

September/October 2008

Peace Matters

There Is No
Peace Without
Justice

Keep Space for Peace

By Mark Welsch,
Omaha Coordinator

Nebraskans for Peace is planning to hold three legal protests outside of the Military Arms Bazaar being held at the Qwest Center in downtown Omaha October 6 through 8, 2008. We are also bringing Mike Moore to Omaha. He is the former editor of "The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists" and author of "Twilight War: The Folly of U.S. Space Dominance" and will be speaking at three places on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 7 and 8. The public is invited to all of these events. **See the Calendar of Events for times and locations of these six events.**

The Military Arms Bazaar event brings all of the members of the military industrial complex and their customers, United States military leaders and many congressional members to Omaha every year. They come here to sell these leaders on their latest and greatest way to put weapons in outer space. We need to stop this madness and work to have the United States vote for the United Nations Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space treaty.

On January 17, 1961, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned us about what is going on today in his farewell address to the nation in what is called his Military Industrial Complex Speech. Here are some excerpts from that speech:

"This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large

arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence -- economic, political, even spiritual -- is felt in every city, every State house, every office of the Federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society.

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

"We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. **Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together.**" (Editor has inserted the boldness.)

The entire speech may be read at <http://coursesa.matrix.msu.edu/~hst306/documents/indust.html>

President Eisenhower has thrust upon peaceful persons the responsibility of keeping this threat to our country in check. **To exercise this responsibility, please call or write your elected officials in Congress, write a letter to the editor, and talk with your friends about this issue.** See the "Take Action for Peace and Justice" article in this newsletter for the contact information for our congressmen.



Peace Matters

A CULTURE OF PEACE

By Jo Peterson, Dana College Professor and
Member of Nebraskans for Peace

This year I have the privilege of teaching the first "Introduction to Peace Studies" course offered at Dana College. Class content includes information from a workshop I co-led with Jack Dunn at the Omaha Peace and Justice Expo last year. We borrowed a story from Arun Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, and a United Nations resolution as part of our background materials.

Arun Gandhi tells the story of how his grandfather instructed him to record incidents of violence in hopes of sensitizing him to the "culture of violence." "Culture" used here means the customs, norms, language, attitudes and behaviors a society shares. Often our "culture" is taken for granted and accepted as "just the way things are." Often, culture is unexamined and unchallenged.

Workshop participants examined our culture and discussed incidents of violence at every social system level: self, interpersonal, and societal. We considered the transmission, impact and connections of violence. For example, we discussed poverty and discrimination as forms of societal violence and drew relationships between societal violence and interpersonal violence. The discussions resulted in an important alternative: a "culture of peace."

The United Nations established an "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World" in 1997. This resolution defined a "culture of peace" as consisting of the "values, attitudes and behaviors that reject violence and one that endeavors to prevent conflicts by addressing their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation."

It has been the work of Nebraskans for Peace members to examine the violence in our culture and strive to create a "culture of peace." We've worked against war, racism and poverty. We've worked to foster tolerance, cooperation and conflict resolution. As I teach "Peace Studies," the lessons I teach will be the lessons I have learned from members of Nebraskans for Peace.

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

By Holly Dzyban, Member
of Nebraskans for Peace

Global warming, conflict and hunger were the topics of an impressive forum held on Thursday, June 26, in UNO's Student Center at 7:00 p.m. Over 50 people attended. Oxfam America, Nebraskans for Peace and the Climate and Energy Project of the United Nations were some of the sponsors.

Bruce E. Johansen, Frederick W. Kayser Research Professor of Communication at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, was a prominent panelist. He is the author of the three-volume *Global Warming in the 21st Century* (2006). Maril Hazlett, who has a doctorate in environmental history and is research director for the Climate and Energy Project, also spoke. Paul A. Olson, Kate Foster Professor Emeritus at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and author of numerous books, participated. Another panelist was Jim French, coordinator of Oxfam America's Climate Justice Campaign in the Great Plains.

The forum elicited these thoughts:

- ✎ Can we create a process, moving counter to the accumulation of greenhouse gases? One that would reduce the 50 years of momentum of buildup that exists?
- ✎ Let's harvest and distill water from the air (before it seeps through all the pollutants in the ground).
- ✎ Can we find funding to "green" existing houses in poverty areas?
- ✎ Let's give low-interest car loans to get rid of heavily polluting cars, loans only for purchasing cars that have 30 or more miles per gallon fuel economy or ultra-low emissions.
- ✎ Start an effort to change ethanol production from corn to grass, which is easier to grow and better ecologically.

Worth pondering:

- ✎ The safe ratio of carbon in the atmosphere is

Answer:

Outside, above the south entrance of Nebraska's Capitol has this saying attributed to Aristotle.

350 parts-per-million. Will we be able to slow and stop it in time?

- ✧ Does wind energy harvesting affect wind and weather systems?
- ✧ Standard house paints contain volatile organic compounds that pollute our homes. Does low-VOC paint seal off the VOCs from the paint already on the wall?
- ✧ How important are the snow-capped poles? Does the temperature difference between the poles and the equator *cause* the traditional wind and weather patterns?
- ✧ What plants and materials use or absorb the most carbon dioxide? Can we use these plants and materials to slow and stop global warming?

Some suggestions:

- ✧ Write Congress about continuing renewable energy tax credits
- ✧ Even though all energy industries are subsidized to some extent, ask Congress to end all subsidies for nonrenewable energy production. Stop paying for harmful products.
- ✧ Talk to legislators about getting net-metering throughout Nebraska. This will allow folks with solar and wind generators to sell their excess energy - a financial incentive for ecological responsibility!

TAKE ACTION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

By Mark Welsch,
Omaha Coordinator

When articles in Peace Matters cause you to want to take action, please do so. Often the action should be to contact your congressional representatives to tell them what you think about an issue or to write a letter to the editor. Paper letters sent to Washington D.C. have their delivery delayed by days or weeks because of the anthrax decontamination process. To make sure they hear

from you quickly, please call and send emails or faxes to our local members of congress. Include your name and address so they know you are their constituent.

Senator Ben Nelson
Tel: (402) 391-3411
Fax: (402) 391-4725
senator@bennelson.senate.gov

Senator Chuck Hagel
Tel: (402) 758-8981
Fax: (402) 758-9165
Chuck_Hagel@hagel.senate.gov

Representative Lee Terry
Tel: (402) 397-9944
Fax: (402) 397-8787
Talk2Lee@mail.house.gov

To write a letter to the editor of the Omaha World Herald, send an email to Pulse@OWH.com or mail it to: Public Pulse, Omaha world-Herald Building, 1314 Douglas St., Suite 700, Omaha, NE 68102 or by fax: 402-345-4547. Letters must include the writer's first and last names and bear the writer's address and telephone number. (Neither addresses nor phone numbers are published.) Short letters are preferred and should never be longer than 200 words. They will not knowingly print letters sent to other publications.



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Question: Who said, "Political society exists for the sake of noble living," and where can it be seen?



Calendar of Events

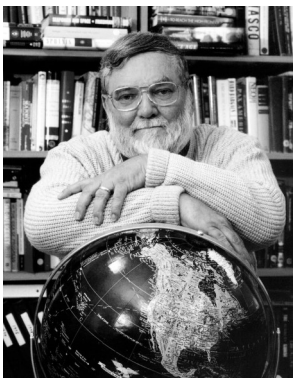
Every Wednesday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Peace Vigil at StratCom/UNO, 6801 Pine Street (east of UNO Scott Technology Center). Contact person is Jerry Ebner at cwomaha@gmail.com or 502-5887.

Every Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Progressive movies and dinner at McFoster's Natural Kind Cafe at 38th and Farnam Streets. See <http://www.progressiveomaha.com/films.htm> for more info. Free admission.

Every first Wednesday of the month Noon - 1:00 p.m. "The Hungry Club" meeting at Big Mamma's Kitchen & Catering at 3223 North 45th Street, Building A on the Turning Point Campus. Arrive early and be assured a seat. The Hungry Club has interesting guest speakers every month. For more information call 455-MAMA.

Tuesday, October 7, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. NFP lawful protest at the "Strategic Space and Defense 2008" conference (Arms Bazaar), Qwest Center in downtown Omaha.

Tuesday, October 7, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Author and policy expert Mike Moore speaks on "Space Dominance: America's Coming War with Its Own Values" in Room 105 in the Skutt Center at Creighton University. Free and open to the public.



Tuesday, October 7, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. NFP lawful protest at the "Strategic Space and Defense 2008" conference (Arms Bazaar), Qwest Center in downtown Omaha.

Tuesday, October 7, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Author and policy expert Mike Moore speaks on "Space Dominance: America's Coming War with Its Own Values" at Dana College in Blair. The forum is in the Durham Classroom Center. Free and open to the public. (Ice Cream Social following.)

Wednesday, October 8, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. NFP lawful protest at the "Strategic Space and Defense 2008" conference (Arms Bazaar), Qwest Center in downtown Omaha.

Wednesday, October 8, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Author and policy expert Mike Moore speaks on "Space Dominance: America's Coming War with Its Own Values," University of Nebraska-Omaha, Dodge Room in the Milo Bail Student Center. Free and open to the public.

NOTE: Mike Moore's newly published book, "The Twilight War: The Folly of U.S. Space Dominance" (2008), will be available for sale at each of his public addresses, with a book signing by the author.

Wednesday, October 8, 7:00 p.m., NFP Omaha Leadership meeting at Augustana Lutheran Church, 3647 Lafayette Avenue. All are welcome. Contact person is Mark Welsch at 453-0776.

Saturday, October 18, NFP's Annual Peace Conference. It is in Lincoln this year. Please see the Nebraska Report newsletter or go to our website at www.NebraskansForPeace.org for more information.

October NFP's Palestinian Task Force meeting. Contact person is Anne Else at 556-5184.