

newspaper. This week, in his fourth installment, Tisserand and his MD wife return to New Orleans to inspect his now dry but moldy office, and look for missing pets.

MAKE LEVEES NOT WAR

Chanting "Drive out the Bush machine, the world can't wait," upward of 300,000 war protesters joined United for Peace and Justice's (UPJ) massive peace parade in Washington, D.C., Saturday, Sept. 24, shutting down the city.

"People of the world, do what we do, stand up, fight back," shouted people and organizations from all over the country as they wove their way through the streets, encircling the White House.

Approximately 30 people were in the Oregon contingent, which included at least 12 people from Eugene, five of whom also marched representing Lane County WAND.

In front of the White House, marchers were engulfed in a frenzy as media swarmed around Cindy Sheehan, Jesse Jackson, Jim Hightower and Fernando Suarez del Solar,

accompanied by Code Pink women and a preacher who led them in a prayer to remember the victims of the Iraq War, including Sheehan's and Solar's own sons.

The rally included the culmination of Sheehan's Camp Casey, on its last leg from New York. Tents strewn along the mall spoke to the numbers of anti-war supporters. As the march ended, participants gathered at the ellipse to hear Joan Baez and Steve Earle, as well as speakers who included Al Sharpton and NAACP Chairman Julian Bond, who pointed to Hurricane Katrina as a shameful example of how the Bush administration has misplaced its human and environmental priorities.

"The war in Iraq has as much to do with terrorism as the Bush administration has to do with compassion," said Bond.

Next, Jim Hightower took the stage. "The force of a hurricane is nothing compared to the storm of protest happening around America," he said.

On Sunday, UPJ held trainings in nonviolent civil disobedience and lobbying, followed Monday by actions at the Pentagon and White House and congressional lobbying. Approximately 650 people registered for the demonstrations at the White House and

300 to 400 people were arrested for tying themselves to the White House fence. They were charged with demonstrating without a permit and fined \$50.

Also on Sunday, WAND kicked off its biennial national conference, focusing on creating a plan to withdraw from Iraq and how to redirect excessive military funding.

Tuesday, WAND went to Capitol Hill, where Lane County WAND women met with Sen. Wyden and aides to Sen. Smith, Rep. Blumenauer and Rep. DeFazio.

Lane County WAND member Aria Seligmann said the group's lobby efforts focused on encouraging DeFazio to join the "Out of Iraq Caucus" and to have Smith vote against \$4 million in Bunker Buster research funding now before the Senate.

"It's very clear Congress has no clue how to get out of Iraq, and the representatives are asking for input from their constituents," she said.

Seligmann also said Wyden told her and the other Lane County WAND representatives that he has not signed onto Sen. Feingold's SR 171, which calls for imminent withdrawal from Iraq because he thinks "only 20 people will sign it," and instead is "considering crafting his own proposal that he may

have ready in 90 to 120 days."

Meanwhile, DeFazio aide Tom Vinson says DeFazio has not joined the Out of Iraq caucus because he doesn't know if he agrees with all of the solutions being examined.

Likewise, says Seligmann, Blumenauer has not signed onto House Resolution 55, sponsored by Rep. Abercrombie, which simply calls for the president to develop and implement a plan for the U.S. to withdraw from Iraq because he is unconvinced of the nature of the timelines regarding withdrawal from Iraq. DeFazio has co-sponsored HR 55.

"The situation in Iraq is an absolute mess and the fear is that withdrawal will create an even messier situation," says Seligmann. But she adds, "Cindy Sheehan and the other Gold Star Mothers, who spoke at the rally and at the WAND conference, would probably agree that it's best not to continue killing people just because we're afraid stopping the war might cause problems."

Seligmann added that "WAND and other members of the Oregon contingent are revved up, renewed and ready to bring some energy back home to work on spreading the word and stopping the war."

— Michael Carrigan

SLANT

• Bill Dwyer is planning to run for re-election to the Lane County Commission in 2006 and might have some stiff competition from Springfield Mayor Sid Leiken. The mayor hasn't made any formal announcements, but when we twisted his arm he told us he has formed a political action committee to "explore" a run for the county post. Dwyer's aware of the potential challenge, we hear, and his supporters are rallying to get a head start on the campaign.

• Deadline is Sept. 30 for public input into the Region 2050 long-range plan looking at how to accommodate an estimated influx of another 160,000 or so people in our area by the 2050. What's missing, or at least under-emphasized in this discussion, is the idea that it doesn't have to happen. We'd be silly to ignore growth projections, but we'd be idiots to shrug and figure it's a done deal. We can end cor-

porate tax incentives that stimulate population growth, pull the plug on sprawl-inducing projects such as the troublesome West Eugene Parkway. Make development pay its full costs, and disclose the hidden costs. Instigate campaign finance reform to get big sprawl money out of politics. The list goes on. Sustainable growth is an oxymoron. Even a 1 percent "slow" growth means our valley will double its population in 72 years. Think ahead a few lifetimes and our local environment and quality of life are in big trouble. Log on to www.region2050.org to fill out a survey. And a great website for further information on Oregon population action is www.agoregon.org

• President Bush is now doing what he should have done after 9/11, if not before: urging Americans to drive less. But his reasoning is off base. W says that we should conserve

gasoline while repairs are made to refineries and pipelines damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. But in the long term, BushCo wants to boost gasoline production by relaxing federal regulations on oil refineries and releasing more crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve so we can get back to our dirty driving habits. That short-sighted vision misses the point: Continued fossil fuel burning will only make future hurricanes more frequent and severe. Bush's directive to drive less should accompany strategies to boost renewable fuel production, improve public transportation and make long-term energy conservation a patriotic duty. And for crying out loud, let's put an end to oil industry profiteering on disasters. Exxon's profits skyrocketed after Katrina, and certain members of Congress are promising oil companies federal aid to expand drilling operations off the Louisiana coast. How do they get away with it?



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