

743-8377

NUREMBURG ACTIONS  
MT. DIABLO PEACE CENTER  
65 Eckley Lane  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
(415) 930-8505

# Why protesters are demonstrating at the tracks

*Editor's note: Publication of this column is part of an effort to provide a forum on issues related to the ongoing protest at the Concord Naval Weapons Station and does not imply agreement with the views expressed.*

## ANOTHER VIEW

ty" sometimes get in the way of our taking risks to stop deathly policies. The German people would have retained their dignity and humanity if they took such actions, which is what we seek to do for ourselves.

Our concern for the lives of human beings here in Contra Costa County is as real as it is for the people of Central America. We respect and uphold the right of workers at the weapons station to earn a decent living, and we honor the right of the people of Clyde to live in peace in their homes. We do so even as we hope they personally realize the abhorrent, illegal and immoral nature of the activities at the station.

The trains and trucks carrying weapons to and from the port facilities are death trains. It is not something abstract we protest. Every time we allow the movement of those vehicles, people in Central America will die. We act to preserve the lives of fellow human beings who are worth every bit as much as our own whether we be protesters, workers or residents of Clyde.

We may or may not be able to ultimately stop the shipment of weapons through our presence at Concord. If we manage to achieve our goal of 50 or more people risking arrest every day, the military may find other ways to export death and destruction. However, we hope public policy will change as more and more people are willing to take risks with their lives in order to save the lives of others. Our actions at Concord are a new, additional tactic we believe is required to save lives and to uphold the dignity of our nation.

The Nuremberg Actions-Concord and the Mt. Diablo Peace Center have done many things to respond to the concerns of the parties affected by our presence at the tracks where Brian Willson was run over on Sept. 1. We will continue to do all we can to ensure our efforts interfere only with the shipment of weapons, and not with the lives of private citizens.

Not only have we sought dialogue with the people of Clyde, we have been careful to do nothing which would "shove nearby residents and their rights aside" as claimed in the Times editorial of Oct. 6. Letters have been sent to all households expressing our desire to eliminate any interference we unknowingly may have created. We sponsored an open meeting attended by more than 25 Clyde residents, and steps have been taken to respond to the concerns they expressed.

As for the issue of blocking shipments, as we do at the weapons station, we do so to prevent the commission of a crime against humanity. We do so to uphold international law and our American Constitution. We do so as patriotic Americans. Our actions are in response to the continued violations of law carried out in our name and by our government. The Navy, California Highway Patrol and the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department choose to respond to our actions by blocking traffic on Port Chicago Highway. This is their action, not ours.

Chuck Goodmacher is program coordinator of the Mt. Diablo Peace Center in Walnut Creek.

By Chuck Goodmacher

The sustained vigil and protests at the Concord Naval Weapons Station are meant to engage the people of the United States as well as our government in a serious dialogue. Our statement is clear: We act to prevent the illegal shipment of weapons destined for use against civilian non-combatants in Central America. We will continue to do so until the illegal actions of the U.S. government stop.



Goodmacher

We take these actions very seriously: We do not "play the protest game" the Times editors mistakenly feel we are engaged in. Many of us have wondered why the German people did not try to block the trains taking 6 million Jews and others to their death in concentration camps during the Third Reich.

We who participate in the protest at the Weapons Station urge our fellow citizens to search their consciences to see whether they too are called to try to block the shipments of bombs, munitions, death and destruction to our brothers and sisters in Central America.

It is easier for us to do this than it was for the Germans because we have freedom of speech and religion in our country. Unfortunately, our comfort and "securi-