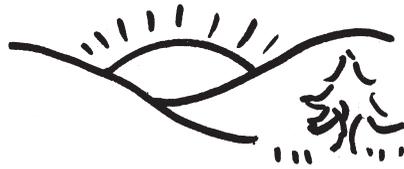
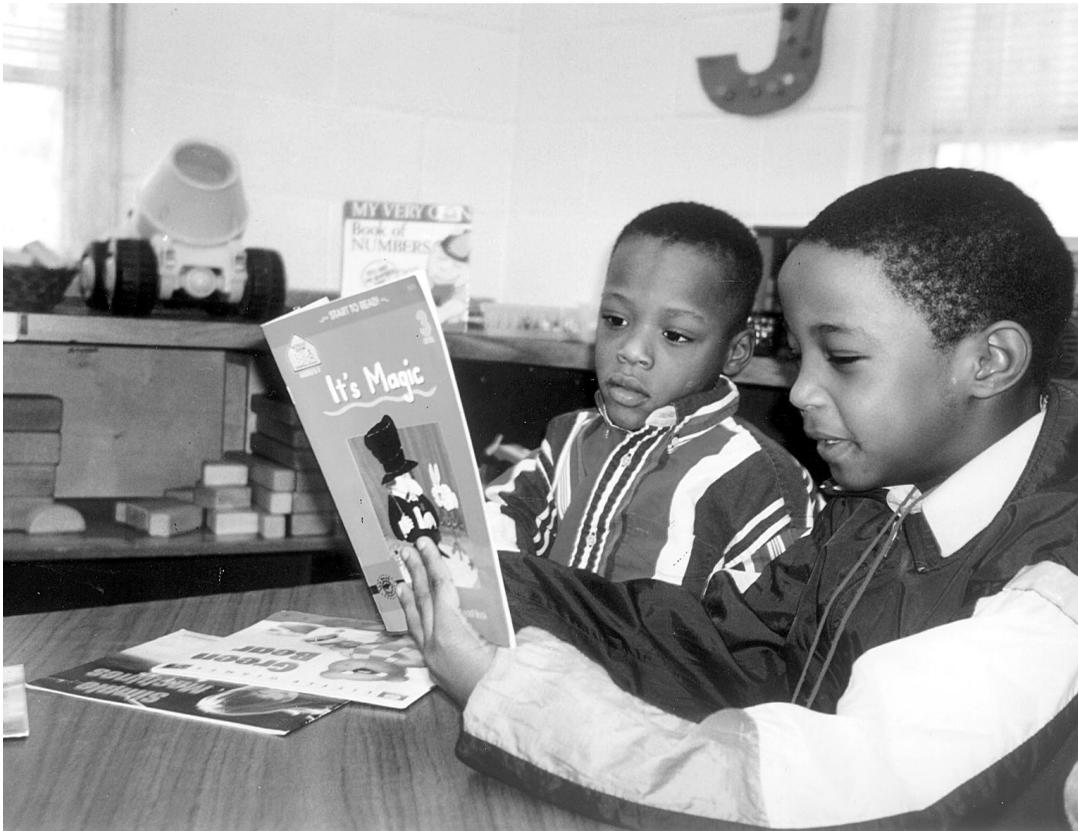

*Concerned
Educators
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Environment*



CEASE NEWS Vol. 25: No. 1, Spring 2004

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**Growing readers in Philadelphia:
Karel Kilmnik's Second Grader reads to a Head Start Buddy**

News from CEASE

Campaign to Ratify the Rights of the Child Convention CEASE has endorsed this campaign and ratification of the Convention. This effort of the Child Welfare League of America is trying to expand the number of national groups which have endorsed the Campaign and are actively supporting ratification of the Convention. Please consider bringing this issue to any group with which you are associated and contact Martin Scherr, International Office, Child Welfare League of America, 440 First St. N.W. 3rd floor, Washington DC 20001-2085 to formally endorse ratification.

NAEYC Interest Forum on Children of Incarcerated Parents Sydney Gurewitz Clemens writes: Fran Roznowski and I are initiating an Interest Group in the NAEYC whose focus will be Children of Incarcerated Parents. You know that the prison population is increasing rapidly, and with it, the number of children who are displaced by losing a parent, more and more often a mother, to jail or prison. Now, in the US, more than 3 percent of children have a parent in prison, and in California, with the three strikes law, it's more like six percent. I invite you to be part of the initiation of the Interest Group. If you wish to be on the petition for Interest Group, please send me your NAEYC membership number or your street address. I'd also like your telephone number, for our list. Something you may want to do right away is telephone to order the (free) book we've put together in the San Francisco Bay Area...called A Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents. Call 209-938-0727 or contact Sydney at eceteacher@earthlink.net

NAEYC Public Policy Forum Report CEASE Members John Surr and Craig Simpson joined over 100 NAEYC members at NAEYC's first Public Policy Forum March 30 to April 1 in Washington, DC. John was part of Maryland AEYC and Craig was with Massachusetts AEYC Public Policy group. We went through a full day of briefings, updates and preparation and a full day of lobbying on Capitol Hill. We were to take three issues to our legislators:

- 1) An increase in the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDGB) from \$1 billion to \$7 billion in money for child care centers;
- 2) Head Start reauthorization and a rethinking of the new Head Start National Reporting System assessment tool;
- 3) An amendment for the Higher Education bill to include loan forgiveness for Early Childhood educators.

Adele Robinson, NAEYC Public Policy coordinator, got people from Capitol Hill to review the policies in detail and give advice on how to connect to our congressional delegation. Republican Congressman Tim Murphy (a former preschool teacher) advised us to build relation-

ships with our congressional offices. He urged us to visit the Congressional delegation frequently and update members on the bills we are concerned about. A panel of senior staff of Congressional committees updated us on child care, Head Start and the budget concerns. Commissioner Joan Ohl from Administration on Children and Families talked about the Bush Administration's view on child care and Head Start. We even were able to role play visits before we went to Capitol Hill. Craig passed out 100 copies of War Resisters League pie chart showing money spent by the federal budget for the military vs. human services. The response to that seemed very positive.

While we were in Washington, the Senate adopted the Snowe-Dodd Amendment to the Child Care and Development Block Grant by a vote of 78-20 to increase funding from \$1 million to \$7 million for child care over 5 years. Many of us had campaigned earlier in the year for the Snowe-Dodd (Senators from Maine and Connecticut) Amendment by sending "snowflakes" to Congress in support of the increase in funds. Unfortunately, while we were lobbying, the Senate Leadership pulled the Welfare Bill, HR 4, to which the Amendment was attached, after Democrats threatened a filibuster to add to it the much-needed provisions on minimum wage and overtime, so that it's not on the Senate agenda now. But since we left Washington, Senators Kennedy and Frist have agreed that these amendments can come up in the context of another Bill, so it's still possible for the Snowe-Dodd amendment, with its much needed additional child care money over 5 years, to pass. In any event, NAEYC is asking us to get in touch with our Senators and Representatives to ask them to get additional money out to child care providers and low-income parents, whose children desperately need the money to be able to succeed in school and in life.

Craig visited the offices of Rep. Michael Capuano and Senators Kennedy and Kerry. He and his fellow Mass people got warm receptions in all three offices. We spoke to aides who seemed eager to hear our stories of early childhood educators, parents and families. John met with staff in the offices of Senators Sarbanes and Mikulski, who favored the Snowe-Dodd amendment, and with Representative Van Hollen and a staff assistant to Representative Hoyer. Van Hollen is very supportive of children.

CEASE Members should work with their AEYC Public Policy committees to help NAEYC's lobbying effort more regularly, so that we can build the advocacy movement for children and their families.

Craig Simpson, Somerville MA and John Surr, Bethesda MD

Even Younger Witnesses to September 11th

Loyan Beausoleil

The Silver Towers, in Lower Manhattan's SoHo, is where I teach four- and five-year-olds at a small independent preschool. From the Silver Towers Plaza we had a beautiful view of the Twin Towers while they were standing, and also a clear view of their demise on 9/11/01.

Over the past two and a half years the children I work with have pointed out to me the similarities between the Silver Towers and the Twin Towers: the word "Towers" is contained in both names; the Silver Towers is a group of three identical tall buildings and the Twin Towers were two identical tall buildings; and both have/had a plaza. Last year, noticing these similarities, the children in my class told me they thought that the same person who built the World Trade Center must have built the Silver Towers.

At the start of this school year I believed that the children in my classroom knew little about September 11. After all, they were only two or three years old when the buildings fell down—just babies, really. I have since discovered that most of them witnessed the disaster directly or on TV at that time. Whether they have been exposed since then to additional images or parental recollections, and how this information has influenced their behavior, is not clear. Although the trauma of that day is embedded in the national consciousness, directly witnessing such an event leaves an indelible psychological mark.

A couple of times this year I thought maybe some of them remembered something, like in October 2003, when Alyssa told other children that a big hurricane that was due to hit the city would "probably knock down the building [that our school is in]," or, more recently, when Matt looked up at the Silver Towers and saw the clouds moving in the sky and ran up to me exclaiming, "Oh no, the building is falling over!" I tended to brush these comments off, though, until early 2004, when the class began studying the Silver Towers.

Part of our two-month-long curriculum study included interviewing people who worked in the Silver Towers. The children learned about asking questions during an interview, and three or four children at a time interviewed our doormen, the buildings manager and a doctor whose practice is in the complex. In every interview the children asked the interviewee what they would do if the building fell over. This took people by surprise, but the children really wanted to know, as if they needed reassurance that they were safe at school in these big, tall buildings.

In March 2004, during an interview, four-year-old Nora asked Lou, the buildings manager, "What if some-

thing fell on the building?" Lou asked, "Like what?" Nora said, "Like another building." Louis answered, "That is a very tough question. How is the other building going to fall on this building? They're holding very strong. They're very strong buildings. They don't fall." To which Nora replied, "But somebody might come and knock it down." Even though Lou assured the children how strong the buildings were and how safe the children were, the question came up again in this same interview. In fact, this question about the buildings falling down was articulated in each interview the children conducted, and I could no longer deny the possibility that these neighborhood children, who were so young when the Towers fell, were remembering something.

We had a class meeting and I asked the children why they kept asking people about the buildings falling down. They had many things to tell me in answer to this question. Leon said, "Because we're just thinking about it," and Matt added, "Because I don't want to think about it, but I do want to think about it." Nora said, "Because sometimes I can't really think of anything else." John said, "Buildings fall if they knock each other down, because one falls, then another and another and another. If they were big they would do that, if there were only two of them." Archie said, "If it's close [the building] and someone was trying to chop it down with an ax, it can make little lines and fall down if another was close, and knock down the other one." Mina said, "If a building was close to the school building, very close, right next to right there, I think the school building would fall down." Matt said, "If there's a big kind of fire and a big burn on the building, the burn will get smushy and the building will fall down." And Grace added, "My dad saw something like that once."

This conversation continued, with the children saying more than I have space to convey here. Our curriculum study of the Silver Towers and conversations like this made me suspect that even though these children, so small when the terrorist attacks occurred, weren't using the words Twin Towers, World Trade Center or talking about airplanes, they were remembering something. Something they had seen as toddlers—from strollers or in the arms of their mothers and fathers—more than two years earlier, that they hold in their minds—images that they will probably never really forget.

(See Loyan's website: www.youngestwitness.com for extraordinary pictures of children's art and block buildings, as well as their words, from her classroom in the time since Sept. 11th.)

CEASE Members Protest Commercial Exploitation of Children and Play

Report by Diane Levin

On Sunday, February 15th, several CEASE members were in New York City protesting at the International Toy Fair. This year the toy fair was titled “The Business of Play.” Stop Commercial Exploitation of Children (SCEC), a national coalition of professionals, organizations, and child advocates working to reduce harmful marketing directed at children, organized the protest.

Diane Levin (a founder of SCEC) and Nancy Carlsson Paige returned four toys to the President of the Toy Industry Association, which sponsored the Toy Fair (as BAEYC member Fran Roznowski photographed them). Each toy illustrated a specific way the “Business of Play” is harming children: marketing toys that promote junk food (McDonald’s Happy Meal Play-Doh); violence (Hulk figure); precocious sexuality (Bratz doll); and media rated for adults (Terminator 3 figure).

The letter to Toy Industry Association that accompanied the toys said:

“We are here to express our deep concern that the ‘The Business of Play’ has resulted in many toys that can harm our children’s health. Play is not a business. Play is an essential part of children’s development that fosters important creative, cognitive, and social skills. When toy companies view play as a business, when they place profits ahead of the well-being of children, the results are toys that can harm children because they encourage junk food consumption, promote violence, encourage precocious sexuality, or introduce children to the inappropriate content of adult media.

“The toys that we are returning to you today are emblematic of toys that we do not want for our own, or anyone else’s, children. We selected them, not because they are unusual, but because they are representative of a great many toys marketed to children today.”

The day before the protest, SCEC held its 3rd Annual Summit, “Consuming Kids: Toying with Children’s Health,” at which over 20 speakers outlined the alarming range of ways the commercial culture is harming children. Out of that event, John Surr (who attended both day’s events) drafted the Resolution CEASE has submitted to NAEYC for approval by its governing board on working to reduce the commercial exploitation of childhood.

For more information about SCEC and the Protest, go to: www.commercialexploitation.org

CEASE Submits Resolution to NAEYC Board: *Stop Commercial Exploitation of Children*

John Surr wrote to Mark Ginsberg, Executive Director of NAEYC in early March:

CEASE has been working actively with a relatively new organization, *Stop Commercial Exploitation of Children*, (SCEC, www.commercialexploitation.org), which is a national coalition of organizations and individuals administered by the Judge Baker Center on Children and the Media of Harvard University. Over the Valentine’s Day weekend, SCEC has a national summit in New York City, and a demonstration outside the Toy Fair. SCEC is seeking to ramp up its activity to protect children from inappropriate pressures by TV and other media marketers, who seem to be incapable of self-regulation. As you know, quite a bit of public attention has been focusing recently on media marketing to children, especially as it affects obesity. Your former colleagues in the American Psychological Association came out on February 23 with an appeal for Federal regulation in this area. CEASE would like to have NAEYC join more actively in this effort, as we know that your heart is in the right place. We’re willing to do what we can to help NAEYC along these lines. To that end we’ve drafted the resolution below for consideration by NAEYC’s Governing Board.

Resolution:

WHEREAS, the success of NAEYC’s mission to improve the lives of young children is imperiled by the relentless and intentional exploitation of the children’s vulnerabilities by the mass media marketers of America; and

WHEREAS, the best way to reduce that exploitation is for responsible adults, and the organizations like NAEYC that represent them, to call those marketers to account publicly for the damage they are causing, and to offer healthier alternatives to inappropriate marketing techniques and tactics;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of NAEYC shall add NAEYC’s voice to those opposing the commercial exploitation of children and the misuse of mass media to promote greed, violence, and precocious sexuality among young children;

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAEYC shall work with other organizations and individuals to bring about improved governmental, individual and corporate policies to that end.

Follow-up:

After the March Meeting of the NAEYC Board, John learned from the Public Policy Chair, Deborah Lawrence,

continued on page 8

Corporal Punishment in America -2004

Since 1971 28 states have made corporal punishment illegal in schools, and in 9 more states over half of all children are in districts which have banned corporal punishment. Rough statistics from the Dept. of Education show that the number of children paddled has declined from 1.5 million annually in 1976 to 342,000 in 2000. But this news is still bad. There are 13 states which allow, or mandate corporal punishment. Since 1994 there has been little progress and in the states which continue to allow corporal punishment it happens more often in areas where poverty, and minority, and single parent families are common. Nearly 10% of children in Mississippi are subjected to corporal punishment annually. It is called "paddling" and used for cases deemed minor offenses: disrespect of a teacher, disturbing a class, profanity or tardiness. More serious infractions such as fighting are punished by suspension. Official "paddling" means three quick licks with a 1/4" paddle by a person in authority with a witness, and often with parent's permission. The *Washington Post* reports that "Studies have shown that there is a high correlation between paddling and poverty, and corporal punishment is more common in rural areas than in urban areas."

There is a clear divide in opinion in America about whether corporal punishment is appropriate. Psychologists and many educators believe that corporal punishment risks reinforcing negative behavior. And a Mississippi Assistant Principal resigned rather than carry out the requirement to paddle. "The idea of a big white guy hitting an 80-pound black girl because she talked back to her teacher did not sit well with me." (*Washington Post*) Many educators and parents, however, believe that it is an effective form of discipline, preferable to making children miss out on class time which will put them farther behind. And arguments from religion are often used to support using the rod so as not to spoil the child. Parents often support the use of such punishment and sign on to accept the policy of the school.

In 1977 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Eighth Amendment prohibiting cruel and unusual punishment should be applied to convicted criminals but not to students! It, also, ruled teachers could punish children without parental permission.

To protect children and make good our societal commitment against violence we need to have a national ban on corporal punishment. The U.S. should join Canada and the rest of the industrialized world.

Twenty-five million children in Europe are legally protected from all physical punishment, even at home.

They cannot be spanked, whipped, belted, or paddled in any setting. They have the same right to be free from assault that is enjoyed by adults. Eleven nations have banned all corporal punishment of children. Ninety nations ban corporal punishment in schools and juvenile penal institutions. The Supreme Court in Canada in January 2004 put significant restrictions on parental use of corporal punishment and banned it in schools.

We can join The National Coalition to Abolish Corporal Punishment in Schools in support of:

A Proclamation Opposing Corporal Punishment of Children

WHEREAS, all children need guidance and deserve to grow up in an environment free from physical harm and

WHEREAS, millions of children suffer child abuse each year in the name of discipline, and

WHEREAS, corporal punishment of children provides a poor model for solving interpersonal problems, leads to a pro-violence attitude, and contributes to the cycle of abuse, and

WHEREAS, violence to children is a preventable harm, and

WHEREAS, preventing physical violence to children includes learning and using non-violent discipline methods,

NOW, THEREFORE EPOCH-USA will seek to end corporal punishment of children by all persons, including parents, through education and legal reform. EPOCH-USA advocates child-rearing practices that develop caring, responsible, and self-disciplined adults. April, 2004

To join this effort go to www.stophitting.org and find the links to The Center for Effective Discipline, headquarters of EPOCH-USA and the National Coalition to Abolish Corporal Punishment in Schools



New England AEYC Advocacy Center

Well, we finally did it! After over a year of planning we helped to get the first Advocacy Center for the New England AEYC conference in Worcester MA. Thanks to the support of a whole variety of people including many from CEASE: Chris Lamm, Sunny Wallick, Lucy Stroock, Fran Roznowski, Diane Levin and the Boston AEYC Public Policy Committee and Friends. Together we organized a center that drew hundreds of people (well maybe not that many). 900 people attended the conference and many made their way to the third floor of the Worcester Centrum to visit the Advocacy Center with about 15 organizations represented. One group, Early

Education for All just had a major victory: the Mass. House of Representatives passed the most important child care legislation in years with no dissenting votes! The dollars are not there but the will to make a better future for children is emerging.

CEASE and Truce both distributed information. Diane Levin and Margie Carter and Deb Curtis signed books. We had voter registration. There was a lot going on. We even had a jumping trampoline unlike the quiet room at the California Advocacy centers. All in all it was a very successful and uplifting effort. Thanks to everyone!

Craig Simpson, BAEYC Vice President

Statement of purpose

This revised Statement of Purpose was adopted at the CEASE Annual Meeting November 21 1996.

CEASE is a network of parents, teachers and other concerned individuals who are dedicated to creating a safe world for our children. We seek to end the violence that permeates our society to an ever increasing degree and to remove the root causes of this violence by advocating for peace, justice and economic opportunity.

We are committed to:

- Raising public awareness about both the origins of violence and the disastrous effects violence and injustice have upon children, families and communities.
- Eliminating the acceptance of violence which is created by mass media conditioning.
- Ensuring the abolition of nuclear weaponry, and other weapons of mass destruction, and an end to the proliferation of conventional weapons.
- Putting a stop to the dangerous degradation of our natural environment by supporting the development and use of reusable, non-polluting resources that protect the health and safety of future generations.

Central to the solution of these problems is the redirection of national priorities and funding from the military and corporate interests to human services and environmental preservation.

We work towards these goals through the following activities:

- Providing a supportive network for teachers and parents who share our concerns.
- Educating the early childhood community through the publication of **CEASE NEWS**, creating periodical informational fliers, giving workshops and developing peace education materials.
- Advocating for a government that is committed to improving and expanding quality child care and child development programs.
- **Fostering a society that focuses on the well being of young children and their families through all our work.**

YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE CEASE NETWORK

Date _____

- Enclosed is my \$10 subscription. new subscription renewal
- Enclosed is my \$5 student subscription. Here is an additional gift to help defray expenses.
- Enclosed is a gift membership for:

Name _____ Phone number () _____

Address _____

_____ e-mail _____

Place of work _____ position _____

NAEYC Member How did you learn about CEASE? _____

For tax deductible contributions over \$50 make check payable to Survival Education Fund

Return to CEASE, c/o Lucy Stroock, 55 Frost Street, Cambridge, MA 02140

New e-mail: info@peaceeducators.org

CEASE Resolution to NAEYC Board *continued from page 5*

that her committee had considered our request/proposal at its meeting earlier and had asked Adele Robinson, NAEYC's Public Policy Director, to come back to them at their July meeting with answers to a number of questions about it. So both the good news and the bad news is that NAEYC hasn't acted on our proposal.

A survey adds evidence:

According to a report released today by Knox College and the Judge Baker's Children Center, Americans overwhelmingly believe that marketing harms children. The report, based on a national survey, also finds that most adults favor a number of proposals to restrict marketing aimed at children. In related news, a report issued today by the Motherhood Project - a member of the coalition to Stop Commercial Exploitation of Children - finds the advertising industry's self-regulation practices woefully inadequate. According to the report, "There is a glaring gap between what the advertising industry says about self-regulation - and what it actually does." Taken together, these reports deliver a clear and important message: When it comes to marketing to children, self-regulation is not working. We need to find a better and more effective way to protect our children.

Spread the Word!

CEASE asks for your help in expanding our network. We would like to reach people entering the field and others who may not have encountered our work at conferences.

Please consider giving a gift membership to people whom you think might be interested.

We, also, encourage everyone to take **CEASE News** to Conferences and other events. Let us know ahead, and we will send your copies of the **News**.

To read more about the Knox College/Judge Baker Children's Center survey, please visit: <http://www.commercialexploitation.org/Pressreleases/survey.htm>

To read more about the Motherhood Project's report, please visit: <http://www.commercialexploitation.org/Pressreleases/selfreg.htm>

Josh Golin, Action Coordinator, SCEC: Stop Commercial Exploitation of Children www.commercialexploitation.org
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617-232-8390 x2438

New Book: *Consuming Kids: the Hostile Takeover of Childhood*, by Susan Linn, The New Press, 2004. Linn, co-founder of Stop Commercial Exploitation of Children (see page 5) presents chapters on all the threats to children documented in that campaign. If we were not convinced before, her in depth reporting makes the case for action to reverse the pernicious reality that children's vulnerabilities are exploited to sell junk-food, sex, violence, alcohol, tobacco, and more from infancy onward, at home and at school. Her final chapter offers action plans and an appendix full of resources. The goal is a ban on marketing to children. It's high time....

CEASE welcomes contributions to the newsletter. Please write us about your work for a peaceful and safe world for children. We will publish as space allows.

Finally, please feel free to copy any materials you receive from CEASE and distribute them to colleagues, parents, students.... Help us to reach out!

Let people know about our website:
www.peaceeducators.org

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