

The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

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

“Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time; the need for mankind to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence. Mankind must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.”

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.,
Nobel Prize acceptance speech,
Stockholm, Sweden, Dec. 1964

The Good: We celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day this month. MLK was an inspiration in the '60s and he still inspires us today with his message of non-violence, trust, and acceptance.

The Bad: January 24 is the most depressing day of the year. It was bright and sunny in Bismarck, but there was foul weather across most of the state. Fortunately, we can all look down the road, about eight months ahead, where we are definitely much, much happier.

The Ugly: Following up the atrocious and immoral budget reconciliation bill is a tax bill that will take all the money cut from those civic programs and give it away to millionaires. Over three-fourths of the nearly \$100 billion tax cut approved by the House will go to the richest 3 percent of people in America.



Dr. Vinod Seth

The Good: Aruna Seth, Vinod Seth, and Waylon Oldman were all elected to board positions at the USAction delegate assembly in October. Vinod was re-elected to be one of four Vice Presidents, Aruna was elected to the board from the Asian/Pacific Islander action council, and Waylon was elected to the board from the Native American/Alaskan action council. Congratulations!

The Bad: North Dakota dropped rank and now is second-to-last in the nation in teacher wages. Despite Governor Hoeven's promises, teachers are still at the bottom of the totem poll. Maybe it's time for a new strategy...

The Good: Your dinner hour is safe from telemarketers! An appeals court upheld the North Dakota do-not-call list as constitutional.

The Good: Over a hundred people showed up for the YWCA news conference in Fargo, co-sponsored by over 50 non-profits, including the NDPC. The message was loud and clear: budget

cuts that hurt people are unacceptable. As Elaine Kastrinos said in the Forum, “It shouldn’t be a priority that puts people in the position to choose between putting a roof over their head and health care. They’re not just numbers on a balance sheet. They are people with real problems.”

The Good: North Dakota Farmers Union members are considering a renewable energy initiated measure because the state legislature has stonewalled efforts to develop renewable energy in North Dakota.

The Ugly: President Bush authorized wiretaps on American citizens without a warrant. Besides violating the Fourth Amendment, the president ignored long-standing civil liberties protections and flagrantly abused the power of the executive. President Bush’s defense? If we don’t violate your civil liberties, the terrorists will win – and if they win, they’ll violate your civil liberties!

The Good: We’d like to thank Charlie Barber and Paula Grosinger for hosting the NDPC holiday party on December 18. We had a great time – thanks to everyone who attended! It was a great way to end the year and a great way to get excited for the next. Happy New Year – see you in 2006!

Upcoming Events

Check the online calendar at www.ndprogressive.org for more events!

Feb. 19 – Bismarck – Dave Kemnitz: “Religion and the Labor Movement” @ the UU Church

For More Information on Events or to Submit Your Own: Ryan Gustafson, nodakpc@btinet.net, (701) 224-8090

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!



North Dakota Progressive Coalition
410 East Thayer Ave. Ste 2
Bismarck, ND 58501