

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Event: Portland Peaceful Response Coalition reads the names of the dead in Iraq, stands with the Parry Center workers in labor action.

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Date: Friday, August 20th, 2004

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Places: #1: Friday Rally & March: 5:00 p.m.

Pioneer Courthouse Square

#2: Parry Center Labor Solidarity Action

3415 SE Powell Blvd. - Tri Met #9

Portland Peaceful Response Coalition reads the names of the dead in Iraq, stands with the Parry Center workers in solidarity labor action.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's* Friday rally will once again read the names of US soldiers and Iraqis who have been killed in the US war and occupation of Iraq. "Today we read that a young man, twenty years old, from Boise, Idaho, is the latest American soldier to be named by the US military as a casualty in Iraq," said William Seaman, a volunteer with the PPRC. "Along with 945 of his fellow soldiers, Brandon T. Titus has died in this war." The Friday rally and march turns once again to remember and mark the costs of war and occupation.

Across town at the Parry Center, the regular Friday marchers will also be joining a labor solidarity action to support workers who face a three-year wage freeze and the loss of job security. The staff of the Parry Center work with emotionally disturbed children, providing urgently needed services under often stressful and difficult working conditions. Yet the management is stonewalling contract negotiations and is demanding an extension on a wage freeze already in place for a year and an end to union job security. Workers at the Center, who the Center requires to have a B.A. degree, earn between \$8.86 and \$9.28 per hour.

"Until we have an economy that provides living-wage jobs for all members of our community, the real "back door draft" in this country will be the poverty draft, the cruel choice that so many young people make of joining the military because they can't afford college and can't find a decent job with decent wages," said Seaman. "This is the war we should be waging in this country, the war on poverty, the war on injustice, the war on inequality, the war against economic injustice and corporate corruptions that have so degraded our country."