

Hanford Reach

January 20, 2003

Hanford Site Employee News



YOUR AUTOGRAPH, PLEASE: Spent Nuclear Fuel Project workers at the Canister Storage Building sign a poster to commemorate removing more than 957 metric tons of irradiated uranium. On the left, Department of Energy Richland Operations Office manager Keith Klein chats with celebrating employees.



LOOK WHOOO'S SNOOZING: This picture of a great horned owl was taken the afternoon of Jan.13 as he (she?) napped while roosting on the south side of the 2721-EA building in the 200 East Area. "Guess he must have had a hard weekend," said the amateur wildlife photographer, firefighter Lester ("Shag") Williams of Fluor Hanford.

Supplemental technologies contracts awarded

Geoff Tyree, CH2M HILL

CH2M HILL Hanford Group has awarded two contracts for initial work on supplemental technologies for treating selected tank waste. The company is investigating three tank-waste treatment technologies for the Office of River Protection. They are called supplemental technologies because they would be used to supplement Hanford's Waste Treatment Plant, which is currently under construction.

The first contract was awarded to THOR Treatment Technologies, LLC, to provide a conceptual design for treating selected Hanford tank waste. Known as steam reforming, THOR's technology is being used in the commercial sector to treat nuclear waste. Possible application of the technology at Hanford would include treating selected low-activity tank waste that has been through a pretreatment process to remove most of the radioactivity. Steam reforming would allow accelerated cleanup by reducing the amount of waste requiring vitrification.

"We will be evaluating this conceptual design to see if it meets our stringent criteria for treating a portion of Hanford's tank waste," said Dale Allen, senior vice president of Strategic Planning and Mission Analysis for CH2M HILL Hanford Group. "The key to our success in supporting treatment of all of Hanford's tank waste by 2028 is to find existing technologies and evaluate whether they can be cost-effectively tailored to our need."

The second contract was awarded to AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc., to test a method of turning selected Hanford tank waste into glass in large disposal containers — called bulk vitrification. Bulk vitrification allows for glassification of low-level or low-level mixed tank waste inside a container suitable for land disposal. Bulk vitrification would help accelerate tank-waste cleanup by reducing the mass of sodium requiring vitrification in the Waste Treatment Plant.

Under the new contract, AMEC will conduct lab-scale and large-scale testing of the bulk vitrification technology, using simulated waste, and provide conceptual engineering for a production facility. After that first phase of work, an evaluation of bulk vitrification and other supplemental treatment technologies will enable the Office of River Protection to decide how to best move forward on building and operating facilities to provide supplemental treatment.

The third technology under consideration is containerized grout, which is solidification by using grout-forming additives in a container suitable for land disposal. This would reduce the amount of sodium the Waste Treatment Plant would need to process. A contract award for initial work on evaluating this technology for use with Hanford tank waste is expected in the coming weeks.

"A cornerstone in effective management of our contract with the Department of Energy is to be a good steward of the government's resources," said Allen. "In this case, we are looking at technologies that have proven to be effective in treating similar types of waste, rather than researching and developing new technologies." ■

CH2M HILL grant benefits WSU Tri-Cities IT, programs

CH2M HILL Hanford Group recently received an update from Washington State University Tri-Cities on how the company's grants are being used to benefit university and student programs in information technology, small-business support and outreach to underrepresented populations.

CH2M HILL is supporting WSU Tri-Cities programs with a six-year, \$2 million grant it pledged in 2001.

The endowment continues to support the university's computer program. Funding enabled the university to increase the size of its computer-science faculty size by 50 percent and offer a broader array of course work.

"Students are benefiting not only from the increased breadth in our faculty capacity, but also from the enhanced infrastructure," said LoAnn Ayers, WSU Tri-Cities director of Development. "Both faculty and students are enjoying the capabilities of the newly equipped computer laboratories."

The endowment also continues to support the WSU Business Local Institute of Networking, Knowledge and Support, also known as LINKS. Each year, numerous LINKS interns are placed in Tri-City businesses and non-profit and government organizations. The program also helps nurture entrepreneurs and supports existing business owners.

Ayers said clients of the LINKS procurement center were successful in getting more than \$7.5 million in contracts during the year, resulting in the creation of dozens of new jobs. Ayers added that CH2M HILL's support also enabled students to complete internships with more than 30 local businesses, helping the students gain valuable résumé experience and providing their clients with useful tools ranging from Web sites to inventory databases.

Continued support for the Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement, or MESA, program will help area students who are underrepresented in the fields of mathematics, engineering, and science to achieve their potential and pursue careers in those fields.

"CH2M HILL Hanford Group sets a high standard for corporate involvement in the community," said Ayers in a recent letter to Ed Aromi, CH2M HILL Hanford Group president and general manager. "Your personal commitment and that of your company make a huge impact on the university's ability to expand and enhance academic programs that are just not possible through state support alone."

"CH2M HILL is honored to be able to contribute to the community as a citizen of the Tri-Cities," said Aromi. "And we are pleased to be able to partner with WSU Tri-Cities to promote technology-based education and economic diversification in the area." ■

Apley named interim director of PNNL



Apley

Walt Apley was named interim laboratory director of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, effective Jan. 1. Carl Kohrt, president and chief executive officer of Battelle, which operates PNNL for the Department of Energy, made the announcement at the end of December when Lura Powell left the laboratory director's position.

"The candidate interview process for Powell's replacement is nearly complete, and I expect to make an announcement in January, said Kohrt. "We expect that the new director will be in place before April 1."

Apley is the associate laboratory director for the Environmental Technology Directorate. Rod Quinn will take on those duties for the duration of Apley's assignment as interim lab director. ■

Dr. King committed a 'crime of passion'

The nation honors Dr. Martin Luther King today because Dr. King committed a crime. His was a crime of passion — or, more correctly, a crime of *having* passion.

That passion motivated him to battle a system of unjust segregation laws. It motivated him to assault the sensibilities of civic and church leaders. And, in the end, he was executed for committing these “crimes of passion.”

As in every crime, there must be motive, opportunity and intent, and Dr. King’s crime of having passion contained all three elements. He was motivated by a genuine, unadulterated brotherly love for his fellow human beings. He was motivated by a concern for the well-being of the poor and downtrodden. He was motivated by anger toward the simple unfairness, excruciating injustice and outright brutality that was visited upon African-Americans in the southern states.

King had an opportunity born of the suffering of others — those who had been lynched as Emmett Till had been, those who were beaten, firebombed or imprisoned for daring to register black voters, and those who were simply tired, as Rosa Parks was when she boarded that bus in Montgomery.

Dr. King’s opportunity to become the most reviled and revered man of the past century was galvanized by the bravery of a mother who allowed an open-casket funeral and enabled photos of the battered and waterlogged body of her son, Emmett Till, to be distributed nationwide.

Four months later, Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus, and Dr. King subsequently led the 27-month boycott of the Montgomery bus system. It led to the downfall of segregation in public transportation, and eventually in other public facilities and housing.

He had the opportunity to write. It was during one of at least 30 incarcerations that Dr. King penned what is now characterized as one of the most important documents in American history, the “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.” He expressed deep disappointment in both the actions and the inaction of his detractors, but he was both constructive and instructive. “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” he wrote. “We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” He reiterated his stance on nonviolent protest and stated its purpose — to enforce basic constitutional rights.

Dr. King admitted his crime of having passion by calling himself a “creative extremist.” He was intent on promoting adherence to the moral code and American values stated in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. He insisted that local, provincial regulation would not interfere with “what is best in the American dream.”

Given his motives, opportunities and unshakeable intent, Dr. King certainly committed the crime of having passion. But, for us and for future generations, his passion for “certain inalienable rights,” for equality and for justice, will forever be celebrated on this special day. ■



**Commentary
by**

Jennifer Curtis

**Managing General Counsel
Fluor Hanford**

Test your knowledge of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the struggle for civil rights

Today is a national holiday commemorating the life of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. But how much do you know about his life and work? Take the following quiz. Then turn to page 21 to check your answers.

1. What year was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated?
 - a. 1960
 - b. 1963
 - c. 1968
 - d. 1973
2. Where did Rosa Parks become famous?
 - a. At a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C.
 - b. At a high school in Little Rock, Ark.
 - c. On a bus in Montgomery, Ala.
 - d. On a march in Selma, Ala.
3. Which president signed the first major civil rights act of this century?
 - a. John F. Kennedy
 - b. Lyndon B. Johnson
 - c. Richard M. Nixon
 - d. Ronald Reagan
4. Which president signed the law creating the Martin Luther King holiday?
 - a. John F. Kennedy
 - b. Lyndon B. Johnson
 - c. Richard M. Nixon
 - d. Ronald Reagan
5. What was the name of King's first book?
 - a. *Stride Toward Freedom*
 - b. *Dreamer*
 - c. *Why We Can't Wait*
 - d. *We Shall Overcome*
6. Where was the tactic of the sit-in protest first used?
 - a. At a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C.
 - b. At a high school in Little Rock, Ark.
 - c. On a bus in Montgomery, Ala.
 - d. On a march in Selma, Ala.
7. Where did King deliver his "I Have a Dream" speech?
 - a. At Ebenezer Baptist Church
 - b. In front of the Atlanta City Hall
 - c. At the Lincoln Memorial
 - d. At the Nobel Prize ceremony
8. To what foreign figure has King been compared?
 - a. Charles de Gaulle
 - b. Mohandas Gandhi
 - c. Albert Nobel
 - d. Nelson Mandela
9. What year was the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday first observed?
 - a. 1969
 - b. 1973
 - c. 1980
 - d. 1986
10. What black leader was killed five years before King's assassination?
 - a. James Meredith
 - b. Malcolm X
 - c. Medgar Evers
 - d. Stokely Carmichael
11. Why was King arrested in 1956?
 - a. For protesting segregated department store facilities in Birmingham
 - b. For driving too fast
 - c. For sitting in at a Woolworth's lunch counter
 - d. For assaulting a police officer

SNF Project's Jim Rusk celebrates 45 years at Hanford

Michele Gerber, *Fluor Hanford*

In 1957, the year Fluor Hanford employee Jim Rusk came to work at Hanford, the world and the site were very different places than they are today. That year, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, beating the United States in placing the first-ever vehicle in orbit around the Earth. Coming in one of the darkest periods of the Cold War, the news was startling and frightening, for it was obvious that the Sputnik satellite, or subsequent versions of it, could be used to deliver nuclear weapons around the globe.



Jim Rusk today

Other huge changes altered life in other parts of the world and nation. That year, Ghana became the first nation in sub-Saharan Africa to become independent from Britain, its European colonizer. Malaya also became independent of Britain, hastening a trend toward self-government in the Third World. In Little Rock, Ark., President Dwight Eisenhower sent troops to desegregate southern public schools.

Elvis Presley had the top three songs on the national top-10 charts, signaling the virtual takeover of rock 'n roll in popular culture. The songs were "Jailhouse Rock," "Teddy Bear" and "All Shook Up." Other top hits that year were "Love Letters in the Sand" by Pat Boone " and "Young Love" by Tab Hunter. "See Ya Later, Alligator" became the most frequently spoken phrase in America after the song by Bill Haley became popular.

Other memorable events that year included the deaths of movie star Humphrey Bogart and anti-communist crusader Senator Joseph McCarthy. The New York Giants relocated to San Francisco and the Brooklyn Dodgers relocated to Los Angeles. The European Common Market was founded, along with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Boris Pasternak published the novel *Dr. Zhivago* and Senator John F. Kennedy was awarded the Pulitzer prize for his book *Profiles in Courage*.



Jim Rusk at work at Hanford early in his career. He is wearing a "Hanford Laboratories Operation" lab coat.

Production-oriented

At Hanford, the K West Reactor had been operating for two years when Rusk arrived in 1957, and the K East Reactor had been running just 20 months. Six other single-pass reactors operated day and night at Hanford, and N Reactor was just an engineering dream. PUREX, the other main facility built by Eisenhower along with the K Reactors, was one year old and was breaking the processing records of all previous separations plants.

Plutonium production, the site's central mission, was climbing rapidly. The 1957 production figures were 57 percent higher than those of 1956. All energies were geared toward

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SNF Project's Jim Rusk celebrates 45 years at Hanford, cont.

expanding production, supporting the production facilities and researching ways to increase the efficiency of production.

Jim Rusk began working at Hanford Jan. 23, 1957, as a messenger for the Irradiation Processing Division (IPD) — the organization that managed fuel-making in the 300 Area and irradiation in all of the site's reactors. In that assignment, he visited all reactor sites twice a day, hand-carrying important communications. He also spent a few months downtown in the IPD Payroll Department, then moved to the 100H Area in the fall of 1957.

In 1959 Rusk went to a four-year assignment, building and evaluating reactor test loops in the now-demolished, historic 189-D Design Test Laboratory. There, he worked on many of the process improvements for the K Reactors, and on studies of the process tubes, nozzles, gaskets, flanges and other working parts of N Reactor and the Hanford single-pass reactors.

Between 1963 and '64, Rusk took time off from work to get an engineering tech degree from Brigham Young University, and returned to Hanford in 1964. He doesn't count that year of school in his total of working years — that's why he now celebrates 45 years at Hanford instead of 46 years.

From 1964 to 1990, Rusk worked in 300 Area engineering technology, supporting fuels and reactor designs and experiments by building reactor capsules that were irradiated in the K East Reactor, writing post-irradiation exam plans for Fast Flux Test Facility fuel assemblies, and working in the hot cells of the 325, 327 and 324 Buildings during the examinations.

After being "loaned" for a two-year assignment to help refurbish the 242-A Evaporator in the 200 East Area in 1990 and '91, he returned to 300 Area experiments. In 1999, he was tapped by the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project Engineering Department to work in the 100K Area. He worked in fuels characterization and facilities engineering. Over the years, Rusk won a number of quality awards and collected a large folder full of commendations and letters of appreciation.

Dan Mildon, Rusk's supervisor in SNF Engineering, commends Jim as a "conscientious, timely and precise worker. His input is always of high quality and his integrity is impeccable. He is respected by all who work with him."

Norm Boyter, Fluor Hanford vice president for the SNF Project, saluted Rusk at an employee celebration last week commemorating his 45 years on site. "Thanks for your many contributions over the years, thanks for your loyalty and dedication to this place and its missions, and please stay with us and continue to give us your expertise," Boyter said.



Snow covers the ground in the 100D Area in the 1950s. The 189-D Laboratory, where Jim Rusk worked, is the large building in the upper right corner of the photo.

Continued on page 9.

SNF Project's Jim Rusk celebrates 45 years at Hanford, cont. 2

Flexibility the secret

How does Rusk see Hanford, and what is the secret to his long career here? According to him, he's an optimist and he's flexible! He says that he likes people and likes coming to work.

When asked how he has coped with all the changes and reorganizations at Hanford over the years, Rusk said he just accepts what he cannot change. "When Hanford reorganizes, it's frustrating," he said. "But I just go along with it and make the best of it. There are good people in every organization."

The aspect of Hanford today that's most different from the Hanford of early years, Rusk observes, is the complexity of the work-control system. While the strict procedures today may be required, he believes they're "ponderous." He's especially pleased by the recent, rapid cleanup progress of the SNF Project.

In the future, Rusk hopes to see a cleaner Hanford opened up to public access and recreation, especially in the rivershore areas. He also wouldn't mind seeing the restart of the FFTF.

Rusk is a graduate of Kiona-Benton High School and a lifelong resident of the area. He has a wife, seven children and 14 grandchildren, and he said his family is really the secret to a happy life. ■

T Plant employee chosen as Waste Management ALARA Employee of the Year

Karen Welsh, Fluor Hanford

For his efforts to heighten his co-workers' awareness of working conditions and safe working habits, Chad Bedingfield, a radiological control technician at T Plant, was chosen as this year's Waste Management "ALARA Employee of the Year."

During a recent Monday-morning T Plant all-hands meeting, Barry Burrow, T Plant's facility manager, along with Jim Van Vliet, vice president of the Waste Management Project, recognized Bedingfield for his contributions to the T Plant ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) programs.

"Chad is a wonderful asset to T Plant," said Burrow. "He has been a driver for developing our work packages, radiation work permits and survey plans, which have all resulted in reduced exposure times and lower overall dosage to workers."

Van Vliet echoed Burrow's comments, stating that practicing ALARA principles is a key part of keeping our workers safe, and that Bedingfield has been a big part of that effort.

Duane Medley, T Plant health physicist, and Dave Andrews, T Plant ALARA chairman, submitted Bedingfield's name for the plant's 2002 ALARA Employee of the Year award. Medley's and Andrews' nomination stated, "Chad's efforts and suggestions for reducing dose at the facility are commendable. During the Operational Readiness Review stages of Shippingport fuel removal, Chad provided much of the ALARA briefing for personnel performing the higher-dose-rate area mock-up training in the tunnel. This briefing provided co-workers supporting fuel-removal operations the information needed to help them reduce their individual doses, as well as assisting workers in coordinating their operations to minimize exposure times."

Also noted on the nomination form was Bedingfield's continued briefings to co-workers throughout the ORR on current radiological conditions and his suggestions for keeping their doses to a minimum once fuel shipments commenced.

Bedingfield has 17 years of experience working in the field of radiological control. When asked his thoughts about winning this award, he said that he was "terribly surprised," but he also said that he was pleased that the Waste Management ALARA committee chose him as this year's recipient of the award.

According to Owen Berglund of Waste Management/Analytical Services, the ALARA company technical authority, there were several worthy nominees this year, resulting in a close vote. "This fact demonstrates the value placed on the ALARA program by the Waste Management facilities and the support provided by the facility management," Berglund said. ■



Jim Van Vliet, vice president of the Waste Management Project, presents Chad Bedingfield, a radiological control technician at T Plant, with the Waste Management ALARA Employee of the Year award.

Hanford 2003 Health and Safety Expo planned for TRAC in May

Although Hanford's Health and Safety Expo is scheduled for May 6-8 at the Trade, Recreation and Agricultural Center in Pasco, now is the time to register your group's booth. Just fill out the form available on the Web at <http://www.hanford.gov/safety/expo>. Mail the completed form to Owen Berglund, mailstop T6-06, or contact Berglund at 376-9035.

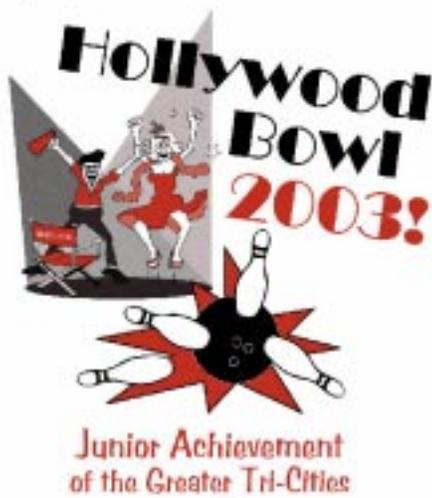
In addition to the popular vehicle accident demonstration, Expo will feature a bike rodeo and bike inspections by Richland Schwinn. Contact Al Hill at 372-8963 for more information on the bike rodeo.

Other exhibits and demonstrations will feature health and safety ideas for the home or showcase outstanding safety practices or accomplishments at Hanford facilities. Registered exhibits cover the following topics: stress-relief options, blood-pressure testing, respiratory testing, ergonomics, back-injury prevention, the Integrated Environment, Safety and Health Management System and the Voluntary Protection Program.

Opening ceremonies for Expo 2003 will include the presentation of the U.S. flag positioned between two aerial fire trucks at the entrance to the TRAC, a color guard and performances by local high-school choirs. Watch for Expo 2003's schedule of events in upcoming articles in the *Hanford Reach*.

The second annual Expo golf tournament will be held Saturday, May 3, at Columbia Point Golf Course. The format is a four-person scrambler with a shotgun start at 11 a.m. If you or your team would like to sign up, contact Thom Hogg at 376-9005. ■

JA's 'Hollywood Bowl' fund-raiser features fun and prizes



Mark your calendar for Feb. 27 and 28 and March 1 because you won't want to miss Junior Achievement's Hollywood Bowl 2003 Bowling Classic and Silent Auction. The event will feature trivia and costume contests, drawings, prizes, a silent auction, bowling and fun. Come dressed as your favorite Hollywood star, or just come as you are. Either way, JA promises you'll have a great time.

This year's silent auction includes exotic tropical vacations, five-day and weekend get-aways, Sonics tickets, golf packages, wine baskets, dinners at the Outback Steakhouse and much more. For further details on the auction times and specific items offered (which will be different for each bowling shift), please call the JA offices at 783-7222. VISA and MasterCard are accepted as payment for auction items.

"The proceeds from last year's event allowed Junior Achievement to serve nearly 7,000 local students, inspiring them to value their education, learn about the world of work and prepare to succeed. Hanford-area teams have been leading fund-raisers for this event the last few years," said event co-chairman John Umbarger of Fluor Hanford. "We have every intention of maintaining this fine tradition of service to our schools and community."

"This event continues to grow every year because everyone has such a great time," said Deb Bowen, executive director for Junior Achievement of the Greater Tri-Cities. "Best of all, every dollar raised helps one more student prepare for his or her future and the world of work."

If you would like to participate in Hollywood Bowl 2003, contact your company coordinator: Fluor Hanford, Karen Welsh at 376-2151; CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Rich Reisinger at 372-2067; Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Rita Pool at 375-2801; COGEMA Engineering, Marty Talbot at 376-3257; Bechtel Hanford, Joan Kessner at 375-4688; Duratek, Angie Kent at 376-0804; Eberline Services Hanford, Karen Whitten at 372-9246; Fluor Federal Services, Joy Davis at 373-0839; Hanford Environmental Health Foundation, Jan McKee at 372-2086; Lockheed Martin Information Technology, Peter Turping at 376-6181. ■

Beryllium resource center coming to the site

During the Cold War, thousands of workers were employed in the nation's atomic weapons programs. The work was dangerous, and many workers may have been exposed to radioactive and toxic substances.

Recognizing that workers at these facilities may be suffering from illnesses caused by their work, Congress passed the *Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act* to compensate persons who have become ill as a result of work at atomic weapons facilities. The law became effective July 31, 2001.

Under this law, Hanford workers or their survivors may be eligible for \$150,000 if the worker suffered a radiation-related cancer or chronic beryllium disease. If the worker is still living, he or she is also entitled to medical coverage related to the covered disease. Workers who have tested positive for beryllium sensitivity are not entitled to the \$150,000, but are entitled to ongoing testing.

In addition, workers who suffer from illnesses caused by exposure to other toxic substances may be eligible to file with the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Worker Advocacy to have their files evaluated by a physicians' panel. The panel will determine whether it's as likely as not that the worker's illness was caused by workplace exposures. If so, the worker would be entitled to assistance with filing a claim for state workers' compensation benefits.

Resource centers were established around the country to assist potential claimants with the filing of claims. One such resource center is at 1029 N. Kellogg Street in Kennewick.

Beginning Jan. 22, a caseworker from the Kennewick office will be on site each Wednesday to assist and inform current Hanford workers. The caseworker will be in room 4 of the Learning Resource Center at the Volpen-test HAMMER Training and Education Center. Appointments may be scheduled between 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. every Wednesday.

For further information, or to schedule an appointment, call 783-1500. ■

Take Security Ed's Challenge:

Cell-phone users:

What number do you call for Hanford security and emergency services?

Do you know the preferred* number to contact Project Hanford security and emergency services when using a personal cellular telephone?

- A. 376-1820
- B. 376-1234
- C. 911
- D. 373-3800



Do you know the answer? Circle the preferred phone number to call for Project Hanford security and emergency services when using a cellular telephone and then clip this article, add your name and HID number, and send to Chet Braswell at L4-09. Or send him e-mail and in the subject line include "Ed's Cell Call Challenge" and your answer.

Prizes will be awarded to randomly drawn correct entries. The names of prizewinners and the correct answer(s) will appear in a future *Hanford Reach* article soon. For additional information on security please contact your Security Representative or visit the SAS Intranet links at <http://apweb02.rl.gov/phmc/phmcweb/index.cfm?PageNum=37>.

*PNNL uses the single point of contact number of 375-2400 for emergencies and event reporting.

Regular Features



LETTERS

Employees are invited to write letters of general interest on work-related topics. Anonymous letters will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit letters or not to accept letters for publication. Send your letters to the *Reach*, B3-30, or to *Hanford Reach on e-mail. Letters are limited to 300 words, and must include your name, company, work group and location. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not of DOE-RL, ORP or their contractors.

Thank you

While we at the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project are celebrating our successes with the fuel transfer system and our recent “957” milestone, it seems we have forgotten to thank an important group of individuals. Without the diligent and high-quality work of these people, the plant systems and modifications that we rely on for our achievements would still be little more than nice ideas. This is an error of omission.

For my part, I would like to partially fill the gap by saying “thank you” to the laborers, craftsmen, quality-control specialists, safety representatives and superintendents of Fluor Federal Services for their hard work and attention to detail throughout the construction and installation of these systems. Thank you. We couldn’t have done it without you.

Ray Meyers
Fluor Hanford

Editors’ note: Michele Gerber of Fluor Hanford Spent Nuclear Fuel Project Communications said, “The SNF Project wishes to thank all persons who supported the project’s milestone with support services, site-wide services and other efforts. The contributions of many outside the project are appreciated.”

A positive note

Your article “Three lifesavers honored at December PZAC meeting,” *Hanford Reach*, Jan. 13, was good. It was nice to see something positive. Perhaps you could continue printing these types of notices.

Denise Campos
Bechtel Hanford

PPO administrator changes not communicated

I read with dismay the response by Dom Sansotta of the Hanford Employee Welfare Trust to Jinny Howser’s con-

cerns (“Healthcare in question under new insurance,” *Hanford Reach*, Jan. 13) about the change in the medical administrator of the preferred provider option, or PPO, from CIGNA to United Healthcare. The benefits communication to employees on Dec. 20 very clearly states, “The provisions of your medical plans are not changing. Only the claims administrator is changing from CIGNA to United Healthcare.”

What this and other communications failed to note was that the provider network under United Healthcare is greatly reduced from before. For example, of all the orthopedic practices in Richland, only one physician is in the network.

A reply to Jinny along the lines of, we only said the provisions would stay the same, not the providers, is a poor excuse. That’s like saying shame on each of the employees for not researching who all the providers would be, when there was no indication there would be any changes.

I find no comfort in the fact that United Healthcare is now working really hard to sign up additional providers. These changes were so significant to the employees and yet so poorly communicated. Surely the HEWT representatives must have researched this before signing up United Healthcare. And for all this the cost to the employee went up nearly 50 percent from before. Next we’ll be told that under the Options PPO plan we’re not limited to which physician we see; except now the cost of that visit has gone up greatly.

Here are some related issues: Where are the Summary Plan Description booklets that were to be mailed to the employees as stated in the earlier communications? Also, many of the employees probably don’t realize that CIGNA is still their dental insurer, another point that needs to be communicated.

Steve Lowe
Fluor Hanford

Editors’ note: In recent weeks, the *Hanford Reach* has received several letters similar to Lowe’s. In the interests of space, we will forward letters on this subject directly to Fluor Hanford Human Resources. HR will then determine how best to respond to questions — either by directly contacting the sender or providing additional information in the *Reach* or via a General Delivery Message.

In response to Lowe’s question, the Summary Plan Description booklets are to be mailed soon, according to Dom Sansotta, chairman of the Hanford Employee Welfare Trust. In the meantime, the Summary Plan Description for the United Healthcare Options PPO is available at <http://www.hanford.gov/hr/bennies.pdf>, or you can find

Letters continued on next page.

Regular Features

this and other Summary Plan Descriptions at <http://www.rl.gov/hr/bnspd.htm>.

In his response to a previous letter ("Letters," *Hanford Reach*, Jan. 13) Sansotta wrote, "Even if CIGNA had remained the PPO administrator, the PPO network would have changed over time as new providers join and current providers leave the network." It appears to us that members of the HEWT are trying hard to balance employee needs with health-care costs, and that United Healthcare is doing its best to carry out the wishes of the HEWT. ♦



Smoking cessation classes begin today

The Hanford Environmental Health Foundation and Fluor Hanford are sponsoring a free, four-class series on smoking cessation to be held Jan. 20, 23, 27 and 30 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the Federal Building in Richland. The classes are for Hanford Site employees with Department of Energy security badges. To register, call HEHF Health Education Services at 373-3729 or send an e-mail message to *HEHF Health Education Services. For more information, call Carol Powe of Fluor Hanford at 376-8886 or Judi Staley of HEHF at 372-0097.

PROTRAIN offers the following software classes:

- **Network Defense and Countermeasures** — March 17-21
- **Primavera Project Planning**
 - P-3 601 — Jan. 20-22
 - P-3 602 — Jan. 23
 - P-3 603 — Jan. 24
 - P-3 604 — March 19
- **Microsoft Project 2000** (Only \$199 per day)
 - Level 1 — Jan. 27
 - Level 2 — Jan. 28
- **Crystal Reports 8**
 - Introduction — Feb. 5; March 10
 - Advanced — Feb. 6; March 11

- **Microsoft Access 2000**, Level 3 — Jan. 24

Office XP classes are now available. For more information or to register, call 375-0414.

Speech and presentation class offered Jan. 28-29

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory will offer the two-day class "Say what? How to Deliver Effective Speeches and Presentations," presented by Pam Novak, Cheryl Spears, Mary Frances Lembo and Michaela Mann on Jan. 28-29 at the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory Auditorium. The class will show you how to equip yourself with the skills to simultaneously be in command of yourself, in touch with your audience, on top of your material and in sync with your visual and verbal aids. Register early, the class size is limited to 20 participants. The cost is \$425. For more information and future course dates, visit <http://workshops.pnl.gov/> or contact Mary Wagner at 372-4259 or at mary.wagner@pnl.gov. To register, contact Cory Rhoads at 376-7157 or at cory.rhoads@pnl.gov.

Counterintelligence seminars offered by PNNL

On Jan. 28 and 29, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Office of Counterintelligence will present mini-seminars sponsored by the Department of Energy Headquarters Office of Counterintelligence. These counterintelligence seminars are available to all employees. Space is limited and will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Security clearances are not required for these seminars. All of the following classes will be held in room 1077 of the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory:

- **Counterintelligence for Managers (CNA110)** — Tuesday, Jan. 28, 9-11 a.m. The audience for this seminar includes managers and supervisors.

Classes continued on next page.

Regular Features



C L A S S E S continued

- **The Foreign Intelligence Threat (CNA150)** — Tuesday, Jan. 28, 1-5 p.m. The audience for this seminar includes scientists and engineers traveling to sensitive countries or hosting foreign visitors, and counterintelligence and security professionals.
- **Espionage Recruitment and Human Vulnerabilities (CNA153)** — Wednesday, Jan. 29, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. The audience for this seminar includes all cleared and uncleared DOE employees and contractors for whom counterintelligence awareness is a requirement.
- **The Technical Collection Threat to Travelers (CNA154)** — Wednesday, Jan. 29, 1-5 p.m. The audience for this seminar includes DOE personnel who have ongoing or frequent contact with foreign nationals, particularly those from sensitive countries.

For more information, contact Jack Slicks, senior counterintelligence officer in the PNNL Office of Counterintelligence, at 372-6822, or Cheryl Barthuly, counterintelligence administrator, at 372-6014. Make your reservation by calling Cheryl Barthuly or sending an e-mail message to Cheryl.Barthuly@pnl.gov no later than Jan. 23.

Boating Safely class offered Feb. 1

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will present its Boating Safely class on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Richland Police Department at 871 George Washington Way. The cost is \$20 per person and the cost for extra family members is \$10 each. Call 948-3162 to register.

OSHA Recordkeeping course scheduled Feb. 3

On Feb. 3, the OSHA Training Institute, Region 10, will conduct two sessions of a four-hour course on OSHA Recordkeeping. Students who complete this course will be able to identify the OSHA require-

ments for recordkeeping, posting and reporting and to complete the new OSHA forms 300, 300A and 301. The course will be held at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. The cost is \$75 and students earn 0.4 continuing education units for professional development. To register, contact the University of Washington, OSHA Region 10 Training, at: <http://depts.washington.edu/ehce/>. Click on the OSHA Region 10 Training Registration button and enter OSHA Recordkeeping Rule (Course No. 845). ♦



C A L E N D A R

CBC ceremony honors Martin Luther King today

Fluor Hanford Managing General Counsel Jennifer Curtis will be the keynote speaker for the 12th annual “bell-ringing ceremony” in honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at noon today, Jan. 20, at Columbia Basin College in Pasco. The event will begin with a “peace march” sponsored by RYSC-AmeriCorps starting at 10:45 a.m. at Robert Frost Elementary School and proceeding up 20th Avenue to the CBC campus. The bell-ringing ceremony will include presentation of the Martin Luther King Spirit Award to Dallas and Lozie Barnes. A reception will follow in the Hawk Union Building.

Library demonstrations Jan. 21 and 23

This week the staff of the Hanford Technical Library will present two demonstrations. On Tuesday, Jan. 21, from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Frankfurt Room of the Research Office Building on the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory campus, the library staff will show you how to use the library’s electronic services to find the information you need when you need it — all without leaving the office. For more information about this demonstration, contact Yung Harbison at 372-7453 or at yung.harbison@pnl.gov.

On Thursday, Jan. 23, from 12 to 1 p.m. in Room

Calendar continued on next page.



Regular Features

CALENDAR continued

101R of the Consolidated Information Center on the Washington State University campus in Richland, the library staff will take you on a guided tour of a variety of databases that specialize in technical reports. Learn how to find reports from PNNL, the Hanford Site or other Department of Energy contractors. For more information about this demonstration, contact Nancy Doran at 372-7434 or at nancy.doran@pnl.gov.

Donate blood in January

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive on Jan. 28 at the Lockheed Martin Information Technology office at 2261 Stevens Dr. The Bloodmobile will be parked outside the building. To schedule an appointment, contact Kelly Layfield at 376-6785.

Public meeting Jan. 29 to discuss 'state of Hanford'

A public meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 29 at the Benton PUD auditorium in Kennewick will feature Washington State Department of Ecology director Tom Fitzsimmons, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 administrator Mike Gearheard, Department of Energy Richland Operations manager Keith Klein, and DOE Office of River Protection manager Roy Schepens to discuss the state of the Hanford Site. Agency officials, public-interest groups, Hanford Advisory Board representatives and the public will discuss cleanup goals and challenges for the upcoming year. For more information and the dates of other regional meetings, call the toll-free Hanford Hotline at (800) 321-2008 or visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/SOSpg.htm>.

Project of the Year entries due Feb. 1

The Columbia River Basin Chapter of the Project Management Institute invites regional organizations to prepare and submit nomination proposals for candidate projects to enter into the 2003 Project of the Year Award competition. Projects of any size, industry type and location are encouraged and eligible to participate. PMI affiliation is not necessary. The project must be essentially complete at the

time of nomination and accepted as complete by the owner or client before the award is given. There can be no restrictions on the use of the submitted information after the final date of submission. The winner of the Columbia River Basin regional competition will advance to the semi-final competition from which three candidates will compete for the Project Management Institute's Project of the Year Award. Entries are due Feb. 1. Specific criteria and general guidelines for the Project of the Year competition can be found at <http://www.crb-pmi.org>.

Valentine's event benefits AAAS

The third annual Valentine Sweetheart Dinner and Dance will be held Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Red Lion Hotel in Richland. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Afro-Americans for an Academic Society, an advocate for children's academic achievement since 1976. The event will raise funds for special projects, student activities and scholarships. The social time begins at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7. Da Blues Funk Party band will provide entertainment. The event also features romantic gifts, door prizes and dancing until midnight. Tickets are \$45 per person and may be purchased at the Bon Marché gift-wrapping department or at Fantastic Sam's. For more information, call Vanessa Moore at 376-8141 or Debra Wright at 373-7004.

Order doughnuts for JA fund-raiser til Feb. 10

The Fluor Hanford Community Programs Junior Achievement bowling team is accepting orders for Krispy Kreme doughnuts until noon Monday, Feb. 10. The fund-raiser will support Junior Achievement. The price is \$6.50 per dozen. You may get an order form by contacting Lynn Tegeler at 376-4625 or at lynn_e_tegeler@rl.gov, or at ^Community Programs. Send your completed order form and your check payable to "Junior Achievement/Krispy Kreme Fund-Raiser" to Lynn Tegeler, c/o Fluor Hanford, MSIN H8-65, P.O. Box 1000, Richland, WA 99352. Pick up your order between 6 and 8 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13, in the lobby of 2420 Stevens Center. ♦

Features continued on next page.

Regular Features

NEWS BRIEFS



PTB transfers approved for Gunkel-Knight and Robledo

Teodoro Robledo, a CH2M HILL truck driver at Single-Shell Tank Paint, Insulation and Support in the 200 West Area, and Doreen Gunkel-Knight, a Fluor Hanford radiological control technician in the Central Plateau Remediation project, have been approved to receive personal-time-bank-transferred vacation hours. Robledo's daughter has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, a cancer of the lymph system. Robledo will need time away from work during the next few months to assist with her care. Gunkel-Knight's son was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor and is expected to receive treatment in Seattle.

CH2M HILL employees who would like to transfer PTB hours to Robledo, and Fluor Project Hanford team employees who wish to transfer PTB hours to Gunkel-Knight, can do so by completing a PTB/Vacation Transfer Request form (Site Form A-6002-807). For PTB transfers to Robledo, send the form to Carolyn Howard at R2-57. For PTB transfers to Gunkel-Knight, send the form to Don Buechler at S2-43. Time should be transferred in one-hour increments. ♦



Employee Activities

H.E.R.O.

GENERAL INFO & ACTIVITIES

2002 HERO CHRISTMAS PARTY — 250 people enjoyed good food, an excellent band, "Men in the Making" (the dance floor was full) and 70 door prizes. A great big thank-you to Fluor Hanford for giving HERO extra money to pay for the band. Make plans to attend next year, we will have the same great band and more door prizes.

MAIL YOUR TICKET REQUESTS TO THE APPROPRIATE LISTED TICKET SELLER — It saves the ticket sellers' time and your tickets will be sent to you the same day. Do not combine the charge for tickets to two different events on the same check. If you do, it will be returned.

HRA DISCOUNTS — We are in the process of renewing discounts from 2002 and adding new ones for 2003. Log on to <http://apweb02.rl.gov/hrd/> to find the new discount updates.

HERO POLICY FOR NSF CHECKS — Associated non-sufficient fund bank fees will be passed on to check issuers. HERO will not absorb the cost.

TRI-CITY AMERICANS HOCKEY TICKETS — \$10 for adults, \$7 for students with ASB cards, children ages 3 to 12 and adults 62 and over. Send checks made payable to HERO to Linda Meigs (H3-12) or Tricia Poland (T5-04).

POSITIONS ON THE HERO BOARD — The following positions on the HERO Board are vacant: 100 Area representative, 200E Area representative, Richland area representative and publicity chairman. If you would like to apply and have your manager's consent, please send an e-mail message to Phyllis Roha.

DISCOUNTED MOVIE TICKETS — Limit now 10 per purchase. Carmike tickets are \$5 each with restrictions applying only to Sony DDS movies. Regal tickets are \$5.50 each and applicable restrictions are identified in the *Tri-City Herald* with a star. Yakima Mercy tickets are \$5 each with no restrictions. Regal and Carmike tickets are valid in Seattle and Spokane as well as the Tri-Cities. For Regal or Carmike tickets, send checks (no cash) made payable to HERO to Linda Meigs (H3-12), Linda Sheehan (T4-40), Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Michelle Brown-Palmore (A7-51), Ginny Wallace (S7-03) or Patti Boothe (T6-04). Sunnyside Movie Theater is now offering tickets for two admissions for one show, for \$9.50 with no show restrictions. These tickets are also good for Ellensburg and Walla Walla. For Yakima Mercy or Sunnyside tickets, send checks (no cash) to Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Jim Hopfinger (S7-39) or Tricia Poland (T5-04).

UPCOMING TRIPS

• **Canadian Rockies Train Tour** — May 9-17. The price is \$2,199 pp including round-trip airfare from Pasco. Price includes 14 meals, tours, transfers and taxes. A \$100 deposit is due as soon as possible, with the balance due March 10. Fly to Vancouver, British Columbia, and explore the beautiful Canadian Rockies by train. Visit Kamloops, Jasper, Ice Fields Parkway, Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary. Visit <http://apweb02.rl.gov/hero/activities.cfm> for more information or contact Phyllis Roha at 376-6413 or by e-mail.

• **New Orleans Getaway** — May 19-23. \$1,099 ppdo includes airfare, lodging and six meals during this five-day getaway to the "Jazz Capital of the World." A deposit of \$160 per person will reserve your spot, with final payment due March 20. Contact Linda Meigs for details.

H.E.R.O. continued on next page.

Regular Features



**Employee
Activities**

H.E.R.O.

continued

• **French Riviera** — Oct. 6-15. The price is \$2,284 pp for twin, \$2,254 pp for triple and \$2,584 for single. A deposit of \$430 is due March 21 to hold your space, and the balance is due July 23. Credit cards are accepted. Tour the French Riviera, Italian Riviera, Monaco, St. Tropez, Cannes, Grasse and Nice. We will fly round-trip from Pasco. We only have to unpack once as we will be staying in Nice and taking day trips to all the other exciting places. There will be free time also to do your own exploring. Included are seven breakfasts and five dinners. Start saving now for an exciting adventure. E-mail Nancie Simon or call 373-2587 for more information.

• **Disney World/Disney Cruise** — Oct. 19-26. The price ranges from \$1,302 to \$1,852 ppdo, depending on the type of room you want. The price includes round-trip airfare from Pasco, four days in Walt Disney World with entrance into all the parks, a three-day cruise to the Bahamas and Castaway Cay (Disney's private island), taxes and transfers. Don't wait to send in a \$250 per person deposit to hold your spot. Contact Jim Hopfinger for more information.

• **Reflections of Italy** — Departure date is Nov. 3. \$2,782 ppdo includes airfare, lodging and 13 meals during this 10-day journey to Italy, beginning in Rome, "the Eternal City." A deposit of \$430 per person will reserve your spot, with final payment due Sept. 4. Contact Linda Meigs for details.

• **Switzerland** — Nov. 3-11. The price is \$1,879 pp including round-trip airfare from Pasco. Price includes 11 meals, tours, transfers and taxes. A \$250 deposit is due May 3 and the balance is due Sept. 4. The medieval city of Bern is our host city. Highlights of the tour include the Swiss Parliament, the famous Bear Pit, the Rose Gardens, Lake Geneva and the medieval Castle of Chillon. Enjoy breathtaking Alpine views with a ride on the Panoramic Express Train to Gstaad. Then on to Interlaken, Grindewald, Zurich, Burgdorf Castle, Lucerne and an optional tour to Germany and the mystical Black Forest. Visit <http://apweb02.rl.gov/hero/activities.cfm> or contact Phyllis Roha at 376-6413 or by e-mail for more information. ♦



VANPOOLS

Vanpool ads are run for two weeks. Ads must be resubmitted to run in subsequent issues of the Hanford Reach. The deadline for submission is Thursday, 10 days prior to publication.

Day and Zimmermann Protection Technology Hanford reminds employees to wear their badges. Vanpool and carpool drivers are responsible

for ensuring their passengers are badged. If a passenger forgets his or her security badge, access is denied at the barricade. The individual is required to go to a badging station for a temporary badge or go home to retrieve the badge. For more information visit the Safeguards and Security Web page at <http://apweb02.rl.gov/phmc/sas>.

KENNEWICK

Van No. 123 to 200E, needs riders, 8x9s shift. Safe, dependable and friendly. Current stops are 10th and Washington, Huntington Transit Station, Federal Building, 2101-M, B-Plant, 2704-HV and 2701-HV. Call **Eric** at 373-4497 or 735-6755 (home). 1/20

PASCO

Van No. 213 out of Pasco needs two backup drivers. Leaves Desert Ice, across from the Broadmoor Park Mall off Road 100, at 6:10 a.m. Drops off at 2750-E and ends at 2704-HV (or any place along the way). Fare reduction for days that you drive. Arrives back at Desert Ice at approximately 5:20 p.m. E-mail **Douglas Bailey** at douglas_m_bailey@rl.gov. 1/13

PROSSER

I would like to join a Vanpool from Prosser to 200E. Call **Harry Moomey** at 376-3266 (work) or (509) 786-4455 (home). 1/13

RICHLAND

8x9 vanpool to 200E needs a rider. Rate as low as \$33.50 per month. Leaves former Hanford bus lot (across from 2440 Stevens) at 6:25 a.m. and drops off at 2750-E and MO-276 (behind 2750-E). Arrives at bus lot at 5 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and at 4 on Fridays worked. Contact **Dave Hedengren** at 373-5094. 1/20

Vanpool No. 114 has immediate openings for two riders. Vanpool stops at PFP exclusively. Vanpool begins at 1211 Birch in Richland at approximately 6:10 a.m. and picks up along Wright Avenue with the final pickup point at Desert Rock Fellowship on Jadwin. If interested, contact **Gary Anderson** at 373-1304 or **John Faulkner** at 373-2286. 1/20

Vanpool No. 182 is seeking riders, 8x9s, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Leaves the Stevens Drive bus lot (Next to Hertz Equipment Rental) at 6:15 a.m. Drops off at 2750 at 6:40 a.m., and then 2704-HV. Arrives back at 2440 Stevens at 5:05 p.m. Contact **David Braun** at 376-6510 or **Bill Cowles** at 376-4725. 1/20

Vanpools continued on next page.

Regular Features



VANPOOLS cont.

Van No. 117 has openings for 8x9 riders within 200W Area. Departs 6 a.m. and returns about 5:10 p.m. on Mondays-Thursdays and 4:10 on Fridays just north of Densow's Drugstore (1019 Wright in Richland). Drops off and picks up riders at ERDF trailers, Fab Shop, MO-278, MO-556, 272-WA, and MO-437. E-mail or call **Gary Bush** at 372-2531, (MO-437). 1/13

Seeking rider for vanpool from Richland Wye to 200W. Low fare, comfortable ride, 8x9 shift. Start anytime. Call **Fred Sargent** at 373-2106. 1/13

YAKIMA

Yakima Transit-sponsored Vanpool No. 3156 from Yakima to the 400 and 300 Areas and Richland seeks additional riders. Departs 5 days a week from the Park 'n Ride lot (near the Target Store) in West Yakima at 5:35 a.m. Picks up at East Valley Market (in Moxee), along the beginning of State Highway 24 by 5:45. The driving route continues east along SH-24 to the Hanford Site. Drops off at locations in the 400 and 300 Areas, ending at the Federal Building. Picks up 300 Area riders at 4 p.m. and arrives back in Yakima around 5:30. Contact **Jesse Allen** at (509) 528-0614 or **Doug Chapin** at 373-9396. 1/20.

WEST RICHLAND

Vanpool to 200E, 8x9, is looking for two riders. Leaves Flat Top Park at 6:10 a.m. with drops at 2750, WESF and 2727-E. Contact **Glenn** at 372-0054 or **Curt** at 373-7935. 1/20 ♦

Answers to MLK Day quiz, page 6

1. (c) 1968.

He was killed in Memphis, where he had gone to support a strike by sanitation workers.

2. (c) On a bus in Montgomery.

Her arrest led to a year-long boycott of the segregated bus system.

3. (b) Lyndon B. Johnson.

He signed the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* on July 2 of that year.

4. (d) Ronald Reagan.

It was in November 1983, more than 15 years after King was killed.

5. (a) *Stride Toward Freedom*.

He was only 29 years old when it was published.

6. (a) At a Woolworth's counter in Greensboro.

The 1960 protest was one of the key moments in the civil-rights movement.

7. (c) At the Lincoln Memorial.

He addressed a quarter of a million people who marched on Washington in 1963.

8. (b) Mohandas Gandhi.

King admired Gandhi greatly, and traveled to India in 1959.

9. (d) 1986.

The first legislation for the holiday had been proposed almost 18 years earlier.

10.(c) Medgar Evers.

The NAACP leader was murdered June 12, 1963.

11.(b) For driving too fast (30 in a 25-mph zone).

His house was bombed that same year.