

give
peace
a chance



Issue # 1 - Fall 2009

Northwest Suburban Peace & Education Project
www.nwsubpep.org
www.facebook.com/pages/Northwest-Suburban-Peace-Education-Project/57728855217



Northwest Suburban Peace & Education Project

Who Are We?

Parents, peace activists, students, religious leaders, veterans, and teachers united around the goal of de-militarizing our public schools. Started in the spring of 2004 by several parents of District 214 students.

What Do We Do?

Counsel students about their career choices and options; challenge their assumptions about the military; get them to think about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Make sure students have a fair and balanced view of military life; that they enter the military, should they choose to do so, with their eyes wide open.

Conduct workshops and give presentations.

Attend school board meetings and ask questions.

Monitor school board policies.

Why?

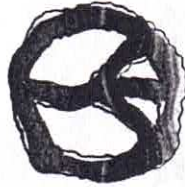
We do not believe that the military should have a role in public education; that education and militarization are mutually exclusive. We think war is fundamentally wrong; that it is fought primarily by the young at the request of a few rich and powerful.

Some recruiters mislead our students; some outright lie.

We've seen far too many soldiers returning from war damaged physically and mentally; they've been asked to do things they knew were wrong for a cause they no longer believe in.

Think about it...

you can't be all you can be if you're dead!



be a part of our next 'zine!!!
we want to include your thoughts, ideas
and opinions...

**how do you feel about recruiters in your
school?**

**what are your thoughts on the wars in
Iraq and Afghanistan (and Pakistan)?**
**stories, poems, artwork (including the
covers) will all be considered.**

**submit your ideas to nwsubpep@comcast.net or
bring them to our table when we are at your school.**

prospect - the 1st Monday of each month

rolling meadows - the 1st Tuesday of each month

buffalo grove - the 2nd Monday of each month

wheeling - the 2nd Tuesday of each month

hersey - the 3rd Wednesday of each month

elk grove - the 3rd Thursday of each month

**submissions for the next edition are
due by November 15th**



In early 1966 The US Army came calling for Ali, and he was classified 1-A for the draft. He got the news surrounded by reporters and blurted one of the most famous phrases of the decade,

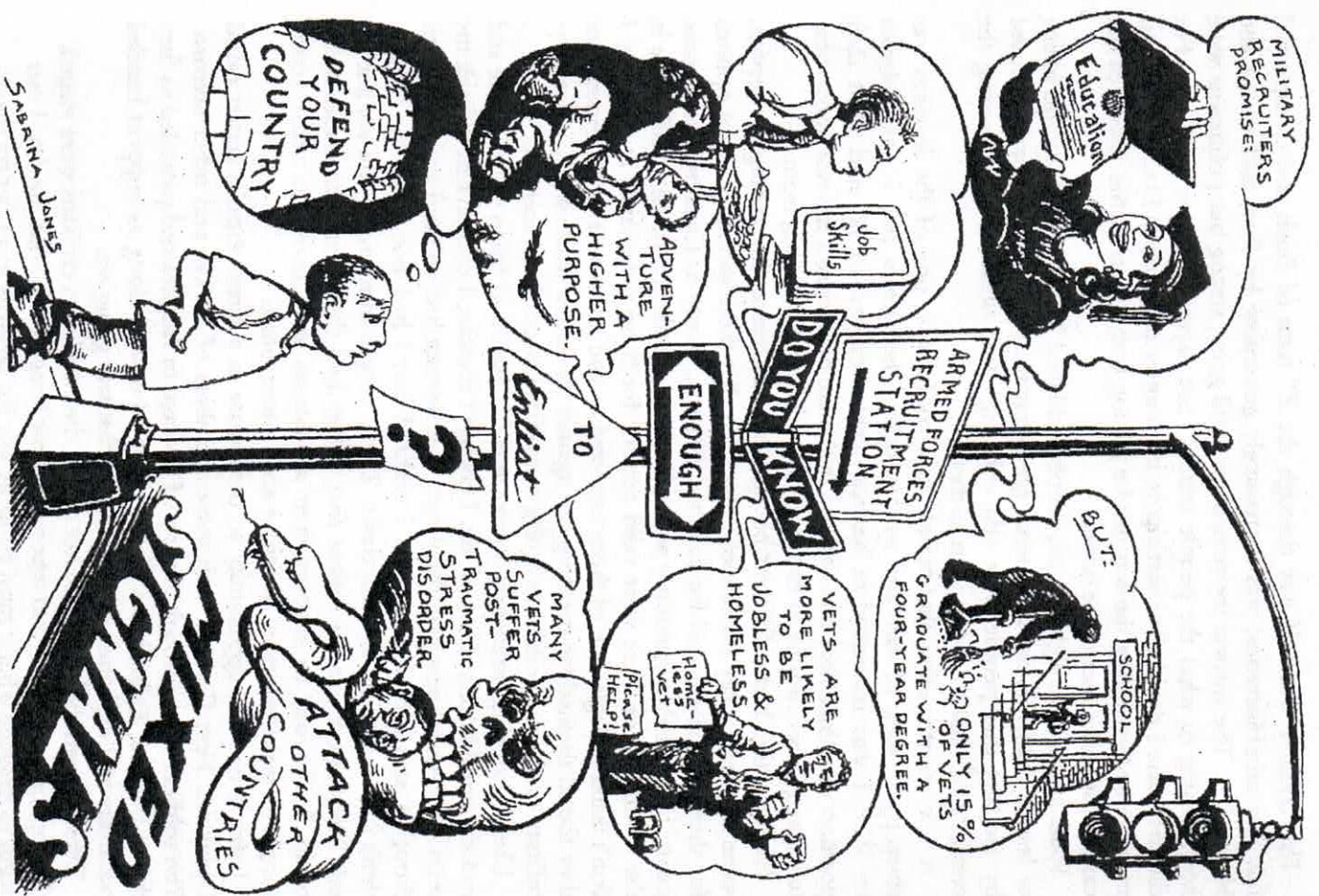
"MAN, I AIN'T GOT NO QUARREL WITH THEM VIET CONG."



"Some people thought I was a hero. Some people said that what I did was wrong. But everything I did was according to my conscience."

I made a stand all people, not just black people, should have thought a bout making because it wasn't just black people being drafted. The government had a system where the rich man's son went to college, and the poor man's son went to war. Muhammad Ali

MILITARY RECRUITMENT



"Duty to Country"

This country was half way through the 2nd term of Bush and Company. I felt that administration was increasingly governing by fear, half truths and blatant lies. The antiwar movement was still going strong but politicians were not listening to what the people wanted, not paying attention to voters. For the first time I decided to participate in an antiwar march in D.C. I thought if my vote isn't stopping the war maybe joining with others in the streets of our capital will make them take notice.

I was against this fight for oil, deeply saddened by the bombings and killing of Iraq civilians. Soldiers the same age as my sons were dying. I was confused by the fact that people were still enlisting. Who would do that seeing the certainty of what would happen to them?

A few months after that march, at a conference, one of the lectures was given by a group of men and women calling themselves *Iraq Veterans Against the War*. I was interested in hearing what they had to say and what their position was since they had enlisted in the armed forces. I did not know what to expect, I was curious to find out where they were coming from.

Each speaker had a different background and reason for joining the service; some needed money for school, others felt that there weren't a lot of options for them. Some enlisted for patriotic reasons, "Duty to Country", and some joined because they genuinely wanted to help people and make a difference in the world. All of these were valid reasons for these individuals at the time. I don't think a single one of them expected to end up in an antiwar group. But they found themselves speaking out against the media white wash, against the military or against politicians trying to manipulate public perception.

I heard horrible, wrenching stories and felt like I had fallen out of a tree and had the wind knocked out of me. I couldn't breathe, I couldn't hold back my tears but I now knew why these men and women had enlisted and what their thoughts and experiences were. I realized that I had not taken the time to think about soldiers as individuals. These people humanized the soldier for me. They also made me realize that if they had the courage to speak out, I could find a way to support their aspirations and encourage other young people to make informed decisions about their future.

Later, I had the opportunity to participate in a street theater action called Operation First Casualty with some members of IAW and other activists. The soldiers went through the city of Chicago in fatigues and patrolled as they did in Bagdad, Fallujah etc. Those of us who were along as support handed out flyers and explained to pedestrians what was going on.

Even though the guns were not real & the attacks on civilians were staged, the impact was chilling and repeatedly horrifying throughout the day. I can begin to imagine what it must really be like for civilians in a country that is

with a vision

Wanting to support his mother,

make her proud

show her he

was more

than a trouble maker.

but didn't know how

so he signed up & disappeared...

TV doesn't show

death coming home

bodies stiff

lying cold across

metal stretchers

THEY can't be having us

think

?

The way it is with him

he's not at school.

if this is fighting for

if he's really -- wanted to go to school.

what are we doing

what are we doing

what are we doing

what are we doing

what are we doing

what are we doing

what are we doing

Shelley Moon

being taken over and occupied by military force. And, I cannot imagine w it does to the psyche of the soldier trained and ordered to act in abominable way.

The men and women that I have had the honor to meet and spend time with, all made it home without any visible physical injuries. However many are broken: PTSD is real, strong and debilitating, Post Concussion Syndrome is affecting men and women long after they have returned stateside, many are trying to deal with being raped by their own countrymen, including superior officers. This is just the tip of the iceberg; they are also returning home to situations similar to what they were in before they enlisted.

One friend has spent two years trying to get the money for education that was promised her. When looking for a job, military experience doesn't really translate to civilian jobs. Therefore many vets find themselves only qualified for the same low wage jobs that they were qualified for before they joined the military. Many end up homeless or are back living with their parents. Navigating the red tape for medical or mental health issues and getting the promised financial aid for school is unbelievably more complicated than it should be.

After this eye-opening experience, I knew that my "Duty to Country" was to share what I had learned. My husband and I seized the opportunity to host a fundraiser for the IVAW. This allowed a new audience to hear some of these stories that are kept out of the news. It felt so right to help support their cause! I have continued to search out different ways in which I can make even a small difference.

-shari-

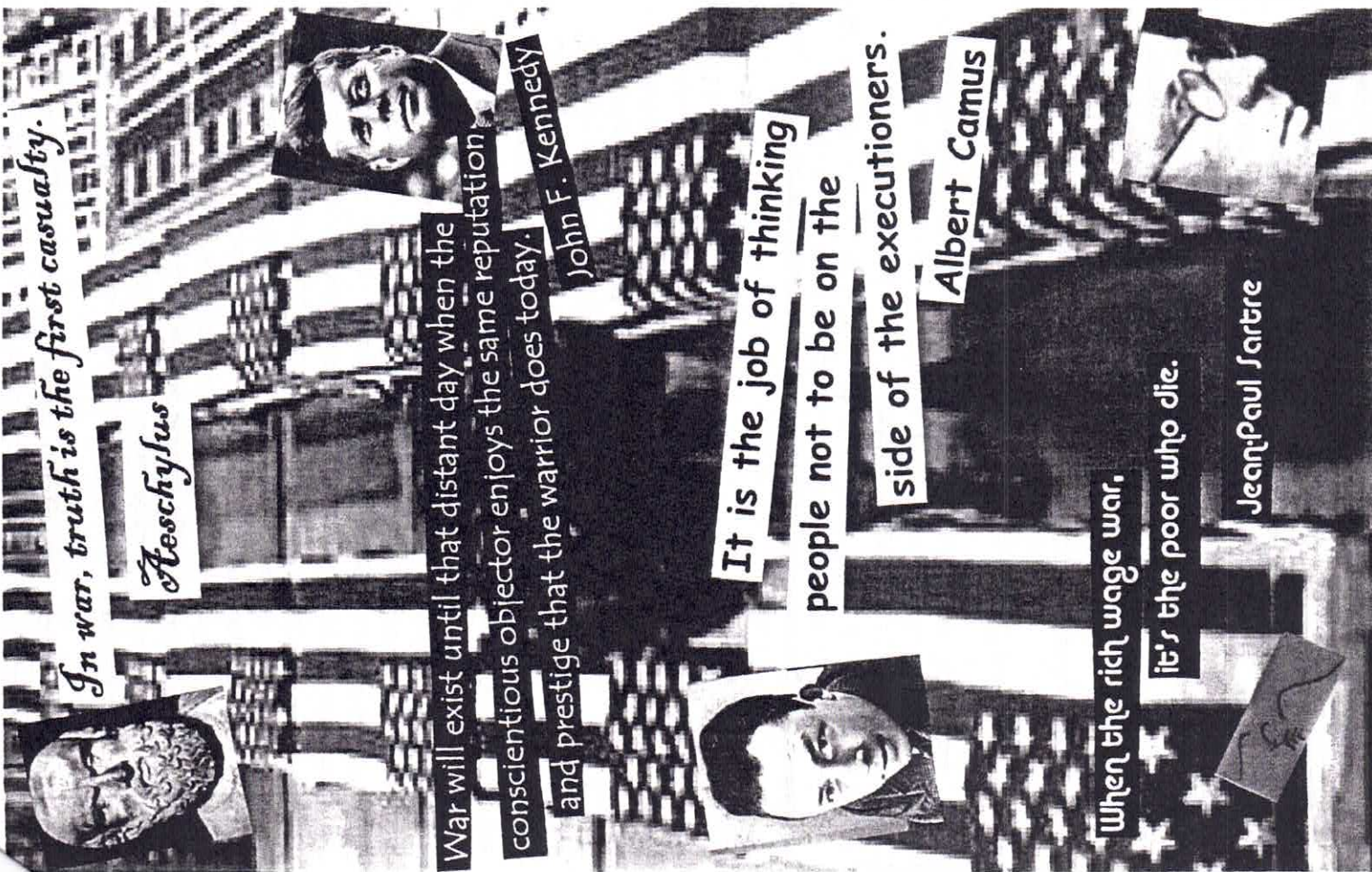
Ten Points to Consider Before You Sign a Military Enlistment Agreement

1. Do not make a hasty decision by enlisting the first time you see a recruiter or when you are upset. Take time to think it over and talk with other people.
2. Take a witness with you when you speak with a recruiter. Take notes.
3. Talk to veterans, get pros and cons.
4. Consider your moral feelings about going to war, are you ready to kill another human being who might not be your "enemy".
5. Get a copy of the enlistment agreement and read it and understand it. If you don't understand the "fine print" seek outside help.
6. There is no "period of adjustment" during which you may request and receive immediate discharge.
7. Get all your recruiter's promises in writing but also remember that the military can change the terms (such as pay, job, or benefits) of your work.
8. There are no job guarantees in the military.
9. Military personnel cannot exercise all of the civil liberties enjoyed by civilians.
10. Many opportunities exist for you to serve your community and enhance your skills. Explore options outside the military.

My Friend, Alex

My friend Alex wanted to go to art school but not money to finance his dream! So he auctioned off his dream! The highest bidder was the army and now his back from overseas a crack team.

I want to post Missing Person signs up all over the country asking if you've seen my friend the one with a dream of being all he could be but his own definition of Be: an Artist



In war, truth is the first casualty.

Aeschylus



War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today.

John F. Kennedy



It is the job of thinking people not to be on the side of the executioners.

Albert Camus

When the rich wage war,

it's the poor who die.

Jean-Paul Sartre



FACT CHECK: MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA
FACTORS THAT INCREASE RISK OF SEXUAL ASSAULT FOR
ACTIVE DUTY FEMALES INCLUDE OFFICERS WHO CONDONE
OR ALLOW SEXUAL HARASSMENT...
- MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT -
ANY UNWANTED PHYSICAL CONTACT
OF A SEXUAL NATURE.
• 23% OF WOMEN AND 3.5% OF MEN
HAVE EXPERIENCED MSA
MORE THAN HALF OF THE
INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE AT
A MILITARY WORKSITE AND
DURING DUTY HOURS
IN THE MAJORITY OF THESE
CASES THE OFFENDERS WERE
MILITARY PERSONNEL
OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, AT
LEAST 700 ARMY RECRUITS
HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF RAPE
OR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.
"WHEN YOU'RE A WOMAN, SPECIFICALLY IN A COMBAT
ZONE, NOT ONLY DO YOU HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF THE
SUSPECTED INTRUSERS AND THE ENEMIES AND THE
IDEAS, BUT YOU ALSO COME BACK TO THE BASE AND
THEN THERE YOU HAVE TO BE FEARFUL OF YOUR
FELLOW SOLDIERS." - KERRY DOUGHERTY, IAW
SEXUAL ASSAULTS REPORTED
BY SERVICE MEMBERS IN '08
2,924
SEXUAL ASSAULTS IN IRAQ &
AFGHANISTAN ALONE ROSE
210% OVER 2007
MILITARY WOMEN ARE MORE
LIKELY TO BE RAPE'D BY A
FELLOW SOLDIER THAN
KILLED BY ENEMY FIRE IN IRAQ.

WORD SEARCH

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

Find these words or phrases in the puzzle: Winter Soldier, Education, Guantanamo, Civil Rights, Watada, Wiretapping, Food Not Bombs, Abu Ghraib, Violent, AWOL, Sheehan, Afghanistan, Give Peace a Chance, Imperialism, IVAW, Occupation, Campus Anti-War Network, Immoral, Oil, PTSD, Counter Recruiting, Mejia, Code Pink, Iraq, Agosto, and Courage to Resist.



Indelible

I attended a grade school that was built in the 1880's, named after a president who died of pneumonia shortly after inauguration. It seemed quite ironic.

Curiously, we also had another drill once a month: an atomic bomb drill. I suppose someone thought this was a "practical measure."

After all, we were only 15 miles from Strategic Air Command Headquarters and that would certainly be the first target of the "Ruskies." This drill consisted of students kneeling under our desks and holding our arms over our heads to shelter us from the crap that would evidently fall from the ceiling during a nuclear holocaust. Now, bear in mind, I was only in grade school and didn't understand what I know now, but even then this futile effort seemed somewhat silly. I had learned from our pitiful history lessons about Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the horror and devastation of atomic bombs. And then we were in a new generation of H-bombs which were hundreds, if not thousands, times more powerful than those fateful annihilations of WWII.

I remember asking my teachers at the time how this drill was going to save us from a most certain incendiary demise. This was my first memory of war. In this case: "the cold war." In hindsight, this drill was basically futile.

My dad was drafted into the Army during the Korean War. He never spoke much about the war, but he did talk about his "war buddies" and what they meant to him. He did complain that he couldn't hear much in one ear that was closest to the gun.

Fund the People's Needs

NOT THE WAR MACHINE

U.S. OUT OF IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN

NOW



lucky, or they come back always birds, boys, soldiers

Poor boy dreaming among minefields, not mines left only with stars of the sea, not Mays to bless his wrists. Fuming apostles, one girl can't promise forgiveness.



Maybe he could keep the dreamed stars, you all can pry the girls from his fists, grant him the barbed transgressors, our eyes, won't blink when the train tracks leak sand, make blurry veils. Hell must be the memory of the desert, impossible to kill at twenty below.

Our payable canyon, shards of real, don't stretch perspective. Because we're ravens among carnion. Not frost to save.

Only a few yellow birds make it out anyway going hungry never stopped anyone from taking off.

-Barbara Aiken

