

December 18, 1990

Dear Friends ,

Preparing to write this letter, I have read through the letters of the past few years. It is gratifying to see how much the students and I at Wesleyan have been in the middle of the great strides towards world peace of recent years. At the same time, it is frightening, as I write this, to realize how close we are to a terrible, unnecessary war in the Middle East. It is time that we abolished war, if for no other reason that war puts far too much destructive power into the hands of men like Bush and Hussein.

Our work over the past few years on the People's Peace Appeal, and the US-USSR Student Summit have helped contribute to the amazing reduction of the Cold War. I say "reduction" because many of the institutions of the Cold War remain intact in the United States, including the military-industrial complex, the CIA, and a mass media that pushes for war and ignores the growing actions for peace.

Perhaps equally important is the growing role of the United Nations in mediating the settlement of regional disputes. Last year the Psychology of War and Peace class made a major contribution to the elections in Namibia, which, under UN supervision, led to the birth of a new nation. A precedent was set - revolutions can take place at the ballot box for the first time in history. And just yesterday, we saw a similar event, thanks to UN observers, in Haiti.

Most important of all is the beginnings of the development of peace institutions in the United States, which is the heart of world imperialism. Last year I told you about the role of the City Peace Commission in New Haven. This year, the War and Peace course is working to help set up a city peace and justice commission in Middletown.

It is within this context that we are working. This fall, there were two action projects in the War and Peace Course: Batsi Poee and Chris Hackney, both from South Africa, were teaching apprentices for the anti-apartheid project; while John Weathers and Sarah Tunik were TA's for the peace and justice commission project. In the former, we sponsored a South Africa Awareness week, including a talk by Mpho Lekgoro of the South African Youth Congress, as well as raising money for school books for South Africans. In the latter, work was done to establish relations and lay the base for Youth Councils in the inner city housing projects of Middletown. Theard Vanel developed the Youth Council project and will be a TA for the class in the Spring. A high point came when Lekgoro was taken over to Long River Village to speak with the Youth Council there.

Demand has increased enormously for the War and Peace Course because of the Gulf crisis, so we have decided to increase the size of the class from 33 to 45, add two more TA's and devote a third action project to the Middle East. As the main text, we will be reading "A Compassionate Peace" by Everett Mendelsohn.

The Seville Statement on Violence continues to challenge the myth that war is intrinsic to human nature. Now that it has been formally adopted by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), it will get far more dissemination. I am in the process of writing a brochure on the Statement that will be published and distributed worldwide by UNESCO. Hopefully, it will be ready for you to order by this time next year.

Scientific work goes more slowly. Whereas I can say that there has been a revolutionary change in the prospects for world peace over the past few years, there has been progress at a much slower rate

in our understanding of the brain mechanisms of social behavior

Students in the Evolution of Social Behavior course reviewed the status of research on sexual behavior, parental behavior, grooming, play, and group contact motivational systems, and we found that brain research is not much further advanced on them than on offense, defense, and submission which we investigate in the lab along with patrol/markings. The students did a remarkable job with their literature searches and papers, given the chaotic state of the literature.

In the laboratory we continue to concentrate on offense, and our progress is slow. The chemical stimulation work has been carried on valiantly by Karl Oberteuffer and Will Boudreau this year, following in the tradition of Kaleb Yohay, but we have yet to get a breakthrough. By the way, Kaleb is now working for Nottebohm in New York on the brain mechanisms of the canary's song. Another lab project is devoted to elucidating how testosterone and estrogen activate the motivational stimulus analyzers of offense. Camille Aird is working as the teaching apprentice for the lab course this year, in the tradition of Christy Burhans last spring. I won't be able to tell you the results until next year.

One book that I promised to write several years ago is finally written: *The Aggression Systems: Human Aspects; Evolution; Brain Mechanisms; and Dynamics*. It has not been sent to a commercial publisher yet, but is available in a special bound edition for \$50.00 to libraries, if you wish to order it from me.

Another book on *The Abolition of War* is still in the planning stage, but I hope to make some progress on it this Spring.

Now for news from students that you knew at Wesleyan in my courses. I will not review the students who present at the Neuroscience Society or who are listed in the Wesleyan alumni news, since you are probably aware of them already. First I would like to recognize Mikhail Kalinichev who came from David's Collective # 2 in Tbilisi, Soviet Georgia, to Wesleyan last year. He took both the lab course and the Evolution of Social Behavior and took part in the US-Soviet Student Summit. Misha is now back in Tbilisi (he wrote recently) and plans to come to graduate school at Rutgers in animal behavior next year. Also far away is Vusi Nhlapho who is in South Africa taking part in the momentous changes there - he also wrote recently and sent his greetings to everyone. Carlotta Abrams is back in Tempe Arizona after travels in Morocco, Greece, and Europe and taking a degree in creative writing. Cyrillene Crichlow is writing a masters thesis at Villanova on gender biases in the rewarding of merit increases. Recently I saw Evelyn Gonzalez in New York; she and Paul Spivey are both taking part in programs helping kids in the inner city. Which reminds me of those who attended their wedding with whom I still correspond - Carlton Barnswell, Catalina Rios, and Danny Morales.

Going back further in the days of the "ratlab" I heard recently from Sarah Partan who is going for a Ph.D. in animal behavior at UCAL in Davis. Sunhi Lee has finished medical school and is interning at Columbia-Presbyterian Med Center. Walter Severini has his own biomedical engineering business in lower Manhattan. And Jon Mink and Janet Cranshaw recently stopped by Wesleyan - they are both in pediatrics in St. Louis.

Finally, news from the home front. Lindsay and I are going to Cuba next week for our fourth vacation on the beach of "El Tropic" where there is lots of sun and coral reef for snorkeling. Both Jeff and Tracy have gotten married this year, leaving us with an "empty nest" at home. But that does mean there is now a guest room if you would like to visit!

It's almost time for New Year's Resolutions. How about Peace in the Middle East! And as for a

Decade Resolution, how about Disarmament by the Year 2000!

Peace, David