

# Group works to form local chapter of Food Not Bombs

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A group of Kirksville citizens and students currently is forming a chapter of Food Not Bombs.

Food Not Bombs is an organization that provides vegan and vegetarian meals of donated food to community members. More than 1,000 chapters of Food Not Bombs exist throughout the world, according to foodnotbombs.net.

Kirksville Permaculture Education Center hosted the first meeting last Sunday.

Food Not Bombs lists seven steps on its website to start a new chapter, and the group of 17 who attended the meeting divided up the workload, said Jerry Jones, founder of the Kirksville Permaculture Education Center.

Jones said the group will start by aiding local free food programs. Then, once it is established, the group will begin hosting its own meals. He said he hopes the group will start aiding other food providers and serving meals by next year.

"The idea of Food Not Bombs is that you feed anyone — rich, poor, hungry, in need — anyone who comes by, because it's a community," Jones said. "Everyone in the community is a part. It's not about segregating, and it's not a handout or a charity. People who are in need might be more likely to come, but the idea is that it's just sharing food in a group and giving off the idea that we can feed everyone if we prioritize it."

This organization is on the terrorist watch list, according to foodnotbombs.net. "In a guest lecture at the U.S. Law and National Security course at the University of Texas School of Law on Wednesday, March 8, 2006, FBI Supervisory Senior Resident Agent G. Charles Rasner listed Indymedia, Food Not Bombs and the Communist Party of Texas as 'terrorist watch' cause groups in Austin," according to the website.

Junior Kate Seaton, a member of Food not Bombs, said the premise of the organization is that the government is spending too much money on war and not enough to feed Americans, which is why the group is labeled as do-

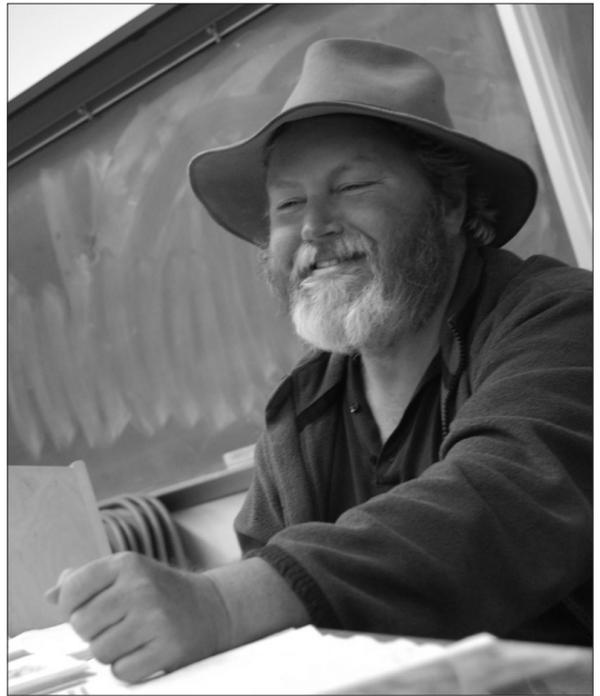
mestic terrorists.

"Obviously, are they committing terrorist acts? No," Seaton said. "They think that it's threatening to the government to have a group of people that is pointing out that the government spends a lot of money — about 50 percent of the national budget — on war and the army and weaponry and violence and supporting violent regimes in other countries when there are people in this country that are hungry."

She said the "powers that be" that deem groups domestic terrorists are trying to undercut the organization's legitimacy and cause people to doubt the group's intended message — that food is a right that belongs to everyone.

Seaton said she wants Food Not Bombs to create a centralized guide to where food is available in Kirksville.

"I know there's Hope's Kitchen on Saturdays and I know there's Love I.N.C. on the last Friday of the month, and I know there's other food available and there's certain food pantries that are open at certain times, but the real question is, 'Where is all this?'" Seaton said.



Krista Goodman/Index  
**Keith McHenry, cofounder of Food Not Bombs, helped start the organization in the early 1980s to promote and provide vegetarian and vegan food to anyone. The organization now has approximately 1,000 groups worldwide. (See pg. 11)**

"How could someone find a consistent source of support if they can't support themselves?"

The group's next meeting is at 4 p.m. Nov. 28 at the Kirksville Permaculture Education Center.

## Obstacles to peace in the Middle East



Dan Warner/Index  
Mark Appold, professor of philosophy and religion, and Thomas Zoumaras, chairman of the history department, discuss the history of conflict in the Middle East at a faculty panel Monday in Violette Hall 1010. The panel discussed the issues between Israelis and Palestinians before opening the forum up to questions from the audience. The event was part of International Education Week.

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