

The American Tradition

A Magazine Devoted to Reform and Refinement

June 2002

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175th Anniversary Commemorative Issue



Acknowledgments

“Meet the Press” Guest Speakers

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Robert Gangi, Executive Director, Correctional Association of New York
Joe Urgo, Member, Not in Our Name

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The Making of our “REFORMING AMERICA” Project

Over the course of this year, our one-year AP U.S. History classes here at Bronx Science studied and researched many aspects of American society. However, none were as striking to us as the presence of reform movements in antebellum and present-day America. Through this publication, we sought explore the nature and scope of antebellum reform movements and their modern-day organizational descendants.

As with any project of such magnitude, we were initially overwhelmed by the task of creating this interclass publication. The mammoth project was divided up into several parts, and spread out over a period of four months. We broke up the broad topic of reform into specific areas including education reform, temperance, penal reform, women's rights and peace. We began our research by collecting relevant books and articles and writing annotated bibliographies. Each student on each team was assigned to read and annotate a book and a scholarly article relating to his or her specific topic of reform. Frequent trips were made to the 42nd Street Library in New York City to find additional books and hard-to-find periodicals. At the library, we were able to access antebellum newspapers and magazines on microform.

We then contacted professors and activist whose writing had indicated an expertise in the specific reform movements being investigated. From these experts, we obtained lists of additional key works which would later read and annotate. Our next assignment required us to pinpoint contemporary organizations with organizational or philosophical roots in the antebellum period. We collected articles that dealt with the activities of contemporary reform organizations. Using this information, each group was able to decide on which contemporary reform organizations to focus its research.

Later on in the semester, we again relied on professors and activists for our "Meet the Press" event. Speakers were invited to answer unrehearsed questions on his/her particular area of expertise. The speakers were all very informative, and their insights were very helpful when it came to writing our articles.

Throughout the project, we were fortunate to receive invaluable assistance from librarians at our school and from the Swarthmore College Peace Collection and the New York State Library.

For every specific reform, we have included five types of articles from each time period: editorials, investigative reports, reports of meetings, interviews with victims, and interviews with

sufferers. In order to familiarize ourselves with these types of articles, we were assigned to find time-period sensitive articles which allowed us to better appreciate differences in layout, English usage, tone, and style of writing popular during the two time periods.

Writing our actual articles required an enormous amount of interclass cooperation. Our work was facilitated by a stringent chain of command and the superb leadership of our editorial staff. Each step of the way, we sought the input of both our advisor, Dr. Maskin, and staff members. Meetings were held, in person and electronically, among the editors to make important decisions regarding the magazine. The enormous burden of finding a financial sponsor was removed when media giant AOL Time Warner pledged its complete support, both economic and technical, so that our publication would see the light of day.

The Internet has also played a vital part in our project. Like the publications of previous years, we decided to create an online version in addition to the hardcopy. The online version of *The American Tradition* can be accessed at maskin.bxscience.edu/ra, and includes several special features, most notably a set of 26 Learning Activities suitable for the American history classroom.

The result of all this effort and dedication is in front of you. As you read the fifty-two articles that comprise our publication, we anticipate that you will be surprised that a group of high-school students was able to produce a publication of this caliber. We hope that you will enjoy reading these articles as much as we enjoyed writing them. Our ultimate goal is to have created a publication that can both be relied upon as a research aid and as a source of recreation. Please enjoy.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Maria Litsakis' and the signature on the right is 'Hamdan A. Yousuf'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maria Litsakis and Hamdan A. Yousuf

Editors-in-Chief

“Reforming America” Project Outline

AP U.S. History (one-year)

2001-2002

PURPOSES:

1. To explore the nature and scope of antebellum reform movements and their modern-day organizational descendants—
2. To begin a dialogue with scholars, activists, and journalists who share our interest in American reform movements, past and present—
3. To share our findings in the form of an interclass publication that will be composed of student-generated accounts of reform movement activities during both time periods—
4. To reinforce our research, journalistic and cooperative learning skills as we build towards an intellectually and emotionally satisfying interclass effort—

PROCEDURES:

I. REFORM MOVEMENT SELECTION PHASE

Learning Teams composed of students in both AP U.S. History one-year classes are formed around a specific antebellum reform movement (e.g. women’s rights, temperance, peace, penal reform, education)

NOTE: The reform movement that each team selects must still have a measurable impact on present-day America. This will allow students to both compare and contrast reform movement tactics and to examine the extent to which each movement has changed its mission over time.

II. FOCUS QUESTIONS

Once reform-specific interclass Learning Teams have been formed, each team then begins its search for background information. The extent of the information gathered will determine the depth of the foundation upon which will rest the team’s compendium of original articles, editorials, interviews, and investigative reports.

The following are some of the questions that will frame each Learning Team’s examination of its specific reform movement.

1. What factors (e.g. political, economic, social, cultural) influenced the call for democratic and humanitarian reform in the early 19th century?
2. Were the leaders of each movement idealists, practical reformers, or a combination of both?
3. To what extent did these reformers and their movements achieve success during the antebellum period?
4. To what extent did these movements help build a foundation for the realization of their goals in a later period of American History?
5. What characteristics do the modern-day organizational descendants of these early reform

movements share with each other? (i.e. goals, tactics, membership profile, etc.)

III. INFORMATION-GATHERING PHASE

Working individually, but within a team format, students begin the process of finding answers to above questions by accessing the following sources:

1. Written—Primary (contemporaneous accounts), secondary (interpretative essays, statistical analyses, etc.)

These will take the form of:

a. non-governmental organization (NGO) reports, press releases

b. articles from scholarly journals

c. articles from mass circulation magazines and newspapers

d. books

e. on-line databases (see classroom bulletin boards for site addresses)

f. U.S. government publications

2. Evidence supplied by scholars and activists (contacted only after initial research has been done)—their input as to additional useful sources, comments on the team's research efforts, as well as on the look and feel of the final product is vital. Contacts with such individuals can occur through:

a. S-mail b. E-mail c. IRC lines d. listservs e. telephonically f. in person

NOTE: Specific assignments with specific due dates will be given as a means of monitoring the progress of each team in accomplishing the requirements of the information-gathering phase of the project.

IV. TEAM PRESENTATION PHASE

Each Learning Team's findings will be shared using a variety of formats:

1) Beginning in April, each team will contact scholars and/or activists who share an interest in and have expertise relevant to the team's reform movement. Each team will invite one of these experts into our classroom to participate in our "MEET THE PRESS" segment. The highlights of each event can be incorporated into our interclass publication.

2) Student editors will work with their peers to compile highlights of our research and information-gathering activities into a visually attractive and intellectually stimulating publication featuring student-generated original articles, advertisements, editorials, interviews, and other features. This publication will appear in both hardcopy and on-line formats. The exact structure and content of our Reforming America publication will be determined by the interclass editorial staff.

Student editors from last year's "TRENDS AND TRAJECTORIES" publication have volunteered to help with this year's efforts in any way they can.

PUBLICATION DATE: Third week of June, 2002

Commemorating the 175th Anniversary of The American Tradition

Over the past year, we have had countless requests from our readers to publish a special commemorative issue in this, the 175th year, of our existence as a magazine in the forefront of the fight for a better America. We have come a great distance from when our founder, the great Reverend John Smith, printed the first copy of *The American Tradition* on the 26th of June, 1827. For one, we can now claim a readership approaching fifty thousand, a number our founder would have been delighted to see. We also have progressed with the times by embracing the computer revolution, so that millions more across the globe can access our magazine on the Internet. While we have modernized our modus operandi, we retain our core values and code of ethics. Although many honorable publications sell their values and compromise their integrity for their pocketbooks, we retain our honorable and dignified obligation to pursue the truth.

For the past one-and-three-quarter centuries, our staff has fervently been reporting on the advances of reform movements in America. After much discussion, our editorial staff has decided to focus on two of the most poignant phases of American reform: the antebellum period from when we first emerged to the contemporary period where old issues still resonate. The fact is that even long after the seminal work of people like Susan B. Anthony and Thomas Eddy, reformers still play a vital role in our society. The undeniable reality is that as long as society exists, there will be a need for reform. As we have moved swiftly from a *Gemeinschaft* to a *Gesellschaft*-based society, the need for reform has grown exponentially. To measure and explain this growth we have chosen to focus on five reform movements: education, temperance, penal reform, women's rights, and peace.

The education reform movement has always been a favorite of *The American Tradition*. We have chosen to include several articles that highlight the grievances exposed by education reformers from both time periods. Antebellum education reformers complained about overcrowding in schools and low wages for teachers, as we move into the 21st century, teacher's unions and others have the exact same complaints. The National Education Association of today seems to be pursuing the same goals it pursued in the antebellum era, signaling perhaps that its reform efforts are facing resistance. On the contrary, it also faces

several new challenges, notably that of privatization of public schools and the establishment of a system of vouchers for private schools.

While today's education reformers movement focus on familiar grievances, the 21st century temperance movement utilizes similar tactics and goals as they did years ago in the fight against "demon rum." Our reporters searched our archives for articles written about the New York State Temperance Society. They examined the tactics and goals of the Society and then compared them with those of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a modern day descendant of the Society. Our reporters found that in both periods, reformers reached their supporters and potential converts by distributing pamphlets and magazines. The NYSTS published the *Temperance Recorder*, while the CSPI periodically adds articles to its web site. Additionally, both groups primarily advocate for total abstinence from that which intoxicates. However, the CSPI also fights against the marketing of both fatty foods and alcohol.

Perhaps the reform movement that has undergone the most radical change is the penal reform movement. In the nineteenth century, reformers called for the establishment of penitentiaries to help rehabilitate prisoners. This came as a welcomed change from a chaotic system where petty crime went unnoticed while violent crime was too often punished by execution. Yet the system was far from perfect and the ones who suffered the most were undoubtedly the prisoners, as they were subject to frequent abuse and often had to experience the horrors of solitary confinement. Today's penal reformers seek to abolish the institution of solitary confinement, and some even suggest that the idea of incarceration for petty crimes is in itself flawed and should also be ended. Ironically, the antebellum reformers promoted the concept of prisons while contemporary reformers seek alternatives to imprisonment.

One can argue that the movement that has experienced the most success since the pre-Civil War period is the women's rights movement. Indeed, when Elizabeth Cady Stanton demanded equal rights for women, most people, even women, wondered if she might be insane. Today, women have all the basic freedoms men have, and have even won the right to infanticide, under *Roe v. Wade* (1973). Women have won the vote, and obtained legal protection in many areas. Yet, still more has to be done. Today, the National Organization of Women (NOW) is working hard to achieve equality in all fields, notably the workplace, which has been the cause of much concern due to the growing rates of sexual harassment.

The final reform movement highlighted in this special commemorative issue is the peace, or anti-war, movement. After the September 11 attacks, our nation was swept into a war frenzy. However, a small group of dissidents stood their ground and protested America's war on terrorism, reaffirming their belief that reform is indeed in the great American tradition. This was in striking similarity to the controversy surrounding the Mexican War in the 1840s. In that war, war hawks called on the country to rally around the flag, but the peace reformers resisted. The American Peace Society led the fight of convincing Americans of the immorality of that war. One notable difference in the dissent surrounding the Mexican War and the war on terror is that modern pacifists have become much more outspoken than their predecessors.

For our 175th commemorative issue, the editors of *The American Tradition* have canvassed our archives and selected the articles which best represent the efforts of antebellum and contemporary reformers. We have arranged them so that editorials, interviews, and investigative pieces from the past and present can be read and compared. We have also included original poetry and sketches that compliment the compelling stories. Indeed, our founder would be proud to see us standing honorably in his footsteps today. We hope that you get the most out of this special commemorative issue. After all, it may be another 175 years before we publish another one. Enjoy!

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Maria Litsakis' and the signature on the right is 'Hamdan A. Yousuf'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maria Litsakis and Hamdan A. Yousuf
Editors-in-Chief

Education Reform



Illustration of a large building complex, possibly a university or government building, surrounded by trees and a path.



Overview

Throughout this year, our research and learning team has scrutinized various aspects of both antebellum and modern day reform movements, including conditions existing in public schools, the various goals of education reform groups, and the tactics that were employed to achieve those goals. While there are various reform groups in America that are dedicated to the improvement of our public school system, we focused on only two such organizations: The New York State Teacher Association (NYSTA) formed during the antebellum era and the contemporary National Education Association.

The public education reform movement began at a grass-roots level back in the early nineteenth century. It gradually evolved to encompass small county organizations into a state wide movement devoted to providing the opportunity of gaining an education to rich and poor alike. Education during the antebellum period focused upon teaching students morality and the integrity required for entering the working world. The New York State Teacher Association was one of these such groups that arose from local leadership. It was intent on improving the old methods of teaching, as well as devising new ones. Along with the methods of teaching, public education reformers, such as Horace Mann and Zalmon Richards, hoped to ameliorate the learning atmosphere in the classroom. School buildings were structurally unsound for the onslaught of immigrant students. This steady stream of pupils, left schools lacking in supplies, especially textbooks. Educational reformers also scrutinized teacher standards and the content of the knowledge that was being imparted onto children in the pre-Civil War period.

Today, our country's public school system still has yet to reach its full potential, and New York's public schools are no exception. Most schools in the city are heavily underfunded. Textbooks are often outdated and standardized testing diminishes the emphasis on

critical thinking skills that are vital for the continuing education and development of young Americans. In order to counteract these problems, the organization National Education Association (NEA) has employed various tactics-lobbying, petitioning and publishing literature-in order to improve the level of service in our public schools. In the mist of a multi-billion dollar deficit, New York City's mayor, Mike Bloomberg, plans on cutting off money for schools across the board. Consequently, now, more than ever, educational reformers are hoping to maintain the good of the crumbling system while some in the state legislature attempt to privatize it.

Public education has always been a topic of controversy and great scrutiny since its beginnings in the antebellum era. The reform movement has come a long way since its beginning, but many of the same problems continue to plague the system. Students are still receiving textbooks that are worn and outdated and building conditions have deteriorated. Still, improvements have been made in the hiring of qualified teachers. In a majority of cases, teachers undergo increased training than previously before being allowed to mold the minds of America's youth. While the quality of public education has progressed greatly since its rural beginning it is nowhere near reaching its full potential as an institution charged with the task of providing knowledge to those who will one day be the leaders of this nation.

The following articles provide valuable insight into our public school system and the organization that have worked to reform it, both in the past and the present. Although there are various overlapping themes and issues in these articles, each piece contributes to an understanding of both the past and modern movements towards educational reform.

Carlos Ortiz and Ekjyot Saini

Section Editors



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Goals of the Annual Meeting of the New York State Teacher's Association

"Numerous teachers supported Mr. Valentine's arguments by calling for common schools to be divided into districts..."

By Ming Zhong

Teachers from throughout New York State traveled to Binghamton, New York on Monday. Members from the New York State Teacher's Association arrived at the train depot at Binghamton. The teachers flooded into the town meeting hall, where this year's annual meeting of the State Teacher's Association was held.

The opening day of the meeting convened on Tuesday, at 10:00 am. Rev. S. N. Stimson began the convention with a morning prayer. After the Association Committee thanked its members for attending, Mr. T. W. Valentine initiated the

discussion. Mr. Valentine presented his *Present Condition and Future Duty of the Association*. He then continued to thoroughly attack past provisions made by the State to its common schools. Mr. Valentine pointed to provisions made by Ohio and Massachusetts as models for future provisions. He cited the lack of uniformity in textbooks, school size, and funding, as reasons for need to reform the kinds of provisions given to public schools. Mr. Valentine proceeded to suggest that the Department of Public Instruction be remodeled.

Numerous teachers supported Mr. Valentine's arguments by calling for common schools to be divided into districts and placed under the supervision of a Board of Education. It was thought that this would provide the schools with the types of provisions they required. The Association Committee will propose

Mr. Valentine's resolution to the state legislature and senate. The meeting then adjourned for the morning.

When the convention convened again at 2:00 pm, Mr. A. D. Mayo led the discussion with a report concerning teacher's salaries. Mr. Mayo announced that teaching is one of the two most underpaid professions in the country. Mr. Mayo condemned the fact that male teachers earned only sixty dollars more than mechanics did annually. He went on to call for all state teachers to seek higher salaries.

Mr. Mayo's speech was followed by an argument made by Miss Julia A. Wilbuh concerning the plight of female teachers. Miss Wilbuh cited the fact that female teachers earned less than half as much as their male counterparts as a reason for reform. She then showed the Association documents supporting the claim that female teachers

earned only 10 dollars more than mechanics annually.

To amend these inequalities, Miss Wilbuh offered two resolutions. Her first resolution stated that it was unjust for female teachers to earn less than half as much as male teachers, for the same work. Her second resolution called for annual salaries to be based on performance, instead of sex.

Heavy debate concerning this issue ensued. Members of opposition ordered a gag rule on Miss Wilbuh and her supporters, but were unsuccessful. Finally the issue was referred to the Association Committee, where a vote on the resolutions was taken. While Miss Wilbuh's first resolution was adopted, her second lost by one vote. The vote ended the first day of the meeting and delegates retreated to their lodgings in Binghamton.

The second day of the convention convened at 10:00 am on Wednesday. After Rev. Stimson offered an opening prayer, Miss


Susan B. Anthony addressed the Association. Miss Anthony gave a speech discussing the situation of girls in common schools. Miss Anthony called for the admission of both sexes to all public schools. Miss Anthony condemned the exclusion of girls to public schools and proposed a reform. She asked the Association to pass a resolution allowing girls to be admitted to the Free Academy of New York City.

This argument raised even more heated debate than the one made by Miss Wilbuh. It appeared that the popular opinion was equally divided. Mr. A. Crittenden and Mr. C. Lambert proposed a plan that allowed a separate academy for girls to be established. However, Miss Anthony vehemently

opposed this suggestion, claiming that a separate association would cheat current girls out of their educational rights. She argued that by the time a separate academy could be constructed, girls now would have long completed their education. Miss Anthony's resolution was then voted for by the Association Committee and lost by a small majority.

Following Miss Anthony's speech, members of the Association discussed plans for next year's annual meeting. It was decided that the next meeting is to be held at Utica in April. Preparations for next year's meeting thus concluded this year's annual meeting of the New York State Teacher's Association in Binghamton.

STANDARD SCHOOL DESK AND MANUFACTURING CO.



Rear Seat Desk and Seat Front Desk

Rear and Front Desks that are used on Rear and Front Ends of each row of Standard Desks

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NEA Targets Standardized Testing

By Surjyakiran Das

Washington, D.C. – To mark the beginning of America's nationwide "testing season," which spans from March through June, a National Education Association (NEA) meeting was held on March 26, 2002 to reaffirm the group's commitment to improving and reforming nationwide testing standards. During the meeting, a pamphlet entitled *A Parent's Guide to Testing and Accountability* was officially released by the organization.

"Parents often wonder about the tests their children take, and feel responsible for understanding more about the 'how' and 'why' of testing," declared NEA President Bob Chase at the onset of the meeting. The guide, Chase said, is aimed at "helping parents navigate the new world of testing and providing practical advice to help children succeed."

The meeting was held at the onset of the busiest stretch of standardized testing in public schools throughout the nation. In addition to discussing ways in

which the American system of standardized testing may be refined, delegates also expressed strong concern over the passage of new federal testing mandates, that require more class time to be spent preparing for standardized exams.

"Poorly-developed and

"...standardized testing only leads to meaningless memorization and its rigors do not allow students enough time to understand or apply the knowledge being tested..."

implemented tests have lead to rote memorization that stifles critical thinking skills," said NEA delegate Barnett Berry. "For example, some testing systems have set children up to fail by testing them on material they didn't cover in class."

Delegates to the meeting spoke at length about the NEA's opposition to the standardized testing system. Whereas education reform groups, including the NEA, are struggling for diversification of public school curriculums to better serve the needs of specific communities, standardized testing enforces a specific course outline on teachers across the nation. NEA members also argued

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that standardized testing only leads to meaningless memorization and its rigors do not allow students enough time to understand or apply the knowledge being tested. Standardized testing has become so complicated over time, the NEA says, that it no longer serves its true purpose of helping teachers to improve instruction in classrooms.

A major component of the NEA's solution to the testing problem is the parent's guide that was released during the meeting. Federal testing mandates offer a solution to the problem of unfair and misguided testing by allowing parents and students a greater voice in determining testing standards. However, reformers fear that the implementation of these mandates may still prove problematic since state and local school systems carry the responsibility of enacting these mandates.

"The direction in the [new] law is there, but it's up to state and local school systems to follow it," Chase continued. "The *Parent's Guide* empowers parents, encouraging them to persuade schools leaders to administer the highest quality tests." The *Parent's Guide* outfits parents with the knowledge they need to push local school systems to refine instruction and testing in their public schools.

Later in the meeting, the NEA discussed the growing role of standardized testing in early grades. Some delegates defended increased testing in earlier grades. If used properly, they contended, testing would help in identifying students with different needs and addressing those needs from early on in the students' educations. However, most delegates expressed concern that the testing would only further stifle real education and creativity in the classroom.

Chase commented that,

"...an appropriate balance between social growth and academics is critical. Children learn important social values like respect, responsibility, empathy, and sharing in the early grades. These values are imparted through group activities, interaction with the teacher and one another not by drilling for test questions."

The NEA resolved to publish more literature along the lines of the *Parent's Guide* in order to help parents work with school systems to achieve the balance between social growth and academics in the earlier grades.

The NEA meeting is the most recent in a long line of meetings held by various education reform organizations aimed at refining the American standardized testing system. The reform organizations have called for a major overhaul of the system so as to address the needs of the ever-diversifying American student body.

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**Education erosion;
An investigation of
current New York City
school conditions**

"...there were forty-three students per class..."

By Allan Rysin

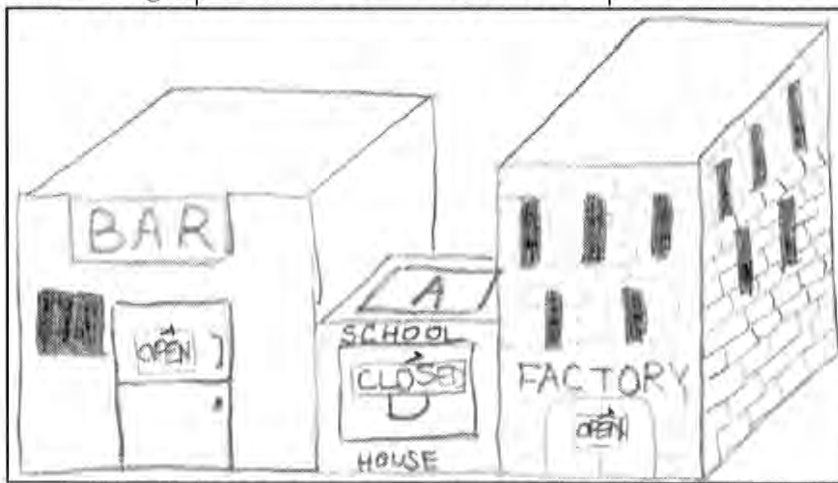
A recent investigation into the conditions found in New York City public schools has concluded that schools are at an inadequate level to provide a proper environment for the proliferation of knowledge.

The school is supposed to be an institution where a child learns proper behavior and the "three Rs"; "reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic".

Unfortunately schools in New York City are too poorly designed to achieve this objective that

they are not only incapable of properly educating our children, but they also place students in dirty and unsafe environments, thus impairing their moral development.

A major problem with the design of public school buildings today is that they have very small classrooms. The designers of these buildings never took into account the large number of immigrants from Northern and Central Europe that are arriving in New York every year.



Unfortunately, immigrant families have to work long hours in factories and do not have the time educate and instill a sense of

morality in their children. Thus the increased number of immigrant students enrolling in public schools has put a great burden on the school system. On average, there were forty-three students per class, in rooms designed to hold a maximum of forty and this number is on the rise. Currently, public schools in New York do not have enough rooms or teachers to deal with the large number of students.

The quality of teachers is also another

major concern. Each district in New York State prepares and hires its own teachers.

This means that there are no common preparation standards for teachers. Thus, teacher quality is very low as

overcrowded districts put their teachers through flimsy educational programs in order to place them into the field as quickly as possible.

Poor building design and over crowding have also created health risks in public schools. Most buildings were found to be very dilapidated and did not have enough custodians to properly maintain them. The masonry of the buildings has made it very hard to insure proper air circulation. This has led to the growth of mildew and other bacteria throughout buildings.

The filthy conditions in schools and the high number of students per classroom have turned schools into centers of disease. Children are not given enough medical exams and thus are able to easily enter schools buildings carrying diseases. It is then only a short matter of time until most of the school has contracted the same disease which is then passed on to the rest of the child's family.

Furthermore lavatories were purposely built in the basement. This

causes a problem because children who have to use them may have to walk up to three stories down in order to reach them. The staircases were also found to be very narrow and could pose a very serious problem if a fire ever broke out in the school.

The large number of students has also caused other problems, such as a lack of textbooks. Most schools did not have enough books for every student and most books were found to be in a very dilapidated state. The books were of cheap quality and thus fell apart relatively quickly. The books were also very old and are not considered to be good sources of moral guidance for students.

The schools were also found to be morally unfit. Since children will spend more time in school than with their parents, it is the school's responsibility to act as a parent in order to properly educate the children. It is up to the school to teach children how to properly act in a civilized Christian society. It is also the school's responsibility to prepare children for the working world once they

have completed with their education. The school will never be able to fulfill its responsibilities if conditions remain the same. Books need to be updated in order to provide proper materials for students to learn from and schools need to become more sanitized in order to prevent the spread of disease. Most importantly new schools have to be built in order to deal with the climbing number of immigrant children and more teachers need to receive better training in order to be properly prepared to educate students.

Some progress has been made. Thomas Valentine, the president of the New York State Teachers Association, has issued "The Call", which has been signed by twenty-two states pledges to make reforms in the field of education in order to fix the problems mentioned. But this is not enough. We cannot rest until our children are able to learn under clean conditions and have enough educational materials. More reform must be done in order to achieve this goal.

The American Tradition

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June 2002

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Reform: Only an 'Educated' Conversation?

By Annie Law

"Every young child deserves a proper education," as the saying goes. But from the perspective of New York City public schools, leaders today are not providing that 'proper education' for the future leaders of our society. Although the federal government, city school officials, and the NYC Board of Education address the different problems facing the city's schools today, they only talk and debate about a final solution. They seem to avoid the urgent actions needed to reform the public school system.

Most people today criticize the lack of efficiency in the New York City public school system, but who can blame them? School conditions are as filthy as ever, textbooks are outdated, and there is a shortage of teachers. Even with the teachers already in the system, most New Yorkers doubt their qualifications and level of expertise in their chosen fields. School officials are also looking into the problem of overcrowding in city public schools, but there is still no resolution. The system seems to touch every aspect of problems in city schools, but only superficially. It fails to provide any substantive solutions for the mounting dilemma.

Today, city schools are under funded. They fail to provide the necessary "clean" environment for nurturing our children. A prime example

is the school bathroom, a place where almost every child needs to go at least once a day. The bathrooms are filthy and disgusting, worse than public bathrooms on city streets. Schools urgently need to focus on providing a homely atmosphere where students are comfortable. This change may even help boost student initiative to acquire knowledge.

President George Bush and

"...a growing ignorance not only in the city's children, but also in the city's leaders."

Congress are responsible for the recently enacted, "No Child Left Behind" Act. This Act, signed in January 2002, is aimed at increasing federal spending on public schools. Perhaps this bill will, in effect, actually improve the "inhumane" conditions in NYC public schools, but only time will tell.

The quality of textbooks also proves to be a problem in the education setting. Schools provide students with outdated texts, which are usually not aligned with the continually modernized frame of "acceptable knowledge". The basic curriculum needs to be altered accordingly to keep up with the political, economic, and social changes of 21st century America. However, a



survey of present conditions shows our city's schools are falling behind.

Furthermore, the quality of teachers is a major setback especially in New York City. Educators here receive minimal salaries in their field. They often demand more pay and have protested against the inaction of the Board of Education to negotiate new contracts. However, many of these teachers do not even seem to fulfill minimum expectations required in their discipline. Many lack commitment to their jobs. In addition, some educators teaching specific subjects have never even majored in that topic before!

Unions, such as the United Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, along with other groups such as the Education Leaders Council, are primarily focused on ways to improve teacher quality. These groups, however, have not had much success. New York City public school officials continue to dwell on the problem of governance as the level of education in the city declines. This indicates a parallel trend: a growing ignorance not only in the city's children, but also in the city's leaders.

Overcrowding has continually been a problem in NYC public schools. There are abundant numbers of immigrants who live throughout the city. Their inexperience and language difficulties usually result in their placement in jobs of heavy labor and low pay. Immigrants, thus, are unable to give their children a private school education. Most children are stuck in the so-called 'slums' of city schools. This creates a dilemma as to how many students can actually be crammed into a middle-sized school. As the government is required to make opportunities available for all, the

end result is usually a structurally undersized school with too many newly arrived students- the natural scene in NYC public schools today.

President George Bush has made proposals to ameliorate the education system and to increase federal aid, but no drastic changes have been made in the public school system, as of yet. The NY State government has tried to make the standard of state-required examinations higher to improve the status of students but there hasn't been much success. City school leaders such as Harold Levy and Randi Weingarten try to address present conditions of education reform by publicizing the problems but they usually fall short. Parents try to become either actively or passively involved in amending the organized instruction of their children but they usually withdraw from the process.

As leaders at every level hope to train the future generation more effectively, the battle for improvement of the New York City public school system continues. Reformers persistently try to advance the progress of the city school system by restructuring the schools and by evaluating teachers and the knowledge being taught in the classroom. In the pursuit of a "good society," or yet a "better society," we must all contribute our part in helping to reform city school conditions.

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Lessons at the Red Brick House

"Long hours at the Wharton shoe factory; and little sleep makes William tired... Master Gurney beats me when I fall asleep. He tells other children that I am a lazy boy."

By Jenny Yam

Often times, young children can be seen walking along Ferry Street going to school. Children of all ages attend Red Brick House, a common school; but young children are the most numerous. Young William Sullivan – eight years of age – is among these school children. At two years of age, his family emigrated from Ireland to America. His parents wanted him and his younger sister – Margaret – to live a better life. To the members of the Sullivan family, America represents a land of opportunity.

The common school is a new experience for the Sullivans. In Ireland, William's parents could

not afford to matriculate in the local school, and hence, neither parent is educated. The Sullivans were poor peasants, who for generations toiled on the land. In New York, William has the opportunity to go to school because no tuition is charged for his attendance; and the family does not have to sign a pauper's oath.

Initially, Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan were opposed to sending their son to a common school. These schools are predominately Protestant. The Sullivans, like many Catholic families, object to Protestant teachings offered there. There is one Catholic common school in New York but enrollment is limited. William was denied enrollment to the Catholic school because quotas were already met. With no other choices open to William, his parents sent him to the Red Brick House – a Protestant common school.

William goes to the Red Brick House for instruction in reading and writing but he often misses school to labor at the Wharton shoe factory. The Sullivans – a poor family – cannot afford to allow William to enroll full time at the Red Brick House. He and his sister have to financially assist the family. "My parents send me to school; but they cannot spare me long. I have to work so we can eat. My sister – Margaret – does not go to school. Ma and Pa say she is a girl and does not need to. Margaret labors at the textile factory down the street from our home."

William's class at the Red Brick House is large. It is not organized by pupil age or ability. His teacher, like nearly all of the other teachers, has no training in teaching children. The lessons they teach come from a textbook – *The McGuffey Reader* – an old and torn book. There are not enough textbooks

at the Red Brick House, so pupils have to share with five other pupils.

Long hours at the Wharton shoe factory; and little sleep makes William tired. "In school I am very sleepy. I try hard to learn my lessons and listen to Master Gurney, yet I still fall asleep in class. Master Gurney beats me when I fall asleep. He tells other children that I am a lazy boy. I get beat at school." William is given extra work when he gets beaten by the teacher. At work, he practices reciting his lessons, but his boss - Mr. Ben Jonson - does not like this. Reciting lessons slows William down when he works, and Mr. Jonson beats him when he cannot finish his work.

Irish children and other immigrants at the Red Brick House are ridiculed by the other pupils. "The other children laugh at me; and hit me because I am Irish."

Common schools offer all children the opportunity to receive an education. The instruction offered does not meet the needs of the pupils. The schools do not have enough materials, such as textbooks; and unqualified

teachers teach classes. Common schools allow students to receive instruction - reading, writing, moral development - but they do not meet the growing demands for our children to become educated.

Over the last decade, schooling in America has come a long way. Once only accessible to the rich and privileged, an education is now available to many children.

At the latest convention of the New York State Teachers Association - held on

August 5 1859 in Poughkeepsie, New York - Mr. Belrley of Brooklyn concluded that evening school would be a great blessing to our cities. They provided the means of instruction to a large class who could not be compelled to attend the day school because they must labor to support themselves and their parents. Successful evening schools will allow children - such as William - to become fully enrolled pupils, while financially assisting their families.

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Our Failing Schools: The Reality of a New York City Education

By Benjamin Waldron

The issue of improving public education in New York City has been one of the primary concerns of both parents and politicians for the last decade. Extended periods of below average performance, exemplified by unacceptable reading and math proficiency and low-test scores, have caused parental approval of the city's public schools to decline. Why has New York City's public education system faltered? The problems associated with the system are numerous, including under funding, incompetent teachers, teachers working without contracts inadequate, out-dated facilities, and large class sizes. All of these make it more difficult for a public school student to receive a sound education. To observe the reality of these conditions, I recently interviewed eighth grader Jessica Alvarez of P.S./I.S. 187 in Manhattan.

Benjamin Waldron: In your opinion, what is your school's largest problem?

Jessica Alvarez: I would have to say lack of money. I mean, the majority of the problems with my school are a result of not having enough money.

BW: Which problems in particular worry you the most?

JA: There are many, but I feel that since my education obviously depends on the teachers I have, not having good teachers is the worst of my school's problems. I was annoyed last year because I did not learn anything all year long in my social studies class. I remember one class when our principal was observing him and he forgot who Napoleon was. Besides social studies, my math teacher last year was actually the music teacher, and as a result I struggled in the math course I took last year. Because of that, I am struggling this year in math.

BW: Why do you think your school has not fired these teachers?

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS!

My Reality

-Annie Law 2002

I maintained my usual expectations- the deductions I made in elementary school about every schoolteacher existent in my world. Public school teachers were incapable, unqualified and even incompetent for their position in the education system. Sometimes I wondered if another average student could do better in handling the class. All teachers seemed somewhat detached, aloof and off to their own world every time they associated with a student. Their concern was only an act that veiled their true feelings until the last bell of the day rings- when they were freed from the circumstances that forced them to keep their job. They didn't really care about the student who just very naively confided in them with the secret that affects his whole life. This image of teachers seems cruel, but in honest recollection of my childhood, this was what I thought when someone presented me with the label of "New York City public school teachers".

JA: I don't really know. Actually, sometimes I see teachers who have been in my school for a long time observing some of the new teachers, checking on their progress. Maybe they are checking to see if these teachers should be fired. It might be because my school cannot afford to hire new and better teachers to take the old ones' place. I also guess its hard to attract teachers to teach in public schools as well.

BW: Have you had some good teachers as well?

JA: Yes, definitely. Last year, my communication art teacher was great and my science teacher this year is also good.

BW: Can you talk about some of the other problems you've experienced while in your school?

JA: I've had very large classes, when you combine that with teachers who cannot control students, you obviously have a hard time learning. There have been physical problems with the schools as well, such as asbestos a few years ago. Also, we have no air conditioning in the hot months and for many kids, in summer school. Summer school is another problem; I have friends who say it didn't help them much. I also know a student who has been left back twice and is still struggling.

BW: If your family could afford to send you to private school, would you go?

JA: Probably. I actually have a friend who goes to a private school, but his parents pay over ten thousand dollars a year. I would imagine the quality of the education would be better though. It might be nice being in a smaller class as well.

What can be done to fix the New York City's public education system and give students like Jessica Alvarez a sound education? There are numerous approaches being advanced. In regards to

under funding, the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, founded and lead by City Councilman Robert Jackson, believes New York City students are being denied adequate funding based on the belief that students upstate are just better than students in the city. The city's 1.1 million students make up 37 percent of the state's public school population but get 34 percent of the state's education funds, mainly through political bargaining as opposed to need.

Seven years ago, the CFE successfully sued the state regarding this matter and won an increase in funding. Recently, in CFE v. State of New York, Judge Leland DeGrasse, ruled in favor of the CFE and its claims to unfair funding.

With regards to quality of education, an approach being advanced currently is that of the charter school. A chartered public school is granted autonomy, but must adhere the same state and city requirements as conventional public schools. Charter schools hope to cut down bureaucratic practices, making it easier to both hire and fire teachers. Support for vouchers to help low income families afford a private education for their children has also been on the increase in recent years. However, this is perhaps the most controversial approach, as many public education advocates believe it will drain funding away from public schools.

The controversy, over which approach or combination of approaches will benefit students the most, is a critical issue in New York City. Mayor Mike Bloomberg appears to be winning his fight to gain control of the public school system. Whether this will be a positive or a negative outcome remains to be seen. One thing is certain: the improvement of New York City public schools will never occur without an integrated effort by all those involved.



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Acquainting Oneself with the Teachers

"A teacher determines the number of dunces as well as the number of scholars."

By Sharon Zelkin

I recently had the privilege of meeting with and interviewing Zalmon Richards, president of the National Teachers' Association, at the first national convention of the National Teachers' Association in Cincinnati, Ohio. I found him to be quite a pleasant man filled with a sense of enthusiasm and aggressiveness that lurked in his eyes. Trained by Mark Hopkins at Williams College, he has taught in country schools and village academies. He has conducted teachers' institutes, and has been principal of two academies. In 1851, Mr. Richards opened his own school in Washington. He was interested in a simplified alphabet, phonetics, teacher training, and in

many other aspects of the teaching profession.

Having had the experience of teaching in many schools, Richards found many faults within the school house: there were no arrangements at all for ventilation, not even a trap-door in the ceiling, there was only a small wooden stove which was barely enough to keep the children warm during bitter, and freezing cold winters, there weren't enough desks to seat forty-four pupils of different statures, and not enough books. Most importantly, teachers were young, poorly trained, and in certain instances, uneducated. Teachers lacked organization and cohesiveness. This sort of setting posed a great threat to the future of common schools and the teachers who played the role models for these children.

When the issue was posed to Mr. Richards, he responded with the following -

"Teaching must become a profession, in which its own members set the standards and passed upon the applications of candidates for its admission. Those who are incompetent and unqualified, are to be weeded out of the profession in order to pave the way for promising individuals willing to attain the teaching ability. Therefore, our first goal is to unify local, community, and state based educational organizations into one national association devoted to the elevation of the teaching profession and for the advancement of common schooling."

Mr. Richards' opinions concerning the issue of parochial schools were hostile. "Private schools are founded upon nothing by flaming circulars and pretentious advertisements and housed in any sort of room in the building that would keep the children in and

the world out. Ultimately, they are narrow, expensive, and biased, and are poor sources of honing inquiry and creativity."

Focusing his goals on setting roles for teachers, Mr. Richards boldly states- "The good teacher dignifies his calling to improving old methods and devising new ones. The work of the teacher and the agency of the National Teachers' Association is to elevate the character and advance

the interests of the profession of teaching. They become a master of their profession for the purpose of setting an exemplary model for children as a moral, religious, and well-educated citizen of the United States. A teacher determines the number of dunces as well as the number of scholars."

I found Mr. Richards to be a man on a mission, armed with the fervor of making a

difference in our society for the greater good. He closed our meeting with the following statement-"A brighter day is dawning, and education is its day-star. The honor of ushering in this day is reserved for those who train up children in the way they should go. Our cause is good, and it requires wisdom, zeal, high purpose, forgetfulness of self, unanimity, and a true devotion to our high calling.

FROM THE TEACHERS OF SYRACUSE, N.Y.
 ODE - THE PEN
 BY P.R. SPENCER

Freely glide the pen for aye
 Plain and truthful, day by day,
 As months and years shall glide away,
 Adown the stream of Time;
 Friendships claim mementoes bright,
 Paeans, twin'd in lines of light,
 Gems, that heart and hand indite -
 Pearl-drops of the Mind !

Busy Pen! To thee we tura
 For treasures old, in Memory's urn,
 Scenes endeared, and thoughts that burn
 Round Affection's home !
 For names, by crumbled fingers tra'e'd,
 For sentiment, all bright and chaste-
 Of hearts which throbb'd at our embrace,
 Hearts pulseless, now, and dumb.

Faithful Pen ! 't is thine to be
 The wand of immortality -
 The voice of lov'd ones speak thro' thee
 When silent is their tongue;
 Then graceful be thy work and pure !
 Chaste thoughts in beauty dress'd endure,
 With diamond light greet either shore,
 Upon life's current flung.

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Educating Educators

By Aaron Charlop-Powers

Bob Chase is the current president of the National Education Association, and is at the front of the fight to reform public schools. Originally a middle school teacher from Danbury Connecticut, he has been involved in education reform since 1965. His organization represents over 2.7 million educators nationwide, and in addition he serves on the executive board of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the National Foundation for the Improvement of Education, and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Last month, I met with Mr. Chase in his Washington D.C. office.

Aaron Charlop-Powers: Bill Bradley commented that private reform organizations are not doing enough to correct current problems in society. Do you think this is true and what do you think the role of the NEA is in today's society?

Bob Chase: Indeed, Bill Bradley is correct. Although private organizations are working diligently to see that reform takes place, they are not doing enough. There needs to be a larger focus on immediate results, rather than those five



"...we have the same heroes; teachers who inspire."

or ten years from now. The NEA tries to insure that no child in America regardless of class, race, disabilities, gender, or native tongue is deprived of a public education.

ACP: What are the primary goals for the NEA in the upcoming year?

BC: Presently, I believe that the main focus of the NEA is to reach out and integrate the many different cultures represented in the United States Public Education system today. Hispanics are the largest minority group among children under 18 and along with many other groups such as Asians, Africans and Eastern Europeans, constitute an ever-growing number of foreign-born students. The NEA has to focus on making sure these students receive the education that they deserve.

ACP: What is the role of the public school teacher today?

BC: The most important role of the teacher is to be able to relate to his/her students. To teach effectively, we must understand

the cultures of our students. If there is no basis or forum for understanding one another, then communication and effective learning will rarely follow. However, it is important to remember that we have the same heroes; teachers who inspire.

ACP: Do you foresee a shortage of qualified teachers as becoming a serious threat to the integrity of public education?

BC: Honestly, no. Although in many cities there are problems locating qualified teachers, I am encouraged by a recent poll we conducted which found out that more than one-third of the people polled cited the value and significance of education in society as a critical factor, and eight in ten were considering a career in teaching.

ACP: Are Voucher Schools valid alternatives to struggling inner-city schools?

BC: No. In my opinion voucher schools represent a defeatist approach to schooling. Granted, there are communities in Washington, D.C., Chicago, and a number of other cities where some public schools are failing. But as ravaged as these communities may be by economic upheaval and crime, hope survives because decent, hard-working men and women within them care desperately about the children. Voucher schools represent an abandonment of this love. Essentially, you are giving up on community and community schools.

ACP: In your mind, what is the main purpose of the public school system?

BC: The public school system in our nation has the responsibility to educate every child and equip him or her with the skills necessary to become a productive, independent member of our society.

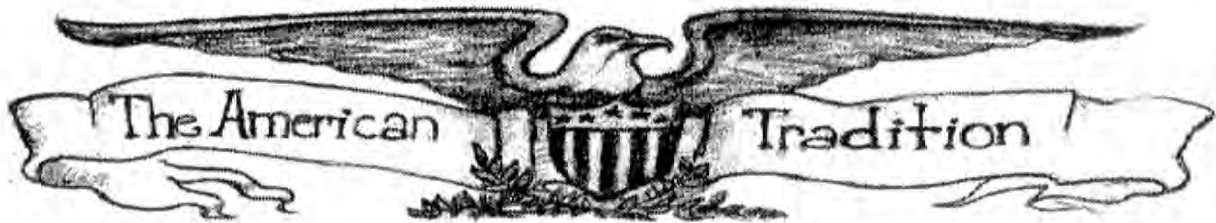
ACP: Do you think that this goal is often impeded by bureaucratic systems and standardized testing?

BC: At times, both the hassles of the bureaucratic process and standardized tests impede successful education. If influential people in policy level positions worked as a family instead of a hierarchy, the quality of education would improve drastically. And as for standardized tests; as a teacher I respect tests as an indispensable tool of my trade. However, I believe in using tests not for punitive purposes, but to diagnose strengths and weaknesses so we can give every child the individual assistance he or she needs to succeed.

ACP: What is the biggest problem facing public education today?

BC: The biggest problem in education right now in America is whether or not struggling schools can improve. Every school in America can succeed, if given the right conditions and resources, and it is the role of private reformers to create these conditions.





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Education: Importance and Improvement

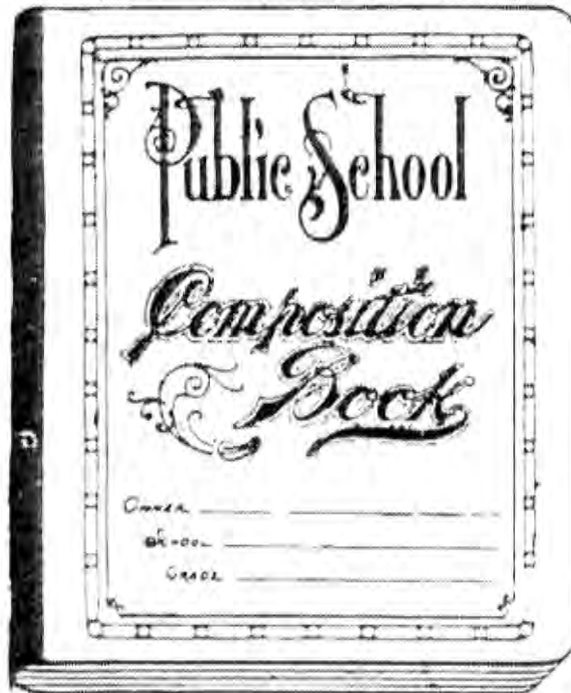
"Education should be shaping morals, unifying our culture, and creating discipline and order."

By Alison Moy

Education is vital to the success and prosperity of our Republican country and its democratic ideals. It promotes knowledge, morality, order, and discipline and will build our country to its destiny of moral and intellectual greatness. Accordingly, it also encourages individuality, which promotes social mobility and equality. Seeing the extent to which education shapes our nation, it ought to be more effective than it is today. Education should be shaping morals, unifying our culture, and creating

discipline and order. How can the school system accomplish these goals when there is irregular attendance, an unorganized system and poorly selected teachers?

One problem is that there is a large amount of irregular school attendance. An 1850 poll revealed that New York



City had a population of 1,053,585 children between the ages of 5 and 19 and a pupil population of 727,156. In areas such as

the Five Points district, there are large numbers of children that are dirty and ragged and do not attend school. Two thirds of the adults in this area cannot read or write. Making school attendance mandatory would keep children out of the street and perhaps out of trouble. This may indirectly decrease the crime rate, as well as providing young people with an education that will allow them a chance to move up the ladder. While there has been some effort to make school attendance mandatory, nothing has been resolved. On the second day of the State Teachers Association meeting at Lockport, Mr. Sheldon brought the idea of compulsory attendance to the table. However, it was pushed off for further discussion at another time.

Grading is a classification system that is beginning to be used. This is an effective way of organization because it creates a better learning environment for the children. Grading classifies pupils into levels of achievement. In Utica, a grading system has started in which they have fourteen primary schools, each divided into higher and lower levels, six intermediate schools, and one advanced school which is divided into male and female sections. The grading system is mainly used to stratify children by age. Henry Barnard referred to grading as "The great principle to be regarded in the classification, either of the school of a town or a district, or of the schools in the same school, is equality of attainments, which will generally include those of the same age." Without grading, children are put with other children of different ages. With grading, they can relate

to children of their own age, which can create intellectual competition, thereby motivating them to work hard. Grading promotes efficiency, division of labor, and industry, which is morally sound. Children will now have the opportunity to advance according to merit. This system is one way in which education can be modified to create a better education for pupils and a better society for America.

Another problem contributing to the weakness of the education system is the lack of competent teachers. Often times, the examining committees are incompetent and allow for poor teachers to be hired. This issue was addressed and dealt with on the second day of the New

York State Teachers Association meeting at Utica. A committee was created that would connect teachers applying with schools in need of teachers.

School conditions are often irregular and do not have good facilities. States provide financing, but such financing is not proportional to the existing needs. A proposal was made for public money to be divided among school districts in proportion to the number of students attending the school.

The school system has many changes to be made to create an effective system. In order to meet the goals of morality, intelligence, and unity, these things must be taken care of, for the future and spiritual economic prosperity of this country.

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The American Tradition

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The NEA: Realistic Reformers or Radical Dreamers?

By Jay Ramesh

The National Education Association today is committed to the reform of our nation's schools at the local, state, and national level. They pursue a wide variety of reforms, though they all proceed towards a common goal – the enrichment of the nation's youth to foster the growth of our nation. However, some of the tactics pursued by the NEA to achieve these lofty expectations are not feasible. Although the goals sought by the NEA today would certainly benefit the public education system, the tactics it

proposes to use to achieve these goals will not be easily carried out.

One of the major goals sought by the NEA is the reduction of class

“...vouchers will only worsen the public school system, which is supposed to provide equal educational opportunities.”

sizes. Representatives of the NEA point to Project STAR, a program initiated in the early 1980s to compare the students who, during their earlier school years (grades K-3), learned in smaller classes (13-17 students) with those who learned in medium sized or larger classes (22+ students). Data was collected on these students during their later high school years; STAR participants graduated from high school in 1998. The data shows that those who learned in smaller classes from grades K-3 were less likely to drop out of school and more likely to complete honors and advanced courses. The benefits of smaller class size during early school years are clear.

However, the difficulty of implementing a large-scale program to reduce class size would be quite difficult. Such a program would be extremely expensive. Although the NEA claims that the improvement of the education system will have a great deal of economic benefits in the future, it is impossible to determine

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how great such benefits will be. Furthermore, many opponents of the implementation of smaller class size point to the fact that this funding could also be used to hire more qualified teachers, a step that would produce more immediate results.

"Although the goals sought by the NEA today would certainly benefit the public education system, the tactics it proposes to achieve these goals will not be easily carried out."

The NEA strongly opposes the use of vouchers to fund private school education. It believes that the use of school vouchers will contribute to the further decay of an already struggling public school system. In addition, the NEA believes that vouchers will only create greater social stratification along religious lines, due to the religious affiliations of many private schools.

Proponents of vouchers claim that the voucher system will allow those individuals who cannot afford a private school attend the schools of their choice, thus allowing for greater social equality. These individuals point to the fact that vouchers have enjoyed moderate success during the last few years in places such as Cleveland, Ohio. The implementation of vouchers in Cleveland has granted money to many students who would not have otherwise been able to attend private schools. Proponents of the voucher system also point to the fact that a private school education allows a student to learn in smaller classes.

It is our view, however, that the NEA is correct in its belief that vouchers will only worsen the public school system, which is supposed to

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provide equal educational opportunities. The funding put into vouchers can be used to revitalize schools in poorer neighborhoods, thereby eliminating the need for students to seek a private school education simply to enjoy equality of opportunity.

The National Education Association's commitment to the democratic value of equality of opportunity is clear. The goals it seeks would certainly benefit the national education system. However, some of the tactics by which the NEA hopes to achieve these goals must be revised before the organization's dreams can be realized.

Helpful Resources

By Benjamin Waldron and Jay Ramesh

Assistant Section Editors

A combination of both hard copy and online research, information from different libraries, access to archived material, and insights from scholars, activists, and organizations were used to write the articles pertaining to public education reform in our magazine. Libraries accessed include the Humanities and General Research library, the Mid-Manhattan library, Brooklyn Public Library, Queens Central Library, New York State Library, and the Columbia University's Butler Library. Archived materials accessed include historical newspapers on microfilm online obtained through the use of *Proquest*. Information regarding the State Teachers Association of New York was acquired through an interlibrary loan from The New York State Library Archives. A transcript of a meeting of the New York State Teacher's Association was acquired from the NYPL Humanities and Social Sciences Library, and the proceedings of the National Teachers' Association meetings from 1858-1866 were accessed from the Columbia University Teacher's College Library.

In addition, several university professors were contacted and some responded with valuable information to supplement the writing of our articles. These people include Steven Mintz from the University of Houston, Kenneth Jackson from Columbia University, and Thomas Bender from New York University. Robert Jackson, a representative from the Campaign for fiscal equality, was also contacted. Information was obtained from different websites, including those of the National Education Association, the Campaign for Fiscal Equality, the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, the Manhattan Institute, and the New York

Public Library. Websites pertaining to education reform in the antebellum era include that of the New York Public Library, Cornell University's "Making of America" archive, and the U.S. government's Library of Congress website. The integration of the information provided by these sources made possible the following articles regarding public education reform, past and present.

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Temperance



Overview

Alcoholism has always plagued the United States, creating an array of problems ranging from domestic violence to driving accidents. In this section of our magazine, you will find an analysis of the antebellum Temperance movement and modern-day organizations dedicated to curbing alcoholism.

Temperance was the most successful reform movement of the nineteenth century. Alcohol consumption rates had been rising since the American Revolution and had reached epidemic proportions by the 1820s. The Temperance movement saw this crisis as a result of the socioeconomic changes of the Jacksonian-era, including urbanization, changes in the nature and structure of work due to industrialization, and massive immigration. Antebellum reformers claimed that alcohol was the major cause of nearly all social problems: unemployment, poverty, business failure, slums, insanity, crime and violence. Middle class reformers, who were greatly influenced by religious revivalism of the era, sought to eradicate the social evil of alcohol, which they argued inevitably destroyed the moral character and the physical and mental health of all who drank it.

The temperance campaign was committed to convincing people that alcohol was evil and destructive. Reformers initially advocated moderation and avoidance of "ardent spirits" but by the 1830s, they began to promote total abstinence. In 1826, The American Temperance Society was formed, the Society sent out lecturers, distributed literature, and organized revival meetings requiring a pledge of abstinence. The Temperance movement pervaded American culture through conventions, parades, dramas, songs, and illustrations that presented graphic stories narrating the fall and redemption of alcoholics.

Today, prevention of alcoholism and the social problems associated with it remains the goal of many non-profit temperance organizations. As rates in fatal traffic accidents, crimes, birth defects and domestic violence continue to rise, temperance organizations see preventative education

and political action as a solution .The Center for Science and the Public Interest (CSPI) is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization committed to reducing college binge-drinking, increased rates in alcoholism among women and underage drinking. In addition, CSPI is dedicated to limiting the alcohol industry's advertising and marketing strength in an attempt to curb alcoholism. CSPI also advocates legislation that will reform alcohol advertising and promotions, increase excise taxes and mandate more detailed label warnings. Organizations, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, are committed to treating alcoholics and guiding them through recovery, while remaining outside of the American Temperance movement.

The antebellum organizations and their modern-day descendants share many characteristics. The tactics employed by both include preventative education and political lobbying. While modern day Temperance organizations share certain goals with the antebellum Temperance reformers, they diverge in many of their objectives, their targets, and their view of alcoholism. While today's temperance efforts seek to promote responsible drinking, antebellum reformers were much more radical, and even advocated universal abstinence. Additionally, most antebellum Temperance advocates viewed alcoholics as morally flawed people and intemperance as the greatest obstacle to a republic of God-fearing citizens. Modern Temperance organizations, on the other hand, see alcoholism as an illness not necessarily reflective of moral character. The focus of organizational efforts has also shifted from white married men to women, teenagers, and minorities. The following articles present an analysis of the extent of change within the Temperance movement from the antebellum period to present-day America.

Aditi Anand and Madeline Tzall

Section Editors



EST. 1827

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A Prelude to The World's Temperance Convention

"Are these women not the friends of temperance? Are they not advocates of temperance? Then why exclude them?"

By Andrew Salamatov

A number of the activists and friends of Temperance, along with this reporter, convened in the morning of May the 12th, in New York City, to adopt the necessary preliminaries needed to hold a World Temperance Conference sometime during the World's Fair.

During the proceedings, the issue of women's participation was discussed to a great extent. A number of those who attended and those who served as moderators are established leaders of The New York State Temperance Society. Among those present from the aforementioned organization was R. H. Walworth, former president of the

organization, Susan B. Anthony, and Lydia Fowler - both acted as representatives of the Women's New York State Temperance Society.

Those present were concerned with women's participation in the Temperance movement. Reverend John Marshall, of New York, moved that all gentlemen present, who were friends of the Temperance movement, be allowed to participate in the Conference. Dr. Trall, of New York, remarked that representatives of the Women's New York State Temperance Society were present, and the word "ladies" must be added to Rev. Marsh's motion. This was accepted unanimously and the motion was amended. The Secretaries took the names of all gentlemen and ladies present and added them to the list of participants in the Conference.

Mr. Higginson, of Massachusetts, next spoke and added that the women

present should be nominated to represent their Committees in the upcoming World's Temperance Convention. He moved that Miss Susan B. Anthony, of Rochester, be admitted as one of such members. His proposal was rejected by Dr. Hewitt, who rose and spoke that although he did not mean to disparage the female participants, he believed it was a betrayal of a former age to include women in the proceedings. Dr. Hewitt's motion was approved by some participants.

E. W. Jackson, of Pennsylvania, commented that women were constantly disturbing the Anti-Slavery meetings in the same manner as they did on this day, with their "stuff and nonsense about Women's Rights." The President of the Convention, Mr. Barstow, of Rhode Island, stated that women "in breeches" were a disgrace to their sex; he did not know what they

were "good for", and that they were never productive in "anything but mischief."

Mr. Thompson, of Massachusetts, continued to defend the right of the women to attend the Conference by stating that this was a "World's Temperance Convention", and the whole World had to be represented. Mr. Higginson, of Massachusetts, made a short speech stating to the committee, "I know something about this call, as it originated by a resolution from myself, which I offered at the Massachusetts State Convention. I certainly never would have dreamed of setting my hand to pen such a resolution or propose it, if I considered that women were to be excluded from this meeting".

This statement was met with loud and continued applause from the women of the house. It is not the matter of "woman's rights" we are considering, or have to consider, at all. It is the question as to whether this is to be considered a

meeting of the friends of Temperance? Are they not advocates of Temperance? women not the friends of Temperance? Then why exclude them?"

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P. J. Barnum

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New Tactics May Be Needed to Combat New Drinking Habits In Women

By Olivia Cory

Washington D.C., June 10, 2002. In a meeting at its main offices last week, the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) celebrated its recent success in the ongoing battle against liquor advertisements. After months of arduous letter writing campaigns and threats of boycotts, the members of the CSPI rejoiced in hearing that the major television stations had decided not to begin advertising hard liquor on television. "We have been fighting for years to protect children and others from alcohol advertisements. Today, we learned that our efforts have not gone unrewarded," said George Hacker, the director of the Alcohol Policies Project

However, the meeting's excitement over the recent victory came to an abrupt end. Giving a report on their recent efforts, Linda Bosma, the director of the CSPI's grass roots agency dedicated to curbing binge drinking on college campuses, stated that binge drinking among female college students

had sharply risen. Ms. Bosma went on to say that unless this trend of binge drinking among women was quickly curbed, the

"We have been fighting for years to protect children and others from alcohol advertisements. Today, we learned that our efforts have not gone unrewarded."



number of female binge drinkers on campuses was expected to rise by as much as 8% in the next four years. "We are facing a growing trend that could have major implications for our organization's efforts", said Ms. Bosma. "Unless we find a way to stop these young women from binge-drinking, we might be facing a major alcohol crisis in a matter of years."

Following Ms. Bosma's report, Mr. McGraff, a professor of sociology and a member of the CSPI's Alcoholic Policies Project, briefly outlined

the factors contributing to the rise in female binge drinking. Although he cited several possible explanations for the growing number of young women binge drinkers, Mr. McGraff focused primarily on one: feminism.

"For over a hundred years, women have been the cornerstone in the move to battle excessive drinking. We have to find a way to keep women in this role."

According to Mr. McGraff, there may be a strong correlation between the increasing power and freedom of young women and the increasing number of female college students who engage in dangerous drinking. "It seems that as women gain rights and freedoms, they feel a need to assert themselves in other areas," noted Mr. McGraff. "As part of our research, I have spoken to many female college students, and a number of these young women have told me that they engage in binge-drinking not because of peer pressure or because of boredom, but because of a desire to assert their equality with men. To many young women there is a need to push their rights and their capabilities to the limit. It is not just in drinking; women are also becoming more aggressive in many respects. More young women are fighting in school, are doing drugs and are smoking. Women are increasingly seeing themselves as equal to men in a variety of ways. However, this more assertive behavior seriously threatens both the health and safety of young women and the ability of our organization to combat excessive drinking," said Mr. McGraff.

Female binge drinking, once seen by the CSPI as a minor problem, is now recognized as a major threat to the organization's efforts to curb excessive

drinking. The CSPI members quickly began to consider ways of combating the alarming trend. An increase in funding to the CSPI's grass roots agency was approved and other measures aimed at increasing the CSPI's presence on college campuses were considered.

At Mr. Hacker's request, the group planned a future meeting to discuss new methods of combating binge drinking among female students. "We may have to consider doing something new and more drastic than the usual measures we take in combating excessive drinking," said Mr. Hacker as the meeting prepared to adjourn. "For over a hundred years, women have been the cornerstone in the move to battle excessive drinking. We have to find a way to keep women in this role."

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We can be
Strong,
Independent women
Without drinking.
Speak our minds,
Intelligent and clear.
Use our voices
To show our unique character,
Use our actions
To show our strength,
Not to show how much liquor we can hold,
Drinking does not prove our worth.
Our minds and bodies alone
Give us value.
-Alison Moy*



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An Investigation into the Results of Intemperance

"goals... would not be proper for embodiment in the constitution."

By Mai Van Vu

The plot of this story is simple and the only ripple "in the course of success" that runs through it is the atrocious demon rum.

John Pather has lived in a family that has been plagued with the disease of drunkenness for centuries. His mother, father, and forefathers have been affected, which led to their fall high society.

They depleted their savings by spending it on demon rum. In addition, this agent of destruction inevitably

leads to poor work habits that would eventually lead to unemployment and poverty.

John as a young boy could no longer watch his family succumb to poverty and vice. He purposed to never taste a drop of intoxicating liquor.

He avoided the path towards vice by following lighted route of the New York State Temperance Society, which protected him from destruction. Had



he never entered this society, he would have become afflicted with the disease.

Under the guidance of the Temperance Society, Pather was able to climb back into respectable Society and become a functioning part of it. He was saved, and from that time on, realized that the only way to cure society of the drink was to save those who had not been afflicted with the disease. He saw no hope for those who had been consumed by drunkenness, for experience had told him that they too could not be saved.

The New York State Temperance Society has always been the fighter against the evils of demon rum. Its tactics have always

been targeted at those who were at risk of being consumed by the disease of drunkenness. Pather is the



embodiment of the tactics used by this Temperance Society and its results. He was saved before he had a chance to become intemperate, which has become the goal of this Society.

However, its work has come under heavy assessment as well as the methods used to achieve temperance. Intemperance has always been a widely discussed topic; however there has never been a consensus in the governing council of the society in types of methods that should be used.

The New York State Temperance society has always maintained a strong stance on the total abstinence and prohibition

of the drink. President Walworth announced at last week's convention in Auburn, "this society will endeavor to procure the insertion of a clause forbidding the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage." In addition the highly esteemed Dr. Joseph M. Smith added, "The disease of drink is increasing among young men, and the only way to save the society from immorality is to save those who have not been exposed to the drink."

Thomas Phlanny, a New York State senator, argued that the goals of this Temperance Society should be regarded as impractical and would not

be proper for embodiment in the Constitution.

The fact that is neglected is that there are people who can be saved from the disease of drink. Should those who have always been affected by the drink be abandoned? The American principle provides that all men can achieve rebirth. This is a popular belief in America, and its presence

should be universal. This report should open the eyes of the readers and allow them to draw their own conclusions on this matter.

This investigation presents the facts and is shameless in revealing the absolute truths. The New York State Temperance Society is a promoter of total abstinence and provides support for those who have not been afflicted with the disease. Those who have succumbed will not be saved, for it is believed by some that the only way to create a world that lacks vice and poverty is to save those who have remained temperate.

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“The Deadly Effects of Intemperance”

Alcohol: How it Kills

By Jen Wu

Susan Biltmore had just moved into her dorm room at Bradley University and met her new roommate, Sara Tootle. On August 23, 1997, Sara and Susan decided to go boating with a friend named Shawn Katz. Shawn owned a modest medium sized boat, a 28' ft. runabout model, used for cruising the Illinois River.

“The alcohol industry’s relentless marketing and powerful political influence, coupled with ineffective government alcohol policies, contribute to this ongoing public health and safety epidemic.”

The day was sunny and clear and the water was pristine. Susan was the only one below deck, looking for a lost earring when another boat crashed into their boat. Her next memory was waking up in St. Francis Medical Center in severe pain with IV's and an oxygen tube helping to keep her alive. Doctors gave Susan a 15% chance of survival even as she bravely fought for her life. Susan will remember August 23 for the rest of her life.

The fun outing had ended in tragedy when another boat driven by a man with a Blood Alcohol Concentration of .154 hit theirs. According to the Illinois

state B.A.C. limit, it is illegal to operate a vehicle with a BAC of .08 or higher. The average number of drinks you can consume in a two-hour period before you reach the legal limit is between two and three drinks. Once you reach .08 BAC, you have to wait one hour before you can legally operate machinery. Once you reach .15 BAC, you have to wait five hours before you can legally operate machinery.

Vehicle and craft crashes are the greatest causes of death for every age from five through 27. Almost half of these crashes are alcohol-related. Last year (2001) in Illinois, 42.1 percent of total traffic fatalities were alcohol-related. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that between 90,307 and 128,529 lives have been saved between 1983 and 1997 due to the decrease in alcohol involvement in fatal crashes in the United States.

The man who was involved in this fatal crash was Joseph Vaco, the head of the Sigma Alpha Phi Fraternity. Vaco had been very drunk from the recent afternoon fraternity “rush”. Nevertheless, he wanted to showcase his father’s new 30ft. speedboat by driving the craft 95 miles per hour along the Illinois River. In his drunken stupor, Joseph erroneously misjudged the distance of Katz’s boat as it cruised slowly in front of him. Speeding

steadily towards Katz's boat, Joseph did not see the boat nor the three on the boat until it was too late.

Susan was the only person who survived the boat crash. Her friend and roommate Sara Tootle died from massive brain hemorrhaging. Shawn died from a crushed skull and neck. To this day, Susan is finding things injuries related to the crash that occurred almost two years ago.

On June 15, 1999, a jury found the drunken college driver guilty of an OUI (Operating Under the Influence). It took the jury only 24 minutes to make their decision. Then on July 22, 1999, he was sentenced to 364 days in the Peoria County Jail without the possibility of leaving early for good behavior or time served. Joseph Vaco only gets a year of his life taken away, but Susan Biltmore has a life sentence of pain and suffering.

Efforts to prevent any further such accidents have manifested themselves in the Center for Science and the Public Interest (CSPI). CSPI is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization that focuses on improving the safety and nutritional quality of the food supply and on reducing the carnage caused by alcoholic beverages. The alcohol industry's relentless marketing and powerful political influence, coupled with ineffective government alcohol policies, contribute to this ongoing public health and safety epidemic.

Policy-makers have devoted little attention to

public health policy measures that promise to help reduce alcohol problems across the board. Thus, the current project initiatives are to advocate alcohol advertising and promotion reforms, adjust excise taxes reducing alcohol consumption on college campuses, and change label warnings and point-of-sale health warnings.

CSPI's Grassroots Alcohol Advocacy Initiative, funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, gives assistance to grassroots anti-drug and alcohol coalitions to help create cadres of well-informed and motivated community leaders who promote alcohol prevention policies.

With CSPI's dedicated efforts, future deaths of people like Joseph Vacos will end.

Worth a life?

*Losing control,
Day after day,
Needing that sip,
To quench your desire,
Forget the problems,
And have that sweet tingly feeling wash over you,
But in the end,
You're back to where you started,
Or worse,
You could be lying there,
With no feeling at all,
Not knowing whether you will be the same.
Is it worth it?
To lose a life for something that was supposed to be for fun,
Something that just helped you to get through the day,
Could wind up being something
That ends your days.
"Drink to free you from your problems"
"Drink to be happy"
"Drink to feel good"
That is what they all say
But do you ever hear:
"Drink to end your life"?*

-Alison Moy



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The Narrative of a Reformed Inebriate

"One half of my life has been spent on the bed of sickness, and the cause can be spelled in three letters - RUM."

By Sonya Marcus

The following narrative of the reformed inebriate, Charles T. Woodward, details a short and plain account of his checkered life, showing the gradations in the drunkard's career, from the drinking of the first glass of wine in the bar-room, to the lowest degradation to which Alcohol subjects its victims.

Woodward's experiences embody the dastardly downward cycle, which usurps good men, that is caused by the consumption of ardent spirits. Tantamount

to this grave evil is the force of temperance societies, namely the New York State Temperance Society, from whose influence Woodward was able to achieve sobriety, and take up temperance activities to emphasize the healing compassions of the



Society's members. Born in Newburyport,

Massachusetts, Woodward was only eleven when his father was killed in the very factory that provided his family with money for sustenance. Thereafter, he moved to Albany, New York, where he apprenticed as baker. Religion became part of his

life, making him the butt of his profane coworkers, who coerced him to imbibe with them on occasion. The underside of the liquor traffic was thus introduced to him: an evil that he could not escape. Drinking bouts and bad debts caused him to bounce from job to job, leading to an overdose of Opium and his commitment into an almshouse. There he was encouraged to write poetry and letters by proponents of major

temperance societies: the first seeds of the New York

Temperance's efforts were sown.

The temperance movement's aid gave Woodward the power, which bid him "hope and life." This alleviation truly began with visits from reformed drunkards and delegates. Most prominent, Mr. Richard Plummer of Newburyport, served as a milestone for Woodward by the request for his signature on a pledge of sobriety. Other delegates were snide and believed, "there is no need of his signing, he will not live long." Plummer cajoled him to sign with ideas of self-determination and respect; Woodward lying on his back without much hope for recovery signed, desiring to dedicate his life to the admonishment of the inebriate. He signed the "THE PLEDGE OF TOTAL ABSTINENCE

from all that intoxicates," and henceforth has been a lecturer for the Temperance Society.



The Drunkard's Progress

As Woodward recalls, "The temperance movement serves an elevating movement-the



gutter drunkard, so called, can be resolved to his forfeited position in society. Through the ascension from the gutter to a devout member of society dedicated to the cause of temperance, man is restored in the eyes of the community and the eyes

of god." Without such support from philanthropic men such as Mr. Plummer, the very threads that our society is held by would quickly unravel into destitution and despair. Woodward remarked at one of his lectures at the Mechanic's Hall, to a crowded audience, "One half of my life has been spent on the bed of sickness, and the cause can be spelled in three letters-RUM. Recovery was not easy, but the motivations implanted by reformers truly made it possible."

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Struggling For Sobriety: A Victims True Story

By Jonathan Chan

As Mr. Idun Dorum walks through the doorway of his three-story condominium in suburban Long Island, New York, a rumbling is felt throughout the house. His two sons, ages eight and ten, run down the stairs to greet their father who gives them each a kiss on the forehead. Mr. Dorum then walks into the kitchen where his wife is busy preparing the evening meal. They share a kiss, but she quickly goes back to straining cooked pasta while he goes to the refrigerator to get himself a soft drink.

"I knew recovery was possible because I saw so many other people who had accomplished it."

Only two years ago, this family scenario was quite different. At that time, when the two boys heard their father's keys rattle and the doorknob turn, they quickly ran to their rooms and closed the doors. Mr. Dorum's wife put away any visible dishes so he didn't have a chance to break them. Instead of pouring himself a soft drink, he would pour a glass of Jack Daniel's. Mr. Dorum discusses with me how he reached the lowest point in his life and, with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous, how he has managed to remain sober for the past two years.

Jonathan Chan: Just two years ago you say you were at the lowest point in your

life. Can you tell me why you started drinking?

Idun Dorum: I work for a major financial corporation in downtown Manhattan. Social drinking is an accepted part of corporate life. Contacts with old clients and prospective clients are made over drinks. I often make business transactions over dinner and drinks in bars, cocktail lounges, and hotel rooms. Sure enough over time I began to drink outside these venues, in the office and at home.

JC: In what ways did your increased drinking affect your family life and your relationship with your wife and sons?

ID: When I drank, my life was a mess. I neglected my family and became both a lousy husband and an abusive father. It came to a point where they were terrified of me. My wife did her best to keep herself and the children out of my way. She was scared for all of us. However, she stood by me and urged me to seek help. She contacted Alcoholics Anonymous and begged me to go to their meetings. It took a lot of time, but I finally went.



JC: How was A.A. able to help you with your drinking problem?

ID: A.A. holds open speaker and open discussion meetings. Members describe what drinking has done to their lives and personalities, how they have come to A.A., and how their lives have changed as a result of it. Other members lead discussions on A.A. recovery or any drinking-related problems anyone brings up. The recovery program consists of the 'Twelve Steps,' which offers the alcoholic a way to develop a satisfying life without alcohol. I attended these meetings three times a week. I knew recovery was possible because I saw so many other people who had accomplished it. Despite my sobriety, I still attend meetings at least once a week.

JC: It is not unusual for recovering alcoholics to "slip-up" and go on a drinking "binge." How does A.A. help to prevent this from happening?

ID: These so called "slip-ups" do happen. However, A.A. provides person-to-person service or 'sponsorship.' Sponsors are on call twenty-four hours a day, and are former alcoholics themselves. They have a genuine interest in offering a helping hand to other alcoholics who have not achieved sobriety. A short time after joining A.A., I had a drinking episode. I went to my sponsor in desperation. He was very encouraging and said that together we would get through this.

JC: How has A.A. helped you straighten out your family problems?

ID: After joining A.A., I became aware of the chaos that I was causing my family because of my drinking. A.A. helped me

realize that my wife and children still loved me and that they were willing to give me another chance to be a good father and husband. I had hope and was enthusiastic about making amends. A.A. helped me realize that before I deal with family troubles, I must have a sincere desire for sobriety. I knew that once I was sober, I would approach the problems of daily living realistically with a great chance of success.

JC: Overall, what has A.A. done for you in the past and continues to do for you in the future?

ID: A.A. has given me a chance to create new and healthy relationships and to mend old relationships. Fellow members are people I really have come to know and to love. A.A. taught me how to live without alcohol, how unnecessary alcohol is, and how it increases our problems. Today, I have the opportunity to square my

debt to those who helped me. At each A.A. meeting, I try to help the younger members find sobriety and happiness the way I have. I tell them these simple words: "If I can do it, so can you."

Mr. Idun Dorum successfully achieved sobriety in a society in which drinking is not always perceived as a negative. It is especially hard to overcome alcoholism when alcohol is glamorized in every aspect of the media. Despite the obstacles and challenges our society has created, hopefully there will be others such as Mr. Idun Dorum who will successfully face their battles with the drink.





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A Meeting with Samuel Chipman: A Report of the Temperance Movement

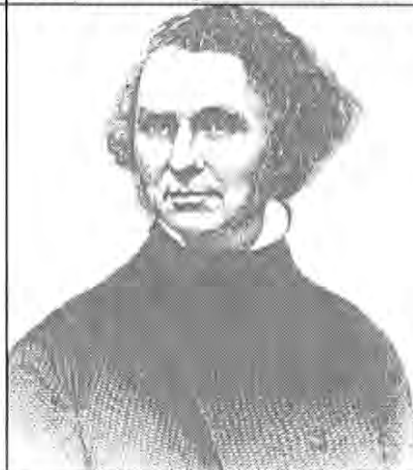
"Enforcing strict temperance is the only way to cure society of its evils."

By Lilly Lavner

Recently, we were fortunate enough to obtain an interview with Samuel Chipman, author of *The Temperance Lecturer: Showing the Taxes, Pauperism, Crime, and Death resulting from Intemperance*, and one of the current leaders of the New York State Temperance Society. Mr. Chipman described to us the recent accomplishments and future goals of the temperance movement and the problems that reform movements are facing today. By interviewing Mr. Chipman we were also able to learn a great deal about his reasons for becoming involved in this movement and why he and his

colleagues believe temperance reform is so badly needed in America today.

Samuel Chipman became involved in the temperance movement very early due to his personal knowledge of the kind of damage alcohol can cause a family. "My father was a heavy drinker and



Neal Dow
The "Father of the Maine Law"

this vice of his destroyed my family," Mr. Chipman admitted during our interview. "He would often come home late from a tavern, intoxicated and out of money. He died in a bar brawl when I was nine years of age."

Along with robbing Mr. Chipman of a father, alcohol also inflicted deep grief upon his mother. "When my father would come home late after wasting his wages on the drink, my mother would blame herself. During those years she blamed other things for my father's downfall; she would criticize his job at the nearby factory, and would curse the bartenders and the German and Irish immigrants who kept pouring into our town. Deep in her heart however, she always felt she had failed him as a wife somehow."

Because of his intimate knowledge of the disasters that alcohol can cause, Mr. Chipman has become one of today's leading advocates for the temperance movement. Indeed, a bit more radical than other reformers, Mr. Chipman supports the idea of the complete prohibition of alcohol, and admits

being deeply inspired by Neal Dow, the "father of the Maine Law." Dow's understanding that spirits are the cause of civil disorder, immorality, economic disruption, and domestic obstacles is a very similar rationale to the ideas set forth by Mr. Chipman and the New York State Temperance Society of why temperance reformation is necessary. "I agree that enforcing strict temperance is the only way to cure society of its evils," says Mr. Chipman. "It is obvious that crime and poverty are the natural offspring of intoxicating drinks." Mr. Chipman and his colleagues agree that if America could solve its drinking problem, it would be able to solve many societal problems as well. The leaders of the New York State Temperance Society have recently agreed that adopting a law similar to the Maine Law, a law ratified by its state legislature earlier this year, will be equally successful in enforcing temperance.

Neal Dow and the framers of the Maine Law aimed to completely suppress the buying and selling of intoxicating

liquor, and have so far been highly triumphant. The Maine Law focuses on punishing liquor vendors, as opposed to punishing those who waste their earnings intoxicating themselves with the drink. Purging the sources from which alcohol was previously obtained makes the job of ending all crime and poverty related to alcohol consumption much easier to accomplish. The law also succeeds in solving some of the past problems with liquor-related laws. In court cases, for example, an empirical difficulty has been to bring forth evidence proving that the substance sold was indeed intoxicating liquor. In this version of the law, however, the mere presence of liquor in a vendor's store is evidence to incriminate him. The law also stipulates that no

liquor vendor or person suspected of bartering alcohol shall ever serve on the jury of a trial that concerns the demon rum.

During our brief meeting, Mr. Chipman and his colleagues explained their reasoning behind wanting to enforce this revolutionary law. "As long as there is liquor available, there will be those who shall seek it out and those who will continue to suffer at the hands of the drink. We, the New York State Temperance Society, praise the success of the temperance movement in Maine, and have begun to fight in favor of adopting a version of the Maine Law in New York. We feel that enforcing abstinence from drinking is the only way to solve the problem of intemperance once and for all."

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George Hackley: AN INTERVIEW

By Debra Liu

The director of the Alcohol Policies Project at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, George Hackley, is a busy man who is dedicated to his work as well as to his family. However, he took time out of his hectic schedule to talk to us about his organization's goals and tactics.

"...by working with other organizations, we are creating a joint effort in the fight against alcohol [abuse]."

Debra Liu: What motivated you to become involved in the Alcohol Policies Project at the CSPI?

George Hackley: Well, when I was a teenager, I had a best friend who was like a brother to me. We did everything together. We played basketball, went to camp, and went to school. During senior year in high school, he got mixed up with the bad crowd and started to drink heavily. He died in a car accident because he was driving while intoxicated. Alcohol is a major problem in America, especially among teenagers who are heavily influenced by their environment.

DL: What position do you currently hold at the CSPI and how are you involved? What are you responsible for?

GH: Currently, I am the director of the Alcohol Policies Project at CSPI. I am in

charge of the overall planning of the project. I supervise what goes on, and focus directly on the public and the policy makers to help them understand the need for policy reforms with regard to alcohol in America.

DL: What are the goals of the Alcohol Policies Project at CSPI? What specific reforms do you advocate?

GH: As I said before, the main purpose of the project is to make the public and the policy makers aware of the growing alcohol abuse in this country. We aim to help policy makers focus on reforms that would reduce the devastating health and social effects of alcohol abuse. Right now, we are working on several reforms including advertising and promotion reform which advocate tighter restrictions on alcohol advertising and promotions that are directed at heavy drinkers and adolescents, higher excise tax reform to increase state and taxes on alcohol in order to reduce alcohol consumption, reducing alcohol consumption on college campuses, and strengthening government focus on alcohol as a major youth problem.

DL: What tactics do you use to achieve those goals?

GH: We work together with communities and similar reform organizations to campaign for our goals. For example,

during the 1980s, CSPI and other organizations campaigned to raise alcohol excise taxes nationally. We are currently collaborating with Cornell University and the University of North Carolina on a research project called "Had Enough" that will help reduce alcohol consumption on college campuses. Another example is The Grassroots Alcohol Advocacy reform project works with community leaders such as mayors, police chiefs and school superintendents who can help their communities better understand alcohol prevention policies.

DL: To what extent are these tactics successful?

GH: By working with communities, we are able to get directly to the heart of America; the people. If respected community leaders pursue alcohol policy initiatives, soon enough people in the community will become actively involved in alcohol prevention. In addition, by working with other organizations, we are creating a joint effort in the fight against alcohol.

DL: Why is the Alcohol Policies Project at CSPI needed by American society?

GH: Alcohol abuse is the number one youth drug problem in America. It is often called a "gateway drug" because once adolescents start to abuse alcohol, they often begin experimenting with other, more hardcore drugs as

well. Underage drinking costs taxpayers over \$52 billion per year. Alcohol is responsible for millions of deaths in America. It also contributes to the increased crime rate, academic problems, clinical depression, and sexual assault. Alcohol abuse causes many societal problems and reform policies to reduce alcohol consumption are thus gravely needed by American society.

GET IN CONTROL



(GIC)

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understand the consequences of
destructive decisions such as drinking,
gambling, and drug abuse*

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**ART. IX -Temperance. -
An Editorial**

"To detect with certainty whether infringing one's civil liberties is worthwhile for ensuring the safety of the State of New York from drunken criminals and paupers, one must examine how effective the State Temperance Society has been in the past several years."

By Maria Litsakis

We have recently received several remarks from our readers, on the subject of Temperance. Many are concerned with the rising numbers of intemperate persons in the State of New York. Statistics drawn from one of the annual Reports of the New York State Temperance Society show that New York, which contains one seventh of the inhabitants of the United States, contains 21,257 intemperate criminals and paupers. Sheriff C. P. Sumner, Esq. states "I believe that about three-fourths of the criminals and about half of the

debtors in all our jails, are addicted to intemperance."

Thus, many societies have taken a particular interest in halting the rapid growth of drunkenness and deprecating its ravages on the serenity and successes of this country. At a meeting commemorating the first anniversary of the New York State Temperance Society, held in Albany, on the 19th of January, 1830, the Society announced its wish to establish a sober World by preventing the youth of America from consuming succedaneous intoxicating liquors.

Hon. R. M. Walworth, the President, said- "The object of this society is one of the best charities of the age. It is to save ourselves, our neighbors, and our friends from a most degrading vice, a physical and moral pestilence, which has overspread the land, destroying the body and souls of its victims." The Executive Committee of

the Society has set forth a circular addressed to trustees of common schools, urging them of the importance of hiring only those who are friends of the temperance enterprise to be instructors of the youth. This goal of the Society is part of its principle of total abstinence from all that can intoxicate, which is defended as the only virtue that can consummate the temperance enterprise.

It must not be overlooked that the temperance movement infringes on the civil liberties of the American people. Over the foregoing year, the State Temperance Society has experienced great success by distributing 4,551,930 publications - the expenses totaling \$32,491 being comprised by \$6,661.35 in donations. From this unprecedented success, opposition has begun to surface in various parts of the country among concerned manufacturers,

venders, and determined consumers. Anti-temperance societies have formed and resolutions passed declarative of the American "right to make, sell, and drink alcoholic liquors." Many pastors

infringing one's civil liberties is worthwhile for ensuring the safety of the State of New York from drunken criminals and paupers, one must examine how effective the State Temperance Society has

involvement in the manufacture of, and traffic in, distilled liquors. Many drunkards were reformed and temperance information was more widely diffused through the community.

Prepared and Published under the Direction of the Visiting Committee of the New-York State Temperance Society.

All the profane are pledged to the generous diffusion of temperance intelligence.



Periodical - one Sheet. Postage, 100 miles 13 cents; over 100 miles 2 1/2 cents.

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and church officers have refused to allow temperance meetings in their churches and have justified moderate use of liquor. Reverend Gentlemen has alluded that the pledge of total abstinence is "the badge of servitude, and an enemy to social enjoyment."

To detect with certainty whether

been in the past several years. In the year 1829, Society members delivered eighty-five lectures in the fourteen northern counties of the State, to over 40,000 people. The operations of the Society were even more efficacious and extensive in 1830 than in the preceding year. Reports from the Society's 100,000 members show that many had quit

These successes have continued to increase to this day. But we propose more particularly to call the attention of our readers, at this time, to statistics drawn from a pamphlet published by the New York State Temperance Society last year. Of the 24,169 persons in poorhouses and jails in the State of New York, 18,312 still remain intemperate. The number of ardent spirits remains remarkably high and can lead to only one conclusion. The citizens of the State of New York must become friends and followers of the Temperance cause. United behind this enterprise, they can continue the trend of increasing success for the New York State Temperance Society and make certain that the State of New York will be rid of drunken criminals in the years to come.

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Absolut Nonsense

By Hansraj Maharawal

With the end of Prohibition and the acceptance of alcohol as a household drug, many believed to have seen the end of the Temperance movement; they were wrong. The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) continues to harass the alcohol industry, accusing their commercials of targeting youth, minorities and psychologically unstable audiences.

George Hacker, the group's director, states, "brewers, in particular, use a variety of characters, spokes people, music, sports themes and adolescent humor that have inherent appeal among young people and minorities."

These accusations have grown into a nationwide movement to curtail the perceived effects of alcohol advertising. The CSPI, along with other reform-oriented organizations, hoped to incorporate alcohol with the Reagan administration's Drug War during the eighties. However, at the time, there was insufficient research to qualify alcohol advertising as a leading factor in the growth of alcoholism in America. In response to this deficiency, several studies have been conducted since the 1980's examining the correlation between alcohol advertising and per capita alcohol consumption.

Unfortunately for the CSPI and other temperance organizations, these

surveys were largely inconclusive, displaying alcohol advertisements as either a major or negligible factor in per capita alcohol consumption. Nonetheless, the CSPI continued to harp away at Americans' fear of an alcoholic society. By stating that adolescents were the primary targets of alcohol advertisements they gained support across the country and are now in a position to press for Congressional action.

What action?

The CSPI favors reforming of the alcohol industry's voluntary ban on broadcasting liquor advertisements. It wants to replace self-regulation with government regulation of alcohol advertisements' content and exposure. In addition, the CSPI demands the inclusion of warnings about the effects of alcohol in these advertisements. Finally, they want to develop an anti-alcohol ad campaign that would receive an equal share of airtime as alcohol advertisements. However, before we applaud the CSPI's efforts, we must assess the necessity of their initiative.

The Facts

The release of the 10th *Special Report to the US Congress on Alcohol and Health*, in the June of 2000, made the facts easily identifiable, by including a comprehensive overview of the research done on alcohol advertising. In it researchers aptly cited the fact that alcohol

consumption and alcohol advertising expenditures have both decreased over the last three decades. In addition, they recognized that minority groups and adolescents are usually unaffected by alcohol commercials and more frequently trust their preconceived notions on drinking. Unable to relate to the commercials, youths and minorities recognized alcohol companies' illustration of the "drinker" as being inconsistent with their real life experience.

In a report issued by the CSPI, entitled *Adolescent Responses to Televised Beer Advertisements*, children also had negative beliefs about alcohol and its future effect on their life. Instead of believing alcohol industry propaganda that illustrated the drinker as a successful, popular individual, youths correctly identified alcohol as a destructive influence. These reports testify to the fact that a child or adult is not coerced by alcohol advertisements but is the product of their real life experiences. Placing the burden of preventing youth and minority alcoholism on communities, parents and teachers, not the US government.

Surprisingly enough, researchers have found that increases in alcohol advertising affected the older population the most, causing an increased number of nighttime vehicle fatalities. Adults were also more affected by marketing schemes, which successfully increased the popularity of certain brands of drinks. Instead of increasing per capita

alcohol consumption, advertising campaigns led to a reallocation of alcoholics' preferences and funds. These findings simply prove that alcohol ads were effective in shifting market share to their sponsor, exemplifying the purpose of advertising.



The Analysis

Thus, we must ask ourselves whether we should vigorously campaign for the destruction of a fictitious factor in alcohol-related problems. Early studies suggested that for every 1% drop in alcohol advertising there is a 0.1% drop in alcohol consumption, a marginal effect at most. Even if we were to completely eradicate all forms of alcohol

advertising it would only correspond with a 10% drop in alcohol consumption. Although this is a large percentage, we would have to be drunk in order to believe that eliminating alcohol advertising is an achievable goal.

In some cases, the imposition of restrictions on advertising has led to increases in alcohol consumption. The CSPI and other contemporary Temperance organizations should not reassert itself not by wasting Congressional time and money on trivial issues but instead to continue educating the public on the horrors of drinking. The time for reformer's reliance on legislative action is over; the American people are the only hope for actually saving our future generations from slipping under the influence of alcohol.

Helpful Resources

By Lilly Lavner and Andrew Salamatov

Assistant Section Editors

A wide variety of sources were accessed so as to present this project in an extremely believable, and factually accurate picture of events, some of which occurring over 150 years ago. In order to achieve this high standard of work, many hours were spent visiting the various libraries located in New York, accessing inter-library materials, contacting professors and activists knowledgeable in the field of temperance, visiting with members of current temperance organizations – all in the service of finding information interesting enough to be written about in an educational magazine.

The libraries that we used to gather the needed information to make this section of our magazine possible include the New York Public Library on 42nd street, the Donnell Library, New York University's Bobst Library, the Jefferson Market Library, the Mid-Manhattan Library, the Jamaica Public Library, the Bayside Public Library, the Flushing Library in Queens, and finally the Brooklyn Public Library. We also consulted the websites of various organizations. Some of these included: The Women's Christian Temperance Union, Cornell's online library and Alcoholics – Anonymous.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the professors and leaders of present day organizations who helped guide us in our search for information and who provided us with extra resources. We would especially like to thank Rita K. Wert and Sarah Ward from the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and Professor Michael Katz from the University of

Pennsylvania for providing us with a multitude of information regarding the modern-day temperance movement.

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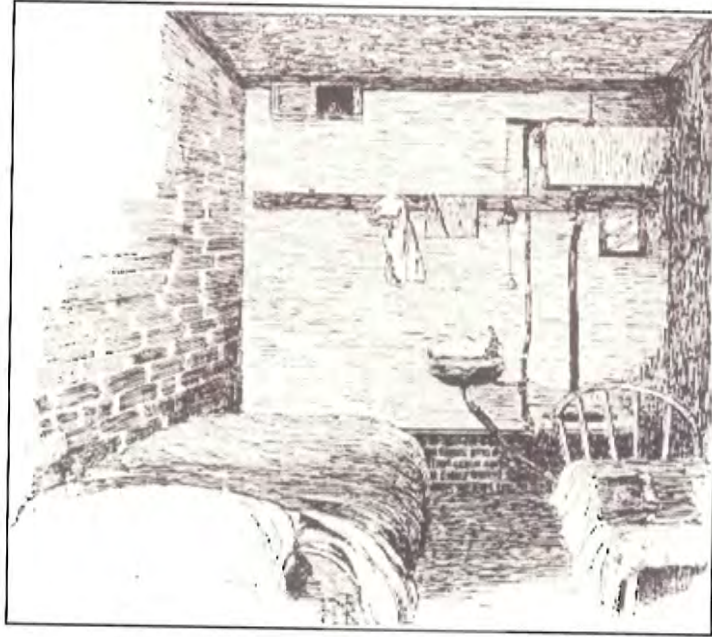
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Penal Reform



Overview

Crime is an age-old problem that has continually afflicted the United States since the nation's beginnings in the 18th and 19th centuries. Societal divisions over crime and institutionalized punishment have often resulted in debates and struggles between liberal reformers urging sympathy towards criminals and conservatives opting for the most effective and efficient way to deal with America's felons.

Until the early 19th century, Americans had no set way of containing crime and detaining criminals. Most petty crimes went unnoticed by law enforcement while serious offenders were subjected to harsh physical abuse or execution. As America and its cities matured in the 19th century, however, a group of middle class individuals with humane motives took it upon themselves to deal with the growing problem of crime in society. These men and women strongly disapproved of the ways in which American institutions dealt with society's deviants; they felt that immediate condemnation and punishment was antithetical to America's democratic republican ideals. Instead, these prison reformers championed the idea that institutions should rehabilitate criminals and transform them into upright citizens of the republic. Over the next half-century these reformers helped to implement a plethora of reforms whose impact is still felt in the present day. Prisons became state-supported and experimented with innovations such as solitary confinement, then considered therapeutic and effective in that it allowed prisoners to reflect on their actions and reform their character.

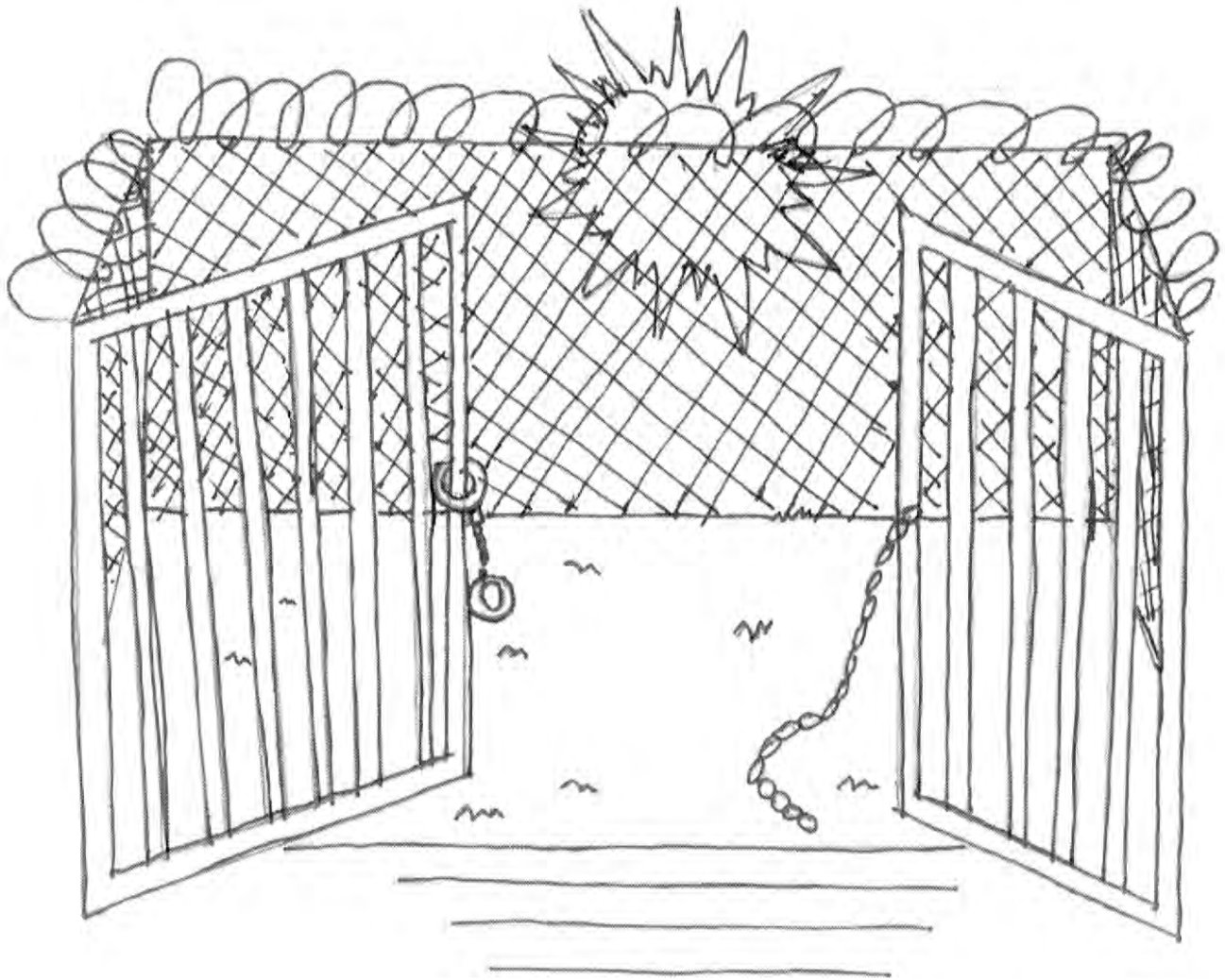
The many reformers fought hard for their goal – to create a family atmosphere in prisons where criminals would learn the error of their ways and rehabilitate themselves into responsible Americans.

To this day, reformers remain committed to the cause of making prisons more rehabilitative than penalizing. Ironically, present day reformers fervently oppose much of the refinement pursued by the 19th century reformers. For example, today's reformers are fighting to eliminate solitary confinement, which is now seen as a cruel and inhumane practice. The contemporary reform impulse also focuses far more on rehabilitation outside of prisons. In addition to improving prison conditions, reform groups such as the Correctional Association of New York are strongly committed to reducing the overall amount of incarceration and diverting government resources to prevention programs that aim to eliminate the very conditions that instill unlawful tendencies in Americans to begin with.

In following articles pertaining to penal reform, each main focus parallels with the main focus of its counterpart of a different time period. Both report of a meeting articles convey the goals of the Prison Association of New York and the Justice 4 Youth Coalition in creating programs aimed at reducing the number of incarcerated youths in prisons. In the editorial articles, more needed to be done by the Prison Association for the reformation of female inmates, while the benefits of the Rockefeller Drug Laws for females are oppugned. The investigative reports expose the considerably hazardous system of solitary confinement and its negative effects on prisoners in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania state prison in 1838 and the Rikers Islands Correctional Facility in 2002. Both interview with a prisoner articles deal with the grueling aspects of prisoner life including terrible living conditions and abuse by untrained personnel. These real-life accounts show that little has changed in state prisons in 1850 in comparison to state prisons today. Finally, the interview with a leader articles describe the goals and tactics of John W. Edmonds in 1859 for the Prison Association of New York and of Robert Gangi of today's Correctional Association of New York.

Jonathan Chan and Surjyakiran Das

Section Editors





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Meeting of Members of the Prison Association - New York

"For this reason that we are for prisoners to be able to learn morals, discipline, and to one day perhaps return to the streets as honest men. Why not apply this same belief to our sons?"

By Susan Katz

Great Meeting of Members of the Prison Association in recognition of state legislation granting authority to inspect prisons March 1846.-- Friday last a meeting of members both distinguished and humble was held at headquarters-135 East 15th St., for the purpose of taking into consideration the damage which the admittance of juveniles into harsh prisons can foster.

The tone of this week's meeting, however, is different; there is a sense of jubilation and as the saying goes the 'sweet smell of success' is thick in the air. Only days since New York state has granted the organization

the authority to inspect prisons and report its findings and recommendations for improvements to policy makers as well as politicians, there is already an immediate credibility and momentum accredited with this barely two-year old organization. The room is bustling with persons both young & old; gentrified & dirt-poor; philanthropists and educated activists, all with one main purpose, their current issue to tackle- at hand: the prevention of juvenile criminals and the reformation of jails in which many of these misdirected youths are currently housed.

Mr. Benson, amidst great applause, is called to the podium - The Chairman, humble in nature, chooses his words carefully-slowly, before he greets the entire room. "As I am sure we all recall when we started this organization in 1844, building on the beliefs of

faith, esteemed spirit, and most of all determination, (Vehement cheers) and look how far we have come! The recognition given by the state will aid our effort in improving the lives of those far from the local streets of our own Lower East Side. Now able to pledge our full efforts to children raised in an atmosphere of poverty, drunkenness, and lack of family, who have

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turned to the void life of crime. The luckier youths-apprehended by authorities have a chance for change. Surely you will agree that prisoners are only by-products of their environment. For this reason that we are for prisoners to be able to learn morals, discipline, and to one day perhaps return to the streets as honest men. Why not apply this same belief to our sons?" (cries of "we should- we should.").

Mr. Kriwalski- rose next to move the first resolution. I was raised on these New York streets. Today, I am able to run my own store (groans of frustration -- "get on with it!")..- what I am saying iz I am able to live out my dreams because of how I was raised. Deez boys today- they don't have vat I had. If they go to prison they vill surely never come back- they can not go to prison with men! (clapping)

Members of the Association debated the view expressed by the first supporting speaker-- Houses of refuge instead of prisons must be built! We should instill in them good values! (cheers) A criminal

is a criminal no matter his age! I believe in bettering the lives of the criminal but not letting him walk outside the gated walls-- be him 12 or 21!

A few in support of the involvement of the organization in juvenile detention homes rather than prisons, cited the tactics implemented by prisons : example Philadelphia's-- where methods of solitary confinement and isolation from the outside world could do greater harm than good on a child.

Men who pondered their positions on the issue before agreeing that juveniles should not be given special treatment, explained their reasoning with the recent study of De Beaumond and De Tocqueville- both men claim the penitentiary system of the U.S. has done something European prisons have not still achieved- instilled honest qualities within former infidels. Mr. Levi added that *The*

Penitentiary System states that prisons altered the beliefs held by children before they would become hardened criminals. With this the debate subsided, and the first order of business- a routine, had been dealt with. Secretary Johnson: full commitment would only be given if there is to be a 3-4 victory in the voting. Meeting had drawn to a close, instead of the collection of dues the celebration for the Association's first victory was now to begin.

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Don't Give Up On Our Youths!

By Anna Fogel

"Schools not jails, education not incarceration, success not failure, truth not myths." The motto of the Justice 4 Youth Coalition both began and ended the No More Youth Jails! welcome meeting, which coordinated the work of both the Correctional Association of New York and the Justice 4 Youth Coalition.

The two organizations are now focusing on convincing New York State to reallocate the almost 65 million dollars in New York State tax money that has been dedicated to building 200 more secure jail cells for youths and to renovating a third secure facility in New York to house incarcerated youths.

The Juvenile Justice Project was created in 1997 by the Correctional Association of New York, in response to a disturbing trend of harsher actions and responses towards incarcerated youths. Directed by Mishi Faruqee, the Project inspects and monitors juvenile placement and detention facilities, analyzes legislative proposals and existing juvenile justice policies, and explores

neighborhood-based alternatives to incarceration and detention.

"Why is the city going to spend \$64.6 million to build 200 more jail cells to lock kids up when the cells aren't even filled?"

Recently, it has worked closely with the Justice 4 Youth Coalition, whose campaign is part of a growing national movement dedicated to urging cities to offer juvenile services instead of jail. The goal is to create justice systems that rely less on secure detention and more on prevention and alternative programs aimed at reducing the number of incarcerated youths.

Kate Rhee, head of the Justice 4 Youth Coalition, commented that the overall detention population has decreased, corresponding to the 30% drop in juvenile crime in the last decade, making the addition of extra secure jails unnecessary and a waste of money. "It's been steadily going down for several years.



Those facilities have not been and are not now even close to being full." The money, Rhee argued, would be better spent on alternatives to incarcerating juveniles, such as non-secure detention facilities. "One of our strategies for reallocation involves expanding alternatives to incarceration programs. Right now, the judge may have a kid who is a first-time offender who by all rights should not be locked up with kids who have committed felonies. But if the non-secure detention homes are full, that's exactly where he's going."

Other alternatives involve

a guest speaker at the meeting. He mentioned that fewer than 30% of the incarcerated youths are held for violent crimes. A number of youths who are part of the Justice 4 Youth Coalition also spoke

"The goal is to create justice systems that rely less on secure detention and more on prevention."

out against spending the \$65 million to expand the youth jails.

Chino Hardin, 21, has been in detention facilities 14 times, and was a



Members of the Justice 4 Youth Coalition spoke out against New York City's allocation of almost \$65 million to building additional youth jail cells.

transitional programs for youths who have already been incarcerated. Luis Reyes, 19, a resident of Independence Inn, a housing program for homeless youth, advocated these transitional settings: "Right now, these kids don't even have a chance to dream, they only have time to worry about who's their next enemy on the street."

Bart Lubow, a representative from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a children's advocacy organization based in Baltimore, Md., was

pioneer organizer for this Coalition. "Why is the city going to spend \$64.6 million to build 200 more jail cells to lock kids up when the cells aren't even filled?" Hardin asked. According to the New York City Department of Juvenile Justice, a secure detention facility costs \$348 a day, or \$130,670 a year, while, in contrast, the New York City Board of Education spends \$9,739 per pupil per year. Hardin answered her own question, anger showing on her face. "Because they're giving up on us. They're setting us up to fail."



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The True Nature of Solitary Confinement

By Tashalee Brown

Thick walls and iron gates surround him; his food is selected and weighed out. His hours of sleep, labor, and idleness, all lie in the hands of his warden. Society has every power over the convict, and thus must accept the responsibility for the issues of his well-being. The issue that lies before us is whether the system of solitary confinement is so injurious to the health of prisoners, that its continuance would be heartless and unwarranted.

This will be determined through a comparative investigation of the conditions in the Charlestown,

Massachusetts state prison versus the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania state prison. The main difference is their system of prison discipline. The Philadelphia state prison institutes the system of solitary confinement as a means of prison discipline, while the Charlestown, Massachusetts state prison does not. It is evident through the results of this report that despite a few reforms, the prison remains a major cause of health problems amongst its prisoners.

provided employment for their prisoners. Is there reason to believe that this partial mitigation of solitude is enough to correct the problem?

By comparing the mortality rates of the prisoners in both the Philadelphia and Charleston prison, it is evident that the Pennsylvania system remains very ineffective. According to a study conducted by Francis C. Gray, the Philadelphia penitentiary mortality rate was 2.18 per cent, while that of Charlestown was merely 1.19 per cent. The most likely reason for the higher number of deaths is due to the harsh system of solitary confinement in the Pennsylvania prison.

The system of solitary confinement has proven to be considerably hazardous to those exposed to it. In an attempt to mitigate the effects of solitary confinement, the Pennsylvania prison system has

According to the House of Corrections in Boston, solitary confinement goes against the nature of man. Man is preeminently a social being. Therefore, it should not be surprising that complete seclusion from fellow inmates would

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have negative effects on human health and behavior.

inhabitants. During the initial two years, inmates were in good health. Past

Farnham, the matron of Mount Pleasant State Prison for Females

In order to determine whether

New Cases of Insanity in the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania

expresses proof that humane treatment

there are other negative effects of solitary confinement on the minds of prisoners in the Pennsylvania prison system, the

Years	# Of cases	Whites	Blacks	Not Distinguished
1837	14			14
1838	18	8	10	
1839	26	13	13	
1841	11			11
1843	4	3	1	
1845	8	6	2	

can be equally as effective. On May 1845, 7,686 persons have been admitted to the Boston House of Corrections, where the prisons

number of cases of insanity in the Eastern Penitentiary after the year 1836 are analyzed. According to the chart below, taken from the third annual report of the Prison Association of New York, there were eighteen cases of insanity in 1838. A report by a physician of the Charlestown prison for 1838 stated that during this year only two cases of insanity occurred in the Charlestown penitentiary, a major difference indeed. This increase in occurrence of insanity cases in the Philadelphia system can be attributed to the use of solitary confinement.

this time, however, they became debilitated, indolent, and showed signs of a decline in physical capabilities. According to the annual reports of the directors of the Philadelphia prison, the institution of solitary confinement leaves the individual unfit to reenter society. The employment provided for prisoners are inadequate. Prisoners are forced to perform meticulous jobs such as winding bobbin and picking oak, which cannot support them when they are released from prison. They are more likely to be driven back into a life of crime.

are conducted on humane principles.

Nevertheless, the evil of the system of solitary confinement has yet to be fully measured. Let us further examine the impact of the prison on its

The Philadelphia system of solitary confinement is an unnecessary evil. Mrs.

From the evidence presented, we can conclude that this system of solitary confinement is indeed inhuman and unjust. The attempt made by the Pennsylvania system to decrease the effects of solitary confinement is not enough. The comparison between the Charlestown state prison and Philadelphia state prison clearly shows that despite the reforms being made to the prison discipline system, the needs of the prisoners have not yet been met. The solitary confinement system should be abolished completely. It destroys the minds, and capabilities of the prisoners whom we seek to reform.

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Animal Factory

By Madeline Tzall

As a member of the Prison Visiting Committee of the Correctional Association of New York, I conducted an investigation of the Rikers Island Correctional Facility in the spring of 2002. Rikers Island is primarily a "holding area" for detainees who have not been sentenced or who remain on trial, however several sentenced inmates serve time on Rikers for a maximum of one year.

A major area of concern to the Correctional Association prior to the investigation was the apparent violent and inhumane conditions existing in the city prisons, particularly those of Rikers Island. In addition, the practice of punitive solitary confinement and its adverse effects on inmates was an area of concern.

I followed a 19 year old, white inmate named Peter throughout his time on Rikers Island, with the provision that he remains anonymous. I also spoke to a former facility doctor. Peter had spent eight months in various holding

units of the Rikers Island facility prior to being sentenced. He served on the Inmate Council, a representational government for

"In New York State over 6,000 of 72,000 prisoners are currently in disciplinary housing or enforced isolation."

the entire facility that dealt primarily with minor maintenance issues.

Throughout his period of detention, Peter spent time in every adolescent "houses" of the General Population Housing Unit and the Protective Custody Housing Unit. His accounts of the general conditions focused on extreme violence. On his first night in the facility, Peter was involved in six fights in order to keep his personal

property from being stolen "You have to fight for everything," he said.

Peter explained that fights arose for many reasons including phone



Illustration by Matt Matino

usage, cigarettes (prohibited from the adolescent facility), other forms of contraband, or entertainment. If caught fighting, detainees face 20 days in solitary confinement. Peter had been placed in solitary confinement twice for fighting. He described this experience as "bugged out and lonely." Peter summed it up: "You can't even imagine it. It's like having the most important thing in the world taken from you: your freedom." In New York State over 6,000 of about 72,000 prisoners are currently in disciplinary housing or enforced isolation.



The living conditions of the General Population housing units and of the Protective Custody units (enforced isolation) were also of major concern to the visiting committee of the Correctional Association. Peter described the lack of cleanliness within both facilities, as there were mice, bugs, and unwashed inmates. In many of the Solitary Confinement units in New York State, a shower is turned on only 3 times a week.

Healthcare on Rikers Island, however, remains relatively humane. There is a large turnover of well-trained doctors, according to Dr. Anthony Levine, who worked as a doctor in the C-76 General Housing unit throughout the nineties. "Everyone is given adequate healthcare, including dental exams," he said. Peter agreed, saying that as long as a prisoner could get admitted to the on-site clinic, healthcare was exemplary. However, in

solitary confinement, it is much harder to get to the clinic, as there is additional paper work to fill out. In solitary confinement units, prisoners are strip-searched whenever they are removed from the area, handcuffed prior to leaving their cells and placed in shackles and hobble chains.

In my investigation, Peter as well as Dr. Levine described to me the widespread use of drugs throughout Rikers Island. "Drugs are money," Peter said. Dr. Levine added, "Drug overdoses are not uncommon, especially after visitation days." Many inmates placed in solitary confinement are there as a result of "dirty" drug tests. "If drugs are available, an addict is going to use them," Dr. Levine pointed out.

Punitive solitary confinement as a result of fighting and drug use is simply unacceptable. The New York State Department of Correctional Services is not correcting criminals by placing them in solitary confinement for actions that they cannot control. If supervision and treatment are not provided to inmates, their behavior will only grow worse. When I asked Peter whether his detention was a corrective experience, I received more than just an answer; I came across the aim of my investigation. His answer was short yet clear: "It's an animal factory, how is that supposed to correct you?"

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Interview with a Prison Victim: The Necessity for Prison Reform

"I began to realize that something other than redemption can develop in correctional facilities."

By Arpit Mehta

Reform and redemption of prisoners are an important part of the effort to improve society. As a member of the Prison Association of New York, I went to a prison in order to see how necessary reform is. The purpose of the reformatory was to turn the prisoner into a functional member of society with strong ethics of hard work and tenacity. I was curious to see how effective this system was. I was able to obtain an interview with a prisoner named John Niac.

When I first met with Niac, he seemed hesitant and reluctant about the interview. He was unkempt in appearance, though I guess

that should be expected. Maybe the man was guilt-ridden from his past sin. Of course, I asked him about exactly what his crime was. He simply stated, albeit with trepidation, that he robbed someone. Obviously, he did not want to discuss his crime, perhaps out of shame.

I continued the interview by asking him if he felt that it was possible for a prisoner to become a productive member of society. Niac seemed to advocate the same views as the Prison Association, in that under the right environment a prisoner can be reformed. When I asked if his current prison was the right environment, he adamantly said that it was far from the ideal environment.

This brought me to the part of the interview where the need for prison reform and the great atrocities occurring in prisons are revealed. Niac gave his responses very quietly and nervously. I

assured no harm would come to him if he told the world about the terrible conditions of the prisons. I told the hesitant prisoner that the Prison Association would use its influence to correct these wrongs for the protection of society and the reformation of prisoners.

After some encouragement, he began to detail the wretched prison system. Niac first described the problem of overcrowding. He stated that the prison rooms were cramped, with two-person rooms filled with three or more. To my shock, he then stated that sometimes prisoners even slept in the corridor. I wondered if reform was possible in these settings. Niac continued about the overcrowding, stating that work facilities were crowded, as well as lunchrooms. He also explained that the unsanitary conditions were a result of the crowding. His unkempt appearance

didn't seem nearly so bad after his explanation.

I began to realize that something other than redemption can develop in correctional facilities. Instead of becoming productive members of societies in the prison, the inmates could become further corrupted and degraded. I asked if they placed petty criminals next to more serious ones. He affirmed my suspicions, though in a matter-of-fact manner. It probably was not a great concern on his mind, though his response showed that it was commonplace. I inquired on how many actually "degraded," and he said that he knew many people who went back to a life of crime after leaving prison.

I questioned him on the personnel in the prison, such as the guards. They should be the ones guiding the prisoners through reform. Unfortunately, this was not true in Niac's prison. From his somewhat rambling story, I realized that the personnel there was not trained for their positions and there was probably too few of them in the reformatory to maintain discipline. Finally, I asked him about

different prison systems, such as the Pennsylvania system or the New York system. The Pennsylvania system involved solitary confinement, which was designed to give the prisoner time to repent. Niac seemed to dislike the Pennsylvania system, which seemed to him more like a form of torture than redemption. The other forms of prison systems he seemed to like more, especially the New York system where the prisoners worked together during the day and repented during the night.

Prisons are

currently in terrible conditions and require urgent need. In their current state, prisons cannot reform the prisoner. The overcrowding and lack of trained personnel strays prisoners away from the path of reform, and more towards the path of degradation. Prisoners may actually become more corrupt from being surrounded by criminals that committed worse crimes. If this serious problem in our penal system is not fixed soon, then it could have dire consequences on the prisoners and society.

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One-On-One With A Murderer

By Hamdan Yousuf

Mr. Michael Sharp, 63, who has served forty years of a life sentence for murder here at the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, NY, will be eligible for parole next year. He was gracious enough to provide us with this interview dealing with his life behind bars and other subjects.

Hamdan Yousuf: You have been incarcerated for forty years by the New York State Department of Corrections. What has changed in all these years, in terms of the way prisons are run and the way prisoners are treated?

Michael Sharp: Oh, not much. People come and go. But, it's been the same dull routine every day of my life for all these years. Oh, yes but the reform people have gotten much stronger over the years. When I first came here, most people didn't give a damn about us prisoners, but these days, they [the reformers] try to make our lives better.

HY: Do you think they've succeeded?

MS: A little bit at least. Five years back, they built us a library for our legal needs. It really gives a sense of humanity to this

terrible experience. It makes you feel like a normal person, like a free person. It gives a man hope that some day... (he chuckles) Ah, never mind. Forty years ago, they didn't think prisoners could think much less read.

HY: Tell me this: you have been in jail for two-thirds of your life for a crime you committed when you were just twenty

years old. Are you sorry? Do you regret that murder?

MS: Every day of my life, son. Every day of my life, I see that old fellow who I robbed and killed, and I'm disgusted with that kid who killed that innocent man. Am I sorry? Am I sorry for doing a stupid thing and still paying the costs of it? You bet, I'm sorry.

HY: But surely you are the exception and not the rule.

Do you feel that most of these prisoners feel as you do about their crimes? Most of them would do it again, wouldn't they?

MS: There are those people who would kill again if they could, which is why they keep 'em locked up. But, there are those people who regret what they did, because if they hadn't done it they could be



outside, they could watch the sun rise and the sun set, they could watch their grandkids grow up, they could live the life they would have lived had they not been incarcerated.

"It doesn't matter if they give you the needle. They kill all of us prisoners here"

HY: Do they let you go outside?

MS: Once a day for an hour, I can go outside. Every second though, I am under the watchful eye of the guards in the towers who point their guns pointed right at me, as if they are telling me what would happen if I were to try something funny. Sorry mister, but that's not freedom. To live you're life the way you want to, that's freedom. Even now, talking to you, they make me wear these chains.

HY: From what you have told me, you seem to have rehabilitated. You came in a murderer, and if they approve your parole application, you'll go out a changed man. Doesn't that testify to the success of our criminal justice system?

MS: You think the reason I've changed is because of being in here? Son, that's God's way. When his children sin, he forgives them, and then they find the way of God again. Being in here is the worst thing in the world, and that's why some people can't take it.

HY: What do you mean "they can't take it"?

MS: Thirty years back, I remember a good friend of mine hanged himself in his cell. It just became too much for him. Every night, the big guys used to beat him up and do things with him you don't even want to know about.

HY: You mean the guards didn't do anything?

MS: The guards? They could care less. They'd watch it happen. He would be screaming and to this day, his screams still haunt me.

HY: If you could change something about your life as a prisoner, what would it be?

MS: Son, if I could change anything, I'd change the fact that I'm a prisoner in the first place. Why are they keeping me here? Do you think if they let me out of here, I'd go kill somebody? Hell, I'd go to my kids' place and give my grandchildren the grandfather they never had. They've never met me, you know. I'd like to die in peace, in my home, in my bed. I don't want to give them the pleasure of killing me. Because, it doesn't matter if they give you the needle. They kill all of us here.

Mr. Smith's case was reviewed by the Parole Board. Parole was denied on the basis that he was still considered a legitimate threat to society. No further reason was provided.

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**The Man Who Started the
New York Prison
Association**

By Emily Mayer

On a cold day in December of 1844, sixty-one gentlemen formed a voluntary society known as the Prison Association of New York. The leader of this group was the honorable judge John W. Edmonds, a New York State Supreme Court Justice. Mr. Edmonds helped organize the Association after he found the prison system to be, "very defective." This was concluded, after several visits to New York's Sing Sing Prison.

"I was appalled that this was where I'd sent criminals in hopes of their reformation", he said, "there was no hope for these individuals becoming humane and productive members of society." Edmonds then decided that a permanent body outside the seemingly

inadequate government was desperately needed.

The Association began with a few simple goals including the returning of the prisoner's possessions upon release and helping him find employment. It was also evident that the public was angered by the inhuman discipline within the prison system. Edmonds was shocked to find that a state statute mandating the return of a prisoner's possessions was simply ignored. Regarding a typical prisoner's release he commented: "When they go forth into the world, they are often, for want of employment, reduced to great distress and subjected to sore temptations. To have their possessions cast off will simply add to their distress." In 1844, the constitution of the organization called for the amelioration of a prisoner's conditions, improving prison discipline, financial support toward an honest

life, and uphold his efforts at reform.

The Prison Association of New York is purely non-partisan and is funded on private contributions. "Our first year we raised \$2,000 and received some very generous donations including the *Tribune* compliments of Mr. Horace Greeley. It was important that we emphasized the use of volunteers and remained independent of the government. No one will get rich or fulfill their political agenda on behalf of the Association," Mr. Edmonds remarked proudly.

When asked about the tactics the organization used, Mr. Edmonds observed, "Much of what the Association does is based on common sense. We wish to communicate one to one with those we are trying to help." Officers of the organization frequently visit the state prisons to monitor the conditions and help the

inmates. "We try to bring all pragmatic, moral, and religious influences into their minds. They are also trained in cleanliness and are separated to keep the less hardened from being contaminated by the more depraved. We keep an office in the city of New York where released prisoners come for aid and a chance at employment."

Additionally, the Prison Association of New York has kept records comparing other state and foreign penal systems as a framework for their administrative and fiscal proposals. Such is the substance of Edmond's leadership.

In order to do this, the organization was

divided into several committees that include finance, detentions, discharged convicts, and prison discipline. Each year, the Association releases a report of the activities of each committee as well as statistics. Of the people that have received employment from the Association, less than five percent have returned to prison assuming the accuracy of their numbers. In 1846, an unnamed "agent" successfully lobbied in Albany and was able to get an act of incorporation passed. "The act gave us authority in the prison system and allowed us to establish a

workhouse to employ the disorderly."

Finally, Mr. Edmonds had decided to end on an eloquent tone, "One of the most valuable features attending the inspections by the Association, and is one which never attends the inspection of the public officers, is the personal examination of each prisoner...I have myself stood, day after day, for hours at a time, at the doors of the cells of the prisoners, listening to the details of human depravity and human suffering, until the sickness of the heart was even more intolerable than the weariness of the body."

Rebirth

*They gave him nothing.
They thought the dreariness of prison life would awaken him
And his entrance into the real world would be his savior.
Their idealism was folly,
For no assistance was given,
Only the expectance of reentrance
To the harsh world.
Without aid he would be lost
And his chances of succumbing to vice grew.
But the leadership of many would prove otherwise,
For the goodness that lay in men's hearts would be reclaimed
And rebirth of their souls would be the making of another
American Dream.*

-Mai Van Vu

The American Tradition

A Magazine Devoted to Reform and Refinement

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Prisons: How we Reform Them

By Carlos Ortiz

The current Executive Director of the Correctional Association of New York, Mr. Robert Gangi, has been with the Correctional Association for over twenty years. Having gained his political ideology from the 1960s movements, he speaks about his involvement in the organization and about how the organization operates.

Carlos Ortiz: How did you get involved in the Correctional Association of New York?

Robert Gangi: I was politicized in the 1960s, the way many young people were. I became very concerned about issues of social justice and racial justice and I made a decision that I wanted to continue to work in jobs or in activities that kept me connected with those issues. I eventually got involved with doing prison issues and criminal justice issues, which are issues that connect you with what I see as the heart of the beast of this country. There are many good things about the United States and there are some terrible things. Most of the terrible things are our prisons and the way we operate our criminal

justice system. So the work to me is very intriguing, very interesting and very important because it got me at some of the central issues of our time and connected me with some of the central problems and some of the worst kinds of injustices.

CO: I understand that the Correctional Association has various publications. Are these publications targeted at a specific audience?

RG: We prepare our publications so that anybody can read them. We want the press to read them and report them; we want policy makers, politicians and bureaucrats be provoked by them. We want an interested citizen, who doesn't know much about the issue but is reasonably informed and reasonably intelligent, to be able to pick them up and find our reports accessible.

CO: Other than publishing literature, what else does the

Correctional Association do?

RG: Well, we monitor prisons; we visit and inspect prisons regularly, we report our findings to the superintendents and the wardens of the prisons, the commissioners of the prison system (were talking about



both the city and the state). We do reports on the issues we feel are most important in

"We have an inside strategy and an outside strategy."

regard to prison issues, and then we engage in an advocacy campaign from prudence where we meet with government officials and reach out to the press and try to get coverage and attention for our issues. We organize lobby days; we meet with key policymakers and legislatures, and press the issues. So we do we information gathering and research that results in reports; we publish our reports, giving public information regarding the reports and the key findings in the reports; and then we do organizing and advocacy work to promote the implementations and recommendations that are in the reports.

CO: Do you often work in conjunction with the government?

RG: Well, we lobby the government to change, and sometimes we'll sit there and talk, communicate and negotiate. So we have an inside strategy and an outside strategy. The outside strategy is to spotlight the issue and get publicity to the issue, to reach out to community groups and other kinds of groups, educate the public, and organize rallies and lobby days. Then the inside activities are to meet with political leaders, government officials and legislators and their staffs and push our agenda.

CO: Your brochures say that you are various organizing rallies here in New York City.

RG: Right. That is part of the advocacy work; organizing marches organizing rallies, and such. We have one that we are planning for Saturday June 15, in Harlem, promoting our "Drop the

Rock" campaign which is our campaign to repeal the Rockefeller drug laws.

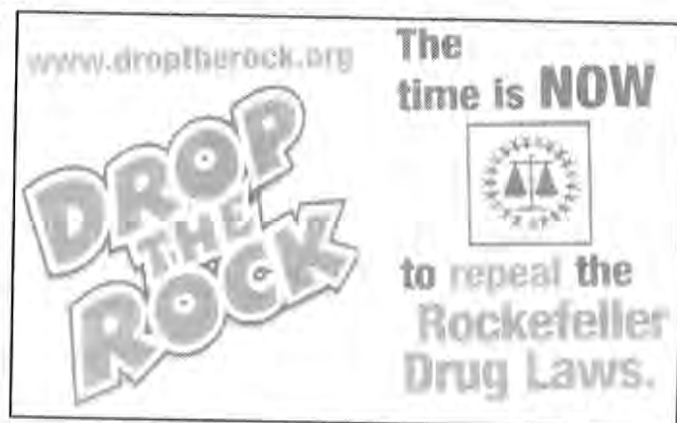
CO: Do you frequently collaborate with other organizations?

RG: Yes. A lot of our work and a lot of our organizing work involve coalition building. We work with church groups, organizations that provide services to people caught up in the criminal justice system, legal service organizations, various political figures and civil rights organizations.

CO: Do you work with organizations outside of the state?

RG: We work almost entirely within the state. Occasionally we have some contact with organizations in other states or organizations based in the city.

While not attempting to radically restructure the New York State prison system, Mr. Gangi and the Correctional Association do hope to eliminate various problems in the justice system, mainly the Rockefeller Drug Laws. Through coalition building, rallies and lobbying, Mr. Gangi is aspires to set forth a long awaited change in the New York State justice system. His agenda is simple: to make New York a better and more just place in which to live.





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**Wife, Mother, Daughter,
And Prisoner: The Female
Inmate**

"In the case of very many female convicts, the heart has been crushed, the affections chilled, and the sensibilities destroyed, by a long course of neglect, unkindness, or oppression."

By Loretta Lau

There is, perhaps, no stronger proof of purity of intention and elevation of character, than one who, instead of joining in the common feeling of disgust and hatred, can rise above it, and accord prisoners with the claims and rights of a common humanity.

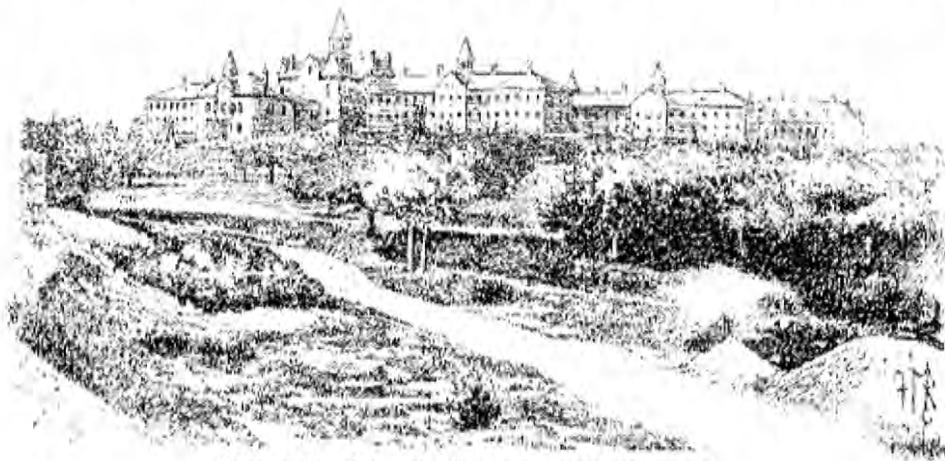
Convicted criminals are generally proscribed as enemies of society; they are deemed to have forfeited all claims on the

sympathies of the kind and good. The community has been more severe than the law; while the punishment by the latter cease when the allotted time of sentence has expired, the former continues to pursue him/her who has paid the penalty, with contempt and loathing, which of itself would be heavy punishment.

In the case of very

those who have been cut off from society for their misdeeds have been deemed worthy of attention.

The Prison Association of New York, founded to aid those who have been pronounced as hopeless, has always furnished help to both male and female prisoners. However, roughly a decade after its foundation



The Sherborn Prison for Women, South Framingham

many female convicts, the heart has been crushed, the affections chilled, and the sensibilities destroyed, by a long course of neglect, unkindness, or oppression. It is only recently that

a number of members became convinced that the special needs of female offenders were not being addressed. Although prisons such as New York's Sing Sing have a

larger number of male inmates versus female- 67 females in contrast to 737 males- the female section cannot be ignored. A Committee, appointed by the Prison Association, has recently visited the Penitentiary on Blackwell's Island, noting the various conditions of female inmates.

Mr. Roome, one of the Commissioners of the Alms House, pointed to a wall in the process of being built that would create a complete separation between the male and female departments. Two matrons will soon be appointed to run the female cellblock.

This is a vast improvement for female inmates. Six years ago, several ladies engaged in a benevolent association gave their attention to the conditions of prisons. They found that prisoners of both sexes were housed under one roof, under the sole charge of men, and exposed daily to gross indecencies. No matter what crime a woman has committed, she must always have the right to certain absolute privileges.

Today, although the condition of the inmates is

still of concern, focus must be given toward the reformation of these individuals. It will not benefit the inmates to say, "Be ye warmed and clothed or fed," if necessities more pressing than their physical wants are neglected. Looking at individual cases, the Committee noted that many were caught in a cyclic routine. Those who were deaf and mentally ill could not find any other place in society. They would often be released only to return in the near future.

The hospital connected with the Penitentiary faces a similar circumstance. The hospital holds more than 100 women inmates and although many recover, they improve temporarily only to return to their old vice.

When questioned as to whether, in case of recovery, any would like to go to a place where employment and a home free from temptation and vice exists, (wherein by their good conduct, they may earn a certificate of reformation), a few responded affirmatively.

The physician assured us

that nearly all would be willing to make the attempt. Women who readily display a commitment to repentance and reform need assistance to reach their goal.

When these inmates come forth again into the world, they yearn for human sympathy and human kindness. They require aid in regaining a foothold in society. Employment needs to be provided to the truly penitent and deserving. Education of what is lawful and right must be instilled in the minds of reforming prisoners. The magnitude of female prisoners and their particular needs must be recognized.

As claimed by Eliza Robbins of the Prison Association of New York, "When instruction reaches the prisoner, and protection follows him/her back to the open path of free life, then our prisons will be half vacant...We shall rejoice and give thanks for our brothers and sisters who, having sinned, have repented; and have become like those who need no repentance- if such there be upon earth..."

The American Tradition

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Drop The Rock: Pick Up ATIs Female Offenders Deserve More Options

By Juliana Gansl & Maarit Moran

On December 6, 1844, sixty-one gentlemen called on the public to form a voluntary society known as the Prison Association of New York. The leader, New York Supreme Court Justice John W. Edmonds, felt obligated to be familiar with the manner in which

"Little is done to provide for the thousands of female inmates in New York State prisons."

prisoners were confined and the discipline to which they were subjected. The society, now called the Correctional Association of New York, is still actively promoting criminal justice reforms through several projects ranging from AIDS, overcrowding in prison cells, to prison visitation policies.

Recently, the Association's Women in Prison Project has been coordinating the statewide Coalition for Women Prisoners in order to expand their work on behalf of female prisoners. While women have always been recognized as needing special care, little is done to provide such care for the thousands of female inmates in New York State prisons.

The New York State criminal justice system currently supervises over 42,000 women on probation, parole, or confined in prison. Since 1980 the number of female inmates has risen almost 400% (nearly double the male inmates), while concern for these women has remained steady at best. The failure of the New York State legislature to properly care for women in prison weakens women's chances of successfully integrating into mainstream society. Both the Association and the Coalition have been working to reduce New York's use of imprisonment as a response to the social and economic problems facing women by fighting to repeal mandatory sentencing laws such as the Rockefeller Drug Laws.

The main goal of the Women's Project is to reduce the New York female prisoner population by

DROP THE ROCK
Join thousands of people from around New York State as we gather in Albany on Tuesday March 26, 2002 for THE DROP THE ROCK day of education and action. Help us call for the repeal of the racially biased, costly & harsh Rockefeller Drug Laws. Their repeal in New York, like their passage in 1972, will set a precedent for the country.

repealing the Rockefeller Drug Laws that were enacted in 1973. These laws consist of some of the most severe penalties in the country for the possession or sale of relatively small amounts of a drug. Under these laws, a drug offender's sentence is based purely on the amount of narcotic found at the time of

arrest, not on the individual circumstances of the case.

Recently proposed Assembly Bill A-2823 would not only repeal these mandatory sentencing laws but would restore sentencing discretion to judges in all drug cases, allow judges to divert non-violent offenders to alternative-to-incarceration programs, and make sentence reform retroactive for current inmates. This bill would include several other functional provisions. The repeal of the Rockefeller Drug Laws would save the state hundreds of millions of dollars by the diverting of non-violent drug offenders to less costly and more effective drug treatment and rehabilitation centers.

Although the Drug Laws contain a provision that allows major drug dealers to be given lifetime probation, instead of jail time, in exchange for implicating other big names, women cannot benefit from such an act since the majority of females are only peripheral to the larger drug conspiracy. The incarceration of a New York State prisoner costs about \$32,000 per year and the cost of most drug free outpatient care runs about \$2,700 to \$4,500 per person per year while residential drug treatment is around \$17,000 to \$21,000 per person per year. Bill A-2823 would allow tax dollars to be spent on more drug treatment centers and other alternative-to-incarceration programs.

Finally, passage of the bill would also permit non-violent female criminals, currently making up 70% of incarcerated females in NYS prisons (seventy-five percent of whom are reported to be mothers), to remain closer to their families by placing them in alternative-to-incarceration centers with frequent visitation hours.

Alternative-to-incarceration programs (ATI) provide a variety of restrictions, methods of supervision and new approaches to treatment that, when used on non-violent female offenders, provide further options to the criminal justice system for effectively dealing with first or second time offenders. ATIs will primarily benefit women, especially mothers who are arrested for non-violent crimes, since these programs will include family planning, parenting skills, reunification assistance, and housing and health care programs. It would be most sensible to introduce \$6.5 million for ATI programs with specific funds for women-only programs and programs for women with children to help prevent female offenders from relapsing and being re-incarcerated in state prisons.

If it is New York State's goal to reduce the number of inmates in its prisons, decrease spending on prison facilities, and help keep female offenders from abandoning their families, mandatory sentencing laws must be repealed. However, it seems to be the New York Criminal Justice Department's desire to watch the size and number of their prisons increase every year as a direct result of the inability of sentencing judges to send non-violent or drug addicted individuals to the few, yet effective, alternative-to-incarceration programs.

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Helpful Resources

By Tashalee Brown and Maarit Moran

Assistant Section Editors

In the course of our research, the Penal Reform reporters examined and referenced various valuable sources. We accessed the standard reference books, indices, archives, databases and libraries. Collaboratively, we visited Columbia University Library, the Mid-Manhattan Library, and the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, where we viewed numerous primary source microfilm archives, periodicals and books. We also accessed the library at the Bronx High School of Science.

Our team members found several books to be exceptionally helpful and these deserve special mention. From Newgate to Dannemora: The Rise of the Penitentiary in New York, 1796-1848 by David Lewis describes the various prisons built in New York and discusses the Pennsylvania and Auburn System. American Prisons a Study of American Social History Prior to 1915 by Blake Mckelvey and The Discovery of the Asylum by David J. Rothman, both trace the development of prisons in America.

Some major archive collections used by our team include: The Online Library of Congress archive, the Making of America Online Collection, the Suny Albany Online Library, and the Lindesmith Online Library. These provided countless links to credible information both past and present.

In addition to our published sources, we contacted several historians and experts on penal reform. We received helpful assistance from Robert Gangi, the head of the Correctional Association of New York, Michael Katz, Professor of American Social History at the

University of Pennsylvania, Estelle B. Freedman, Professor at Stanford University and author of Their Sisters' Keepers, and Nick Salvatore, Professor of Industrial Labor Relations and American Social history at the University of California at Berkeley.

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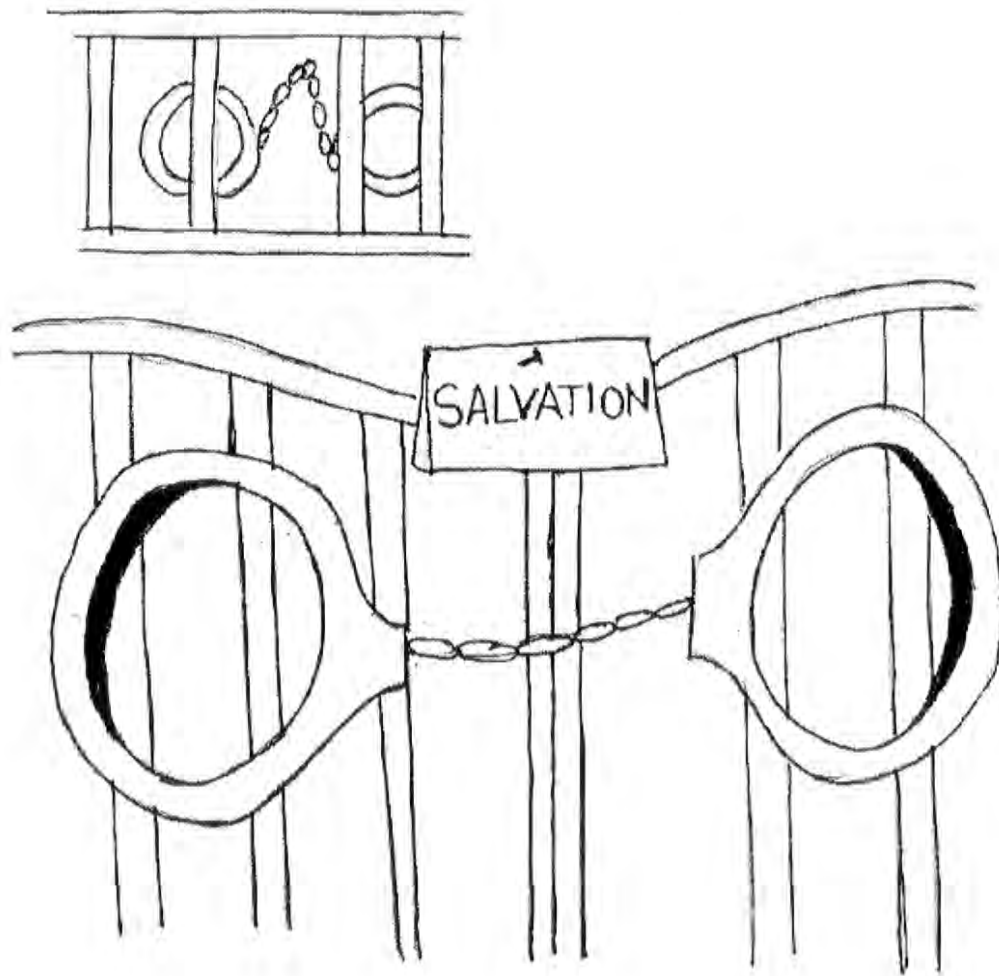
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Women's Rights



Overview

The American Revolution was fought to gain freedom from tyranny, to give rights and equality to a body of citizens who were neglected and oppressed by their governors. Why then did women lack the very freedoms guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence? Women had taken equally tremendous risks throughout the post-revolution years and surely they deserved to benefit from ideals of the new republic. They were denied the right to vote, to own property and basically the right to think for themselves.

During the Antebellum era, women were subjected to a role in society that left them docile. They were part of a 'cult of domesticity' that left some determined women feeling that they deserved more. The women's right's movement marks its beginning on July 19, 1848. On this day Elizabeth Cady Stanton and a group of women friends met at the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls to discuss the limitations society imposed on women. The Declaration of Sentiments, written by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, was modeled after the Declaration of Independence and connected the women's rights movement to the American ideal of liberty. Although it was ridiculed at the time, this document actually helped promote support for the women's movement. People in cities and isolated towns throughout America were now aware of the issues and could join the debate about the women's right movement in great numbers.

Since then women have made clear progress in the areas addressed by the Declaration of Sentiments. Not only have women gained the right to vote with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, but more than three million women now work in occupations considered "nontraditional" until very recently. However, women today hold only 11% of the seats in Congress, and 21% of state legislative seats. In addition, women face much discrimination in the workplace. As both investigative reports and interviews with

sufferers located in this issue present, the struggle for women has moved out of the home and into the workplace. Women are earning a still being denied jobs and are working for a percentage of the wages that men earn in the same positions.

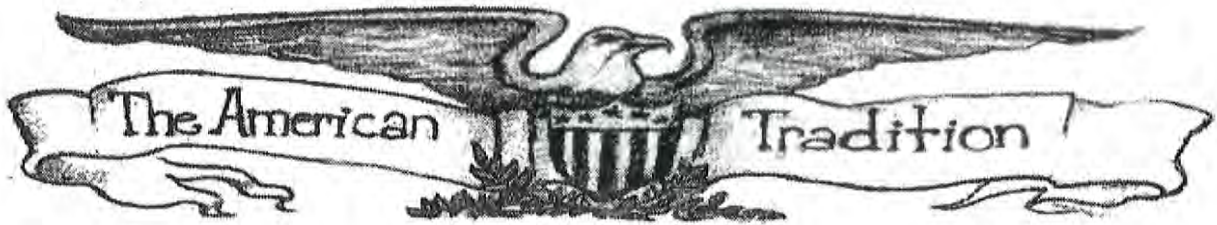
Due to this, substantial barriers to the full equality of America's women still remain. Organizations such as NOW (the National Organization of Women) are helping women in all fields to achieve equality. The Women's Rights Movement has clearly been relatively successful in changing the circumstances of American women for the better.

Today, women and girls are living the legacy of women's rights that seven generations of women before them have given their best to achieve. The path to equality has been a bumpy one, but nonetheless it has passed along with many successes. Women are continuing to struggle for proportional representation in the workplace, the government and other "male-dominated areas", and with today's women's movement, their fight will inevitably be won.

Sonya Marcus and Iram Nadroo

Section Editors





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Worcester Woman's Rights Convention Ends -Education, Civil Rights, and Franchise Agreed to be Goals of Movement-

By Jeanne Noonan

The Worcester, Massachusetts's Woman's Rights Convention, presided over by Ms. Pauline Davis and attended by notable figures such as Mr. William H. Channing, and Ms. Lucretia Mott, came to a close yesterday after clarifying the goals and diversity of the emerging women's rights movement.

Two years after the Seneca Falls Meeting, the 267 delegates spent three days attempting to establish a theoretical basis for "woman's rights," without concentrating much on the opposition argument of "separate

spheres." Focusing intently on the intellectual equality of women and need for the increased female education, The Convention's overall strategy was to seek common grounds for the majority of supporters to agree upon, so that the movement could advance. The three principle demands called for equal access to education, the workplace, and the formation and administration of

Sentiments," the meeting was predominantly a local event, which sparked discussion, but did not produce any organized activity. The agenda for the Worcester Convention outlined specific areas of reform, and its leaders targeted education as a means of achieving their desired state of equality. Sarah Tyndale, of Philadelphia, spoke of the business capacities of women, and the necessity of engaging in active duties to promote their own development.

Davis defended medical education for women, as many were convinced that the overall health of American women is declining, and therefore, female practitioners are in great need.



government. Though the 1848 gathering at Seneca Falls was seen a radical with its "Declaration of

"Women here [in America] are induced by their education to study all subjects; that they are not frightened from certain topics by the fear of being called "blue stockings," or "female pedants," said Margaret Chappelsmith in her letter to those assembled.

William H. Channing's resolutions stated that "women are clearly entitled to the right of suffrage, and to be considered eligible to office; the denial can no longer to be endured. Every party, which claims to represent the humanity, civilization, and progress of the age, (must support) equality before the law, without distinction of sex or color. Political rights (must) acknowledge no sex, and therefore the word "male" should be stricken from every State Constitution." Any altercations to this, such as the alleged "aristocracy of sex and color" were called "unjust", "oppressive", and "irrelevant" to all questions of government.

There was great appeal to the nation's respect for republican ideology, and emphasis on

the contradiction of single women being taxed without representation forced to testify in court not before a jury of their peers but solely of men, and forced to forego their property to their husband. The Convention refuted the notion of "separate spheres" for women, claiming that not all women would become mothers had they had the chance to earn a living, receive higher education, or participate in the formation of and administration of the government.

Delegate Jane Cowen of Logansport, Indiana sited to both Old and New Testaments concerning Biblical implications of woman's divine equality and that argued that people should "examine for ourselves whether God has forbidden woman from reading the Law, either in public or private."

More radical members such as Miss Weber—who usually wears a dress-coat and pantaloons of black cloth - discussed the controversial subject of woman's attire, as initiated some years ago

by *The Lily's* infamous editor, Amelia Bloomer. "They (in society) have seen fit to charge me with a disposition to undervalue the female sex and to identify myself with the other. I adopted male apparel as a measure of convenience in my business. I am fully aware, that my dress will probably prejudice the great body of our friends in America against me, while present impressions on that subject exist; and it was with the view of allaying this feeling that I wished to address the assembly at Worcester. By this means I think I could satisfy any liberal-minded person, of either sex, that there is no moral or political principle involved in this question, and that a woman may, if she like, dress in male habiliments without injury to herself or others."

In spite of the Convention members' diverse opinions, the meeting ended optimistically, concurring that the attainment of civil rights, education, and suffrage are the basic goals of the women's rights movement.

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NOW Plans For the Future

By Neha Shetty

"These are times of crisis, Matthea Marquart said, "with threats to reproductive freedom from the courts and legislations and threats to women's economic well-being from a dismantled welfare system and a financial downturn locally and nationally. By building participation and increasing our organization's vitality, our goal is to make NOW-NYC more powerful and vocal than ever, to fight for all women, for justice, and for equality." These were the resounding words from the President of the New York City Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) during the general meeting held on May 31st in Manhattan.

The National Organization for Women, founded by feminist Betty Friedan in 1966, constitutes the largest organization of feminist activists in the country. NOW is dedicated to making legal, political, social, and economic change in society that would lead to the elimination of sexism and equality between the races and genders. NOW is a grass roots political organization that seeks to accomplish its goals through education, mass action, legislation, and litigation. Over the decades, NOW has been a strong proponent in such issues as the Equal Rights Amendment, abortion rights, and in elevating the status of women. NOW-NYC

is the largest chapter of NOW with over 3000 current members.

In her initial comments, Marquart spoke about NOW's current goals and the tactics the Organization wishes to employ. Currently, one of the major goals of NOW is to block the nomination of D. Brooks Smith to a federal judgeship. Since its formation, NOW has been an advocate of reproductive and abortion rights. In 1973, the court ruling in *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion now faces opposition from members of Congress and President Bush. President Bush seeks to nominate, Smith, a pro-life proponent thereby dealing a blow to pro-choice supporters. Marquart encouraged members to engage in a letter writing campaign to U.S. Senators like Hilary Clinton, urging them to oppose the nomination.

"By building participation and increasing our organization's vitality, our goal is to make NOW-NYC more powerful and vocal than ever, to fight for all women, for justice, and for equality."

A member of the Abortion Rights committee then led a discussion on NOW's latest court victory over Scheidler and the Pro-Life Action League. NOW attempts to facilitate access to abortion

clinics and keep abortion legal have led pro-life groups to terrorize abortion clinics and doctors. In 1995 NOW won its first major case against Scheidler when a judge ruled that the Pro-Life Action League was engaging in racketeering. Over the years, NOW continues to fight Scheidler and organize campaigns to increase awareness.

Donna Lieberman, NOW's executive director in New York, spoke about the, "Watch Out. Listen Up! Campaign." In cooperation with ABC, UPN, NBC, CBS, FOX, and the WB networks, activists would rate all prime-time programming on their portrayal of women and girls. According to Lieberman, the information gathered would be regarded as a public service that can increase awareness among television executives and the public. The general consensus of the members was that there needed to be a change in the way women were depicted in the media and the models set up for young women.

This point led to a discussion on another important event,

"Love Your Body Day" on October 16th. "Love Your Body Day" educates young women that they should not try to change themselves in order to adhere to the unattainable standards of beauty and perfection shown in magazines and the media. NOW members discussed new campaign strategies that could encourage girls to love themselves for who they are.

The meeting closed with the announcement of the Rally to Mark the 2nd Year Anniversary of the Central Park assaults, which is to be held on June 8. In hopes of educating the public on the abuse and assault of women in society, the members made plans to pass out leaflets, hold posters, and campaign. NOW considers the education of women as well as informing them of the threats they face in society, essential to creating equality. Marquart ended the meeting with talk about the National NOW Conference to be held in Minnesota in June and the issues to be discussed there.



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The Condition of Women

"Women are left powerless, with no protection from physical or verbal abuse."

By Marianna Spanos

"Taxation without representation is tyranny! Taxation without representation is tyranny!" yelled Dr. Harriet K. Hunt from her position atop the main platform of a women's rights convention held at the Broadway Tabernacle in the City of New York.

"My friends, do you wish to know why I desire to vote? I desire to vote that I may sit on school committees," she continued. "I wish to vote that women may have, by law, an equal right with men in property." This is only a fragment of the speech given by Dr. Hunt, "a physician, a native and permanent resident of the city of Boston, and for many years a tax-payer therein," as she chooses to describe herself.

Dr. Hunt later recalled the painful and personal injustices she experienced as a woman, including a refusal by Harvard Medical College for permission to attend its lectures, after twelve years of medical practice, simply on account of her gender. According to a report read at a Friends of Woman's Rights convention held in Worcester in 1851, only two, Oberlin College in Ohio and Central College in New York, out of the one hundred and twenty Literary Colleges that exist in the United States, accept women. The statistics regarding Medical Colleges, Law Schools, and

Theological Seminaries are even more unpleasant.

Susan B. Anthony, a founder and participant in the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, in a similar convention held in Massachusetts, recounted her experience at a teacher's conference during which one woman said that as a teacher and principal of a free school, she performs the same labor as gentlemen do and fills a like office but receives a third of what her male colleagues receive.

In an interview, Wendell Phillips, a prominent supporter of the women's rights movement, indicated that there are

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eleven thousand teachers in New York State, of which, four-fifths are women. He then said, "By the reports it will be seen that, of the annual State fund of \$800,000, two-thirds are paid to men, and one-third to women; that is to say, two thirds are paid to one-fifth of the laborers in the cause of education, while four-fifths of these laborers are paid with one-third of the fund!" Overall, the woman of domestic life receives about one fourth the amount paid to a man for similar services, while all female employees today are subject to a discount of some 20 or 25 per cent on the wages paid to males.

While the wrongs suffered by Dr. Hunt, and those like her in terms of education and employment are undoubtedly in need of correction, they do not begin to compare with the injustices done to women on a daily basis by both their husbands and the law. In most states, women, after marriage, are not allowed to hold any property or money

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separate from that of their husband's. Furthermore, a woman becomes the property of her husband immediately following marriage as is seen by the following account given by Ernestine L. Rose. "Not long ago, I saw an account of two offenders, brought before a Justice of New York. One was charged with stealing a pair of boots, for which offense he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment; the other crime was assault and battery upon his wife: he was let off with a reprimand from the judge!"

Women are left powerless, with no protection from physical and verbal abuse, and at the complete mercy of their husbands. Finally, for the few women who manage to obtain a divorce, it is rare that they should leave

the marriage with any property or custody over their children. Lucy Stone referring to the above-mentioned legal wrongs against women, stated "...the hand of the Law presses with barbarous inequality of women...there is not a single position or relation sustained by woman in which she is not made to feel the pressure of inequality."

The results of this investigation into the condition of women within American society can only stand as proof of the validity of the woman's rights movement. Women's rights reformers are truly righteous in their attempt to uphold the democratic ideals on which our country is based.

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One Step Forward, Two Steps Back?

By Omar Montan

Sarah White, the democratic candidate for Congress, shared her traumatic life experiences as a wife, businesswoman, and a mother of two living in New York City with students at Barnard College on May 20, 2002. Mrs. White emotionally told stories of the beatings she suffered on an almost daily basis from her abusive husband and the psychological trauma that she received from being both physically and sexually abused.

"One out of every four women in America is subjected to a serious gender based crime."

firm. On one occasion she was even told that she "should just go back to the kitchen where [she] belongs." In addition, Mrs. White suffered economically, earning twelve dollars an hour fewer than her male counterparts at Johnson and Thompson Inc. The damage caused by years of gender based discrimination in virtually every aspect of her daily life led Mrs. White to hate being a woman. She even asked her close friend "why wasn't [she] lucky and born a man." This kind of thinking brought Mrs. White to the brink of committing suicide.

Although Mrs. White's story is extremely saddening, what makes it even more tragic is the fact that Mrs. White is not alone. Millions of women

across America face problems similar to those faced by Mrs. White. A recent study by the Center for Women Policy Studies shows that one out of every four women in America is subjected to a serious gender based crime during the course of a lifetime.

In addition, about two million women become victims of violent gender based crimes yearly. Most of these crimes are committed by close acquaintances such as coworkers, family members and romantic partners. In order to fight this problem, local legislators, with the help of women's rights organizations such as The National Organization of Women (NOW) have established rape and domestic violence crisis centers across America to help women who have been subjected to violence merely because they are female.

As an increasing number of women have infiltrated largely male dominated professions, gender-based discrimination has followed. Mrs. White recalls the numerous occasions in which her male coworkers at Johnson and Thompson referred to her using derogatory terms. Despite the numerous laws developed to bring an end to sexual harassment in the workplace, thousands of women, like Mrs. White, are subjected to harassment. Sexual harassment in the workplace is so rampant that it accounts for one out of every five civil lawsuits filed

in the United States. Due to the fact that only ten percent of all American workers have contracts which strictly forbid harassment in the work place, sexual harassment remains a serious issue that needs to be resolved.

Workplace discrimination has not only hampered the equal treatment of women in the workplace but it has also affected their wages. Despite the Equal Pay Acts, which dates back to the early civil rights movement in 1963, wage equality between male and female employees has yet to be achieved. According to Information Week, women on average earn \$1,000 a year fewer than men in lower ranking jobs. As one moves into higher paying positions, the discrepancy between male and female wages increases to over \$10,000 a year in upper management positions. In addition, the number of female CFOs and CEOs is nowhere near the number of males in those positions, thus showing that women still have a long way to go to reach the economic equality that they have been fighting for the past four decades.

Ultimately, Mrs. White believes that the only way to solve the problem plaguing women in America today is to call public attention to the plight of women. Mrs. White believes that the most effective way to accomplish this is by encouraging women to enter politics. NOW members led by their president, Kim Gandy, are strongly campaigning to involve more women in politics, especially now, at a time when congressional district maps are being redrawn as a result of the population shifts documented in the 2000 Census. Mrs. White and NOW leaders believe that by having equal representation in Congress, women will be able to place their problems on the national agenda and

receive the much needed support to end women's suffering today.

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Victims of a Women's Sphere

"For the members of the female race, marriage is simply slavery in another form."

By Rebecca Hetey

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal." One year after the Seneca Falls convention took place on the 19th and 20th of July 1848 this statement from the Declaration of Sentiments is, in general, only slightly more accepted today than it was a year ago or any time in American history prior to that.

On the anniversary of the revolutionary meeting in upstate New York, Mrs.


Lydia Anne Edmonds, a homemaker and mother of three small children, recalls her reaction to the proceedings of the second day of the convention called for and led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. "I fancied it would be innocuous. To me, equality of the sexes had always appeared to be such a ludicrous notion, but when I heard Mrs. Stanton speak as passionately and as persuasively as the most eloquent of men, I was touched by the idea and saw the veracity and logic behind it."

Her husband thought otherwise. Upon learning from a neighbor that evening about the alleged "unfeminine and immoral" conduct of his newly pro-suffragist wife at the gathering, he returned to the family's small home and heinously beat

any of the acquired radical proposals about the status of women out of her.

Mrs. Edmonds views this horrible incident as proof of the need for women's rights. "For the members of the female race, marriage is simply slavery in another form. As Mrs. Stanton said, man 'has made her, if married, in the eye of the law, civilly dead.' I am living proof that statement is true. We are not protected."

Proponents of women's rights are battling to make women equal partners in the institution of marriage. New York State passed the Married Women's Property Act, this past year, under which women were legally granted the power to own and control any property that was obtained before the time of marriage. Ernestine Rose introduced a petition for such a law as early as 1836. In the following year, Thomas Herttell advocated similar legislation in his address to

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the New York State Assembly.

While one can presumably argue that women have improved their condition since colonial times to a measurable extent, they feel a sense of need to seek what they have been constantly denied from the very conception of this nation - equality and justice.

A formidable obstacle, however, looms in their way. They are perceived by conservative members of the population, both men and women alike, as being, not only unfeminine, but immoral, insane, and even threatening to the very fabric of American society.

"They are poised to destroy everything we hold most dear," Miss Eve Pearson, a resident of Seneca Falls, New York recently stated. "Women have no use for the

suffrage. We shall exert our influence on this temporal world, not by casting a ballot, but by fulfilling our sacrosanct duty as man's faithful companion and child's patient teacher. That is what we were put on this earth, by the Lord above, to do. It has perpetually been that way and will eternally be that way. Leave the realm of politics to be inhabited by men. It

is in their nature, not ours."

As the debate continues, it is becoming increasingly difficult for women, such as Lydia Edmonds, who are victimized by men not only in the home, but in practically every other sphere of society, to remain silent and accept the argument of their own inferiority. Elizabeth Cady Stanton has given women a voice. In the future one might suspect that they will be heard. "We live in a democracy ruled by tyrants. Such a contradiction can no longer be tolerated and must be immediately addressed by those with the reins of government firmly in their hands. The world in which we now live is a mere mockery of all that we as denizens of the United States of America are said to believe in."



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Anne Williams: Still Suffering

By Monica Paciorek

Anne Williams was near death when she decided to take charge and change her life. At one point, she had to be admitted to a nearby hospital to treat injuries sustained from her abusive boyfriend. Today, while she is still healing, she is also helping others. As a former abuse victim, Ms. Williams has devoted her career to helping abused women, and trying to eliminate this grave social problem. Recently, she consented to an interview with *The American Tradition*.



resident or guest is arrested for drugs or violent crimes in or near the residence. I was sure that I would win, since I had been severely wronged by this man. However, I was also evicted. Then my child was taken away from me. I was left homeless and without my baby. I had taken beatings from my boyfriend to save my baby. It didn't matter to the authorities. They placed my five-year-old son in a foster home. These sad truths cemented my commitment to helping battered women.

Monica Paciorek: What made you decide to leave the abusive relationship that you were in?

Anne Williams: I realized that if I didn't get out of the relationship soon, my boyfriend would have probably killed me. I finally understood that he had a problem, and it was not my job to help make it better.

MP: Why did you decide to help other battered women? What made you become so devoted to this cause?

AW: After I reported my boyfriend, I had an eviction hearing. There is a law that requires an eviction hearing whenever a

MP: What, in your opinion, are the biggest issues that need to be resolved with regard to abused women?

AW: Many victimized women, remain in abusive relationships because of the uncertainty following a separation. I did not want to leave my boyfriend because I did not know what to do on my own. The vast majority of battered women, myself included, also become homeless after reporting their abusers. Originally, the law was made to evict drug addicts and people prone to violence as quickly as possible. In an effort to make housing facilities free of criminal behavior, the law inadvertently made women the victims. In many ways,

women are still victimized by our society. I was deemed incapable of raising my son. I forced myself to endure my boyfriend's behavior in order to protect my baby from being hurt. In many cases, women are beaten because they want to protect their children. Rape is also a very serious crime against women. Date rape is unfortunately

common among young adults. I know, because I was affected by this problem. College campuses contain a concentration of at-risk young women, yet little is done to protect them. Unfortunately, I was victimized. I could not return to my college because they hardly punished my attacker, and did nothing to help me. The college suspended the monster for one term, and let him return with little controversy. I did not feel safe there anymore. These are menacing wrongs that must be eradicated.

"I have taken beatings from my boyfriend to save my baby."

MP: What have you been doing to try to amend these problems?

AW: My efforts have been wholehearted, and my determination is as strong as ever. My main focus is to improve the outlook for women who are victims of domestic violence. I work closely with activists, and other sufferers like myself. We speak with members of the government, petition for new laws, and stage protests.

MP: How successful have your reform efforts been?

AW: I have found mixed results. It is unlikely that the threat of eviction will be eliminated in the near future. Recently, the



court upheld rulings in which elderly women were evicted, even though they did not possess any drugs and it was their children or grandchildren who had committed a crime. I firmly believe that this law should not apply to domestic abuse cases. I will continue to fight against this injustice. As I mentioned

before, the ruling in the case of *Nicholson v. Scoppetta* was a step towards eliminating the injustices facing women. A judge in New York ruled that the Administration for Children's Services acted too quickly when removing children from battered mothers. Many women, including myself, have been trying to change the accepted view of victims of domestic violence and child welfare. Agencies have been too hasty in deciding that because a woman is abused, she is unfit to raise her children. The reality is more complex, and many women do work hard to defend their children. I know that even though this is a step in the right direction and that women have come a long way, there is still a lot that still has to be done.

Anne Williams is not alone in her fight for women's equality. She is joined by many women, who, like her, are also victims of our society's grave injustices against women. Many of our nation's institutions have not yet embraced the idea that women and men should be subject to equal treatment. It is shocking to see that women are still being victimized, and in so many different ways. Clearly, we all must take a stand and prevent this from continuing.



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Sitting Down with Elizabeth Cady Stanton

"Let woman live as she should. Let her know that her spirit is fitted for as high a sphere as man's and that her soul requires food as pure and exalted as his."

By Sue Jean Jhun

History was made today as the first woman's rights convention was called into session at Wesleyan Chapel at Seneca Falls, New York. The first day of the convention was open to exclusively invited guests, ranging from Frederick Douglass to Lucretia Mott. On the second day of the convention, a reserved and timid speaker, Elizabeth Cady Stanton appealed to the general public for civil and political equality. Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, once an exclusive proponent of abolition, has created and joined a new reform movement: Women's Rights. Although difficult to hear due to her timidity, she addressed the

convention with a sense of right and duty.

"The Declaration of Sentiments" was introduced to a convention of 32 men and 68 women. Its framework parallels that of the Declaration of Independence. It denotes the tyranny of men, which denies women the opportunity to utilize their inalienable rights as American citizens and human beings. "The Declaration of Sentiments", although somewhat radical and accusatory, seems necessary to push this new movement forward in achieving its goals. As the participants of the convention unanimously signed the document, Mrs. Stanton stated, "I hope this Convention will be followed by a series of Conventions, embracing every part of the country." Powerfully, she addressed the degradation that women face under the

tyranny of men. As for those who believe women were replaced at the side of men in order to serve them, Stanton asserts that God placed man and woman side by side as equals. Yet, men have continued to withhold a woman's right to elective franchise and have created laws that further encroach on the natural rights of women. Men continue to encumber on women politically from the wages they earn and the property they hold to their right to divorce and their right to acquire an equal college education.

Mrs. Stanton wishes to accomplish the goals stated in the convention's "Resolutions." "Let woman live as she should. Let her know that her spirit



is fitted for as high a sphere as man's and that her soul requires food as pure and exalted as his." When asked on her stance towards education, she stated, "Women must be enlightened in regard to the laws under which they live. We must realize the inequities that exist in order to overcome them."

Many will ridicule the convention, especially proponents of the church. Mrs. Stanton addresses this aspect as well. She accepts God and his Scriptures, but she does not accept the "perversion of such scriptures by men" who only wish to suppress women. She believes our Creator has placed women beside their male counterparts, not behind them.

Also expressed by Mrs. Stanton was the importance of women to possess propriety and refinement of behavior. However,

men must possess those qualities as well or they should be admonished for lacking those traits as women often are chided for such transgressions. It is not just the role of a woman to be virtuous, but also that of the man, and then and only then can men become fully aware of morality. She also states, "As women are accorded the sphere of morality, at every opportunity, women should be encouraged to speak out in religious assemblies."

Although a radical idea, the ninth resolution of the convention addresses women's suffrage. Stanton states, "It is the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise." Women and men have been created equally by God and should be seen in the same way by

the eyes of the government.

As a suffragist, she does not ask women to abandon their homes-- far from it. She has a husband and several children at home. She does not ask women to abandon their sense of womanhood but to realize their need for a voice. When asked of the trials, tribulations and ridicule she will face, Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton states, "We do not expect our path will be strewn with the flowers of popular applause, but over the thorns of bigotry and prejudice will be our way." Although it may be a long way until women achieve equality with men, she asks women to stay strong. Mrs. Stanton reassures her fellow women, "Unmoved we will bear it aloft." The hardships that face them and will continue to face them will only make the movement stronger and more necessary.

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Equality NOW: Questions For Kim Gandy

By Aditi Anand

Kim Gandy has been at the forefront of the women's rights movement since the seventies, involved in everything from helping women gain safe access to abortion clinics to protecting them from domestic abuse and drafting the Civil Rights Act of 1991. As president of the National Organization of Women (NOW), a position she has held since June 2001, Gandy's greatest goal has been to protect the advances women have made over the past decades. She spoke to us about her long career in activism and her aspirations for new feminist action.

"Women need... to speak up... no one will be left to stand up for them."

American Tradition: How did you become involved in the women's rights movement?

Kim Gandy: When I was looking for a job after graduating from college, I discovered that I needed to get my husband's signature on my job application. This incident forced me to face the fact that women were still confronted with many legal challenges hindering equality with men. During the seventies we had gained many rights, but there were still a number of commonly accepted stereotypes that forced women to be dependent on their husbands.

AT: And you decided to join NOW?

KG: Yes, in 1973 I began working for the Louisiana chapter and started the Louisiana Women's Lobby Network, which passed a great deal of legislation to protect women against domestic abuse. From then I became more involved in NOW's national campaigns including Women Elect, which was successful in tripling the number of women in the Louisiana legislature in 2000.

AT: We know that NOW's greatest purpose has been to "take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society" Which specific goals has NOW pursued in order to achieve this purpose?

KG: Our five official priorities are: the passing of an Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, opposing racism, advocating for abortion and reproductive rights, supporting lesbian and gay rights and ending violence against women

AT: One of your most important goals is reproductive freedom. The abortion debate continues to intensify, as does violence against doctors and patients. Do you see the debate over abortion being resolved or will it continue to be a constant struggle?

KG: I don't think the abortion issue will be going away anytime soon. While a large percentage of Americans recognize

the importance of allowing women control over their own bodies, the opposition is small, but very strong. In recent years, legislation has seriously challenged women's reproductive freedom. As chief justice William Rehnquist said of the *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion: *Roe* continues to exist, but only in the way a storefront on a western movie set exists: a mere facade to give the illusion of reality. However, our recent victory in *NOW v. Scheidler* means that women now have the right of safe passage into clinics without the threat of violence. These efforts demonstrate that women are going to meet any challenges to our reproductive rights head on.

AT: You mentioned that NOW has supported the Equal Rights Amendment. Wouldn't this legislation hinder female-specific reforms such as health clinics and rape centers?

KG: Despite our biological differences, women deserve basic human rights, and equal legal rights. Women still face challenges in the workplace including sexual harassment, discrimination and the wage gap. Today, 73 cents is the median wage paid to women for every dollar paid to men. This glaring inequality means we need legislation directed towards granting women equality. Rape centers and clinics have the same goal of equality; they

simply give women freedom over their bodies, a right that men have always had.

AT: Having been a feminist leader over the years, would you have expected the women's movement would be farther along than it is today?

KG: Despite the considerable popularity that the women's rights movement has gained, governmental and societal structure has not changed as much as the activists of the 1960s and 1970s had hoped. The greatest challenge now remains to protect the rights that we have gained. Since 2001, an object of the Bush administration has been to roll back legislation that has advanced civil rights, women's rights, and reproductive rights. Women need to realize that if they do not speak up against challenges to these rights, even if these challenges don't immediately affect them, no one will be left to stand up for them.

The National Organization of Women has pursued the goal of equality since its founding in 1966. However, due to the increase in conservative influence over the federal as well as local governments, the basic rights of women are constantly in danger of being undermined. The struggle for women's rights cannot end until women have achieved legal, socio-economic and political equality with men.

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Should Men Have Signed the Declaration of Sentiments?

"Ironically, one-third of these signers were the very same oppressors that this document sought to free women from. They were male."

By Edie Kaminsky

The Seneca Falls Conference, held in New York on July 19 and 20 in 1848, was undeniably a crucial step toward the direction of male and female equality. The question, however, is not the strength nor worth of this struggle. Rather, it is the actual membership composition of the crusaders chosen to absolve women of the injustices, as sited in the Declaration of Sentiments.

The Declaration of Sentiments, modeled after the Declaration of

Independence, was written and signed with the same spirit that emancipated our forefathers from cruel British tyranny. This spirit of liberation was extended to women, as the Declaration of Sentiments sought to free them of male absolutism. At the bottom of this document were the signatures of women's rights activists like Lucretia Mott, who had a history of advocating for female



equality. Ironically, one third of these signers were the very same oppressors from whom this document

sought to free women. They were male.

It is inconsistent with the intentions of the Declaration of Sentiments that men were permitted to sign such a document. If the Declaration of Sentiments was indeed modeled after the Declaration of Independence, male signatures would be comparable to King George III, the very tyrant the document

disparaged, to have scribbled his signature next to Thomas Jefferson. It is insane to believe that King George III could have understood the pain of the colonists, just as it is ridiculous to presume that males could empathize with female concerns.

Furthermore, the intentions King George III would have had in signing a petition against him

equate the questionable motives of males signing a document that denounced their rule.

Male signatures are more than contradictory for they are also unwarranted. Most of the female signers had actively participated in the women's rights cause prior to the movement. Elizabeth Cady Stanton conceived the Seneca Falls Conference. Jane Hunt, Marry Ann McClintock and Martha Wright helped Stanton organize it. Sarah Hallowell was both an activist and a financial supporter of the cause. One could measure the entitlement of signing the Declaration by listing the contributions each person made to the women's rights movement.

However, a more profound realization can be made. Each female signer had experienced the painful political, social, and economic inequities that their status as a woman mandated. Each female signer

had something to gain by carrying out the Declaration of Sentiments. Men had rarely felt such discrimination, and only had their power to lose if women did indeed achieve equality.

Thus, it was inappropriate for males to sign the Declaration of Sentiments. Their intentions and commitment to the women's rights movement were not comparable to their female counterparts, as the Declaration of Sentiments did not provide males with equal opportunities. Instead, it imposed restrictions upon their previous domination

of women. Very few humans are capable of honestly fighting for a restriction on their own power. Though one may question the harm in a few extra signatures, the damage is more than space. It is a blatant mockery to the women's right movement; amongst the names of earnest crusaders, are the signatures of the same tyrants they fought against! "History of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman." It is incomprehensible that the hunters are posing as advocates for their prey.

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June 2002

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Do We Really Need Men?

By Rajdeep Saini

It was 8PM on a Friday night and Samantha Geller was trying desperately to convince her husband, Matthew Geller, to join her at a NOW (National Organization of Women) meeting. He, of course, refused. Matthew Geller represents the majority of men in society who seem to be indifferent to women's rights organization.

"Men were either indifferent towards or oblivious to the women's rights movement."

In the past, some women's rights organizations refused to allow men to join their cause. Some women in the antebellum period fought against their male oppressors. They fought for the right to be considered citizens and to have all the rights that came with citizenship. To allow men to join their cause would have been an act of hypocrisy. Women could not allow their oppressors to join in a battle against themselves. Today, however, that problem does not exist, as men are more than welcome to join women's rights organizations.

When questioned about the women's

rights movement, most men replied "I am not against it but I don't support it either." When asked why they had never joined a women's rights organization they replied, "Because I'm not a girl. I don't know what rights women are lacking." Although women's rights organizations such as NOW allow men to join, the majority of members remain female. Attaining membership is very easy. You can do so by providing information about yourself, or making a donation. So difficulty in attaining membership cannot be used an excuse by men for not joining women's rights organizations.

But do we really need men?



The answer is no. Women in present day society hold the same positions if not more prominent ones than men do. There are female doctors, lawyers, politicians, CEOs, and even plumbers. To say that women need the support of men in order to function is absurd. Women are more than capable of setting up and coordinating organizations on their own. NOW, for example, has a Board of Directors completely run by women.

But could we use men?

The answer to that is "yes."

In a society where information is easily attainable, where a simple click of the mouse delivers the world to your computer screen, where world events continually unfold on CNN, the more people know about a certain subject the better. Men

"I'm not a girl. I don't know what women are lacking."

make up approximately half of the population. While we don't need men to run or join organizations, it would help if they were aware of the rights that women

lack. Most men don't even know the general goals of women's rights organizations. The general goals being reproductive freedom, global feminism, economic equity, and disability rights. Most men seem to subscribe to the misconception that women's rights organizations are simply where women come together and "talk about things that bother them."

Men, in general, are often ignorant of the injustices women face on a daily basis and need to be made aware of these injustices, whether they are affected personally or not. Along with being made aware of these inequities, men must also be informed of the goals of women's rights organizations. Perhaps a campaign similar to that of TRUTH (the anti-cigarette organization) should be used. If a larger percentage of the population is informed of the difficulties women face, it becomes easier to work toward and achieve reforms.

From the men that were interviewed, most of them were either indifferent towards or oblivious to the women's rights movement. This is not a good sign. By showing indifference, men are harming the women's rights movement. They do not have to join organizations, such as NOW, to show their support. At the very least men should be aware of the rights women lack, and the rights women are trying to gain.



Helpful Resources

By Rebecca Hetey and Neha Shetty

Assistant Section Editors

The articles on the Women's Rights Movement from antebellum society to the present were compiled using information gathered from numerous sources. In researching antebellum women's rights groups, the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Library offered many invaluable resources. The use of the sources in the periodical room and general research section provided detailed accounts of meetings and important figures in the pre-Civil War period. In acquiring information about the history of the modern day women's movement, reference books from various branches provided a plethora of information. Particularly helpful were the Whitestone, Flushing, and Poppenhusen branches of the Queensborough Public Library.

Online sources provided access to many quality primary and secondary documents that would have otherwise been nearly impossible to locate. The Library of Congress and the Worcester Women's History Project are among those that were the most helpful. Ms. Twiss Butler of the National Organization for Women and Ms. Ellen Carol DuBois of UCLA provided constructive insight into the various stages of women's fight for equality. Lastly, we'd like to thank the school librarians of the Bronx High School of Science, Ms. Lampach and Ms. Shulman, for aiding our research efforts.

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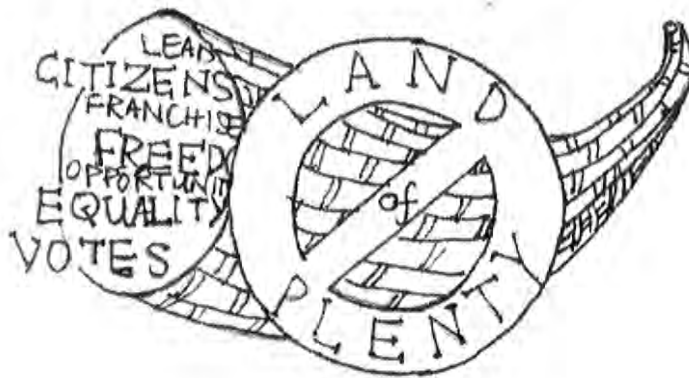
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Peace



Overview

From the birth of the United States, this nation has been involved in dozens of wars, each generating a certain level of both anti and pro-war sentiments. In this section of our magazine you will find an analysis of both aspects of the antebellum and 21st century peace movements. During the 1840s, America found itself becoming increasingly involved with tensions both along its southern border. The Mexican War broke out in early 1845 and the sectional tensions that it unleashed continued to grow until it climaxed in our country's only civil war.

Today, the recent terrorist attacks have awoken the world to the international affect of the Middle East conflict and global "Americanization." Since September 11th, American peace organizations, specifically those in New York, have taken on a new challenge and importance in promoting peaceful solutions to these current problems.

Joe Urgo, a Vietnam war veteran and adamant supporter of the peace movement, spoke in our special "Meet the Press" event about the negative impacts of American interference on international affairs. Mr. Urgo described America as an empire, whose actions are selfish, unjustified and detrimental to those upon whom we impose our will. Joe Urgo is also a member of an anti-war project called "Not In Our Name" which is affiliated with the peace organization, New Yorkers Say No to War. Both groups refute the American government's claim that the current "War on Terrorism" is being fought for the protection of the American people.

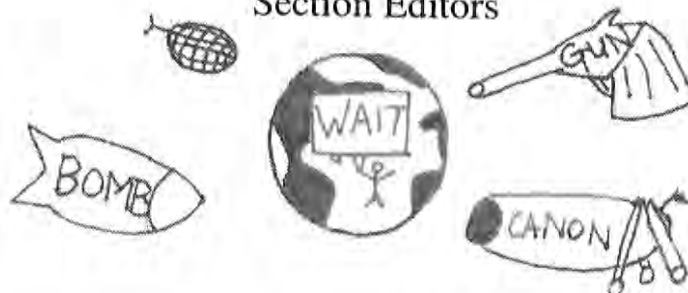
In comparison, the American Peace Society, formed by a unification of several New England societies in 1828, worked to extinguish the use of war as a solution to a nation's problems. Unlike today, peace movements of the antebellum period did not have to contend

with the threat of nuclear warfare, bioterrorism, and a changed America whose government policy extends to all four corners of the earth. As global interdependence grew during the 20th century, peace movements also had to react to issues on a larger scale. No longer were they simply dealing with local conflicts and border disputes, which were the major concerns of antebellum America, but instead they began facing the reality that problems overseas served to produce an intensification of problems at home.

As you read the following articles, you will notice the synchronization of the issues discussed in corresponding past and present articles. In the *editorial* pair, the motives of the American government during the Mexican war and the current “War on Terrorism” are questioned. The *report of a meeting* articles convey the message and focus of the American Peace Society, the “Not In Our Name” peace project and New Yorkers Say No to War. The *investigative reports* expose the formidable conditions of the front lines of the Mexican War in 1847 and in a military base in the Philippines in 2002. Both *interview with a sufferer* articles deal with the horrifying experiences of a Mexican War survivor and a Palestinian father who emigrated to New York after the murder of his son in the West Bank. Finally, the *interview with a leader* articles describe the intentions, goals and tactics of the leaders of the American Peace Society and New Yorkers Say No to War.

Julie Gansl and Anna Fogel

Section Editors





EST. 1827

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Annual Meeting of The American Peace Society

By Ekjyot Saini

Thursday last evening, the twenty-fifth anniversary meeting of the American Peace Society was held at the Park Street Church in Boston, Massachusetts. The meeting was held for the purpose of discussing the achievements of the year, as well as planning future events. The meeting room was crowded with various members of service, which included some of the most distinguished individuals of society such as Charles Sumner and Reverend Rowland B. Howard. President William Jay approached the podium amidst a great deal of

applause and loud cheers. President Jay, called members in attendance to order (*Silence*) before he began to speak about the progress and prospects of peace. The years since our establishment have served to be years of relative peace on the international circuit. (*Loud cheers*) In certain instances, the United States has undoubtedly used its power to enforce its will on other nations. (*Groans*). In the last decade, the war with Mexico was unnecessary and could have been easily avoided; diplomatic solutions are always an option. Peace has prevailed in previously war-ravaged locales – Mexicans and Americans live in tranquility as neighbors and friends. The

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo has provided equality to all, with no distinction between Mexican and American – equal protection to all, legal rights to both (*Loud cheers*). The Gadsen Purchase earlier this year, was a successful attempt to make peace with the government of Mexico. These efforts need to continue in a greater capacity! (*Vehement cheers.*)

These eloquent remarks spurred members to action, many rising to make statements, creating an atmosphere that buzzed with excitement. Reverend Daniel Richards arose to propose the first resolution. Religion, is an important aspect of peace-peace can not exist without religion to enforce it (*Applause*) Members of religious orders should unite and spread religion to those who are uncultured in our newly acquired territories! (*Loud cheers*). Do not all people, deserve to live in

**Schooley's mountain mineral springs
Marsh's health house**

This establishment, so well known to the public. It has been open for the reception of company since the 10th of May last. It is deemed only necessary to say that the whole establishment effort has and will be made to maintain the high reputation it at present possesses, and make it even more desirable as a place of summer resort than heretofore.

harmony, in an atmosphere of peace - with literacy, freedom and religion? (*Sensation*) Mr. Rufus Clark seconded the resolution and was beyond exaltation when supporting the motion.

A discussion was opened on the domestic situation in the United States by Senator Charles Sumner. He took command of the discussion and voiced his opinion in the most elegant of manners. The sectional conflict is one of utter disgust; it only creates a hostile situation between the northern and southern states - which is not a condition that serves to be favorable to either side. The conflict, as difficult as it may seem at times, can be ameliorated with open discussion and diplomacy in the presence of the opposing parties. The entire controversy stems from the issue of slavery, which in the past has been compromised - the Missouri Compromise, the Compromise of 1850- there is no need now for the situation to reach a level of intolerable violence and cruelty. (*Cries of "Stop the*

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Violence" - "Stop the violence").

Reverend Orville Dewey, rose from his seat in order to insinuate a proposal. He desired that a petition should be started in order to draw attention to the sectional conflict before it become a violent outburst of expression for abolitionists. (*Hear, Hear*) Reverend Dewey expressed his belief in consistent government intervention in order to prevent the sectional division from reaching a climatic peak when important matters spiraled out of control, peace was not able to prevail.

The meeting drew to a close when distinguished officers took the podium and addressed the

auditory. Secretary Francis R. Gimms informed those gathered that a vote concerning the proposed resolutions would be held at the next meeting. In addition, officers of the Board of Executives, informed the members of upcoming events, such as the fundraiser and elections. The next meeting would encompass the collection of dues, as well as planning of the theatre function that would be used to raise money for the American Peace Society. It was announced with great gaiety that elections would be held next month for a new treasurer and the candidates include current treasurer Charles Beckwith and his opponent, Reverend Daniel Richards.

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Pacifists Pledge To Oppose War on Terror

By Alex Makler

New Yorkers Say No To War is an organization that was created after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. This peace organization seeks "urgent, non-violent and constructive solutions that promote peace, equality and justice around the World", as stated by its mission statement, read before each meeting. The organization has a diverse membership with men and women of all different races, all believing in one thing: peace throughout the world.

"...many of the members seem to be quite pessimistic about the immediate future and where the situation may lead."

On May 28th, 2002, at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center in downtown Manhattan, Richard Murphy, former American Ambassador to South East Asia and the Middle East, spoke to some of the members of The New Yorkers Say No To War. Ambassador Murphy discussed the present situation in the Middle East and the United States' role in the area. Members of the organization were quite vocal in their concerns and questions to Mr. Murphy. "Is there another reason, other than oil, why America is so concerned with the Middle East?" asked a man named Steve Irving. Another woman,

Sheila Knight, asked; "What role are peace activists and organizations playing in the Middle East?" Mr. Murphy was quite forthcoming in his responses. He in no way defended the U.S policies by stating that both the Clinton and Bush administrations failed to deal with the growing danger in the Middle East.

The meeting on Tuesday, May 28th was very much like the weekly meetings that the organization holds every Tuesday. Mr. Dustin Schellee headed the meeting, discussing the organization's future plans. He mentioned a plan to raise money for the building of a school in Afghanistan, a plan that has been in discussion for many weeks.

Mr. Schellee continued by mentioning the upcoming "Not in Our Name" event, occurring June 6th, 2002 in Washington Square Park. This event is a

**NOT
IN
OUR
NAME**

**Local Meeting Every
Thursday at 7 pm**

gathering of many anti-war groups that states that the United States is misrepresenting its war policies in the Middle East. The organization is beginning to unite with other peace organizations in an attempt to unify the present peace movement in New York today.

The unique aspect of this organization is its way of expressing their protests against war. At Tuesday's meeting, a young Afghani woman made a compelling presentation. First, she showed a video linking the Israeli-Palestinian crisis and the 2000 World Series between the Mets and Yankees. It paralleled the roaring crowds of New York to the screams and blasts caused by the violence occurring in Israel.

"urgent, non-violent and constructive solutions that promote peace, equality and justice around the World"

Her next piece discussed the fighting in Lebanon and people's attempts to live their lives normally through the harsh realities of civil war.

Presently, New Yorkers Say No to War's main focus is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They are a leftist group that feels that America needs to reshape its role as the world's super-power and attempt to resolve the conflicts at hand. As reflected in the questions asked of Ambassador Murphy, many of the members feel the present administration has not done its job in trying to preserve peace in the world. In fact, many of the members seem to be quite pessimistic about the immediate future and where this situation may lead. One Israeli man said, "I'm scared, I am very scared, and the people in Israel are scared too. They see no good coming any time soon to this

situation."

The organization will continue to fight in any way it can to "explore alternatives to war in the face of our grief, fear and anger following the events of 9-11-01".

NEW YORKERS

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**On The Mexican
Battlefield**

"I can't help wondering if the loss will eventually be worth the gain."

By Arousiag Markarian

Mexico first attacked the United States along the southern border of Texas almost a year ago. The only way to truly understand the horrors of war endured by the American soldiers is to look at first-hand accounts supplied to *The American Tradition* from front line American troops. These accounts expose the harsh realities of war and the formidable conditions experienced by American soldiers.

As General Scott began advancing on Mexico City, the initial

excitement and fervor of the American soldiers dimmed to fear and regret. In a letter to his mother, Private Robert Brown wrote, "the only hope for peace is the occupation of the Mexican capital and if necessary we will die in the attempt to reach it". As the soldiers continued their march to Mexico City, they encountered sporadic resistance until they reached the village of Cerro Gordo, fifty miles inland. Units under William J. Worth bravely faced General Santa Anna's men who had occupied an invulnerable position on high ground. Lieutenant William Killington stated, "We had to scramble up the hill allowing the Mexicans clear shots to our exposed bodies. By the time we finally surrounded

them, the hill was littered with Mexican and American corpses. I can't help wondering if the loss will eventually be worth the gain". In fact, 64 Americans were killed and 353 were wounded, while about one thousand Mexicans were killed and another three thousand became prisoners-of-war.

Private James Owen wrote, in a letter to the American Peace Society in New York, "I noticed a Mexican woman busily carrying bread and water to wounded men on both sides. She raised the head of a wounded man, fed him and carefully bound his ghastly wound with her handkerchief. As she ran to another wounded man, to continue her mission of mercy, I heard a gunshot and saw her fall to her knees. Her helpless patient looked on, unable to come to her aid as she had come to his. I could not accept that her death was the result

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of anything other than an accidental gunshot. I raised my face to heaven and asked God why he had allowed such a woman to die. Then I realized that her soul is in a better place, by our Father's side. While digging her grave, cannon balls flew passed me like hail, but I knew that God would not allow me to die before finishing my mission".

After picking up a dead Mexican's canteen at his feet, James Owen took a drink and swung the prized canteen onto his shoulder. But as he passed a man who had lost both his legs, he was overcome with grief. Inspired by the Mexican woman's acts of kindness, he offered the dying Mexican his canteen. While the Mexican was taking a drink, a cannonball blew his head off, splattering blood and flesh all over Private Owen.

Not only do accounts of lives lost reveal the tragedies befalling American soldiers, but reports of the soldiers' financial situations reveal their hardships. The American military is paying our boys \$7 a month, while brandy costs

\$10 a gallon, coffee costs 37 cents a cup and a pair of boots cost \$9. Those who are lucky trade shirts for footwear, but most soldiers have fallen into serious debt. Should they ever

return home, many feel they will be in far worse condition than when they first left, and almost all believe that the glory they were in search of will never be found.

There Are No Romantic Wars

*The road is swathed in dust again
As the soldiers boots tread forth
The war is raging with vain and spite
Not thinking of its recourse.*

*I lie in bed and try to sleep
While children dream without a peep
And gunshots kill without a glance
Humanity's lost in a fatal trance.*

*In Mexico they chant for war
Not knowing what they're fighting for.
The land is ours at no high cost
It seems we just want death and loss.*

*"Glory be to God," they cry
This tirade's a deceptive lie.
Death be not our Savior's way
Hold hands, have grace; not this dismay.*

*Allegedly fighting for their pride
Other options they have not tried
Talks and discussions are tossed aside
When strength is questioned we must abide.*

*No! We must call the men home from the front
You musn't sit latently and grunt
If you do not support the war's feral blazes
Recant your romantic war phrases.*

-Amy Simone Piller
1847.

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U.S. Bombs Its Own

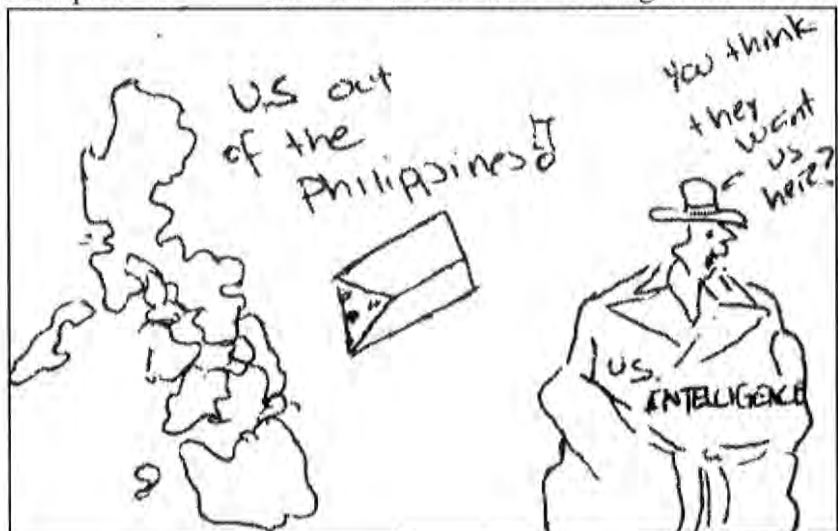
By Jun Rose Montalla

Recently, the United States has dispatched troops to protect the Philippine Islands from the second largest terrorist group in the world, the Abu-Sayyaf. Top US intelligence officials believe that the Abu-Sayyaf has connections to Al-Queda and has sent several representatives to look further into this accusation. Secretary of State Colin Powell, along with members of the Coalition Investigation Board (CIB), met with several American and Philippine commanders and community leaders to assess the capabilities of the US military in South East Asia and to investigate the recent fratricide incident that occurred several weeks ago on April 17.

Mr. Powell and the Central Investigation Board representatives boarded a MH-47 assault helicopter en route to Tabiawan Air Base, Philippines. The Tiabawan Incident, as it came to be called, caused the end of the lives of fifteen military personnel. On the evening of April 17th, a Coalition F-16 fighter plane accidentally dropped a 500-pound GBU-12 laser guided bomb on a weapons facility on the air base. Commander Jonathan Katz, the pilot of the F-16, said, "I had

confirmed our drop off coordinates with the officers on the ground. Earlier, I had questioned their decision in using live ammunitions on military exercises. But in the military, your job is to follow orders, not ask questions. There's protocol to be followed, a chain of command. But when I saw the bomb hit the air base, I was horrified at what I saw."

In his statement to the CIB, Petty Officer Richard Tiner said, "I went to bed like I did every other night, but this time I heard a low rumbling come form the sky. I didn't think much about it until the explosions came. I thought the Abu-Sayyaf had hit us. Immediately my mind flashed to the television images of the September attacks and I couldn't help but think of Pearl Harbor as well. I found out later on that the bombs were coming from one of



our own F-16s pilots, not the terrorists that I originally thought of. It was bad enough that our own pilots had dropped the bomb on us, but the bomb landed on several of our ammunitions storage houses, which created even more explosions and greatly increased the number of casualties.

"The explosions grew louder and louder. In the end, half of us were in the hospital, and several of us were dead."

While he was running away from the explosion, Officer Tiner said that he saw his own bunk mate, Officer Jared Dullio, trapped by the fire in a storage room. Though many died that day, heroes did emerge. Commander Matthew Gomez, received high honors for his bravery and selflessness for leading several men from the 3rd Battalion Light Infantry Battle Group outside of a burning munitions warehouse. "Body's were burned beyond recognition," Commander Matthew stated later on in an incident report. "The explosions grew louder and louder. In the end, half of us were in the hospital, and several of us were dead."

While in the Philippines, Mr. Powell and the CIB representatives held a press conference and ensured the public of their intentions of investigating the safety concerns when using live fire during military exercises. Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, has commented on the incident and admitted that the live fire exercises greatly increased the risk of American casualties.

Accidents that occur during the live fire exercises, such as the one on Tabiawan Airbase, have caused many nations to question the ability of the US military to keep its soldiers alive, let alone keep peace when not in actual combat. In its plans to maintain friendly relations with the Philippine government, the CIB along with local authorities has devised new plans to further escalate US military actions in order to capture the leading Abu-Sayyaf members with the least number of American and Filipino casualties.

In truth, it seems more likely that the Bush administration refuses to give up its military empire. It is essential to lessen U.S. world wide military presence and armament. It is far more

important to ensure human rights and security in the unstable Philippine government. United Nation's Secretary General Kofi Annan stated, "Amnesty arrangements, while often seemingly expedient in peace-building, ultimately maintain a damaging

cultural impunity." The United Nations and several Peace Societies agree that the military should be used as a last resort. Alternatives to dispatching more troops to the Philippine Islands can be reached by creating a diplomatic alliance between the Muslim countries of South East Asia. A strong triple alliance between Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia can result in longer peace and unity than military alliances ever will. It is imperative that international laws and disarmament prevail.





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In Texas, Sufferers Pray for End To Mexican War

"The American government is contradicting itself by preaching democracy and practicing tyranny."

By Amy Piller

The approaching meeting of the American Peace Society has led members of the society to acknowledge the input of individuals directly suffering in the Mexican American War. The accounts of such victims are rarely acknowledged because of the victims' lack of proximity to publishing centers of America.

However, the importance of such opinions should not be diminished because of their rarity and remoteness, rather, as reformers, the society must keep its eye focused on such dislocated sufferers.

According to the American Peace Society's new constitution, drafted

recently in 1843, the paramount goal of the society is to "promote universal and permanent peace." However, many leaders who share the views of the late William Ladd, President from 1828-1841, have recently wavered on the peaceful objective of The American



William Ladd (1778-1841), founder of The American Peace Society 1828.

Peace Society. This ambivalence has occurred in light of treasonous charges against the Society for not supporting America in its war effort against Mexico. We must keep in mind that there are many Americans living in Texas who are suffering from the

turbulence surrounding them. These are the people we must represent in our crusade for peace.

I sought an opportunity to converse with James Forster of San Antonio, Texas. As a loyal American and member of the Free Soil movement, he employs wage laborers and does not participate in slave auctioneering, in order to raise the value of white wage labor. I engaged Mr. Forster in a conversation concerning his views on the current War between Mexico and America.

Amy Piller: Are you in favor of the Mexican American War?

James Foster: No sir, on account of it having caused things to run a-muck around here.

AP: What conditions are you faced with in Texas as a result of the war?

JF: Mexican soldiers trampled a portion of my field, and I fear fighting could land on my soil at

any time.
AP: Do you understand, sir, the need for this war?

JF: Yes sir: to stand up for the rights of my nation and acquire more land. However, I find this fighting unnecessary. I raised my children as good Protestants. Yet they see men shot down day after day. They see murder and vice. When they see blood covered streets how can I teach them what it means to be an American? This gore is a disgrace to our nation.

AP: Can you suggest alternatives?

JF: We already have forced the annexation of Texas from Mexico. And we are in the process of obtaining Oregon. As I understand it, the purpose of the Mexican acquisition was to enforce the rule of the American government in the territory. By going to war with 50,000 militant troops we cannot say we are enforcing American

ideals. The American government is contradicting itself by preaching democracy and practicing tyranny.

AP: The late William Ladd's support of peace in place of war on Mexico is considered treason. What do you make of this?

JF: Supporting peace is far from treason! Those of us concerned with the peace movement want to spread American doctrine and virtue. Those involved in warfare think themselves deserving of Divine powers. God did not grant them the right to know when it's right to take others' lives! They think they can understand and control the inconsistency of malice. How wrong they are! It is so much more of a challenge to consistently be peaceful than it is to consistently be belligerent. Why, mere children can argue! Will America stop acting like a child in a

temper tantrum?

At this point, our interview was brought to a close. And now I second his sentiment by saying that we must stop acting like quarrelsome children. I challenge you to take Forster's provocation. Is it not morally better to look out for the rights of both our allies and our foes? James Forster loves America. James Forster loves humanity. He believes William Ladd was right in taking a stand against our war with Mexico. Show your support and carry out Ladd's legacy by attending the next General Peace Conference, being held in Harvard Square on May 23, 1847. The principal issue on the agenda for this meeting will be the preparation to achieve the means for international arbitration, and a worldwide union of nations to work together to maintain peace.

ICONOGRAPHIC ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE, LITERATURE AND ART; systematically arranged. By G. Heck; with five hundred steel engravings, by the most distinguished artists of Germany. Translated and edited by Spencer F. Baird, A.M., M.D., Professor of Natural Sciences in Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa. Rudolph Garrique, Published, No. 2 Barclay-street, Astor-House, New-York. This great and valuable work continues regularly to make its appearance, in semi-monthly numbers. Parts eight and nine have now been issued, embracing plates 11 to 42, and letter text pages, 401 to 440 and to 68, Vol.2. The style of the execution of the plates wins the admiration of every observer. They have a distinctness of outline, and a finish in detail. The deep lines are given with a clearness and precision, showing the most perfect specimens of printing. The whole is incredibly cheap, being but \$1 for twenty of those admirable plates, accompanied with eighty pages of letter text.

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Hidden Truths: An Interview With a Palestinian Sufferer

By Sofia Mavronasios

At first glance, George Abu Eid looks like any other hardworking father in the United States. However, things are not as they appear to be and, underneath his exterior, George's heart tells a story full of pain and devastation. George, his wife Fauz Abu Eid, and their family used to live in the West Bank village of Beit Jala. However, the murder of their eldest son, Mousa, in October 2000, helped George make the crucial decision of moving his family to New York, where he became actively involved in the organization, New Yorkers Say No to War.

Sofia Mavronasios: Can you describe what your family's life was like in the months before the death of your son?

George Abu Eid: Although the Palestinian-Israeli conflict was exploding around us, my family was doing well. Mousa was studying to become an electrician and had gotten a part-time job working at construction sites. He was so happy to be bringing money into the house. He was such a good boy; he kept telling me to save the money he earned to buy a computer for his sister, Maysa. My youngest son, Issa, adored and looked up to his brother very much. He kept telling my wife and I that he wished he could be just like him when he grew up. We were

all very happy, and we felt safe in our two-floor house.

SM: What happened on the night of your son's death?

GAE: My son Mousa returned from a shopping trip with treats for the whole family. I remember him saying to us, "I brought you the best cookies in the shop." Mousa urged my family to stay downstairs where he felt we would be safer. My wife, Issa, and their sister Mahira were downstairs playing cards. Then Issa got cold and Mousa went to get him a blanket from upstairs. All of a sudden my wife and I heard a thump from the floor above. I ran upstairs as fast as I could and saw my son lying on the floor with blood gushing from where a bullet had pierced his neck and came out of the middle of his back. A second later Issa came running upstairs and, for three minutes, we watched Mousa dying in a pool of blood. I tried to resuscitate him but it was no use.

SM: How did the murder of your son affect you and your family's lives?

GAE: Immediately after Mousa's death my family plunged into mourning. Issa was bewildered and didn't understand the meaning of death. It killed me, my wife, and the whole family. My son was only nineteen. He had a bright future ahead of him. He always put others before himself.

Later the Israeli military officials told us that the sniper had fired at a gunman. That is ridiculous! The only thing my son is guilty of, was looking outside of the window of his own house. He didn't throw stones and he wasn't out shooting. Neither my son nor the rest of our family has ever been involved with Muslim fundamentalists. His life was unjustly cut short.

SM: What exactly made you decide to bring your family to New York?

GAE: The death of my son caused me such pain that I knew I couldn't risk losing anyone else dear to me. My wife was constantly afraid of soldiers breaking into the house. The darkness brought fear and dread to my family. Months of violence claimed the lives of over 1, 400 fellow Palestinians, and there seemed to be no end to the conflict. Everyday you heard reports of innocent children on both sides being killed. Fearing my children could fall victims to Israeli snipers, I kept them in the house and wouldn't let them out to play. Finally I decided that my family could not live like this and I made the decision to bring them somewhere where they would be safe.

SM: How did you get involved with the organization New Yorkers Say No to War and did it help ease the pain?

GAE: In becoming an active member of New Yorkers Say No to War, I feel that I have finally found a place where my views will be heard. The organization disapproves of defensive and aggressive wars and calls for an end to violence. Furthermore, the group is exploring alternatives to war. New Yorkers Say No to War uses the arts to share resources, insights, and creative energy. This is perfect for me because I am a painter and

like to express myself artistically. In my paintings and cartoons I can promote peace, equality, and justice around the world, just as the organization's constitution states. So far, I have organized a fundraiser for Palestinian families who have lost their homes in the fighting. In addition, I am planning a march that will be held on June 24, 2002. The march will start at noon and we will be meeting at Central Park. Overall, this organization gave me hope for the future and made me optimistic that people may begin to take a stand against violence.

SM: Do you have any other views or last minute comments that you would like to add?

GAE: Yes, I believe that violence cannot solve anything. Problems are meant to be solved by words, peacefully, not with rocks, guns, homemade bombs, or full military action. There is no justification for the thousands of lives that are lost in wars, and there is no justice in taking such a course.

Throughout the whole interview with George Abu Eid, there was great pain in his eyes; pain that will never go away. Abu Eid will never forget the night the Israelis killed his first-born son. Now we should ask ourselves: What does violence accomplish? It seems as if we hear reports of suicide bombers everyday in Israel and Palestine, and consequently every day young children have their lives cut short. People have the misconception that, by fighting their problems will get solved. In actuality, fighting only makes the rift between Palestinians and Israelis grow bigger. An agreement of armistice from both sides of the conflict is needed before peace talks can begin. If not, we will never stop hearing stories like George Abu Eid's.



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**A Review of the Mexican-American War:
Judge William Jay's
Thoughts on Peace**

"Surely," says Jay, "the bloodshed of our sons and husbands is not worth the value of more land."

By Rachel Herrmann

At a meeting of the American Peace Society (APS) last week, *The American Tradition* had the opportunity to speak with Judge William Jay. President of the APS since 1848, Judge Jay was able to give your reporter an extensive explanation of the inner workings of the Society. He also shared with us his thoughts on the recent war with Mexico.

The American Tradition asked Judge Jay whether he believed that the War with Mexico was justified. Responding, Jay replied, "I believe that wars, including defensive wars, are wrong in the eyes of the Lord. The war with Mexico, which was not a

defensive war, was an example of the extreme imperialism of the United States."

According to Judge Jay, the Mexican war killed boys as young as thirteen. In one battle, the battle of Mexico City, four thousand Mexicans were killed. At the end of the war, a total of thirteen thousand Americans were dead, from either battle or disease. "Surely," says Jay, "the bloodshed of our sons and husbands is not worth the value of more land."

The American Tradition then questioned Judge Jay about the views of other American Peace Society members. He explained that the Society was divided into three sections: revolutionary nonresistants, moderate pacifists, and conservatives. Some of the more known names from each section are William Lloyd Garrison, Elihu Burritt, and Charles C. Beckwith, respectively. Conservatives, such as

Beckwith, tend to support defensive wars. Moderate pacifists, such as Burritt, understand the need for government coercion in certain circumstances, and revolutionary nonresistants such as Garrison believe in complete noninvolvement in all wars.

Of the split in the Society, Judge Jay said, "The schism in 1846 was regrettable, especially when the moderate pacifists gave up their official positions in the Society, following Burritt. However, as the Society moves forward, we realize that violent actions are unacceptable to prove the point of peace."

The Society's morals seem to be more aligned with those of William Lloyd Garrison, whose insistence on nonviolent resistance sets the standards for the Society's actions. Of Garrison, William Jay said, "I believe him to be a very dedicated man. It is necessary for the

American Peace Society to aid in other reforms, such as the Abolitionist movement, because the end of slavery will hopefully end imperialistic expansion in the form of Manifest Destiny."

When asked to provide alternatives to violent resistance, Judge William Jay cited the Second International Congress of 1848 that took place in Paris.

A convention attended by over three hundred delegates passed resolutions supporting a universal code of law and

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In this issue: "Resistance to Civil Government," by Henry David Thoreau

international disarmament. Of the Congress, Judge Jay states that, "the possibilities to be had when countries gather

together to discuss peace are enormous: an end to imperialism, world peace, the love of god, the end of slavery... a newly moralized United States!"

Despite the apparent divisions within the Society, Judge William Jay remains optimistic about ability of the American Peace Society to reach its goals. He believes that by continuing to work with leaders of other reform movements and other international peace organizations, the goal of a peaceful world may someday be reached.

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While Much of The Country Clamors For Retribution Some Call for Peace

By Iram Nadroo

New Yorkers Say No to War is one of the many organizations that were founded after the events of September 11th 2001, in order to promote peace. Elsa Higby, part of the planning and actions committee at New Yorkers Say No to War (NYSNTW) recently sat down to discuss the goals, tactics and beliefs of her organization.

"...military action has been used simply to stimulate the economy and that the Bush administration saw this as a golden opportunity to head off a depression..."

Iram Nadroo: What exactly does NYSNTW want to accomplish?

Elsa Higby: We seek urgent, non-violent and constructive solutions that promote peace, equality and justice around the world. In gatherings across the country, people have committed themselves to resist in diverse ways the horrors that the U.S. government is inflicting on people around the world and here at home. NYSNTW has actually become a forum for education, where we can come and talk and find out what's going on. What we are doing is not only educating ourselves and anyone who chooses to attend meetings, but also taking that information and offering it to other venues. For example,

one of our members has her own radio show and she talks about issues related to peace.

IN: What tactics does the organization use to promote its cause?

EH: The faster and louder we sing the song of peace to counter the drums of war, the better its going to be. We have had many speakers including former ambassador Richard Murphy and representatives from many other organizations speak to us. We have had meetings where we discuss alternatives to war [and] events where we have shown our solidarity with the Arab, Muslim and Southeast Asian community. Basically, we want to educate others and ourselves so we can begin to articulate and join the dialogue of why the war is going on in the first place and what its causes and effects are.

IN: Has NYSNTW done anything to advocate political action or the involvement of the government that could further promote the organization's goals?

EH: We don't have any thing that we are specifically advocating [the government] should do, but we would definitely want our government to be involved in peace keeping rather than war making. We have pulled away from the United Nations. We

haven't aided the idea of peace troops going into Israel, Palestine, Kashmir or anywhere else. Being that the United States has influence in the world we could help bring about peace.

IN: How do you feel about the fact that New Yorkers Say No to War was formed after September 11th, at a time when a majority of the American people and the U.S. government advocated a strong response to the terrorist attacks?

EH: Yes, New Yorkers Say No to War was founded after September 11th. The very reason this organization was formed is that many people did not feel that the fervor that seemed to be compelling the nation towards a military response was representative of their voices. We didn't feel that a strong military response was the best course of action and certainly not a course that would further protect the American people. On the contrary, such a response would make us very vulnerable. We came together as a diverse group of individuals meeting to call for reconciliation as opposed to retaliation.

IN: You don't think that this is an impossible expectation? What about the idea that war can never be completely eliminated?

EH: Conflict will always exist but how we choose to resolve that conflict is up to us. The attacks on the World Trade Center were in retaliation to something, and that something was in retaliation to some thing else. We should work on a peaceful solution instead of continuing this global cycle of violence. What we need to do is [get] a better understanding of the underlying causes of terrorism and conflict among nations. We need to address the grievances that feed the terrorism.

IN: Many have said that the US did not initiate war but rather was forced into in order to defend its people how can one justify taking a stand against this war? Like President Bush said, should we not ensure that America and the rest of the world is safe from further terror?

EH: I refuse to allow President Bush to speak for all the people living in this country. We will not give up our right to question. We will not hand over our consciences in return for a hollow promise of safety. We in this country have a special responsibility to resist what our own government is doing, from military interventions to supplying arms used to shoot down and terrorize people from Palestine to the Philippines.

IN: Shouldn't terrorists be brought to justice?

EH: We ought to seek peaceful justice not vengeance. Military action hasn't been fruitful. We don't have the "major terrorists" we are looking for. The United States is spending millions of dollars and causing tremendous amounts of destruction. In our hunt for terrorists we are harming many innocent civilians, both in other nations and in the US. Terrorists should most certainly be brought to justice, but wholesale military action will incite more terrorism not end it, I feel that we would have been much better off to have immediately reorganized the defense security organizations here in America and have gone about the investigation in a more intelligence based manner. I personally believe that military action has been used simply to stimulate the economy and that the Bush administration saw this as a golden opportunity to head off a depression it saw coming.



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Thoughts on the American Peace Society and the Mexican War

"The Society's Condemnation of the Government's Dictatorial Impulses and the People's Ignorance"

By Bing Hu

The Mexican War ended officially yesterday, February 2, 1848, with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo by United States Representative Nicholas Trist and a handful of Mexican officials.

The signing came as a relief to the American Peace Society, which had opposed the war from its inception. When Congress declared war two years ago, the Society responded with a series of petitions to President Polk; the first beseeching the President to terminate the campaign and the second seeking his acceptance of Great Britain's offer to mediate our dispute with Mexico. When Congress recon-

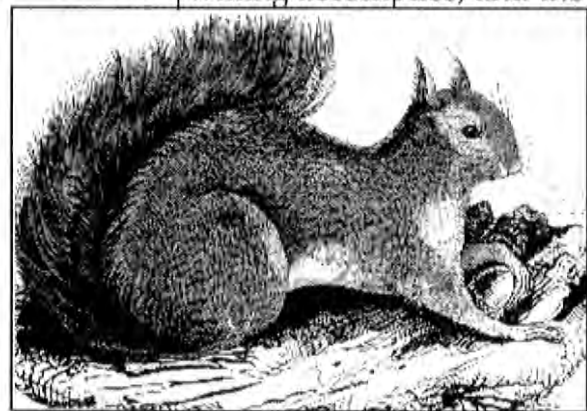
vened in December, the Society sent a third petition to both Houses suggesting arbitration as a peaceful solution.

However, all three petitions appeared to fall on courteous, but deaf, ears within the government, and only became effective once they were published in various newspapers across the nation. In its effort to spread the Christian gospel of peace, the Society also organized meetings, encouraged civilian petitions addressed directly to the government, and continued to urge the nation's churches and newspapers to advocate peace.

The Society compared the war to two Christian doctrines of social and moral evil: the loss of life and the degenerative financial consequences facing the public as a result of the

war. Soldiers who had initially enlisted enthusiastically for a slice of "glory" desired nothing more than to be discharged once they had reached the front lines. On the home front, not only was industrial expansion inhibited by the deflection of vast labor resources to war, but the country was also falling in serious debt with regards to both domestic bonds and overdue foreign loans.

With respect to condemning the abettor of the war, the Society nearly issued an indictment of our nation's political leaders. In the January 1847 issue of the *Advocate*, the Society labeled the president as the perpetrator, Congress his willing accomplice, and the



military as mere extensions of his dictatorial impulses. With the progression of the campaign, the Society labeled America's position, not as a doubtful defense, but as an outright and reproachable offense that needed to be stopped.

Aside from the unjustifiability of war in general, however, the Society did not express a definite opinion as to the nation's claim to the territory north of the Rio Grande, much like its position in the Northeastern boundary dispute. In both events, the Society attributed incidences of violence to the people's love of glory, plunder, and their vehement clinging to party spirit.

In its eleventh annual meeting, the late president William Ladd, Esq. condemned the act of the United States on rejecting the proposition made in 1831 by the King of the Netherlands, which would have amicably settled the decades-long debate by giving

the U.S. a fair share of the disputed territory. Instead, the government's inflexibility led to further conflicts that climaxed in the Aroostook War and the belated settlement in 1842 yielded to us no more territories than it would have eleven years before.

Similarly, in the Mexican War, the Society argued that the U.S. would have been able to acquire all its just claims through honorable negotiations and fair purchases with the Mexican government and thus avoid bloodshed on both sides of the Rio Grande.

During the course of the Mexican War, the Society's efforts to advocate peace were impeded not only by the ignorance and war-crazed minds of the government, but by inter-

nal dissention as well. The resignation of various leading members last year, including its president Samuel Coues, and the subsequent reorganization into the League of Universal Brotherhood under Elihu Burritt was curiously reminiscent of the event concerning the New England Non-Resistance Society a decade earlier.

After the deflection of its radical wing, the American Peace Society's body of moderates appears bent on pursuing an inoffensive and uncontroversial path to peace. Nevertheless, the sectional interests surrounding the Mexican War have necessarily affected the goals and compositions of the peace organizations and would appear to continue to influence them in the future.



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The Underlying Truth of the 'War on Terrorism'

By Alexander Danielides

Stemming from the acts of terrorism which occurred on September 11th, 2001 the United States has enacted a "War on Terrorism" with the mission of ending all terrorism in the world. Initially, this endeavor led to United States intervention in Afghanistan. However, as this "trek" towards a world without terrorism continued, the enemy became more and more broad as the United States began to use the cover of a "War on Terrorism" to threaten nations such as the

"The United States has used this "attack on terrorism" as a tool to protect its vested interests in the Middle East."

Philippines, Iran, and Iraq.

Furthermore, these quests have provided the Bush administration with a "blank check" on spending for counter-terrorist programs. Spending requests to increase the FBI's financing on counter-terrorism programs, which were rejected on Sept. 10 by Attorney General John Ashcroft, have now been met with acceptance by such leaders.

As this "War on Terrorism" continues, it has become necessary to voice an opinion as to the truth behind the recent actions

of the United States government. Rather than providing protection against future terrorist attacks, the Bush administration has taken advantage of the situation to further our economic interests in the Middle East. On May 12th, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' denial to increase oil sales to the United States warranted the continued presence of United States military in the Middle East. Under the mask of protection, the United States has used this "attack on terrorism" as a tool to protect its vested interests in the Middle East, as it did during Desert Storm in the beginning of the 1990s.

In response, various peace organizations have come together in order to uncover the atrocities committed by the United States government. Rather than allowing our government's actions to be

No one is untouched by the events of 9/11.

**We're
all in
this
together.**

committed in the name of the citizens of America, Not In Our Name is a peace organization established with the objective of stopping the United States from expanding its interests in such a way. Joe Urgo, a Vietnam war veteran and member of the peace movement since 1968, summed up the intentions of the United States when he stated, "the United States is an Empire. With that status the United States will use any tool it can to secure its power throughout the world."

According to Urgo, Not in Our Name removes the blindfold the government propaganda placed over the eyes of the American public, saying untamed war is the only solution to terrorism.

Additionally, the establishment of New Yorkers Say No to War, another anti-war organization formed after September 11th, also provides alternatives to the war effort. They discuss ulterior methods of curbing terrorism, other than the obliteration of the Middle East.

By allowing our government to continue as it has would defy the democratic ideals upon which our nation was established. The overseas tyranny which is fostered by the United States government only results in further harm to world peace. As long as the people do not stand up to our government and tell politicians that we disprove of their actions, they will continue to expand this "empire" and all of the evil which comes along with it.

Only with peace and accord can terrorism ever end. The United States uses its own form of terror on countries, making yet another enemy, as the citizens of that nation are brought up with a hatred of American values. Global order can only be accomplished by providing these people with an alternative solution to fighting America. Only when the United States government follows this course can there ever be peace.

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Helpful Resources

By Rachel Herrmann and Sofia Mavronasios

Assistant Section Editors

In addition to spending numerous hours at the main branch of the New York Public Library on 42nd street, our team of reporters also visited the Mid-Manhattan library, the Donnell library, and the Science, Industry, and Business Library. Some members of our team attended meetings of New Yorkers Say No to War and Not in Our Name. In addition, email exchanges between reporters and current peace activists were most helpful in our search for relevant information. Helpful were also the Not in Our Name website, the Nonviolence Organization website, and the World Peace Prayer Society website. Our Learning Team contacted Laura Flanders, Dustin Schelle, and Mary Lou Greenberg of New Yorkers Say No to War. In addition to accessing the standard references and books, we also obtained an inter-library loan of microfilm from Wendy E. Chmielewski, librarian at Swarthmore College's Peace Collection. This Collection gave us access to records from the antebellum American Peace Society.

Email exchanges between students and college professors were also an important part of our research. Our team received correspondences from Professor Sandi E. Cooper of the College of Staten Island, and Professor Eric Foner of Columbia University. Obviously, the time devoted by the members of our team contributed to our extensive collection of sources. The highlight of our research efforts culminated in our interview with Joe Urgo of Not in Our Name. Mr. Urgo came to our offices to speak about the current peace movement in New

York. The results of our research are clearly evident in the articles presented to our devoted readership.

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