Thank you for this opportunity. I want to make a suggestion that I hope you will ponder.

Some aspects of climate have become clear. Humans are changing the atmosphere. We can measure how this is changing Earth’s energy balance—more energy is coming in than going out. So the ocean is warming, ice sheets are melting, and sea level is beginning to rise. We are now close to a point of handing young people a situation that will be out of control, with ice sheet disintegration and multi-meter sea level rise during the lifetime of today’s young people, which would mean loss of coastal cities and economic devastation. Sea level rise would be irreversible on any time scale of interest to humanity. The other irreversible effect of rapid climate change would be extinction of a substantial fraction of the species on Earth.

The bottom line is that we cannot burn all fossil fuels. And the economic law of gravity is that as long as fossil fuels appear to be the cheapest energy, we will keep burning them.

So my request, given the respect and trust the public has in you, is that you ponder the possibility of a public statement in favor of a revenue-neutral gradually-rising carbon fee.

a) A carbon fee is needed to make the price of fossil fuels honest, to include the costs to humanity of their air pollution, water pollution and climate change.

b) A rising carbon fee is needed to spur effective investments by the private sector in clean energies and energy efficiency. Most important, it will steadily phase down fossil fuel use.

I’m not asking you to endorse a revenue-neutral carbon fee on the spot, but I hope that you will reflect upon it and perhaps provide a clear statement in your next report.

It could be your greatest legacy. It could affect everything, even the course of our future climate.
Nebraska Report

The Nebraska Report is published nine times annually by Nebraskans for Peace. Opinions stated do not necessarily reflect the views of the directors or staff of Nebraskans for Peace.

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Letters, articles, photographs and graphics are welcomed. Deadline is the first of the month for publication in the following month’s issue. Submit to: Nebraska Report, c/o Nebraskans for Peace, 941 ‘O’ Street, Suite 1026, Lincoln, NE 68508.

Nebraskans for Peace

NFP is a statewide grassroots advocacy organization working nonviolently for peace with justice through community-building, education and political action.

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Nebraska Peace Foundation President

Today IRA accounts are the way many people save for retirement. You may wish to designate Nebraska Peace Foundation as a contingent beneficiary to your IRA—and possibly save taxes since other beneficiaries may incur heavy taxes.

Make a gift to Nebraska Peace Foundation by beneficiary designation. Check with us. We can recommend tax accountants that could help explain the advantages and how to make a gift by beneficiary designation. You retain control over your IRA during your lifetime and NPF benefits after you die.

Mark Your Calendar for This Inspiring Retreat

4 PM on Monday, October 3, 2016 -
11 AM Thursday, October 6, 2016
Mahoney State Park
http://elders4theearth.com/

Your Foundation Speaks

by Loyal Park
Nebraska Peace Foundation President

Make a gift to Nebraska Peace Foundation by beneficiary designation. Check with us. We can recommend tax accountants that could help explain the advantages and how to make a gift by beneficiary designation. You retain control over your IRA during your lifetime and NPF benefits after you die.
It was a rainy and blustery day outside the CenturyLink Center in Omaha when I met up with the group that would eventually go inside the Berkshire Hathaway Shareholders Meeting to present Nebraska Peace Foundation’s resolution on climate change.

We had a brief respite from the rain as BOLD Nebraska and Nebraskans for Peace held a rally outside and speeches were given by BOLD’s Jane Kleeb, NFP’s Tim Rinne and renowned climate scientist Dr. James Hansen, who was going to be one of the presenters of the resolution. Decked out in raincoats and ponchos, we waved colorful signs with arks and animals on them, playing on Warren Buffett’s “Noah’s Law” comment in his annual shareholder letter regarding the threat of climate change: “If an ark may be essential for survival, begin building it today, no matter how cloudless the skies appear.”

After the speeches and the shareholder passes were handed out, Dr. Hansen led us inside the arena. Many of Berkshire Hathaway’s 62 subsidiaries were in attendance including Coca Cola, Phillips 66, Suncor Energy, BNSF, Fruit of the Loom, MidAmerican Energy, Kinder Morgan and GEICO. The event known as the “Woodstock of Capitalism” had everything from a walkthrough of a private jet to BNSF train sets and toys to the Oscar Meyer Wiener Mobile with a companion giant Heinz ketchup bottle to boot.

We listened to Buffett and Charlie Munger field questions for an hour, and then gathered at the section where we would be making the presentation on the shareholder resolution during the business meeting. Nebraska Peace Foundation Treasurer Mark Vasina quickly explained the intent of the resolution before turning the microphone over to Dr. Hansen. In beseeching Buffett’s support for a carbon fee, Dr. Hansen made a plea to our humanity. “We are now close to a point of handing young people a situation that will be out of control, with ice sheet disintegration and multi-meter sea level rise during the lifetime of today’s young people, which would mean loss of coastal cities and economic devastation,” he warned. “Sea level rise would be irreversible on any time scale of interest to humanity.”

Buffett shakily responded, “Although we may differ on specifics… I don’t think you and I have any difference in the fact that [climate change] is important. We are on the course that you think is certain and I think it’s probable… The issue before the shareholders is not how I feel about whether climate change is real or whether a carbon tax is appropriate. It’s whether it poses a risk to our insurance business. We don’t write policies for a long period of time…” he said.

Buffett’s attempt to deflect discussion about climate change then led to an exchange with Jim Jones, Executive Director of the Katie School of Insurance at Illinois State University, about hidden risks associated with climate change, which include stranded assets and long-term liability risks.

“These customers are looking for long-term interests being protected by their reinsurer,” Jones said. He also said that reinsurers like Berkshire’s companies are destroying relationships with primary insurers when they perceive Berkshire’s “reinsurance as being just one-year contracts that can be re-priced or withdrawn.”

To this, Buffett retorted “We have not been asked ever to my knowledge to write long-term contracts. Our primary insurers know that we look at it [risk] one year at a time and we will not write business that we think has a major negative probability. And they don’t expect

“We are now close to a point of handing young people a situation that will be out of control, with ice sheet disintegration and multi-meter sea level rise during the lifetime of today’s young people, which would mean loss of coastal cities and economic devastation.”

Conclusion on page 4
For fifteen minutes, the oldest statewide peace and justice organization in the U.S. had the undivided attention of some of the richest and most powerful men in the world... For perhaps the first time ever in his life, Warren Buffett heard the unvarnished science about the already occurring reality of climate change and the stark warning of what the near future holds.

lead a global effort to shift the world community off of carbon fuels. But, thanks to the shareholder resolution, he said more about climate change than he ever has before. The world’s most legendary investor and third-richest person not only publicly and repeatedly acknowledged the peril climate change represents, he listened attentively to the remarks of Dr. James Hansen (as did the world’s richest person and fellow Berkshire Hathaway director, Bill Gates) and publicly engaged with each of the seven people who spoke in support of the resolution.

For perhaps the first time ever in his life, Warren Buffett heard the unvarnished science about the already occurring reality of climate change and the stark warning, from Dr. Hansen, of what the near future holds. Buffett’s comment that “In the long term, I think that climate change is a terribly important problem for civilization” is clearly progress, but well short of the leadership the world needs from him.

As for the Nebraska Peace Foundation and Nebraskans for Peace, no other event in our 46-year-long our history has brought us this level of national—and international—attention. The entire Shareholder Meeting was live-streamed worldwide on Yahoo, and NFP (or the Foundation) received coverage about the shareholder resolution in the Omaha World-Herald (where both Mr. Buffett and Dr. Hansen got their starts), NET Radio, Bloomberg News/Business Week, Inside Climate News, The Guardian, Huffington Post, and the insurance industry trade magazine Carrier Management.

This entire chain of events was made possible by the state board of Nebraskans for Peace who appealed to the Nebraska Peace Foundation to purchase an A-class share of BH stock; by the Foundation board of directors who elected to make

MAY/JUNE 2016 NE REPORT, P. 4
UN's SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS & THE NEBRASKA UNA

“WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED…”

- to regain faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of life in nations large and small, and…

- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.”

PREAMBLE TO THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

NEBRASKA UNA

The US UN Association (“UNA-USA”) is dedicated to building citizen support for the UN’s work. This support is coordinated by more than 100 local nonprofit UNA chapters, which educate their communities; liaison with public officials and the media; and provide grassroots visibility.

The Nebraska Chapter was founded in 1957 under Bertha Sellers’ leadership. She attended the 1945 founding of the UN, and her friend, Eleanor Roosevelt, attended the Nebraska Chapter’s first annual celebration. We now hold monthly meetings with speakers; enjoy a banquet on the Sunday closest to UN day (October 24); support model United Nations at UNL and other Nebraska colleges; and sponsor an annual hike to support refugees. In 2017 our chapter will celebrate its 60th anniversary!

All Nebraska residents who join UNA-USA are automatically members of our Chapter, and receive notices of our monthly meetings (September-June), activities and advocacy issues. You can join us at www.unausa.org!

INTRODUCTION TO SDGs

Americans’ inability to agree on goals is our current bugaboo. However, in September 2015, 193 disparate countries of the United Nations were able to embrace and adopt the “Global Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs). The UN campaign to communicate the SDGs to a wide constituency is called “Project Everyone,” and is being supported many corporate entities and international institutions. Our future monthly speakers will focus on the SDGs.

The history of the SDGs goes back at least 44 years (to 1972), when the UN’s Human and Environment Conference oversaw international members who met to consider the rights of all living things to healthy and productive environments. Over time, UN member countries have continued to cooperate and set ameliorative goals: 1983—created “World Commission on Development”; 1992—held first “Conference on Environment and Development” and adopted “Agenda 21,” which stressed the incorporation of social and environmental concerns into all development processes; 2000—adopted “Millennium Development Goals” intended to be achieved by 2015; 2013—adopted “The Future We Want,” focusing on poverty eradication, energy, water, sanitation and health.

THE 2015 SDGs

The SDGs are made up of 17 goals containing 169 targets. They are hoped to be achieved in 15 years—by 2030 (www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org):

- Poverty—end poverty in all forms, everywhere;
- Food—end hunger, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture;
- Health—ensure healthy lives, and promote well-being for all ages;
- Education—ensure inclusive and equitable quality education;
- Women—achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- Water—ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- Energy—ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and clean energy for all;
- Economy—promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and full and productive employment for all;
- Infrastructure—build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
- Inequality—reduce inequality

conclusion on page 6

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within and among countries;

• Habitation—make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

• Consumption—ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;

• Climate—take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;

• Marine-ecosystems—sustainably use the oceans and marine resources;

• Ecosystems—promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss;

• Institutions—promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions;

• Sustainability—strengthen and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

HAS THERE BEEN SUCCESS IN REACHING DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

As part of the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals, the UN adopted processes to measure progress made in reaching many of those goals. Those measurements reveal:

• The number of primary school age children not in school declined from 100 million to 57 million between 2000 and 2015. The enrollment rate increased from 83 percent to 91 percent, short of the 100 percent goal;

• The global maternity ratio declined 47 percent, from 380 to 210 deaths per 100,000. This was short of the two-thirds goal;

• The number of new HIV infections fell from 3.5 million to 2.1 million between 2000 and 2013. The target of halting and reversing the spread was missed.

• Official development assistance increased from 81 billion dollars in 1990, to 135 billion dollars in 2015.

The Millennium Project Report to the Secretary General, called “Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals” contains a detailed analysis of what goals were achieved, or missed. (www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/MainReport).

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Countries and private entities generally agree that it would cost about $3 trillion per year to achieve the SDGs. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development stressed that governments need to strengthen tax and regulatory systems to encourage investment, and private sector assistance is essential. The world’s richest nations committed to earmarking 0.7 percent of GNP (about $135 billion per year) for overseas development assistance—although few have met that level in practice. (By way of contrast, the US cost to date of the war in Iraq exceeds $818 billion).

The Chinese Aliaba Group contributed $5 million, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation $1 million for gender equality efforts. The UN established the SDG Fund to formulate joint programs including 2,000 participants from government, international development agencies and the private sector, aimed at raising necessary funds. The World Bank predicts that: “To meet the investment needs of the SDGs, the global community needs a paradigm shift to move the discussion from ‘billions’ in overseas development assistance to the ‘trillions’ in investments of all kinds: public and private, national and global, in both capital and capacity.”


CRITIQUES OF THE SDGs

The SDGs have been criticized as “sprawling and misconceived”; “a betrayal of the world’s poorest people”; “a high school wish-list for how to save the world”; “profoundly contradictory”; and “naively idealistic.” “The Problem With Saving the World,” www.jacobinmag.com; www.ft.com/cms; www.economist.com/new/leaders.

CONCLUSION

The SDGs are aspirational, hortatory and potentially transformational. They urge each of us to see ourselves as citizens of the planet, not just our countries. They urge each and every one to save the Earth and all living things, and especially to stop global warming. Please consult “The Lazy Person’s Guide to Saving the World,” www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/takeaction.

Thank you! Cassandra (Candy) Sasso (Nebraska UNA Vice President)
Playing Chicken

by A’Jamal Byndon

I read with amazement the news article in the *Omaha World-Herald*, ‘Chicken plant near Fremont could be killed after unanimous vote against rezoning, Nickerson board members say’ (April 5, 2016). http://www.omaha.com/money/chicken-plant-near-fremont-could-be-killed-after-unanimous-vote/article_9722bf3a-fad3-11e5-83b6-d3ce1adc17d.html

There were a number of quotes and comments that had me doing double takes. I was so stunned at what I was seeing. On first reading, I wondered if the reporter was attempting to show us a side of Nebraska that many would like to remain hidden and out of the public eye. The article though was so frank and straightforward, it was almost as if the reporter was attempting to ‘punk’ the community of Nickerson to demonstrate how locked into the raw racism of the past some in this state still are.

In any event, my main reaction was that I had to bear witness and write and speak about this article, because it reflects a part of our history that simply refuses to disappear. Xenophobia and white supremacy, sadly, are as at home in small town Nebraska as they are in big city Omaha.

Given the economic plight afflicting rural Nebraska, it is rare for dying communities to reject opportunities to expand their economic base and to refuse new industries promising jobs and revitalization. Yet, according to the article, the Nickerson Village Board voted five to zero against the plan that, on paper at least, might have helped their struggling community of 350. A number of factors were cited as explanation for the unanimous vote.

The processing plant would reportedly bring in $1.2 billion annually for the area. Town members claimed to want economic development, but expressed worries about heavy traffic (as if a town can grow without increasing the number of vehicles). Another factor mentioned was disease. This was not defined and it was impossible to tell from the story if they were talking about diseases in small animal stock (such as bird flu) or in humans. Foul odors from the processing facility were also cited as a concern. Considering the problems CAFOs (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) in the state have created, Nickerson residents may have good reason to be wary.

In all fairness, these could all be perfectly legitimate arguments for overwhelming community opposition. But the story suggests that they might also be subterfuges for other more nefarious reasons in this nearly all-white small town. As the reporter herself wrote, residents “told officials the plant would bring heavy traffic, disease, bad smells and an influx of immigrant workers and their children.” John Wiegert, a local resident who is well-known for opposing illegal immigration in nearby Fremont, was quoted as saying, “Being a Christian, I don’t want Somalis in here.” He went on to double down with the idea by saying, “They’re of Muslim descent. I’m worried about the type of people this is going to attract.” This comment graphically shows the flawed thinking of using one’s religion to castigate those whose religion is different than yours. Any person familiar with the Bible knows that there are many references to accepting strangers as neighbors. But as Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. both remarked, Sundays are the most segregated time of the week.

The other quote that sadly illustrates we have a backwards and racist mentality in the state was a statement by a Robert Mulliken about having toured a chicken plant in California and how dismayed he was by the lack of “Caucasians.” “I am not prejudiced at all,” he asserted, “but

In all fairness, these could all be perfectly legitimate arguments for

conclusion on page 13
WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES
U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET 2017 FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL OUTLAYS
(FY 2017 FEDERAL FUNDS)
$3,042 BILLION

- 44% HUMAN RESOURCES
- 7% GENERAL GOVERNMENT
- 19% PAST MILITARY
- 25% CURRENT MILITARY
- 5% PHYSICAL RESOURCES

NON-MILITARY: 56% AND $1,687 BILLION

- $1,346 BILLION
  - Health/Human Services
  - Sec. Sec. Administration
  - Education Dept.
  - Food/Nutrition programs
  - Housing & Urban Dev.
  - Labor Dept.
  - Earned Inc/Child Credits
  - Health Insurance Credits
  - other human resources

- $589 BILLION
  - Veterans’ Benefits
  - Interest on national debt
  - $409 billion (80% est. to be created by military spending)

- $197 BILLION
  - Treasury, incl. 20% interest on debt ($102 b)
  - Government personnel
  - Justice Dept.
  - State Dept. (partial)
  - Homeland Sec. (partial)
  - Int. Sec. Assist. (partial)
  - Judicial
  - Legislative
  - Allotments (proposals)
  - other general govt.

- $142 BILLION
  - Agriculture
  - Interior
  - Transportation
  - Homeland Sec. (partial)
  - HUD
  - Commerce
  - Energy (non-military)
  - NASA (50%)
  - Environmental Protection
  - Nat. Science Fdtn.
  - Army Corps Engineers
  - Fed. Comm. Commission
  - other physical resources

- $768 BILLION
  - Total Outlays DoD $586 billion:
    - Military Personnel $146 billion
    - Operation & Maint. $255 billion
    - Procurement $103 billion
    - Research & Dev. $71 billion
    - Construction $8 billion
    - Family Housing $1 billion
    - Revolving Management $3 billion
    - $41 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations ("war on terror") included in $586 DoD budget
  - Non-DoD Military Spending:*
    - Retiree Pay/Healthcare $82 billion
    - DoE nuke weapons/clean-up $21 billion
    - NASA (50%) $10 billion
    - Internl. Security Asst. $13 billion
    - Homeland Secur. (military) $34 billion
    - State Dept. (partial) $10 billion
    - FBI military $9 billion
    - other $3 billion
  - *based on coding and the military nature of activities, such as armed border control, DoD space flights, etc.

MILITARY: 44% AND $1,357 BILLION

- $1,346 BILLION
  - Total Outlays DoD $586 billion:
    - Military Personnel $146 billion
    - Operation & Maint. $255 billion
    - Procurement $103 billion
    - Research & Dev. $71 billion
    - Construction $8 billion
    - Family Housing $1 billion
    - Revolving Management $3 billion
    - $41 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations ("war on terror") included in $586 DoD budget

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    - Revolving Management $3 billion
    - $41 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations ("war on terror") included in $586 DoD budget

HOW THESE FIGURES WERE DETERMINED

“Current military” includes Dept. of Defense ($586 billion) and the military portion ($182 billion) from other departments as noted in current military box above. “Past military” represents veterans’ benefits plus 80% of the interest on the debt.* For further explanation, please go to warresisters.org.

These figures are from an analysis of detailed tables in the Analytical Perspectives book of the Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2017. The figures are Federal funds, which do not include Trust funds — such as Social Security — that are raised and spent separately from income taxes.

What you pay (or don’t pay) by April 18, 2016, goes to the Federal funds portion of the budget. The government practice of combining Trust and Federal funds began during the Vietnam War, thus making the human needs portion of the budget seem larger and the military portion smaller.

*Analysts differ on how much of the debt stems from the military; other groups estimate 50% to 60%. We use 80% because we believe if there had been no military spending most (if not all) of the national debt would have been eliminated.

Government Deception
The pie chart (right) is the government view of the budget. This is a distortion of how our income tax dollars are spent because it includes Trust Funds (e.g., Social Security), and most of the past military spending is not distinguished from nonmilitary spending. For a more accurate representation of how your Federal income tax dollar is really spent, see the large graph.

Source: 1040 Forms and Instructions 2015, Federal Outlays for FY 2014

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE 339 Lafayette Street • NY, NY 10012 • 212-228-0450 • www.warresisters.org
As our presidential campaign drowns in insults and trivia, here’s the real news: the world’s coastal cities are on a carbon-dioxide clock. As the Earth has experienced its warmest winter and early spring in recorded history, exceeding records in the 121-year instrumental record by an astounding margin, the scientific debate no longer dwells on whether present levels of greenhouse-gas emissions in the atmosphere will drown the coasts. The question is when, and by how much.

During the last few months, an intense El Nino and rising greenhouse-gas levels have launched temperatures to nearly 5 degrees F. above 20th-century averages. In December, 2015; January, 2016; and February 2016 (the meteorological winter season), temperatures not only set world records, but did so by the largest margins (anomalies) since record-keeping began about 1880. February’s global temperature was 1.35 degrees C. above the 1951-1980 average—exceeding the previous record anomaly set in January of 1.13 degrees C., according to NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies. December, 2015 was 1.11 degrees C. above the same set of averages.

“The departures are what we would consider astronomical,” said NOAA climate scientist Jessica Blunden. “It’s on land. It’s in the oceans. It’s in the upper atmosphere. It’s in the lower atmosphere. The Arctic had record low sea ice. Everything everywhere is a record this month, except Antarctica,” Blunden said. “It’s insane.” Georgia Tech climate scientist Kim Cobb added: “When I look at the new February 2016 temperatures, I feel like I’m looking at something out of a sci-fi movie. In a way we are: it’s like someone plucked a value off a graph from 2030 and stuck it on a graph of present temperatures. It is a portent of things to come, and it is sobering that such temperature extremes are already on our doorstep.”

Advancing the Timetable for Sea-level Rise

As radical rises in worldwide temperatures startled scientists early in 2016, James Hansen and 18 co-authors published a study in the open-access journal *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics* (from the European Geophysical Union), making a case that several meters in sea-level rise could take place within a century—not the several hundred years projected by many scientists. This conclusion is based on a study of paleoclimate during the Eemian period 120,000 years ago, a situation analogous to today (except that temperature increases occurred less rapidly then than now).

During the Eemian, Hansen and colleagues assert that excess heat in the deep oceans rapidly eroded ice in Antarctica and Greenland at an accelerating pace. This melting was accelerated by a slowing of the Atlantic Ocean’s meridional circulation that usually distributes heat through the world ocean. The slowing of ocean circulation caused stagnation of relatively warm water in some areas in and near the Arctic.

The authors of this study point to maps of worldwide warming during the winter of 2015-2016 indicating that the only areas with below-average temperatures were over oceans adjacent to Greenland and Antarctica, where rapid melting of ice influences the water’s temperature level. “My interpretation is that this is the beginning,” Hansen said. “And it’s one or two decades sooner than in our model” (Gillis, 2016). “I think almost everybody who’s really familiar with both palaeo [climatic] and modern conclusion on page 13
Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women

Sexual abuse and violence against women are incredibly serious and prevalent issues today, as statistically about 97 percent of rapists will never spend any time in jail and a projected 60 percent of sexual assaults are not reported to the police every year in America, according to the “Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network.” This horrifying societal phenomenon is supported and furthered by the underlying influence of ‘rape culture’ in our world today, which is the acceptance of sexist tendencies that promote sexual violence, discrimination and victim shaming in response to a person reporting abuse. This negative viewpoint has become a widespread, normalized behavior due to its support and growth in the media, society and even the American justice system—causing a vicious cycle in which women do not report abuse because they fear victim shaming, and this lack of reporting causes the issue to expand further, as abusers are not made responsible for their crimes and awareness remains lacking in the general public. Rape culture leads to damaging effects on the level of equality between men and women because sexual assaults reported are often not taken seriously by the police out of a lack of empathy for and belief of victims, and ‘slut shaming’ is not uncommon in American courtrooms.

Often victims are asked if they were sober, what they were wearing, and what they said at the time of their attack, as if they caused the sexual assault by acting a certain way. Generally, the acceptance of sexual violence in society through rape culture is combated using tactics of outreach to victims of abuse and teaching women preventative measures to avoid rape. But a more effective approach may be focusing on spreading awareness to children through the education system.

Violence towards women and blind acceptance of rape culture are societally developed and learned behaviors. Given this, reaching out to children and young adults would be a much more influential use of resources, as changing the next generation’s views of rape and abuse before they have accepted rape culture is an easier feat than changing the current mindset of a society from the top-down through outreach aimed at adults. Outreach to children and young adults through education about the issues of lack of gender equality, violence against women, and damaging views such as slut shaming and rape culture would lower the acceptance of these toxic views and promote mutual respect among the genders from a young age. As these generations grow up and their views become the norm, rape culture’s prevalence will naturally shrink. Middle schoolers and high schoolers could be taught directly about rape culture and sexual violence, but elementary school students would be taught indirectly through promoted gender equality in the classroom. Children learn early on from parents, peers and teachers that boys are expected to be violent and rough with girls, as children often hear ‘if he pulls your hair or picks on you, that means he likes you,’ or the ever-damaging view that ‘boys will be boys’ and the world should accept that they are violent by nature. If these negative views are deterred in children, the likelihood of supporting violence against women will decrease later on, as boys are not treated as though they must be rough with girls to assert dominance or affection of some kind. Through non-confrontational teaching methods in which mutual kindness, respect and equality among the genders are promoted in schools (rather than simply urging rejection of violence but giving no alternative, positive behavior), children and young adults of future generations will be the change American society needs.

If children are taught in school about gender equality and violence against women, they will be less likely to accept rape culture and to promote sexual violence. A major obstacle to this movement, however, is likely to be the parents of these children and the society in which they are born, given the current culture in place. Children learn the most from their parents socially, so if parents are not supportive of fighting gender inequality, children may accept rape culture no matter what they are taught in school. This possible resistance to change can be remedied by increasing awareness of gender equality on social media, educating adult men on sexual abuse, and focusing outreach in colleges so as to reach a wider age-group and audience—one that is at a higher risk for sexually violent behaviors. Reaching adults more effectively through college students and outreach focused on men instead of just women (as stopping rape culture should not be viewed as an issue of which only women should be concerned) would more efficiently shift sentiments of older people to a mindset of gender equality, making them more likely to support efforts in the school system to stamp out rape culture in future generations.

This plan to lower violence against women and end rape culture’s rampant growth in America’s society and justice system through educational outreach is a practical approach, but one that would take lots of organization and a major movement in the American education system. Many parents may be opposed to the idea of their children being educated about such provocative topics like rape culture and sexual violence and it is quite difficult to change the views of an entire generation on page 14

Conclusion on page 14
There’s no one—no Number One guy in Whiteclay… The beer’s our boss. That’s our boss.” Robert Young Dog has experienced the rampant alcoholism on the Pine Ridge reservation his entire life. The 44-year-old is a victim of fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), a mental and physical birth defect caused by his mother’s consumption of alcohol during pregnancy. Nationally, about 1 percent of Americans suffer from FAS; in Pine Ridge, the number spikes to 1 in 4. Young Dog was a victim of physical abuse and sexual assault as a child. Today, Native Americans are about twice as likely as other Americans to be abused and about 2.5 times more likely than other Americans to be sexually assaulted. Young Dog’s experiences highlight the all-too-obvious fact that alcoholism is an epidemic that affects all aspects of life in the Oglala Sioux Tribe. So why has this epidemic been able to continue for decades?

There is no easy answer to this question. The alcoholism rate on the reservation of 800,000 hovers around 89 percent—13 times higher than the national average. The path to recovery is severely obstructed by the town of Whiteclay, Nebraska, a town of 14 people and four liquor stores. Located just 2 miles from the edge of the Pine Ridge reservation, the stores sell the equivalent of 4 million beer cans per year to Native Americans. The two most commonly bought liquors are 20- or 24-ounce bottles of Camo Black and Hurricane, which cost only about $1.50 each and have three times as much alcohol as a regular beer. Easy access to alcohol has led to drastic effects on the Pine Ridge community.

When Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson spoke at my high school, I spoke individually with him about how he hopes to address this issue. He replied that the reliance on government assistance has exacerbated the cycle of hopelessness by allowing Native Americans to remain jobless.

Government benefits have contributed to the problems on the reservation. But trying to help Native Americans climb the ladder of success by removing the rungs that are keeping them alive is not a solution. Rather, we must begin by giving Pine Ridge residents the resources to succeed so that they may eventually become more self-sufficient.

Fetal alcohol syndrome is clearly a solvable problem on the reservation. Currently, non-profit organizations like “Roots to Wings” provide valuable education to Pine Ridge women about FAS and other pregnancy issues. However, government funding for Roots to Wings and other non-profits has been depleted. Therefore, in order to reduce the number of FAS incidents, government funding for each organization is necessary.

The reservation must also have the infrastructure to allow for recovery from alcoholism. Currently, there is only one alcohol-treatment center on the reservation; it has seven beds. It is immoral to have such insufficient sources for rehabilitation in an area with one of the worst alcoholism rates in the country. State- and federal-funded resources must be available to educate individuals about the dangers of alcohol and the possibility of a better future; to aid alcoholics in their process of recovery; and to provide counsel to youth and abuse victims who are at risk of alcohol dependency. This requires coordination with institutions like the Tribal Council of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Red Cloud Indian School. But we cannot wait for those groups to reach out for help; rather, we must initiate the dialogue.

According to the U.S. government, Pine Ridge is a ‘dry’ reservation, meaning the sale of alcohol is prohibited on Native lands. Clearly, this has not stopped the problem of alcoholism. In August of 2013, a referendum to lift the ban on alcohol sales on the reservation passed with 52 percent of the vote. Despite the referendum, Pine Ridge remains a dry reservation, and for good reason. Bryan Brewer, who was president during the referendum, explained: “[Alcohol has] affected every family on the reservation. If it’s legal, I anticipate the use will go up.” The legalization of alcohol would only transfer the blame of access to alcohol from Whiteclay to Pine Ridge, and, with the problem being confined to the borders of the reservation, it would no longer be as visible a concern. Capitalist competition is not the solution; government intervention is clearly necessary.

One often-debated solution is an alcohol impact zone around Whiteclay. The zone would be able to ban the individual sale of alcoholic beverages, meaning that individuals could no longer pay less than $2 for a drink. But perhaps most importantly, the zone would be able to restrict alcohol content. Leah Brown Bear, a resident of Pine Ridge who struggles with alcoholism, says that if higher alcohol liquors were not available, she would “probably go somewhere else, like Rushville or Chadron or Gordon to get it.” Each of those towns is at least a 30-minute drive away. The distance may not stop alcohol from reaching Pine Ridge. But as Leah White Bear Claws, a member of the Chadron Native American Center, hypothesized, “If you close this bar they’re going to have to go 20 miles down the road. You’re going to make it so much tougher to be an alcoholic. But right here it’s so easy.”

Former Attorney General Jon Bruning disagrees. In a 2012 interview, Bruning expressed his belief that if Whiteclay stores are effectively shut down and if Pine Ridge residents do travel to the surrounding towns, then incidents of drunk driving and fatal accidents will increase.

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2016 Dist. 2 Scholarship Winner: Ian Salzman, Omaha

Whiteclay Alcohol Sales

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“There is no peace without justice.” This is the motto of Nebraskans for Peace, and I truly believe in this motto. The course of study in which I will be embarking will give me the opportunity to work toward the mission of Nebraskans for Peace. I will be attending the Young Americans College of Performing Arts. This is a music outreach group based in Corona, California. While involved with the group I will earn an Associate of Arts in Performance Degree and a Music Outreach Tour Training Certificate. I will have the opportunity to tour the United States and other countries, bringing music and dance to people of all walks of life. In this essay I will describe how the Young Americans promote peace throughout the world. I will depict how, as a part of this program, I will promote civil rights for all people, contribute to restorative justice in prisons, and work toward a global sense of community. All of these things support the mission of Nebraskans for Peace. Although Young Americans Music Outreach is already an established program, I feel it is a unique way to approach peace with justice through community building and education, and as a member of the group this will be one of my goals.

Bringing music into schools can help achieve equality for all students. In many schools, much more emphasis is placed on athletics than the arts. There is a hierarchy, with student athletes at the top and performers well below them. This is especially true in rural Nebraska communities where sports seem to be the only important thing. Boys are particularly at risk of this stigma. They are reluctant to even pursue an interest in the arts because they will be made fun of. When the Young Americans come into a school to do a workshop there is so much positive energy, talent and encouragement it inspires students to participate, and gives them to confidence to do so. The workshop ends with a performance of professional caliber spotlighting many students with solo parts and building lifelong positive memories for all students. There are many positive female and male role models who make it acceptable and even ‘cool’ to sing and dance. Participating in a Young Americans workshop may inspire a student to become involved in the music program at their school. Being involved in music has been shown to increase school attendance and strengthen academic skills, both things that contribute to equality.

Music can also play an important role in rehabilitating incarcerated individuals. One aspect of restorative justice involves helping the offenders avoid future offenses. Participating in the arts can enhance self-esteem, improve math and reading and increase self discipline. All of these things are helpful in obtaining and retaining a job. The Young American outreach program includes doing workshops in prisons and youth rehabilitation facilities. Many of the incarcerated individuals have never been a part of such a positive activity or had the opportunity to express themselves in the safe way that music and dance allows. It is truly a life changing experience.

Another important part of working toward world peace is establishing a sense of global community. The best way to work toward this is to create personal connections between people from many different communities. One of the objectives of the Young Americans program is to cross cultural boundaries. The group includes members from throughout the world and thus it has a unique perspective. The music we perform always includes pieces from many different countries and cultures. The group has toured almost 50 states and over 20 countries. Participating in a workshop involves teamwork and respect, two things that go a long way toward promoting peaceful relationships. Music definitely does break down barriers.

There are always obstacles to any solution. One obstacle to using music to promote peace is getting institutions and individuals to buy into the approach. With high-stakes testing and government mandates focusing on core subjects, school administrators may not feel it is possible to take time out of the school schedule for a music workshop. Also, current students are busier than ever and may not want to spend the time participating in a workshop. Problems in implementing this solution in prisons include that correctional institution officials also might not initially see the value of a music workshop for inmates and therefore be reluctant to schedule one. Also, working with inmates could potentially be dangerous, and it could be difficult to get them to participate. Putting on workshops is a costly endeavor, so adequate funding must be available to make this approach work. Just as there are problems that come with every solution, there are solutions to these problems. With hard work it is possible to overcome these obstacles.

This approach to bringing equality to all people and promoting peace throughout the world is very realistic. The Young Americans is a well-established program that began in 1962 and has been doing outreach since 1992. It is a reality because of the founder, the directors, teachers and student participants. I can’t wait to make my contribution to peace through this amazing organization.
What’s HOT, conclusion

[observations] is now very concerned that we are approaching—if we have not passed—the points at which we have locked in really big changes for young people and future generations,” Hansen said.

The 2 Degree C. Limit
“Dangerous”

Limiting global temperature rise to 2 degrees C. (3.6 F.) over pre-industrial levels (as recommended by recent diplomatic efforts such as the 2015 Paris accords) will not prevent climate-driven changes forcing evacuation of many coastal cities, Hansen and colleagues warned.

Hansen and colleagues hypothesized that: “Mass loss from the most vulnerable ice, sufficient to raise sea level several meters, is better approximated as exponential than by a more linear response. Doubling times of 10, 20 or 40 years yield multi-meter sea level rise in about 50, 100 or 200 years. These climate feedbacks aid interpretation of events late in the prior interglacial, when sea level rose to +6–9 meters with evidence of extreme storms while Earth was less than 1° C warmer than today. [Climate] modeling, paleoclimate evidence, and ongoing observations together imply that 2° C global warming above the pre-industrial level could be dangerous, [including] growing sea level rise, reaching several meters over a timescale of 50–150 years.”

“Some of the claims in this paper are indeed extraordinary,” said Michael E. Mann, a climate scientist at Penn State University. “They conflict with the mainstream understanding of climate change to the point where the standard of proof is quite high.” However, noting that Hansen and colleagues often have presaged consensus, Mann said: “I think we ignore James Hansen at our peril,” Mann said (Gillis, 2016).

Bruce E. Johansen is Jacob J. Isaacson University Research Professor in the School of Communication, University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is presently completing a 3-volume encyclopedia on climate change for ABC-CLIO.

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Playing Chicken, conclusion

that was the one time in my life I really got scared.” This is the ignorant thinking of someone stuck in a racial time warp. Mr. Mulliken goes to another part of the country as a visitor, checks out a chicken plant, and becomes alarmed and angry that there are not any white people working there. It apparently never occurred to him to ask why people of color are the only ones doing that kind of difficult work? Or why his schools, parents and others, in his formative years, didn’t prepare him to live in a multicultural society?

When I teach courses on diversity, I am still (after all these years) amazed at the level of racial and cultural ignorance students have when they come into my classrooms. This is not just true of white students, but of students of color who clearly have been semi-brainwashed by the Eurocentric curriculum in the schools. At times, it almost feels like our educational system and the media are engaged in a conspiracy to avoid seriously exploring issues of race and the histories of people who are our neighbors? As we move into an ever more polarized and toxic political environment, we will need more good Americans than ever willing to challenge the stinking thinking of racism and xenophobia. If we want to leave our children a better place than what we found upon our arrival, we must develop greater respect and appreciation for others. At the end of the day, many rural and urban communities will never thrive unless we learn to get along with those who are different from us. Need I say more?

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2016 Scholarship Winners,

Julien Lind Hoffman

nation that is already so heavily entrenched in acceptance of these issues. It has become a cultural norm to the point that individuals have developed an apathy to the topic. Stereotypes and stigmas placed on rape victims and women are extremely hard to remove, but just because it is a difficult task by no means justifies doing nothing. We, as a society, cannot settle for less than equality. We owe all women justice. We cannot despair due to the difficulty of this task. We must instead stride forward with hope for the future and fight for the rights and safety of women that have traditionally been compromised.

Ian Salzman

Last November, Governor Pete Ricketts said, “There can be a brighter future for the community. But that change will be spear-headed by individuals who have intimate knowledge of the challenges the community faces.” But we already have knowledge of the challenges the community faces. Addressing these challenges will require the help of community leaders in Pine Ridge. But our government and our society has relegated the disease of alcoholism in Pine Ridge to little more than a statistic. We must change how we view the families, the children, and the futures impacted by alcoholism. Only by seeing the people of Pine Ridge as brothers and sisters will we finally begin to end the silence in Pine Ridge.
that would make its rearming against China feasible.) Our most recent National Nuclear Security Administration report, “Prevent, Counter and Respond” (March 2016), rightly points to the Iranian nuclear agreement as hopeful but also to new threats of nuclear terrorism, nuclear-related cyberattacks and 3D-printed nukes.

We will only reduce the dangers of nuclear weapons if we lead a new worldwide reduction effort like the “Nuclear Freeze” among all of the nuclear powers—an effort to reduce nukes first by 25 percent, then 50 percent, then 75 percent and then 100 percent. We can do it. The peace movement should lead the way. NFP, working with Peace Action, could start the ball rolling.

While our President visits Hiroshima, we are getting ready for more—not less—mass destruction. As Professor Lawrence Wittner of the “Council on Peace Research in History” and a distinguished historian has written:

“We now have an administration plan to build a new generation of U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear production facilities to last the nation well into the second half of the 21st century. This plan, which has received almost no attention by the mass media, includes redesigned nuclear warheads, as well as new nuclear bombers, submarines, land-based missiles, weapons labs and production plants. The estimated cost? $1,000,000,000,000.00—or, for those readers unfamiliar with such lofty figures, $1 trillion... This nuclear ‘modernization’ plan violates the terms of the 1968 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which requires the nuclear powers to engage in nuclear disarmament. The plan is also moving forward despite the fact that the U.S. government already possesses roughly 7,000 nuclear weapons that can easily destroy the world. Although climate change might end up accomplishing much the same thing, a nuclear war does have the advantage of terminating life on earth more rapidly.”

Wittner notices that the proposal for a trillion-dollar nuclear weapons buildup “has yet to inspire any questions about it by the moderators during the numerous presidential debates” and that most of the candidates seem to approve of it or want an even bigger buildup—treaties and international law be damned.

In nuclear and foreign policy, we are lawless. The most recent issue of the prestigious Foreign Policy magazine includes an article by Jerry Delaney arguing that his father’s silence about his role in the International Military Tribunal’s had to do with our rigging the game. According to Delaney, we did not accuse the Japanese of the crimes of which we were also guilty, lest their defense be that we also committed those crimes. We did not indict the Japanese’ indiscriminate bombing of Chinese civilian populations because we had the parallel offenses of the indiscriminate nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the March 1945, bombings of Tokyo that killed over 300,000 civilians.

Our effort to avoid international courts at the end of World War II comport with our generally lawless behavior when faced with international courts. We supported International Criminal Courts’ (ICC and ICTY) arrest of Serbian President Slobodan Milošević, but never ratified the ICC treaty. We never accepted the claim of victims in such countries as Chile that our leaders (i.e. Henry Kissinger) should have ICC trials. We favored The Hague Court when convenient, but refused its inconvenient adjudication for Nicaragua—awarding reparations for our support of the Contras and mining Nicaragua’s harbors.

Lawlessness is the bread and butter of Omaha’s “Nebraska nice” economy. Since World War II, its largest industry—StratCom and the dozens of companies that feed at its trough—has been predicated on nuclear proliferation. In 2005 Rod Moseman of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce bragged:

All told, more than 41,000 people live in the Greater Omaha area in support of the missions housed at Offutt Air Force Base, including active duty military personnel, civilians employed on base, their families and military retirees residing in the immediate area... It’s no wonder then that approximately 40 companies that support the operations of Offutt Air Base including USSTRATCOM have a presence in the greater Omaha area.

If the prosperity of our greatest city depends on our threatening genocide, where are the churches that should be crying out? The lawyers? The defenders of human rights? The mothers? Those who love the earth? Obama at Hiroshima will not change things. But we can... and if we are to have a future, we must.
The Elements Shall Melt with Fervent Heat

Recently, the Nebraskans for Peace Facebook page included correspondence wistfully hoping that President Obama in Japan would apologize for the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Next day, Susan Rice, Obama’s spokesperson, squelched that. We will not say we did wrong in killing over 300,000 civilians or dropping the bomb—against the advice of our generals and admirals—at the time the Japanese were suing through the Soviets for peace. (Ironically, the murderous rampage served no anti-Japanese military purpose. As historian Gar Alperowitz has shown, using Freedom of Information documents, President Truman and Secretary of State James Byrnes destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki less to defeat Japan than to scare Soviets invading Manchuria and Korea from going further. They needed to know we had The Big One.)

Apparently, we did no wrong. Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we say, ended the war and saved lives. Yet, in our heart of hearts, we recognize our lie. Japan had literally nothing left in its tank. It was suing for peace through the Soviets. Read Masuji Ibuse’s Black Rain and see how the Japanese were waging their war in August of ’45—with little gasoline, food, shelter or will to fight.

Our present nuclear modernization will cost $1 trillion and improve our capacity to destroy the rest of the world. Our President, running for office, said that he hoped for the abolition of nuclear weapons; our Secretary of State, John Kerry, visited Hiroshima and called it a gut-wrenching experience, but no matter. (Actually Secretary Kerry visited Japan to get it to abandon its pacifist constitution for a militaristic reinterpretation.


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