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# Can democratic public schools bring peace and justice to society?

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Presented during the World Education Forum  
International Democratic Education Conference  
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Black & Latino Policy Institute Indianapolis, IN USA

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- Thanks to my sponsors:
    - The International Association for Learning Alternatives
    - The Indiana and the Marion County Green Parties
    - The Democratic Education Consortium, Indianapolis
    - Black & Latino Policy Institute, also in Indianapolis
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# Thesis statement:

- What does violence *do* for the individual?
  - What purposes are achieved through aggression and violence? (May, 1967)
  - Understanding the human need for recognition is at the heart of understanding human violence.
  - Find and promoting ways to meet this need will reduce violence.
  - Democratic public schools are a powerful means to this end.
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# Goals of the session:

- to understand how democratic public schools can help bring peace and justice to society
  - to help build civic capacity (wide public support) to endorse and help carry out the goals of the DEC and IDEC
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“Violence is here,  
In the world of the sane,  
And violence is a symptom.  
I hear it in the headlong weeping of men  
    who have failed.  
It is in the terrible dreams of boys  
Whose adolescence repeats all history.”

-- Rollo May in *Power and Innocence* quoting Jacob Bronowski from *The Face of Violence*

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# Violence is important

I believe we can understand violence and thus do something about it. Why?

- Because violence has a human face.

I do not believe a tiger attacking and killing a deer for food is violence.

- Violence is important because we do not want to get rid of it.
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# “...to salute and be saluted”

At the heart of violence, in act or in feeling, lies the wish to show ourselves men with a will. (But) the complexity of society makes man lose heart. Nothing he does any longer seems to be a skill to be proud of in a world where someone else always hits the headlines.

This is a plausible picture, in despair of which men cheerfully join any private army which will offer them the ambivalent identity of a uniform: the right to salute and be saluted.

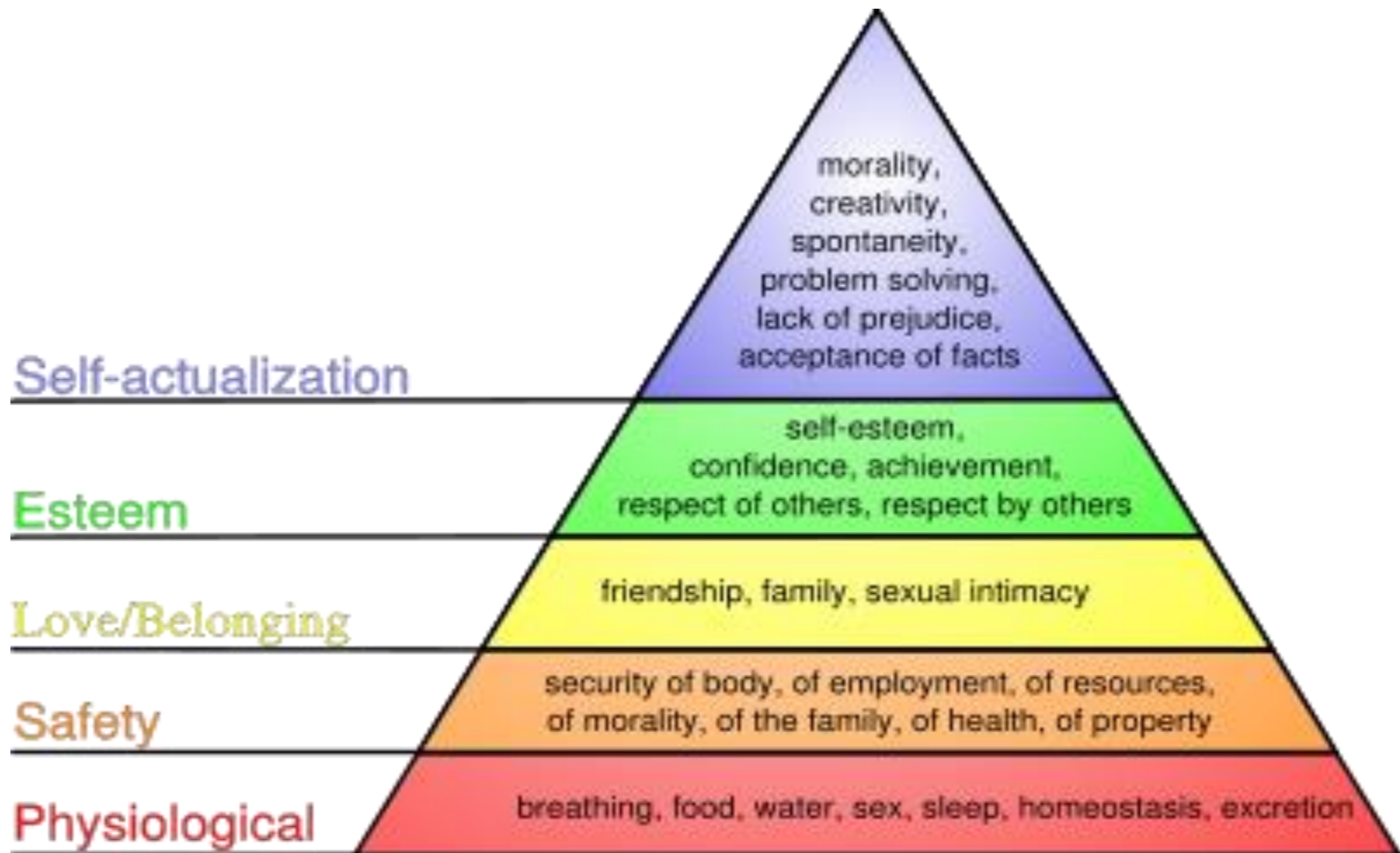
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# Maslow

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In the late 1950's, Abraham Maslow created his Hierarchy of Needs. The “father of Humanistic psychology” worked with others to understand our human potential as well as our limitations.





# Self-actualization

- Kurt Goldstein (Maslow's mentor)
- Self Actualization is the intrinsic growth of what is already in the organism, or more accurately, of what the organism is.
- Even if all these needs are satisfied, we may still often (if not always) expect that a new discontent and restlessness will soon develop, unless we as individuals are doing what, individually, we are fitted for. A musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, if each is to be ultimately at peace with themselves. What we *can* be, we *must* be. We must be true to our own nature. This need we may call self-actualization.

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# Self-actualization

- the instinctual need of humans to make the most of their abilities and to strive to be the best they can
  - reaching one's fullest potential
  - our desire for self-fulfillment, namely, to the tendency to become actualized in what we are potentially
  - the desire to become more and more what one idiosyncratically is, to become everything that one is capable of becoming
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# Characteristics of self-actualized persons

- They embrace the facts/realities of the world (including themselves) rather than denying or avoiding them.
- They are spontaneous in their ideas and actions.
- They are creative.
- They are interested in solving problems; this often includes the problems of others. Solving these problems is often a key focus in their lives.
- They feel a closeness to other people, and generally appreciate life.
- They have a system of morality that is fully internalized and independent of external authority.
- They judge others without prejudice, in a way that can be termed objective.

(Maslow's hierarchy of needs—self-actualization, 2006)

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“If we all agreed with each other, we wouldn’t need democracy.” –Deb Mierer

- Democracy: How do different people and/or groups share the same space?
    - What is fair for every one?
    - What is justice?
      - What do we have in common?  
(the common good?)
      - Balance? Equity?
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# *E pluribus unum*—along side the many, the one: The paradox of democracy

-- *Walter C. Parker*

- Paradox: democracy emphasizes the individual and group (common good) at same time
  - Democracy emphasizes individual uniqueness (how they're different, due to that difference: what's fair (what's shared in common) for a variety of individuals?)
  - By emphasizing what's good for the group, the individual is respected because this takes into account their uniqueness in determining what's fair
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## *Power* is basic to the issue

- Understanding aggression and violence requires *that power* be seen as basic to the problem.
  - Try to reach a level below *both* the
    - nature and nurture theories
    - instinct and culture arguments
  - **What does violence *do* for the individual?**
  - **What purposes does he/she achieve through aggression and violence?**
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# It all concerns power & what to do about it

To be alive is power,  
Existing in itself  
Without a further function,  
Omnipotence enough.

-- Emily Dickinson

Wherever I found the living,  
there I found the will to power.

-- Friedrich Nietzsche

*Thus Spake Zarathustra*

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# Levels of power

There are 5 levels of power present as potentialities in every human being's life.

Rollo May, *Power and Innocence: A Search for the Source of Violence* (1967)

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# The 1st level is *the power to be*.

- Power is given in the act of birth--the sheer fact the infant *lives*.
  - The newborn infant—crying, violently waving arms as signs of discomfort, demanding hunger or other needs be met
    - the child must be able to find their power and use it—
      - *To be*: to be powerful
  - What if the infant is denied the experience that their actions can get a response from others?
    - Rene Spitz's studies of infant orphans in Puerto Rico
    - With no attention from nurses or mother substitutes, children literally withered away physiologically and psychologically.
  - The ultimate impotence is death.
  - Power is central in the development of personality.
    - We become adult in ways that reflect the dynamics of power
  - The power to be is neither good nor evil; it is prior to them.
  - But it is *not* neutral. It must be lived out or neurosis, psychosis, or violence will result.
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# The 2nd phase is *self-affirmation*.

- Besides the need to be, we have to affirm our own being.
  - Physical survival is not enough, **but survival *with some esteem***.
    - *a sense of significance and fulfillment that is innately self-satisfying and appreciated by others.*
  - Since humans are self-conscious, the question of *significance* emerges, and the long and crucially important quest for self-esteem or its substitute is continuous
  - *The cry for recognition becomes the central cry in this need for self-affirmation*
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J. A. Brown receives entertainment award at Black Expo from Joyce Roger. Indianapolis, Indiana July 27, 2007



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# The 3rd level is *self-assertion*

- When self-affirmation meets resistance we make greater effort, we give power to our stance.
    - Making clear what we are want, what we believe;  
We state it now against opposition.
  - It is a stronger form of behavior, more overt than self-affirmation.
    - It is a potentiality in all of us that we react to attack.
  - *This is drawing a line in the sand.*  
We make it unavoidable that the others see us as we cry:
    - "Here I am; I demand that you notice me!"
  - "Attention must be paid ..."
-

Do you let people walk all over you?



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# The 4th level of power is *aggression*

- **When self-assertion is blocked over a period of time --as it was for African Americans in the US-- this stronger form of reaction tends to develop.**
  - **In contrast to self-assertion, which is drawing a line at a certain point and insisting "This is me, this is mine; recognize me!"**
    - *this is crossing the line*
  - **Aggression: moving into the position of power or prestige or the territory of another and taking possession of some of it for one's self.**
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# Aggression

- This is a phase of behavior that exists as a potentiality in every person
- The motives may be righteous enough: passion for liberation; or pride; or any one of many things.
  - In the right situation, it can be whipped into action
- When aggressive tendencies are blocked over a period of time, they take their toll in a zombie-like deadening of consciousness, neurosis, psychosis, or violence.



# Positive aggressiveness

## Conquering cholesterol

How three Hoosiers took control of their high cholesterol levels through lifestyle and other changes.

Stories by Barb Bergs



Gina Heath, a 32-year-old mom, chose to lower her cholesterol levels without the help of medicine. Her new diet made it happen (and helped her lose 20 pounds in the process).

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Not a... and over... tend to...

...the high... of the American H... And many don't... there... myself

Here's how... ate conquering... problems

<< Gina Hea... of the old Hoosie... wasn't... it is... or even... a... But the... found out... doctor

## Beating cancer through exercise

I never thought in a million years I would be battling cancer at age 23. Growing up, I was a competitive swimmer. Sports had always interested me, but through college and out of college I had not been really good about sticking with an exercise program. I was diagnosed with Hodgkins' disease, a type of lymphoma, in August 1999. I had been out of college for a year and worked for an ad agency in Indianapolis.

I contacted the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to find out about my disease. They shared with me a program called Team in Training and said they were looking for cancer survivors to be patient honorees. Toward the end of my treatment, I served as an honoree for the 500 Festival Mini-Marathon in May 2000.

I was so inspired by these individuals who were novice athletes raising thousands of dollars by participating in endurance events. I made a promise to myself — if my health continues to improve, I would do the Mini the next year. I had to rebuild my body from scratch because of all the treatment I had gone through. I joined Team in Training.

At first, it was hard to walk a mile. I trained three to four days during the



KELLY WILKINSON / The Star

**SURVIVOR'S REGIMEN:** Leigh Hinkle, 31, tries to walk daily, usually with her 11-month-old daughter, Emily Hinkle.

weekend. The actual event was easier I thought. It took me 3 1/2 hours. I fell in love with being healthy and taking care of my body.

After the Mini, I ran-walked the Indianapolis Half-Marathon in Lawrence in 2001. Then in June 2002, I walked the Mayor's Midnight Sun Marathon in Anchorage, Alaska.

Then I decided I wanted to get a tri crown with Team in Training — marathons, triathlon and a century (100-mile) bike ride. I did the Chicago Triathlon with my boyfriend. I swam twice a week, rode a bike and ran on the weekends.

At the end of the event, he proposed. We got married and had a baby last September.

I believe I am cancer-free today because of the physical activity I have chosen to do. It's an important part of who I am.

### What drove me:

>> I always remembered that I beat cancer and how hard that was. I wanted to do whatever I had to so I didn't go through that again.

>> I also wanted to raise money for

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# Destructive Aggression

The “Blitzkrieg”

Schoolyard Bullying

Intimidating police tactics

Mandatory K-12 public school uniforms such as the Indianapolis, Indiana public schools have done

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August 24, 2006 On the surface, this behavior modification scheme seems necessary, but do these actions cover up a form of violence?

## Girls must toe the line at new IPS school



DANESE KENON / The Star

**CENTER STAGE:** Sixth-grader Jasmin Satsfield performed a skit on how to behave at Coleman Academy for Girls on Wednesday. The IPS all-girls school is based on a disciplined and structured approach. A similar all-boys school shares the building.

## Discipline is central to all-girl academy

By Andy Gammill  
andy.gammill@indy.com

As they lined up for assembly Wednesday, smartly uniformed girls who strayed 3 inches out of position or tapped the corridor wall drew reprimands from their teachers at the Coleman Academy for Girls.

Until they all got it right, the 200 fourth-through sixth-graders spent more than 20 minutes taking laps around the school.

When teachers decided they had ended disruptions and the girls had formed a perfect line and could make tight 90-degree turns, the students earned entrance to the gathering.

Strictness is part of the drill at the academy, which Indianapolis Public Schools opened this week in what had been Coleman Middle School on the Near Northside.

Twinned with a similar academy for



**STANDING SQUARES:** Girls who disrupt the school may be required to stand in a taped-off floor square for 30 minutes for the first offense, an hour for the second, and all day for the third.

boys, the school is based on the discipline and structured approach used by a national charter school organization, Knowledge Is Power Program, which has a school in Indianapolis.

Creating same-gender classes or working with a charter school is considered daring

### ABOUT THE ACADEMY

- ◆ Follows a national model: The Coleman Academy for Girls shares the campus at 1740 E. 30th St. with Coleman Academy for Boys and the charter school both are patterned after, Knowledge Is Power Program. The program is used by more than 50 U.S. schools and is credited with boosting students' test scores.

- ◆ Longer days — and some Saturdays: The academy has 70 percent more class time than a regular school. Students must attend classes two Saturdays a month.

- ◆ Teachers on call: Teachers are given cell phones, and pupils are encouraged to call with homework questions.

- ◆ Discipline: The academy requires strict adherence to rules. Punishment for class disruptions is 30 minutes of standing in a square. Second offense is an hour; third is a full day.

- ◆ Enrollment: About 200.

See Girls, Page A12

# Constructive Aggression

- Anti-slavery abolitionists fit the definition of aggression very well. They were actively moving into the territory of others (slaves were personal property and sanctified thereby) to accomplish a restructuring of power.
- The aggression of the abolitionists succeeded in its central aim—to combat the apathy that arose when many citizens felt there was no way they could stop slavery. But this possibility did not stop them. They continued to wake up the country and permitted no man's conscience to sleep.
- In contrast to affirmation and assertion, aggression occurred because the opposition was so entrenched and apathy and inertia were so strong that greater force was necessary for stirring up effective action.

August 7, 2007

# Protesters steam outside as mayor offers budget



KELLY WILKINSON / THE STAR

**PACKED ROOM:** Sheriff's Deputy Aaron McClellan mans the door to the Public Assembly Room at the City-County Building. Many of the people in the hall were allowed to join the standing-room-only crowd inside Monday, but a few dozen residents were turned away.

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# Constructive aggression: Must have a complaint and goal

- *Abolitionists had a **powerful grievance**--the inhuman character of slavery. They also had **powerful aim** at stake--the possibility of correcting injustice.*
  - *While destructive aggression sometimes contains only the first, both of these must be present in constructive aggression.*
-

August 7, 2007

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR • WWW.INDYSTAR.COM

World

# 5 more boycott Iraqi Cabinet

Exodus of Sunnis from government is a blow to leader's reconciliation efforts

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's political crisis worsened Monday as five more ministers announced a boycott of Cabinet meetings, leaving the embattled prime minister's unity government with no members affiliated with Sunni political factions.

The new cracks in Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government appeared even as U.S. military officials sounded cautious notes of progress on security, citing strides against insurgents linked to al-Qaida in Iraq but also new threats from Iranian-backed Shiite militias.

The Cabinet boycott by five

ministers loyal to former Iraqi leader Ayad Allawi left the government, at least temporarily, without participants who were members of the Sunni political apparatus, a deep blow to the prime minister's attempt to craft reconciliation among the country's majority Shiites and minority Sunnis and Kurds.

The Allawi bloc, a mixture of Sunnis and Shiites, cited al-Maliki's failure to respond to its demands for political reform. The top Sunni political bloc already had pulled its six ministers from the 40-member Cabinet of al-Maliki, a Shiite, last week.

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, who has been trying to broker the Sunni bloc's return in a bid to hold the government together, met Monday with U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and a White House envoy.

## IRAQ: NEWS IN BRIEF

Monday's developments:

### 5 American soldiers killed in combat

**Baghdad** — Four U.S. soldiers died Monday from wounds suffered in a combat explosion in restive Diyala province north of Baghdad, the American military reported. Twelve others had minor injuries and returned to duty.

The military statement announcing the deaths said identities of the victims were withheld until family could be notified.

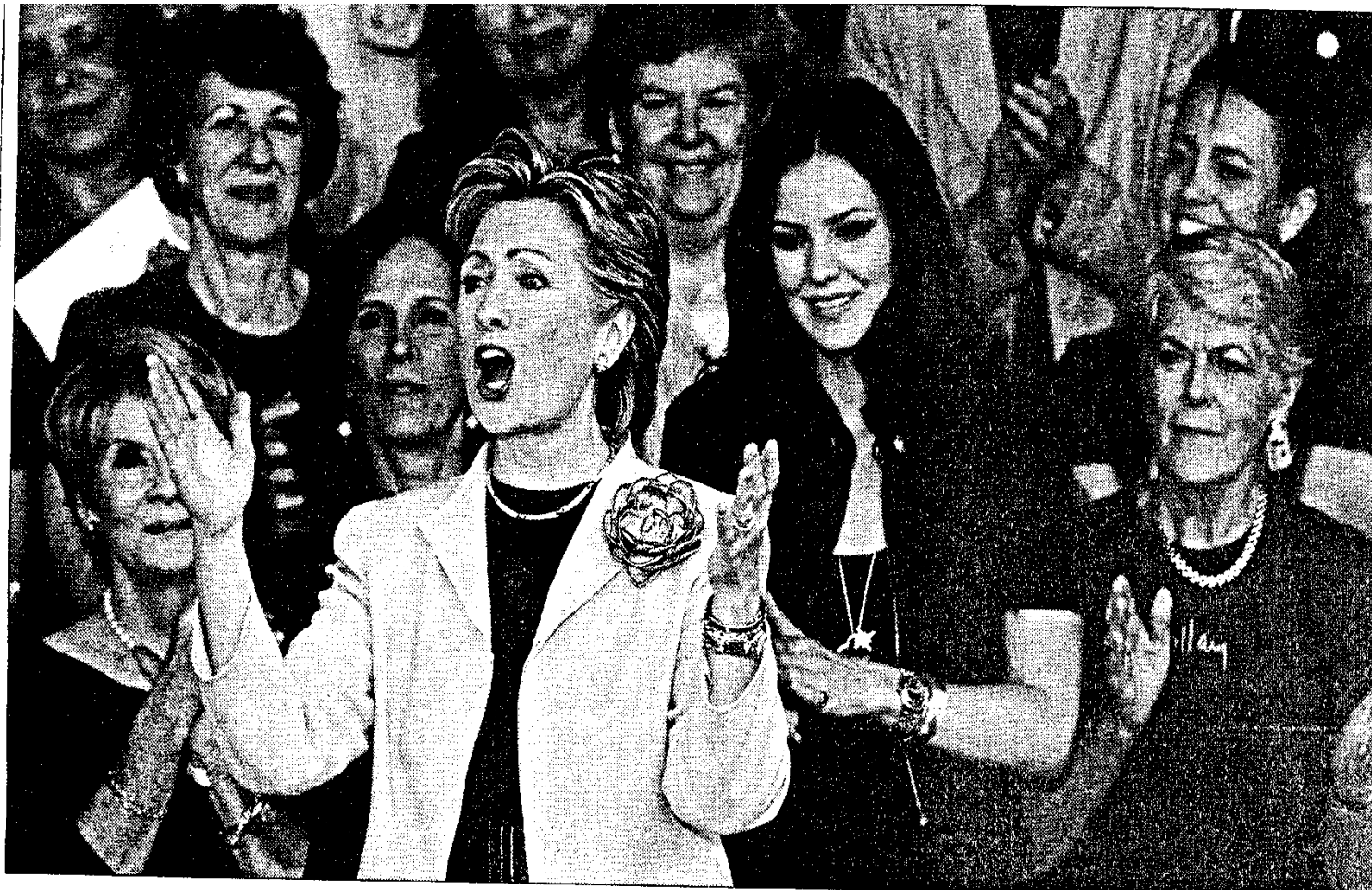
Earlier Monday, the military said one soldier was killed during fighting in eastern Baghdad a day earlier.

At least 3,673 U.S. military members, including 93 with Indiana ties, have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003.

### Other developments:

◆ **Tal Afar** — A suicide bomber slammed a dump truck filled with explosives and covered with a layer of gravel into a crowded Shiite neighborhood of this religiously mixed city, killing at least 28 people, including at least 19 children, according to Brig. Gen. Najim Abdullah.

— Star news services



By Jonathan Ernst, Reuters

**Building a b**  
New York Sen  
ry Rodham C  
takes the stag  
singer Katha  
McPhee, sec  
from right, a  
mer vice pre  
tial candidate  
aldine Ferran  
at a Club44 e  
Washington i  
Club44 is Clir  
women's out  
program.

# Fight is on to capture women's votes

Gender on the minds of candidates, voters

By Jill Lawrence

Clinton and a member of Club44. Clir

that she's a mother. She's "running as a woman" but also as a tough candidate for commander in chief, Bystrom says.

Kate Michelman, who heads an abortion rights group and is a former aide to John Edwards, says he "has alv



# The protester



By Mark Zaleski, AP

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# The humanity of the rebel

The love of violence is, to me, the ancient and symbolic gesture of man against the constraints of society.

Vicious men can exploit the impulse, but it is a disaster to treat the impulse as vicious.

For no society is strong that does not acknowledge the protesting man; and no man is human who does not draw strength from the natural animal.

Violence is the sphinx by the fireside, and she has a human face.

-- Rollo May in *Power and Innocence* quoting Jacob Bronowski from *The Face of Violence*

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# The 5th level is *violence*

- When aggression is ineffective, comes the ultimate explosion: violence
  - Level 5 is largely physical
    - Other levels which can involve reasoning or persuasion have been blocked off.
    - The cerebrum being bypassed:
      - The stimulus transmitted from the environment to the individual is translated directly into the violent impulse to strike
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# Violence: A mix of internal and external manifestations

- We often speak of the tendency toward violence as building up inside the individual, but it is also a response to outside conditions.
  - The source of violence must be seen in both its internal and external manifestations:
    - *a response to a situation which is felt to block off all other ways of response.*
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# Destructive violence

- Mindless, faceless, numbing, horrible, devastating, shocking, gruesome, senseless, killing, killing, killing...and more killing...this love of suffering and death.
-

July 30, 2006

# War's chaos kills Congo's children by the millions

Disease and hunger  
claim 1 in 4 youngsters  
in the African nation  
before the age of 5

By Lydia Polgreen  
The New York Times

RUTSHURU, Democratic Republic of Congo — Children die here from the same ailments that kill children all across Africa — malaria, diarrhea, measles, malnutrition — but on a vast and cataclysmic scale.

The child mortality rate here in the most volatile eastern provinces is almost twice that of the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, which already has the world's highest rate, according to the International Rescue Committee, a nonprofit organization that has documented the death toll here in a series of mortality studies from 1998 to 2004.

Though Congo's civil war supposedly

“It is fair to say that the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been the deadliest for children in the past 60 years,” said Richard Brennan, health director of the International Rescue Committee. “No other conflict has had the same levels of excess mortality, and children have borne a disproportionate degree of this burden.”

About 30,000 children have been forced into militias, while untold thousands of girls have been raped, according to the UNICEF report. Children labor in toxic conditions at gold and diamond mines. Orphans choke the streets of Kinshasa, the capital.

At the hospital in North Kivu near the Rwandan border, where villages have been ravaged by war, the burden on children is on grim, daily display.

One 2-year-old boy, Amuri, strug-

**“The conflict in the . . . Congo has been the deadliest for children in the past 60 years.”**

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# Senseless violence

A man walked into a tobacco store in Brooklyn at 9:00 at night. The store was owned by an elderly couple who had survived a concentration camp in Germany.

The man asked for money and the elderly couple answered that they had practically none in the store.

He shot them in cold blood and walked out.

-- Rollo May in *Power and Innocence* quoting *New York Times*

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Urges nations to  
“...strongly refuse  
the recourse  
to weapons.”

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ANTONIO CALANNI / Associated Press  
**PLEA FOR PEACE:** Pope Benedict XVI reached out to the faithful Sunday in Lorenzago di Cadore, near Belluno, Italy, where he called for an end to all wars.

## Pope calls for end to ‘useless slaughter’

Benedict XVI urges nations to ‘strongly refuse the recourse to weapons’

By Trisha Thomas  
Associated Press

LORENZAGO DI CADORE, Italy — Pope Benedict XVI called Sunday for an end to all wars, describing them as “useless slaughters” that bring hell to Earth. Benedict, speaking from this small mountain town where he has been vacationing, recalled that 90 years ago his predecessor Pope Benedict XV urged a

“From this place of peace, where one still senses how unacceptable the horrors of ‘useless slaughters’ are, I renew the appeal to pursue the path of rights, to strongly refuse the recourse to weapons and refuse to confront new situations with old systems,” he said.

He reminded the faithful that God put man on Earth to take care of his “paradise,” but that man sinned and began making war.

Benedict has been stepping up his peace appeals, issuing a major call June 17 in the hillside town of Assisi, known for St. Francis’ message of peace. A week

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# Paulo Freire: The murder of Galdino Jesus Do Sontos

- On April 21, 2007 a group of 5 teenage boys set fire to and killed a Patax'o Indian sleeping in a bus station in Brasilia, Brazil.

“ What a strange notion to kill an Indian for play, to kill someone. They set fire to his body as one would burn something useless, like a rag. In their cruelty and taste for death, that Indian was not a *you* or a *he*. He was *that thing* over there. He was some sort of lesser shadow in the world, one inferior, bothersome, offensive. I keep thinking here, submerged in the profound perplexity, stunned before the intolerable perversity of these young men who dehumanize themselves, about the environment where they *devolved* instead of *evolving*.”

-- Paulo Freire, *The Pedagogy of Indignation*

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# Constructive violence

- The person who has been docile all their life who finally loses their temper...
    - **These are all individuals in whom some admixture of violence may help to correct a deficiency,**
  - **but** it requires a burst of effort that goes beyond *rationality*: a risking of one's self, a committing all to give the person a sense of fulfillment.
-

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# “Violence is suppressed rage.”

-- Rollo May in *Power and Innocence* quoting Sartre in Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth*

- *For as long as people feel forced to remain in such a semi-human state, there will be aggression and violence.*
  - ***If the other phases of behavior are blocked, then explosion into violence may be the only way individuals or groups can get release from unbearable tension and achieve a sense of significance.***
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# Language: The first casualty

When language goes and we can't talk it out,  
then...what is left?

“As a poet, there is only one political duty, and that is to defend one's the language from corruption. And that is particularly serious now. It's being so quickly corrupted. When is corrupted, people loose faith in what they hear, and this leads to violence.”

-- Rollo May in *Power and Innocence* quoting W. H. Auden

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■ August 7, 2007

## Leaders meet on Palestinian turf

Associated Press

JERICHO, West Bank — In their first meeting on Palestinian soil, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Monday that he hoped to launch negotiations soon on establishing a Palestinian state, his clearest promise to tackle a final peace deal.

The trappings of the three-hour session were perhaps as important as the content.

Olmert became the first Israeli leader to visit a Palestinian town after seven years of bloody fighting, and Israeli and Palestinian security forces worked together to protect him.

Abbas, in turn, gained some stature by hosting Olmert, at least symbolically leveling the uneven relationship of occupier and occupied.

Despite the good will, the sides have different ideas about what should happen next.

The Palestinians said that after years of delay, it's time to start talking about the terms of Palestinian statehood, including final borders, removal of Israeli settlements and how to divide Jerusalem.

Israel wants to move more slowly, in part because talks in 2000 collapsed over the so-called core issues and because Olmert might not be strong enough politically to make far-reaching concessions.

However, the U.S. has been prodding both sides to make progress, ahead of a Mideast peace conference in the U.S. in November. Olmert also appears eager to prop up the moderate Abbas, particularly after the Islamic militant Hamas seized Gaza by force in June.

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# Constructive Violence: Anti-colonialism

- During the 1800 and 1900s, 3<sup>rd</sup> world rebellions for independence from European colonial domination increased.
  - Having suffered centuries of inhuman sexual, social, and economic exploitation and having endured the apathy this causes, such peoples had to be depressed and consequently had to rebel to have any self-respect at all.
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## *The Wretched of the Earth*

- Frantz Fanon, a black psychiatrist and a participant in the Algerian Rebellion, in *The Wretched of the Earth*:
  - Some violence is necessary for colonized peoples to become alive psychologically and spiritually.
    - It is the way to integrity, self-esteem, and the awareness of their own powers.
-

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“It is better to be violent, if there is violence in our hearts, than to put on the cloak of non-violence to cover impotence.” -- Gandhi

- Arguing that the violence be turned back against its causes, the representatives of the colonial powers, Fanon sounds cynical.
  - But looking at the situation from the long-term perspective of justice, one is convinced that their stand is realistic, however disturbing it may be for the affluent nations.
  - It is certainly no worse than how they were treated.
-



# Do we want to get rid of violence?

*In the Utopian aim of removing all power and aggression from human behavior, we run the risk of removing self-assertion, self-affirmation, and even the power to be. If it were successful it would breed a race of docile, passive eunuchs and would lay the groundwork for an explosion in violence that would dwarf all those that have occurred so far*

We cannot deny the essence of ourselves: the self-affirmation and self-assertion that makes us persons and without which we have no reason for livings. What we have failed to see is that aggression has been, on the positive side, in the service of those values of life that would if discarded, leave us bereft indeed.

(May. 1967)

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# Apathy: The stage before violence

- *It's none of my business.*
  - *I feel so powerless.*
  - *I don't feel anything anymore.*
  - *There is nothing we can do about it.*
  - *I don't care.*
  - *It just doesn't matter anymore.*
  - *It's no use.*
  - *No one's going to listen to me.*
  - *Why try?*
-



# Indifference is the enemy, not violence

The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference.

The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.

The opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.

-- Elie Weisel

Can we add?

The opposite of peace is not war, it's indifference.

The opposite of non-violence is not violence, it's  
indifference.

**It is apathy, nothingness, anomie, impotence, in-  
authenticity resulting from our unfulfilled  
potential--these are the opposites of peace.**

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# Indifference as a form of violence

- If you really want to get back at someone, or hurt them, simply ignore them.
    - Look at what teen girls in US do to other girls. They are not necessarily violent; they ostracize, ignore, or literally “turn their backs” on the girls they do not like or wish to hurt.
  - When someone does not return your call or says nothing or does not tell you why they are mad at you or why they are not talking to you anymore, this is a form of violence.
  - We/They may not see it this way, but even at a small level, this indifference is a form of violence
  - It is more humane if they call or write you and scream at you or cuss you out, than say nothing.
-

# Must we believe in evil to understand violence?

“It is always and forever the struggle: to avoid somehow our own knowledge of evil. To admit we understand evil is to be complicit with it. It is much easier to plead innocence, to see the world in terms of totally innocent victims and totally evil instigators of the monstrous violence we see all around us. At all costs, never disturb our innocence.

But what is the most innocent place in any country? Is it not the insane asylum? The perfection of innocence, indeed, is madness.”

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August 20, 2007

“Distressed family  
Members shouted  
and scuffle and  
guards after 3 days  
without word on 172  
miners trapped...”

## **Outrage grows over fate of miners missing for days**

**Xintai, China** — Distressed family members shouted and scuffled with guards after a third day without word on 172 miners trapped in a flooded mine in eastern China, where rescue crews began pumping water Sunday.

Paramilitary police and emergency crews plugged a breach in a dike that burst Friday after heavy rains, flooding the Huayuan Mining Co. mine, officials and state media said. As industrial pumps began siphoning water that stood 65 feet deep in the shaft, experts analyzed accident data to try to locate the missing miners.

Meanwhile, nine miners were stranded in a second mine in the area that also flooded after the rain-swollen Wen river burst two dikes, bringing the total number of missing to 181.

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July 28, 2007

“The Americans want so much to be the winners. The fact that they are sick with this illness, the winners’ complex, is the main reason why everything in the world is so confused and so complicated.”

# Gorbachev accuses U.S. of imperialism

By Alex Nicholson  
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Former President Mikhail Gorbachev said Friday that the fall of the Soviet Union, which he helped bring about, ushered in an era of U.S. imperialism responsible for many of the world’s gravest problems.

Gorbachev is lauded in the West for establishing democratic reforms but widely despised in Russia for paving the way to the economic free-for-all of the 1990s, which brought fabulous wealth for a well-connected few while plunging much of the country into humiliating poverty.

He has since become a supporter of President Vladimir Putin’s assertive foreign policy and resistance to U.S. power — calling occasional news conferences to praise Putin’s policies — but his criticism of the United States on Friday was especially harsh.

“The Americans want so much to be the winners”

7-28-07



**“The Americans want so much to be the winners. The fact that they are sick with this illness, this winners’ complex, is the main reason why everything in the world is so confused and so complicated.”**

Mikhail Gorbachev

frosty state that some comm-



August 8, 2006

## **House bans horse slaughter; Senate passage uncertain**

**Washington** — The House voted Thursday to effectively end the commercial slaughter of horses for human consumption.

There are three meat-packing plants in the nation — two in Texas and one in Illinois — where horses are killed and butchered for export to restaurants and meat markets in France, Belgium and other countries where equine meat is considered a delicacy.

Supporters said a ban, which faces an uncertain future in the Senate, reflects the overwhelming sentiment of the nation.

The House vote was 263-146. Indiana Democrats Julia Carson and Pete Visclosky voted to pass the bill, as did Republicans Dan Burton, John Hostettler and Mike Pence. Republicans Steve Buyer, Chris Chocola, Mike Sordrel and Mark Souder voted against the bill.

July 11, 2007

## **WORLD IN BRIEF**

### **Pope OKs document saying other faiths not true churches**

**Lorenzago di Cadore, Italy — Pope Benedict XVI reasserted the primacy of the Roman Catholic Church, approving a document released Tuesday that says other Christian communities are either defective or not true churches and that Catholicism provides the only true path to salvation.**

The statement brought swift criticism from Protestant leaders. "It makes us question whether we are indeed praying together for Christian unity," said the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, a fellowship of 75 million Protestants in more than 100 countries.

It was the second time in a week that Benedict has corrected what he says are erroneous interpretations of the Second Vatican Council, the 1962-65 meetings that modernized the church. On Saturday, Benedict revived the old Latin Mass.

# A protester's fiery suicide

Man who had suffered with depression left note saying he wanted to atone for war in Iraq

By Ashley M. Heher  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Malachi Ritscher envisioned his death as one full of purpose.

He carefully planned the details, mailed a copy of his apartment key to a friend, created to-do lists for his family. On his Web site, the 52-year-old experimental musician who'd fought with depression even penned his obituary.

At 6:30 a.m. on Nov. 3, Ritscher, a frequent anti-war protester, stood by an off-ramp in downtown Chicago near a statue of a giant flame, set up a video camera, doused himself with gasoline and lit himself on fire.

Aglow for the crush of morning commuters, his flaming body was supposed to be a call to the nation, a symbol of his rage and discontent with the war in Iraq.

"If I am required to pay for your barbaric war, I choose not to live in your world. I refuse to finance the mass murder of in-

nocent civilians, who did nothing to threaten our country," he wrote in his suicide note. "If one death can atone for anything, in any small way, to say to the world: I apologize for what we have done to you, I am ashamed for the mayhem and turmoil caused by my country."

There was only one problem: No one was listening.

It took five days for the Cook County medical examiner to identify the charred-beyond-recognition corpse. It wasn't until a reporter for an alternative weekly, the Chicago Reader, pieced the facts together that word began to spread.

Soon, tributes — and questions — poured in.

Was this a man consumed by mental illness? Or was Ritscher a martyr driven by rage over what he saw as an unjust war?

"This man killed himself in such a painful way, specifically to get our attention on these things," said Jennifer Diaz, a 28-



JOEIFF DAVIS / Associated Press 2003 file photo

**A PROTESTER FROM THE START:** Malachi Ritscher hoisted a sign in Chicago in April 2003. Earlier this month, the 52-year-old doused himself with gasoline and lit himself ablaze along an expressway off-ramp.

year-old graduate student who never met him but has been researching his life. Now, she is organizing protests and vigils. "I'm not going to sit by and I can't sit by and let this go unheard."

Ritscher's death brought back memories for Anita King, 48, West Philadelphia, whose friend

Kathy Change set fire to herself in 1996.

"I think both of them, they just felt like their death could be the last drop of blood shed," King said. "It was too hard for them. They had too much of a conscious connection to the struggle to go on in their lives."

# Suicide blast kills 13 near disputed mosque

By Sadaqat Jan  
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A suspected suicide bomber killed at least 13 people at a hotel Friday after hundreds of stonethrowing protesters clashed with police as the capital's Red Mosque reopened for the first time since a bloody army raid ousted pro-Taliban militants holed up there.

\* The bombing, targeting police, comes on the back of almost daily suicide blasts in Pakistan's restive northwestern frontier, where President Gen. Pervez Musharraf is also under U.S. pressure to crack down on al-Qaida. More than 300 people have died in violence that began with the siege of the Red Mosque at the start of July.

Authorities had hoped to re-

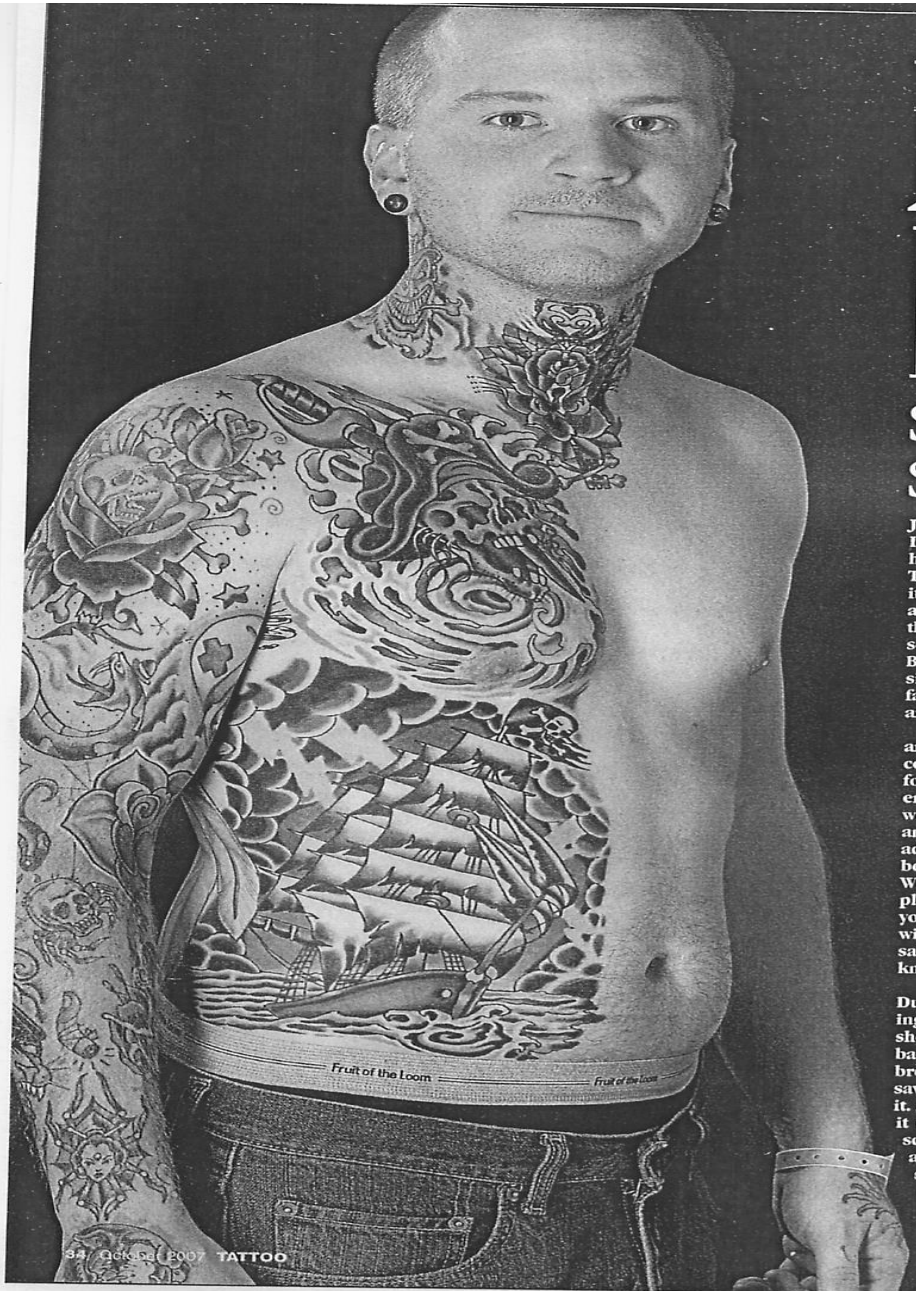
store normalcy to the once-staid Pakistani capital by reopening the Lal Masjid, or Red Mosque, to the public more than two weeks after the commando raid dislodged militant supporters of its pro-Taliban clerics.

Religious students, angered by the government's move to assign a cleric from another mosque to lead Friday prayers, staged protests in the Red Mosque and occupied it for hours.

Soon after came a thunderous blast in an open-air restaurant at the Muzaffar Hotel in a crowded market district about a quarter-mile away from the mosque.

Khalid Pervez, Islamabad's top administrator, said 13 people were killed, including seven police. There was no claim of responsibility, but Islamic militants were suspected.

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Nov. 07, 2006

# Poor nations ranked as some of most corrupt

11 07 06  
By David Rising  
Associated Press

BERLIN — Nearly three-quarters of 163 countries ranked in a new survey suffer from a perception of serious corruption, while in nearly half it is seen as rampant, a watchdog group reported Monday.

Transparency International's 2006 Corruption Perceptions Index gives the worst scores to many of the world's poorest countries, including almost all African nations, indicating a strong correlation between corruption and poverty.

The stragglers also included several so-called "failed states," including Iraq, which dropped from 137th place last year to second-to-last as the situation there continues to deteriorate.

"Corruption traps millions in poverty," the agency's international chairman Huguette Labelle said in a statement. "Despite a decade of progress in establishing anti-corruption laws and regulations, today's results indicate that much remains to be done."

The agency's scale is based on the perceptions of the degree of corruption by business-people and country analysts.

Countries are ranked out of 10, and anything below 5 indicates "serious" perceived levels of corruption, and anything below 3 "rampant," the agency said.

Several former Soviet republics fared relatively well, with Estonia ranking 24th with a 6.7 rating, Lithuania 46th with 4.8 and Latvia 49th with 4.7.

In contrast, the perception of corruption in Russia was a dismal 2.5, putting it in a 121st-place tie with several other nations, including Rwanda and Swaziland.

Faring the best were Finland, Iceland and New Zealand, in a first-place tie with rankings of 9.6. Filling out the top 10 were Denmark, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Australia and the Netherlands.

Britain was 11th with an 8.6 rating, Germany 16th at 8.0 and the United States 20th with 7.3.

At the bottom of the list in place 163 was Haiti with a 1.8 rating; Guinea, Iraq and Myanmar tied in second-last with 1.9.

Transparency International did not rank countries for which not enough data was available, including Afghanistan, Somalia and North Korea.

- Knights of Columbus, Easter 2006

*The faithful re-enact Christ's walk to his crucifixion*



**THE THIRD STATION:** The Rev. Jonathan Meyer (right) from St. Luke Catholic Church kneels next to the Knights of Peter Claver while at the third of 14 Stations of the Cross at the American Legion Mall.

MATT DETRICH / The Star

FOLLOWING  
JESUS' PATH





JACOB SILBERSERG / Associated Press

**BRIEF SILENCE:** An Israeli gunner prayed Monday at an artillery position near the Lebanese border in northern Israel during a 48-hour suspension of most airstrikes on Lebanon.

September 8, 2006

# Study: Collegians drinking heavily

Almost half say they binge-drink, and 65% of students under 21 are using alcohol

By Vic Ryckaert

vic.ryckaert@indystar.com

Nearly half of Indiana college students admit to binge drinking, according to the first statewide survey of alcohol use on 14 campuses.

Eleven percent reported that their drinking has led to them becoming victims of sexual assaults, the survey of more than 7,600 students found.

The study, commissioned by the Indiana Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking, shows what many already assumed — that far too many college students are heavy drinkers.

In the survey, 45 percent of Indiana students admitted to binge drinking — consuming five or more drinks in two hours. The national average is 47 percent.

“There is definitely a problem with binge drinking,” said Matt Holsapple, a graduate student studying higher education at Purdue University who admits he consumed his share of alcohol in his undergraduate days.

Heavy drinking and crazy parties are as much a part of campus life as sports and midterms. but

consequences of intense binge drinking, maybe it shouldn't be.”

The new report should help universities address the issue.

“The statewide data will help to develop effective policies and programming to combat high-risk drinking,” said Lisa Hutcheson, director of the coalition.

The survey also found that 71 percent of all students and 65 percent of those under 21 drank alcohol in the past 30 days.

Kandace Keller, a junior studying business at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, said she is not a “partier” but knows plenty of students who drink off and on campus.

The survey, funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, was conducted by the Core Institute at Southern Illinois University. The anonymous four-page questionnaire asked students about their experience and attitudes surrounding alcohol, drug and tobacco use.

Tammy Loew, health advocacy coordinator at Purdue's Student Wellness Office, said the school would use the survey's findings to tailor policies and programs to compel students to behave more responsibly.

“We'll be able to look at some statewide initiatives as well,” Loew said in a written statement. “Our ultimate goal is a

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# Serial killers

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**Environmental**

**Destruction**

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Sept. 29, 2006

State

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR • WWW.INDYSTAR.COM

# Tattoo in prison makes molester a marked man

929 06



Louisville Courier-Journal

**INVESTIGATION:** Prison officials discovered "Katie's Revenge" tattooed on the forehead of Anthony Ray Stockelman last weekend. He is serving a life term for the 2005 molestation and murder of 10-year-old Katie Collman. Officials are looking into how the tattoo got there.

Father of slain girl  
said he figures  
'it's a statement from  
the inmates'

Associated Press

CARLISLE, Ind. — An inmate serving life in prison for molesting and killing 10-year-old Katie Collman is now the subject of an investigation into how he ended up with the tattoo "Katie's Revenge" emblazoned across his forehead.

The Indiana Department of Correction placed Anthony Ray Stockelman, 39, in protective custody away from the general inmate population last weekend after authorities discovered the tattoo, said Rich Larsen, a spokesman for the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. It is about 30 miles south of Terre Haute.

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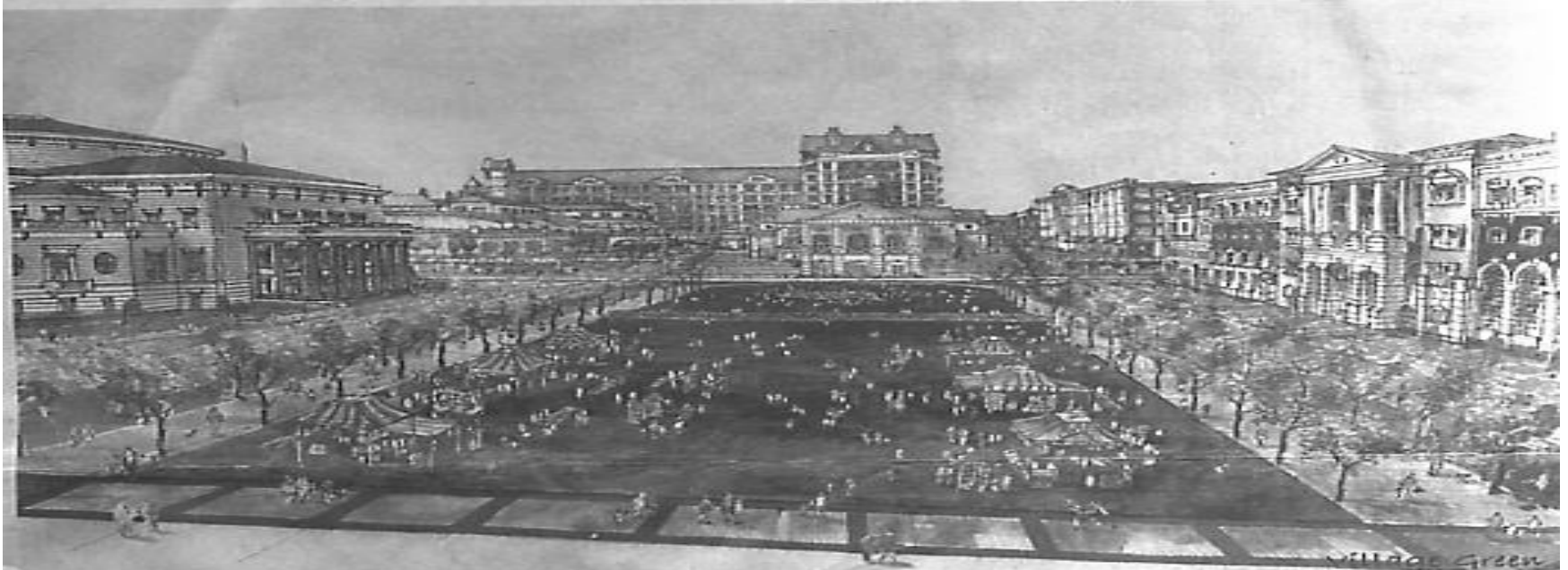
gRafiti

June 24, 2007

Carmel, Indiana

# CENTER OF ATTENTION

Carmel hopes the European feel of its \$200M downtown will lure exclusive retailers, making City Center a destination



Artist's rendering provided by Podcor Cos.

## SEE ARTISTS' VISIONS OF CARMEL'S BIG PLAN, A5

*A mix of high-end dining and shopping, homes and office space is planned for the 15-acre City Center.*

### Shopping and eating

220,000 square feet of unique shops

### Places to live

200 high-end condos and apartments, including

### Entertainment

1,600-seat concert hall and 500-seat

June 7, 2006 Murder suspect Desmond Turner is accused of killing a family of 7 during a home invasion robbery.

# DEATH PENALTY SOUGHT IN KILLINGS

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## BRIZZI TO HANDLE THE CASE





July 16, 2006



**PROMOTING UNITY:** Debra Beasley, Indianapolis, carries a sign on Monument Circle urging harmony. Speakers at Tuesday's Peace in the Streets, Stop the Violence rally for youths included Mayor Bart Peterson and Sheriff Frank Anderson.

KELLY WILKINSON / The Star

# CALLS FOR PEACE RING AT MONUMENT CIRCLE

Hundreds rally to show solidarity against violence

The "Peace in the Streets" campaign stresses individual responsibility for fighting crime.

## Shouting out a 'no' to lure of violence

**July** Our position: **19'06**

*The "Peace in the Streets" campaign deserves support for stressing individual responsibility for fighting crime.*

**Y**oung people are having sales jobs done on them around the clock these days, and the objects of temptation usually are unnecessary or worse.

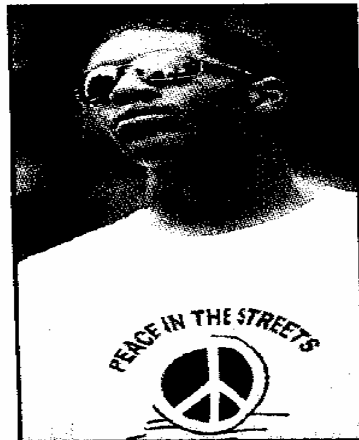
Responding to the initiative of Westside youth groups, government and neighborhood leaders are asking if sneakers, CDs, drugs and guns can be marketed so successfully, why not peace?

"Peace in the Streets — Stop the Violence" was shouted, chanted, sung and danced to in a steamy, festive rally Tuesday on Monument Circle. But business was serious enough to have drawn no less than the mayor, the sheriff, the chiefs of several local police departments and other high government officials along with hundreds of youth.

Many in the crowd sported T-shirts and tote bags bearing a new peace-sign logo that will appear on chests, arms, yard signs and billboards in the coming weeks as an answer to an appalling spike in violent crime that policing alone cannot quell. Block parties, clean-ups, peace clubs and other activities will be part of what Olgen Williams calls "a marketing campaign for peace."

"This is not a cure-all," said the executive director of Christamore House, whose youth joined with their peers in Westside Weed & Seed to start the effort. "But you won't stop the violence till you change the thinking."

Other, more practical changes are needed as well, warned City-Country Council member Patricia



Aug. 6, 2006

6 die within  
24 hours

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2006

# 'WE ARE AT WAR'

## 6 IN INDY FATALLY SHOT IN 24 HOURS; CITY LEADERS VOW TO ADDRESS CRISIS



MATT KRIGER / The Star

**GRIM TALK:** "We are very clearly in a crisis," Mayor Bart Peterson (center, with City-County Council President Monroe Gray, left, and Sheriff Frank Anderson) said Saturday. "We have to do something different."

Indianapolis Police, Sheriff's departments immediately beef up patrols on city streets

By Rob Schneider and Rebecca Neal  
rob.schneider@indystar.com

City and county officials pledged to immediately put more officers on the street and open additional jail cells after a string of shootings Friday night and early Saturday left five people dead and five people wounded.

Just hours after the plans were announced, however, police were responding to still another shooting Saturday night that left one person dead and two injured.

The latest slayings come on the heels of five killings Wednesday and Thursday,

bringing the total for the year in Indianapolis and Marion County to 88. That's a big jump from the number of homicides a year ago and approaches the record pace of 1998, when the city and county recorded 162 homicides.

After learning the news that five people had been shot to death and five others had been wounded at six locations early Saturday in Indianapolis, a grim-faced Mayor Bart Peterson called an emergency meeting of city, county and law enforcement officials that afternoon to talk about ways to stem the violence.

"We are very clearly in a crisis," Peterson said. "We have to do something different."

Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson was blunt: "We are at war."

Back to Indianapolis Police

## 2 of 5 slain overnight Friday visited same nightclub, police say

By Rebecca Neal  
rebecca.neal@indystar.com

At least four men who had all spent time Friday night at a Downtown nightclub were among the latest victims in the rash of gun violence vexing Indianapolis.

The incident was one of six that left five dead and five others injured late Friday and early Saturday.

The deadliest altercation took place around 3:30 a.m. Saturday, when two men were fatally shot and two others



Cortez Cunningham was being sought in connection with the four shootings at a Downtown Marathon station.

nounced dead at Wishard Memorial Hospital.

Two others, found shot at the sta-

### 1 MAN KILLED IN GUNFIRE SATURDAY

Two others were injured after gunshots erupted between them

August 6, 2006



MATT KRYGER / The Star

**SHARING IDEAS:** Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson (right, foreground) chatted with Cale Bradford, the presiding judge of Marion Superior Court, during an emergency meeting Peterson called Saturday. Bradford proposed creating a night drug court and consolidating gun cases in one court.

## Violence



**TAKING ACTION:** Indianapolis Police

Aug 8, 2006

# To cut crime, courts aim for swifter justice

CHANGES INCLUDE  
NEW NIGHT COURT,  
WARRANT SWEEPS

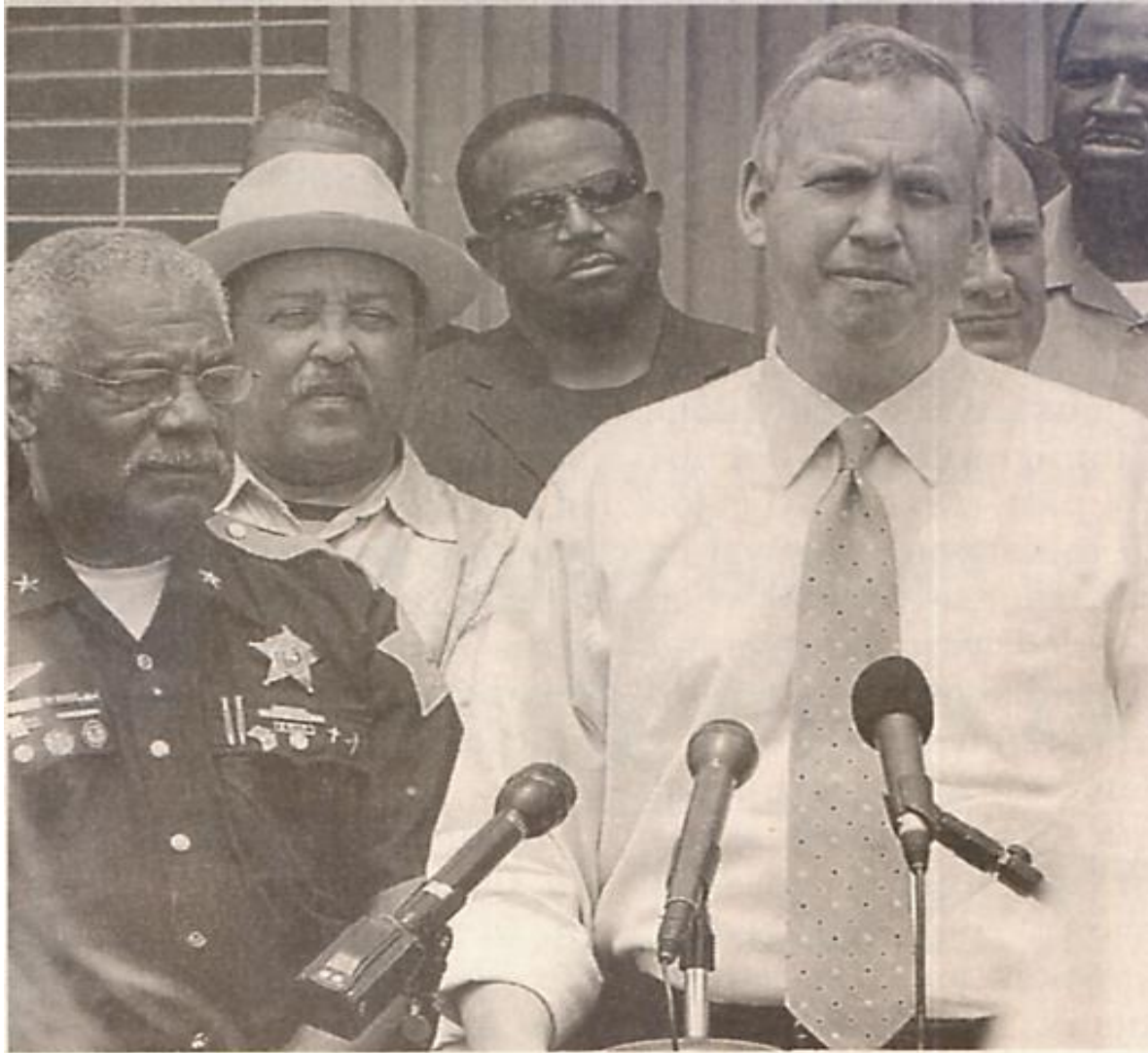
By Gavin Lesnick  
g.lesnick@indianapolis.com

## CHANGES COMING

Here's a look at some of the changes specified in a court order to speed up the criminal justice system and ease jail overcrowding:

◆ **Night court:** Create a court that will meet 5 to 9 p.m. Monday

- Sept. 7, 2006



**Mayor Bart Peterson and Sheriff Frank Anderson conduct a press conference.**

August 23, 2006

# Want to reduce crime? Jobs are the key

**T**he greatest barrier facing those returning from prison or jail is finding a job. Seventy percent of all jobs are closed to people with felony records.

This not only affects those returning from our state correctional facilities, but also the thousands who cycle through the local jail, many of whom are struggling to pay court-ordered mandates — ankle bracelet (\$85 per week), child support (50 percent of earnings), anger management classes, drug treatment. They know it is either pay or go back to “the joint.”

Workforce Inc., our non-profit organization, created its transitional jobs project, Remaking Our Resources, to address the employment barriers faced by ex-offenders who are provided



**Gregg  
Keesling**



**Tom  
Orr**

## OUR VIEW

Gregg Keesling

Tom Orr

**8 23 06**

change, and most nonviolent offenders do not pose a continuing threat to society when given an opportunity to work and to manage the often-competing costs and demands imposed by the re-entry process.

Workforce Inc. has a special interest in fathers returning from prison. Fifty-five percent of all offenders are parents. Fathers who work to support their children are by definition contributing to a more civil society. Yet the child support system, as structured in Indiana, creates serious disincentives to employment for fathers who fall behind while incarcerated. They become targets for re-arrest on outstanding warrants for non-support issued while they were serving time. This is a hidden flaw in the justice system that creates more havoc than good when it comes to promoting effective child support enforcement as part of the re-entry process.

Others also are addressing the

# FBI: Violent crime rose 2.3% last year

1.39 million incidents made for first increase in 4 years in category that includes slayings

By Hope Yen  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Violent crime rose 2.3 percent last year, the first increase since 2001, the FBI reported Monday.

The agency found there were 1.39 million violent crimes — which include rape, homicide, robbery and aggravated assault

— reported in the United States in 2005, up from 1.36 million the previous year.

The figures from the FBI's 2005 annual report largely track preliminary results from earlier this year.

The percentage jump was violent crime's largest increase since 1991, with only rape showing a decline in the past year.

The report comes as mayors and police chiefs at a recent crime conference said they were seeing spikes in violent crime for 2006. They have called for

greater support from federal law enforcement, expressing concern that the Bush administration might be too complacent as it devotes time and attention to the war on terror.

In a briefing with reporters, Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty said it was still too soon to tell whether the numbers reflect ordinary year-to-year fluctuations. The figures are good news in the sense that violent crime has dropped 3.4 percent since 2001 and declined 17.6 percent since 1996, he said.

"It's certainly caused us to remain vigilant, especially considering the anecdotal information in 2006 indicates there might be a rise in violent crime in several jurisdictions," McNulty said. "I'm anxious to spend more time with the police chiefs."

But he reiterated comments by Attorney General Alberto Gonzales earlier this month that additional crime-fighting funds for cities were not in the offing, noting that the war on terror remains the greater priority.

"We have a problem of limited resources," McNulty said.

Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum, which organized the recent conference on violent crime, said his group is looking forward to additional meetings with McNulty to find ways to combat the problem.

Property crime, including car theft, larceny and burglary, fell 1.5 percent in 2005.

## Murders in U.S. rise nearly 5 percent

2005 data reverse steady decline; overall, crime still dropping, Justice report finds

By Walter F. Roche Jr.  
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The rates of homicide and firearm violence jumped up in 2005, ending a decade-long decline, according to a new U.S. Justice Department report that reinforces recent warnings by law-enforcement officials.

### IN MARION COUNTY

So far, the 2006 homicide total for all of Marion County is 103. The county set a record in 1998 with 162 homicides. The county had 121 homicides in 2005, according to data gathered from area police departments and compiled by The Indianapolis Star.

data," he said.

He noted that the 2005 rate

Wexler, commenting on the report, said police chiefs from around the country who attended an August forum sponsored by his group reported that the increase in violent crimes first seen in 2005 had continued into this year, with major hikes in three categories: homicides, robberies and aggravated assaults.

Noting that McNulty had attended the forum, Wexler said: "There is genuine concern among police agencies that the increases are continuing and expanding. There's a need to pay



## City to add 100 lights to streets

High-crime areas will get priority, though some say lighting is not a deterrent

By Vic Ryckaert  
vic.ryckaert@indystar.com

## Anti-crime plan's cost jumps by \$600,000

Juvenile lockup upgrades boost price tag for entire project to \$11.1 million

By Jon Murray  
jon.murray@indystar.com  
Security measures at the juvenile lockup have added \$600,000

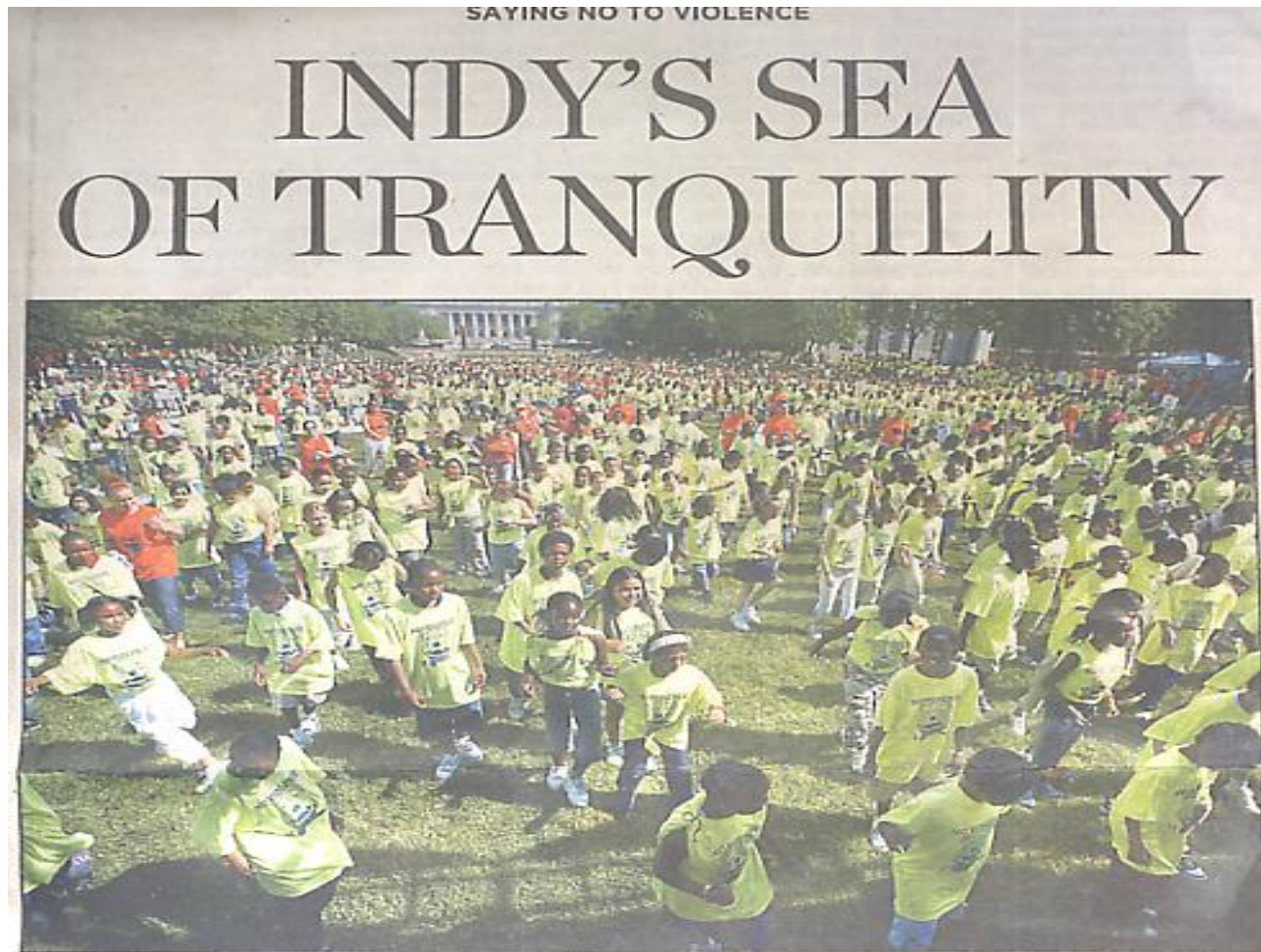
- October 28, 2006



MIKE FENDER / The Star

**A TIME TO PRAY:** Indianapolis-area ministers gathered outside the City-County Building to pray for peace Oct. 18 after talking to the media and meeting with Mayor Bart Peterson to discuss a rise in violence. The ministers are seeking millions from the city to fund programs that would keep youths from getting involved in crime.

- May 11, 2007



MATT KRUGER / The Star

**MELLOW YELLOW:** About 4,500 IPS middle and elementary school students and teachers took part in a Gang Resistance Education and Training event Thursday on the American Legion Mall. The program helps students cope with pressures that can lead children to join gangs.

*Thousands of youths  
take in anti-gang vibe  
at Downtown event*

By Vic Ryckaert

[vic.ryckaert@indy1star.com](mailto:vic.ryckaert@indy1star.com)

**F**ifth-grade teacher Shelli Blaylock bears witness to the effectiveness of an anti-violence program in her school.

"It is reaching some of the kids for sure," said Blaylock, who teaches at Indianapolis Public School 61, on Patricia Street just north of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. "It helps give them alternatives to social conflict."

# FBI report shows spike in urban killings

But murder numbers in '06 dipped sharply in small towns and midsize cities

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Big-city murders rose sharply in 2006 as violent crime increased nationally for the second straight year, the FBI reported Monday.

Homicides committed in small towns and midsize cities took a dramatic downswing — resulting in an overall 0.3 percent increase in the murder rate across the country, the new preliminary data show.

Year-end totals for murders rose in eight of the nation's 10 largest cities: Chicago, Houston, Las Vegas, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Antonio and San Diego. That contributed to a 6.7 percent murder rate increase in cities with populations of more than 1 million people.

The murder rate dropped in two other big cities, Dallas and Los Angeles. And it plummeted by an overall 11.0 percent in

## INDIANAPOLIS CRIME

According to the FBI statistics, Indianapolis had an increase in homicides and rapes in 2006 but bucked the national trend with a 1 percent decrease in robberies. Overall, there were fewer violent crimes in the city in 2006 than in 2005.

Property crimes were down in Indianapolis overall, with an increase only in burglaries, up 1.6 percent. The number of thefts, car thefts and arson fires were down.



**ONLINE EXTRA**  
INDYSTAR.COM

◆ Check out Marion County police and fire emergency calls as they're happening at [Indy911calls.com](http://Indy911calls.com).

◆ Want to know what crimes happened in your area last year? Curious to know how that ranks among other Marion County ZIP codes? Go to [IndyStar.com/crimestats](http://IndyStar.com/crimestats).

June 14, 2007

# Some say cleanup blitz isn't enough to fight crime

**By Brendan O'Shaughnessy**

brendan.oshaughnessy@indystar.com

Mayor Bart Peterson took a turn mowing down weeds in a vacant Westside lot Wednesday while critics complained about rising crime and arson.

But Peterson said his "neighborhood blitz" program deterred crime by showing that the city is paying attention.

City crews repaired potholes, removed trash and graffiti, mowed high weeds, cited abandoned vehicles and conducted sweeps for stray animals. The blitz was the fourth of 20 scheduled this summer in high-crime neighborhoods.

A few houses down from the media event in the 700 block of West 26th Street, skeptical neighbors watched the mayor

and idle city crews. Some said they doubted mowing weeds addressed the problem of people not having decent jobs.

Peterson promised that the area on the Near Eastside and Southside that has been plagued by fires set in abandoned houses will also get a cleanup. Greg Ballard, the Republican candidate running against Peterson for mayor, said the mayor didn't make public safety a priority until too late.

Other critics say the city hasn't done enough to address abandoned houses. A 2003 survey identified about 8,000 abandoned homes, which tend to be taken over for crime and drug use.

★ Call Star reporter Brendan O'Shaughnessy at (317) 444-2751.

# June 2007 Indianapolis, IN

## 1,000 BLACK MALE MARCH

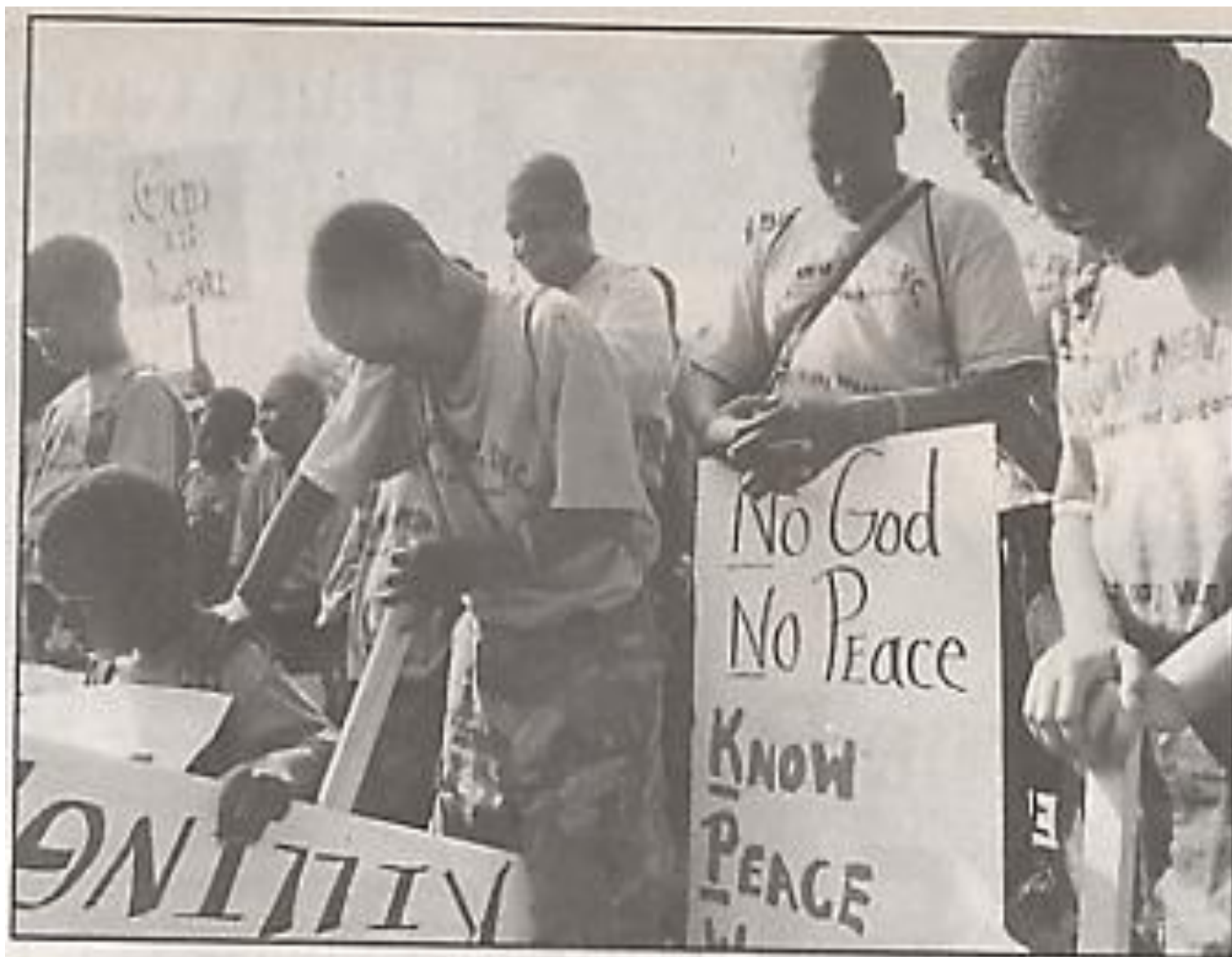


**A SIMPLE MESSAGE:** Isalah Richmond, 9, carried his sign high at the beginning of the 1,000 Black Male March, which started at 34th Street and Keystone Avenue on Saturday. Isalah takes part in Young Men Inc., sponsor of the march, which was in its first year.

HEATHER CHARLES / The Star

# STEPS TO PEACE

June 2007 Indianapolis, IN



**FIRST, A PRAYER:** Marchers gathered for a prayer at the start of their walk Saturday. Speakers urged the crowd to reflect on Father's Day and become father figures for young men at risk.

Aug 3, 2007

## Indiana Senator Bayh's proposal

### **GANG ABATEMENT AND PREVENTION ACT OF 2007**

- The bill makes recruiting of criminal street gang members a federal crime.
- The bill makes illegal activities by criminal street gangs a federal crime.
- The bill makes violent activities in furtherance of gangs a federal crime.
- The bill creates a new federal crime for murder and other violent crimes committed in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.
- The bill establishes new penalties for gang-related crimes.
- The bill authorizes at least \$411.5 million in funding over five years for gang prevention and intervention efforts.
- The bill encourages community collaboration with law enforcement.
- The bill creates a national commission on crime prevention.
- The bill will expand the Project Safe Neighborhood program.



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# Yaacov Hecht\*

## Self-actualization reduces the aggressive impulse

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\*Yaacov Hecht is director of the Institute for Democratic Education (IDE)

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# One-size-fits-all:

## The source of problems in society

- The source of problems in society is the one-size-fits-all “square” we all must fit into.
  - This is reinforced by schools where we are told, if you want to learn, you have to come inside the square. We judge everyone by the square. We are asked, “Why are you outside of the square?”
    - This is the danger of school
  - The role of national tests is to keep us in the square.
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# Democratic Education: Democratic culture

- The democratic school movement will create a democratic culture in society.

*“A democratic culture is one that guards the equal right of every individual for self-actualization.”*

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# The problem is we do not know how to deal with difference

- Presently the world continues to grow past 6 billion.
    - Conflicts continue to arise.
    - The technology to kill improves.
    - 142 million have died from wars in the 20th century.
  - *We do not know how to deal with difference.*
    - But, why?
      - We only see ourselves
      - We only see the world from our point of view
      - We want everyone to be like us
      - We want to expand ourselves and our point of view everywhere
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# To have a democratic culture we must:

1. Recognize the fact of "the different"--difference is beautiful
  2. Accept the fact that we do not own the truth
  3. Recognize that "the different" is also a part of the establishment
  4. Recognize the importance of self-criticism as a constructive tool for growth
  5. Disburse democratic education outside school borders
    - to businesses
    - social/community groups
    - civic organizations
    - government agencies
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# Pluralistic Learning

- A type of learning that acknowledges uniqueness--each person is different with both weak and strong attributes, talents, and abilities.

*“Democratic education is self-managed learning.”*

*“The goal of democratic education is to self-actualization.”*

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# Democratizing Intelligence

- Democratizing Intelligence: What does it mean to be smart?

“Intelligence is not what you know, but what you do when you don’t.” -- John Holt

- Successful Intelligence: How practical and creative intelligence determines success in life
  - The intuition of the body
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# Excellence Centers

- Places outside of school that would represent a variety of intelligences and subjects, interests, occupations/careers, etc.
  - A collaboration among private, government, and education organizations
  - Here, students could see what they are passionate about learning and doing
    - They could begin intense personal study and/or hook-up with adults who have the skills, careers, interests, talents they wish to have
  - This would be the first of many steps to self-actualization
-



# A society based on democratic procedures or one that fosters a democratic culture?

- A democratic culture abides by the following ideals:
  - Every person has a right to know and express uniqueness
  - Every person is capable of recognizing uniqueness of every other member of society
  - Every person is capable of understanding that difference and/or uniqueness do not pose a threat
    - an opportunity for individual and community as a whole
  - Every person is capable of understanding the importance of supporting others in their quest to find uniqueness
  - Every person is capable of recognizing the integration of differences guarantees a world that
    - *chooses construction over destruction*
  - All mechanisms of our society are responsible for the integration of these differences (Hecht, 2003)
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# “Violence is the expression of impotence.”

--Bronowski, *The Face of Violence*

- We all have a need for recognition
- If these needs cannot be obtained legitimately, they will be obtained...somehow, in whatever form and degree.
- When our need for recognition/significance is blocked, we become assertive. This is natural.
- If our assertiveness is blocked and we still do not get the recognition/sense of significance we are seeking, we may become aggressive.
- If others continue to ignore us no matter what we do, or if our need to fulfill our possibilities is blocked, the soil is made ready for the seeds of
  - alienation    --uselessness    --hopelessness
  - and we may be inclined to violence.

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# Violence is not the child of power, but of powerlessness

- Our human aggressive impulse arises not out of the excesses of power, but out of powerlessness
  - the feeling of insignificance that leads to the sense that nothing matters
  - there is no other way to express or articulate it than through violence

**“Violence is, essentially, a confession of ultimate inarticulatedness.”**

- When schools think democratically by following the advice of the IDE
    - enabling students to articulate and follow their interests, goals, dreams, career interests,  
--so as to reach their potential and self-actualize,
  - there will be little or no need to be aggressive in order to have the sense of significance we all seek. (May, 1967)
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- **Self-actualized persons will have less reason to be apathetic, feel powerless, and so be aggressive or violent.**
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# Self-actualization will reduce the human aggressive impulse

- Communities that encourage and provide opportunities and enables its members to fulfill “...the instinctual need of humans to make the most of their unique abilities and to strive to be the best they can be”—bring out each person’s uniqueness
  - Everyone can be excellent, especially if:
    - we let a child in school choose the area they wish to develop.
  - Questions we ask our children to encourage self-actualization
    - *What is your uniqueness?*
    - *What do you bring?*
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# Reducing our aggressive impulse: 1

- The goal of education for sustainability must be to reduce our aggressive impulse
  - This can be accomplished by:
    1. A democratic culture in schools--this would foster closer relationships between adults and children
    2. Looking for the uniqueness of every child
    3. Providing a place for it to develop
    4. Bringing this to the attention of the community and celebrating
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# Reducing our aggressive impulse: 2

- To decrease the potential of “the human aggressive impulse”
    - *we must recognize the underlying causes of the social disease of impotence.*
  - When:
    - a person’s need for recognition is stifled; when their sense of justice is ignored;
    - when they feel they have little influence over events;
    - when they are kept from realizing dreams, ambitions, longings, ideas, full-filling their potential and actualizing who they are,
    - they can become apathetic.
  - Apathy is the stage before violence.
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# Neural developmental pluralism

(Levine, 2003)

- The celebration of “all kinds of minds”
  - Epitomizes alternative education’s core values  
diversity, variety, no one best way...

“I look forward to the day when our schools offer every student the opportunity to become an expert on a chosen topic.”

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**Too much school,  
too little education:**

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**Assimilationism vs. Authenticity**

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# The issue:

Forces in society, both majority and so-called minority, via the public schools, view adopting the dominant culture (and leaving one's culture behind) as the answer to education, social, and employment problems.

“Conformity limits innovativeness.”

-- John Harri Loflin

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# The problem:

- American middle-class European-based culture can no longer be the only standard. In a global, flat world, urban schools have to expand what it means to be educated, what it means to be intelligent, and what it means to be a citizen

“The duty of a citizen is not to fit into society, but make society.”

-- John Holt

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# A New World View: Education In a Global Era\*

- “Children today are more likely, than in any other generation, to face a life of working, networking, loving, and living with others from different national, linguistic, religious, and racial background.
- Students are challenged to engage and work through competing and contrasting cultural models and social practices, adjusting to and accommodating in such areas as kinship, gender, language, and the complicated mixture of race, ethnicity, and inequality. Trans-cultural communication, understanding, empathy, and collaboration are no longer ideals.
- *It is not as simple as the one-way assimilation and accommodation of ethnic, racial, linguistic, and religious minorities learning the codes of the majority society in order to get along and get ahead.*

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\* (Suarez-Orozco, 2005)

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"I failed your class 'cause I ain't with your reasoning.  
You tryin' to make me you..."

-- Boogie Down Productions, 1989

- Education as passive conformity, in order to fit in, is in stark contrast to the oppositional nature of current global hip-hop culture, a culture that arises out of the need for authenticity and self-actualization where many do want to pay the psychological and social price to “get along and get ahead.”
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# Schools as crucibles for self-actualization and as means to clarity

- One thing is certain; identity development must begin in finding out who you are and expressing the knowledge first to “self” and then to the world.
  - Our urban public schools/educators must go about the important business of examining the proper/best part they can play in this process.
- The IDE has already provided a framework -
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# Positive Peace Education

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Paulo Freire

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# *Peace education movement strategies*

- ***Negative peace:*** Practices to stop violence in its various forms. Most human rights work is carried out in the classic tradition of negative peace.
  - ***Positive peace*** Pedagogical, future-oriented, and transformational. The fundamental question for peace education is:
    - How can we create the social conditions in the future to establish a culture of peace?
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# Peace education: A larger conceptual umbrella for human rights education

The 3 models of human rights education:

1. Programs that serve to raise awareness of human rights situations and values such as most school-based initiatives
2. Human rights training for specific professions such as human rights education for police or journalists
3. Transformative human rights education which seeks to effect lasting social change.

*It is this last model that combines Freire's themes and links human rights education to comprehensive peace education.*

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# Human rights: The core of Institute for Democratic Education schools

- For schools to work, the spirit of democracy must be inside the school: Freedom to think, to speak, associate, or question.

*“The goal of democratic schools is respecting human rights in schools.”*

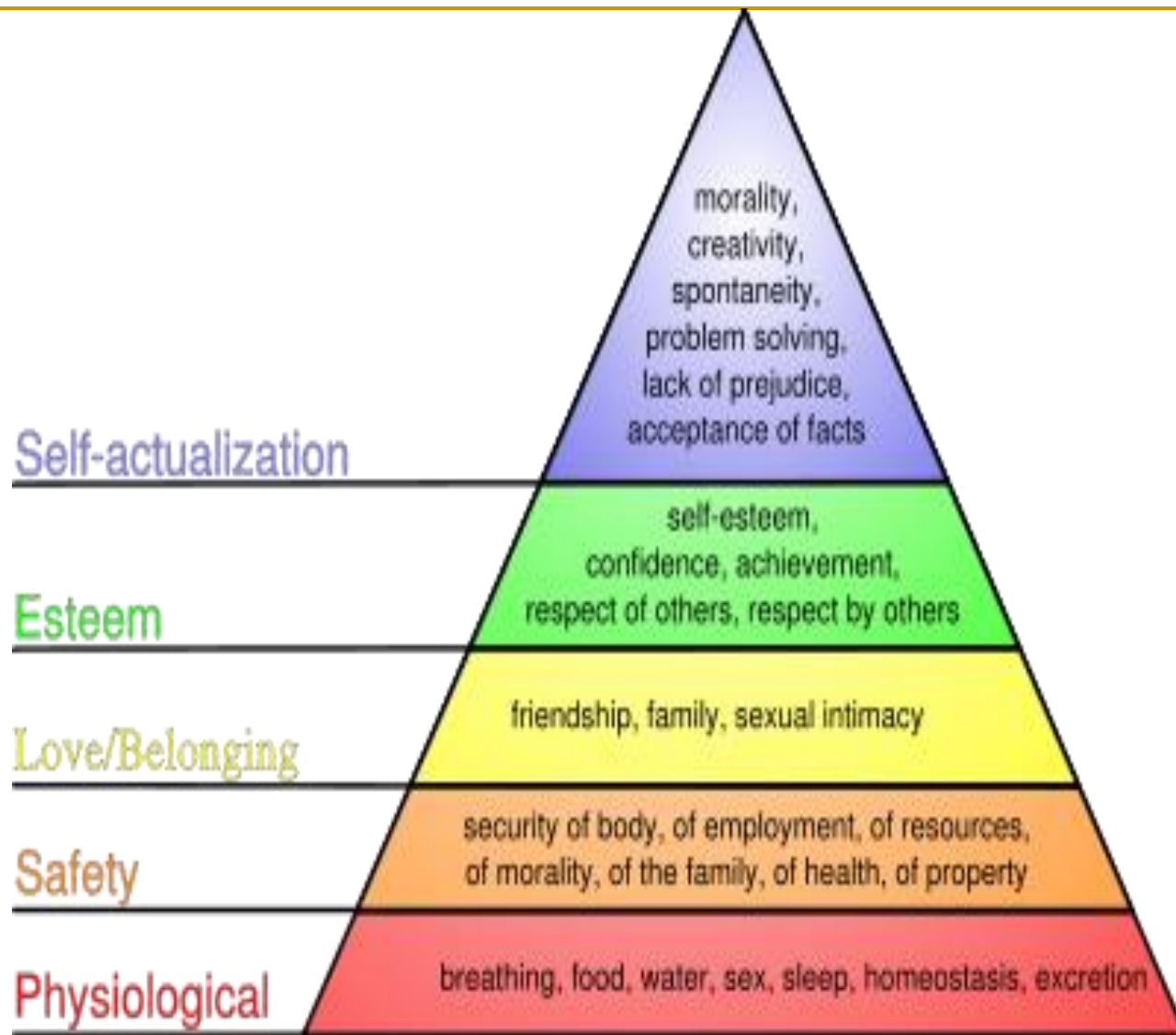
(Hecht, 2003)

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# Paulo Freire & Yaccov Hecht

- ***Positive peace** education draws on the normative human rights standards as the underlying values needed to support a culture of peace.*
  - *Thus, human rights function as conceptual frameworks for peace education.*
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**Level 6 the desire to know and understand and 7 aesthetic needs**

# Are meeting our needs fairly the true practice of democracy?

- How can society/schools provide the recognition we all need?
- Physiological needs
- Safety needs
- Recognition
- Esteem
- Self-actualization

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# It all concerns power & what to do about it

We cannot avoid

Using power, Can not escape the compulsion

To afflict the world,

So let us, cautious in diction

And mighty in contradiction,

Love powerfully

-- Martin Buber *Power and Love*

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