



Hiroshima Flame □ Pilgrimage met with hostility and love

In January, a group of people from different nationalities began the cross-country Hiroshima Flame Interfaith Pilgrimage in Washington state. The group is carrying a lantern with a flame in it that was lit from the burning embers of Hiroshima, Japan, when that city was destroyed by a U.S. nuclear attack in 1945.

According to the Pilgrimage organizers, "We will be walking as a spiritual pilgrimage for world peace, disarmament, to end the Star Wars Missile Defense Program, and to save mother earth from further destruction. We will honor the Native people who have been victims of our nuclear development and listen to their message of peace. The events of September 11th and the resulting war have made this walk and our prayers even more urgent."

Andy Matinog, a reporter for Portland Indymedia, is one of the walkers and he has been posting text, audio, and photographic reports to the Portland Indymedia website regularly since the first day of the Pilgrimage.

Jan. 15 - at the Bangor Naval Base in Washington, the West Coast home port for Trident nuclear submarines - Outside the Bangor gates, the walkers stopped and chanted with the monks for several minutes. The walkers with their aching legs were an immense presence with their banners and chanting against the tide of workers on the base who were leaving work. I felt a sadness at the immense disparity between the base, the people who worked there, and the walkers. Some cars sped by as they drove past the walkers, as if in an ashamed hurry to get past the message. Others, slowed down to get a better look at the walkers. I could only imagine what the base workers must have thought. The walkers continued their chanting, sending their healing message to

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PGE Sale to NW Natural Gas approved by Bankruptcy court

Enron filed bankruptcy four days after proposing to sell PGE to NW Natural Gas in November 2001. In mid-February, The New York bankruptcy court responsible for handling the Enron case ruled to approve the sale of PGE to NW Natural Gas.

There are several reasons why this sale is a house of cards which will ultimately be detrimental to Oregon, its economy, and the welfare of its people. This deal would include multi-million dollar bonuses for PGE executives, the details of which have been sealed by Enron executives. Also, the purchase of PGE at 800 million dollars over book value, although attractive to Enron's creditors and arguably the deciding factor for the approval of the sale by the bankruptcy court, jeopardizes the financial stability of NW Natural Gas. The sale would place a debt burden of high interest-rate loans requiring rapid repayment onto the company. This burden would likely be passed on to ratepayers. Increased rates would further tax Oregon's struggling economy and eliminate more jobs, as small businesses continue to fold under the pressure of increasing utility cost. The details of this sale would make Enron the largest shareholder in PGE and NW Natural Gas with a 4.9% stake in the company and two seats on the board.

There are two real alternatives to selling off the state's energy assets. These assets can either be transferred into state or local governmental control. This was the intent of Oregon voters in the early 1930's, when they passed a voter initiative to amend the state constitution.

New Portland Police Review Board Draws Criticism

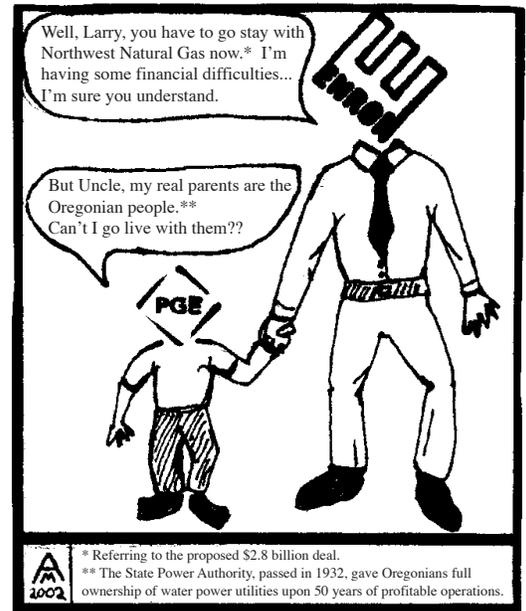
The newly active Citizen Review Committee (CRC) of the the Independent Police Review Division (IPR) is proving to be less than independent or citizen-based in its first few proceedings, according to analysis released by Portland Copwatch, a grassroots, volunteer organization which promotes police accountability. The CRC is the city government's response to community call for citizen involvement in reviewing cases of police misconduct.

Even before the first IPR hearing, which took place January 4, 2002, Copwatch expressed worries about CRC members being ill-trained by the Portland Police, citing concern that the members had not been trained in constitutional, civil, and human rights. Additionally, Copwatch criticized the fact that the

This amendment, placed into the Oregon constitution (article 11-d) in 1932, asserts the state's right to control, use, transmit, distribute, sell and/or dispose of electric energy, and to acquire, construct, maintain and/or operate hydroelectric power plants, transmission and distribution lines. The Oregon legislature has the ability to activate the State Power authority and transfer to it the state's ownership of PGE hydroelectric assets. The Authority could then acquire other PGE assets by eminent domain. Failing that, city municipalization of Portland's energy supply is another option ratepayers could pursue. This would put Oregon's utility infrastructure back into the service of the public, a viable response to the deregulation fiasco that could set a precedent nationwide.

Recently there were two public hearings regarding this sale, one of which was held in Gresham at the the Midland Library on 122nd Ave. According to one witness, the representative from NW Natural Gas, who was 20 minutes late to the meeting, stated that the sale would be good for customers because it would prevent duplication of services. She denied any knowledge of large bonuses from the sale for PGE executives. About two hundred concerned citizens also at-

tended this meeting, and about 25 were allowed to testify. About half of the testimony heard was in favor of municipalizing PGE or enacting the State Power Authority. Several of the speakers also took an anti-Enron approach, and a handful of people spoke in favor of the NW natural gas sale. Because not everyone was allowed to speak at the hearing who signed up, the public utility commission stated that they would schedule another hearing soon.



Facts provided by and for more information on this subject see <http://www.voters.net>. For information on coming hearings visit the website of the P.U.C. <http://www.puc.state.or.us>

decide a case based on whether a "reasonable person" could make the same finding as the Police Bureau "in light of evidence, whether or not the reviewing body agrees with the finding"; (2) A large and misleading amount of input from Internal Affairs, even though IAD had performed the initial investigation, and reviewed and commented on the summary report by IPR staff; and (3) The overzealous involvement of the IPR's staff director, Richard Rosenthal, in a process that is supposed to be citizen-driven. All three cases from this first hearing involved use of force against citizens. The full report can be found on the Portland Indymedia web site.

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Ben & Jerry's effectively labeled as "Terrorist" at Congressional Hearing on "Eco-terrorism"

Not content to label groups such as the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) as "terrorist organizations", corporate business leaders also declared that Ben & Jerry's, the Ford Foundation, PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) and others are either "terrorists" or "terrorist supporting". Though the primary questioning before the Sub-Committee was slated to be directed toward former ELF spokesperson Craig Rosenbaugh, representatives of several multi-national corporations were on hand and offered testimony of their own in which they made clear their belief that various groups advocating "domestic terrorism" are being financed by and share "interlocking executive boards" with various progressive companies and organizations throughout the North American continent.

Craig Rosebraugh, present under Congressional subpoena, invoked his 5th Amendment rights in response to dozens of questions. The chair of the sub-committee openly taunted Mr. Rosenbaugh's legal strategy and flatly informed him and his legal counsel that the sub-committee would likely reconvene for the purpose of charging him formally with Contempt of Congress. This in stark contrast to the various Enron executives who have pleaded

the 5th but who will likely never be cited for contempt. In the end, the subcommittee seemed nonplussed about what to do with Mr. Rosebraugh and let him go with the assertion that they will send him questions that he must answer to their satisfaction under threat of Congressional Contempt hearings if he does not.

Mr. Rosebraugh did submit written testimony, which outlined his position quite clearly regarding how he feels about the hearings and radical environmental activists.

"Since 1997, the U.S. government has issued me seven grand jury subpoenas, raided my home and work twice, stealing hundreds of items of property, and, on many occasions, sent federal agents to follow and question me. After this effort, which has lasted nearly five years, federal agents have yet to obtain any information from me to aid their investigations. As I have never been charged with one crime related to these so-called ecoterrorist organizations or their activities, the constant harassment by the federal government constitutes a serious infringement on my Constitutional right to freedom of speech. This Congressional Subcommittee hearing appears to be no different, harassing and targeting me

for simply voicing my ideological support for those involved in environmental protection.

I fully praise those individuals who take direct action, by any means necessary, to stop the destruction of the natural world and threats to all life. They are the heroes, risking their freedom and lives so that we as a species as well as all life forms can continue to exist on the planet. In a country so fixated on monetary wealth and power, these brave environmental advocates are engaging in some of the most selfless activities possible."

The media was in full attendance at the hearing, and a small protest was held in front of the Longworth building where it took place.

Here in Portland, activists and supporters gathered at the Federal Building to listen to speakers, current ELF spokesperson Leslie Pickering, Alan Graf of the National Lawyers Guild, and Lisa Distenano, co-founder of Sea-Shepard. The 60 or so people then marched around the downtown, to Pioneer Square, and back to the Federal Building. The federal police once again felt compelled, as everyone was dispersing, to arrest

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Hiroshima Flame Pilgrimage continued

this location that carried so much responsibility for the world's safety.

Jan. 31 - Portland - The Hiroshima Flame Pilgrimage arrived quietly today in Portland along with the Hiroshima Flame. Several of the walkers have yet to have a pain free day of walking, yet they continue onwards on their way across the United States. They will be stopping at points along the way related to the continued militarization of our world to help heal the wounds created by these violence factories.

Feb. 8 - Junction City to Eugene - Today has been a really intense day. Apparently, the church that stayed at in Monroe had been receiving threats if they housed us. Peace really is a scary message to some people. We heard a rifle shot very close to us. Durwin told me later that it was a high powered rifle that was shot very close to us. That, we could have been hit if the shooter wanted to take one of us down. Immediately after the shooting we walked under a tree where someone had placed a confederate flag. Eugene, however, was a completely different story. Eugene is rad and we were welcomed with open arms. We held a great ceremony downtown and had a great turn out.

Feb. 11 - San Francisco - There were some scowls and faces of wonder-

ment as we walked through the bourgeois [sic] streets down to the Golden Gate Bridge where we were stopped by Bridge Security. Security told us that we would not be allowed to cross the bridge with our flags unfurled and with our drums. I found out later on today that there was a man carrying an American flag daily on the bridge.

The Pilgrimage will be stopping in dozens of other towns across the country. Portland Indymedia is collecting all of Andy's reports, including photos and audio, in a special, ongoing feature online that will be updated throughout the walk.

Check in regularly for updates at: portland.indymedia.org/dharmawalk

Police Review Board Criticism continued

Since this initial hearing, Copwatch has issued similar reports on subsequent hearings, pointing out problems such as police bias, double standards, declining appeals before CRC members have had a chance to look at the case, disclosing confidential information, and many more. In addition to these general criticisms, Copwatch issued extensive analyses of each case that went before the CRC, pointing out numerous problems and areas of concern. These reports and analyses can be obtained from Copwatch.

Furthermore, Portland City Auditor Gary Blackmer released his new proposal for the IPR on January 14th, in

which he proposes an outside "expert" to review deadly force cases and to recommend policy issues to the CRC. Copwatch objects to this new proposal because it modifies what they see as an already flawed and biased system such that deadly force cases never truly come under the scrutiny of members of the community, despite the community's strong position that public forums be held regarding such serious cases.

For further information, please visit Portland Copwatch's web site <http://www.portlandcopwatch.org/> or contact them at copwatch@portlandcopwatch.org or 503-236-3065.

