



HYDRA

Civic Engagement at Southwestern University



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GREEN LIVING

GREEN EXPECTATIONS: TIPS FOR LIVING GREEN

contributed by Liz Campbell; sponsored by SEAK

Here are a few suggestions that can help make your life a little more GREEN here on Southwestern's campus. A lot of these suggestions are common sense but worth repeating! They make a big difference in the long run. Choose a few things that you are capable of doing and stick to them. As they always say, every little bit counts!

CONSERVE WATER

- Don't leave the tap running when you brush your teeth or do dishes.
- Reduce shower time to 5 minutes (conventional showers use up to 20 liters of water a minute) and if your room has low flow showerheads, use them! They are equipped with a pause button that stalls water flow while you lather up!
- Purchase a water filter (Brita works great!) that can be used over and over rather than boxes of plastic water bottles. Also, remember to not let faucets drip!

CONSERVE ENERGY

- Turn off your lights – probably the simplest thing you can do to conserve energy.
- Use natural lighting instead of electric lighting whenever possible.
- Turn off your computer when it's not in use. Contrary to popular belief it does not take more energy to start a computer than to leave one on (this goes for the lights too).
- Put a sweater on before you complain about the cold or raise the heater and shed some layers or open a window before cranking up the A/C!
- Unless you are handicapped, do not use automatic handicap doors.

REDUCE WASTE

- Only print and copy things that you really, really need, and do it double-sided.
- Avoid buying disposable products or those with excessive packaging.
- Re-use paper printed on one side & old envelopes.
- Mail that empty ink cartridge home in the provided envelope. (Not all companies have recycling programs) Find new uses for old things! Share textbooks, magazine subscriptions, etc with classmates and friends. This will save

money too!

- Sort properly – remember the paper bin takes ONLY paper products (no corrugated cardboard either) and the other bin can take tin cans, plastics (#1 and #2), aluminum and glass.
- Use email to reduce paper usage. Use cloth napkins, handkerchiefs, and rags rather than paper napkins, tissues and towels.

ON THE GO

- Every one likes a little company. When you are driving, it should be the same. Try to coordinate travel arrangements so that you can share drives with friends and save big bucks on gas. If you live off campus but close



to it, Try some active transportation options. You have so many choices like biking, skateboarding, rollerblading. It's a great work out.

- You know all those nice trees, bushes, and fields around campus. Well despite what you may have heard, they did not just sprout up there but are in fact the product of hours of painstaking labor from the Physical Plant. Try and be conscious of this by staying on designated walkways and staying out of the trees.
- When its time to go home after a long, hard semester at school use air travel only if its absolutely necessary. Yeah, air travel is convenient, but it is also one of the largest contributors to global green house gases.



Peace One Day

Lydia Rudy

Peace One Day events coordinator

Hey! Come on over! Write on the Peace Canvas! Tell us what ‘peace’ means to you!” I shout this from my table on Thursday, September 20 in the Student Concourse, trying to grab the attention of a fellow student as he walks by on his way to lunch or the mailroom. He stops and looks over cautiously.

“Well,” he says. “I don’t really know what peace means to me. I’ve never thought about it.”

He slowly makes his way to the table where I’m sitting, where four or five people crouched down on the floor behind me are writing their own definitions of “peace” on yards of canvas stretched across the floor, fabric markers in a rainbow of colors resting atop the canvas waiting to be used for the cause.

Embedded in this moment is the purpose of the Peace Canvas, Herein lies the reason we should draw attention to and celebrate Peace One Day. It is the opportunity for people to stop, if only for a moment, and realize that we, as individuals and as a community, must define what peace means, how we can achieve it, and how it could function in our lives.

In 2001, thanks to the efforts of a British filmmaker named Jeremy Gilley, the countries represented in the United Nations (UN) agreed to an international day of ceasefire and non-violence that would allow for people in areas of conflict all over the world to receive life-giving aid without the threat of violence—if only for a day. One day of peace every September 21 with the hope of actually having peace one day.

Peace One Day at Southwestern University could not be limited to just the Peace Canvas. Peace One Day had the potential to create an environment that celebrated something positive, that unified the students at Southwestern rather



than divided them. That same Thursday at midnight, fifty Southwestern students circled around the school’s seal amid candlelight to celebrate the beginning of Peace One Day. One by one, students lit their candles and spoke of what peace meant to them. What could have been just another well meaning candlelit vigil became a moment of unexpected sincerity and hope for the potential of Peace One Day, not only at Southwestern, but all over the world.

For the final celebration on Friday afternoon, John Lennon’s “Give Peace a Chance” echoed across the mall as students began flooding out of their classrooms to find tables set up in a semi-circle, each table decorated with a poster board from one of the eight student organizations participating in the first-ever Peace Fair. The Peace Canvas was hung between two trees so students could see their ideas and the ideas of their colleagues as they walked to class. Students milled through the booths of the student organizations committed to being involved with the Peace Fair. Over one hundred students expressed their creative spirits in a dizzying array of colors as they spray-painted t-shirts with stencils of peace.

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PEACE ONE DAY: PHOTO JOURNAL





Mr. Allen Bean: fragment of a conversation regarding the Jena6 and the criminal justice system

The following is an excerpt of a radio interview from KPRW 91.1FM by Amos Bean, '07 Southwestern alum, with his father, Allen Bean, about his work on the Jena6 case.

Amos: [Can you talk about] prison construction and how all this is linked to the boom in prison construction? About how that is itself its two forms of poverty control? You do a lot of advocacy in rural areas; I mean you live in Tulea. You understand how prison construction is both a way of dealing with the most marginalized communities in an area and also to provide jobs.

Allen: Right. One of the really ironic things about Jena...the last time I was there, I couldn't get a hotel room in a regular hotel because it was filling up with workers that were working for GeoCorp ... which was the private prison Construction Company. And they had bought this prison in Jena, Louisiana. At this point, the prison was empty and nobody was even taking responsibility for it; it wasn't a federal prison, it wasn't a state prison. But they were sure that if they built 700 more prisons they would be needed by somebody sooner or later. The story behind that prison is kind of grotesque. In 2000 it was a juvenile lockup and there were a lot of report that these juvenile prisoners were being abused. They were humiliated. They were being sexually harassed. An investigation was done, a lot of these reports were substantiated and so they closed down. Then a few years ago, right in the wake of Katrina, a lot of the inmates in New Orleans had to be evacuated because the flood waters completely swapped the prisons. They reopened the prison in Jena, in central Louisiana, and hired pretty much the same guys as those responsible for hanging the nooses in the high school, only a few years older, to be the prison guards. Well, immediately they had all these white prison guards overseeing these predominately black prisoners,

and reports started to accumulate again. You know- harassment, violence, humiliation, abuse of authority left and right. Again the department of justice did an investigation and once again the prison was shut down. And now you've got GeoCorps coming in building 700 more prisons and sooner or later I suspect there will be enough poor black people locked up in other lockups were they don't really have room for them. That they could open this facility back up in a bigger and better form is really disturbing to me.

Amos: Yeah, well so it sounds like there is a massive amount of institutional inertia behind these processes we're dealing with. I know that you have a lot of contact with mainstream media outlets. When you are trying to relay to them these stories in a way that media consumers can digest, or at least that the media outlets feel those consumers could digest, do you have a hard time trying to tell the story in an accurate way or, like we were talking about with Jena, do people try to talk about it as an isolated incident of racism?

Allen: Yeah. They see it as a throw back to the old Jim Crow assaults, and there is a certain amount of merit to that perception. But that is not the real story, you know. I mean in most respects Jena is just business as usual. I call this the new Jim Crow. The old Jim Crow, as everybody knows, applied to people of color across the board.

(Continued on last page)



Divided We Fall

Lindsey Albracht, Senior

When I tell my friends that I intern for the AARP, I can almost guarantee what kind of a reaction I'm going to get. There's shock: "You work where?" There's mockery: "Pfffff....you work WHERE?! Hahahaha!" There's befuddlement: "Where's that?" And if I were to judge my workplace based on the things my friends assume about it, I'd probably think that the AARP is:

1. An organization "my parents" joined
2. An organization that is unreasonably obsessed with mailing things
3. An organization with a magazine that juxtaposes the strangest possible combinations of celebrities on the front cover (think Tony Bennett and Christina Aguilera)
4. A real stick-in-the-mud place to intern.

But my experience with the AARP doesn't look like that to me. The AARP—an organization founded in 1958 by Dr. Ethyl Percy Andrus, a retired high school principal—seeks to "lead positive social change and deliver value to members through information, advocacy and service." And, as the nation's largest non-profit, non-partisan organization for people 50 and older, and with 39 million members nationwide, they're pretty darn good at what they do.

In my time as an AARP Communications Intern, I've written a lot about advocacy issues that aren't quite "sexy" enough for most college students to notice. But these issues—I've learned—are things that impact us, too. And not just in the abstract, rhizomic, "helping you helps me" kind of way. One of the best examples of this is the AARP's national Divided We Fail campaign.

Divided We Fail is a non-partisan approach to pressuring our nation's leaders into fixing the broken U.S. health care system and to reform financial security. Right now, AARP offices all over the nation are mobilizing to collect pledges from American voters. Through signing this pledge, voters promise to choose

candidates who offer concrete solutions to the health care crisis and demonstrate interest in reforming financial security (read: providing health coverage to every American and ensuring that social security won't run out by the time our generation needs it).

In addition to collecting these pledges, the AARP is collecting personal health care and financial security stories from ordinary Americans to put a human face on these issues. A few weeks ago at the SU Care Fair, over 20 Southwestern students demonstrated their interest in health care and financial security by signing a pledge and/or signing up to participate in Divided We Fail volunteer efforts. On October 29th, 2007, the SU volunteers will visit the residence halls to hand out information about Divided We Fail and to begin a dialogue about health care. We will also be screening the Iowa debates on health care—both the democratic and republican candidates—in November.

This is an intergenerational issue that could potentially impact an incredibly wide demographic. Make Luby's cafeteria and orthopedic shoe jokes to your heart's content. But then realize the power of a united, cohesive voice telling our leaders why fixing health care and financial security is important. If you are interested in learning more about this campaign, please visit the website at www.dividedwefail.org or contact me at albrachl@southwestern.edu.



Interview with Allen Bean (Continued from pg6)

If you were black you couldn't use certain water fountains, there were lots of public spaces that you could not inhabit and things that you could not do. It didn't matter if you were Rosa Parks or a street hustler, didn't matter if you were high status or low status, high income, low income, religious or a complete walking train wreck. You were impacted by those laws. That's the old Jim Crow. The new Jim Crow is that you have the criminal justice system cracking down on the poorer and lower status end of the population, particularly the black population. In many respects for people living at the bottom rungs of the social ladder, the new Jim Crow is even worse than the old Jim Crow was because it is much more likely to put you in prison, take away your liberty and destroy your life when you get out of prison. You've got a felony on your record! When somebody asks you to fill out a job application you've got to say 'yeah, I'm a felon' and immediately your application goes in the trash can. If you decide you want to go to university and you apply for the Pell Grant, you are going to be asked that question and you have to say 'yes, I'm a felon'. You are not eligible for those federal dollars for your education. You have to pay it all yourself and you can't because you are poor.

Peace One Day (Continued from pg3)

Others created hemp bracelets with SEAK, the student environmentalist group. Others joined with two of the sororities on campus to create paper lanterns decorated with peace cut-outs or emblems with Alpha Xi Delta and friendship bracelets for Ronald McDonald House with Alpha Delta Pi. The Progressive Student Alliance encouraged their peers to sign letters to free political prisoners in Chile. SU Libertarians made Peace Pies to sell with donations going to Amnesty International. APO sponsored sign-ups for a park clean-up, promoting "peace through service." The new Student Peace Alliance shared information on their goals and objectives and strategies for peace.

September 21, 2007 truly was a beautiful day. The students of Southwestern showed up for one afternoon in support of Peace—and for one day, Southwestern shined in a way I have never seen or experienced before.

For information regarding upcoming events or volunteer opportunities, please call our office.

Hydra is assembled and published by the Office of Civic Engagement. The views and opinions expressed here are not necessarily held by this office.

To voice concerns, contact Suzy Pukys at pukyss@southwestern.edu or at x1987

To submit articles, photos, art, volunteer opportunities or other relevant material, contact Ansa Copeland at copelana@southwestern.edu or x1215. All are welcome!

Be well, until next month.

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