

The trustees of Lansing Community College may join City Council in approving an antiwar resolution. Trustees will consider one next week at a work session.

To expand their efforts, several Michigan peace groups, including GLNAWI, have recently formed a statewide network, called the Michigan Network for Peace and Against War in Iraq. Michigan activists presented their antiwar agenda for the next four weeks at a Capitol press conference on Feb. 21, announcing "massive efforts" to ask U.S. representatives and senators to repeal the October 2002 authorization to go to war. They called for antiwar rallies on Saturday, March 1, in each of Michigan's 83 counties. They also plan to organize pro peace rallies in 200 local towns, schools, colleges, and union halls on March 15, followed by a statewide rally that same afternoon at the State Capitol.

GLNAWI co-organizer Mike Doyle, says he thinks that this war can still be stopped. A retired Army lieutenant colonel, Doyle said he doesn't believe Secretary of State Colin Powell (whom he knew as a captain when they served together at Fort Benning, Ga.) or any of his former military comrades really support the war against Iraq. "It's archaic - we punish the Iraqis to the point where they're in dire straits. It's like being an alcoholic and recovering. How far down do you have to go before you start to come back?"

Doyle said the U.S. government should rather spend money to support the recovery of education, science and industry in an already destroyed country. When I asked him if he thought American soldiers might desert in order to avoid participating in unjustified death intervention, Doyle said that in this respect he saw parallels with discussions currently underway in the Israeli army, where an increasing number of soldiers are deserting. "I know of high ranking officers deserting, because they say they were hired to control the enemies of this country, not to shoot up homes."

Another unusual Michigan antiwar activist, Mark Powell, a Republican delegate from Grand Ledge, said the war in Iraq was immoral. "President's Bush's dismissal of worldwide concerns in order to support his current policies reminds me of a quote from Albert Camus, 'To justify himself, each relies on the other's crime.' America can do better." Powell said he knew several Republican colleagues in the House for Representatives who were questioning Bush's foreign policy. "But they don't feel that they can say this publicly, for fear of their political futures." Powell said this might change with more Republicans like him standing up to articulate concerns. "When the history books are written 50 years from now, I want them to say that Mark Powell stood up at the time when America needed him the most."

Care to respond? Send letters to letters@lansingcitypulse.com. View our Letters policy.

Lansing City Pulse (MI)

Date: February 26, 2003

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