



VETERANS FOR PEACE
HUMBOLDT BAY
CHAPTER 56

THE FOGHORN

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2012

"Cutting Through the Fog of War"

Remarks Delivered at Peacestock 2012

By David Swanson

I want to thank Bill Hadedank for inviting me here and everyone who's been involved in setting up this wonderful event, which ought to be replicated all over this country. Almost our entire population claims to favor peace. At least three quarters of us favor getting the U.S. military out of Afghanistan and ending that particular war, which by the way isn't ending. When carefully surveyed and shown what the federal budget is, a large majority of U.S. residents favors cutting huge amounts of money out of the military and putting it to better use.

But those doing anything about peace as part of a peace movement are a tiny fraction of a percent of the country. I have been lucky enough to see some of my cousins from this part of the country on this trip, and one of them referred to me as her famous cousin who speaks at events and writes books. There are others here much more famous than I within our little movement. But I'm willing to bet at least 99% of the country has never heard of any of us. Maybe the wonderful Coleen Rowley who made it onto the cover of Time Magazine. Maybe a few others.

Thank you also to Veterans For Peace for being the best peace organization I know of, and to its president Leah Bolger for being here. Leah and I and some others here were occupying Washington, D.C., last fall, and I've just now finally had criminal charges that were brought against me for speaking in a public hearing in the U.S. Senate dropped this week, just in time to hang out with the good people of Peacestock, which brings a certain risk of arrest in itself. Raise your hand if you're an undercover law enforcement officer.

That's all right. But please pay attention, because I'm going to be talking about some laws that are going unenforced. When I say our movement is small, I don't mean it's entirely without influence. And it was much bigger back in 2005 and 2006, when those who oppose wars had, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with us, those who oppose Republican wars. There is a big gap, however, between those who oppose all wars, and those who oppose particular wars, be it for partisan or other reasons. President Obama used to oppose dumb wars. We came to find out he favors imbecilic wars, because there are more syllables involved. The thing is, people who oppose particular wars don't usually put as much energy into it as people who oppose all war. Perhaps they're hoping that a bad war will evolve into a good war, perhaps by escalating it, perhaps by electing a different president -- or maybe they just have other priorities.

The title for my remarks today is "Abolishing War: One Last Step." I'm willing to bet that even we in the peace movement are fairly unaware of some of the previous steps. In St. Paul, Minnesota, there's a house listed as a National Historic Landmark because Frank Kellogg lived there. There's also a Kellogg Boulevard in St. Paul. But Kellogg's grave is in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Frank Kellogg had a long career, but there is one thing he did, and only one thing he did that made his house historic, named a boulevard for him, and put his ashes in the National Cathedral. I'm willing to bet most people living near St. Paul don't have the slightest idea what it was. Do you? Raise your hand if you know. And please don't say he invented corn flakes.

Well, this is not a typical crowd. All the children are above average here. And yet, some of us don't know.

Frank Kellogg was a pudgy, five-foot-six, Republican lawyer with a glass eye and hands that shook. He was not one to turn down a drink, prohibition or no prohibition, and he was best known for his fiery temper and the use of language that the FCC would not have tolerated. Kellogg was 70 years old in 1927. He'd been a trust buster. He'd been president of the American Bar Association. He'd been a U.S. senator from the great state of Minnesota. He'd voted in favor of entering World War I and against the League of Nations, but in support of pulling U.S. troops out of Russia.

Come 1927, when Kellogg was 70 years old, he was the U.S. Secretary of State. During his tenure, the U.S. Marines went into Panama, Honduras, and Nicaragua, and Kellogg threatened Mexico with war in the interest of U.S. corporations. Kellogg lacked any big following of supporters among the people or the elites. H.L. Mencken called him --quote-- a "doddering political hack from the cow country." I apologize to all the cows around here. Kellogg himself had unkind words for others. In 1927, he called the French a bunch of bleep bleep fools. But Kellogg added that those he hated most were the bleepy bleep pacifists.

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In 1928, Kellogg worked night and day to do exactly what the pacifists told him to do. He brought most of the powerful nations of the world together and created a treaty banning all use of war. The U.S. Senate ratified the treaty, known as the Kellogg-Briand pact. (The vote was 85-1, with the 1 being a senator from Wisconsin who apparently wanted a stronger treaty, but who was censured by the Wisconsin legislature for his vote.) Briand was the French foreign minister, with whom Kellogg had worked on the treaty.

Frank Kellogg was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize. Briand already had one. This was in the pre-World War II days when the Nobel Committee still paid some attention to the requirements of Alfred Nobel's will, including that recipients of the prize have worked for the abolition or reduction of standing armies. Quick, can you name the last Nobel Peace Prize recipient who had worked to abolish standing armies? I think there have only been a handful in recent years who would have even stood for the idea, even in theory, much less have worked to advance it in reality.

Most groups, clubs, projects, etc., that promote peace today propose finding peace in our hearts. I'm reminded of Woody Allen's remark: I don't want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve immortality through not dying. Well, I don't want to achieve peace through my heart. I want to achieve peace through ending war and abolishing armies.

Left to his own devices, Frank Kellogg would have had nothing to do with peace. But in 1927 there was a major peace movement in this country, united around an idea pushed by a Chicago lawyer named Salmon Oliver Levinson. The movement was called the Outlawry Movement, and the goal was to outlaw war. As slavery and blood feuds and dueling had been abolished, so would war be. And the first step would be stigmatizing war as no longer legal. Remember, war was not against the law. Nobody was prosecuted for World War I or any other war, because war making was not a crime. Particular atrocities could be crimes, but not war itself. Levinson opposed what we might call anachronistically the NATO model of banning war, in which the primary tool for preventing war is, of course, war. There were isolationist strains in the U.S. peace movement after the disaster of World War I that echo in some of today's libertarians. Agreeing with various allies to all go to war if one of them went to war was not a recipe for peace. The Outlawrists' plan was to make war illegal, to establish written international law and courts for settling international disputes, and to move world culture beyond acceptance of war.

Duelling had been done away with, said Levinson, and not just aggressive duelling. We didn't keep defensive duelling around. We set the whole barbaric procedure behind us. Thus must it be with war. The Outlawrists did not distinguish good or just wars from bad or unjust wars, any more than we distinguish just cases of rape, good uses of slavery, or humanitarian cases of genocide. War was the most

evil thing created, and arranging to end war by means of war left everyone preparing for more war. So, the Kellogg-Briand Pact renounced all war.

There's a song from 1950 -- maybe we can sing it later -- that begins "Last night I had the strangest dream I'd ever dreamed before. I dreamed the world had all agreed to put an end to war. I dreamed I saw a mighty room, and the room was filled with men". That scene had actually happened on August 27, 1928, with the signing of the Peace Pact. It was probably the biggest news story that year. This is not secret CIA history I'm describing. Raise your hand if you're with the CIA. Well, thank you for coming anyway. No, this is forgotten history, intentionally buried history. Frank Goetz, who may be here, and others are pushing to have August 27th made a holiday.

After the Pact was signed, nations stopped recognizing claims of war, gains of territory made through war. Wars were prevented and halted. The world turned against the horror of war, at least war among wealthy nations. Colonizing poor nations was still very much acceptable. And when World War II happened, Roosevelt directed that the Kellogg Briand Pact be used to prosecute the Germans and the Japanese for the brand new crime of making war. And they were thus prosecuted. And the rich nations never went to war with each other again, at least not yet. Europe, amazingly, finally stopped attacking itself. But the common interpretation became the bizarre notion that Kellogg-Briand had been erased by its failure to prevent World War II. Imagine setting up a legal ban on anything else, and then tossing it into the trash the first time it was violated, and while simultaneously enforcing it. I suppose the Ten Commandments, by that logic, must have been erased by being violated quite some time back now. After World War II the Peace Pact was twisted to prosecute aggressive war, rather than simply war, and it was imposed as victor's justice. But the Kellogg-Briand Pact, as written, remained on the books, as it remains on the U.S. State Department's website. Ssh. Don't tell Hillary.

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David Swanson is the author of "When the World Outlawed War," "War Is A Lie" and "Daybreak: Undoing the Imperial Presidency and Forming a More Perfect Union." He blogs at <http://davidswanson.org> and <http://warisacrime.org> and works for the online (more...)



31 victims identified in widening Air Force sex scandal

By Chris Lawrence, CNN

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

Gen. Edward Rice says Air Force broadening investigation to “actively seek any others”

One male instructor has pleaded guilty; 11 more either facing charges or under investigation

Air Force shuts down all recruit training for one day at Lackland Air Force base to give survey

Former Marine: Basic training is “a target-rich environment for sexual predators”

(CNN) -- The U.S. Air Force has now identified at least 31 women as victims in a growing sex scandal, a four-star general said Thursday, and there might be more. The Air Force is broadening its investigation to “actively seek any others that may have been affected by this,” Gen. Edward Rice, the commander of Air Force Training, said.

“We are taking a comprehensive look not only at the cases that we know, but trying to do the best we can to assess whether or not there are other cases out there,” Rice told reporters at the Pentagon.

Rice said the Air Force had taken “the unprecedented step” of shutting down all recruit training for one day to give a written survey to all basic military trainees at Lackland Air Force base. The Texas base has become the focal point of the growing scandal.

Air Force base reports more sexual misconduct charges

One trainer has pleaded guilty to having an improper relationship with a trainee, as part of a plea agreement.

Staff Sgt. Peter Vega-Maldonado has been sentenced to 90 days in prison, 30 days hard labor and a demotion in rank and pay. In his plea deal, he also provided testimony against two other trainers who have been charged. He also said he had inappropriate relationships with 10 trainees.

The scandal came to light in June 2011, when a young female trainee came forward and accused her male instructor of assaulting her. Staff Sgt. Luis Walker now faces a general court-martial on 28 charges, including rape, adultery and aggravated sexual assault. He is scheduled to appear in court July 16.

In November 2011, Rice says several military training instructors, both men and women, overheard a group of male instructors “talking about incidents that were unacceptable” and reported what they heard to superior officers.

This week, the Air Force brought charges against two more instructors.

Master Sgt. Jamey Crawford is accused of giving alcohol to a female trainee and having sex with her. Tech. Sgt. Christopher Smith is accused of seeking to conduct an intimate relationship with a trainee, making sexual advances toward a trainee and carrying on a personal social relationship with a second trainee.

“The basic training environment in particular is a target-rich environment for sexual predators,” says Anu Bhagwati, a former Marine Corps officer who says the problem goes beyond one branch of service. Bhagwati says there’s no such thing as male instructors having consensual sex with young, female recruits.

“You cannot do anything without requesting permission from your drill instructor. You cannot use the bathroom, you cannot move from left to right, you are literally in many cases a robot waiting for permission to take a step. And if you have that relationship which is based on fear and intimidation ... if that’s the person you’re asking help from, it becomes a very bizarre scenario.”

Betrayal of trust? Allegations of rape at West Point, Annapolis

Bhagwati was a communications officer and martial arts instructor in the Marine Corps, and she said she witnessed several incidents of sexual harassment of junior female Marines.

“You are subject to every single order that comes out of that instructor’s mouth. If you’re not going to tell him, who are you supposed to tell? And how are you supposed to get out of that unit to seek help?”

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Next VFP56 meeting will be held on Thursday, August 2nd at 7:00 PM. Meeting will be held in the Commons Room at 550 Union Street in Arcata. Veterans and non-veterans are more than welcome to come and help us dialogue about what we together can do to bring about peace in this complex world.



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Rice agrees. "Personal relationships of any kind between trainees and instructors is strictly prohibited by our regulations and our instructions."

Rice said he does not believe the investigation of 12 instructors at Lackland necessarily means a systemic problem exists across the entire Air Force training command.

"Nine of those 12 were in one unit. We have a total of nine squadrons, and nine of them came from one squadron. So in my assessment to this point, it is not an issue of an endemic problem throughout basic military training. It is more localized."

The Air Force has relieved the officer who commanded the 331st Training Squadron during the time these incidents took place. He no longer runs the squadron, but "remains in the Air Force, in 'administrative hold' at Lackland Air Base, pending his next assignment," Rice said.

The Air Force said 11% of its military training instructors are women. In response to a question from CNN, Rice said, "I will look at whether we need to hire more female MTIs, and whether we need to have only female MTIs over female trainees."

The Pentagon estimates 19,000 sexual assaults occur each year. But only 14% of these crimes are actually reported. And less than 8% go to a court-martial.

Defense officials say every base is supposed to have a confidential sexual assault response coordinator.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta recently announced special victims units would deploy trained professionals to various bases around the world. These independent personnel would be trained in interviewing victims and collecting evidence of sexual assaults.

Veterans For Peace Supports U.N. Committee in Questioning U.S. Recruitment, Killing of Children

By David Swanson / July 9th, 2012

Leah Bolger, President of Veterans For Peace, applauded a United Nations Committee this week for raising concerns about the recruitment of children into the U.S. military, the U.S. killing of children in Afghanistan, the U.S. detention and torture of children labeled "combatants," and the provision of weapons by the United States to other nations employing child soldiers.

While the United States is one of only three countries, along with



Somalia and South Sudan, not to have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it has ratified and made part of its law the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, which requires special protections for any military recruits under the age of 18.

The U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child has asked for additional information related to the Second Periodic Report of the United States to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, (OPAC). The United States has until November 16, 2012, to respond.

The Committee cites concerns regarding the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs operating in U.S. schools, the recruiting provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act, and the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), a test administered to 660,000 children in 14,000 U.S. high schools each year.

The Protocol calls for the recruitment of minors to be done with the "informed consent of the child's parents or legal guardians." Two programs operate in U.S. high schools that clearly violate this section of the treaty. One is the administration of ASVAB. The other is the No Child Left Behind Act's requirement that schools provide recruiters with children's names and contact information. The law lacks any mechanism to enforce a requirement that schools offer parents a way to opt out.

"Our military," said Bolger, "spends billions of our dollars every year on advertising and recruitment. We have rallies that combine the military with Cub Scouts, complete with giant inflatable soldiers entertaining the kids. We send impressive uniformed officers into kindergartens. We send recruiters into schools where the vast majority of the students are minors. Our military sponsors NASCAR race cars, flies jets over football games, and invests in Hollywood movies and video games that make killing look like the coolest and most extreme sporting event. Students are tested in many of our public schools, and the results fed to recruiters without the knowledge of the students or their parents. We invest so much in recruitment of every soldier, that we could have spent the money paying them to rebuild our country."

"That we are doing this to children," Bolger added, "is beyond outrageous. We object to cigarette companies targeting the young and vulnerable. Should we not object as strongly to the war machine doing the same — particularly when we are legally committed to protecting our children from recruitment?"

The U.N. Committee also requests information on Afghanistan and Iraq, writing, "In view of the large number of children who have died in the on going armed conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq . . . please inform the Committee of measures taken by [the United States] to ensure respect for the fundamental principles of proportionality and distinction between military objects and civilians and

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STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN 2012 POETRY/ART CONTEST



(l. to r.) Celebration poets and artists: Jackie Chilton (Artist, Zoe Barnum HS); Taylor Christiansen (Poet, McKinleyville HS); Dayton Dean (Poet, McKinleyville HS); Nasiri, Sarawanangkoo (Artist, Thailand, Arcata HS); Siri Jiahe Wang (Poet, China, McKinleyville HS); Yanet Salazar (Poet, Arcata HS); Khrystyna Faryna (Artist, Romania, Arcata HS); Elizabeth Time (Poet, Nigeria, Arcata HS); Cavanaugh Carter (Poet, Arcata HS); and Kayla McClelland (Poet, Six Rivers Charter HS).



Richard Gilchrist (r.) presenting Art Honors awards to Alice Benaia (l), AFS exchange student from Italy, and Nasiri Sarawanangkoo (c), AFS exchange student from Thailand; both Arcata High School.



Cavanaugh Carter, Arcata High School, reciting her poem, "Something Worth Fighting For."

**PHOTOS COURTESY OF
NATE LOMBA**



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to establish accountability for violations of international humanitarian law. Please also provide precise information on the results of any investigation conducted into the killing of children reported by UNAMA [the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan] over the reporting period.”

The committee requests that the United States provide information on children detained since 2008 and currently held in U.S. prisons in Afghanistan, as well as on particular children who have been imprisoned at Guantanamo, including Omar Kadr and Mohammed Jawad.

“That the United Nations continues to raise these concerns is heartening,” said Bolger. “But the international community can hardly keep up with the changes in U.S. policies and attitudes. President Obama has targeted and killed children, including U.S. citizens with drone strikes, as part of a program already objected to by another branch of the United Nations. Have we no shame? As we contemplate new wars justified in the name of human rights, have we, at long last, no remaining shame?”

This article was posted on Monday, July 9th, 2012 at 8:57pm and is filed under Afghanistan, Children, Somalia, Sudan, United Nations.

Capitalism and the Mad Uncle in the Attic

By John Atcheson

Listen. Can you hear the Mad Uncle in the attic? His muffled shriekings are getting louder as the myths, deceptions and delusions we’ve been living on evaporate one by one in the face of reality.

Can you feel that sickening thrill as we poise atop this Sisyphean peak we call capitalism, right before the inevitable, nauseating plunge back down into reality?

Can you smell the stench from the soon-to-fail Rio plus 20 meeting as we con ourselves into believing we can snatch a bit more time at the peak if only we could steal yet more of our children’s children’s children’s birthright?

Ah, but we – plutocrats and people alike -- all beg, can’t we keep this damned Uncle locked up for just a little more time. Maybe until this election is over. Or until we’ve extracted a little more money from a fossil-fueled economy based on greed and exploitation. Or until ... oh, I don’t know ... until we’ve bled the last iota of money from the 99%? Or at least until ... I get mine?

Can’t we pretend for just one more generation that capitalism – pure, unconstrained capitalism, the kind Reagan promised us would bring morning to America – isn’t instead bringing mourning to America, and to the world?

Can’t we just pretend, for one more generation, that the whole infinite growth on a finite world thing isn’t just a giant, tragic Ponzi Scheme designed to sell out the future?

Can’t we pass this problem onto them?

Can’t we use buzz words and sound bites to drown out the lunatic? Words like socialist or redistribution or – most dreaded of all – communism. Can’t we keep pretending that capitalism is the necessary handmaiden of Democracy, the only path to prosperity, our only source of happiness?

No. We can’t. Because deep down inside, in places we don’t like to visit, we know the Mad Uncle is right.

What we’re doing now isn’t making us all rich. It’s impoverishing us.

Ultimately, all wealth comes from natural capital. Things like fertile soils; viable forests; intact gene pools; abundant minerals; clean water and living oceans; sustainable fish stocks; flourishing ecosystems; a stable, life-sustaining climate. We are liquidating these essential sources of wealth as if they were so much junk offered for pennies on the dollar at a desperate garage sale.

Our current version of capitalism is good at generating more currency, not greater wealth. And we forget that currency is merely a surrogate for things of real value, with no tangible value in and of itself.

And even the currency isn’t being distributed equally. It’s being siphoned off by the richest and most powerful in a spiral of inequity.

It isn’t making us happy, it’s enslaving us to a life spent pursuing more and more stuff we don’t need for reasons we don’t understand. Bigger; more; faster becomes biggest; most; fastest. But easy, easier, easiest becomes fatter, sicker weaker.

It isn’t making us free, it’s creating a tyranny of the corporations and plutocrats. They weaken government in the name of freedom, only to turn us into indentured servants to a system that’s designed to take from the poor and middle class and give to the uber rich, even as it liquidates Earth’s treasures.

But the real tragedy isn’t our own alienation or our economic and spiritual impoverishment. It is the diminished legacy we leave the rest of humanity and indeed, the rest of the biosphere.

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It's our willingness to consume the future in an orgy of gluttony, drowning out the Mad Uncle's protests with the noise of our own slurping, chewing, smacking, munching, crunching as we inhale our children's birthright.

Hyperbole?

sNot really. Every living system is in decline, and the rate is accelerating.

In the case of climate change we are at the threshold of igniting feedbacks that will usher in an inevitable and catastrophic set of changes that will make life difficult in some areas and impossible in others.

It's time to admit that the Mad Uncle is right. Pure, unconstrained capitalism is the problem, not the solution.

What, then, are we to do?

There are alternatives. We could tie currency to sustainable ecosystems. Instead of a gold standard we could have a green standard. Thus, destruction of a nation's stock of natural capital would devalue its currency, and make it poorer.

We could adopt systems of production and ownership such as Co-ops that emphasized cooperation, equitable sharing of revenue and stewardship of our natural resources. It's not pie-in-the sky, to consider this. Cooperatives already produce more than \$1 trillion in assets, enough to make them equivalent to the 10th largest economy in the world.

We could insist that trade agreements contain real, enforceable requirements for equitable treatment of labor and serious environmental protections, so that globalization ceased being a race to the bottom for humans and the planet.

Yes, these ideas are unrealistic, naïve, politically impossible and all the other labels that will surely be affixed to them and other ideas like them.

But it is worth remembering, that the only thing more unrealistic than junking our current bastardized system of economics is supposing we can continue to liquidate the Earth without consequence.

That's what the Mad Uncle is telling us. We continue to ignore him at our peril.

John Atcheson is author of the novel, A Being Darkly Wise, an eco-thriller and Book One of a Trilogy centered on global warming. His writing has appeared in The New York Times, the Washington Post, the Baltimore Sun, the San Jose Mercury News and other major newspapers. Atcheson's book reviews are featured on Climateprogress.org.

GOLDEN RULE ENGINE INSTALLED

On Saturday, July 14th, a party of individuals were on hand to witness the installation of the engine, purchased by an anonymous VFP member from Ohio, into the Golden Rule. The installation of the engine marks the beginning of the final phases for the completion of restoration of this famous sailboat. Hopefully she will be sailing the waters of the world by summer of 2013.





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LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

The Lantern Ceremony

By Jon Reisdorf

After the horrific atomic bombings of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and three short days later at Nagasaki, the ancient Asian Lantern ceremonies took on a whole new meaning: expressing the hope that nuclear weapons will never be used again. Now every year on or near August 6, those who died in Japan and those killed in past wars are remembered. Each lantern is a symbol of a personal commitment to create peace in this world and hopes for a better future.

The modern Lantern Ceremony began in Vancouver in 1983 soon spreading around the world. The first Lantern Ceremony in Arcata occurred in 1992. This year's ceremony will begin with the making of the lanterns at Arcata Plaza Saturday, August 4 - starting around 10 AM and will continue around 7:30 PM at Klopp Lake at the Marsh. Thanks to all who volunteered. I will be calling later in July about how you can help.

***SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED:** We need volunteers with a kayak or canoe who could help with retrieval of reusable bases after the ceremony is completed. Please email me or call me at 822-4595.*

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