

# IPSR NEWS

Iowa Chapter, Physicians for Social Responsibility

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## IPSR Officers & Steering Members

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Conflict Resolution  
Wayne Osborn PhD  
David Bedell MD  
Veronika Kolder MD

If an evil god had turned human society into an infernal laboratory to explore the utmost extremes of violence, short only of human extinction, he could scarcely have improved upon the history of the twentieth century.

— Jonathan Schell, *The Unconquerable World*, 2003

## SMART SECURITY

Current Administration policy of engaging in costly, reckless, and unrestricted pursuit of any person or nation thought a potential terrorist could be characterized as Dangerous Unilateral Militarism, Bound to Backfire (DUMBB). PSR supports a Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism (SMART). IPSR has formally asked the Johnson County and Iowa State Democratic Party Committees to adopt a security policy resolution based on SMART as part of the Iowa Democratic Party Platform. Following is the draft version of PSR's SMART Security platform as presented by Ira Shorr in Iowa in April 2003.

*(A draft of the SMART platform follows on page 3)*

## Ira Schorr Visits Iowa City

IPSR held a series of lectures, meetings, and conferences in Iowa City and Des Moines April 11 through April 15, 2003 organized around the visit to Iowa by Ira Shorr, PSR's National Field Director for Security. The visit began with a presentation on Friday morning April 11 at the College of Public Health followed by a talk at the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council at noon. The talk was videotaped for later broadcast on local cable TV and was broadcasted on WSUI public radio on April 14. Ira met with the editorial staff at the Iowa Press Citizen that afternoon. Friday ended with an IPSR fund raiser and dessert reception for Ira

at the home of Marta and Burns Weston in Iowa City. At the reception, Ira presented the background and essential points of the SMART Security platform being developed and promoted by national PSR. Ira's alter ego, Senator Jess Trussme, announced his bid for the presidency and gave

*(Continued on page 2)*



**IPSR reception/fund raiser.** From left: Maureen Connolly, Karl Larsen, Ira Shorr, and Darrell Yeanny.

## Coalition Building

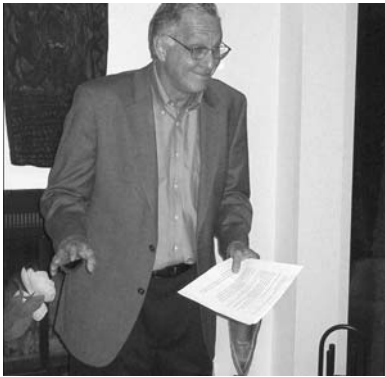
On Saturday April 19, 2003, IPSR participated in a coalition building session at the Wesley Center in Iowa City. The meeting was organized by Iowans for Peace to host a variety of Eastern Iowa activist groups and was moderated by Lori Nelson PhD of Iowans for Peace. Kathleen McQuillen of the American Friends Service Committee came from Des Moines and led a discussion on assembling a statewide coalition of organizations to share resources and work toward common peace and justice goals. Early planning was made for a statewide training meeting to be held in June to further organize the statewide coalition and educate coalition groups on various issues.

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Ira Shorr, continued from page 1)*

an entertaining stump speech highlighting the ultra-compassionate conservative stance that places the Senator definitively to the right of George W. Bush. The evening was well attended, including representatives of student PSR.

On April 12, IPSR held a morning educational conference at Iowa City Mercy



**Senator Jess Trussme**, Ira Shorr's alter ego.

Hospital at which Jim Fleming MD described the current unprecedented extinction rate of species as a result of environmental degradation; Jeremy Brigham PhD presented research on suicide and suicide prevention in Iowa; and Ira Shorr reviewed how current U.S. policies are counterproductive to developing security for the world, much less the U.S. That afternoon, a retreat was held for representatives of peace and justice groups from the Iowa City area to discuss promoting a variety of issues in the post Iraq war and pre-2004 election environment in Iowa.



From left: Peg Bouska, Maureen McCue, and Ellen Ballas.



**The dessert reception:** IPSR knows how to enjoy!



Foreground, from left: Burns Weston and Maria Hope. Background from left: Wayne Osborn and Jeremy Brigham.

On Sunday April 13, Ira Shorr was accompanied by PSR members, Maureen McCue MD PhD and John Rachow PhD MD, to Des Moines to a STAR\*PAC gathering at the Friends Meeting house. At the meeting, Maureen and John met with the Peace Time group founded by PSR member Nader Ajluni DO. Future collaborations with IPSR were planned. Ira stayed in Des Moines for the next day and met with the Iowa Ecumenical Ministries, AFL-CIO, and the Des Moines Register editorial staff before returning to Iowa City.

Ira attended the Iowa PSR chapter monthly business meeting Monday evening, April 14 to discuss development of the Iowa chapter and how National PSR and the Iowa chapter could collaborate in hiring an organizer (*See IPSR Hires Organizer on page 3*) during the eight months leading up to the 2004 Iowa Caucuses to help promote SMART through coalition building and public education on issues of key importance to PSR.

On Tuesday April 15, Ira Shorr and John Rachow were hosted by Dennis Reese on WSUI Radio's program *Iowa Talks* in a program entitled "The Aftermath of the War in Iraq." Later on Tuesday, before returning to Washington DC, Ira met with the University of Iowa medical student PSR affiliate to discuss SMART security issues.

Though exhausted, the chapter was energized by Ira Shorr's visit and a little awed at the opportunity to work with national PSR on such important issues.  $\Omega$

*(Coalition Building, continued from page 1)*

At the behest of IPSR, Iowans for Peace in Iraq, Iowans for Peace, Iowa United Nations Association, and Campaign against War, Iowa City area progressive organizations met on Tuesday April 29 at the Iowa City Library to explore greater cooperative efforts. Burns Weston, Maureen McCue, and Karen Pease each spoke to provide the context for a new coalition and the ensuing open discussion of the spectrum of leading issues. Representatives of about 15 organizations attended the meeting and pre-

sented their credentials, their group's issues of interest, primary goals, and available resources. A broad range of progressive issues were brought forth. Logistics were roughed out among represented groups for communication, collaboration on projects, and coordination for sharing resources. In addition to cooperating on future local activities, groundwork was laid for organized representation of the Iowa City area to the emerging statewide coalition. At the end of the meeting Katy Hansen and Garry Klein helped the attendees develop a consensus statement.

Representatives of several Iowa City area groups met again May 21 to further organize the emerging coalition. To keep members updated and in communication, a list serve set up by Iowans for Peace in Iraq was announced, and plans tentatively made for a paper publication to be edited by Blake Robinswood of Pledge of Resistance. Member organizations would provide content for the publication on a rotating basis. A name for the new coalition of organizations was provisionally selected: Peoples Coalition for Social, Political, and Environmental Responsibility.  $\Omega$

(SMART, continued from page 1)

### SMART—A draft presented in Iowa City April 2003

- I. Preventing Acts of Terrorism and Future Wars by Strengthening International Institutions and the Rule of Law
  - a. Reject unilateral preemptive war as a means of resolving international conflict.
  - b. Increase support for UN and other cooperative security programs.
  - c. Actively support and adhere to international treaties, like the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and institutions like the International Criminal Court.
  - d. Increase funding for humanitarian and sustainable development programs, which address the root causes of instability and terrorism, like hunger, illiteracy and unemployment.
  
- II. Reducing the Threat and Stopping the Spread of Nuclear Weapons
  - a. Set an example for the rest of the world by renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons, the development of *new* nuclear weapons, and the testing of nuclear weapons.
  - b. Work with Russia to dismantle nuclear warheads – reducing nuclear stockpiles to no more than 1000 on each side. And increase funding for programs to secure Russian nuclear weapons and materials so they cannot fall into the hands of terrorists.
  
- III. Reducing the Threat and Stopping the Spread of Biological and Chemical Weapons.
  - a. Rejoin the global effort to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention – an international treaty to curb the spread of biological weapons.
  - b. Provide adequate funding and commitment to strengthen the inspection regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention, while accelerating the disposal of U.S chemical weapons stockpiles in a manner protective of public and environmental health.
  
- IV. Changing Budget Priorities to Reflect Real Security Needs.
  - a. Eliminate military spending for unnecessary weapons and programs, and invest these resources in homeland security programs and domestic security needs for health care, education, and jobs.
  - b. Provide dramatic new investments in renewable and safe energy alternatives that will reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil and confront the growing threat from global warming.
  - c. Provide adequate peacekeeping and development funding in troubled nations like Afghanistan to secure long-term peace and stability. Ω

## IPSR Hires an Organizer

National PSR will provide \$8000 for an organizer to work through the January 2004 Iowa Caucuses to promote the points of SMART security to Iowans and candidates. IPSR has committed matching support of \$1000 plus support for travel and other expenses. This translates to at least a \$2500 commitment by the IPSR Chapter.

David Burgess, one of the organizers of the Iowa Peace Camp, was hired in late May to fill this new post. A key task will be to

recruit and organize constituent groups on SMART Security who can send individual members to the Iowa Caucuses in January 2004. David will coordinate activities with a counterpart based in Des Moines, Mary Gardam, who was recently hired by STAR\*PAC. Joint activities may include planning Presidential candidate forums. This will be an excellent opportunity for PSR members in Iowa to help IPSR contribute matching money in our first major joint project with national PSR. Ω

## Blood for Peace, Not Oil and UI Teach-in

IPSR helped Iowans for Peace with Iraq organize a day of blood donations. On April 29, 2003 over 40 donors gave blood for peace.

The blood donations were taken adjacent to the Iowa Union while a teach-in held in the Iowa Union. Maureen McCue MD

PhD presented the points of SMART Security as a panelist at one of the teach-in sessions that also discussed assaults on labor and civil liberties in the name of security. Ω

## Health and Environmental Effects of the Wars in Iraq

by Maureen Connolly, MD

*Dr. Connolly spoke on this topic at a pre-Iraq War University Wide Teach-in March 5, 2003 at the Iowa Memorial Union. Dr. Connolly is Co-Director of IPSR.*

PSR took a strong public stand against the recent war in Iraq. From a global health and humanitarian standpoint it was clear that such a war would inflict more suffering on a people already ravaged by two wars in the prior two decades.

The aftermath of the recent invasion reveals a country in the throes of a public health disaster. More than half of the ambulances still in operation were destroyed or stolen. The rest have been looted and are unusable. And once a person gets to a hospital there is no guarantee that care can be provided. Medications and supplies are simply not available. Um Qasr, the site of the first victorious raising of the American flag, sees its people in desperate need of food and medicine. Journalists report children standing at the roadside crying "Water, water" as vehicles drive past.

On May 14 Reuter's reported a confirmed outbreak of cholera in Basra, Iraq's second largest city. Basra's Central Laboratory was ransacked, leaving public health

**The half life of depleted uranium, used to enhance conventional munitions, is over four billion years.**

workers with no functioning system of sanitation surveillance. In the past such infection outbreaks were quickly contained, but unless the Laboratory is rebuilt and equipped, physicians expect this and other infectious disease outbreaks to grow quickly to epidemic proportions. The current wave of infection is believed due to widespread water contamination since water treatment plants and sewer pumping stations, already crippled by the first Gulf War, were rendered inoperable by the current war. It is estimated that only one third of the population can afford some bottled water; the rest are left with the untreated water flowing in their streams and rivers.

The population of much of Iraq, particularly in and around Baghdad, are left unaided to deal with unexploded cluster bombs, depleted uranium(DU) bullets, and aerosolized DU from exploded DU-enhanced munitions. In the first Gulf War in 1991, 300 tons of DU had been used in Iraq in 1991; estimates from the recent war

range from 75 up to 1000 tons. While military personnel are instructed to avoid areas in which DU had been used, and to wear protective

clothing at sites of prior explosions, Iraqi children play with DU cluster bomblets and bullets found in their yards, streets, and rubble. The Christian Science Monitor reported May 28 that some finger-sized bullets were measured as having radiation levels nearly 1,900 times background level. The half life of DU is over four billion years. The implications for Iraqi children, should this indeed prove to be causally related to the sharp increase in birth defects and childhood cancers noted in areas in which DU was used in the first Gulf War, are horrifying.

Sadly, the lessons of history, even very recent history, continue to be ignored.  $\Omega$

## The Environment? Hello...

by James L. Fleming, MD

*A version of this article appeared in the Des Moines Register May 2003. Dr. Fleming is a practicing psychiatrist in Southeast Iowa.*

As the military action in Iraq comes to a close the President and lawmakers are turning their attention to domestic issues such as the economy. One issue being largely ignored, even by Democratic contenders for the White House, is that of the environment. While U.S. and Iraqi soldiers were fighting and dying and Iraq's environment being destroyed, the Bush administration was quietly continuing its

assault on environmental protections that legislators in both parties worked hard

to establish decades ago. This assault has taken many forms, from cutting funds for clean water programs, to drilling for natural gas and other fuels in previously protected natural areas including sites sacred to Native American tribes, and to the President's refusal to renew taxes on

finances on toxic waste polluters.

Announcements about revoking environmental rules are often made on Fridays or other days when media attention is scant. At other times, industry-friendly but environmentally-toxic programs are promoted with deceptively reassuring names. President Bush's "Clear Skies" program is a prime example. This plan relaxes key pollution controls on power plants and will actually make our skies less clear and our lungs more irritated, sometimes with fatal consequences.

According to Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Bush plan, "Clear Skies" would allow 450,000 more tons of nitrous oxide to be released per year than is currently allowed under existing Clean Air

**"Clear Skies" is a prime example of industry-friendly, environmentally-toxic programs promoted with deceptively reassuring names.**

Act provisions and three times more pollution by mercury, a metal known to be highly toxic, especially to developing human fetuses and children. The plan would also fuel global warming by allowing the oldest, dirtiest plants to continue operating without pollution

reduction upgrades.

We supposedly went to war in Iraq to protect Americans, but according to a report by the Rockefeller Family Fund ([www.rffund.org](http://www.rffund.org)), in 2001, U.S. power plants were responsible for the death of about 5,000 people, more than those killed in the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

The "Clear Skies" proposal is expected to increase the number of air-pollution related deaths due to asthma, cancer, and cardiopulmonary disease. Industry lobbyists, not surprisingly, support the Bush plan and are vigorously opposing bipartisan legislation introduced into Congress that would strengthen pollution control and dramatically reduce major power plant pollutants. Bush strategists are hoping warm and fuzzy names like "Clear Skies" will either not be noticed by most Americans, or be accepted at face value.

Call your Senators (800-839-5276) and ask them to support the bill, "Clean Power Act," being reintroduced as S. 366 by James Jeffords (I-VT), Susan Collins (R-ME) and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) that will make our air cleaner, not dirtier.  $\Omega$

## News In Gun Violence by Kirsten Meredith

*Ms Meredith is a Public Health student at UI, PSR member, and Communication Director for Iowans for Prevention of Gun Violence.*

Iowa's Legislature adjourned this Spring without action on a bill, supported by PSR, to regulate secondary sales of firearms by extending the Brady background check requirement to all gun sales, including those made by unlicensed sellers. However, US legislators are still debating gun issues of major significance in Washington. The two issues to keep an eye on right now are gun industry immunity and the assault weapons ban.

The US House, with the support of all five Iowa representatives, passed a bill that would eliminate the right of gun violence victims, and municipalities whose resources have been drained by gun violence, to file suit against gun manufacturers, distributors and dealers. If this bill were to become law, it

would make it impossible for an industry already exempt from federal health and safety standards to be held accountable for negligence. No other industry enjoys such blanket protection.

The Senate will vote on the measure later this session, and President Bush has said he will sign it into law. Opponents of

the bill plan a filibuster to stop it. However, if supporters of the bill have 60 votes, they can break a filibuster. Currently, the bill has 52 co-sponsors including Iowa's Charles Grassley.

The federal assault weapons ban (AWB) was enacted by Congress in 1994 as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. However, the current AWB has a time limit of 10 years and will expire on September 14, 2004, unless reauthorized by the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress and signed into law by President Bush. Both President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft have stated their support for a ban on assault weapons.

Unfortunately, the current AWB failed to fully meet the intent of Congress when it passed the ban in 1994. Gun manufacturers have been able to circumvent the ban by making small modifications to their weapons, renaming them, and marketing them as legal post-ban models. Examples are the Colt Match Target Rifle, Olympic

**The Assault Weapons Ban, passed in 1994 will expire September 2004 unless reauthorized by Congress.**

Arms PCR-16 (PCR stands for "politically correct rifle"), and Intratec AB-10 (AB stands for "after ban").

Two bills have been introduced to deal with the ban. One, introduced in the Senate by Diane Feinstein (D-CA) who headlined the bill in 1994, would offer only straight reauthorization. The other, pro-

posed in the House by Representatives Conyers (D-MI) and McCarthy (D-NY), would address the limitations of the current ban, improving it to meet the original intent of lawmakers. PSR and its Coalition partner, Iowans for the Prevention of Gun Violence, support the stronger bill introduced by Conyers and McCarthy. Call and support this bill:

In other news, at the NRA convention in Florida a few weeks ago, the leader-  
John Conyers (D-MI) 202-225-5126

Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) 202-225-5516

### Iowa Representatives

Jim Leach (1st Dist.) 202-225-6576

Jim Nussle (2nd Dist.) 202-225-2911

Leonard Boswell (3rd Dist.) 202-225-3086

Tom Latham (4th Dist.) 202-225-5476

Steve King (5th Dist.) 202-225-4426

ship of the organization changed. Charlton Heston has stepped down as President, handing

over the reigns of the nation's most infamous gun rights organization to an Iowan, Kayne Robinson, who was a former head of the Republican party in Iowa and a former Des Moines police chief. Ω

## Violence Prevention 10 Years Ago from: *PSR — A History of Accomplishments*

Violence prevention is one of PSR's three main areas of focus. While there is overlap with prevention of international conflict, PSR and IPSR are active in the issues of domestic violence and gun sales in the U.S. IPSR has joined this year with Iowans for Prevention of Gun Violence and other Iowa organizations in the Iowa Coalition for Prevention of Firearm Injury.

Over the years, PSR has worked steadily on the public health issue of gun violence in the U.S. The Brady Bill, that mandated a five-day waiting period on all gun purchases, was passed in 1993 with the support of PSR. This milestone was the first gun control legislation passed in the 20 year hiatus since gun laws had been passed just after the Robert Kennedy assassination in 1968.

In 1994, PSR used its grassroots network to help convince Congress to pass a ban on assault weapons. Senator Bob Dole vowed the next year, to the National Rifle Association, to rescind the ban. PSR medical students were instrumental in attracting media attention with a series of "Heal-Ins." to help PSR successfully keep the ban in effect.

These landmark bills were a start. Major loopholes persist in the sales of guns, and the assault weapons ban is due not just for renewal but needs strengthening as well.

Visit PSR's website, [www.psr.org](http://www.psr.org), to learn more of PSR's 40-plus year history and read the full text of the document, *PSR — A History of Accomplishments*. Ω

## My Thinking.....Homo sapiens Consultation by David Drake, DO

**Preventing war is really a medical issue,  
as much as anything else.**

Reprinted with permission from the journal, *Iowa Psychiatrist*.

Years ago, my daughter, now 15, shocked me when she asked me if Osama Bin Laden was going to bomb our family. Since then, our country's government has taken to war as a solution for arms control and terrorism. It is the rare writer who brings up the question of our own part in terror rising against our population. As in working with married couples in conflict, the fingers are pointed at each other across vast oceans and deserts. 'We' are right and 'they' are wrong. It is dangerously simple.

As of this date, we have yet to find the weapons we were told were being hidden and at least several thousand civilians have died. In order to save a people, we are told, our political leaders ordered a wholesale slaughter of nearly enslaved young men in uniform from another culture. Estimates of the number of dead Iraqi soldiers are not forthcoming. Is anybody interested?

After many years of consulting with individuals, couples, and families, I am left with the conclusion that our often-times humorous species, of which we are a part, is in trouble. We keep killing each other over minor differences or no differences at all. We are tied into our stone-age past with evolutionary reactions that drive up our blood pressure with an impressive fight or flight mechanism that diminishes thoughtful responses. We tie together religion, endorsing what our President

says, all with being patriotic. Ironically, dissent is condemned in our own country, even as we say we are fighting for the right to freedoms in other lands.

Preventing war is really a medical issue, as much as anything else. Distinctions must be made between one country's argument with another government and its people. Mediating conflict is an essential component of offering an alternative to continuing to deal with our differences by a technology that is more lethal than ever. Physicians, including psychiatrists, can make their voices heard and offer concrete help, such as food and medical supplies, by joining such groups as Physicians For Social Responsibility ([www.psr.org](http://www.psr.org)) and **D O C T O R S W I T H O U T B O R D E R S** ([doctorswithoutborders.org](http://doctorswithoutborders.org)).

I respect arguments on both sides of this conflict, in our own country, and strive to listen rather than speak when the topic of 'what to do' comes up. There is no simple answer as we are taught to believe. And yet, increasingly, we are hearing from the young and the very old that war as a solution to the problems of hate, economic inequality, and injustice is no longer acceptable.

I encourage each of you to be involved in your own way.

David E. Drake, D.O., FACN, DFAPA, editor of the *Iowa Psychiatrist*, has a solo private practice in Des Moines and can be reached at:  
[ddrakedo1@qwest.net](mailto:ddrakedo1@qwest.net)



## Immigrants and Refugees Video Project

National PSR has awarded \$1000 to IPSR to help create an educational video on immigrants and refugees in Iowa. IPSR Co-Director, Maureen McCue MD PhD has developed this project to reduce bias against immigrants and refugees and highlight the mutual benefits of developing more inclusive communities in Iowa. The IPSR chapter has also set aside \$250 toward this project to match the support of national PSR.

Changes in attitudes since September 11, 2001 have made it easy to forget that America is truly a country of immigrants and refugees and to forget the invitation inscribed on the Statue of Liberty. While being welcomed to Iowa as workers, immigrants are met with mixed messages of the recently passed English-only bill, substandard housing, poor reception into Iowa communities, and even hate crimes. Immigrants and refugees are over represented in the most undesirable, dangerous, and low paying jobs at the same time their unique physical and mental health needs are left

poorly met. Maureen Connolly MD, Co-Director of IPSR and Medical Director of the Iowa City Free Clinic, confirms that the Free Clinic is heavily involved in providing health care to the immigrant and refugee community.

Dr. McCue says the 30-minute video could potentially be used in high schools, churches, Rotary Clubs, hospitals, and colleges as an educational tool to raise awareness of the plight of the surprisingly high numbers but relatively invisible communities of immigrants and refugees in Iowa. Dr. McCue, whose PhD is in medical anthropology and epidemiology, originally developed interest in these issues as Director of the University of Iowa's Global Health Studies Program. She teaches a course on U.S. Experience of Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees at the University of Iowa and saw the need for an instructional video based on the Iowa experience.

According to McCue, producing this kind of video ordinarily would cost about \$80,000, a daunting sum. Support to pro-

duce the video is being garnered from a variety of sources. The University of Iowa Video Center will contribute equipment and personnel to do filming and editing. The Video Center's support can be valued at about \$50,000. Financial donations from a variety of interested groups and stakeholders will pay for tapes, translator services, and required travel. The University of Iowa Global Health Studies program has already provided \$500 in support of the video project. Extensive volunteer time will ensure the video is a labor of love.

An advisory board for production of the video was formed with representatives from the immigrant and refugee community, city and state institutions that provide services to immigrants, and from the Iowa City Free Clinic.

Dr. McCue expects the video to be ready for distribution in the summer of 2004.  $\Omega$

## Chapter Development

IPSR's first year after reactivation has been exciting and busy. The lists of both completed successful projects and active projects continue to grow. Working relationships with a wide range of other organizations have rapidly developed as many of IPSR's goals can better be attained by working within selected coalitions. Yet, direct support of PSR members in Iowa will continue to be crucial.

In addition to maintaining your membership in PSR, consider becoming personally involved in existing or initiating new IPSR projects. IPSR would be glad to re-

ceive, republish in the newsletter, and archive any articles or Op-Eds written by members. Tell us how you would like to be credited in the newsletter and send a photo of yourself or a local activity if possible. IPSR continues to solicit your input of ideas and constructive criticism by US post, e-mail, or fax on how to make IPSR better representative of Iowa issues and to strengthen the base of support throughout the state.

IPSR understands that health-care professionals tend to be busy and have dense time commitments but typically still wish

to be more socially responsible. If this describes you, consider a financial donation to IPSR. The back of the membership tear-off has a list of active IPSR projects that currently need your support. Please considering earmarking a donation specifically to one of the listed projects. Donations are tax deductible.

Existing PSR members can each be salespersons for PSR. Pass on the registration/donation tear-off at the end of the newsletter to colleagues whom you think might be interested in PSR membership.  $\Omega$

## PSR Medical Student Affiliate Activities

A medical student affiliate became active at the University of Iowa during the Fall of 2003. Jennifer Jacobs, Tim Eldridge, and Beth Newall have provided liaison to IPSR. The student group organized a film series during the Fall. In the Spring, luncheon-lectures were held where experts were invited to speak to the students about health effects of war and recent loss of civil liberties. IPSR supported one

of the luncheon-lectures.

Several students have gone on to develop a mobile clinic to serve poor immigrants and refugees in the Iowa City Area. The mobile clinic draws on faculty mentors from the University of Iowa College of Medicine.

During the last academic year, Tim Eldridge, student PSR member, drew media attention with a piece he wrote on why

medical students should be activists.

IPSR is encouraging the student PSR affiliate to apply for official status as a University Student group. Achieving such status would bring limited financial support from the University for the students' activities. IPSR can also receive donations earmarked to support the University of Iowa Student PSR affiliate.  $\Omega$

## Recommended Reading

Two books are highlighted in this issue of *IPSR News* that bracket most of the twentieth century. The cauldron of the Spanish Civil war and rise of fascism in the 1930's gave Virginia Woolf a stepping off point to discuss how to end war in *Three Guineas*. No matter how the world has changed in the last 70 years, *Three Guineas* is still fascinatingly relevant. Certainly, neither Woolf nor the civilized world foresaw how the technological innovations first applied in World War I would give rise to the "total war" that later emerged in World War II and was refined to the brink of human extinction with the first use of nuclear weapons. After writing *The Fate of the Earth* in the early 1980's, a thorough description of the reality of nuclear weapons that left no doubt in the mind of the reader what must next be done, Jonathan Schell has now published *The Unconquerable World*, a book that contemplates the post September 11 state of the world and that similarly leaves the reader with little doubt of what must now be done.

### Virginia Woolf, *Three Guineas*, New York: Harcourt (1938).

One of Virginia Woolf's three feminist tracts, *Three Guineas*, is an answer to the question: "How in your opinion, are we to prevent war?" The question was put to Woolf by a lawyer in *Three Guineas* who was soliciting support for a society working to prevent war.

Written in 1936-7 and published in 1938, *Three Guineas* was perhaps informed by the intense international interest in and horror of the Spanish Civil War, a proving ground for new technologies of war (Blitzkrieg, the ancestor to Shock and Awe) being developed by rising fascist states who sought empire and were preparing to launch World War II.

The male lawyer's solicitation asks Woolf to do three practical things to advance the effort to prevent war: "The first is to

sign a letter to the newspapers; the second is to join a certain society; the third is to subscribe to its funds." Woolf challenges us by dismissing these means as insubstantial, and proceeds in three chapters to explain why. In the process we are taught about time frames spanning centuries and of root causes from the viewpoint of women, a viewpoint inevitably different from that of men. The lesson, primacy of education of women, seems still not well learned by the world.

In the end Woolf donates three guineas, after due consideration and each for a different purpose, to end war. Though written before the era of total war and the specter of nuclear self-annihilation, this work can still be instructive to current activists.  $\Omega$

### Jonathan Schell, *The Unconquerable World--Power, Nonviolence, and the Will of the People*, New York: Metropolitan Books, Henry Holt and Company, (2003).

Jonathan Schell reviews the evolution of the relationships between war, politics, and power since the eighteenth century. This process reached its sad pinnacle with the advent of "total war" in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Schell writes in the Introduction: "If an evil god had turned human society into an infernal laboratory to explore the utmost extremes of violence, short only of human extinction, he could scarcely have improved upon the history of the twentieth century." Yet, the late twentieth century, with the end of the cold war and fall of totalitarian governments, often by nonviolent means, brought optimism and the dreams of the 1990's of a safer more peaceful world and even of a Peace Dividend from reduced military spending. These great prospects were shattered on September 11, 2001.

The U.S. responses to September 11 so far have been repressive and violent and now hint of a fundamental embrace by the U.S. of militarism and dreams of empire. In *The Unconquerable World*, Schell documents a number of surprising trends that emerged during the twentieth century that have been given little notice as a whole but that together describe a viable coop-

erative alternative to the path of violence. In the concluding chapters of *The Unconquerable World* Schell writes:

*In sum, the days when humanity can hope to save itself from force with force are over. None of the structures of violence—not the balance of power, not the balance of terror, not empire—can any longer rescue the world from the use of violence, now grown apocalyptic. Force can lead only to more force, not to peace. Only a turn to structures of cooperative power can offer hope. To choose that path, the United States would, as a first order of business, have to choose the American republic over the American empire, and then, on the basis of the principles that underlie the republic, join with other nations to build cooperative structures as a basis for peace.  $\Omega$*

## Membership Report

We now have 103 PSR members in Iowa plus 40 University of Iowa health professions students are registered with IPSR. In recent months, seven new members have joined PSR through IPSR, two former PSR members have reinstated their memberships through IPSR, and three PSR

members have made their annual renewal through IPSR.

Subject to national PSR approval, IPSR is allowed to retain the membership fee for new members and a decreasing percentage for subsequent renewals. This is an important source of funds for the chapter activities; therefore, it is important that new members and reinstatements register through the IPSR office. This also allows

IPSR to better keep track of who are currently active PSR members in Iowa and to keep an updated mailing list. **Ω**

## Contact Us

Got ideas? Questions? Contact us, please. Constructive criticism welcome.

Our mailing address: Iowa PSR  
20 E Market St, Room 200  
Iowa City, IA 52240

E-mail can be sent to: [mac81185@aol.com](mailto:mac81185@aol.com).

Faxes can be sent to: 319-828-9911

Check our web site: [www.iowa-psr.org](http://www.iowa-psr.org). (View and download this and old newsletters in PDF format.)

If you wish to contribute, join PSR, or renew membership please detach and complete both sides as appropriate.

### Donate to IPSR Projects. IPSR can now accept donations earmarked for specific projects.

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Please detach and pass on to physicians, other health care professionals, or citizens who may be interested in PSR.

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