

THE OLIVE BRANCH

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29, 2013

WAL-MART

“But I, being poor, have only my dreams; I have spread my dreams under your feet; Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.”

-William Butler Yeats

Amid news of the Kardashians going on vacations, Lady Gaga’s album flopping, and Kanye West’s tour, something has gone viral which is raising a lot of concerns about the way that Wal-Mart employees are being treated. The image, seen below, is of two Rubbermaid buckets with a sign above them that says “Please donate food items here so Associates in Need can enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner.” Particularly egregious is the company’s response to this photo, which allegedly was that it is only “evidence that the associates care for one another.” In a 2012 study done by National Employment Law Project, Wal-Mart is the worst paying company in America. The national average wage of a Wal-Mart associate is according to IBISWorld, an independent market research group, is \$8.81 an hour, while the Walton family is collectively worth \$115 billion. MotherJones has figured that according to these numbers, it would take a Wal-Mart associate seven million years without spending a dime to make that amount of money. The employees are not allowed to unionize and are punished if caught doing so.

Organization for United Respect at Walmart, or OUR Wal-Mart, has been the closest thing to a union emerging from the employees. Those caught unionizing, or doing anything resembling it, are at risk



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Article	1-2
Spotlight	3
Sponsored Events	4-5
On-Campus Events	6
Off-Campus Events	7
Grants	8
Conferences	9-11
Organizations	12-14
About	15

CONTINUED

of being penalized for their activity. Since it is illegal to fire employees for unionizing, the administration is only capable of punishing those who actually walk off the job or “create disruption.” This presents huge problems for OUR Wal-Mart, as it is planning a now annual employee walk out in protest of Black Friday. Although last year the organization was able to get 500 employees to walk out on the “shopping holiday,” that is not a significant number of workers. This Black Friday, it has been planning to conjure the largest walk out in worker history and has been creating a significant buzz on the Internet, which sounds exciting for many people anxious to get Wal-Mart to forgo its greedy business practices and provide for its low-wage and low-benefit employees. But alas, this does not seem realistic, as many workers are desperate for the job that they have at the super-mega-chain store and do not at all wish to be fired. I discussed the walk out with an older woman I encountered who works at Wal-Mart last week. “I hear that there’s going to be a protest at Wal-Mart for Black Friday,” I said. She replied to me simply, “There won’t be a protest here, we’re open that day.” Although at first I felt she didn’t understand the question, I actually think her answer was very poignant.

There needs to be a way in this country that we can fight against these huge corporations. Money has disappointingly become the thing necessary for agency in the United States. There is no “wage gap” between the lowest and highest paid Wal-Mart employees; it is an absolute chasm. These employees are being bullied and tricked out of working the forty hours necessary by law to earn overtime pay. When visiting the OUR Wal-Mart website, forrespect.org, one can flip through anonymous worker comments and suggestions about their jobs at Wal-Mart. Some are brief, but others are harrowing stories about how day in and out it is an absolute chore to go to work. I believe the Waltons could cut out a couple of billion dollars and still come out on top. -Katie Munn



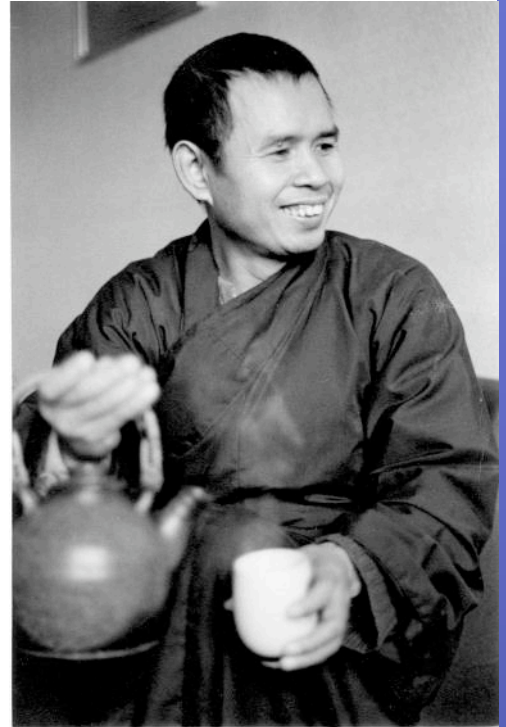
SPOTLIGHT: THICH NHAT NANH

Thich Nhat Nanh is a Vietnamese Zen Buddhist monk, teacher, author, poet, and peace activist. Born in the city of Quảng Ngãi in Central Vietnam in 1926, Nhat Nanh entered the monastery at the age of 16. He went on to found the School of Youth for Social Service (SYSS), a neutral corps of Buddhist peaceworkers who entered rural areas and built schools, healthcare clinics, and strengthened villages. He studied Philosophy of Religion in the United States before returning to Vietnam to teach at Van Hanh Buddhist University.

Thich Nhat Nanh returned to the United States in 1966 to continue his peace work. He wrote a letter to Martin Luther King, Jr., which urged the civil rights activist to denounce the Vietnam War. The letter described the practice of Vietnamese monks burning themselves in protest and claimed that this practice was not equivalent to suicide. Rather, it was an expression of endurance for “the greatest of sufferings to protect his people.” Unlike suicide, his or her aim was an “expression of his will and determination,” not of death. Speaking directly to King, Nhat Nanh said that, “The world’s greatest humanists would not remain silent. You yourself can not remain silent.”

This powerful letter was so influential to King that he publicly questioned U.S. involvement in the war and nominated Nhat Nanh for the Nobel Peace Prize. King called him a “gentle Buddhist monk from Vietnam” and claimed that giving Nhat Nanh the award would itself be an act of peace since doing so “would remind all nations that men of good will stand ready to lead warring elements out of an abyss of hatred and destruction.”

Though Nhat Nanh was not given the award (the award was not given that year), he was a delegate for the Buddhist Peace Delegation at the Paris Peace talks. Upon return to Vietnam, he was denied permission to enter the country and instead went into exile in France. He has since been granted permission to visit, but not to return home permanently. He has continued his peace work, including hosting peace walks, publications, and lectures. He was awarded the Courage of Conscience award in 1991 and has since had made great strides for peace.



AHMADIYYA MUSLIMS FOR PEACE, LOYALTY AND LIFE

NOTE. SLOGAN OF THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY-USA.

On Thursday, November 21, the Peace Center held an event in which Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad, treasurer of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Indiana, came to speak about his religion and what its members do in order to spread peace among the world. Mr. Ahmad began the discussion by introducing his religious beliefs and explaining how they were different from those of other Muslims. The main difference is that Ahmadiyya Muslims

believe that there has already been a second coming of the Messiah, whereas other Muslims do not agree. For this theological reason, Ahmadiyya Muslims are not allowed to vote in the country of Pakistan, where most of them reside, and are persecuted with extreme violence. This fact became especially upsetting when Mr. Ahmad explained the mission of the Ahmadiyya faction: to spread peace among all religions and never to discount any one person.

Mr. Ahmad then detailed the three campaigns that the Ahmadiyya are running in order to accomplish their mission of making a positive impact on the world. They include Ahmadiyya Muslims for Peace, Ahmadiyya Muslims for Loyalty, and Ahmadiyya Muslims for life. The peace campaign focuses on spreading peace through interfaith dialogue. The second, the Campaign for Loyalty, aims to spread the idea that Muslims, especially the Ahmadiyya, are extremely proud of the land which they call their home. This is especially pertinent in the United States, where racial and ethnic profiling lead to terrible assumptions about the Muslim community. Finally, the Campaign for Life is one which involves humanitarian efforts such as aiding in disasters and organizing blood donations.

Thank you to Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad for speaking with us, and to our gracious audience for a successful event!



Love for All
Hatred for None

Course Offering

RELS 380 **Religion, Nonviolence and War**

Spring 2014, T/R 2-3:15

Prof. Elizabeth Agnew

An investigation into traditions, theories, and practices of



nonviolence and war in the 20th and 21st centuries



Questions? Email eagnew@bsu.edu

Eligible for credit in Peace & Conflict Studies

ON CAMPUS EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL CONVERSATION HOUR

Time and Location: Every Tuesday, 6-7:30 pm,
310 Student Center



This program is designed to help international students practice English, learn studying skills and classroom culture, and make American friends. We recruit both domestic and international students from the BSU campus. Through interactive discussion, they can normalize their experiences and decrease their isolation, worries, and stress as well as get support from American students. They will also learn different kinds of study skills to help them succeed at Ball State University. We hope through students' participation, domestic students will learn about different cultures without studying abroad and international students will increase their sense of belonging to BSU and adjust to their transition from their countries to BSU better. Please join ICH facebook-BSU International Conversations.

KWANZAA CELEBRATION

Date: 12/5/13

Time: 5:30

Location: Kinghorn Hall, Multipurpose Room

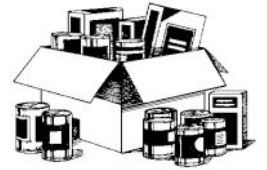
Kwanzaa is a holiday honoring the culture and traditions of people of African origin. It is celebrated by people from a range of African countries and their descendants. Kwanzaa consists of a week of celebrations, which ends with a feast and the exchange of gifts. Anyone is welcome to come and learn about this holiday and enjoy the great tasting food!



OFF-CAMPUS EVENTS

Friends Memorial Church Food Pantry

A food pantry that is open the third Saturday of each month for clients to receive both food and non-perishable items free of cost. This food pantry is sponsored by Friends Memorial Church. Volunteers help clients select food and assist to their vehicles.



Volunteers can participate at times scheduled with the agency throughout the month.

Or, volunteers can participate on the third Saturday of each month, must check in at 8:15 a.m. at the church. Pantry is open until 11:30 and volunteers will remain until approximately 12:00 noon to help service everyone in the building.

Please contact Linda Daniel, cell 765-212-4775, ldaniel1234@comcast.net, to arrange placement.

World AIDS Day

Each year on December 1, the world celebrates, honors, and advocates for those who have died from and are living with HIV/AIDS. IUPUI has joined that tradition and has allocated the first Monday following December 1 as World AIDS Day. During this day, several events happen simultaneously, such as film screenings, speakers, panel discussions, service activities, and a community partner fair.

CE – Campus Center

420 University Blvd.

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Breakfast with Gregory

Councilwoman Linda Gregory will review the agenda for Muncie City Council's Monday night meeting and discuss issues and concerns of constituents.

Saturday, Dec. 7 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Mac's Restaurant, 2323 S Madison St, Muncie, IN 47302

Free Legal Services

An attorney from Indiana Legal Services, Inc. in Indianapolis will provide free and confidential legal advice. Please stop by the Help Desk the day of the event to put your name on the list for first come, first served basis. To be eligible, a person must have a household income that is less than 125% of the federal poverty income level.

Maring-Hunt Library

2005 S. High St., Muncie, IN 47302 Venue Phone: 747-8200 Phone: 741-7336

Tuesday, Dec. 3 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

THE DAVIS PROJECTS FOR PEACE:

In its sixth year, the Davis Projects for Peace program is an invitation to undergraduates at the American colleges and universities in the Davis United World College Scholars Program to design grassroots projects that they will implement during the summer of 2013. The projects judged to be the most promising and feasible will be funded at \$10,000 each. The objective is to encourage and support today's motivated youth to create and try out their own ideas for building peace.

Deadline for submissions is January 2014. For more information, visit <http://www.davisprojectsforpeace.org/>

THE JENNINGS RANDOLPH SENIOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (USIP)

These are awarded to scholars, practitioners, policy analysts, policy makers, and others to spend 9-10 months in residence at the USIP during which time they will reflect and write on international peace and security challenges. Citizens of any country are able to apply. The program beginning in October 2014 is now open. Visit <http://www.usip.org/grants-fellowships/jennings-randolph-senior-fellowship-program> to learn more.

ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIPS

The Rotary Foundation provides these fellowships to fund master's degree or professional development certificate study at one of the six Rotary Peace Centers. Recipients of this fellowship promote peace, cooperation, and successful conflict resolution on both the national and international levels. Visit <https://www.rotary.org/en/peace-fellowships> to learn more.

CONFERENCES

NOTRE DAME STUDENT PEACE CONFERENCE

The annual Notre Dame Student Peace Conference, which takes place during the spring semester, attracts undergraduate and graduate students from across the U.S. and abroad who want to change in the world and who are committed to a rigorous, multi-disciplinary academic work on peacebuilding. Students present original research and showcase innovative peacebuilding practices.

For more information, see <http://kroc.nd.edu/undergraduate/notre-dame-student-peace-conference>

The conference will be held March 29-30, 2014. More information regarding deadlines for research proposals will be posted online as the information becomes available.

2014 GRINNELL PEACE STUDIES STUDENT CONFERENCE

Conference Date: February 28, 2014 – March 1, 2014

Call for Papers: September 25, 2013 – December 20, 2013

Location: Grinnell, IA

Contact: Anthony Wenndt wenndtan@grinnell.edu.

Purpose: The conference will address issues of peace and conflict from the sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

<http://digital.grinnell.edu/ocs/index.php/peace/peace2014/index>

BUTLER UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Butler University Undergraduate Research Conference invites presentations of undergraduate research across a broad spectrum of disciplines, a full list of which can be found on the website.

The conference is currently in the planning process, but will be held 4/11/14.

<http://www.butler.edu/undergrad-research-conference/registration/>

CONFERENCES CONTINUED...

"ENGAGING THE OTHER" THE POWER OF COMPASSION

Conference Date: May 4-5, 2014

Location: Dearborn, MI

Contact Email: SOlweean@aol.com Steve Olweean

Purpose: Focuses on unresolved communal trauma and transference of the trauma experience into future generations as potent fuel for future animosity and violence, including: the implications for fear-based systems, negative stereotypes, prejudice, alienation, polarization, scapegoating, and forming enemy images that promote adversarial perceptions of the "Other" and the power of compassion and humanitarian service to victims in healing communal trauma, re-empowerment, and promoting positive relations within and between societies.

http://www.cbiworld.org/Pages/Conferences_ETO.htm

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF QUALITATIVE INQUIRY

The Tenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry will take place May 21-24, 2014 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI) will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2014. The 10th Congress will be built around the changes that have occurred in the field of qualitative inquiry in the decade since the Congress was launched as an alternative site for collaboration and discourse. The 2014 Congress will offer delegates an opportunity to assess the major changes that have taken place over the last decade. What might the Congress, and indeed the broader landscape of qualitative inquiry, look like in another decade? What should our mandate be for the next decade? What have we learned? Where do we go next?

The proposal deadline is December 1, 2013.

CONFERENCES CONTINUED...

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

The mission of the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) is to promote undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activity done in partnership with faculty or other mentors as a vital component of higher education.

The conference will be held on April 3-5, 2014. The deadline for applications and abstracts is Dec. 6, 2013.

http://www.cur.org/ncur_2014/

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RACE AND ETHNICITY IN AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION (NCORE) 2014

The NCORE® conference series constitutes the leading and most comprehensive national forum on issues of race and ethnicity in American higher education. The conference focuses on the complex task of creating and sustaining comprehensive institutional change designed to improve racial and ethnic relations on campus and to expand opportunities for educational access and success by culturally diverse, traditionally underrepresented populations.

Conference Date: May 27 2014 - Jun 1 2014

Location: Indianapolis, IN

Contact Email: meganvinson@ou.edu

The call for proposals is coming! See <https://www.ncore.ou.edu/>

PEACE ORGANIZATIONS

SOCIAL JUSTICE LEAGUE

I am Morgan Ulyat, the president for Social Justice League this year. Below is a short description of our organization:

The Social Justice league strives to better the world through awareness, local involvement, and fund-raising for worthy causes. We aim to bring greater awareness of social justice issues to Ball-State and the community. Join us to explore both domestic and international issues and to confront and combat injustices.

Our club meets every Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. We can be reached at either sjl@bsu.edu or bsu.social.justice@gmail.com.

TIMMY GLOBAL HEALTH

Timmy Global Health is a nonprofit organization based out of Indianapolis that seeks to eliminate healthcare disparities worldwide. At Ball State, our chapter works through the academic year to raise awareness, money, and medical supplies for our annual trip to Ecuador during spring break.

Contact Info: bsutimmy@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BSUTimmy>

Meetings: Tuesday @ 7pm. Education Resource Room 1 in the Bracken Library Basement

DELIVERING EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO KENYA

Delivering Educational Support to Kenya (DESK) is a student-led organization designed to assist students in Kenya. In Kenya, all students are required to have a school uniform to attend school. Unfortunately, some families are not in a position to buy school uniforms or school supplies for their children. To help these families, DESK organizes various fund raising activities to raise money to buy school uniforms and supplies. Some of these activities have been bake sales, calendar sales, and boxed lunch sales.

PEACE ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED...

Contact email: desk@bsu.edu

Fall 2013 Meeting Dates & Times:

September 23, 6-7pm in TC 542

October 28, 6-7pm in TC 542

November 25, 6-7pm in TC 54

BALL STATE TOMS

Our club is directly affiliated with the TOMS company. Our main goal and focus as a club is to raise awareness about the company and what they do. We do this through sponsoring and holding several events throughout the school year. We meet every Wednesday night at 9 PM in Bracken, room 401.

Contact info: TOMSCLUB@bsu.edu

Taylor Cardini, President

STUDENTS FOR RESPONSIBLE CONSUMERISM

Students for Responsible Consumerism aims to educate consumers about their relationship with products and the corporations that make them. Our mission is to make students aware of the socio-economic and environmental influence of their purchases. We foster consumer activity that promotes ethical products that avoid exploiting labor or the environment.

Our club meets Tuesdays at 5 p.m. in the Student Center, Room 308. We can be reached at the following emails: src@bsu.edu or responsible.consumerism.bsu@gmail.com. This is our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/responsibleconsumerism>, and we also have a tumblr page: <http://responsibleconsumerism.tumblr.com/>.

PEACE ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED...

BALL STATE CIRCLE K

Circle K International (CKI) is the premier collegiate community service, leadership development, and friendship organization in the world. CKI blends community service and leadership training with the opportunity to make friends. Our motto is: "Live to Serve, Love to Serve!" Our club offers weekly service opportunities and larger service events for those who wish to become involved.

Our club meets every Tuesday evening at 7:30 in WB 136.

Club email: ballstatecki@gmail.com

Club Website: <http://ballstatecki.weebly.com/>

VEGAN ASSOCIATION

The Vegan Association is a judgment-free zone for Ball State students, employees, and alumni who are vegan and wish to positively promote a life free from animal products. We are a campus-affiliated network dedicated to the support, promotion, and education of people regarding veganism.

Meeting information can be found on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/354765237926317/members/>

Email: jl Gilbert3@bsu.edu



310 North McKinley Avenue
Muncie, Indiana 47306
Phone: (765)285-1622
Email: peacecenter@bsu.edu

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary knowledge unit devoted to conducting research on various forms of structural and direct violence and conflict, and also dedicated to implementing projects that employ nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict.

Our programs include:

- Mediation training and services
- Meditation classes
- The Brown Bag lunch speaker series
- The Muncie Interfaith Fellowship
- The Social Justice League on-campus organization

To get all the latest updates on activities and news from the Peace Center, follow us on Twitter @bsu4peace or "Like" our Facebook page!



If you or your organization would like to submit content or information about an event to be included in our newsletter, please email Tacianna Oliver at tpoliver@bsu.edu or Katie Munn at ksmunn@bsu.edu.