

Peace Economy News

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2....Science fiction is alive in the military
by Charles Kindleberger
- 3....It's only money, but it's being wasted
by Charles Kindleberger
- 4-5..Bigger and bigger military appetites
by Charles Kindleberger
- 6....SLMPD unveils Real Time Intelligence Center
by Jasmin Maurer
- 6-7...Healthcare for all
by April Houston
- 7....PEP researches youth violence
by Charles Kindleberger
- 8....Real prison reform is needed beyond election talk
by Rachel Cramsey
- 8....St. Louis fights for \$15 minimum wage initiative
by Danielle Brower
- 9....The struggle in Honduras immigration
by Abbe Sudvarg
- 9....PEP goes to Washington
- 10...Annual Report
- 11...2013-14 Donors

Building for peace means fighting racism at home

by **Jasmin Maurer**
Executive Director

When I showed up to Canfield the day after Mike Brown was killed, I didn't expect to step into the beginning of a movement. But when police came to the vigil for a life lost with violence in mind, they sparked something that couldn't be stopped.

As a young white peace activist, this past year has been a time of tremendous growth for me. For years I had been decrying wars abroad, but standing on West Florissant, I finally saw what so many of our black and brown brothers and sisters had been telling white folks for years: there is also a war here in our streets.

I remember clearly being on the streets in the pouring rain. I had found myself with a group of veterans from Veterans for Peace. Lining the streets were police officers with rifles at the ready. There were military vehicles being brought in with the national guard. There was blood stained on Canfield. The scene screamed war.

I believe that weapons of war have no place anywhere in our world, whether on the streets of Ferguson or Iraq. And while I am in favor of getting rid of these weapons, I also know that this doesn't solve the whole problem.

As white peace activists, we know that violence is used as a tactic to oppress. We have heard the testimony of those abroad. Seen the death and destruction of community. As white activists, we must also know that this happens in neighborhoods in our very own country. What happened in Fer-



Montague Simmons of OBS speaks on behalf of the Don't Shoot Coalition.

guson wasn't an isolated event. Events just like it are occurring across the country.

That's why it has been so important for the Peace Economy Project to take a stand for racial justice. At the basis of a peace economy is the right to feel safe and secure, no matter where you live or the color of your skin.

PEP has aided this movement primarily through our participation in the Don't Shoot Coalition, which consists of almost 50 local organizations committed to long-term change in policing and racial justice in the St. Louis area. Don't Shoot has played a vital role in assisting the movement and pushing for better legislation.

This movement is no where near over, and it is important that we keep pushing against systemic violence fueled by racist systems, both in our foreign and domestic policies.

Science fiction is alive in the military

by Charles Kindleberger
PEP Board Member

Pity the poor souls in charge of naming projects and acronyms in the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the Navy Research Lab and about 75 other groups in the Department of Defense, not to mention contracted universities and other consultants. Most of the work is fascinating. Some is promising in that it would allow more to be accomplished with less. A good part is frightening.

Why frightening? Because much of the research accelerates the arms race around the world, and advanced weapons inevitably run the risk of convincing policy leaders that the US can be more assertive, and less humble, in dealing with its allies and adversaries.

Here is a look at some of the latest stuff in the works:

ROBOTICS

Low-Cost UAV Swarming Technology (LOCUST). Remember Michael Creighton and his 2002 book about nanobots called "Prey." The Navy is on the verge of demonstrating how 20 or 30 synchronized "birds" (drones) can be launched from a "canon." The goal is to have a swarm that can join together, break apart and conduct missions

individually, collaboratively and spontaneously. Recall that in Creighton's book the Swarm turned on its creators.

Anti-submarine Warfare Continuous Trail Unmanned Vehicle (ACTUV). A robotic ship, "the Sea Hunter," is supposed to launch this year able to track very quiet diesel-electric submarines. In addition to following submarines, it can avoid vessels, rocks and other problems on the surface. How will we respond if someone sinks it?

Robotic War Balls. A company called GuardBot has developed an amphibious drone that swims over water at about four miles per hour and then can roll up and along a beach with a 30 degree incline at 20 miles per hour. Designed for use by Marines, these devices can carry detection or camera equipment or explosives.

LASERS

The Navy has a prototype 30-kilowatt-class Laser on the USS Ponce, a transport ship in the Persian Gulf. Using light focused from six solid state commercial welding lasers, it can be used on small boats and UAVs. In the next few years more are expected with a range of around a mile. Then in the next decade projections are that laser systems will increase in range (10 miles?) and in the ability to intercept a variety of incoming missiles.

Advanced Test High Energy Asset (ATHENA). Lockheed is actively developing laser weapons. It recently field tested a "multi-fiber laser" destroying a small truck a mile away. Last year it demonstrated the ability to hit and stop small rubber boats about a mile apart.

High Energy Liquid Laser Area Defense System (HELLADS). This ambitious system is

designed to protect aircraft from surface to air missiles. DARPA is reporting to be working on a variation that would be an offensive weapon able to destroy ground targets.

RAILGUNS

An alternative to laser technology, the railgun uses electromagnetic technology to fire rapidly (around 10 rounds a minute) at muzzle velocities twice those of conventional guns. With no propellants or explosives on board, the projectiles are easier to store. There is also a far lower cost in comparison with comparable missiles. Lots of companies have gotten involved:

K2 Energy Solutions has received \$81 million from the Navy in order to create a battery system able to power rail guns.

General Atomics has received funding from the Office of Naval Research for the 32 MJ launcher. It also has developed the Blitzer MJ System on its own.

BAE makes a hypervelocity projectile that can be fired from a railgun. They have proposed a "tank killing" railgun for the next version of the Bradley fighting vehicle.

The Navy anticipates deploying railguns in sea trials next year.

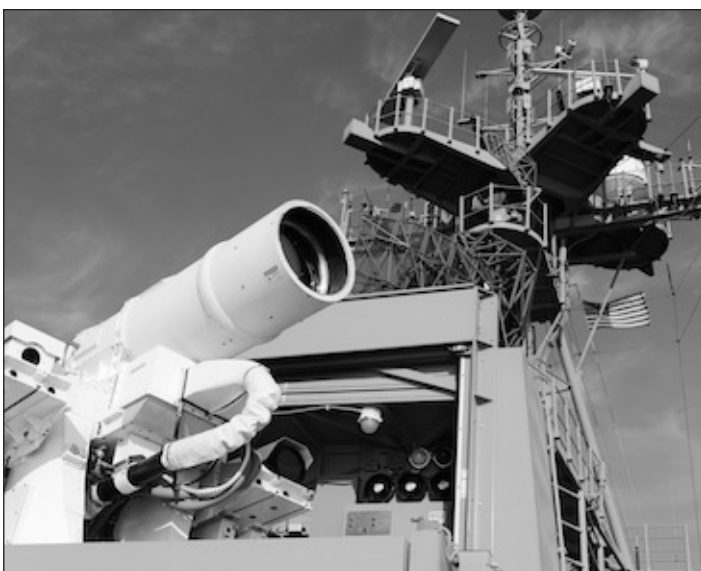
PLANES

We have read for a long time that the 2500 F-35s would be the fighter for the next 55 or 60 years. Now comes news of work on its successor – the X plane. Pentagon Acquisition Chief has announced the Aerospace Innovation Initiative, an effort to expand the building of prototype airframes and engines. Many of us have wondered about the problems of the 5th generation F-35; is it really time to get serious about a 6th generation plane. There is much more:

Vulture II program works on the Solar Eagle that would stay in the air for at least five years solar energy.

The Integrated Sensor IS Structure (ISIS) is an effort to create an unmanned high-altitude, solar powered airship that would collect information for a 10 year period.

The VTOL X-Plane. Remember all the problems associated with the V-22 Osprey.



US Navy ship-mounted laser in the Persian Gulf

It's only money – but it's being wasted

by Charles Kindleberger
PEP Board Member

For those who have been skeptical about US efforts to build an Anti-Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Defense (Star Wars) since the 1980s, don't miss the investigative report by David Willman in the April 5 Los Angeles Times. The story has most of the familiar defense industries (Boeing, Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed and more) and a mix of good guys and goats.

It starts with the Rumsfeld Commission report issued in 1998. The report worried about rogue countries like Iran, North Korea and Iraq being able to build a long range missile delivery capability within five years. In December 2002, President Bush ordered a new Ground Based Midcourse Defense System to be made operational within two years. In turn, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld is said to have removed standard procedures requiring systems to be tested before construction.

There were to be four components:

Sea-Based X-Band Radar (SXB) – a proposed sophisticated radar that could detect a missile and distinguish real war heads from decoys. It was to be located near the

Aleutian Islands off of Alaska. It never made it. Reportedly the field of vision was so narrow that it could not pick up more than one missile. Today, \$2.2 billion later, the huge device is said to be abandoned.

Airborne Laser – a fleet of Boeing 707 planes each with a chemical laser to be fired through its nose. The problem was that without building a much larger laser, the planes would have had to get so close to their target that they would be vulnerable to enemy missiles. The cost was \$5.3 billion. The program was terminated in 2012.

Kinetic Interceptor – a large rocket interceptor was to be sent during the early “boost” phase of an enemy long range missile. However, its range was too short to be land based, and its size was such that it could not fit on regular ships. It was killed in 2009 after a cost of \$1.7 billion.

Multiple Kill Vehicle – a bandolier of eight to 20 miniature interceptors. Finding and destroying heavier missiles proved to be problematic and a test flight was not possible. It was shelved in 2009 after spending \$700 million.

Ten billion dollars spent in a relatively few years constitutes, of course, only a fraction of the more than \$100 billion spent

on Star Wars since the 1980s. However, it is truly frustrating to read the quotes of Air Force Lieutenant General Henry Oberling III who was director of the 8500 person Missile Defense Agency at the time. He spoke in terms of hyperbole: “This will be the most powerful radar in the world,” and morality: “We are building a light saber against the forces of evil.”

Equally frustrating was the reported performance of certain congressmen who refused to accept the bad news when it finally began to come out. For example, Howard “Buck” McKeon, who later became Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, is described as vehemently challenging Patrick O'Reilly who became head of the Missile Defense Agency after Oberling. McKeon didn't seem to want to understand why the system would not work, just how to put more money into keeping it going. That attitude is reported as well for senators from Arizona and Alabama.

O'Reilly's final quote in the article won't surprise many PEP members. “These things really didn't have a lot of merit,” he said. “It was just how they were packaged and sold in Washington.”

Science fiction is alive in the military cont.

Here comes its replacement- faster, capable of very efficient hovering and able to carry 4800 lbs of cargo. Aiming for 2018.

The Aerial Reconfigurable Embedded System (ARES) is a follow on project to DARPA's Transformer project that would create a flying Humvee. Field tests by Lockheed have been scheduled for 2015.

The SR- 72 is a hypersonic plane being developed by Lockheed Martin and Aerojet Rocketdyne. Designed to accelerate quickly and cruise at Mach 6, this surveillance and reconnaissance plane would replace the SR-71. The plane builds on DARPA's work. In 2012, it announced that a plane flying at 20 times the speed of sound would occur in 2016.

The military is involved in so much more:

Extreme Accuracy Tasked Ordinance (EXACTO) which looks to build smart, self-guided bullets.

Legged Squad Support System (LS3) in development by Boston Dynamics, a four legged robot that can carry hundreds of pounds of military equipment.

One Shot XG is a DARPA program to improve the accuracy

of snipers with a computer driven device that calculates the best aim given wind conditions, weapons alignment, etc.

Z-Man helps soldiers engage in high risk climbing with a synthetic material that replicates the capabilities of geckos and spiders.

Broad Operational Language Translation (BOLT) is a tool that would allow soldiers to communicate with, and understand, citizens speaking in different languages.

What do we make of all this? Can this huge assembly of brilliant innovation make the world safer? We have our doubts. First, we don't like the idea of making it easier to kill people. Second, controlling all this accelerating technology is going to be difficult. But beyond that, all this Research and Development seems likely to induce China, and to a lesser extent Russia, to strive to build bigger weapons themselves. If any of the major powers achieve a major military advantage, that country may feel they can take more risks, and their counterparts may in turn determine that they have to strike first to protect themselves.

Bigger and bigger military appetites:

by Charles Kindleberger
PEP Board Member

You have probably heard of the Doomsday Clock that measures “minutes to midnight” based on an assessment of world dangers by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists.

Over the years the minutes to midnight have ranged from 17 minutes (1991) on the high side, to three minutes (1883) on the scary side. Earlier this year, the clock was changed in the wrong direction – from five minutes in 2012 to three minutes now.

In the mind of those at the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, the existential danger to the planet is caused by two realities – the warming globe and the advancements in nuclear weapons. Most members of PEP are concerned by both trends. PEP as an organization focuses primarily on the latter subject – the growth of nuclear weapons and their delivery mechanisms, and the role of the Military-Industrial-Congressional complex that promotes these and related weapons of war. We also worry about the huge costs associated with the US military,

costs that we do not believe the country can or should afford.

It is obvious that the Armed Services and their friends in industry and Congress are very hungry. Consider the wish list associated with each major branch:

NAVY. The Navy has expensive tastes. In recent years it has had a \$15.7 billion dollar shipbuilding budget. But look at what it has on its plate. Eleven aircraft carriers are operated out of Newport News, Va. and Bremerton, Wash. The **Gerald Ford** is the newest carrier having cost \$12.9 billion to date, but which is, according to the General Accounting Office (GAO) still only 80 percent complete and requiring almost another billion. The Navy has ordered two more Ford class ships, so that the estimated total cost will be \$43 billion for three new carriers, but, of course they want to replace all 11 of them.

Three **Zumwalt-class destroyers** have been ordered (seen as replacements for the Iowa class battleships). The largest and fanciest destroyer ever built, the Zumwalt can do a lot of things with a crew of only 142 sailors. But the GAO estimates that

one ship will cost \$7.3 billion, or three at about \$22 billion.

Less expensive is the **LHA 6 America class Amphibious Assault** ship which is also a “floating fortress” complete with all kinds of weapons, the ability to carry aircraft and helicopters and 1,871 troops over and above its 1200 person crew. The current estimated cost is only \$3.4 billion per ship or a little more than \$10 billion for the three that have been ordered. What did Senator Everett Dirksen say? “A billion here and billion there and pretty soon you are talking about real money.”

The Navy wants plenty of other ships of course, some of which are quite controversial. Once celebrated as “ships of the future,” **Littoral Combat Ships (LCS)** have been built in two versions, Freedom class and Independence class, for operations close to land. Unfortunately, there have been extensive complaints about the price (\$670 million each), the lack of firepower and vulnerability. Four are scheduled to be in Singapore by 2018, presumably to make a presence in the South China Sea. The overall order has supposedly been cut from 52 to 32.

But wait there is more. The Navy is currently building two Virginia class attack submarines a year, at about \$2 billion each. Eighteen built, another 10 ordered and a total of 49 desired. However, it also wants to replace its 14 Ohio class submarines with 12 new SSBN-X subs. Eighteen were built in the 1980s and 1990s, designed for 30 year service, later certified for 42 years. Four of the 18 were converted to cruise missile submarines without nuclear weapons. The Navy wants to replace them with 12 new Ohio class subs. Unhappily, the first will cost an estimated \$14 billion. Over time the twelve would average \$7 billion.

Finally the Navy wants more and fancier weapons on its ships. In January, Vice Admiral Thomas Rowden was quoted in military speak – “We’re going to up-gun as many existing platforms as we can to achieve more total lethality.”

AIR FORCE. Everybody loves to beat up on the **F-35**, and with reason. Of



The Littoral Combat Ship has incurred cost overruns, costing \$670 million each

A brief overview of weapons acquisition

course, it is not just the Air Force's problem; the Navy and Marines have, with their own versions, skin in the game. There are currently so many complaints – a nose cannon that some say won't be ready until late 2018 because of delays in required software; limited ability to drop bombs, deal with hostile incoming missiles or identify enemy radar; engine design issues and more. In April the GAO expressed concern, and the Pentagon's Inspector General identified 61 "nonconformities" with DOD requirements and policies. The Pentagon says it won't begin full rate production for another four years (April 2019), though it has already purchased more than 100 that will all need retrofitting. DOD and Congress still want to purchase 2400 of these planes at a total of about \$400 billion. A more depressing number is the estimated \$850 billion required for production, maintenance and operations over the plane's 55 to 60 year lifetime.

The Air Force wants new bombers – at an estimated \$550 million per system. They currently argue for 100 which would cost \$55 billion (some say \$80 billion) and be available in the mid-2020s. These would augment or replace 20 B2s and B52s Stratofortresses. To the chagrin of many, the Defense Department wants to get rid of the A-10 Wart Hog fleet, saving \$4.7 billion, and slash the EC10 fleet, saving \$470 million. They also speak of possibly purchasing Textron Scorpions which sounds a lot like replacing the A-10 plane.

If the Ohio Class Submarine and new or current bombers are two elements of US nuclear deterrence, recall that the triad has a third piece– the 450 Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) that reside in the North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. There has been a lot of controversy about the morale of the men and women who work on this force. There is general consensus that the Air Force is not able to respond quickly to a terrorist or some other emergency at one of its sites. The Missiles are said to need upgrading and "demervng" so that there will only one warhead on each missile. Modernization and spare parts have cost around \$350

million in recent years. The expectation is that they will then remain in good shape until around 2030, but already design work on the replacement system has been reported.

ARMY. The Army has largely personnel challenges, the result of substantial pay increases and health care costs in recent years. It costs only an estimated \$17,000 to equip a soldier. Fortunately, the Defense Department (if not Congress, especially those from Ohio and Pennsylvania) believes that the Army has enough tanks which can cost around \$6 million each. To upgrade an older Abrams tank costs about \$7.5 million. Then there are the Bradley fighting vehicles which come in several flavors – the M2 Infantry Fighting Vehicle and the M3 Cavalry Fighting Vehicle, both of which have been modified over time. Almost 7,000 have been manufactured, at an average cost of a little over \$3 million. In 2009 Defense Secretary Robert Gates canceled the replacement system (Future Combat Systems Manned Ground Vehicles); then in 2010 the Army started a Ground Combat Vehicle program which was cancelled in 2014. Now there is talk of a Future Fighting Vehicle program that could start as soon as 2019. What ground war are these guys planning for?

This snapshot does not include extensive costs associated with upgrading nuclear weapons and trying to build anti-ballistic missile systems – both ICBM and local systems like the one proposed to protect Gulf states from a country like Iran. The reality is that we cannot do it all, not without bankrupting the country. The nation needs education, infrastructure, healthcare, employment and a working safety net.

China does not want to attack us – we owe them too much money, and they want to invest here. Russia with its tottering economy can't realistically take on NATO. They know that it either struck first with a



The F-35 has often been the posterchild of military waste

large sale attack we would retaliate with overwhelming power.

Our challenge is to show potential adversaries that we will not unilaterally disarm, but that we favor international cooperation and that we are capable of a strong defense that costs far less. We are convinced that there are many options that should be explored. For example:

Even if the F-35 works out its problems, consider building 300 or 400 of them rather than 2400. Planes like the F-15, F-16 and F-18 are perfectly adequate in most of the world.

Don't let the Air Force spend \$50 to \$80 billion dollars building a new bomber force. Our submarines and our ICBM missiles are enough of a deterrent. If necessary equip our current bombers with standoff weapons systems, and/or convert some F-22s or F-35s into UAVs able to deliver bombs without pilots on board.

Stretch out acquisitions. Why do we need to lead a world-wide arms race?

Reexamine the wisdom of \$14 billion aircraft carriers. No other country has more than one or two, but we have 11. Our carriers have very sophisticated layers of defense, but China is reported to be building very sophisticated anti-ship missiles. What if an incident resulted in two or three percent of the hostile missiles getting through and sinking a carrier with 5000 people and 90 planes on board? What would a proportional response be that didn't result in nuclear winter on the planet.

SLMPD unveils Real Time Intelligence Center

by **Jasmin Maurer**
PEP Director

This past April, the St. Louis Police Department unveiled the first stage of its latest technological toy, the Real Time Intelligence Center (now being called the Real Time Crime Center) at its downtown headquarters.

The RTIC is a hub for 24/7 monitoring of the 140 cameras in place around the city of St. Louis, as well as license plate readers. It will be staffed by eight police officers who will be able to send information gathered to officers via in-car computers.

This type of surveillance system was created with no public input from the people who live in St. Louis. The funding for it comes primarily from a grant from Motorola and funds from the Police Foundation. It has also raised a lot of red flags from the ACLU and Drone Free St. Louis for potential privacy abuses by the police.

The RTIC first came up in a bond issue proposal last year drafted by Board of Alderman President Lewis Reed. In the proposal was \$4 million for its creation, but the bill was stalled after citizen concerns removed this funding from the original language and made it a separate question to be voted on.

The RTIC came up again, this time called the Real Time Traffic Center, in Amend-

ment 7, which would have raised sales taxes for transportation funds. The amendment was ultimately voted down and the bond issue has yet to come to a vote, but those who came out to speak against the RTIC made it very clear, the public should have a voice in this change of policing practices.

That opportunity never came, though. The St. Louis Police Dept. went to private funders to get their center operational. The public wasn't even allowed inside to view it for its unveiling.

At the same time, questions remain unanswered as to how those in St. Louis will be protected from privacy invasion. Technology has moved well beyond the realms of law, and what constitutes a reasonable expectation of privacy needs to be reviewed. Many of the cameras linked into the center are also owned and operated by business districts, allowing business interests to be policed by public services.

None of this even touches on the fact that cameras and surveillance aren't even proven effective in reducing crime, the sole reason for piling thousands and millions on this project. Studies have shown only a



minimal reduction in property crime, which evaporated after a few months. Cameras made no impact on violent crime.

So shouldn't we be having a conversation around what will really make us safe? Much like our foreign policy, our local policing tends to lean on the side of spending more money and getting tougher instead of truly investing in programs that will create the types of safe and healthy communities we want to live in.

The money used for the RTIC would go much farther if spent on St. Louis's crumbling school system, re-opening closed health centers, investing in poverty-reducing measures. Instead the city would rather invest in a surveillance center that focuses on capturing criminals and keeping our jails full. Sounds like failed priorities to me.

Healthcare for all: The fight for expanding

by **April Houston**
MOJWJ Intern

The Missouri Medicaid Coalition has been organizing actions and lobbying legislators to expand Medicaid in the state, but have been unable to convince the Republican leadership to make it a priority.

Medicaid is currently the third largest entitlement program in the federal budget, and provides health care assistance to children, the elderly, and low-income populations. The Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) expanded Medicaid eligibility while also providing funds for wellness, community-based services and supports,

and improvement of quality of care.

As a result of a Supreme Court 2012 decision, states have the ability to opt out of Medicaid expansion or create their own expansion plan (providing the federal government approves). Because the number of new Medicaid enrollees per state as a result of expansion would be substantial, the federal government is covering 100 percent of the cost for the first three years (2013-2016), and then gradually decreasing its match to a permanent rate of 90 percent.

Currently, eligibility restrictions for Missouri's Medicaid program (now known as MO HealthNet) are the lowest

allowable under federal law, but it still covers about one of every seven residents and almost half of the births in the state. Childless adults are ineligible for the program, regardless of income level, and working parents cannot qualify if their salary causes their household income to rise over 19 percent of the federal poverty line (FPL).

Over 800,000 Missouri residents are currently uninsured, and the highest percentages of them live in rural areas.

Without insurance, individuals must pay for doctors' visits and medication out-of-pocket, and as most uninsured have low or moderate incomes and little assets or sav-

PEP researches youth violence in St. Louis

by **Charles Kindleberger**
PEP Board Member

Shootings and deaths have soared in St. Louis. A hot summer is likely to contribute to even higher numbers. The moms, grandmothers and other survivors of these incidents suffer. At a basic level is the financial cost to the immediate family – the cost of a funeral, a burial plot, loss of a breadwinner and more. More importantly is the emotional pain – the heartache, loss, sorrow, guilt, fear and PTSD experienced by family and friends.

With this in mind, PEP applied for and received a small grant from the Deaconess Foundation with the intent of giving voice to those who lost a child or a friend.

Even before the Ferguson tragedy, we realized that the issue was very complicated, that beyond individual family pain was the loss experienced by the neighborhoods and municipalities where extensive violence occurs. Real estate markets collapse, developers turn away, businesses are abandoned and public safety costs expand.

At still a wider level are implications for the region; corporate relocations, investment in jobs that fail to happen, sprawl that is accelerated, conventions and tourism that go to other locations.

However our focus has been on the families and friends who suffer. We have

begun interviewing surviving mothers and grandmothers, brothers and sisters. Identifying and convincing people to talk has not been easy, but when we succeed, we are impressed by the number of people who welcome the chance to tell their story.

It is too early to reach final conclusions, and as one would expect there is wide variation in reactions: Some had a foreboding of trouble before the death; others had no clue that their son was in danger. Some believe the police did what they could; others are concerned that more has not been done to protect kids and solve the crime. Some wonder if an involved father, teacher or mentor might have made a difference; others despair that anything could have been done.

At this stage of our research, we have become aware of various programs that help ease the immediate pain.

□ Homicide, Ministers and Community Alliance (HMCA) – a group of volunteer ministers who advise the family on details surrounding the funeral and burial, attend the funeral if requested and encourage cooperation with the police.

□ Faces Not Forgotten recruits local artists to produce a portrait of young (less than 20) homicide victims. The family gets the original while replications are mounted on vintage hanker-shifts. A wall hanging that contains copies of multiple portraits is

especially powerful.

□ Crime Victims Support Center provides condolences, advice and referrals to counselling for survivors of homicide incidents. She coordinates with HMCA and Faces Not Forgotten.

□ Missouri Crime Victim's Compensation program can reimburse impoverished families for their funeral costs up to \$5,000.

□ Better Family Life has a Neighborhood Outreach and Assistance program, a "Put Down the Pistol" program and related initiatives that strive to identify troubled youth and their families, and to connect them with appropriate resources.

In the coming months we anticipate speaking with additional families and with organizations, universities and police involved in this on-going tragedy. During 2014, 138 individuals were murdered in the City of St. Louis with a gun, and more were murdered in St. Louis County. Of the city victims, 27 were teenagers and 90 were less than age 30.

By contrast, 55 American soldiers were killed in Afghanistan. St. Louis has worse numbers than most, but clearly there is an on-going war in many of our cities. Much, much more needs to be done.

Medicaid for Missourians

ings, these bills often go unpaid.

Hospitals providing services shoulder much of the cost of this uncompensated care. Some hospitals in rural areas cannot keep up with the costs of treating the uninsured and are closing. The Missouri Hospital Association reported that two of Missouri's 75 rural hospitals closed and about 1,800 hospital employees lost their jobs in 2014.

In 2012, the University of Missouri Medical School released a report predicting \$9.6 billion economic impact from 2014 to 2020 in Missouri if Medicaid was expanded, in addition to the creation of 24,000 jobs and \$846 million

increase in state tax collection.

The Missouri Budget Project noted "the state stands to gain more in savings from the current program than the state will spend on covering new populations."

The fight to expand Medicaid will continue in districts throughout the state over the summer and into Missouri's next legislative session.

To learn more or get involved with the Medicaid Expansion campaign, visit momedicaidcoalition.org or email Missouri Jobs with Justice organizing director Richard von Glahn (richard@mojwj.org)

Peace Economy News

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Real prison reform needed beyond election talk

by **Rachel Cramsey**
PEP Board Member

Prison reform has become a popular topic of conversation among prominent political actors as of late. We have seen many left and right voices come together to call for a revamp of the United States' current prison system. There's a good reason for this outcry: two million people are currently incarcerated for nonviolent offenses. We have locked away a large portion of our own population.

Part of this increase is evident in communities of color and how they have been targeted by police practices. A recent study showed a 231 percent increase in the number of black men imprisoned between the early 80s and 2011, as opposed to an increase of 198 percent for white male sentences in the same time period.

Another way of considering our prison population is to understand that one child in 28 is presently experiencing the trauma of having an incarcerated parent. A 2010 study found that 43 percent of women in prison were of communities of color, and of these women, many were found to be the sole caregiver of a child or children under the age of 18.

This is who we have incarcerated. Not long ago political leaders spoke highly of the need to be tough on crime, and now with a prison industry teeming with prisoners, attention is being called to undo that. We are seeing a shift-some of it verbally -in what political parties have to say about the prison industry and what the next steps are in reducing crime.

And everyone seems to have an opinion. Sen. Bernie Sanders, Sen. Hilary Clinton, Sen. Ted Cruz, Gov. Chris Christie and Gov. Scott Walker have all called for some sort of prison reform-all of them will also soon be on the campaign trail.

In a recent speech made at Columbia University, Hillary Clinton called for two things: first for oversight of federal funds to police departments to ensure funds are

going to the implementation of best policing practices rather than the purchase of war weapons for local departments, and secondly she called for an alteration in how we approach punishment in our current prison system.

Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL), Mike Lee (R-UT) have been working on legislation that will lessen mandatory minimums and allow judges to have more voice in the sentencing process for the cases they hear and Sens. Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) are propositioning that inmates who go through rehabilitation should be credited an earlier release date. Similarly, Texas is trying to defer those with drug offenses into rehabilitation rather than prison while New York is offering education programs as deterrents.

As plans for prison reform are enacted, it will be telling how real the steps taken are going to be. We don't have enough rehabilitation programs in this country outside or inside prisons to give access to those who would benefit, and a large portion of those returning from prison will face issues of unemployment and an inability to pay fines accrued along the way. Those constraints will have to be faced.

Cruz, Walker and others have spoken to the need for prison reform, but have worked hard against marginalized communities in myriad ways, so it's hard to say how far they will go in reforming a very broken system, especially as that broken system becomes more privatized and corporate interests step into the fray.

Prison reform isn't about addressing just the issues of mandatory minimums. This topic goes beyond decreasing how many men and women are housed in our cells. Prison reform also means social reform, and it will be a topic that will have to be discussed far beyond the election season.

For full citations, please see the blog post on our website, peaceeconomyproject.org/wordpress/?p=3833.

St. Louis fights for \$15 min. wage initiative

by **Danielle Brower**
MO JWJ Intern

There is an initiative in St. Louis City that would raise minimum wage in Missouri from \$7.50 to \$10.00, further increasing by \$1.25 until it reaches \$15.00 in 2020. A similar effort is also underway in Kansas City.

Simultaneously in the Missouri state legislature, House Bill 722 attempts to remove local control, eliminating the ability for such laws to exist at the city level. This bill threatens minimum wage increase and reduces power for people to have a voice and earn a living wage. Jobs With Justice has been leading an effort to have the Governor veto HB 722.

Under current law, as a result of a state-wide ballot initiative in 2008, the minimum wage in Missouri is set to increase by 15 cents next year. This is based on the inflation rate determined by the Missouri Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (Midwest CPI-W). This will bring minimum wage in Missouri up from \$7.50 to \$7.65 an hour. But this isn't really a raise. It just ensures that our state's lowest paid workers do not fall further behind every year.

Current low-wage workers endure wages significantly lower than those of their counterparts in past decades. The federal minimum wage is not subjected to change with inflation and peaked in 1968. If federal minimum wages had kept pace with inflation they would now be set at \$10.71 an hour. Minimum wage has fallen further behind the basic needs of health care and education even with the productivity, profits and number of hours worked by low-wage workers consistently increasing. If the federal minimum wage had kept pace with productivity it would \$18.67 today.

Legislative attacks on minimum wage requirements remain rampant, even with its stagnated increase, hurting families.

The struggle in Honduras and immigration

by **Abbe Sudvarg**
PEP Board Chair

This summer I will return to Guanacaste, Honduras for my fifth annual medical mission trip. Guanacaste is a profoundly poor, mountain community of approximately 400 people. They have lived for generations without clean water, electricity or health care.

Under the auspices of the small non-governmental organization (NGO), Washington Overseas Mission, our group of 10 U.S. citizens has seen the health of Guanacaste's citizens improve significantly. We have provided materials and hens for the building of a community chicken coop. The children are better nourished. Clean water now flows to Guanacaste and the children have fewer parasites. Contraception has allowed more time between pregnancies.

Vitamins have improved the quality of the pregnancies and early childhood health. Chronic illnesses are being managed.

Because of the location of Guanacaste, in the southwest near the El Salvadorean border, the one health danger that the people of this community do not fear is the terrible violence that is rampant in other parts of the country. San Pedro Sula, in northwest Honduras, is the most dangerous city in the world outside of the Middle East. Murder, including drug trafficking related homicides, is a daily part of the lives and communities of the people living in much of Honduras.

A sad consequence of the violence is the separation of children from their parents. Last summer, the influx of unaccompanied minors from Mexico and Central America into the United States was front page news. The children were sent north by parents

who were trying to protect them.

And what has the U.S. response been? Some children are living with family members who were already residing legally in the U.S. Some are still being held in detention centers. And in 2014, according to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse of Syracuse University, 4,000 of these Honduran juveniles were deported.

According to the Department of State website, the U.S. priorities in Honduras are listed as "being aimed at promoting a healthy and more open economy capable of sustainable growth, improving the climate for business and investment, protecting U.S. citizen and corporate rights, and promoting the well-being and security of the Honduran people".

Deporting minors back to the country from which they have fled certainly does not promote the well-being or security of children who come to our country for safety.

Drug trafficking in Central America, including Honduras, is a colossal threat to the safety and security of its citizens. But solutions advanced by the U.S. are abysmal failures. We have spent more than \$20 billion dollars in the last decade to thwart the drug traffic from Central America. But, according to Congressman Eliot Engel, the Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, "Billions upon billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars have been spent over the years to combat the drug trade in Latin America and the Caribbean. In spite of our efforts, the positive results are few and far between."

Our priorities in Honduras, and in all of Central America, should involve health and education—yet U.S. corporate rights receive higher billing on the State Department list. Dollars spent on the War on Drugs could bring true development to impoverished communities in the Americas. Surely, in the interest of a more sane and humane policy toward refugees who come from countries close to our border, a fraction of these dollars could be spent integrating these children into the safe haven our nation can provide.

PEP goes to DC: Sign on for better budget priorities



Last summer, PEP director Jasmin Maurer, lobby intern Jacob Chappell and founder Mary Ann McGivern met with Missouri legislatures to remind them of the importance of cutting Pentagon waste. Join us in this message by signing on to this year's Congressional Appeal on our website: peaceeconomyproject.org.

Peace Economy Project Annual Report 2014

Charlie King Concert

Charlie King celebrated 50 years as a singer and 40 as a songwriter in 2014 when he joined us once again at Nerinx Hall for our annual Charlie King Concert and Silent Auction. Although the weather threatened to keep us away, we were able to hold the concert before any ice storms hit. We thank Charlie for his continued support of the Peace Economy Project and to everyone who joined us.

Tax Day Actions!

Many of us know April 15 as the dreaded Tax Day. But April 14 is also the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (gdams.org). We celebrated the only way we know how, by drawing attention to U.S. budget priorities. We started off April 15 with Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition chalking at local post office, leaving behind messages about what our federal income tax dollars fund, a large portion of which is perpetual war. We then joined the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to hand out the War Resisters League Pie Chart in Clayton.

Drone Free St. Louis

Formed to stop police drones in the St. Louis region, Drone Free St. Louis was created in collaboration with out organizations

and individuals. In spring of 2014, the coalition held a four-part panel series, Drones and Donuts, that addressed the following subjects: Militarization of the Police, True Costs and Safety, Impacts on Communities of Color, and Mass Surveillance. This panel led to a core group of dedicated activists that put their time and energy into addressing funding to build the Real Time Intelligence Center (RTIC) in the new police headquarters. The RTIC is planned to be a central location manned by the police department to monitor cameras, license plate readers, and potentially drones if we get them, in the city of St. Louis. The group was able to effectively stall city funding of the RTIC through a bond bill that has been tabled for the time being.

Congressional Appeal: Save Our Nation

Every summer, PEP makes the journey to Washington, DC to share our vision of a peace economy signed by PEP members with our Congressional representatives. This past summer, PEP director Jasmin Maurer traveled to DC with Congressional Lobby Intern Jacob Chapell. In total, they were able to meet with Congressman Lacy Clay and with staff from the offices of Ann Wagner, Blaine Luetkemeyer, Claire McCaskill, and Roy Blunt. In response to our

visit, Congressman Clay sent a letter to PEP members in his district expressing his support for trimming out waste in the Pentagon budget. During this trip, they also met with Economic Conversion expert, Miriam Pemberton, to brainstorm how to move forward in pushing local military contractors to expand their production to save jobs.

Ferguson/Don't Shoot

August of 2014 brought about a series of events no one could have seen coming. The killing of Michael Brown brought about upheaval and a new spirit of activism that has inspired the entire St. Louis community. The Don't Shoot Coalition formed in the wake of this action as a means to bring together organizations in the area to work towards long-term racial justice and police reform. PEP has been a proud member of this coalition, and many of its members have taken an active role in the various actions, efforts, and meetings that have arose since August. During Ferguson October, PEP co-sponsored the War at Home, War Abroad panel, which was attended by people from across the country. More conversations on police militarization and its link to our global peace efforts can be expected into the next year as we continue our work with Don't Shoot.

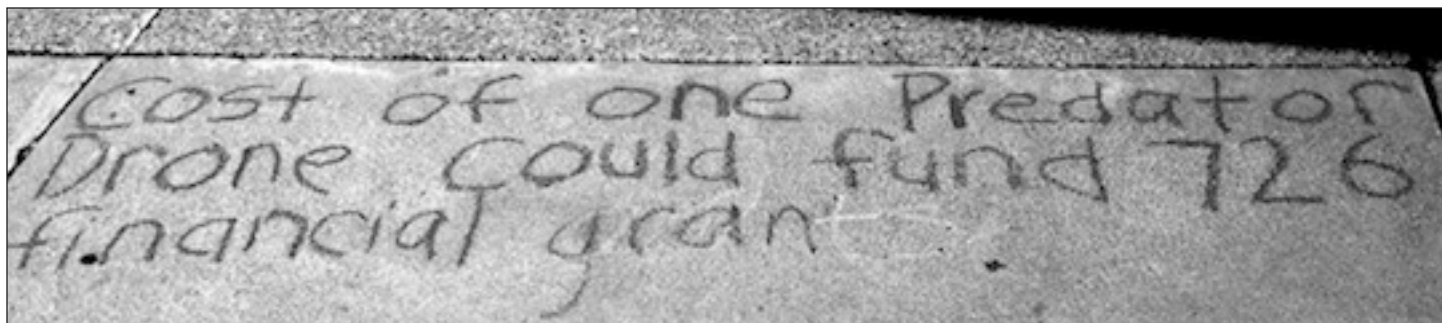
Income	Expenses
Members/Donations: \$12,032	Wages: \$28,552
JPS: \$8,110	Outreach (Events/Newsletters): \$2,778
Events/Initiatives: \$7,570	Office/Supplies: \$2,293
Grants: \$10,000	Fundraising: \$471
Miscellaneous: \$77	Congressional Appeal: \$897
TOTAL: \$37,789	TOTAL: \$34,991

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PEP is a proud member of Justice and Peace Shares, a collaboration of seven local groups, all committed to nonviolent social change and justice for the poor.

JPS Shares (\$25/month) save these 7 organizations valuable time and energy otherwise spent fundraising so that they can focus on their important work for peace and justice.

JPS Shareholders are eligible for membership in any or all of the JPS groups but do not receive direct appeals for further contributions from these organizations.

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(314) 974-7432
www.jpsstl.org
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