



NEXT VFP-56 MEETING

Thursday, Dec. 1, 2005
7:00 Marsh Commons

U.S. SOLDIER CASUALTIES

DEAD: 2,106

PERIOD	WOUNDED
Nov 2005.....	50
Oct 2005.....	602
Sept 2005.....	545
Aug 2005.....	539
July 2005.....	477
June 2005.....	508
May 2005.....	572
April 2005.....	595
March 2005.....	371
Feb 2005.....	413
Jan 2005.....	498
Dec 2004.....	544
Nov 2004.....	1424
Oct 2004.....	648
Sept 2004.....	706
Aug 2004.....	895
July 2004.....	552
June 2004.....	589
May 2004.....	757
April 2004.....	1212
March 2004.....	323
Feb 2004.....	150
Jan 2004.....	189
Dec 2003.....	261
Nov 2003.....	337
Oct 2003.....	413
Sep 2003.....	247
Aug 2003.....	181
July 2003.....	226
June 2003.....	147
May 2003.....	55
April 2003.....	340
March 2003.....	202

WOUNDED: 15,568

PLUS 30,420+ innocent Iraqi women, children and noncombatants

Young Lefty Whops Wealthy Developer for NHUHSD Board

by Fred Hummel

Eighteen-year-old Shane Brinton pulled off a stunning upset in the race for a seat on the North Humboldt Union High School District board of governors. Brinton, who vocally opposed the District's policy regarding military recruiters on campus, was clearly at odds with the conservative current board that recently watered down a proposal to reign in those recruiters.

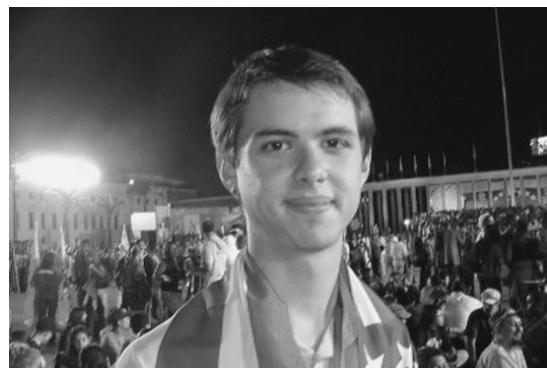
Brinton, one of six candidates for three open seats on the board, was the second highest vote getter, trouncing developer Dan Johnson and his lavishly financed campaign. Johnson finished fourth and out of the money. No pun intended. Brinton won his seat the hard way, hitting the streets, talking to people and rounding up endorsements—including that of VFP-56.

His victory came in spite of some sensationalist negative publicity, first appearing in the widely read *North Coast Journal* and disseminated elsewhere after that. Shane is a member of the Young Communist League; he also happens to be a registered Democrat and was a serious, qualified candidate for the school board seat. No matter, the *Journal* ran a retro, redbaiting piece titled "Communist Blasts Developer," focusing on Shane's Communist identification rather than on school board issues. Enough to raise the blood pressure of any Right-thinking American, it was fodder for many letters to the editor.

But Brinton kept his eyes on the prize. He focused on a few key issues: controlling military recruiters on campus, better sex and health education programs, and the need to have a young person on the Board who had only recently felt the effect of the Board's actions as a student. A personable, articulate and forceful speaker whether at the podium or in one-on-one discussions, he won his race by convincing voters he was best qualified for the job, not because he had the most lawn signs and biggest campaign ads.

Shane joins progressive Kathy Marshall on the NHUHSD board and the two should be an effective force in the District. Famous triathlete Mike Pigg, whose position on campus recruiting was close to that of the old board, and incumbent Sarie Toste also won seats on the new board, joining one other conservative member.

Whether Pigg, whose main concern is athletics, will work with Marshall and Brinton remains to be seen. The board, sadly, has been staff-driven; it's a lot easier to simply follow staff recommendations than do the research necessary to come up with improved and innovative programs. But now it won't be just Kathy Marshall's lone voice calling for change; she'll soon have the clear-thinking Shane Brinton as a potential ally and we all know it's harder to drown out two voices than one. One thing, for sure: NHUHSD board meetings won't be dull anymore.



Shane Brinton at the 2005 World Festival of Youth and Students in Caracas, Venezuela, where he was an official American delegate.

Military Service Records

This list compares the military service records of prominent Democrats and Republicans. It's interesting to note the service records, or lack thereof, of the more hawkish Republican party members who encourage a call to arms for yet another commercial advantage. The list is telling, and should be told.

DEMOCRATS:

Richard Gephardt: Air Natl. Guard, 1965-71.
 David Bonior: Staff Sgt., Air Force 1968-72.
 Tom Daschle: 1st Lt., Air Force SAC 1969-72.
 Al Gore: enlisted Aug. 1969; sent to Vietnam Jan. 1971 as an army journalist in 20th Engineer Brigade.
 Bob Kerrey: Lt. j.g. Navy 1966-69; Medal of Honor, Vietnam.
 Daniel Inouye: Army 1943-47; Medal of Honor, WWII.
 John Kerry: Lt., Navy 1966-70; Silver Star, Bronze Star with Combat V, Purple Hearts.
 Charles Rangel: Staff Sgt., Army 1948-52; Bronze Star, Korea.
 Max Cleland: Captain, Army 1965-68; Silver Star & Bronze Star, Vietnam. Paraplegic from war injuries. Served in Congress.
 Ted Kennedy: Army, 1951-53.
 Tom Harkin: Lt., Navy, 1962-67; Naval Reserve, 1968-74.
 Jack Reed: Army Ranger, 1971-1979; Captain, Army Reserve 1979-91.
 Fritz Hollings: Army officer in WWII; Bronze Star and seven campaign ribbons.
 Leonard Boswell: Lt. Col., Army 1956-76; Vietnam, DFCs, Bronze Stars, and Soldier's Medal.
 Pete Peterson: Air Force Captain, POW. Purple Heart, Silver Star and Legion of Merit.
 Mike Thompson: Staff sergeant, 173rd Airborne, Purple Heart.
 Bill McBride: Candidate for Fla. Governor. Marine in Vietnam; Bronze Star with Combat V.
 Gray Davis: Army Captain in Vietnam, Bronze Star.
 Pete Stark: Air Force 1955-57.
 Chuck Robb: Vietnam.

Howell Heflin: Silver Star.
 George McGovern: Silver Star & DFC during WWII.
 Bill Clinton: Did not serve. Student deferments. Entered draft but received #311.
 Jimmy Carter: Seven years in the Navy.
 Walter Mondale: Army 1951-1953.
 John Glenn: WWII and Korea; six DFCs and Air Medal with 18 Clusters.
 Tom Lantos: Served in Hungarian underground in WWII. Saved by Raoul Wallenberg.

REPUBLICANS

(and these are the guys sending people to war):

Dick Cheney: did not serve. Several deferments, the last by marriage.
 Dennis Hastert: did not serve.
 Tom Delay: did not serve.
 Roy Blunt: did not serve.
 Bill Frist: did not serve.
 Mitch McConnell: did not serve.
 Rick Santorum: did not serve.
 Trent Lott: did not serve.
 John Ashcroft: did not serve. Seven deferments to teach business.
 Jeb Bush: did not serve.
 Karl Rove: did not serve.
 Saxby Chambliss: did not serve. "Bad knee." The man who attacked Max Cleland's patriotism.
 Paul Wolfowitz: did not serve.
 Vin Weber: did not serve.
 Richard Perle: did not serve.
 Douglas Feith: did not serve.
 Eliot Abrams: did not serve.
 Richard Shelby: did not serve.
 Jon! Kyl: did not serve.
 Tim Hutchison: did not serve.
 Christopher Cox: did not serve.
 Newt Gingrich: did not serve.
 Don Rumsfeld: served in Navy (1954-57) as flight instructor.
 George W. Bush: failed to complete his six-year National Guard; got assigned to Alabama so he could campaign for family friend running for U.S. Senate.
 Ronald Reagan: due to poor eyesight, served in a non-combat role making movies.
 B-1 Bob Dornan: Consciously enlisted after

fighting was over in Korea.
 Phil Gramm: did not serve.
 John McCain: Vietnam POW, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart & Distinguished Flying Cross.
 Dana Rohrabacher: did not serve.
 John M. McHugh: did not serve.
 JC Watts: did not serve.
 Jack Kemp: did not serve. "Knee problem," although continued in NFL for 8 years as quarterback.
 Dan Quayle: Journalism unit of the Indiana National Guard.
 Rudy Giuliani: did not serve.
 George Pataki: did not serve.
 Spencer Abraham: did not serve.
 John Engler: did not serve.
 Lindsey Graham: National Guard lawyer.
 Arnold Schwarzenegger: AWOL from Austrian army base.

PUNDITS and PREACHERS:

Sean Hannity: did not serve.
 Rush Limbaugh: did not serve (4-F with a "pilonidal cyst").
 Bill O'Reilly: did not serve.
 Michael Savage: did not serve.
 George Will: did not serve.
 Chris Matthews: did not serve.
 Paul Gigot: did not serve.
 Bill Bennett: did not serve.
 Pat Buchanan: did not serve.
 John Wayne: did not serve.
 Bill Kristol: did not serve.
 Kenneth Starr: did not serve.
 Antonin Scalia: did not serve.
 Clarence Thomas: did not serve.
 Ralph Reed: did not serve.
 Michael Medved: did not serve.
 Charlie Daniels: did not serve.
 Ted Nugent: did not serve. (He only shoots at things that don't shoot back.)

Note: This list, recently circulated widely by email, has been attributed to Illinois State Sen. Howard W. Carroll. The source has not been substantiated, but the information in the list appears to be legitimate.

Submitted by Peter Aronson



The Defining and Enabling Experience of Our “Civilization” The Thanksgiving Myth

S. Brian Willson

As we again plan to celebrate what “Americans” call Thanksgiving, let us pause for a moment of reflection. Let us recognize that accounts of the first Thanksgiving are mythological, and that the holiday is actually a grotesque celebration of our arrogant ethnocentrism.

Native Americans in the Caribbean greeted their 1492 European invaders with warm hospitality. They were so innocent that Genoan Cristoforo Colombo wrote in his log, “They willingly traded everything they owned . . . They do not bear arms . . . They would make fine servants . . . They could easily be made Christians . . . With fifty men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want.” This meeting set in motion a 500-year plunder starting in the Western Hemisphere and then spreading to the remainder of the globe. And it has not stopped!

Historian Hans Köning concluded that what sets the West apart is its persistence, its capacity to *stop at nothing*. Cultural historian Lewis Mumford declared, “Wherever Western man went, slavery, land robbery, lawlessness, culture-wrecking, and the outright extermination of both wild beasts and tame men went with him.”

Jump 129 years to 1621, year of the supposed “first Thanksgiving.” There is not much documentation of that event, but surviving Indians do not trust the myth. Natives were already dying like flies thanks to European-borne diseases. The Pequot tribe reportedly numbered 8,000 when the Pilgrims arrived, but disease reduced their population to 1,500 by 1637, when the first, officially proclaimed, all-Pilgrim “Thanksgiving” took place. At that feast, the whites of New England celebrated their massacre of the Pequots. “This day forth shall be a day of celebration and thanksgiving for subduing the Pequots,” read

Massachusetts Bay Governor John Winthrop’s proclamation. Few Pequots survived.

Moving 158 years further, we discover a ruthless campaign conducted in central New York in 1779 during our nation’s noble Revolutionary War. The Continental Congress was furious that a majority of the Iroquois Indians (those who coined the Seventh Generation philosophy) were siding with the British against the colonialists who were rapidly settling their lands. The booming capital town of the Seneca Nation was Kanadesaga at the head of Seneca Lake in the Finger Lakes region. In the summer of 1779, the Continental Congress instructed its Army’s commanding general to take care of the Indian problem. George Washington complied. He ordered General John Sullivan “to lay waste . . . that the country . . . be . . . destroyed,” instilling “terror” among the Iroquois Indians in central New York; General Sullivan affirmed that “the Indians shall see that there is malice enough in our hearts to destroy everything that contributes to their support.” Washington declared, “Our future security will be in their inability to injure us . . . and in the terror with which the severity of the chastisement they receive will inspire them” [Richard Drinnon, *Facing West: The Metaphysics of Indian Hating & Empire Building* (New York: Schocken Books, 1990), pp. 331-32].

The culminating day of “victory” was September 7, 1779. Total destruction of Kanadesaga and the forty other Seneca towns was accomplished by 4,500 troops, nearly one-third of the entire force of the Continental Army. The only major military campaign of that year, it was one of the most vicious scorched-earth campaigns in history. All orchards and food crops were destroyed,

all buildings were looted, then burned. Many of the escaping Senecas were scalped and butchered. “After the battle . . . Indian warriors . . . were scalped; Lieutenant William Barton amused himself by skinning two Indians from the hips down to make two pairs of leggings, one pair for himself, the other a present for his major” [Morris Bishop, “The End of the Iroquois,” *American Heritage*, October 1969, p. 78].

Jump 162 years to 1941, when I was born in Kanadesaga, renamed Geneva by that time. As a young boy I blissfully collected hundreds of Seneca arrowheads, storing them in a special protected box in my bedroom. A chapter in my seventh grade history textbook, “The Iroquois Were the Indian Masters of the State,” instructed that due to “destructive attacks on the frontier settlements, George Washington decided to send an army to crush the Indians . . . The Six Nations never recovered from this blow.” Europeans onward and upward!

The New Republic was formed in 1789, its 1787 Constitutional Convention having been conducted in enforced secrecy, never submitted to a popular vote. The third U.S. President, Thomas Jefferson (1801–1809) described his vision of an “empire of liberty,” with expanded commercial enterprises and territory. In 1807 he advocated preventive war: “If the English do not give us the satisfaction we demand, *we will take* Canada, which wants to enter the Union; and when, together with Canada, we shall have the Floridas, we shall no longer have any difficulties with our neighbors; and it is the *only way of preventing them*” (emphasis mine) [William Appleman Williams, *The Contours of American History* (Cleveland: The World Publishing Company, 1961), p. 192].

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November 18th protest shuts down Eureka recruitment center

These photos were taken at the Friday, Nov. 18 recruitment center protest by VFP-56 member Don Maddox. He posted an article featuring his photos on the Indybay website <<http://indybay.org/news/2005/11/1784725.php>> under his forest defense pen name, "nativetrees." For a short while the article was featured on the front page of both the Indybay and national Indymedia websites. Don's online article is linked to 8 other articles about Eureka anti-war protests over the past several years, including the annual peace marches. Check it out!



The 14 Defining Characteristics Of Fascism

Dr. Lawrence Britt, a political scientist, studied the fascist regimes of Hitler (Germany), Mussolini (Italy), Franco (Spain), Suharto (Indonesia), and Pinochet (Chile). He found the regimes all had 14 things in common, and he calls these the identifying characteristics of fascism. His article is titled "Fascism Anyone?" and appears in *Free Inquiry's* Spring 2003 issue on page 20.

1. Powerful, Continuing Nationalism—Fascist regimes tend to make constant use of patriotic mottos, slogans, symbols, songs, and other paraphernalia. Flags are seen everywhere, as are flag symbols on clothing and in public displays.

2. Disdain for the Recognition of Human Rights—Because of fear of enemies and the need for security, the people in fascist regimes are persuaded that human rights can be ignored in certain cases because of "need." The people tend to look the other way or even approve of torture, summary executions, assassinations, long incarcerations of prisoners, etc.

3. Identification of Enemies/Scapegoats as a Unifying Cause—The people are rallied into a unifying patriotic frenzy over the need to eliminate a perceived common threat or foe: racial, ethnic or religious minorities; liberals; communists; socialists, terrorists, etc.

4. Supremacy of the Military—Even when there are widespread domestic problems, the military is given a disproportionate amount of government funding, and the domestic agenda is neglected. Soldiers and military service are glamorized.

5. Rampant Sexism—The governments of fascist nations tend to be almost exclusively male-dominated. Under fascist regimes, traditional gender roles are made more rigid. Divorce, abortion and homosexuality are suppressed and the state is represented as the ultimate guardian of the family institution.

6. Controlled Mass Media—Sometimes the media is directly controlled by the government, but in other cases, the media is indirectly controlled by government regulation, or sympathetic media spokespeople and executives. Censorship, especially in war time, is very common.

7. Obsession with National Security—Fear is used as a motivational tool by the government over the masses.

8. Religion and Government are Intertwined—Governments in fascist nations tend to use the most common religion in the nation

as a tool to manipulate public opinion. Religious rhetoric and terminology is common from government leaders, even when the major tenets of the religion are diametrically opposed to the government's policies or actions.

9. Corporate Power is Protected—The industrial and business aristocracy of a fascist nation often are the ones who put the government leaders into power, creating a mutually beneficial business/government relationship and power elite.

10. Labor Power is Suppressed—Because the organizing power of labor is the only real threat to a fascist government, labor unions are either eliminated entirely, or are severely suppressed.

11. Disdain for Intellectuals and the Arts—Fascist nations tend to promote and tolerate open hostility to higher education, and academia. It is not uncommon for professors and other academics to be censored or even arrested. Free expression in the arts and letters is openly attacked.

12. Obsession with Crime and Punishment—Under fascist regimes, the police are given almost limitless power to enforce laws. The people are often willing to overlook police

abuses and even forego civil liberties in the name of patriotism. There is often a national police force with virtually unlimited power in fascist nations.

13. Rampant Cronyism and Corruption—Fascist regimes almost always are governed by groups of friends and associates who appoint each other to government positions and use governmental power and authority to protect their friends from accountability. It is not uncommon in fascist regimes for national resources and even treasures to be appropriated or even outright stolen by government leaders.

14. Fraudulent Elections—Sometimes elections in fascist nations are a complete sham. Other times elections are manipulated by smear campaigns against or even assassination of opposition candidates, use of legislation to control voting numbers or political district boundaries, and manipulation of the media. Fascist nations also typically use their judiciaries to manipulate or control elections.

SOUND FAMILIAR?

Submitted by Jim Sorter

VFP-56 Veterans Day Ceremony

by Fred Hummel

On a sunny November 11, 2005, Chapter 56 members, associate members, friends and passersby honored veterans and victims of the U.S. invasion of Iraq by sounding a bell on the Arcata Plaza at 30-second intervals for the two hours preceding our weekly Peace Vigil.

Chapter 56 founding member Bill Thompson proposed the bell-ringing ceremony at our monthly meeting on November 3. The concept was unanimously endorsed by the members present, many of whom signed up to participate.

The bell we used was the hand-held brass gong with which the chapter marks the beginning and conclusion of our weekly vigil. An extraordinary piece of metal, when struck firmly it can be heard blocks away. Its reverberations continue to be clearly heard, and felt, for almost 30 seconds after being struck.

On display during the ceremony were pictures of the last 1,000 US troops killed in Iraq, current body counts of both U.S. military and Iraqi civilians who were victims of the invasion, and posters warning of our nation's plans to expand its nuclear weapons programs.

In practice, the ceremony was informal and personal and resulted in a number of passersby asking to be able to participate. Also, a number of the street people the *Arcata Eye* refers to as "Plazoids," took a serious interest in our ceremony and displays.

The irony of the day was that we were standing in the shadow of the statue of that great imperialist, William McKinley. I think we trumped him.



Peace, Friendship, Solidarity

by Carl Stancil

In which Carl attends the 52nd National Congress of l'Association Républicaine des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de Guerre (Republican Association of Retired Veterans and Victims of War) in Paris, France

On Thursday, October 27 I stagger into l'ARAC's 52nd Congress at Toussaint-L'Ouverture Hall in Tremblay-en-France, a suburb of Paris. Still dazed from an eight-hour train ride from Zurich, I attempt to follow the French discussion of proposed resolutions.

The following day, discussions continue and votes are taken on the resolutions, which include civic conscience; opposing the culture of violence; remembering history accurately through preservation of historic sites, monuments and cemeteries; and the need for a "National Day of Resistance."

That evening, at Tremblay-en-France's Aragon Theatre, international visitors make short presentations on the work being done in their countries. There are presenters from Algeria, Congo, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, and a few other countries. Most of the speeches are prewritten, delivered in French (some with the help of translators), and very formal.

The reason I am at this conference is my involvement with the Vietnam Friendship Village Project (VFVP); l'ARAC is the umbrella for VFVP's French committee. Four of us are here from the U.S.; I am the only one who speaks a little bit of French. Rosi Höhn-Mizo, VFVP's international committee president from Germany, has already delivered her prepared statement to the assembly.

Suddenly, my good friend, l'ARAC President Georges Doussin catches my eye and informs me he has added me to the speakers list. In just 15 minutes the mistress of ceremonies calls my name. Having nothing written, I think about the three projects in which I am directly involved and decide to risk being the fool and go for it in French. I know they will appreciate my effort to use their language even if I butcher it. I take a deep breath, stand, and walk to the lectern. The house lights are bright and it feels as though there are 500 people in the theatre. Here, roughly, are my comments, delivered extemporaneously in French:

Dear friends,

I am not well prepared, so I will be informal.

I would very much like to make a report to you about our work in the United States. You know that things are difficult in the U.S. I would like to begin with a story.

Last October I was in Hanoi for the International Committee Meeting of the Vietnam Friendship Village. At the same time in the U.S. we were having the election. No, the SELECTION! [They laugh.] We Americans were watching it on TV. It was unbelievable. It was the second time. We looked at one another. We cannot go back

to the U.S. But as we reflected, we realized we must return.

Now we must struggle in the U.S. together. With you all we will work together. I would like to mention a few projects in the U.S.

The first is the Vietnam Friendship Village and you know about that. There are two others that I want to describe.

Veterans For Peace is very active in my town of Arcata, California. Chapter 56 of VFP has a program in the schools. We work with teachers in the classroom, educating on issues of war, military service and victims of war. There is a great deal of ignorance in the system as well as the administration.

The third is the GI Hotline. The Hotline is a toll-free telephone number which can be accessed in the U.S. for information on legal rights as well as military and civil law for persons in military service and young persons who are being recruited. Recruiters are in the schools quite often and we are making the effort to be there too.

And so, together with all of you, we can change this global problem [of militarism].

Thank you.

Immediately after my impromptu speech, several people come to the podium to shake my hand and pat me on the back. After the wild applause, I return to my seat, saying to Becky and my other colleagues, "I can't believe I just did that." Throughout the remainder of the Congress, French members thank me warmly for my words and for doing what we do.

On Saturday, the last plenary session of the congress ends with a formal flag ceremony honoring all those killed in war, held on the forecourt of the Tremblay-en-France Town Hall, with flower wreaths laid at the foot of a monument dedicated to townspeople who died in the French Resistance during WWII. This is followed by a champagne reception hosted by the Town Council. Next we are bused to a large hotel for a fancy closing banquet. The star of the banquet is Daniel, a l'ARAC veteran celebrating his 90th birthday, who out dances most of us. Daniel is given a piggybank for his birthday, and goes from table to table collecting Euros in the bank and receiving kisses on his cheeks. (Although red wine is also plentiful, we speculate that kissing is the real reason for French longevity.) Daniel joyfully breaks his bank, donating the contents—500+ Euros—to the Vietnam Friendship Village Project. Wow! I want to be like that when I'm 90.

The following day, many of the internationals in attendance enjoy a bus tour of Paris including a picnic lunch at Monmartre and a stop at Notre Dame Cathedral. In the evening we hang out at our hotel in a suburb north of Paris. Our French hosts, Georges, Raphael and Philippe, order some pizza and when they go to pick it up they are mugged while walking through a nearby park. No one is injured, but a wallet and cell phone are taken. Unfortunately, the police are unable to respond because they are busy quelling a "manifestation"

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Thanksgiving Myth

(continued from page 3)

Others openly talked of expansion into Spanish America and Canada for planter and merchant prosperity in new markets, saying that the patriotic and virtuous “wise framers” of the Constitution had “*too much wisdom to restrict Congress to defensive war*” [*Ibid.*, p. 194].

Let us examine Humboldt, California in the mid 1800s. The 1849 gold rush brought a large influx of white miners and settlers to California, leading to near virtual wipeout of California Indians by 1865–70. Between 1853 and 1861 there were at least fourteen wars waged against the Indians of California, with paramilitary campaigns continuing into the late 1860s. The population, once thought to have been as high as 700,000, was estimated to be 100,000 in 1849 partly due to grueling enslavement in the Catholic missions. From 1849 to 1860 the population decreased by 65 percent to 35,000, due to systematic killings [Russell Thorton, *American Indian Holocaust and Survival: A Population History Since 1492* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987), p. 109]. A detailed list of atrocities committed against Indians in California, including many in what is now Humboldt County, can be found in Sherburne F. Cook’s *The Conflict Between the California Indian and White Civilization* [Berkeley: University of California Press, 1976].

From 1857 to 1860, U.S. author/poet Bret Harte wrote for the *Northern*

Californian and the *Humboldt Times*. Harte was privy to the white massacre of 188 Wiyot Indians on Indian Island in Humboldt Bay near Eureka on February 25, 1860, in which it was reported only one Wiyot child survived. Harte’s story, entitled “Indiscriminate Massacre of Indians, Women and Children Butchered,” included this account: “Little children and old women were mercilessly stabbed and their skulls crushed by axes. When the bodies were landed in Union [present day Arcata] a more shocking and revolting spectacle never was exhibited to the eyes of a Christian and civilized people. Old women, wrinkled and decrepit, lay weltering in blood, their brains dashed out and dabbled with long grey hair. Infants sparse a span long, with their faces cloven with hatchets and their bodies ghastly wounds” [*Northern Californian*, Vol. 2, Issue 9 (February 29, 1960), p. 1]. Harte fled as whites sought to lynch him.

In California as elsewhere, hordes of white frontier settlers, speculators, surveyors and other opportunists were establishing permanent settlements as they moved westward from the Atlantic Coast colonies, especially following cessation of the Seven Years War in 1763. Thousands of murders of Indigenous were proudly admitted by settlers and investors/speculators engaged in activities the equivalent of today’s paramilitary death squads operating outside of “official” channels, i.e., acting parallel to or outside the jurisdiction of federal troops.

Preventive war using *terror* against

civilians as ordered by the *government* carried out by *young male troops* or *paramilitary forces* are all “American” values. Such policies have been witnessed time and again in U.S. history, rationalized by our sense that we are an exceptional people. We remain in denial about our racist and arrogant origins. More redeeming values have been exhibited, such as civil disobedience and waves of progressive political movements. But the prevailing political and economic structures remain intransigently oligarchic. In simple terms, we remain a white male supremacist society of plutocrats supported by massive numbers of obedient consumers and laborers.

By revealing our social secrets (an oligarchy committed to selfish exploitation) that have pre-empted our social myth (a democracy committed to equal justice), we can help catalyze a revolution of consciousness. Recognizing that obedience to our system is killing us is a grand first step for triggering the imaginative forces necessary to enable rapid movement toward a society based on mutual aid in which sustainable communities are built and nourished at the local level.

We have yet to come to grips with the original holocaust that is the defining and enabling experience of our “civilization.” Embracing this “shadow” ironically can enable sudden and radical shifts as we are freed from expending the incredible unconscious energy needed to conceal our shame. Expressing our grief for what we have done to others, and ultimately to *ourselves*, will be experienced as tremendous relief.

Peace, Friendship, Solidarity (from page 6)

(demonstration) by young men in a nearby neighborhood, which results in a car burning. Georges sees the unrest of young men as just one more of the consequences of France’s colonial imperial adventures.

By the time of my departure two days later, the unrest and destruction is coming to a head, here and in other towns. The evening before I fly I am awakened by loud voices in the park near my room. Opening my window I see flames and smell the acrid smoke of plastics and rubber. I realize that if a

Molotov cocktail were to find its way through the front windows of the hotel, I might have to flee. I pack and ready my clothes in case I need to beat a hasty retreat. Morning comes without incident, so I grab my camera to examine the damage. A burned out city bus and a car lay smoldering nearby.

Later that morning, I watch the suburbs of Paris disappear from the windows of the airport train. I reflect on the roots of the conflicts examined at the ARAC conference as well as their aftereffects, which I have observed both in the Friendship Village and in the streets of Paris.





**Veterans For Peace
Chapter 56**

**NEW Phone: 707-822-4975
Email: VFP56@aol.com**

**We're on
the Web!**



<http://www.vfp56.org>

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Carl Stancil**

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to submit an article, opinion, comment or response to anything you have read that might interest the members of VFP-56, please email it to turtldnrcr@aol.com in Word format, or mail to Jim Sorter at 1762 Buttermilk Lane, Arcata, CA 95521. Submissions will be included on a first come basis until the newsletter is full. Late arriving submissions will be archived for future issues.



A time to celebrate the work and vision of grassroots organizing, find a gift to share for the holidays, eat well, and support the Redwood Peace and Justice Center. There will be a wide range of silent auction items to bid on throughout the evening, and the dinner will feature local organic ingredients, with a vegan option as well as a wild line-caught Alaskan salmon option. Music by “gypsy bluegrass” band, **Absynth**. Tickets are \$22 pre-sale, \$25 at the door, and are available at the Redwood Peace and Justice Center, 1040 H St., Arcata. For more information or to make reservations, call 826-2511.



**Veterans For Peace Chapter 56
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Carl Stancil's postcard from Paris—see article on page 6.