

Groups want U.S. troops home

By Saeed Shabazz
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NEW YORK

(FinalCall.com) - The energy and spirit of the American anti-war movement is very high, according to Leslie Cagan, national coordinator of United for Peace and Justice, a coalition of 1,200 groups and organizations. Observers credit the group with organizing three of the largest demonstrations in the United States against the war in Iraq.

"There is a lot of work left to do; this war is far from over. Each day more and more people are speaking out against the war and I think that energizes anti-war activists. When your movement is growing, and more and more people are joining what you are saying, that energizes you," Cagan noted.

On Dec. 6, anti-war activists, led by the coalition, staged a national "Congressional Call-In Day." In a press release, Cagan explained the reason for the call-in: "New voices are being heard in Congress, mainstream media outlets are asking questions and even military people are saying it is time to end the war. As we keep the pressure on the Bush administration, we need to expand our efforts aimed at Congress."

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—Leslie Cagan, national coordinator
United for Peace and Justice

During a recent telephone interview, she said that it was difficult to assess the success of the call-in effort, but there were reports that a lot of calls were made to Washington. "They (Congress) heard from us," Cagan stressed.

Pundits had acclaimed Sept. 24, when 200,000 people turned out in Washington, D.C., to voice their opposition to the Iraq war, as the event that marked the moment when the anti-war movement was finally making itself heard. But, there were also critics who asked why the anti-war movement was not having a greater effect in stopping the war.

Madelyn Hoffman, director of the New Jersey Peace Action group, doesn't agree with those who say the anti-war movement hasn't been effective.

"We are staging our fifth 'Peace Train' anti-war demonstration in Newark on Dec. 3," stated Hoffman. "And we see that the sentiment in the nation about the war has changed. The reason that more and more people are calling for an end to the war

and bringing the troops home now is because of the work of the grassroots anti-war movement."

She added that the 26 days of protest of Cindy Sheehan [the mother of a U.S. soldier killed in Iraq] sitting in front of President George Bush's home in Crawford, Texas, in the summer "sparked a lot more activity in the streets."

Hoffman expressed her belief that Congressman John Murtha, D-Pa., the ranking member of the House Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations, may not have made his call in the Congress for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq if there had not been pressure from the streets.

Although Rep. Murtha has received the most publicity for his stance, other key elected officials have either spoken out or suggested legislation to help the anti-war effort, such as Nebraska Republican Senator Chuck Hagel, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who cautioned the Bush administration against demonizing those who oppose their war strategy.

In a Nov. 16, speech before the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C., Sen. Hagel said, "The Bush administration must understand that each American has a right to question our policies in Iraq and should not be de-

Academy

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ers.

Horsford, who has a special bond with the Pollards, fought to hold back tears as he spoke. He was one of the first recipients of a scholarship provided by the Pollard Foundation. Horsford is regarded as a shining example of how far an opportunity and support can take you in life.

"[The Pollards], have achieved so much in their lives, and they have decided to give back substantially," Horsford said.

Everyone involved is anxious for the grand opening, scheduled for June or July in time for fall semester next year.

"I have only one regret: that it's not built yet," Goodman said. "This community needs a project like

monized for disagreeing with them."

Massachusetts Democratic Congressman Jim McGovern has introduced a bill, HR4232, (The End of Iraq War Act) to prohibit taxpayer funds from U.S. troop deployment in Iraq. "Let's bring our troops home and restore U.S. credibility in the world community," Rep. McGovern urged, on the House floor on Oct. 25.

"It's time to turn up the volume," insisted Hoffman, who informed that at least five communities have been holding weekly vigils in New Jersey, since Sept. 21, 2001.

The Newark-based Peoples Organization for Progress understands the need to turn up the volume. The war is a key issue in the Black community these days, according to the group's director Lawrence Hamm, who says that Blacks are starting to see "clearly" the connections between the anti-war effort and the efforts to stop the conditions that are eroding life in the Black community.

"The irony is that, before we join the Peace Train demonstration, we have to go to Irvington, N.J., to protest the closing of a hospital that serves Black people. Twenty-one hospitals have closed in northern New Jersey in the last five years because there is not enough money — yet we spend \$300 million a day for a war," Hamm contended, "and we cannot explain why we are in Iraq."

Saeed Shabazz writes for the Final Call.

this, because there's nothing more important than the education of our youth," Goodman emphasized.

The Pollards are very aware of this fact. Their hard work and dedication have brought the Rainbow Academy to fruition.

The academy will provide children with the resources they require to succeed and allow children greater opportunity, according to its founders and supporters.

Children are the future leaders, teachers and lawyers. They are the future doctors, writers and reporters.

"There are hundreds of kids just like Steven [Horsford]. They just need someone to believe in them and follow them the whole way, and that's our intention here," Diane Hughes Pollard said.

King image eyed as county's logo

Special to Sentinel-Voice

SEATTLE (NNPA) - Metropolitan King County Council members Larry Gossett and Larry Phillips said there will never be a better time to replace the imperial crown that has been the logo for King County, Wash., with the image of the county's namesake, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A proposed ordinance establishing the likeness of the slain civil rights leader as the official symbol of King County, along with a plan for phased implementation, was put before the Council for consideration at its next meeting on January 17.

"This year, the state of Washington officially renamed King County in recognition of our effort to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King," said Gossett, ordinance sponsor. "It is fitting that in the year we will celebrate 20 years as Martin Luther King Jr. County, we will finally begin the process that will lead us to a logo that displays his image."

"With this legislation, we would join both the state of Washington and the city of Seattle in having official logos that recognize the men after whom they are named," said Phillips, council chair.

"I want the Council to take the lead on creating a logo that not only recognizes Dr. King but becomes the symbol of our region and a celebration of the rich cultural diversity of a county that is the embodiment of Dr. King's 'Beloved Community.'"

The current official logo of King County is a crown inside two circles. The proposed ordinance would call for the design a new logo in the likeness of Dr. King, along with graphic standards, guidelines and procedures for using it.

The proposal calls for existing stocks of letterhead, envelopes and business cards to be depleted before new stocks are ordered, adding no incremental cost to the county. For durable items, such as vehicles and signage, the proposal calls for the estimated replacement costs of \$597,000 to be spread equally over five years, for an average cost of about \$119,400 per year.

The proposed ordinance would prohibit the use of the new logo for purposes of fundraising or solicitation of donations, other than for the county, its Employee Charitable Campaign, advertisement and promotion of commercial events and related merchandise goods and services.

The estate of Dr. King retains the rights to the commercial use of his likeness. During today's meeting, Gossett said staff will be communicating between now and January 17 with the King estate on amendments that would "better perfect" specifics of the proposed ordinance.

When created by the territorial legislature in 1852, King County was named after U.S. Vice President and slaveowner William Rufus DeVane King. On February 24, 1986, the King County Council passed a motion changing the county's eponym to that of Dr. King. That motion did not have the force of law until the state legislature earlier this year approved and Governor Gregoire signed Engrossed Senate Bill 5332 renaming King County.



Black Panther Party leader Huey Newton, second from left and standing, with members of the Black Panthers.

Panthers

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Party had sued several federal officials, saying that since 1968 the directors of the CIA and the FBI, attorneys general, Treasury secretaries, postmasters general, IRS commissioners and other government officials had conspired to destroy the Black Panthers.

One of those sued was then-CIA director and soon-to-be-president George H.W. Bush, father of the current president.

Alito worked for the solicitor general's office in 1981-85, and also as deputy official while processing Freedom of Information Act requests.

Alito's confirmation hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee begins Jan. 9. Republican leaders are pushing for a Jan. 20 confirmation vote in the full Senate.

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