

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

7/8/08

(Standup Week 165)

Tuesday, 6pm–7pm

Why are we in Iraq?

Not because of weapons of mass destruction.

Not because Iraq was involved in 9/11.

Not because Iraq was a threat to our national security.

What have we gotten?

US military dead: 4,113 US military wounded: 30,333

Iraqi civilians killed: 93,154* Money spent on war: \$542 billion

Who are we?

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War has pledged to “Stand Up” until the war ends and the troops come home safely.

Every Tuesday evening at 6 pm (rain or shine), **Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War** assembles on the northwest corner of 8th Avenue and 24th Street to facilitate “**Chelsea Stands Up Against the War,**” a community protest against the war in Iraq.

We carry banners, signs, and candles as we gather for one hour each week to protest the war in Iraq. We distribute this newsletter, peace buttons, collect signatures on petitions and speak with our neighbors about the need to end war in Iraq. The **Stand Up** make a dramatic statement to passing vehicular traffic on 8th avenue.

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War is an all-volunteer organization that wants to build the broadest possible neighborhood consensus. With that goal in mind, the organization is open to all and functions by consensus.

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War is not formally affiliated with any other organization but is willing to work with all groups and individuals who are committed to ending this illegal and immoral war fought by our fellow citizens, paid for with our tax dollars, and prosecuted in our name.

*The recent Johns Hopkins/Lancet report places the figure at 655,000+



Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War

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George Carlin, Rest in Peace

By Bob Martin and Kate Abell

It would not be fitting to let George Carlin's death pass without a tribute on this page. To many, Carlin was the funniest, most biting, anti-authoritarian social critic of his age.

Carlin spun one-liners exposing presidents from Nixon through George W. Bush. One of his most famous quips, “Fighting for peace is like screwing for virginity,” pretty much sums up the excuses for U.S. wars from Vietnam to Iraq and several interventions in between.

You didn't see Carlin standing at the front of marches against the war in Iraq. Yet he undoubtedly hated this war as he hated others.

In reading through various accounts of Carlin's life, we discovered that he did not like the phrase “post-traumatic stress disorder.” He once said, ‘I don't like words that hide the truth. I don't like words that conceal reality.’ He went on to say that “shell shock” in WWI had become “battle fatigue” in WWII, then “operational exhaustion” in Korea, and finally today's “post-traumatic stress disorder.” “The pain,” he said, “is completely buried under the jargon. I'll bet if we'd still been calling it shell shock, some of those Vietnam veterans might have gotten the attention they needed.”

Carlin had little faith in politicians. Coincidentally, the last presidential election he voted in—for McGovern in 1972—was our first. We do sort of part company there. We believe it's crucial to support Barack Obama to wrench the course of history out of the hands of today's madmen. But George Carlin, your voice is in our heads and in our hearts!



Photo by Gary Scholchet