

The Good, THE BAD, THE UGLY

Brought to you by the North Dakota Progressive Coalition – June 2006

**Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who
mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.**

-- Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss)

The Good: The recent vote to repeal the estate tax failed in the Senate by a slim margin. Make sure to call Senators Dorgan and Conrad and thank them for voting responsibly! The estate tax affected less than 33 properties in North Dakota and ensures tax is taken out on otherwise untaxed income. Unfortunately, Senator Bill Frist is calling for another vote by July 4 – another example of GOP Senators calling for tax cuts for millionaires while cutting health care and education for the rest of us.

THE UGLY SMELLY: Manure! We'll have to put up with a lot of crap (literally!) if pro-factory farm legislation passes the U.S. House. It changes environmental protection standards to say manure is not a pollutant or, bizarrely, a hazardous substance. This would allow huge, corporate factory farms to stink up North Dakota communities with immunity from any accountability. You could even say H.R. 4341 was full of... well, you know.

The Good: The US. House Appropriations Committee adopted an amendment to increase the minimum wage by \$2.10 over two years, starting in 2007. Low wage workers around the country celebrated by buying both food *and* medicine for their children.

The Good: Pride! Not the deadly kind – the happy kind! North Dakota's GLBT communities celebrate Pride Week during the summer. Fargo's Pride festivities kicked off early in June. Bismarck's Pride weekend is scheduled for later in July. Visit www.dakotaoutright.org (Bismarck) and www.outfront.org (Fargo) for more information.

The Good: Hearing voices from the whole community. Fargo recently created a Native American commission to provide support for the city's Native American programs. This kind of partnership is a great way for people to work together for the public good.

THE UGLY: Investigators recently broke up a human smuggling ring that transported undocumented workers from Mexico to North Dakota, Minnesota, and other states, according to the AP. Almost 6,000 people were brought north this way to work more than 70 hours a week for less than \$2/hour in what's been described as slave labor situations at restaurants.

The Good: Jamestown progressives helped elect three new school board members and one city councilwoman during this month's primary election. Congratulations to all the hardworking activists in Jamestown who ran such great campaigns!

The Good: The 24th Annual International Festival for Peace, held right on the North Dakota-Canada border in the International Peace Garden from June 30 to July 2. Contact Candace Anderson at 218-779-7812 or canander@gmail.com for more information on this free event! It's a great family venue with good food, a relaxing atmosphere, games, workshops, and more.

The Good and BAD: Ryan Gustafson was chosen out of hundreds of applicants to intern at an international magazine covering the 2006 World Series of Poker. Unfortunately, that means he'll be gone for the month of July, so no GBU next month!

Your contribution to the NDPC will help us influence the kind of future we have in ND.

Please contribute today - your support makes a difference!

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