumes,



perhaps larger than life pieces and/or masks—just so long as the masks don't interfere with actors' voices.

- Have a few "opening acts" or audience warmer uppers that you can use to begin to draw a crowd.
- Make the point and repeat the point, because people don't stay long.
- Link the message with something memorable—a tune, visual, or chant.
- It may be hard for the audience to see and hear you, so make that as easy as you can. Play out to the audience.
- If you finish your skit and the audience still seems to be hanging around, you



might want to have a secondary skit or some songs to continue with, or all the actors might join the outreach people and talk one-on-one, hand out flyers, etc.

- Have fun. ▼

*Clockwise from top: Uncle Sam and Statue of Liberty, Louisville, KY, 1997. Father Christmas stands up to Uncle Sam. Military spending cow, Philadelphia, 1999. Photo by Ruth Balter Café Pentagon, New York City, Photo by Ed Hedemann*

*Military monster, Eugene, OR, 1999. Iraqi mothers, Greenfield, MA, 2000. Uncle Sam wants guns, Milwaukee, 2001. "Currency of the Homeless," New York City, 1987. Photo by Ed Hedemann U.S. Military Advisor to Colombia, Portland, OR 2001. Photo by Tom and Tana Hastings*

## NOMINATIONS NEEDED!

What: NWTRCC's Administrative Committee (AdCom) seeks 2 new members

Deadline: March 11, 2005

Schedule: New alternate members will be selected at the May 2005 meeting; terms start after the meeting.

Terms: Serve 1 year as alternate plus 2 years as full member

Costs: Travel is paid for full members or alternates filling in for full member



Benefits: Great people to work with; pleasure of contributing to the smooth-running of the NWTRCC network; travel to fun places and meet interesting people

Time commitment: AdCom meetings are the full day Friday before the weekend gathering, occasional emails and phone calls during the year, and some willingness to volunteer for an extra project according to interest and availability.

Qualifications: Interest in being part of NWTRCC's decision-making structure; willingness to attend two meetings during the year; desire to help promote NWTRCC; geographic and gender considerations determined by current committee make-up

Current members: Rick Bickhart\* (NM), Peter Smith\* (IN), Lincoln Rice (WI), Eszter Freeman (CA), Cicada LaFey (NC), Linda Holtzbaaur (NY)



Please contact the NWTRCC office for a job description, or send in nominations and we will follow up with further details. Affiliate groups should make a special effort to offer nominations.

\*These members complete their terms in May.

# An Open Letter

April 2003

I am deeply ashamed to say that, in spite of my efforts, I have once again engaged in murder and wanton destruction: Not only have I paid my federal taxes for 2003, but I have even given the agencies of war a free loan for \$333.64.

Even if I possessed the gift of eloquence, I do not think mere words could express how appalled I am, how sorrowful, how angry and how desperate I now am at the failure of my elected officials to listen to me and millions of people across the entire planet when we say: "STOP WAR NOW."

It is my responsibility, under the terms of Nuremberg and my Christian heritage, to do all I can to resist participation in immoral and unlawful acts, including illegal occupations, state-sponsored terrorism and violence in its myriad forms.

The occupation and destruction of, and terrorist tactics used against, Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine are only a few of the rea-

sons why I am determined to redirect my federal taxes to life-affirming organizations and activities in 2004.

When public education is properly funded, when all people of this country have health care and housing, when Congress no longer wears a "Sold" sign, when we stop creating the sources of terrorism and begin humbling ourselves before the world's great need for *our* moderation, when we once more live in a lawful society with a Bill of Rights – then I will no longer be ashamed to have paid taxes.

I do believe in and will always participate in giving my time and money for the good of the community. War does not fit that description.

Pam Allee  
Portland, OR

*With the support of NWTRCC affiliate, Oregon Community for War Tax Resisters, Pam is taking steps to "hang up on war." ▼*

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One of a variety of new camera-ready ads available from NWTRCC.



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