Ball State University
Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

Weekly Newsletter

Feb 7 – 13, 2013

The Olive Branch

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Local Spotlight: A Better Way Shelter

"Our Mission: To bring peace to homes, strength to individuals and families, and positive impact to community through crisis intervention, service, support, education and caring." -A Better Way Shelter

Last semester I had the privilege to interview the director of this organization, Teresa Clemmons. Mrs. Clemmons humbly spoke about the far-reaching impact this organization has on the community. While her interview focused mainly on her contributions to the community as a peace-worker, I think it necessary to highlight the mission of the organization as a whole.

This is a not-for-profit agency with two main divisions: Role Players and A Better Way. According to their website, "Role Players provides alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention programs for youth in seventeen Indiana counties. A Better Way provides shelter and services for victims of domestic violence, transitional housing, advocacy for victims of sexual assault, a 24-hour crisis line for persons in any type of crisis, AOK after-school programs, and a check-in call service for elderly or disabled homebound persons."

This organization provides a valuable service to Delaware County. It is comforting to know that there is a safe haven for those struggling with personal or social issues. Its privacy from public exposure allows for a safe retreat. Their mission is one that should be made known to the community at-large.

If you, or anyone you know could benefit from this organization, call their 24-hour crisis hotline at: 765-288-4357 (HELP) or 800-347-1144. You can also obtain more information on their website: www.abetterwaymuncie.org

-Ennea Fairchild

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Want to be Featured in the Olive Branch?

If you are interested in being interviewed for an upcoming issue of the Olive Branch, or if you would like to write a short article, please contact e-mail us at peace-center@bsu.edu. We would absolutely love to share your message with our readers!

Blog of the Week:

"Just War"

Ashli Godfrey

The concept of a just war is one that has never made sense to me. It seems intuitive to describe a "just cause" and a "just anger," but war engages so many more issues than justice that it is problematic to claim that any war could ever be considered just. After reading Packing Inferno, which describes a Marine's experience in war, I am even more convinced that war can never truly be just. War, by nature, is harmful to all involved, including innocent civilians and even soldiers. My objections to war have always been based upon the fact that no war can exist without the death of innocent civilians, who often have no voice in terms of the cause of the war or in the ability to bring about change. However, after reading this account, my objections regarding war have been expanded to include the welfare of soldiers overseas. The author argues that war is harmful to soldiers in terms of more than just the physical wounds that are awarded the Purple Heart. Soldiers often experience feelings of depression, rage, and PTSD symptoms that impact the quality of their lives long after they leave combat. This corresponds to a personal experience that I have had with a close family friend who served in Iraq. His time in Iraq really changed his personality; rather than the light-hearted guy I used to know, he returned jaded, angry and suspicious toward the government, and has taken up both smoking and drinking, neither of which were issues before he enlisted. The experience clearly affected him far beyond what any of us had ever expected.

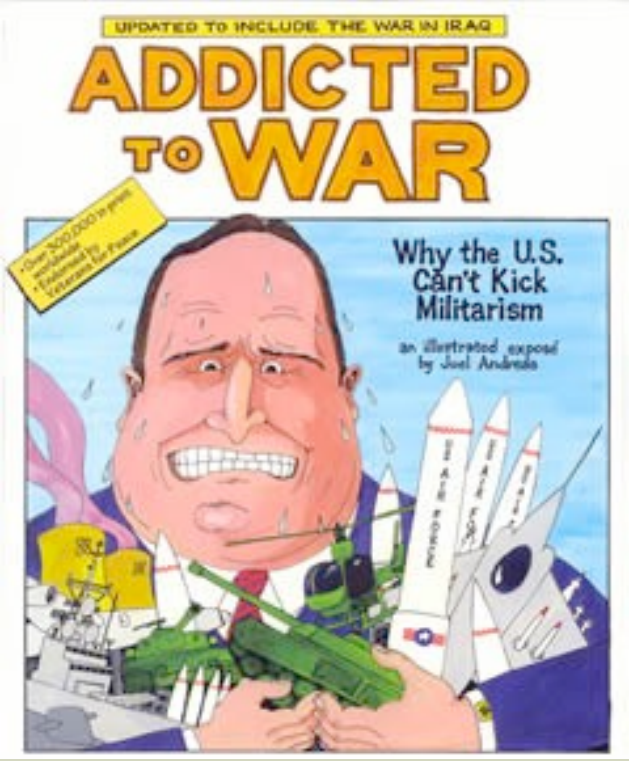
With this in consideration, the Just War Criteria sheet seems almost satirical. Although the criteria, such as using force only as a last resort and atrocious weapons, are clearly a step in the right direction, I wonder if such criteria could ever truly be upheld. In addition, there is a subjectivity to them that I am extremely concerned about. For instance, the concept of a right intention and a just cause is a desirable one at face value. However, most countries that go to war do so with the belief that their cause is just. What our society might label as "terrorism," another might describe as a quest for religious freedom or independence. In addition, I have a problem with the concept of proportionality in determining when a war will outweigh suffering because such a determination could never be accurately made.

-Continued on next page...

Blog of the Week (cont…)

This also relates to the section in the text called "Defining a Just War," which claims that the pacifist, legalist, and militarist approaches are insufficient responses to the 9/11 attack. Rather, a better approach involves consideration of both the means and ends of war, as well as determining what is necessary in terms of force. Although such guidelines are positive in the sense that they recognize many of the injustices of war and seek to reduce them, it also seems that the "principle of necessity" is skewed in a way that it can only be subjective.

This can also be seen in "Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." The article discusses suicide terrorism and the willingness of an increasing number of individuals to die to accomplish their mission. Rather than being caused by Islam, as so many have claimed, most instances of suicide terrorism are associated with political reasons, such as removing a democratic power to withdraw from a certain territory. The reasoning behind these attacks demonstrates the claim made earlier about the subjectivism that is problematic for determining when a cause is truly "just." The individuals who participate in these attacks clearly believe in their cause and are willing to die for it. This suggests that a better criterion is necessary if a claim about the existence of just causes is to be made.



After reading the "Addicted to War" comic, particularly the section about the "War on Terrorism," it seems even clearer that a better criterion is unlikely to exist; rather, just war probably cannot occur. Although the U.S. approached the war with the outward goal of ending terrorism, the harm caused clearly outweighed this abstract goal. For instance, the goal of killing bin Ladin resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians, simply because they happened to reside in the same country. In addition, the legitimacy of its just cause was challenged since the U.S. also sought to profit from oil in the Middle East. The Hiroshima website is an additional example of extreme harm by the U.S. that has outweighed the positive goal of winning the war. The image of the scars of the atomic bombing is a reminder of the consequences of pursuing war, rather than peace, and attempting to justify a cause without some objective standard. Overall, these two examples definitely reinforced my belief that a just war is, at the least, extremely problematic, and probably not possible.

Activity

The Olive Branch Word Search!

S R J D O N U H A R Q Z H Y D A H B C O
N O L R S L M A W N W C E J L N V X H N
I O C P E F H V L T S O N E P O S U A F
X V Q I J D B T U I Z O C U Z A S N R Y
D T E C A X N C G Q Z Y U Z G I J D I J
F Q B V P L M A U W A S Q X N I V Q T G
Q D K F C Y J N R L S E V S T I N A A G
J U S T W A R U T O B D T P D S O P B X
E W T X C S T O S E N I L T F V I Z L X
Q Z P G O B C K D T T A B J D Q T R E P
P C E Q V Q H J T U I U Y N H P A N A G
T O Z Z G F W I T E O C C R B J T X D J
R O N A G K F E P L G V E F B D I S V B
U T T N K O O A H I C R J L Z N D P I E
F E A F R F M K W U E D X R E P E S S P
P F E P P Q L Z C P O X W R M A M Y O K
J Q N E U C W S H A G K W J E U G J R F
W O A J A J D S U R T M T K H G X U S Y
N C S X H W U I E Z J D O W Y S X Q E S
E S E V A L S E H T E E R F T G R O M K

CHARITABLE ADVISORS
FREE THE SLAVES
"JUST WAR"
MEDITATION
NONPROFIT
SOCIAL JUSTICE LEAGUE
US INSTITUTE OF PEACE

On-Campus Events

Spring 2013 (time varies), Lucina Hall
Counseling Center Group Therapy
The Counseling Center offers a large variety of therapy sessions that are completely free to Ball State students. Just a few of these groups include:

- Understanding Self & Others- a discussion and discovery of understanding and acceptance of themselves and others
- Journey to Wholeness- a supportive group for survivors of sexual trauma
- Safe Haven- supportive group for GLBTQ students to discuss topics including family concerns, support, relationships, depression, personal growth and more
- Kaleidoscope- a supportive group for ethnic/racial minorities to discuss topics including discrimination, identity of self, family concerns, body image, and more

You can find more information about these and more groups here: https://apps.bsu.edu/CommunicationsCenter/Story.aspx?MessageGuid=a83cc747-5339-43e1-8e42-a9726d5e097f
Call 285-1736 to sign up for one of these free groups

Thursday, February 7th, 5 pm
The Social Justice League meets at 5 pm in the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, 310 N. McKinley Ave. For more info, email sjl@bsu.edu<mailto:sjl@bsu.edu

Monday, February 11th
OXFAM meets Mondays at 6 pm in the basement of Bracken library. For more info, email ajhartman@bsu.edu.
Call to Action meets Mondays at 7:30 pm in the Student Center Room #306. For more info, email lefortier@bsu.edu.

Tuesday, February 12th, 6-7 pm, Student Recreation & Wellness Center Room 212B
RAD: Rape Aggression Defense
RAD is a free rape prevention class that encompasses a comprehensive program of realistic, self-defense tactics and techniques for women taught by nationally certified Ball State police officers. UPD will be presenting an introduction to the class that focuses on awareness, prevention, risk reduction, and avoidance as well as the basics of hands-on defense training.

Tuesday, March 26th Student Center Ballroom, 2nd floor
Annual Ball State University Student Symposium Registration
Registration Deadline: Friday, February 22nd
This is a chance for students, faculty, and the Muncie community to discuss research efforts and view the connection between special projects and education. The most outstanding posters, creative or multimedia displays, and other exhibits will be awarded cash prizes at the end of the day. Every Ball State student who has participated in organized work inside or outside the classroom and was advised by a Ball State faculty member is eligible to register for the symposium.
To register or view the symposium's guidelines: http://cms.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/spo/spotlights/studentsymposium

Off-Campus Events

Thursday, February 7th
The NAACP will hold its monthly meeting at 6:30 pm on the second floor of the Julia Carson Government Center, 300 E. Fall Creek Blvd. For more info, contact Chrystal Ratcliffe at celliott@indynaacp.org

Friday, February 8th
The film "Urban Roots" (see below) will be shown at 7:30 pm at Epworth United Methodist Church, 6450 Allisonville Road, co-sponsored by Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, First Friends Meeting and the Sierra Club's Hoosier Chapter. For more info, visit urbanrootsamerica.com or email Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter at hoosier.chapter@sierraclub.org
This film portrays the seeds of change taking root in Detroit amid the boarded-up shops, empty lots and defunct factories. With the most vacant lots in the country, Detroit residents are reclaiming their spirits by growing food. A small group of dedicated Detroiters have started an urban environmental movement with the potential to transform a city after its collapse. Winner of the Inspiring Lives Award at the 2012 San Francisco Green Film Festival. "This film feels timely and needed in our nature starved electronic world! I loved the sharing, educating and giving that these urban farmers are doing for their communities. 'Urban Roots' inspired me to plant more seeds in my backyard," said actress Amber Valletta. (93 minutes)
The weekly vigil protesting warfare will take place, 4:30-5:30 pm, in front of the Federal Building, Michigan and Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center. Bring an appropriate sign or have one provided. For more info, phone Gilbert Kuhn at 403-2835 or email Ron Haldeman at ronjane@igc.org

Saturday, February 9th
The Second Annual Indiana Civic Day will take place,10:45-3, in the North Atrium of the Indiana State House, 402 W. Washington, sponsored by Center for Inquiry Indiana (Cost: $10-25). For more info or to register, contact Reba Wooden at indy@centerforinquiry.net
[Nashville] There will be a Peace Vigil on the theme "War Is Not The Answer!" at 6 pm at Brown County Courthouse, Main and Van Buren Streets sponsored by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Brown County branch). For more info, contact Tom Hougham at 878-4210 or annntom@hotmail.com

Sunday, February 10th
Indianapolis Chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) will meet, 2-4 pm, at Broadway United Methodist Church, 609 E. 29. A presentation will follow confidential sharing time. For more info, email Annette Gross at annetteindypflag@comcast.net
Dignity Indianapolis, a Catholic GLBT and friends group, will hold its monthly Mass and pitch-in meal at 6 pm at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Illinois and W. 46. For more information, visit dignityindy.com or email Marvin Wagner at rita_marvin@sbcglobal.net

Monday, February 11th
[Columbus] CPF/FOR - Columbus Peace Fellowship will meet at noon in the Reeves Room of First Presbyterian Church, 512 Seventh. For more info, email Sarah Grey at sarahgrey@att.net

Grants and Fellowships

International Pfeffer Peace Prize-deadline March 2, 2013
Each year, the Fellowship of Reconciliation awards three peace prizes to individuals or organizations whose commitment to peace, justice, and reconciliation is recognized as extraordinary. The International Pfeffer Peace Prize was established in 1989 by Leo and Freda Pfeffer to particularly honor those around the world working for peace and justice.

Walter Isard Award for the Best Dissertation in Peace Science-deadline June 1, 2013
The Walter Isard Award for the Best Dissertation in Peace Science is given every two years. The award honors outstanding contributions to the scientific knowledge of peace and conflict. The winner is selected on the basis of the importance and scientific significance of the dissertation with respect to the field of peace science and its contribution to the understanding of international behavior more generally.

Morton Deutsch Conflict Resolution Award-deadline June 15, 2013
The award recognizes achievement in integrating theory and practice in conflict resolution.

Conferences

Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference: Promoting nonviolence at home and beyond
Muncie, Indiana, April 5 and 6, 2013
www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference
Deadline for pre-registration: March 22, 2013

Notre Dame Student Peace Conference 2013
Notre Dame, Indiana, April 5 and 6, 2013
Registration materials will be available soon.

Rotary Club of Londonderry Global Peace Forum
Derry-Londonderry, Ireland, May 4-26, 2013
The aim of the Derry~Londonderry Forum is to contribute to Reconciliation, Learning and Full Self Expression for those involved in peacemaking and peacebuilding throughout the world.

Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

310 North McKinley Avenue
Muncie, Indiana 47306

Phone: (765)285-1622

Email: peacecenter@bsu.edu

We're on Twitter! Follow @bsu4peace to get our latest updates.

"LIKE" us on Facebook! Ball State University Peace Center

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary knowledge unit devoted to conducting research on various forms of structural and direct violence and conflict, and also dedicated to implementing projects that employ nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict.

Our programs include:

- Mediation training and services
- Meditation classes
- The Brown Bag lunch speaker series
- The Muncie Interfaith Fellowship
- The Social Justice League on-campus organization

If you would like YOUR events to be included in the newsletter, please contact:

Ennea Fairchild (eafairchild@bsu.edu) *or*

Erin Silcox (esilcox@bsu.edu)

Disclaimer: the events described in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

Learn more about the Cohen Peace Conference at www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference