

## "We are in untested waters..."

id in 1982 by John Harrington, Harrington Investment Inc. is a registered investment advisor managing assets for institutional and individual investors concerned about social, as well as financial, return.

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en years of U.S. economic expansion have been followed by a one-year recession, last April, as well as 2 1/2 of a bear market. Since the the bull market, the S&P is plunged over 43% and VSDAQ is off over 73%. quarter ending September 02 left us with S&P 500 lows we haven't seen

ay 1997. The average dividend or the S&P 500 is 1.9%, money market rates stand at 1.3%. A five-year treasury yield around 2.7%, the rate of inflation based past 12 months is 1.8%. We are in untested waters. ed has implied a bias I yet another interest rate r this year, which theoretically help to improve the

economy. But with rates already at a historic forty year low, will this even help? There is an increasingly vocal contingent positing that the Fed's influence on monetary policy is waning; that in a global electronic age there are far more powerful forces at play. Would you believe they could be global corporate investment banks and currency speculators?

Inflation, for the moment, appears benign. But where will the saber rattling in Washington lead? Will Bush pursue an invasion of Iraq - at an estimated cost to US taxpayers of \$50 to \$100 billion - or will cooler heads prevail? What happens to the rate of inflation if we finance a war? Destabilize the Middle East? Kill thousands of innocent men, women and children and bring even more terrorism into the equation?

Do we have a Pitt-bull in the SEC who will pursue and punish corporate titans who lie and steal? Or is the SEC just another Washington pit under the leadership of Harvey Pitt - who in a previous life was an influential lobbyist looking out for the interest of the accounting firms, many involved in helping corporate CFOs cook the books.

As alluded to previously, inflation is benign. Unemployment is not out of control. Corporate profit restatements have rattled investors, but if this comes as a response to pressure from both regulators and stakeholders to finally tell the truth, it's about time. Consumers are spending selectively (homes and autos) and, surprise of all surprises:

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## The Fund for Idaho

FEX network folks have conversations with a new progressive fund in Idaho. The for Idaho was initiated last through efforts of a progressive coalition in Idaho: United for Idaho. From the beginning local organizers wanted to on the model of donor and collaboration and community control pioneered by the FEX network. Ron Hanft followed up some initial conversations by hooking up Idaho folks, Jim n (ED of UVI) and Monica Hopkins f The Fund for Idaho), with Susan ers (ED of MRG).

FEX board officers then invited Jim lonica to attend FEX network meeting in Portland last February. This summer, nd for Idaho invited Remmers to visit nd share in a public education omotional event in Boise in August. It ting to be developing a closer work- lationship with The Fund for Idaho, ig from each other and helping to a new progressive, community-based ation in Idaho.



## Help Us Welcome Our New Grants Administrator

Gail Drakes will be joining our staff in October. She is a doctoral student at NYU in American Studies and has extensive administrative experience working in a variety of settings. Gail has worked in University settings as the Administrative Coordinator for the Institute for Research in African American Studies at Columbia University, as Executive Assistant to the Provost at Medgar Evers College and as assistant to the Executive Director at the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan. Gail is excited to bring her highly developed administrative skills to FEX and to learn about grassroots organizing and grantmaking through her work here.

W e are sitting in the warmth of their home, perched high on the coast of Maine, when I ask Diane and Joan to let me interview them for the FEX newsletter. Outside the rough Atlantic crashes into the rocks below the dining room windows and you can spot seals playing in the waters a short distance away. We've just had a terrific lobster dinner at their favorite little place right up the road and have completed a few hours of work, planning for a new grantmaking initiative to acknowledge lesbian and gay contributions and the basis for gay pride.

"We don't need any publicity," Joan said. This is a typical response. I've had the pleasure of working with Diane and Joan since 1996, just a year after I arrived at FEX, and we've gotten to know one another fairly well. Neither she nor Diane have needed or wanted excessive praise or recognition to do what they think is right. They've lived challenging, exciting lives as successful career women and educators, and taken pride in doing their work with creativity and passion. Joan was an advertising executive specializing in women's cosmetics in New York City (remember 'The London Look' modeled by Jean Shrimpton in the 1960s? Her brainchild). Diane pioneered feminist social work education as Dean in addition to starting the Women's Studies Program at Florida State and in a Chair combining Social Work and Women's Studies at the University of Utah.

After meeting over 60 years ago as teenagers at summer camp, they teamed up as life partners over 10 years ago, after what seemed like a few lifetimes apart. But in addition to a unique love story, they share a commitment to advancing equality and social justice.

When they found themselves in the position to share of their material resources in 1995, they approached some way they do everything else - first they took to do their research, then they threw themselves into a world of philanthropy, learning and practicing - thoughtful and passionate a way as possible.

Their principles lead them, never losing sight of the goals, and always having a good time. "What would we like to say to the FEX?" Diane echoed my question. "We'd like to find the perfect home to further our interests, bonding with an organization and people we felt so with..." Joan chimed in with "That's a good word, it's like family. I like the breadth of the organization - it

so many facets to the philanthropy. Most significant to us is the support it offers to grant organizations while also funding our philanthropic, broad-based work."

From the beginning of their relationship with FEX, Joan and Diane have focused their grantmaking on issues and organizations as well as supporting the FEX docket and all their activist-advised fund Robeson, and Saguro). They've also given to special making efforts, like the Peace and Racial Justice Fund. "There are a lot of people supporting the arts, environmental welfare and other wonderful causes which support, but only a minuscule number who support gay and lesbian causes, for example - so if we don't, we're missing out." They added, "basically we believe that you have to put money where your mouth is...or where your heart is."

And we're glad the

## FEX IN PERSON

"We Found the Perfect Home..."  
A Brief Conversation with  
Diane Bernard and Joan Heller.  
By Susan Galt

Last May at our Skills meeting, Jean Hardisty talked about the splits within the Bush

## Ellen's Corner

Administration between the diplomatic tendencies as portrayed by Colin Powell and the more militaristic tendencies as represented by Ashcroft and Rumsfeld. Well, clearly the Bush administration's efforts to attack Iraq have let us know that he has all but deserted any attempts at collective international diplomacy and will attempt to resort to US military action at all costs. All in the name of oil.

As I write this to you we await the Senate's probable vote on Friday (10/11/02) authorizing the President to carry out any action up to and including military inter-

vention against Iraq. The frantic flurry of e-mails urging us to call our senators has never been more timely. I called New York Senator Clinton's office this morning. Apparently there has been a flood of calls asking her to take a position AGAINST invasion. We will see, I am not hopeful.

There are petitions galore: women for peace, academics for peace, people for peace. see [www.moveon.org](http://www.moveon.org).

And, although you wouldn't necessarily know it from our media sources, thousands of people are rallying at mass demonstrations here and abroad against the war. More than that have taken the 'Not in Our Name' oath. And at a peace rally in New York City last weekend, Leslie Gagan amended that slogan to 'Not in our Name and Not with our Money!'

[www.nion.org](http://www.nion.org).

Several funders have responded kindly. At the recent Environmental Grantmakers meeting in Carolina, an ad hoc group of funders pulled together resources and formed the Peace Fund whose purpose is to make targeted strategic grants the next 6-12 weeks to add capacity to the Peace and Justice Movement to prevent US against Iraq.

You can contribute to the fund; check out the [www.peacegroups.org](http://www.peacegroups.org)

You can also continue to use the Funding Exchange Emergent Fund which is poised to fund peace and justice mobilizations in the coming weeks and months.