

• To reduce U.S. casualties, Operation Iron Hammer, launched in November, employs bombing raids, razor wire and checkpoints encircling Iraqi villages, demolishing houses where resistance activity is suspected, and imprisoning relatives of suspected fighters. But according to U.S. Lt. Col. Sassoman, Iraq, "With a heavy dose of fear and violence and a lot of money for projects, I think we can convince these people that we are here to help them" (*New York Times*).

• On the West Bank, International Solidarity Movement volunteers are currently picking large rocks out of a field near Jenin, accompanying Palestinian farmers who could not plow their land near an Israeli settlement for three years because Israeli soldiers were shooting at them.

• Nonviolent Peaceforce, founded in 1999, is training an international corps of civilian peacekeepers "to prevent death and destruction in conflict areas, creating safe space for local groups to struggle nonviolently and seek peaceful resolutions." In November the first peacekeepers reached Sri Lanka, the pilot site, where they will live and work for two years. The Peaceforce has issued 100,000 Peace Bonds, earth-friendly gifts for \$10 each. In 2010, when they mature, investors will have a strong Peaceforce (www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org).

— Kate Rogers Gessert

MOTHER KALI'S STAYING AFLOAT

Like many small, independent bookstores, Mother Kali's has met with some financial troubles recently and is struggling to

stay afloat. But the community has stepped up to lend its support.

A recent fund-raising dinner at the Keystone Café garnered the tome mart a sweet \$1,300. Next, a "generous benefactor" came forth to offer rent help for the next two months.

"Both of these developments will give us time to explore options for the future of the store," says Mother Kali's Tracy Scharn.

Scharn hopes that storewide discounts in December and the textbook rush of January will place the shop in good stead. An art show fund-raiser at the store from 1 to 6 pm Saturday, Dec. 20 will celebrate Solstice and also support the store.

Scharn and the rest of Mother Kali's staff say they are grateful to the individuals and businesses, including Sweet Life Patisserie, Cascade Candle Company, Rhythm and Blooms, the Village School, Aramark, and Keystone Café for the encouragement.

"At a time when independent bookstores are struggling to compete against large chains, it is wonderful to see the community come out to support Eugene's feminist independent bookstore," says Scharn. — AS

EARLY DEADLINES

Both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Thursdays this year, so *EW* will be printed early and distributed on the last two Wednesdays of the year. The deadline was Dec. 17 for the Dec. 24 issue, and **noon Wednesday, Dec. 24** for the Dec. 31 issue. The early deadlines apply to both ad reservations and Calendar/Club submissions. Questions? Call 484-0519.

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