

# Global Concepts



G.A.M.E.NEWSLETTER

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## ***MANNY'S CORNER***

### **Fresh Water: A Human Rights Issue**

The *2003 International Year of Fresh Water* is to remind us that water is a “global issue” and the scarcity of clean and fresh water has become an important and critical issue of our time. Demand for clean water for drinking and hygiene is not limited to far away places such as the Middle East, South Asia, Africa or Latin America. The polluted and contaminated lake and river water in the United States has reached a critical point, and water from rivers such as the Colorado River has been manipulated and “overexploited” to the extent that it has reduced availability and accessibility of clean water.

According to the United Nations reports, billions of people have no access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation. It is for this reason that Mr. Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary General states: “Water is likely to become a growing source of tension and fierce competition between nations, if present trends continue, but it can also be a catalyst for cooperation. The International Year of Fresh Water can play a vital role in generating the action needed – not only by governments but also by civil society, communities, the business sector and individuals all over the world.”

A series of environmental conferences during the 70's acknowledged that access to clean and fresh water, so essential to human life, is a human rights issue for health and survival. Water is a “necessary precondition to all of our human rights”; therefore, access to clean water is a “right.” These conferences led to a 1977 United Nations Conference that agreed that water is a fundamental right for all people. The United Nations General Assembly in 1986 clearly included water as a basic resource. The issue of the need for fresh water gained much strength during the 1992 Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro.

In the Millennium Summit in September 2000, world leaders assembled in New York pledged, by 2015, to cut in half the estimated number of over 3.5 billion people who either have no access to safe drinking water or access for hygiene. In November 2002, the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights affirmed water as prerequisite and “access to adequate amounts of clean water for personal and domestic uses is a fundamental human right of all people.”

Due to the critical issue of clean fresh water, and clean drinking water as a basic human right, many governments, non-government agencies and private sectors have developed a wide-range of activities to promote awareness of this issue. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs coordinate these activities. There are plans for a number of forums and activities on various dates and in different

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## WAR AND PEACE STRATEGIES

The following commencement address by Ted Sorensen at the American University was sent to me for the interest of our membership who appreciate and have interest in peace and justice issues. It is a long speech, so I have included only the portions titled "Strategy for War" and "Strategy for Peace" The strategy for peace section is based on President John F. Kennedy's speech by the same title, emphasizing the multilateral use of American diplomacy, not the unilateral use of our weaponry, by sending abroad American food, not American guns, by relying on smart diplomats more than smart bombs, and strengthening the United Nations. Mr. Sorensen was a senior advisor to President Kennedy and now serves as Senior Council at an International Law firm in New York City.

### TODAY'S STRATEGY OF WAR

Unfortunately, you are graduating into a more endangered nation that in recent years has turned away from Kennedy's strategy of peace and back toward, in his words, a strategy of annihilation, away from treaties and international law, away from the United Nations and our traditional allies, away from arms control and peace.

You have inherited a world planted wall to wall with new and more terrible weapons, like using young fanatics as suicide bombers, and the new "bunker buster" of which our Pentagon boasts; and new methods of warfare, such as intentionally "decapitating" an enemy through the early assassination of its political leaders. No wonder countless Americans today feel insecure, not only about their jobs and health but also about their physical safety.

The deadly nuclear arms race of the Cold War is over; but the prospects of global destruction have not ended. The former Soviet Union's loosely guarded nuclear stockpiles and scientific genius are being bought, borrowed or stolen by rogue states and terrorists who can create new nuclear nightmares.

There are no longer any nuclear secrets. Chemical and biological weapons, the poor nation's weapons of mass destruction, which can destroy entire

regions of the world. In 2003, there were many activities planned to coincide with **Water Day, March 22, World Environmental Day, observed on June 5th** and various other events on the agenda to be implemented around **Earth Day, celebrated on April 22**, coordinated by the Earth Day Network.

For more information on this topic, you can log on at:

[www.wateryear2003.org](http://www.wateryear2003.org).

This web site catches your attention with the following statement: *"Jump in! Get your feet wet! Make a splash! Together we can make a difference."*



populations with nuclear-like speed, are rapidly proliferating beyond our ability to know, much less control. There is talk of terrorists engineering diseases without a cure, a container of which in an urban water or ventilation system could kill countless Americans in minutes.

To some countries, our glorious victory ousting Iraq's dictator means that the only way to deter an American attack is to have their own nuclear arsenal. Whether the next nuclear exchange is between India and Pakistan, between Israel and Egypt, between China and Taiwan, or between North Korea and the United States, its poisonous fallout will be carried by wind and water to all parts of this planet. Even our own Pentagon is said to be thinking about the previously unthinkable, our use of nuclear weapons in battle.

Having launched one war without UN approval, hard evidence of imminent danger or the sanction of international law, we must worry that other states, large or small, will utilize that precedent to suddenly attack us or their neighbors or adversaries.

During the 20th century, threats to world peace and security arose mostly in major European states whom we knew and thought we understood: the

Germans, the Russians, the Yugoslavs or other westernized governments; but, in the 21st century, these threats seem more likely to come from the southern half of the globe, from Asia, Africa or South America, not from governments, but from shadowy, informal groups using terrorist tactics to inflict death and destruction, even on the American mainland.

There is no relief in sight. Some call the war on terrorism World War III; if so, then a new round of wars against hostile nations, now reportedly under consideration, may be World War IV, stretching on and on.

Many of our enemies are led by religious, ideological or ethnic extremists with whom negotiation is unlikely and for whom deterrence is meaningless.

Thus, there is no obvious answer to terrorism. We cannot attack every country in which terrorists might secretly train or hide because that list includes almost every nation, including our own. Nor can we, as some urge, simply declare war on Islam because of a small handful of fanatics, when its disciples number more than one billion, most of them proud of Islam's glorious past, culture, devotion to peace and traditions of humanitarianism and tolerance, and all of them only antagonized by loose talk in this country about a new "crusade" to convert the heathen to Christianity.

Unfortunately, loose talk is not uncommon in these heady days of military victory. Our declared doctrine of preemptive strikes, without legal justification or evidence, is music to the ears of terrorist organizations that specialize in just such strikes; but, if followed worldwide, it will create a lawless planet in which the law abiding will suffer the most. It will be the law of the jungle, in which every warlord has his own weapons of mass destruction, and the first or biggest bomb wins.

Some of those who favor this doctrine of preemption, and its use to impose democracy on other countries, call it the "new realism." But what could be more unrealistic than to think we alone can decide the fate of others, without the support of world opinion, world institutions, or our traditional

democratic allies? Only the arrogance of power and the ignorance of history could lead us to believe that our vast military superiority confers upon us moral superiority as well. If our objective is to win wars that we start, then we are doing well so far; but if our policy is still Kennedy's policy of avoiding war and all its horrors, we are not.

Most Americans no doubt disagree. America is on the march. We won, and winners have a right to flex their muscles. Both political parties now compete to sound more hawkish, to criticize as naive or even unpatriotic those who favor peaceful world cooperation. The long uneasiness with bloodletting and battle that followed Vietnam has been replaced by a new infatuation for war, a preference for invasion over persuasion. Under administrations of both parties and in both branches of government, we have turned our backs on Kennedy's emphasis on treaties, including the comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban he so eloquently sought here 40 years ago.

Now the talk is that America alone is exempt from international law, that America alone can decide who in the world is evil, that America alone has the political and economic model to impose on the world, and that America alone can take on terrorism, AIDS and other global evils, because this is "the American century," dominated by American arms. There is even talk of an American empire, forgetting that empires based on military might alone never survive. 140 years ago, Robert E. Lee remarked to General Longstreet: "It is well that war is so terrible, or we should grow too fond of it." Wise words. Too many Americans today are becoming too fond of war, after two quick victories. But Lee's warning is still valid. War is still terrible. Even modern wars last longer, become more expensive, and kill more non-combatants than predicted or promised at the start. Even smart weapons launched only at military targets still cause untold civilian suffering.. Triumphalism forgets that after the victory comes the cost of reconstruction and the burden of occupation. The victims of modern war, even those wars begun with self-righteous declarations and an overwhelming military advantage, still include, on both sides, the truth, civil liberties and tens of billions of dollars better spent on hospitals and schools.

### ***A PROPOSED NEW STRATEGY OF PEACE***

All this must change.

Americans have neither the heart nor the history for empire, much less

a permanent war footing. Now, in our darkest, most discouraging hour, is the time to reverse course, in JFK's phrase, away from a strategy of annihilation and toward a strategy of peace. Historically, our proudest boast is that we are a nation of laws. We can lead the world to John Kennedy's goal 40 years ago: a world of law.

First, we must end our opposition to the new International Criminal Court, the world's first permanent court to punish war crimes. Genocide, crimes against humanity and aggression, under the treaty of Rome, opposition based on the unfounded assumption that staying out would prevent the Court's jurisdiction from ever reaching criminal actions by American citizens and soldiers. In fact, any crimes against humanity committed by an American soldier on the territory of a government that is party to the treaty could be reached by the Court. More importantly, the Treaty's safeguards to prevent political or frivolous charges, based merely on anti-American resentment, are comparable to the safeguards in this country against unfounded criminal allegations.

The new International Criminal Court is the very court at which the United Nations should try Saddam Hussein for his many crimes against humanity, far preferable to trial by an American military tribunal that would be regarded by Iraqis and the world as nothing more than victorious justice, conducted largely for show. Because no other nation has our size stake in a stable world, free of crime and terror, no other nation can possibly gain as much as ours from a successful international criminal court. Subscribing now will enable the United States to contribute our view to the Court's evolution and our judges to its deliberations.

Second, to build a world of law, we must reverse a similar mistake made in 1986 when we withdrew from the International Court of Justice, the judicial arm of the United Nations, because we lost a case. The World Court, established after World War I, to move disputes between nations from the battlefield



to the courtroom, merits our full support. We must avoid a world in which any nation can decide on its own whether it has grounds to attack its neighbor or seize its neighbor's resources. This country has both a history and an obligation of leadership in international jurisprudence. In today's unpromising, unpredictable, unruly world, stronger institutions of international justice would make the United States a safer place.

Third, a world of law will require international lawyers and diplomats to complete the network of treaties that outlaw the use, possession and distribution of weapons of mass destruction, chemical, biological or nuclear. This country's Nunn-Lugar program, to fund the safeguarding and rapid destruction of former Soviet nuclear stockpiles, should be replicated for all weapons of mass destruction in all countries. In addition, renegotiation should begin to enable the United States to amend and accept those treaties which we have mistakenly rejected, including those on landmines, global warming, biodiversity and human rights. Also, international jurists, under U.N. auspices, should devise legitimate and uniform standards permitting resort to force which will not disappear; in U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan's phrase, it must be "power harnessed to legitimacy." International law is not a menu from which a country can choose which features it will respect and which, such as treatment of our prisoners of war, it insists our enemies must respect. A world universally and vigorously committed to international law is the surest answer to terrorism.

The fourth step toward a world of law, as President Kennedy said here 40 years ago, is to strengthen the United Nations, its financing, its procedures for the settlement of disputes, giving it more peacekeepers, more weapons inspectors, more human rights monitors, and more international prosecutors, stationing them in those countries most likely to misbehave. The international community is at its most effective when united, and that requires the United Nations. Our country cannot on its own maintain global peace, human rights and disarmament. We need the United Nations as an impartial arbiter, convener, inspector and advocate, and as the only multi-national, multi-cultural organization around that can deal with terrorism.

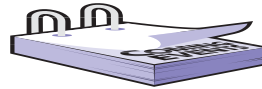
Fifth, and finally, we cannot build a peaceful world of law unless we win this century's most important war, the war against global poverty. Complete healthcare could be provided to all children on earth for less than half the cost of the war in Iraq. The richest countries must increase development and humanitarian assistance, now at its lowest level ever in the United States, and open our doors to agricultural and other commodities from the world's poorest nations, which have been squeezed out of the market by western dumping and subsidy programs that must be ended. Remember, international relations are primarily relations of values, not power.

All this can be achieved in this century if we put aside cynicism and despair. Man may be born with instincts of aggression and greed, but he has also shown compassion, particularly for the very young. Previous generations of Americans have abolished slavery, child labor, the poorhouse and support for apartheid and colonialism. You have the noblest opportunity of all—the abolition of major war. Why not? I am not asking for an unrealistic utopia of pure pacifism. The United States would still be a world leader, necessarily, with its preponderance of wealth and might and still defend our principles, security and basic interests, but we would be a leader in diplomacy, not warfare; in humanitarian operations, not military, in reconciliation, not hate.

Reconciliation will require not forgetting the past or forgiving evil but a reliance on justice, on closing the door on conflict and hatred. By the time your grandchildren graduate from this institution, technology will have so eroded the significance of borders and sovereignty that great national armies will no longer be needed.

Pursuing this strategy will take courage. John F. Kennedy was decorated for his military courage in the Pacific, but he showed even greater courage in his willingness to communicate and compromise with his adversary during the Cuban Missile Crisis in the pursuit of peace.

So must we all, all nations, rich or poor, black, brown, white or other, Christian, Moslem, Jewish or other, North, South, East or West, all must travel this path to world law. "For, in the final analysis, we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future; and we are all mortal."



## Upcoming Events

### Local And National Upcoming Events

**6 August, 2003**, 6:00 p.m. The CRC Task Force Committee meets at Waid's Restaurant, 103rd and State Line.

**6 August, 2003**, 11:00 a.m. Coalition for Promoting the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, Bahai's Office of the U.S., Washington, D.C.

**15-17 August, 2003** Kansas City Ethnic Festival, check daily schedule.

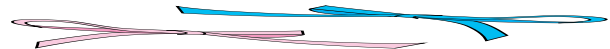
**24 August, 2003**, 2:00-4:00 p.m. G.A.M.E. Board of Director's meeting, 4428 Harrison.

**2 September, 2003**, 6:00 p.m. IRC Great Decisions: World Trade and Food Policy.

**24 September, 2003**, 5:30 p.m. United Nations Association of GKC Board of Directors, UMKC, Brookside Room

**14 October, 2003**, 7:00 p.m. Mayor's United Nations Day dinner, speaker Gillian Sorensen, United Nations Assistant Secretary General, Adams Mark Hotel

**19 October, 2003**, 8:45 & 11:15 a.m. United Nations Sunday, All Souls UU Church



## Child Soldier



**OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT**

"to promote the protection, rights and welfare of children: Preventively before conflict erupts, in the Midst of conflict, and in Post-conflict situations"

**FROM UNICEF:** More girls and women die from the complications of childbirth in developing countries than from any other cause, UNICEF said, calling the figures “a shameful record of discrimination and apathy toward women and their rights.”

Speaking on the eve of International Women’s Day, UNICEF said that some 1400 girls and women die each day from causes related to childbirth, 99 per cent of them in developing countries.

“The same number died yesterday, and the same number will die tomorrow - most of them in silence,” UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy declared.

“On this International Women’s Day, we’re speaking for the girls and women who aren’t alive to tell their stories, and for their orphaned children. We’re speaking for the girls and women who are fighting for their lives right now, for those shut out from education, and for the millions who are exploited or discriminated against.

“We’re here to say that in this era, no woman should have to struggle for equality and respect. No woman should have to shoulder the disadvantage of being denied an education. And no girl or woman should die in the process of giving birth.”

The UNICEF chief added that childbirth is not the only circumstance in which women’s rights are being trampled. She pointed out that even as 1400 women die each day giving birth, tens of thousands more are suffering other abuses of their rights.

Exploitation during conflict: More than 80 per cent of the world’s 35 million refugees and displaced people are women and children. Many had not been sexually active before the genocide.

“Protecting girls and women in times of conflict, protecting them from HIV, keeping them alive during childbirth - these are all goals UNICEF is committed to,” Bellamy said. “But unless the powers that be fully respect and enforce the rights of girls and women, we won’t achieve any of these goals.”

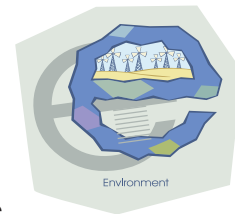
Bellamy pointed out that the nations of the world have put women high on the list of commitments

they made in the Millennium Development Goals - with two of the eight goals explicitly calling for gender equality and better maternal health.

“This means women sitting at the decision-making table; it means reforming national laws to protect and empower, rather than criminalize women at risk,” Bellamy said. “It means long-term community-based work to undo harmful norms that perpetuate gender-based violence, and a focused global effort on making sure that all girls go to and stay in school.

“Women and girls are the key,” Bellamy insisted. “If we fail them, we fail their children, we fail their communities, and we fail the very idea of human progress.”

## Our Environment



In the next 100 years, the rising level of heat-trapping greenhouse gases could raise global temperatures by up to five degrees Celsius. This loss of species and vital ecosystems, and the increase in global climate temperature will have a serious impact on the natural environment and, in turn, human societies who depend on its limited resources.

In response to these global challenges, the UN Foundation is working with the United Nations, NGOs, governments and the corporate community to protect and conserve the environment.

The UN Foundation has focused its support to environmental causes in two areas - sustainable energy/climate change and conservation of biodiversity.

*“Safeguarding the environment ... is a guiding principle of all our work in support of sustainable development; it is an essential component of poverty eradication and one of the foundations for peace.”*

— Kofi Annan

### G.A.M.E. -- Odyssey or Spinning Forward

The extensive renovation of the Midwest Center for Global Concepts, the home of Global and Multicultural Education Center's office at 3009 Holmes, is 90 per cent complete and by September, we should be able to post regular office hours. Members and friends of G.A.M.E. are welcomed and encouraged to come visit and enjoy a more permanent location available for students, teachers and the general public.

The G.A.M.E. Resource center, as well as our instructional kits, are now available for classroom use.



The new Board of Directors elected on June 1, 2003 includes:

President	Richard Dawson
V.P. /President Elect	Gregory Brown
V.P. Membership	Manny Pedram
V.P. Programs	Joyce Cox
Treasurer	Bob Miller
Secretary	J'Noel Gardiner

Other Board members include:

Janice Anderson, James Everett, Amy Powell, and Doris Stout.

Jill Jarvis - Liaison for Social Responsibility  
Charles Bebb - Liaison for Midwest Center for Global Concepts.

At the June board meeting, Manny Pedram, director for the past 21 years, based on his many activities and other personal reasons, requested that Sara Pedram, who is chair of the U.U. United Nations program, serve as co-director during this transition period.

We are gratified that Senator Charles B. Wheeler, M.D., remains as honorary chair of G.A.M.E. and also as chair of the G.A.M.E. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We thank Joyce Cox, the newly elected program chair, and her Task force Committee who are planning a detailed educational program to promote the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. A brochure as well as speakers will be available soon to educate and inform community and international organizations about the need for ratification of the

Rights of the Child. Another CRC Conference will be planned soon under the leadership of Senator Charles Wheeler, who has demonstrated his interest in the continuation of our educational efforts on a regular basis.

We also give our sincere thanks to the following new members:

Nancy and John Brooks  
James Everett  
Robert Miller  
Amy Powell  
Diann Spencer  
Bill and Jane Thebo  
Kathy While

**Volunteers are needed** for the following tasks;

Organizing G.A.M.E. Library and Resource Center  
Designing a Cultural Interest Exhibit  
Developing an environmental exhibit for use by classroom teachers and students.

### *The United Nations launches the Literacy Decade (2003-2012)*

with the theme "Literacy as Freedom".

Coordinated by UNESCO, the initiative seeks to give new impetus to efforts

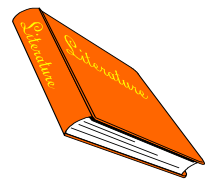
worldwide to reduce persistently high rates

of illiteracy. One fifth of the world's adults -

over 860 million people -

cannot read or write. Two thirds are women.

Another 113 million are children.



### Visit G.A.M.E. Web Site

- \* Find our Newsletters
- \* Check conference speeches
- \* Get the Calendar of Events
- \* Learn about global issues
- \* Become a member
- \* Sign up for conferences and activities
- \* Become a volunteer
- \* And so much more as we change and update the Center's information

## Join the World: Become a member of G.A.M.E

The strength of any organization depends upon the level of support and financial resources provided by its members and friends. G.A.M.E. is no exception. Please use this form to join us today. Your membership and contributions are tax exempt.

### Membership Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Patrons ..... \$ 30.00  
 Organizations/schools..... \$ 25.00  
 Family ..... \$ 15.00  
 Individual ..... \$ 10.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to contribute an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for educational use by the organization.  
Your membership and contributions are tax exempt.  
We thank you for your support.

Our Mission Statement: *G.A.M.E. assists in the enhancement of knowledge of global interdependence and awareness and appreciation of our common humanity*

**GLOBAL CONCEPTS**  
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**Editors:** Manny and Sara Pedram

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