



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Peace Essay Contest Winners Announced**

**Santa Barbara, CA (December 1, 2006)** – The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of the 2006 Swackhamer Peace Essay contest. The 20-year-old contest serves to encourage high school students worldwide to share their thoughts on US foreign policy and peace issues, and suggest ways to improve global security. The theme for this year's contest was: "The US initiated a war against Iraq based on the false premise that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Write an essay exploring the consequences of US use of force in Iraq and make recommendations on how the US, in cooperation with the international community, can peacefully prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction."

Tyler Schroeder, a home-schooled student from Conifer, Colorado won first place and a prize of \$1,500 for his essay "Non-Proliferation Begins at Home." In light of the United States' recent trend toward a unilateralist foreign policy, Schroeder proposes avenues for the United States to take a more cooperative approach in international affairs. "The world will not find an answer to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in force or intimidation," he wrote. "Rather, the U.S. must lead the charge of a 'disarmament race,' reversing...the nuclear arms race in an international drive for peace."

Mark Hertvik of John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights, Illinois won second place (\$1,000) for his essay "~~Russian~~ American Roulette." The essay contends that, throughout the Nuclear Age, the United States has been by far the primary source of nuclear proliferation in the world, and that the United States uses its nuclear arsenal principally to coerce other nations into accepting its agenda.

Nicole Morales of Fayetteville Manlius High School in Manlius, New York and Joe Kenny of Vermont Academy in Fairfield, Connecticut tied for third place (\$250 each). Morales' essay, "Fostering Harmonic Security in an Insecure World," maintains that the United States' best strategy for defeating terrorism would be to take a leading role in ending poverty and oppression globally. Kenny's essay, "Weapons of Mass Destruction: Never an Option," makes a case for the inherent immorality of nuclear weapons based on the doctrine of "Just War Theory."

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan international organization with consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Security Council. For almost 25 years, the Foundation has been committed to advancing initiatives to eliminate the nuclear weapons threat to all life, fostering the global rule of law, and building an enduring legacy of peace through education and advocacy.

Information about other Foundation youth empowerment initiatives are available online at [www.wagingpeace.org/youth](http://www.wagingpeace.org/youth) and by contacting Foundation Youth Empowerment Director Will Parrish at (805) 965-3443.