

Peace



Press

The Newsletter of
The Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice

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War Without End?

“All across America, there are classrooms filled with fifth graders who only know the World Trade Center from pictures. They have achieved the final perfection of George Orwell’s vision - ‘we have always been at war with Eurasia’ - because they have never known a world where their country has not been at war in Iraq and Afghanistan. As with the Towers, some of these children only know a parent from pictures, because that parent was killed in those wars. They know what anthrax is, what an IED is, what WMD stands for. They know about fear, for it was fed to them, literally, with mother’s milk. For them, it has always been this way.” –William Rivers Pitt

In times of war, U.S. presidents have often talked about yearning for peace. But the last decade has brought a gradual shift in the rhetorical world view, while a tacit assumption has taken hold: war must go on one way or another; peace no longer even gets lip service. The amorphous foe known as “terror” will never surrender. It is an intractable enemy – beatable, but never quite defeatable. Terrorists are bound to keep popping up somewhere, sometime. And so, a permanent war

psychology has dug a groove in American society alongside the permanent war economy, and we hear much less about Washington’s ostensible quest for peace.

When we recently heard of President Obama’s anxiously awaited decision on draw-downs of U.S. troop commitments in Afghanistan – 5,000 with another 23,000 to leave by Sept. 2012, still leaving more than 70,000 troops on the ground in Afghanistan – we were disappointed but not surprised. Remember, candidate Obama promised to escalate the Afghanistan war, and as president he has committed himself to “winning” it (whatever that means). Moreover, the military has consistently and effectively influenced the president’s decisions on the war, with former Defense Sec. Robert Gates, Generals Petraeus, Stanley McChrystal, and others constantly speaking in public and to the media “setting policy,” which the president has enabled. (Truman or Eisenhower would have fired them for that). The White House and the Pentagon have been waging an intense behind-the-scenes contest of wills over Afghanistan. The president has insisted on an exit strategy with timelines – but they would have to come from Congress, because he had publicly opposed timelines.

The president’s decision to prolong the war despite escalating public and congressional pressure against it surely reflects the malign influence of the Military-Industrial Complex (though Obama is accountable for his own decisions). The MIC will not be taken down quickly or easily, perhaps not in our lifetimes. But protesting the wars of the U.S. Empire is only half our job. Empowering people to envision and decide what comes after, or along with, the decline of the Empire is even more important. Even some in the military realize the U.S. needs a new foreign policy, one based less on belligerence and military might and more on peaceful diplomacy and international cooperation.

We’re sick of the wars, whether a Republican or a Democrat is in the White House. But, rather than despair, let’s look up:

◆ We Need You . . . ◆

- Public opinion, partly shaped by thousands of grassroots peace activists, is now solidly against the Afghanistan war. Earlier this year the numbers were: 86% of Democrats, 72% of Independents, and 61% of Republicans favored a speeded-up withdrawal.

- The House and the Senate have finally sent strong messages to Obama of their opposition to the war, mostly because of our public pressure. In February Rep. Barbara Lee (CA) introduced a resolution before the DNC supporting “significant and sizable” reductions in troops, with a transfer of funds to job creation. This is the same Rep. Lee who was the only member of Congress to vote against the Authorization to Use Military Force, passed on 9/14/01, which gave President Bush carte blanche to launch attacks on Afghanistan and, later, Iraq. Rep. Lee’s H.R. 2859 to repeal the Authorization to Use Military Force was introduced again this year and has drawn even more Congressional support.

A bill introduced by Reps. Jim McGovern and Walter Jones calling for an “accelerated” withdrawal, including a timeline, has increased its supporters from 162 last year to a whopping 204 this year – including 26 Republicans – surprising the Beltway security establishment and the mass media.

- Congress is also pushing the administration on the illegality of the Libya war.

- Former Defense Sec. Robert Gates was put on the defensive in his very last Senate hearing – reduced to declaring about Afghanistan: “It’s not a war without end.”

- The recent U.S. Conference of Mayors passed resolutions calling for redirecting war spending to human needs and advocating the global elimination of nuclear weapons.

- The military budget is still gargantuan, but the organizing and political climate for working on this issue is the best we have seen in decades. Campaigns like “Move the Money” and “Bring Our War \$\$\$ Home” are gaining momentum.

Yet, peace and justice work is hard – no question about it. That’s why we call it “the struggle” not “the picnic.” As for Obama, he does have options on the number of troop reductions and the speed of their withdrawal from Afghanistan as well as acting on his pledge to remove the remaining 47,000 troops from the forgotten war in Iraq. He should be campaigning on a platform of getting out of two quagmires and investing the billions in savings here at home. If he doesn’t, those quagmires will make it harder for him to ease the recession that already imperils his presidency – and make it harder for him to woo back throngs of disaffected voters in 2012.

–LMK

...the membership of OCPJ, to assist in recruiting the perfect person to replace Linda Musmeci Kimball as Director of the Peace Center and coordinator of our advocacy work at local, state, and national levels.

It has been well more than six months since Linda advised the Board that she intended to retire at the end of 2011. We have set to work to find a replacement: before we advertise the position, we are first turning to you. If there is anyone within your circle of friends and acquaintances who meets the skill-set listed below, please let me or one of the members of the Transition Committee know and we will contact them.

She/He should support our mission and be committed to our principles –

And Be Able to:

Broaden and diversify OCPJ’s communication network through the management of our Website and Facebook page to engage community members at all levels, i.e., “tech savvy”

Facilitate peace and justice education by developing and disseminating information

Coordinate volunteer/internship activities that strengthen the links between the community and university on peace and justice work

Organize fund-raising events (e.g., the annual Bread Not Bombs community dinner)

Produce the *Peace Center Press* newsletter 3-4 times a year, hard copy and/or online.

The hours are flexible, 10-15 a week for 10 months; salary is @ \$600/month; overlap and training with current director; strong support from Executive Committee and Board.

Transition Committee
Ann Geddes, Kim Medley, Pat Nelson,
Mike Ball, Ann Fuehrer

Lois Nelson, President of the Board (523-1652)

Class Warfare, Jobs, and Taxes

The last fifty years have indeed seen continuous class warfare in and over federal economic policies. But it was a war waged chiefly by big business and conservatives, and the mass of middle-income and poor Americans lost. Obama's modest proposal for tax increases on the rich does not begin a class war. On the contrary, it is a small, modest effort to reduce the other side's class war victories.

Big business and conservatives have worked to undo the regulations and taxes imposed on them in the wake of the Great Depression of the 1930s. The last fifty years saw a massive shift of the burden of federal taxation from big business to individuals and from rich individuals to everyone else. Class war policies, yes, but a war that victimized the vast majority of working Americans.

Of course, conservatives carefully avoided using "class war" to describe those tax-shifting achievements over the last half-century. They wanted us to believe that all they cared about was economic growth and job creation. But when Obama now proposes modest increases in tax rates on rich individuals ("modest" because they don't begin to return to the tax rates in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s), conservatives howl "class warfare." Obama claims that higher taxes on the rich reduce the need for spending cuts that would themselves slow growth and increase unemployment. He's right about that.

Conservatives argue that raising taxes on corporations and rich individuals punishes those who create jobs and therefore will hurt efforts to reduce unemployment. Neither logic nor evidence supports their arguments. Take, for example, the report in early September by the U.S. Federal Reserve of a record quantity of cash on the books of U.S. businesses, *hoarding over \$2 trillion*. Despite the current, very low taxes on businesses and the rich, that cash is NOT being invested and NOT creating jobs. Nor is it being distributed to anyone else who is spending it either. Washington could tax some of that cash and spend it to stimulate the economy. That would be very effective if the taxed cash were spent to hire the unemployed rather than leaving the cash idle in businesses' vaults.

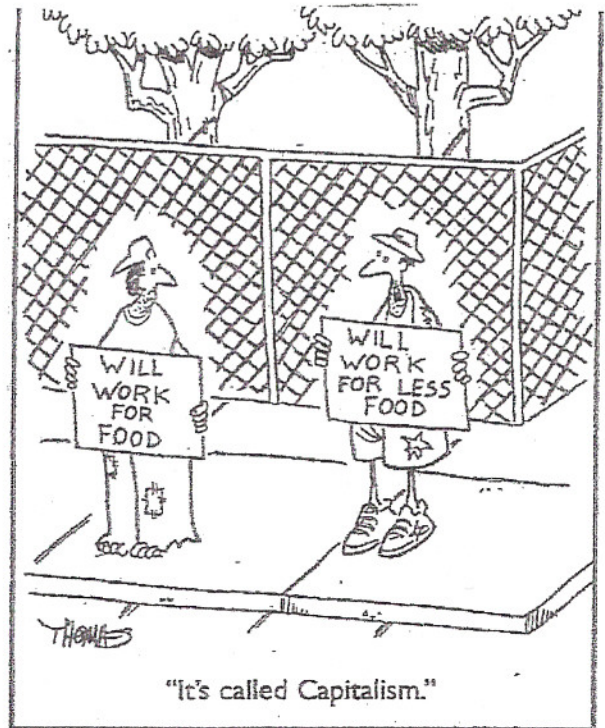
Warren Buffet recently explained in his NYT op-ed that he had never met any serious investor who decided about investments based on tax rates; rather, the prospects of sales and profits made the key difference to investors.

History reinforces Buffet's point: in the 1950s and 1960s, tax rates on corporations and the rich were much *higher* than today. Yet, those years had *lower* unemployment and *higher* rates of investment and

growth than today. Low tax rates on big business and the rich do not create jobs.

Struggles over taxes always pit big business and the rich against middle-income earners and the poor. Each side seeks to shift the tax burden. In that sense, "class war" is nothing new. Accusing only one side of waging that war is ignorant at best and dishonest at worst. But no one should be fooled. Today, big business and the rich are waging class war yet again to avoid even a small, modest reversal of the huge tax cuts they won in that war over the last half-century. —LMK

One big part of the reason we have so much inequality is that the top 1 percent wants it that way. —Joseph Stiglitz



34 Signs That Point To A Rapidly Shrinking American Middle Class

1) Only 42% of all jobs in the U.S. are middle-income jobs. That's a 10% drop from 1980.

[Source: Middle Class Under Stress, "Business Insider"]

2) Similarly, more than 40% of all jobs are now low-income jobs. And that's up from less than 30% in 1980.

[Source: Middle Class Under Stress, "Business Insider"]

3) Only 63.5% of men are working. That's full or part-time. This is actually up from 63.3% in Dec. 2009, the lowest national percentage since 1948.

[Source: Bloomberg]

4) Just 81.2% of men ages 25-54 are working. In 1969, almost all men (95%) between ages 25 and 54 were employed. [Source: Bloomberg]

5) For 64% of America, a \$1000-expense means a loan. The majority of us would need to borrow the money if an unexpected \$1000-dollar purchase had to be made.

[Source: National Foundation for Credit Counseling]

6) 40% of all wealth is owned by the top 1%. The wealthiest 1% have almost half the total wealth in the country. [Source: Vanity Fair]

7) The poorest 50% of all Americans control just 2.5% of the wealth in the U.S.

[Source: Institute for Policy Studies]

8) The top 1% owns 50% of stocks and bonds as well.

[Source: Institute for Policy Studies]

9) The bottom 90% have an average \$31,244 income per year. [Source: The Washington Post]

10) Meanwhile, the top 0.1% earn \$5.6 million on average, every year. [Source: The Washington Post]

11) The median wage for men 30-50 has dropped by 27%. That's after accounting for inflation, from 1969 to 2009. [Source: Bloomberg]

12) Only the top 5% of U.S. households can match rising housing costs. Costs have been rising steadily since 1975 and only the top 5% have enough additional income to keep up. [Source: Daily Finance]

13) We have the lowest employee compensation in 50 years. [Source: Financial Armageddon]

14) Health care costs account for roughly 16.3% of all personal spending. It was just 9.5% back in 1980.

[Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis]

15) Credit card debt is more than 8x larger today. Total credit card debt was 1/8 as much in the 1980s.

[Source: The American Dream]

16) Despite adding 30 million people to the population, there are fewer payroll jobs now than in 2000.

[Source: U.S. News & World Report]

17) In 11 years we lost 10% of middle class jobs. In 2000 there were about 72 million middle-class jobs in the U.S., and today there are about 65 million middle-class jobs.

[Source: Zerohedge.com]

18) At a recent "National Hiring Day" held by McDonald's, only about 6.2% of the one million Americans who applied were hired. Obtaining a low-wage job is about as hard as getting into an Ivy League – roughly 7% of all those who apply to get into Harvard are accepted. [Source: CBS2 Chicago]

19) 40 weeks for a new job. An average unemployed

worker in the U.S. needs an average of 40 weeks – more than 9 months – to find a new job.

[Source: The Economic Collapse]

20) Higher wage industries account for 40% of job loss and 14% of job growth. Compare that to lower wage industries, which account for 49% of job growth and 23% of job losses.

[Source: The National Employment Law Project]

21) Half of all American workers earn \$505 or less a week. [Source: Tax.com]

22) College tuition has risen 900% since 1978.

[Source: Benzinga.com]

23) Over 100,000 janitors and 317,000 food servers in the U.S. today have college degrees.

[Source: Middle Class Under Stress]

24) Despite their education, 17 million college graduates are doing jobs that do not even require a college degree.

[Source: New America Foundation]

25) 36% of Americans say that they don't contribute anything to a retirement plan.

[Source: Survey by CareerBuilders.com]

26) 1 of 50 to 1 of 6 on Medicaid. In 1965, only one out of every 50 Americans received Medicaid. Today, it is one out of every 6. [Source: USA, Inc.]

27) More than 46 million Americans are on food stamps. This is an all-time record – way up from a 2007 count that put the number of users at 26 million.

[Source: CNN Money]



28) There has been a 74% food stamp increase since 2007. [Source: CNN Money]

29) 1 out of every 4 American children are on food stamps. [Source: The New York Times]

Given current public policies, 50% of all children in America will depend on food stamps at some point in their life before they are 18 – and among African American children that number is 90%.

[Source: Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Advisor under Pres. Carter]

30) 18.4% of personal income comes from government transfer payments. Back in 1980, the number was at 11.7%.

Monitoring Taser Use Policy in Oxford and in North America

[Source: Middle Class Under Stress, "Business Insider"]

31) The number of Americans attending food pantries and soup kitchens has increased by 46% over the last 5 years. [Source: USA Today]

32) 1 out of every 6 elderly Americans now lives below the poverty line. [Source: National Council on Aging]

33) In the U.S., over 20% of all children are now living in poverty. Compare that number to the UK and France where childhood poverty is well under 10%.

[Source: Alternet]

34) The richest 1% of all Americans have a greater net worth than the bottom 90% combined – which about says it all. [Source: The Federal Reserve]

*These statistics show that . . .
ours is not a just society.*

◆ Bread Not Bombs Dinner ◆ November 12

Mark your calendars for this year's celebratory
(and fundraising) dinner on
Saturday, November 12, 2011.

Twenty-seventh Annual
BREAD NOT BOMBS DINNER
To Benefit the Work of the
Oxford Citizens for Peace & Justice
Saturday, November 12, 2011, 5:00-8:00 PM
Undercroft, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
25 East Walnut Street, Oxford

- *modest meal of marvelous savoriness*
- *live music: artists with both commitment and talent*
- *comradeship with seekers after peace and justice*
- *information about OCPJ programs*

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE WORK OF OCPJ
Waging peace in our community for over 30 years



In 2010, after 19 deaths and a recall of nearly eight million vehicles, the U.S. House of Representatives conducted an investigation into the safety of Toyota vehicles. In 2008, when OCPJ became aware that the City of Oxford outfitted every officer with Tasers and approved procedural orders to deploy them against citizens for non-compliance with verbal orders, more than 300 people in North America had died proximate to Taser use. We began an ongoing research project, under lead researcher and OCPJ Board member Janis Dutton, into the growing use and abuse of Tasers by law enforcement, the safety claims for Tasers by the Taser International corporation, the disparate municipal Taser use policies, lawsuits and court rulings related to Taser use, and independent national and international investigations and recommendations regarding use of Tasers in law enforcement. Before we could approach City Council with our concerns, Kevin Piskura died after being tasered by Oxford police. We waited until a formal investigation into the death was completed, and in Sept. 2009, we acted to challenge our own city's policy on Taser use. We met with resistance, city and police officials having bought into Taser International's line on the "safety" of the Taser as a law enforcement "tool," and the Oxford Police Dept.'s desire to save money by avoiding workman's compensation costs for officer's injuries. We thought we won some concessions at the time: the police provided us with an amended policy on Taser use, restricting its use in certain circumstances. But, as of this writing, it appears those restrictions may have been voided. We are poised for action – again.

It is our belief that the Taser is not a "non-lethal" weapon in the "toolbox" of law enforcement officials. Indeed, it has been recast by law enforcement agencies as a "less-lethal" weapon. It is a violent application of electrical current used too cavalierly by too many law enforcement agencies. It is likely an unconstitutional use of force in the circumstances in which it is used because of its potential lethality and as an instrument of torture.

–JD and LMK

Lead researcher Janis Dutton provides this abbreviated Taser Use Timeline as it applies nationally and to our local community:

TASER USE TIMELINE

2003: 39 – cumulative number of deaths after Taser use by law enforcement in North America (NA)

LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

Dec.—Cincinnati City Council votes to equip every police officer with a Taser.

2004: 70 – cumulative number of deaths after Taser use in NA

SAFETY CONCERNS:

Amnesty International (U.S.) releases report on concerns with Taser abuse, recommends suspending or strictly limiting use.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

- Miami University Police Department has 7 Tasers.
- Cincinnati Police use Tasers 629 times in 2004. Fifty-two were 12 to 18 years old.
- Oxford Police Dept. had 2 or 3 Tasers from 2001 until now.

2005: 105 – cumulative number of deaths after Taser use in NA

SAFETY CONCERNS:

- Police officers in five states filed lawsuits against Taser International claiming they suffered serious injuries after being shocked with the device during training classes. The lawsuits challenged the central marketing claim that its device is safe and charge the manufacturer of misleading its customers concerning the potential risks posed by the stun guns.
- ACLU, N. California, releases a report recommending strictly limiting the use of Tasers pending independent scientific study.
- The Department of Homeland Security revealed that its two largest law enforcement agencies – Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection – had rejected arming their officers with Tasers citing safety issues.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

Jan.—Cincinnati City Council’s Law & Public Safety Committee voted down a proposal by Council member Chris Smitherman to prohibit Taser use against children younger than 11.

2006: 150 – cumulative number of deaths after Taser use in NA

SAFETY CONCERNS:

- Amnesty International (US) releases a second report on increasing concerns about Taser use: “Amnesty International believes that the mounting death toll of people struck by tasers makes the need for a full independent and rigorous inquiry, as well as restrictions on use, more urgent than ever.”
- The U.S. Department of Justice launches an investigation into deaths in custody.
- Taser International settles a lawsuit filed by its own shareholders who claimed the company obscured the truth about the safety of its weapons.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

The Oxford Police Dept. requests funding for Tasers for every officer, citing Taser International claims that the average department can save \$98,000 a year by avoiding workman’s compensation costs for officer injuries.

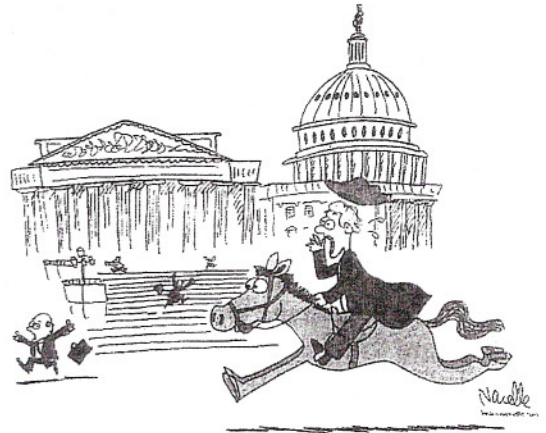
2007: 250 – cumulative number of deaths after Taser use in NA

SAFETY CONCERNS:

- Sept.— Amnesty International briefs the U.S. Department of Justice on deaths following Taser use.
- Nov.—The UN Committee Against Torture expresses concerns that Tasers are instruments of torture and can cause death.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

- Aug.— Oxford City Council approves funding for Tasers.
- Nov.— Oxford Police Dept. “Less-lethal Option Air Taser Procedural Order” approved administratively



The facts are coming! The facts are coming!

2008: 300 – cumulative number of deaths after Taser use in NA

LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

- Jan.— MU student tasered for resisting arrest, i.e. non-compliance
- March— MU student tasered for non-compliance
- **April – Kevin Piskura tasered by OPD. Piskura is no longer living.**

SAFETY CONCERNS:

- June – The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on a case where a Miami-Dade County officer used a Taser on a 6-year-old: “We conclude that, at the time of this incident . . . every reasonable officer would have known that the taser force used under these circumstances was unlawful. The conduct at issue here lies so obviously at the very core of what the Fourth Amendment prohibits, that the unlawfulness of the conduct was readily apparent

to an official in the shoes of these officers.”

- Dec.— Amnesty Int’l publishes “Less than Lethal? The Use of Stun Weapons in U.S. Law Enforcement” and accompanying research. The report documents 334 U.S. Taser-related deaths.

2009: 450 – cumulative number of deaths after Taser use in NA by October 2009

SAFETY CONCERNS:

- June – Part One of the independent judicial review, “Braidwood Commission Report on Restricting the Use of Conducted Energy Weapons in British Columbia” released
- Aug.— Taser International files suit to suppress the Braidwood Commission Findings
- Oct.— Taser International releases new guidelines to avoid aiming at the upper torso to “avoid controversy”
- Dec.— Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that “police must face an ‘immediate threat’ from an offender before using a taser gun to subdue them . . . [and] held that because the [suspect’s] actions in the case before them posed no threat to [the officer] or others, the use of the taser was unwarranted and unconstitutional.” The officer was subsequently still granted immunity.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

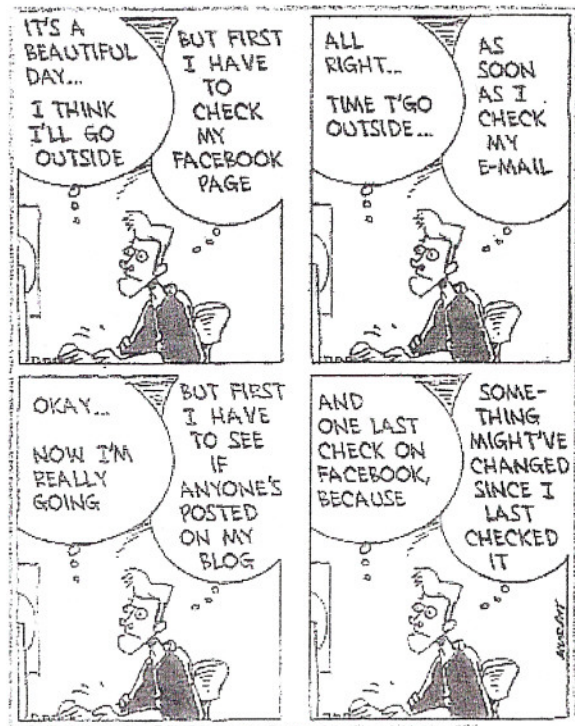
- Aug.— Cincinnati revises Use of Force Policy and continues to use the term “non-lethal” and allow Taser use against children as young as 7.
- Sept.— OCPJ addresses the Oxford Police Advisory Commission with evidence from Amnesty Int’l and the Braidwood Commission and demands a review of police procedures for use of Tasers including: avoiding aiming at the torso, use on people under the influence, use in misdemeanors vs. felonies, putting officers at risk in training deployments, and the failure rate/ineffectiveness of the weapons. OPD refused to consider changing the target zone and asked Taser International for help in making their case to City Council.
- Oct.—Oxford City Council holds a public hearing. OCPJ addresses Council as does a representative from Taser International. Police say they will avoid the upper torso and change policy on deployment constraints for people obviously heavily intoxicated and presenting low physical threat, and fleeing suspects who are not an eminent danger and not involved or charged in felonies. Restrictions on deployment that were in Oct. drafts of the policy disappeared by Dec. Referring to the weapons as “potentially lethal” rather than “non-lethal” remained.

2010: 500 – cumulative number of deaths after Taser use

in NA by Aug.; **520** by November, 2010

SAFETY CONCERNS:

- Cockrell v. City of Cincinnati, 2010 WL 4918725 (S.D. Ohio): “While the specifics of the City’s training program are not before this Court, it is clear from the express language of the official policy that officers are permitted to use tasers against individuals who are not suspected of a serious crime, who do not pose a threat of harm to anyone else; and who are tased in circumstances creating a heightened risk of serious injury or even death to the suspect. Police departments and other law enforcement agencies across the country have determined that the use of a taser against a non-violent suspect who is fleeing on foot creates a risk of serious injury and recommend that such use be prohibited or discouraged. Taser International, the manufacturer of the device in question, has also warned that the use of the device against individuals who are running can cause serious injury or death.” The court cited numerous instances of secondary impact as well as recommendations related to this issue in a footnote.
- Taser International releases “Volunteer Warnings, Risks, Liability Release and Covenant Not to Sue,” warning that “Adverse physiologic or metabolic effects may increase risk of death or serious injury.”



LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

- March – Cincinnati revises Use of Force Policy and continues to call Tasers “non-lethal”; allows use against children as young as 7 and an alarmingly low threshold

• April – Parents of Kevin Piskura file a wrongful death lawsuit against Taser International and the City of Oxford, claiming their son was not a threat to officers or bystanders, attempted to comply with officer's commands, and was subject to unreasonable use of force.

2011: 590—cumulative number of deaths after Taser use in NA; **626** by September 2011

SAFETY CONCERNS:

April –“Truth Not Tasers” Blog significantly revises their death-by-Taser numbers up after further research.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

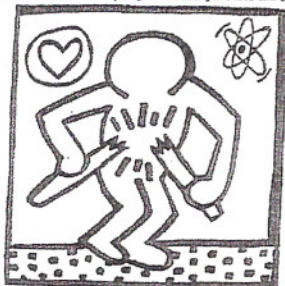
• CityBeat publishes article about Cincinnati Police Taser policy needing to be revised.

• Eighteen-year-old Everette Howard dies proximate to Taser use by University of Cincinnati police officer.

Two others elsewhere also die on that day.

**BREAD NOT BOMBS
DINNER**

To Benefit the Work of Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice



**WE WANT YOU
NOVEMBER 12**

Resources

Note: The first 2 references are useful places to get an overview, but, like any blog, following links to media reports and primary research sources may be necessary.

Excited-Delirium: <http://excited-delirium.blogspot.com/>

Truth-not-tasers: <http://truthnottasers.blogspot.com/>

Braidwood Commission (Independent Judicial Inquiry in British Columbia): <http://www.braidwoodinquiry.ca/>

Amnesty International: <http://amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/tasers-potentially-lethal-and-easy-abuse-20081216>

Killing Them Safely—Movie (not yet released):

<http://killingthemsafely.com> <http://killingthem.com>

Cincinnati Police Use of Force Policy:

www.cincinnati.oh.gov/police/downloads/police_pdf33732.pdf

Oxford Police Taser Policy:

<http://cityofoxford.org/Page.asp?NavID=1419>

2011 Electronic Control Weapons Guidelines—Police Executive Research Forum and Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services:

www.policeforum.org/library/use-of-force/ECWguidelines2011.pdf

◆ **OCPJ Endorsements** ◆

Candidates and Issues on the Ballot

To the extent that we know or can learn: a candidate's values, a candidate's policy perspectives on the issues she/he will or must consider, a candidate's record of contributions either in or out of office, and any additional information gained from a candidate's survey responses – the OCPJ Board of Directors endorses the following candidates and urges your support **FOR**:

• KATE ROUSMANIERE and CHARLES FORD
for OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

• JOHN KINNE for OXFORD TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

ON THE ISSUES, WE URGE YOUR SUPPORT **FOR**:

• Butler County ISSUE #11 – MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TAX LEVY (renewal for 5 years)

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE “**NO**” on State Issues #2 and #3:

• STATE ISSUE #2

“REFERENDUM ON NEW LAW RELATIVE TO GOVERNMENT UNION CONTRACTS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS AND POLICIES”

A “**NO**” vote means you reject the law, the noxious Senate Bill No. 5

• STATE ISSUE #3

“PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PRESERVE THE FREEDOM OF OHIOANS TO CHOOSE THEIR HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH COVERAGE”

In addition to an attempt to block the implementation of the federal Affordable Health Care Act, Issue #3 is a costly assault on Ohio's constitution, consumers, and the public health. Prominent Ohio law professors say the sloppily worded amendment could have dramatic consequences for child support enforcement, licensing doctors and nurses, and school immunizations programs. It jeopardizes countless Ohio laws and would be a financial windfall for lawyers, but will cost Ohioans untold millions of dollars in unnecessary legal expenses.

A “**NO**” vote means you reject the proposed constitutional amendment on health care coverage.

**Voted yet? Early voting has already begun in Ohio.
Election Day is November 8.**

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

Peace Center Notes

OCPJ welcomed **Anne Bailey** to the Board in September. She joins "old" Board members or those renewing their terms for another two years—**Nani Ball, Mike Ball, Muriel Blaisdell, Susan Callan, Dave Christman, Mary Duerksen, Roland Duerksen, Janis Dutton, Andy Garrison, Ann Geddes, Kim Medley, Lois Nelson, Don Pestana, and Patty Stone.**

What a 25th Community Yard Sale we had in August! Thanks to your donations and all the hard work, we raised about \$1770. It's what we do, you know: fundraising the hard way, recycling, and building community. But the success of our Yard Sale is due to your generosity and work. Thank you!

OCPJ continues its organizational membership, including financial support, for: the **Bill of Rights Defense Committee's** People's Campaign for the Constitution, the **Single-Payer Action Network (SPAN-Ohio)**, the **Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)**, the **People's Empowerment Coalition of Ohio**, and the **RiseUp Collective.**

Two **Bloom Peace Education Fund** Grants were generously awarded this year to 8 Students for Peace & Justice members for their 8-day study as part of a Witness for Peace delegation to Nicaragua, and to the 27 members of **Beyond Coal (now Renew MU)** to attend the 3-day PowerShift Conference in D.C., considered the largest youth environmental conference.

In other OCPJ news:

- In April, Linda MK participated in the **8th Annual SPAN-Ohio Conference** in Columbus, and in the statewide lobbying efforts in support of the Health Care for All Ohioans Act.
- "Creating Global Peace," an M.U. course being offered with OCPJ Board member, Dr. Kim Medley, is in its second year and several OCPJ members are involved as guest speakers.

- With a commitment to environmental justice, we continue to support the work of the student environmental group and to promote the **Green Screen Film Series** from I.C.C.W.G., under the leadership of OCPJ Board member Don Pestana.
- This year our attention (and involvement) has turned to state issues, particularly the campaigns to **Repeal SB 5** and **Repeal HB 194** (let's hope it will be on the ballot in 2012).
- Continuing work on local projects, we have been **Monitoring Taser Use Policy** (see story in this issue) and **Countering Military Recruitment in Talawanda Schools.**
- We've maintained our regular and intensive lobbying efforts and coalition work as well as media work (our op-eds and your letters-to-the-editor) on several fronts: anti-war/pro-peace, arms control, anti-nuclear power, civil liberties, healthcare, economic justice issues, renewable energy, and more.

Mark your calendars, won't you? for our **27th Bread Not Bombs Dinner – November 12.** We would like to celebrate our year of activities with you because you *are* OCPJ. After all, what's a celebration without the celebrated. —LMK

Are you with us? It's time for everyone to renew your membership in OCPJ. If you haven't recently renewed, please fill out the form below, clip, and enclose in the envelope attached within. We hope to hear from you soon because—well, we need you!

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Production: Mike Ball
Editorial Policy: Your letters-to-the-editor, opinions, comments, and other contributions are invited. Send submissions to the Peace Center.

OCPJ MEMBERSHIP, November 1, 2011 – October 31, 2012



ALL OCPJ MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE OCT. 31, 2011. Please renew (or join) now for the '11-'12 FY. Membership dues support the Peace Center and enable efforts to further peace & justice.

Choose a membership: ___\$40.00 Household ___\$25.00 Individual ___\$5.00 Student/Limited Income
___\$75.00 Sustaining ___\$100.00 Patron ___\$_____ Name your own

Make check payable to: OCPJ & return with this form to: The Peace Center, 19 ½ E. Walnut St., Oxford OH 45056
Contributions to the Bloom Peace Education Fund are appreciated at anytime & may be included in the same check.

Your involvement increases OCPJ's effectiveness:

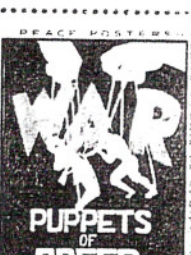
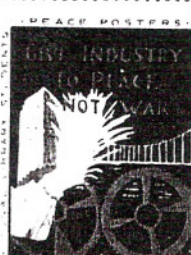
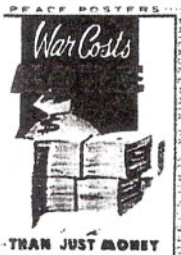
- ___ Take part in action/education efforts – circle issue(s) that interest you the most:
Economic Justice; Civil Liberties; Just Peace; Environmental Sustainability; Other _____
- ___ Volunteer in the Peace Center <513-523-6555>
- ___ Post and/or read comments and items of interest on the OCPJ listserv
- ___ Serve on the website committee <www.OCPJOhio.org>
- ___ Help with short term projects (i.e., Bread not Bombs dinner, yard sale, special events, fund raising)
- ___ Attend Board meetings (open to all, first Saturday morning of month, at Peace Center)
- ___ Provide moral and financial support

NAME(s) _____ DATE _____
(if family membership, list all)

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL(s) _____
(list several if helpful in reaching all members of your household – communication is increasingly online)

COMMENT _____



Oxford Citizens
For Peace & Justice
19 1/2 E. Walnut St.
Oxford, OH 45056

It's time to renew
your membership

