



A D V I S O R

A NEWSLETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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PSR Medical Students Visit Harrisburg to Lobby for the "One Handgun per Month" Bill



Joel Chinitz (PSR), Pat Harner (PSR), Jessica Klausmeier (Drexel), Zoe Maher (Temple), Michael Boucher (Penn) Rachael Bonawitz (Penn), Emily Williams (Penn), Jackie Chu (Penn), Rebecca Jennings (Penn), Rachael Truchil (Penn)

On April 24, 2006, eight medical students from Drexel University College of Medicine, Temple University School of Medicine, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine traveled to Harrisburg to participate in a lobby day for HB 871, legislation to limit handgun purchases to one per month. With them, they brought letters of support from various Deans and Trauma Surgeons, and petitions signed by hundreds of their fellow classmates. The students were accompanied by Diane Edbril from CeaseFirePA, and Pat Harner, Sabra Mazzaferro, and Joel Chinitz from PSR. Targeting members

of the Judiciary Committee, the students met with twenty representatives, senators, and legislative aides. The students approached the meetings as future physicians concerned about the rising epidemic of violence in Philadelphia, and engaged in a dialogue with legislators about the potential of HB 871 as a way to reduce the supply of handguns in Pennsylvania. In the afternoon, Representative Frankel from Pittsburgh held a reception for the students. The students also participated in a rally for Victim's Rights Week.

— Rachael Truchil (Penn)



Hon. John E. Pallone (D), Diane Edbril (CeaseFirePA), and Rachael Bonawitz (Penn) discuss HB 871.

From the Director's Desk

The energy and power of medical students are astounding. Collaborations are powerful.

April 24th at 7am, a group of medical students from 3 area medical schools boarded a bus and traveled to Harrisburg to find out why the enactment of a "one handgun purchase per month" legislation (HB) 871 is so onerous to Pennsylvania state representatives and senators.

The medical students had researched who was on the Judiciary Committee where (HB) 871 was stalled. Appointments were made, voting histories were uncovered, talking points were developed and informational packets were assembled. Yes, the medical students did it themselves, consulting from time to time with PSR Board Member Bill King, MD, and Diane Edbril, ED, of CeaseFire PA, and experts on firearm injury at FICAP, the Firearm and Injury Center at Penn. PSR hired the van and provided doughnuts and coffee.

Upon arriving at the Capitol building, we split into 3 groups to best cover the 19 scheduled appointments. The main talking point was that medical students see the devastating effects of firearm injuries in the ER and often times it is too late for their skills. They are only sewing up the bodies to make them more presentable for the funeral viewing. Prevention of firearm injury is the only option.

We avoided visiting representatives who had already signed on to sponsor the bill, believing that the logic of the pitch was obvious and would persuade the unconverted. It immediately became clear that Philadelphia's problems were viewed as Philadelphia's problems. The issue of how many guns purchased a month did not resonate in the state that has the largest white tail deer population and closes schools on the first day of hunting season. These parts of the state view gun laws skeptically and fail to grasp that preventing gun violence is smarter than responding once it occurs. Moreover, the students heard over and over that "... enough state resources have been mismanaged in the city of Brotherly Love," and "why can't the

(continued on page 2)

Blix Commission calls for US to sign Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty



Image courtesy of Alex Lowy / Lowyphoto.com

From Local to Global Security - Charlie Lumpkin, a PSR ally in reducing bullying behavior at Turner Middle School, greets Hans Blix, Chair of the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Commission

Dr. Hans Blix, Chair, of the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Commission addressed an overflow house at the Constitution Center on Friday, June 2, 2006 to summarize the commission report which outlines 60 concrete recommendations to free the countries of the world of nuclear, biologic and chemical weapons.

"The stagnation in global disarmament efforts is only a part of the picture", says Blix. "In the ten years that have passed, since the US Senate declined to support ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty global economic interdependence has accelerated. All states of the world have come to face the same environmental threats and risks of contagious diseases. There have been no serious territorial or ideological conflicts between the major military powers. Yet, amazingly, the climate for agreements on arms control and disarmament has actually deteriorated."

"Bringing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force would significantly impede the development of new nuclear weapons. The weapons that exist today are bad enough. Negotiating a global treaty to stop the production of fissile material for weapons would close the tap for new such material and help hinder possible arms races - notably in Asia. In both these areas the US has the decisive leverage. If it takes the lead the world is likely to follow. If it does not take the lead, there could be more nuclear tests and new nuclear arms races."

With regard to the proposed nuclear technology

deal between the United States and India on June 7th, Dr. Blix said "I am concerned about the impact on the proliferation of nuclear weapons. These concerns could be met if India, Pakistan, the United States, and other states committed themselves to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and a verifiable international treaty stopping all production of fissile material for weapons. Absent such commitments, the proposed deal risks fueling an arms race in Asia."

The Blix report sounds dry and technical but in fact is simple and urgent. Dr. Blix's message is the same as PSR Smart Security, which calls for _____ (continued on page 4)

Peaceful Posse Training Institute is on the Move

Peaceful Posse has been busy this quarter with several training opportunities, and the 2005 graduation class of Peaceful Posse Train the Trainers has been busy observing and co-facilitating The Peaceful Posse Training Model.

In February, Peaceful Posse trained two groups of 6th to 8th-grade teachers at the Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School in Kensington. This group really loved experiencing the "Listening Partnerships" and found it to be helpful when interacting with "anger students."

On April 4th, Peaceful Posse presented our model at the 24th Annual Founders Day Celebration upon the request of The Children's Choice Specialized Foster Care, Kinship and Adoption Services. Peaceful Posse training was recommended by a member of the Philadelphia Council of Children, Youth and Family Services (PCCYFS) Foster Parent Training Subcommittee.

On April 25th, based on our work with the Latin American Community Center in Wilmington, Peaceful Posse was asked to present at the 16th Annual Prevention and Early Intervention Forum, "Growing Great Kids," sponsored by the Delaware Children's Department. This group was very impressed with the Peaceful Posse Model presentation developed for the Kaua'i Valley Peace Project last year. All agreed that adults need to learn new skills to maintain positive connections with their children.

This year's April-June PCCYFS Quarterly Professional Workshops Training Catalog included "Violence Prevention: Introduction to _____ (continued on next page)



Image courtesy of Alex Lowy / Lowyphoto.com

Local Activists meet Dr. Hans Blix at reception prior to forum - Susan Campbell (UN and Abolish Nuclear Weapons Working Group), Joy Harbeson (Citizens for Global Solutions and Global Constitution Forums), Manne Wangborg (Commission on WMD), Hans Blix (Chairman, Commission on WMD), and Jim Ranney (Citizens for Global Solutions).

7th Annual Soul of Medicine Brunch and the Ken Ginsburg, MD, Soul of Medicine Award



James Plumb, MD, new PSR Board President, presents Ken Ginsburg, MD with the newly established Ken Ginsburg, MD, Soul of Medicine Award.

Our 7th annual Soul of Medicine Brunch is scheduled for Sunday, September 17th, at the College of Physicians. This year, PSR will present the newly established "Soul of Medicine" Award, in honor of Ken Ginsburg, MD. Ken, who is retiring Board President of PSR, is an annual speaker at the Soul of Medicine Brunch, and was a founding member of the Soul of Medicine program. The award will be presented annually to the 4th year medical student who embodies the qualities we admire about Ken in his caring for patients with compassion, understanding and integrity, and realizing that "love promotes the path to healing." We are looking forward to spotlighting students for such positive attributes.

Sabra Mazzaferro

Bullying Prevention Inter-School Chat and Chew

Representatives from several Bullying Prevention Schools attended an evening meeting to share strategies that were successful at their schools. The discussions centered around "Best Practices" that occurred within their schools that proved to be an achievement in implementing the Bullying Prevention Program.

Each school was given an opportunity to share their experiences in what worked, what didn't

work, and what could be done to improve for the coming year. After this interesting discussion, we also learned what we could do at PSR to further support our schools.

At the end we ate and each school was awarded a certificate to show their individual achievements in implementing a successful program.

Elsie Woodson

PSR is very grateful for the support from the following sources:

Barra Foundation - \$2,000 to support of all PSR programming.

Fels Foundation - \$10,000 in support of a planning grant to develop a community intervention strategy to assist victims of injury seen in the emergency room. Ted Corbin, MD is working with PSR to further this intervention.

DCED - \$50,000 to integrate Peaceful Posse into Bullying Prevention Schools.

DHS - \$25,000 to provide 2nd year support to Peaceful Posse girls groups in Shaw Middle School and the Turner Beacon.

PA Dept of Education - \$200,000 to School District of Philadelphia in partnership with PSR to expand the Bullying Prevention Program into 10 additional K - 8 schools.

Seybert Institution - \$3,500 for the Peaceful Posse Train the Trainer Program.

PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency awards School District, in partnership with PSR, \$1.2 million over 4 years to expand Bullying Prevention Program.

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Director's Desk (continued)

Philly police solve the crime problem themselves?"

Undaunted, and with calm and sincere conscience, one student after another provided informed and compelling reasons for Pennsylvania to enact a "one handgun per month" law. It was a long day. Yet with renewed conviction, sparked by a reception in their honor hosted by Pittsburgh Representative Dan Frankel and numerous sponsors of (HB) 871, the group began to formulate next steps - steps that were fleshed out on the bus ride home and at a follow-up meeting. Thank you letters would be written, and med students would connect with fellow students across the state to launch similar campaigns to maintain the pressure needed to enact the legislation.

With particularly tough lawmakers, Diane Edbril modeled persuasive arguments based on fact and precedent. She, too, was positive and persistent.

A week later, we learned that following our visit, a judiciary committee member from suburban Philadelphia had signed on to sponsor the bill. The power of activism, collaboration and the persistent talented efforts by people who would rather prevent than treat firearm injury can create change. The dedication and compassion of the medical students bodes well for the future of medicine and for our city and youth.

Pat Harner

PS. Our van driver, a 45-year member of the NRA, supports the purchase of "one handgun per month legislation."

Peaceful Posse (continued)

the Peaceful Posse Model." The training was facilitated by Brian Gallagher and Kay Brennan. Again, our training was very well received, and we have been asked to do the training again during the PCCYFS 2006 Summer Session.

On June 3rd, Gil Kinsey and Kay Brennan will present the Peaceful Posse Training Model as a training option for the Thirteenth Annual Foster Parent/Kinship Caregivers Conference, "Kids are People Too!" Peaceful Posse was selected, along with PSR's Bullying Prevention Program, to be part of this conference at the Temple Student Faculty Center.

Kay Brennan



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“These policies, in my view, started from sensible premises: that the best solution to the problem of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was that countries should no longer feel that they needed them; and that violators should be encouraged to walk back and rejoin the international community. These policies stressed the need for a cooperative approach to collective security and a rule-based international order. They highlighted the role of international verification and ‘effective multilateralism’.”

-Hans Blix, Chairman’s Preface to “Weapons of Terror: Freeing the World of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Arms.”

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Blix Commission (continued)

multilateralism and diplomacy. Violence in our streets is not prevented by bullying and intimidation, a point repeated by Mr. Lumpkin.

For a full text of the WMD report to to <http://go.philly.com/blix>. A limited number of copies of the report, "Weapons of Terrorism" are available through nonukearms@aol.com for \$15.

***Join with PSR to create a safer, sustainable future
 free of nuclear weapons . . .***

Please join PSR, one of the founding members of Project for Nuclear Awareness, an alliance of like-minded organizations that seek to reframe the nuclear disarmament issue by emphasizing the need to create a safer, sustainable future free of nuclear weapons. Through educational initiatives, we can influence upcoming elections, encourage Congress to consider seriously the recommendations of the Blix Commission Report, and realize concrete steps towards a safer and sustainable future for our colleagues and our children.

Join us as we take action.

Email pat.harner@verizon.net
 and give your contact information.