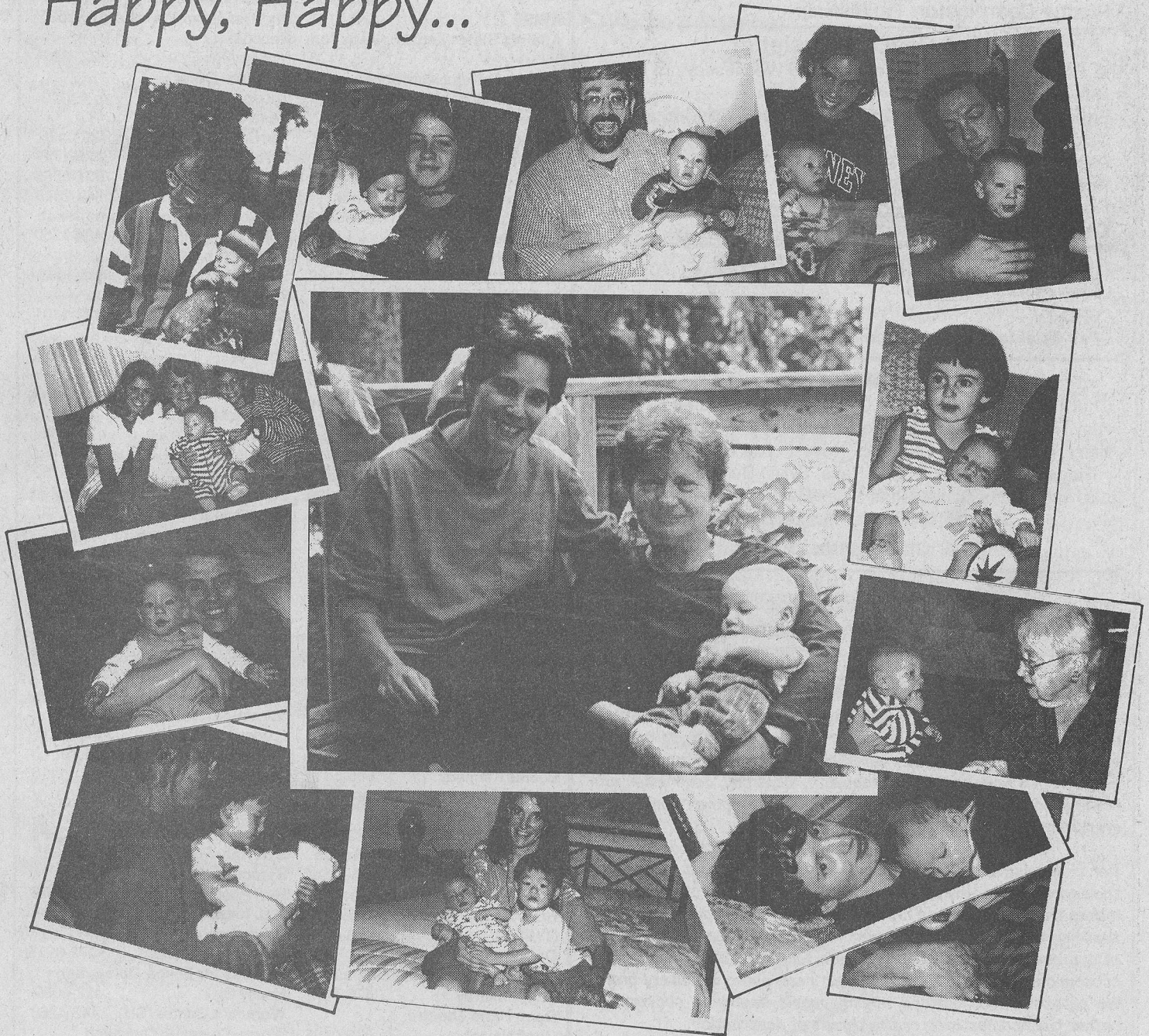


Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice May 1997 PNL 655

Happy, Happy...



...Mother's Mother's Day!

see page 5

Also inside: Cracks at Nine Mile One, Fitzpatrick Award...NOT!, MOVE, Poetry, Health Care, War & Peaces, Book Reviews

Published Monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council - Founded in 1936

THE SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL

New people are always welcome to join any of these activities. Contact SPC at 472-5478 or the person listed to find out what you can do.

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• Organizational Maintenance Committee

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The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets the first three Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 PM. Call SPC for location.

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Statement of Purpose

The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC), founded in 1936, is an antiwar/social justice organization. It is community-based, autonomous and funded by the contributions of its supporters.

SPC educates, agitates and organizes for a world where war, violence and exploitation in any form will no longer exist. It challenges the existing unjust power relationships among nations, among people and between ourselves and the environment. As members, we work to replace inequality, hierarchy, domination and powerlessness with mutual respect, personal empowerment, cooperation and a sense of community.

Present social injustices cannot be understood in isolation from each other nor can they be overcome without recognizing their economic and militaristic roots. SPC stresses a strategy that makes these connections clear. We initiate and support activities that help build this sense of community and help tear down the walls of oppression. A fundamental base for peace and justice is an economic system that places human need above monetary profit. We establish relationships among people based on cooperation rather than competition or the threat of destruction.

Our political values and personal lives shape and reflect each other. In both we are committed to nonviolent means of conflict resolution and to a process of decision-making that responds to the needs of us all.

Alliances, Coalitions & Contacts

Abolish the Blockade of Cuba

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ACLU-CNY Chapter

Barrie Gewanter 471-2821

Alliance-Psychiatric System

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Alternatives to Violence Project

Jay Liestee 499-0845

American Friends Service

Committee 475-4822

Animal Defense League

479-9105

ARISE 472-3171

Atlantic States Legal Foundation

475-1170

Central America/Caribbean

Coalition Shirley Novak 446-6099

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CNY Center for Occupational

Health and Safety 471-6187

CNY Environment

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Dunbar Center

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EON/Transgender Community

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472-5478

Fightback! of CNY 422-0555

Food Bank of CNY 437-1899

Friends of the Filipino People

John & Sally Brulé 445-0698

Gay/Lesbian Alliance 422-5732

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student

Assoc. (SU) 443-3599

Haiti Solidarity

Ann Tiffany 478-4571

Hemlock Society

Betty Bentley 463-0782

Hotel Employees 150 437-0373

Jail Ministry 424-1877

Kenark Center for Creative

Spirituality

Bourke Kennedy 685-5414

Lesbian/Gay Youth

NAACP 443-3599

Van Robinson 422-6933

Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.

Ammie Chickering 365-2299

New Environment Association

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NYPIRG 476-8381

Onondaga Audubon 457-7731

Onon. Women's Political Caucus

Peggy Murray 475-7671

Open Hand Theatre

Geoff Navias 476-0466

Pax Christi

Frank Woolever 446-1693

Peace Action of CNY

Diane Swords 478-7442

Peace Brigades International

Ed Kinane 478-4571

P.E.A.C.E., Inc.

Louis Clark 470-3300

People Against the Death Penalty

637-3344

People for Animal Rights

488-PURR (7877)

Persons With AIDS Support

Hotline

Sandra 471-5911

Physicians for Social

Responsibility 488-2140

Planned Parenthood 475-5525

Reconsider

Nick or Alex Eyle 422-6231

Religion: Other

Phoenix or Kat 474-8801

Rose Center

Teri Cameron 422-3426

Sarah House 475-1747

Save the County 637-6066

SEEDS (607) 749-2818

Service Employees International

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Sierra Club

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Small Claims Court Action

Center 443-1401

S.O.A. Watch/ CNY

Ed Kinane 478-4571

Social Workers for Peace

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Socialist Party

Ron Ehrenreich 478-0793

Spanish Action League

Sam Velazquez 471-3762

Student African-American Society

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Student Environmental Action

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Syracuse Alt. Media Network

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Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society

SAVES/Joe Connolly 437-2163

Syracuse Community Choir

Karen Mihalyi 428-8724

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Credit Union 471-1116

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Syracuse N.O.W. 472-3294

Syr. Real Food Coop 472-1385

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S.U. for Animal Rights 443-4199

Urban League

Eloise Dowdell Curry 472-6955

Witness for Peace Delegations

Nancy Gwin 422-4689

Women's Center (SU) 443-4268

Women's Health Outreach

425-3653

Women's INFO Center 478-4636

(If you don't see your group listed, please call)

In This Issue:

Why not start with mothers? May begins with Labor Day, and motherhood begins with labor. I know this country of ours doesn't recognize international Labor Day, but then again, women's labor hasn't exactly been celebrated here either. In this case two mothers means four hands means more unpaid labor... very American. (Oh dear, I think I'm writing myself into a corner.) Well, the US has celebrated Nuclear Power—and we do go on about that. And some people are celebrating Fitzpatrick—although I can't say why. Of course, police violence has also been high on the US hit-list, and it seems there's a book about it. Oh, and speaking of police violence, May also has MOVE day (on 13th). But May starts with the same letter as Matrilineage and Marge, so we included a little of each. And health care is good for mothers, and elections are a form of "Mother may I?", and the School of Assassins kills Mothers, so it's all connected—just not very pleasant. —Bill

The Peace Newsletter (PNL) is published monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council. SPC, founded in 1936, is the oldest community-based peace and justice organization in the United States.

The PNL strives to serve some basic functions as the internal organ of SPC and as a forum for articles which discuss issues of concern to the peace movement. The opinions expressed in the PNL reflect the diversity of opinions within SPC itself. While we are not able to print every possible viewpoint, we do welcome letter and article submissions as well as suggestions and assistance.

The PNL has very reasonable ad rates; call or write for our rates. Movement groups are free to reprint articles and graphics, but please give credits. For-profit groups, please inquire.

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Subscriptions are \$12 a year in the U.S., \$15 in Canada and Mexico and \$25 overseas. The institutional rate is \$15. The PNL is free to prisoners and low-income people. Your organization, co-op, etc. can receive 5-25 PNLs each month. Our circulation is 4000.

Contributions to SPC beyond PNL subscriptions support our activist programs. We always need your support. Peace Newsletter/Syracuse Peace Council, 924 Burnet Ave, Syracuse, NY 13203.

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About the cover: Happy Happy Mother's Mother's Day

These selections from our photo album reflect part of our extended family. Deb, Carole and Shay are in the center photo. Friends and family pictured with Shay beginning at the upper left and moving clockwise are: Jack Manno, Roni Morgenstern, Bree Peterson-Resnick, Marty Gertz, Caitlyn Gertz, Richard Dorritie, Ruby Hanrahan Ogno, Mildred Resnick, Elizabeth Corbett, Susan Karp, Keo Karp, Margaret Birdleough, Andre Birdleough-Shattell, Marie Summerwood, Jenny Gertz, Dorothy Rockman, and Kari Gertz.

Family faces missing from these photos are: Ellie Dorritie, Dana Gertz, Jason Gertz, Judy Gertz, Ken Gertz, Sue Gertz, Joe Karp, Jan Peterson, Sandee Resnick, and Larry Rockman.

— Deb and Carole

Credits: Center photo by Jan Phillips; surrounding photos by Carole Resnick, Debra Lee Gertz, or Marie Summerwood; Cover production by Kristian Newman; Cover design by Karen Kerney.



June Issue Deadlines

Articles	May15
Ads	May22
Calendar Items	May22

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

JOB OPENING

The Syracuse Peace Council announces the opening of a staff position.

SPC is looking for one full-time or two part-time person(s)

Preferred capabilities:

- Community organizing and activist experience
- Personable; good communication
- Office management
- Volunteer coordination
- Event programming
- Writing and editing
- Fundraising and grant writing experience
- Desktop publishing and database management

Full-Time Salary: \$12,000 (benefits will be discussed)

Position start date: July 1, 1997

We strongly encourage women and minorities to apply.

Send cover letter and resume by
June 2, 1997, to:

The Syracuse Peace Council, 924
Burnet Ave., Syracuse, NY 13203
Call (315) 472-5478 for more info.

61st Anniversary Dinner

61 years and still kickin'. All I can say is, "It's a good thing these things happen more than once a year!" Well, actually I could also say, "Wow, it's a good thing we started these SPC dinners up again!" Either way it was a raucous good time had by all. (No, of course I can't speak for everyone, it's an expression, *so ask 'em yourself.*)

Anyway, massive Thank You's to everyone who helped on April 12. If I try to list folks by name I'll probably miss yours, and then you'll be mad at me, and I don't want you mad at me. But I am going to thank the Program Committee because of their love for meetings. And I'm going to thank Nick Orth and Beth Mosley, without whom we would have had over 160 hungry people. And I'll thank all of the table-hosts, without whom over 160 would have eaten curry off the tables with their fingers. And of course I'm going to thank our speaker Pramod Parajuli, without whom over 160 people would have stared at an empty podium, or worse, expected me to say something interesting. (And I'm not nearly as charming as Pramod.) And what's more, I'm going to thank Bill Coop and all of S. Presbyterian Church, without whom over 160 people would have eaten curry off plates in front of Pramod in the pouring rain. And that would just not do.

In any case, besides being a cool event with great food, it was a financial success. Yippie!

Off to Workshop

Because we didn't get enough of each other the night before, or for those who didn't get any of us the night before, SPC sponsored *Building Resistance: A Workshop on Creative Nonviolence* on April 13. This was the first in a series of five nonviolence workshops to be held this year. In theory, they will also be held each year after too, *ad infinitum.*

So me and Jolie Rickman facilitated this workshop, which was designed to share local experience and history with creative nonviolent action. The goal was to create dialogue regarding creative forms of resistance, ideally to share little-known local history and spur further action. This bit was *quite* satisfactorily carried out, if I do say so myself.

It went kinda like this: Francis Parks presented a short history of Rosa Parks which incorporated local and current history; Karen Mihalyi, Carole Resnick, and Cindy Squillace recreated a little bit of the infamous "Bloody Nuns" Haig action; Jeff and Todd talked a bit about the Animal Defense League's activities; myself and Kath Barry related stories of the Nonviolent Action Collective and showed a little video; ladies from Ladies Against Women (I don't know their husband's names so they'll have to remain anonymous) did a little street theater; lots of folks re-enacted the re-enactment of the murder of the Jesuit priests and their co-worker as part of the School of the America's protests; and Jolie Rickman renewed her Maxwell School matrimonial vows with the Department of Defense.

After each presentation we had about five minutes of responses which were collected to help define future workshops. I honestly can't expect to relate how moving some of the presentations were. All in all a powerful and thought provoking day. Many expressed feeling proud to be part of such strong activist history.

Join us in June for the next workshop, *Consensus, Facilitation and Affinity Groups*, facilitated by Joy Meeker and Nick Orth. Date and time TBA. Watch the *PNL* for info.

— Bill Mazza

Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

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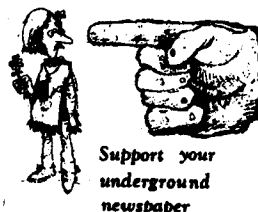
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The Syracuse Peace Council, 924 Burnet Ave. Syracuse, NY 13203

Save Your Stuff!

Start choosing and saving now for the SPC garage sale. Now's the time to set aside those choice items that are cluttering up your homes—like quality antiques, valuable china or silver, tapes, tries or collectibles. Oh, and of course, ticky-tacky-trashy stuff people love to buy!

Happy Happy Mother's Mother's Day

A Victory

Interview by elana levy

with Carole Resnick and Debra Lee Gertz, parents of Benjamin Shay Resnick Gertz, born June 16th, 1996.

e: *WHAT IS IT that we're celebrating? What brings about this interview?*

d: On February 5th Carole acquired legal parenthood of Shay.

c: We successfully went through a legal process that allowed me to adopt Shay, which the court calls a second parent adoption. It's very hard for me not to be offended that I need to somehow ask the legal system to validate my right to parent the child who I intentionally had with Deb. And so I get mad before I can really appreciate that this was a victory of some kind.

e: *What's so special about this? Haven't lesbians been able to legally get parental rights for a long time?*

d: No. There's just been a change in the law. A case was heard in the NYS Court of Appeals that has made it possible for the first time in NYS for the non-biological parent in a lesbian family to gain legal parental rights and responsibilities.

c: Two cases came together to the NYS Court of Appeals, Nov. 2nd, 1995, contesting the denial of adoption. One was a lesbian family, and the other an unmarried heterosexual family. The finding was that an unmarried mother's partner may become the child's second parent through adoption. Until then that was not the case. The legal precedent for this is in heterosexual marriages when children are adopted by a spouse who is not the biological parent. The special issue was that it now could happen with an unmarried partner. The finding clarifies that this includes lesbian families too.

d: As far as we know there was a very negative reception to this in the NYS legislature. So moves to try to terminate this option may well happen. This could be a short-lived window of opportunity.

c: It's sad that the reason we have to do this is to assure basic parental rights and benefits for our child which we should be able to take for granted. The adoption creates a legal relationship "as if" Deb and I were married

and had a child together. For example, now Shay can be covered by my health insurance and receive my social security benefits. I also now can make parental decisions in medical or educational situations. And, legally, I have the right to continue to parent Shay in the event of Deb's death, or in the event of our separation. It's such a contradiction to look to the legal system for these things. But it reflects how profoundly invisible gay and lesbian relationships are in the big system.

e: *What happened before this finding in Nov. 1995? When a lesbian couple had a child together what rights did the mother who was not the biological mother have?*

d: None.

e: *So if something happened to the biological mother, the child could be taken away from the other parent who had raised the child?*

d: Yes.

c: Absolutely. People try to deal with that in their wills to the greatest extent that they can, usually by establishing guardianship for the

child by their partner in the event of their death. But there's always the risk of a hostile family, and in that case the court often honors what they consider blood kinship. And there are absolutely no legal rights for the partner without an adoption such as ours.

d: The fact that Carole must now be recognized as a legal parent is a great thing for me as the biological mother. I don't make big decisions about Shay without Carole anyway, but now it's also recognized on a legal level. She

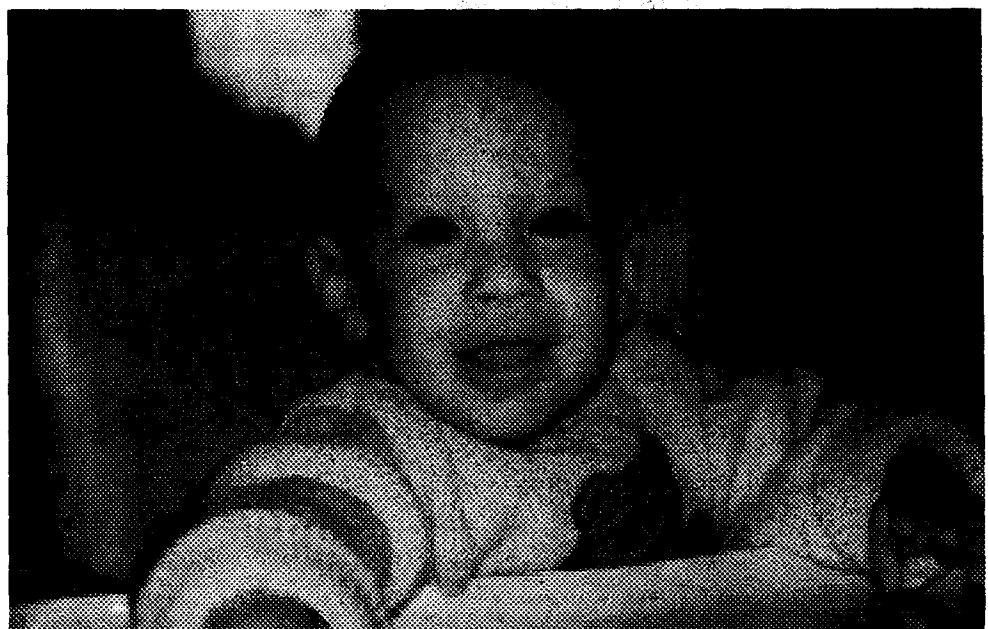
doesn't have to carry around an affidavit that says I give her permission to make these decisions, which is what other lesbian parents have to do.

c: Although in reality I probably will still have to carry around a piece of paper of some sort, because no medical facility is going to accept that Shay has two mothers without questioning it. So it's just a different piece of paper that I need to carry.

d: The piece of paper that we just got in the mail. A revised Certificate of Birth: Benjamin Shay Resnick Gertz, male; born 6/16/1996; parent: Debra Lee Gertz; parent: Carole Resnick.

Revised Certificate of Birth:
Benjamin Shay Resnick Gertz
male; born 6/16/1996
parent: Debra Lee Gertz
parent: Carole Resnick

Mother Mother cont'd on page 6



Benjamin Shay Resnick Gertz. Photo by Marie Summerwood.

Mother Mother cont'd from page 5

e: *That's great!*

d: Yes, there is some cause for celebration. I think we have set a precedent in Onondaga County for this type of adoption, and that may make it easier for other lesbian or gay couples to adopt as well. Our intention has always been to share parenting as equally as possible, and this is a victory on the legal front.

e: *What was the adoption process itself like for the two of you?*

d: We had to go through the process as if we were a couple applying to adopt a child, rather than a couple preparing to birth a child, as was the case. There was a home study conducted by a social worker, investigations into our legal histories, references required to attest to our fitness as "adoptive parents." We worked with a social worker who was sensitive to our situation, and who was actually an excellent ally and advocate, but still the process felt invasive and insulting. I was more and more pregnant at the same time as we were going through the steps to demonstrate to the state that we were fit to have our child, who, of course, we were going to have regardless of the court's opinion. The process was also expensive. It cost about \$2500, and therefore is obviously not

accessible to many people. We were aware that it was actually an economic privilege to be able to get involved in the legal system in this way.

e: *Do you think this step forward is going to affect how lesbian and gay parents are treated in this society?*

c: I think it's a gain in civil rights, and an important improvement in the potential quality of life for lesbian and gay families who have children. It doesn't fundamentally do anything to unseat heterosexism or lessen homophobia. But it does create more visibility for us as lesbians. And it flies directly in the face of what are called "family values" by the "religious" right.

e: *What does it mean for you to become more visible?*

d: It's a little scary.

e: *Scary, how?*

d: Just to be identified and potentially targeted, I guess is a little scary.

e: *It seems like a contradiction. On one hand visibility creates you as a target, but on the other the recognition of both of you as Shay's legal parents is a step towards normalizing lesbian parenting.*

c: Yes, both are true. What's important to me is what I think of as pride, when people talk about gay pride or about Black pride. I have

always thought of "pride" as the reclaiming of feeling okay about ourselves in the face of the racism or classism or sexism or homophobia that has told us differently. Because the oppression exists, we have to find some validation to remind us that the negative messages are not true. Even so it's impossible not to internalize some of those messages which are so ingrained in our culture. So it does feel scary, to come out, to be more visible, because the world's not particularly hospitable and there is a certain safety in invisibility.

Actually I am quite clear that it is having a child in particular, that makes me feel like I have no choice but to be out. For both of us part of having a child as lesbians is taking on the task of being proud enough to do it visibly. We will do whatever it takes to create a context for Shay that allows him to feel proud of himself and his heritage.

e: *How do you think Shay's life will be affected by having two mothers?*

c: Shay faces a hard task. Any child raised in a lesbian family will have to cope with harassment, at best. We know older children who have dealt with situation after situation where a friend isn't allowed to play with them anymore, or they get teased or beat up at school. In a way he's the one who will be most on the front line, and we made that decision for him. So we feel it is our responsibility and our obligation to teach him—not just teach him—to model activism in our own lives. We want to give him the tools to understand that if there's something hard in his life that comes from oppression it is not a reflection of something wrong with him or with us. That will not necessarily make it any easier in the moment, but hopefully he will at least have a context to work with in understanding homophobia, sexism, racism, classism and anti-Semitism. Especially growing up as a white middle class male he will need to hold onto a very clear perspective about how the system we live under—a patriarchal, racist, capitalist system—works against all of us.

I think it is true that parenthood in general pushes you to clear up your own issues so that you model for your child as best you can. Shay has come into this world as the child of lesbians, and we are committed to raising him as the child of proud lesbians.

elana is a member of the PNL editorial collective.



Debra Lee Gertz & Carole Resnick. Photo by Diane Ogno.



Nine Mile One Cracks Up

Cracks at Niagara Mohawk Nuclear Plant No Laughing Matter

Simon Morrin

NIAGARAMOHAWK's Nine Mile Point One nuclear plant, located in Scriba, Oswego County, is once again the subject of questions concerning its operational safety. Only recently removed from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) list of the nation's worst-run and therefore most dangerous facilities, the plant has developed new weld cracks in its reactor core shroud in addition to cracking discovered in routine inspections during a refueling outage in 1995.

First on-line twenty-eight years ago, Nine Mile One is the country's oldest operating boiling water reactor (BWR). Now, not only has original cracking worsened, but new cracks have developed in previously unaffected vertical welds, making Niagara Mohawk's Nine Mile One core shroud the most severely deteriorated core shroud in the United States.

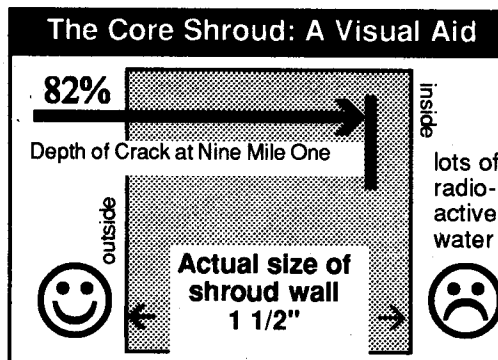
Constructed of 1.5" thick stainless steel elements welded into rings, which are then stacked and welded together, the reactor core shroud is a seventeen feet high by fifteen feet diameter cylinder located inside the reactor pressure vessel. The core shroud surrounds the highly radioactive fuel rods which power the reactor, providing lateral restraint to the reactor core, supporting other structural elements within the reactor assembly, and partitioning upward and downward coolant flow.

If welds were to crack 100% through the core shroud wall, radioactive coolant could leak onto internal instrumentation and hinder the operator's ability to properly monitor, and therefore control, the reactor's operation. Additionally, the force of escaping water or an earthquake could cause the weakened core shroud to displace control rod guides, preventing adequate control of the reaction.

Monitoring the core reaction is crucial in maintaining the intended operation of a nuclear plant. Instrumentation failures and misinterpretations have repeatedly caused accidents involving unscheduled releases of radioactive materials into the environment. (Routine releases, as during refueling, are part of "normal" operation.) Most notoriously, at Three Mile Island in 1979, a jammed monitor needle began a sequence of events culminating in a disastrous emission of radiation.

First detected in 1993, core shroud cracking is now an industry-wide problem, with cracks appearing at 28 BWR plants and remediation taking place at 11 of those plants. A March 15, 1995 NRC *Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences for October-December 1994* called BWR core shroud cracking "the most significant concern related to potential failure of reactor internals reported during 1993 and 1994."

During the 1995 Nine Mile One refueling outage Niagara Mohawk spent \$3 million on the installation of four massive stainless steel tie rods, running from top to bottom of the core shroud. General Electric produced rods, intended to hold together shroud segments in the event of 100% weld cracking, have since failed due to design problems and improper installation. New, redesigned rods, which Niagara Mohawk claims will ensure the plant's safety for at least 14 1/2 months, are currently being installed.



Inappropriate technical and management practices are common at the Nine Mile nuclear plants, as are lies and deceit. Long considered one of the worst nuclear managers in the country by the NRC and nuclear watchdogs alike, Niagara Mohawk is yet again facing a \$200,000 fine for poor quality control and design control.

Potentially catastrophic blunders included allowing Nine Mile One's reactor vessel to over-fill with water, failure to keep the Nine Mile Two reactor core isolation cooling system (one of the most important safety systems) in operating condition, and failure to clean debris from the Nine Mile Two pressure pool, another important safety device.

The utility was also fined \$200,000 in 1992, following a two year period in which Nine Mile One operated for only 50% of the time and suffered more emergency shut-downs

than virtually any other nuclear facility in the country.

And, in a major deception of the NRC, Niagara Mohawk concealed for twelve years the presence of tens of thousands of gallons of radioactive water and spilled radioactive waste illegally stored in Nine Mile One's extremely radioactive "radwaste" building.

Mismanagement and corruption are only a part of the Niagara Mohawk threat to public health, safety and life. In his September, 1995 report, *US Nuclear Power Plants—Showing Their Age*, nuclear engineer Robert Pollard of the Union of Concerned Scientists states, "Research has shown that a multitude of both large and small nuclear plant components are susceptible to a staggering variety of aging mechanisms...."

"Studies have also demonstrated that some types of degradation cannot be detected using the established methods of periodic testing and inspection. Furthermore, in some cases no known methods exist for detecting degradation. In-service failures of BWRs are thus inevitable."

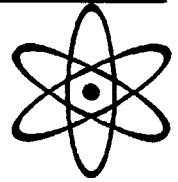
The occurrence of core shroud cracks, which generally appear in BWRs around twenty years old, is accepted by the NRC and the utilities to be aging-related. And while the existence of aging-related degradation is widely acknowledged, there is no sure way of predicting what problems will occur in the future.

Core shroud cracking is by itself a serious problem, but according to Pollard, "it is a harbinger of even more widespread future crises. As the BWR fleet continues to age, component failures will become more and more commonplace. The current core shroud crisis should be thought of as a wake-up call rather than an opportunity to find and apply a technological quick fix."

What To Do:

- Write a note on your NiMo bill or payment check, and/or call Niagara Mohawk at 474-1511 and demand they shut down their nuclear operations.
- Call SPC to help organize: 472-5478.
- Support the Nuclear Information & Resource Service (NIRS), publisher of *The Nuclear Monitor*, 1424 16th Street NW, Suite 601, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 462-2183 or <nirnet@aol.com>

Simon lives in Syracuse with his daughter Phoebe, where they are continually exposed to radioactive emissions from at least four nuclear power plants.



Not In Our Name

Humanitarian Award for Pro-Execution D.A.

Interview with Dan McCann

ON THE EVENING of May 8 at the OnCenter in downtown Syracuse, Catholic Charities will hold its annual fund-raising dinner and present District Attorney William Fitzpatrick and his wife, attorney Diane Fitzpatrick, with a joint lifetime achievement award for humanitarian work related to domestic violence. A Roman Catholic, Mr. Fitzpatrick actively supports the state's new death penalty law. He'll personally handle prosecution of Sam Chinn III, the first defendant in Onondaga County to be charged under that law. The award's announcement met a firestorm of objection from some Catholics, who say imposing the death penalty contradicts Church teaching.

On March 25 Pax Christi and Jail Ministry protested Fitzpatrick's award at Catholic Charities' executive board meeting. Extensive front-page coverage featured Bishop James Moynihan and Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Costello disagreeing about the death penalty's significance in award selection. Activists likened the fund-raiser's \$100-a-plate to thirty pieces of silver. Former Alabama death row inmate Beau Cochran was there.

Stung, Fitzpatrick insisted "thousands" of Catholics agree with him and claimed "separation of church and state" absolves him of any contradiction.

On April 21, Jail Ministry acknowledged "sadness and mixed feelings." Fitzpatrick's domestic violence work is extensive, but they concluded, "We cannot overlook your position of violence in promoting executions." Jail Ministry invites "friends of the poor and powerless" to join them instead in not attending the dinner.

The PNL invited Catholic Charities board member Dolores Morgan, one of the first to question this award, to cover this story. She declined, saying, "What's important now is dispelling the idea that gazillions of people support the death penalty. Many people don't. We 'professional' peace people are expected to say these things. But look how hard it is to get a jury in the McVeigh trial—because in capital cases jury members have to be willing to impose the death penalty."

Also among the 30 protestors on March 25 was a prayer group from a west side parish, St. Lucy's. Dolores Morgan suggested we speak with Dan McCann, a parishioner there for ten years. Below is part of our conversation as well as his rendering of the March 25 event.

As we go to press: During the awards dinner on May 8, St. Lucy's prayer group will host a liturgy at St. Lucy's Church, 432 Gifford Street, at 7 PM, followed by a simple supper in the parish hall. All are welcome. Jail Ministry will have a presence outside the OnCenter during the awards dinner, and later join the supper at St. Lucy's. Both groups will fast for three days beforehand. To check last-minute plans, 424-1877. — Nancy Rhodes



PNL: How did you get from prayer to protest, from a fairly private sharing to visiting the Catholic Charities board?

Dan McCann: Protest wasn't really on our minds. We wanted to do street ministry or something to support the neighborhood. Dolores Morgan came to talk with us about those kinds of things. She mentioned the award. We asked about the board meeting and word just got out. Other people were grumbling too. Then, only two people were going to go in [to the executive board meeting] from the vigil. On our way in, I just turned and said, "Why don't we all go in?" It wasn't planned.

PNL: Where do you think "humanitarian" fits in this?

DMcC: Fitzpatrick was chosen for his good qualities. He has done good. It's such a messy question. Our point is that this needs to be a "teachable moment." You can't give these awards without covering all the bases. I think there is real sadness about this for many people.

PNL: Fitzpatrick says that this is a matter of church and state separation, that his role as district attorney should have nothing to do with his religion or personal moral stance.

DMcC: Well, he is talking purely as an elected official. But for me, I couldn't accept that role. I'm totally against killing. We're just not meant to kill. I'm a very simple man about this. Like when Cardinal Bernardin talked about the "seamless garment." You don't save the babies and then kill the fathers.

PNL: Dolores Morgan has said that Fitzpatrick didn't have the death penalty dumped on him, that he supports it proactively.

DMcC: Yes, he's in a position where he could make a difference. You know, Beau Cochran being here and participating in the community has moved me to do a lot of thinking. I don't know what he did or didn't do, but he's learned and he's grown. We're all entitled to be forgiven. We're all broken vessels. For Fitzpatrick to call Beau Cochran the anti-death penalty "poster child"—that's just sad. I signed that Pax Christi form, the one where you declare that if you are murdered, cont'd on next page



From Prayer to Protest

Prayer Group Challenges Catholic Charities Award

Dan McCann

IN THE SUMMER of 1996 a prayer group emerged at St. Lucy's parish. All members of the community were invited to participate. About ten people meet twice a month. Initially we would read from the Bible and share our reflections, pray and join in singing hymns.

As time progressed we introduced an experience of prayer that had had some success among indigenous South African people. There are seven steps. First, the facilitator does not appoint somebody to invoke the Lord, but waits for a person to come forward spontaneously. Their invitation is a warm, personal welcome.

Second, the facilitator mentions the Biblical book and chapter and, again, waits for someone to read spontaneously. A second person reads the same text from a different translation or version.

Then we meditate on the text by picking out a word or short phrase. We read this three times aloud. In between repetitions and in between individual contributions we observe a short silence for the word or phrase to "re-echo" in our hearts and minds. After the "picking out of words" we read whole text again, slowly and prayerfully.

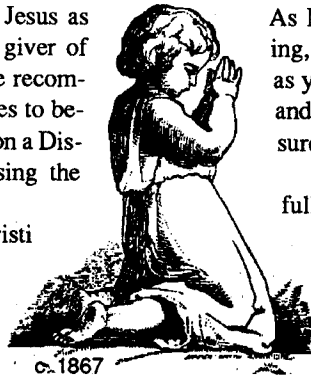
Next there is silence for several minutes so that God can speak to each heart. Then the facilitator encourages members to share words or phrases which have touched us personally. We don't comment on what each reflects.

As the sixth step we discuss any task

which the group senses is vital to our well-being. We have discussed how to re-vitalize the parish, how to reach out more effectively to the elderly, the minorities, the disenfranchised, how to be more sensitive to the burdens each carries.

Our experience of the sixth step led us to a situation in which there appeared to be a conflict between the life of Jesus as perceived in the Gospel as a giver of life, care and concern, and the recommendation of Catholic Charities to bestow a humanitarian award upon a District Attorney actively espousing the death penalty.

Our dialogue with Pax Christi and Jail Ministry concluded that there was great disillusionment about our understanding of the Church's teaching on the death pen-



alty. We believed the Church has always been proactive in its call for the sanctity of life. This award caused no little consternation.

Our three groups were able to meet with Catholic Charities' Executive Board to express our concern. We believed that giving this award to a death penalty advocate could be an opportune "teachable moment." As Matthew said (7:1), "Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out of you."

The board did listen carefully and attentively. We asked to end with a prayer, as is customary. The final step is to join in prayer and in song, invoking as always our brother and our friend, Jesus, to be with them always.

Fitzy's Scale of Justice Update

IN FEBRUARY's *PNL* we wondered whether District Attorney William Fitzpatrick would also bring the "full weight of the system" marshalled against Henry Breland down on Sgt. Benjamin O'Dell. Breland is presently serving "125 years to life" for wounding two police officers in a Valley Drive shoot-out, one of the few cases Fitzpatrick has prosecuted personally in court.

O'Dell erased a videotape showing members of his SERT (Sheriff's Emergency Response Team) "subduing" inmate Jerod Crosby in January. Justice Center inmates call SERT squads "Ninjas" for their black combat outfits and "swarm" techniques. Sheriff Kevin Walsh

sent O'Dell's case to the D.A. the day before Breland's sentencing.

Just as the last *PNL* went to press, *The Post-Standard* (3/22) reported that O'Dell faces two misdemeanor counts of falsifying business records. Reporter Jim O'Hara quotes defense attorney Ralph Cognetti at length regarding O'Dell's "smelling like a rose," citing superiors' refusal to let him retire from SERT command while under personal stress. In this revisionist account, past mention has vanished now that O'Dell's SERT had a higher than average incidence of uses of force and used pepper spray more often than any other SERT squad. As another *PNL* goes to press, O'Dell has yet to plead to these charges.

Can we see how this one's going to go?

Award cont'd from page 8

you do not want your murderer to be executed. I had Beau witness mine.

PNL: I thought it was extraordinary that Bishops Moynihan and Costello were in disagreement in print. They didn't withdraw the award, but Bishop Costello got about as close to that cliff in print as you could without stepping off. It suggests how heated this controversy really is.

DMcC: Well, in 1994 or '95 Bishop O'Keefe [Moynihan's predecessor] and Bishop Costello wrote a monograph about the death

penalty. It is such a clear statement. They said the death penalty is a form of racism. Why would things change so much in two years? This was true in 1980—I think the US Bishops' Letter against the death penalty came out in 1980—and then in 1985 and then in 1995. Why isn't it true now? What has changed about the criminal justice system?

PNL: Has your group changed since visiting the Catholic Charities board?

DMcC: It's causing us to stay focused on the death penalty. Most people at St. Lucy's

have been very supportive. We have a lot happening there, you know. There's been nothing negative from others for what we're doing.

PNL: You don't live on the west side, I notice.

DMcC: Well, it's the parish where my parents were married. I, Dan McCann, wanted to make a difference in a neighborhood, and I could there. I certainly didn't need a social outlet. It's a welcoming, beautiful, struggling, diverse parish. There are a lot of broken vessels, people who are human. I guess I look for that.

Released for *Cinco de Mayo*

Chronicle of Torture and Justice

Reviewed by Nancy Rhodes

Justice: A Question of Race,

by Roberto Rodríguez (1997),

Bilingual Review Press/ Hispanic

Research Center: Tempe, Arizona.

ISBN 0-927534-68-1 (paper), 283 pp. \$19.00

ON MARCH 23, 1979, the documentary film *Boulevard Nights* opened in East Los Angeles. Pickets protested the film's opening, for it portrayed young Chicanos cruising for dates in customized cars as violent gang members. "Lowriding" in East L.A. dated from the 1940s and was peaking in 1979. *Lowrider Magazine* had an estimated one million readers in the Southwestern US. Almost every Mexican neighborhood had its cruising strip, with a festival atmosphere through bumper-to-bumper weekend evenings. As the "lowriding capital of the world" and the subject of *Boulevard Nights*, East L.A.'s Whittier Boulevard also had constant police stops and searches.

On that night a young journalist named Roberto Rodríguez was taking pictures for *Lowrider Magazine* on the corner of Whittier and McDonnell. He photographed nine sheriffs beating a mentally confused man with such gusto that they fought each other for the best kicking positions. Rodríguez in turn was severely beaten and arrested. After a detour down an isolated road, two officers high-fived each other for successfully terrorizing him into thinking he'd never make it to a hospital. They charged him with assault and battery on a peace officer and assault with a deadly weapon (his Olympus camera).

About Cinco De Mayo

The official publication date of Rodríguez' book is May 5, widely celebrated as Cinco de Mayo. This date commemorates the victory of Mexican guerilla forces over the French army in the 1862 Battle of Puebla. Mexicans were outnumbered two to one and greatly outgunned. Though the French later went on to capture Puebla and ruled Mexico until 1867, Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right to self-determination and national sovereignty, and the ability of indigenous people to defend those rights against Europeans in modern military invasions.

Over his three days in Los Angeles County Hospital, Rodríguez learned that 538 people were arrested that night, many severely injured while "resisting arrest." Foreshadowing the later containment of whole urban sectors, this showdown led to barricades that closed Whittier Boulevard to cruising.

After nine months and nearly 30 more stops and arrests, Rodríguez' charges were dismissed. On average, police stopped him daily after that until he left the state. One time, his car was full of *Lowrider* magazines with March 23rd coverage. The arresting officers shackled him to a precinct bench for the evening with the magazine's photo of

his smashed, bloody face taped to the wall behind him. Seven years later he won his civil suit against four sheriffs after a cliff-hanger jury trial including surprise witnesses and exposing blatant cover-ups by the sheriffs.

Justice: A Question of Race reprints together two books that Rodríguez wrote during that period. *Assault With A Deadly Weapon* was first published in September 1984, when Rodríguez feared that he might be killed before he could testify in his civil case. *On the Wrong Side of the Law* (1986) recounts his lawsuit, though his 1996 Epilogue reveals that its first three chapters were written before that trial, during a sojourn alone in Mexico.

Rodríguez offers three accounts of what he laconically calls "the incident." The first is a reprint of his original *Lowrider Magazine* article, which gained him widespread support among its readers during the several years he traveled in the Southwest before returning to Los Angeles for his civil case. *Wrong Side's* opening chapters are extraordinarily powerful: a riveting, lean and chilling description of March 23, 1979. Finally, he recounts how his own trial testimony provoked a traumatic re-living of that night which he had been warned would occur.

Rodríguez has a fine eye for courtroom duels. He offers some excellent, accessible discussions regarding the relation of police violence to such practices as plea bargaining and manipulation of juries. He also struggles for his own sanity and well-being. Open about being no hero, he remained in the intersection

snapping pictures only because the crowd implored him repeatedly to stay. The aftermath has been harrowing.

Focused on legal and political aspects of police violence, US public discourse has rarely defined it directly as torture or trauma. But recently some police accountability activists have

tried to frame police violence in terms of international human rights. This shift coincides with the US ratification of three international conventions in the early 1990s. For the first time, US compliance includes reporting on its own domestic behavior to the United Nations. This further spurs the move toward thinking about police violence here in new terms, which may be as significant as the legal consequences of these treaties. Rodríguez himself recounts how a young Guatemalan woman who survived police torture in her birth country helped him overcome his trauma. His book may become a landmark in this shift.

Because he was a working journalist when attacked, Rodríguez' lawsuit was almost argued as a First Amendment case. It's taken him a decade to get this book into print. It is released almost simultaneously with a collection of syndicated columns by himself and his wife, *Gonzalez/Rodríguez: Uncut and Uncensored* (April 15, from UC Berkeley). Much of that book addresses varieties of censorship, including that which is self-imposed by a community often reluctant to acknowledge police violence.

One of PNL's editors, Nancy writes about police accountability and human rights. She reviewed Rodríguez' *The X is La Raza* for our January issue.



From *The X in La Raza*.



In Memory: May 13 and MOVE

Ramona Africa Speaks at April SEAC Conference in Ithaca

Bill Mazza

TWELVE YEARS AGO, on May 13, 1985, a police helicopter dropped a bomb on the MOVE house in Southwest Philadelphia. Six adults and five children were burned to death as the bomb "ended" a three-hour police assault where over 10,000 rounds of ammunition were fired into the house. The resulting fire engulfed 61 neighboring houses. Only Ramona Africa and the child Michael Ward (then called Birdie Africa) escaped alive. For surviving the assault Ramona was awarded a seven-year prison sentence, the maximum allowed. She was found guilty of riot and conspiracy charges.

No member of the city government or the police department was indicted for their actions that day. Despite a grand jury's finding that dropping the bomb was "morally reprehensible," the officials' actions were not considered criminal by the courts.

Ramona Africa spoke to both the philosophy and history of MOVE in her April 6 presentation, closing the regional Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) conference in Ithaca, NY. MOVE is an outspoken political community in Philadelphia which began with John Africa's study sessions in the early '70s. Ramona relayed to the audience how the late John Africa taught his MOVE family "the principle of unity—we are obligated to respect everything alive equally."

According to Paul M. Washington's autobiography, *Other Sheep I Have*, other teachings included:

- criticisms of the education and justice systems,
- eating raw, unprocessed foods,
- treatment of animals as equals, and,
- the use of profanity to demonstrate the hypocrisy of a society revolted by profane language, but not by a profane society which does such violence to so many.

Ramona's talk was well received by the audience of 200. Representatives from over 45 high-school and

college SEAC chapters from around the US attended the two-day event. Her message of respect for all life found receptive ears in a room of students and activists struggling to combine issues of social justice and the environment.

In recent years MOVE has returned to public attention due in part to their support of internationally recognized political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. As a journalist in Philadelphia Mumia advocated for MOVE as they faced increased police repression. According to Ramona, when Mumia was himself arrested and faced trial for the alleged murder of a Philadelphia police officer [Mumia's case has been well documented within the *PNL*], his first choice of legal representation was John Africa. Earlier, John Africa represented himself in federal court and was acquitted, arguing his philosophy instead of the law. Apparently this victory was credential enough for Mumia. The court, however, disagreed, and his request was refused.

Those MOVE members not currently serving prison sentences have been highly visible organizing for Mumia's release. As extensive coalitions and grassroots organizing efforts form around Mumia's case, activists and the public are exposed to MOVE's story.

MOVE Background

Washington, a negotiator in various conflicts between MOVE and the city of Philadel-

phia, describes how MOVE came together partially from "the frustration of young black men and women who had identified with earlier movements for justice that they thought of as revolutionary." Public opinion of MOVE developed in the wake of government sponsored activities like COINTELPRO, the well-documented FBI domestic counter-insurgency program which infiltrated and attacked groups like the American Indian Movement (AIM) and the Black Panther Party, negative reactions to the civil rights and anti-Viet Nam war struggles, and media misinformation about "black riots" like the Watts rebellion in 1965 Los Angeles. A new, armed, revolutionary movement of color—even one preaching a nonviolent philosophy of respect for all life (including self-defense)—fit images of unrest.

In this atmosphere of fear, MOVE activities included: charging mis-education at school board meetings, speaking out against police violence, and protesting the caging of animals at the Philadelphia Zoo. MOVE also lived in community, challenging "normal" urban lifestyles by working to "return to nature"—they housed fifty or sixty dogs, the children wore little clothing, and garbage was kept in the open in the backyard (composting?). Besides alienating neighbors, some potential allies were also turned off by what now might be called animal rights activism.

A series of tensions with the city resulted first in the first major conflict on May 20, 1977, when rumors of police beating MOVE member Chuck Africa resulted in a year-long stand-off with police. This ended in a March 16, 1978 assault when hundreds of cops sealed off four blocks and began evicting MOVE from their house—with a bulldozer, a cherry-picker, water hoses and tear gas. MOVE took shelter in the flooded basement, and in an exchange of gunfire, a police officer was killed.

Although ballistics reports show the officer was killed by a single bullet entering the back of his head on a downward trajectory, nine MOVE members were convicted of third degree murder and conspiracy. They were sentenced to prison terms of 30 to 100 years. A tenth was later



MOVE members giving clenched-fist salute in a demonstration protesting arrests and trials, August 12, 1980. *Urban Achieves*.

MOVE cont'd on page 12

Róisín Update

LAST MONTH'S PNL reported on the London imprisonment of Róisín McAliskey of Northern Ireland, daughter of long-time Irish nationalist Bernadette Devlin McAliskey. Eight months pregnant, Róisín is held without charges for extradition related to the June 1996 IRA mortar attack on an empty British army barracks in Osnabruck, Germany.

On April 9, Róisín attended her bail hearing in a wheelchair due to deteriorating health. The court again denied her bail as a possible "fugitive offender," even as the case against her crumbles. The key German prosecution witness has now denied identifying Róisín from photos. Two days before the bail hearing, attorney Elke Nils finally received standing to represent Róisín in Germany. She may be able to gain access to evidence so far withheld from lead attorney Gareth Peirce. Extradition proceedings still begin May 6.

Meanwhile, five US Congressmembers have written to Britain's ambassador in Washington, Sir John Kerr, urging bail for Róisín McAliskey. Róisín's sister Deirdre has been in the US meeting with Irish American activists. A petition drive has been mounted by the San Francisco-based Róisín McAliskey Justice Campaign. Those on-line can sign the petition directly at <http://larkspirit.com/roisin/>.

Reports have also surfaced that guards at Long Kesh in Belfast singled out 66 Irish prisoners for an Attica-like gauntlet beating after discovering a collapsed escape tunnel on March 23. Two of those beaten, Joe Doherty and Jim Smythe, were in a different cell block from those digging the tunnel. They were extradited from the US after British promises of safety in "the most secure prison in Europe." This raises fears about the safety of three Irishmen currently facing extradition in San Francisco.

—Nancy Rhodes



Photo by Mimi Clech

Syracuse received the last-minute word too late to distribute "A Rose for Róisín" at our early St. Patrick's Day Parade. But our Rose Mannara was one of those distributing flyers on Róisín's behalf.

MOVE cont'd from page 11

was later sentenced to ten to 20 years. Needless to say, nine people cannot pull one trigger. Also, reports of MOVE members emerging from the basement contradict the bullet's trajectory. Many argue that the officer was killed by stray police-fire.

In the wake of this trial MOVE supporter Mumia Abu-Jamal found himself facing trial for murdering a police officer in 1981.

It was also this city which witnessed MOVE begin a new campaign to free their imprisoned brothers and sisters. On Christmas Day, 1983 they began by installing a loudspeaker outside of their new home in Southwest Philly and broadcasting an eight-hour protest starting with "Motherfucker Santa Claus." The fires of '77 were rekindled in '83 and fanned until exploding on May 13, 1985, as detailed above.

When then-mayor W. Wilson Goode nodded to the District Attorney to prepare warrants for the arrest of certain MOVE members, the machinery which led to the bomb was already turning.

MOVE Now

Since her release on May 13, 1992, Ramona Africa has worked with other MOVE members and allies to obtain a review of MOVE sentences. All incarcerated MOVE members intend to serve full sentences unless their convictions are overturned. They each face, as Ramona did, the parole condition of leaving MOVE and never associating with any MOVE member again. They feel this is too much of a price to pay for "freedom."

Ramona also speaks out publicly about Mumia's case and about the MOVE philosophy. Many in attendance at her talk were struck with similarities of MOVE's ideas and those of SEAC, or other grassroots environmental activists. Additionally, I hope the significance of hearing the story of an early '70s African American revolutionary movement embracing an environmental and animal-rights spirituality was registered by the almost all-white audience.

Ramona says, "The definition of life is feelings." Therefore anything which can be assumed to have feelings should be treated with equal respect. She continues, "It is the height of arrogance and ego to think we can rearrange life and make furs for fashion..."

It's a desire to return to a state of health in

an unhealthy environment that drives MOVE. Ramona related this desire to a sick body:

People ask us what we will replace the system with. But get rid of the cause, which is an imposition on the system, then the natural law will step in. It never left. If you're sick, you take homeopathics; garlic, herbs, whatever. Or even Tylenol. You don't take these medicines and think about what you're going to replace the imposition with. It's not like that. You just work to get rid of it to return to your healthy state....

There is but one solution to the pollution in our environment and that is to stop polluting and let it run clear.

This desire guides all of MOVE's activities. Ramona continued:

John Africa taught us to go at—to attack—the root of these problems which is the system.... The law of life, the natural order, hasn't gone anywhere. In fact Mama (Mother Earth) is working overtime to keep the air a little breathable, the food a little eatable, the water the slightest bit drinkable....

We must engage in the revolution of self—the personal revolution. It's very easy to get out there and tell other people what it is they're doing wrong. It's something else to set yourself as an example.

We are obligated to support and protect our soldiers—the people who put their lives on the line to make things better, fighting this system, this treacherous, vicious system. Take a stand against this system that's killing us all softly, and some of us not so softly.

At this point Ramona called attention to "soldiers" Mumia Abu-Jamal, the recently deceased Earth First! activist Judi Bari, and the young animal liberation activist Tony Wong, currently on a hunger strike in Indianapolis, Indiana. She continued:

We have to understand that we have one common enemy and that one common enemy should be enough to unite all of us to fight.... Each of our fingers is weak, but if you close all five of your fingers into a fist you have more strength. John Africa taught us that if you turn on one faucet in your house you get the full force of the water. But if you turn water on in the basement, in the kitchen, upstairs, etc., you no longer get the full force of the water.

The time for talk is over. We have no choice but to act and be consistent.

Bill is the staffperson for the Syracuse Peace Council.



Matrilineage or, Greatgrandmama's Quilt by Marge Rusk

The family in the house think it's the wind rattling
or mice in the walls
or the cats playing at hunting the mice,
but it's not.

The mementos and trinkets are tugging, yearning;
the brown velvet evening bag with its bracelets and brooches
longs for its former belonging-place,
but that bureau drawer's full of men's things now —
even a gold wedding-band.

The toys wish for the doll house in that southeast bedroom
with Maryland morning sunshine sparkling
the tupelo leaves in the window, —
just for a visit. It's too far away now to stay,
and familiar furniture's all in wrong places.

The patchwork crazy-quilt sighs, wanting out
of this strange chest, though it was built
only a few miles, as Distelfink flies,
from the old home.
"But wait! Some Christmastimes great-granddaughter
lays me on the same bed
where Elisabet' laid me when she'd just made me.
Listen! She turns the chest-key now!"

Margaret unfolds the quilt gently,
on top of the afghans knitted by Elisabeth's daughter
and granddaughter,
on the bed where both afghan-makers were born,
and maybe Margaret herself, daughter of the second one,
began there --
Regrets for a moment that, by vagary of space and time,
her own child hadn't sprung from that same place.

But no matter. She quickly hugs the sweet-smiling bed-doll
her mother sewed for her, then renewed for the grandchild.
Admiringly she gazes at the quilt:

iron-red velvet loam borders kaleidoscope of fields
with attendant blossoms and butterflies,
linked by briar-stitched hedgerows;
a nest of owls embroidered near;
some striped taffeta vegetable-rows with bright weed-flowers,
come to Pennsylvania in the sacks of seed;

even dark-green waves of Alsatian vineyards
(scraps of satin ocean);
Bonaparte's troops had trashed them
but their memory survived the voyage to America
by Elisabeth's elders, passed down to her.

"See, toys, treasures, and all spirits,
your turn, like mine, will come 'round again.
So, ruhet in Frieden this Christmastide, rest peacefully."

In Memoriam: Alan Ginsberg (1926-1997)

Get it?

Get beat up on TV squirming on the ground for driving irregular
Get bombed in Philadelphia by helicopters with your little babies
Get kicked in the street by Newark police and charged w/riot
Get assassinated by a jerk while FBI sleeps with itself
Get shot by a stringer for the CIA & blame it on Fair Play for Cuba Committee
Get bumped off by an errandboy for Cuban drug kingpins, friend of the Feds & Dallas cops
Get caught paying off Contras with coke money while Acting U.S. Drug War Czar
Get busted for overchargin Iranians on secret warplane sales
Get convicted of lying to Congress about off-the-shelf dirty wars in Central America
Get 12 billion dollars for a drug bureaucracy and double the number of addicts
Get a million people in prison in the land of the free
Get the electric chair & gas chamber for unpopular crimes
Organize *CITIZENS for Decency Through Law* rob your own phony bank several billion dollars
get sent to jail



— May 1992 NY

Consumer's Guide to Health Care

Managed Care Consumer's Bill of Rights of New York

Ruth Greenberg-Edelstein



NEW YORK STATE has a new Managed Care Consumer's Bill of Rights, passed in 1996 and effective starting April 1997. It doesn't offer the maximum protection but it does give consumers the right to grieve within the framework of the managed care organization. Medicaid and Medicare consumers have some additional alternatives too.

A managed care organization is a health insurance plan that uses primary care providers and a specific list of health care providers (the plan's network) whose services are provided under the plan. They discount fees for employees of firms that make these arrangements. "Health maintenance organizations" (HMOs) are forms of managed care that purportedly emphasize prevention of illness. They furnish comprehensive services at a prepaid fixed annual fee and restrict access to diagnostic testing, specialty care, and hospitalization. At least one out of four New Yorkers is in a managed care plan and enrollment is increasing by several hundred thousand a year. The eight HMOs in Central New York have over 500,000 members.

About the Bill

The bill provides for filing of formal complaints and appeals when you encounter difficulties receiving adequate health care. If your plan denies a treatment or referral recommended by your doctor, you have the right to question this. Moreover, the managed care organization must inform you of the review process used to come to this decision. They must also inform you how to file a grievance. You must be informed how long each part of the grievance process takes and of your right to pick someone to help you in carrying out the grievance.

Management has to acknowledge that they have received your grievance within 15 days of the date they received it and report to you which qualified health professional will be making the decision about the grievance. They have

to make a decision within 48 hours if you have phoned in a grievance and delay could seriously threaten your health. Otherwise they must respond within 30 days. Their reply must include reasons for the decision, the medical basis for the decision (if a health question is involved), how to appeal if you disagree, and the forms you need to file an appeal.

You have up to 60 days to file an appeal. Management then has 15 days to send you an acknowledgement that they have received your appeal and tell you who will be deciding your appeal, including his or her qualifications. A decision on the appeal must be reached within two business days if a delay would be a significant health risk. Otherwise they must issue an Appeals Notice within 30 days, with a decision made by a different qualified person than the one who made the earlier grievance decision.

At any time you can file a complaint with the State Department of Health Managed Care Hot-Line at (800) 206-8125 or the State Insurance Department Consumer Services Bureau at (800) 342-3736. They, however, have no decision-making powers. The decision process is under the control of the managed care organization. But, a negative decision may sometimes be reversed through the grievance process. The accumulation of grievances at the Departments of Health and State Insurance may indicate a pattern of non-compli-

ance. You may also report problems to the local consumer watchdog group, the Universal Health Care Watchline, at 475-2395.

People on Medicaid also have the right, after a denial has been made, to take their grievances to the Medicaid Fair Hearing process. People on Medicare must also have the denial of a Medicaid-covered service forwarded automatically by the managed care organization to the Center for Health Care Dispute and Resolution for a ruling. If the Center agrees with management's decision, you can request an Administrative Law Judge Hearing. Some of the issues are currently being resolved through court cases. Women can also refer themselves to ob/gyn services, and people with chronic diseases have a right to information about drugs covered and the clinical review criteria for a particular condition.

The Bigger Picture

This is a far cry from what would prevail under a democratized universal health care system where the profit system would not determine health care practices, boards of health care institutions would contain consumer representatives, and the wholesale firing of Registered Nurses to increase profits could not happen. The pervasive social inequality that invades private corporations and diminishes the living standards of employees cannot be allowed to invade health care services. Health services should have nothing in common with the production of objects for profit. They need to be based on medical, ethical and humanistic values that contribute to the well-being and health of a people. These values will inevitably prove to be quite incompatible with corporate greed and the privatization of health care.

Ruth is a member of the Universal Health Care, PO Box 644, Syracuse 13210. Watchline 475-2395.

* Grievance procedures and rights described from *The Consumers' Guide to New York's Managed Care Bill of Rights*, by Laura Kaplan, Public Policy And Education Fund of NY (1997).



PATIENT PREPARED FOR TRANSPORTATION FROM THE OPERATING ROOM.
(1943 Medical Guide)



WAR and PEACES



A Brief Guide to What's Up, and Down, in the Military Industrial Complex

Compiled by Duane Hardy
and Paul Pearce

Ghosts of the Gulf War

Have You Noticed?

- Gas prices are down!
- Iraq has been allowed to sell oil to raise money to buy humanitarian aid.

Last fall, on the eve of selling oil again, Iraq sent troops into Northern Iraq to deal with skirmishes between rival Kurd factions. The US responded unilaterally with Cruise missile attacks on Baghdad, a suspension of oil sales, and withdrawal of the CIA agents working secretly with the Kurds. US gas and oil prices remained high throughout winter. Now Iraq is selling limited amounts of oil but is restricted to distribution in the Northern Kurdish region.

Six years after the Gulf War, the Iraqi people still suffer and are being punished by the denial of relief to rebuild and repair their crippled infrastructure. Food is scarce and expensive. Medicines, even aspirin, are unavailable. Children wade through raw sewage in the streets because parts for pumps and motors are unavailable. Tons of radioactive debris (from depleted uranium tipped rounds) are strewn where children play resulting in childhood leukemia at epidemic levels. Mortality overall among children is six times that of pre-war levels.

The relief that would be afforded under U.N. Resolution 986 (food and medicine) would not affect contamination of drinking water caused by the raw sewage. Iraq *must* be allowed to rebuild its infrastructure. In the words of former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark to the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq, "No failure to comply with any United Nations conditions can possibly justify the collective punishment of the entire nation and the direct deaths of infants, children, the elderly population and the disabled."

Recruitment Season

- Recruiting billboards sprouting up like daffodils.
- High tech recruiting van coming to Central Tech high school in May.
- Chuck E. Cheese converted to Recruitment station.

Chuck E. Cheese's Pizza Time Theater in

Mattydale, NY (between Fays Drugs and K-Mart) is being converted to a recruiting center. They claim it will be more convenient than the Federal Building in downtown Syracuse. Maybe they will re-do the games so the recruits can play *whack-a-commie* while they wait to be sworn in. How about enlistment birthday pizza parties? Invite all your friends to celebrate and play when you turn 18 and sign up!

Sam Nunn (and Counter-Recruitment)

Senator Sam Nunn has second thoughts on his vote against the Gulf War. He was reported to have said that he and the American people were led to believe that tens of thousands of US troops would have been killed, and now says that he would have voted *for* the war if he only knew better. Of course he is responding politically to what appeared to be a clear, clean victory. As we all know, there is no such thing. Sam doesn't seem to factor in the losses that are eating away at the troops he would have voted to send. In the same paper that he reveals his change of heart, it is reported that the Pentagon knew about the exposure of tens of thousands of US troops to chemical weapon contamination. Vietnam gave us Agent Orange. The Gulf war vets now have Gulf War Syndrome.

The Marine Corps Tank unit from Mattydale, NY has been especially hard hit. Just as with Agent Orange, the victims are being ignored, doubted and challenged as they try to receive treatment and compensation. It appears that perhaps predictions of US casualties were accurate, but not timely. Maybe Chuck E. Recruiters can take field trips to the neighborhood Marine Center to learn how we deal with combatants after the wars.

What's In the news?

In a story that seems to come out of left field (pardon the sports analogy), Tom Fenton of CBS News reported that the living conditions in Saudi Arabia (a US ally), are not all that great. The palaces of the repressive and corrupt monarchy are lavish beyond belief, and the rest of the population lives in poverty. The people express hatred of the US as we

support a regime that, without US support, would have to deal with local problems. Currently people speaking against the monarchy risk the death penalty. What's confusing is, why is CBS telling us this, and why now?

Now That We're Friends!

Coinciding with the re-release of the Viet Nam-era film *The Graduate*, instead of "plastics," new college grads should be advised to get into armaments. If you don't end up using a weapon, you may be able to get a career selling them. It's a real growth industry. The Pentagon, getting more B-2 bombers than it ever wanted, is now looking across that bridge into the 21st century and wants even better and more expensive bombers, just in case there is anyone we need to bully at that time. The F-22 Fighter costs around \$80-100 million per plane, with a fleet of 234 costing around \$20 billion.

So what about the old jets? On Tax Day it was reported that we secretly delivered the first two (of 150) F-16 fighter planes to Taiwan. For \$6 billion, the Taiwanese now have a new fleet of sophisticated munitions delivery systems, even if the relationship between the US, China and Taiwan is a little tricky.

And now Lockheed is working to get Congress to lift the ban on sales to Latin America. Chile wants those F-16s and "these governments are friendly to us so they can now be trusted to make decisions on their own." If some former dictatorship has some extra cash, the US can offer arms deals so they don't have to spend money on their people.

Continued Costs of Cold War, Zaire

On ABC's *Nightline*, our former ambassador to Zaire recently estimated that over the years, the US supported the Mobutu regime with \$2 billion. Even though he acknowledged that most of the money went into Mobutu's pockets, it was his opinion that the support was proper as part of the Cold War (Anti-Communist) strategy. *Nightline* included images of Mobutu at different times with Presidents Reagan and Bush.

Duane and Paul compiled this page to comment on the insidious effects of militarism. Sources include: The Nonviolent Resister, Peace and Freedom, The Syracuse Papers, CBS News, and ABC's *Nightline*.

SOLDIERS' LIFE



UNITED STATES ARMY



Mother's Day

May celebrates the mother-child bond between people. It's a good time to remember that other animals share this powerful bond. Human interference shatters this relationship in at least three ways: raising animals for food, removing animals from their natural habitat, and breeding them in large quantities (as in puppy mills).

The Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM) publicizes the separation of a 'dairy cow' from her baby, usually one day after birth. The milk meant for her baby is stolen for human consumption (contributing to heart disease and other ailments in humans). The female baby is raised to become another milk machine and the male baby is raised to become veal. Hogs and other farm animals suffer similar fates.

Many animals are plucked from their homes or killed, often separating mother and babies for fun or profit. For example, the exotic pet trade in primates involves killing adult members of the troop who are trying to protect the babies from capture. Also, fur trapping often means a mother will die an agonizing death and her babies will starve.

Dogs imprisoned in puppy mills are pregnant almost constantly and are separated prematurely from their babies to increase profit. The mothers are in poor health from excessive breeding and an impoverished life in a cage while the babies are often born sick.

We can make choices in our life which reduce the number of animals suffering forced separation. First, we can become vegetarians (no animal flesh) or vegans (no animal flesh and no animal products) or at least reduce the animal flesh and products in our diet. Contact People for Animal Rights (PAR), POB 358, Syracuse 13215, 488-PURR(7877) between 9 AM and 10:45 PM for info. (If possible, please send a donation for postage and copying.) PAR can send you a list of vegetarian/vegan cookbooks, a list of Syracuse-area stores which carry such foods, literature about the benefits for your health, for animal welfare, for environmental protection, and for reducing world hunger.

Second, we can avoid buying animals as pets who should be allowed to live in the wild. These include primates, lions and other large cats, wild-caught birds, snakes, etc.

Third, we can avoid buying dogs and cats from pet stores (some of which get their puppies from puppy mills) and instead adopt a dog or cat from a local shelter. Shelters have many purebred as well as mixed-bred animals. Because of limited room, shelters are faced with the gut-wrenching choice of euthanizing many animals or refusing others shelter. There is an over-population of dogs and cats because businesses and individuals continue to breed them for profit or pleasure or because of not getting around to having dogs or cats sterilized. Adopting an animal from a shelter saves that individual and—if s/he is sterilized—doesn't add to the pet over-population tragedy. Also, it avoids subsidizing a puppy mill owner.

— Linda DeStefano

beyond boundaries

Art Auction and Show

Beyond Boundaries will sponsor its fourth annual art auction and show at the Community Folk Art Gallery (2223 E. Genesee St. in Syracuse) on **Sunday, June 1, from 3 to 5 PM**. Admission is free!

The auction will feature artists from many of Central New York's cultural communities. The auction will have everything from watercolor to Iroquois pottery, handmade paper to photography, hand-painted mirrors to African influenced wearable art. Artists set the minimum bid and our guests silently write their bids and assigned bid numbers next to the pieces they are interested in purchasing. Near the end of the auction around 4:45 PM, bidding is over and guests with the highest bid on an art piece pay for it and take it home.

The auction is a fund-raiser for our '97 summer project with the Oglala Lakotas in Porcupine, South Dakota and our exploratory trip to Bolgatanga, Ghana for the '98 summer project. The funds are given to Beyond Boundaries members needing help with travel expenses.

The auction is more than a fund-raiser. It fulfills Beyond Boundaries' mission of bringing people together here at home who are typically separated by society's rigid boundaries. It hopes to bring together the separated groups/cultures of Central New York to honor their expressions of art.

The afternoon is great fun: it is a wonderful way to feast (we put on a "mean" reception), socialize with friends and artists and

shop for treasures for yourself, family and friends. Remember graduations, weddings, birthdays and holidays! This beats shopping at the Carousel Mall! Call Aggie Lane at 478-4571 for info.

— Aggie Lane



Special Showcase

The last Women's Showcase of the season will be on Saturday, May 10 at 7:30 PM at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society, 3800 E. Genesee Street in Syracuse. The Showcase offers an evening of music, readings, dance and other performing arts featuring the talents of local women.

This Showcase celebrates Mother's Day, with a special anthology of original writings by women and girls being published in conjunction with this event. Admission to the Women's Showcase is on a sliding-scale of \$6-15 (more if you can, less if you can't), with the proceeds from the evening being donated to The Mother's Day Anthology Project. Tickets to the Showcase will be available at the door and everyone is welcome to attend.

Also at May Memorial on Saturday, May 31, Rita Condon will release her first CD, entitled *Intimate Strangers*. Rita is no stranger to the Syracuse community, having performed at the Women's Showcase, Barnes and Noble, Borders Books and Music, and various clubs in the area. Local musicians David Chu, Joe Davoli, Martha Beamish, and other guests will join Rita in a one hour concert to celebrate this 12-song release.

Intimate Strangers is dedicated to the memory of Rita's parents, whose 1944 photo adorns the cover of the CD. Rita's musical influences, including Carly Simon, Carole King, Ricki Lee Jones, and Joni Mitchell, can be heard throughout her songs, which are filled with imagery, stories and metaphor.

This concert celebration is free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 PM with the concert at 8 PM. A reception will follow. CDs will be available for purchase the night of the concert, and at various locations afterwards.

For more information, to get on the mailing list, or to perform at a future Women's Showcase, write Showcase Productions, PO Box 936, Syracuse 13201.

— Sue Weiss

SAVES

Community Supported Agriculture

Farmers in Central New York, as elsewhere in the state, need help. Throughout New York State, farms are disappearing at an astonishing rate. Our food supply is becoming more and more dependent on shipments over vast distances, requiring enormous amounts of fuel. This also means that food costs will go up with rising energy costs. You and I can be of help while at the same time we can benefit: by creating "Community Supported Agriculture" (CSA).

CSA is a participatory arrangement for channeling locally grown fresh organic produce to consumers in an urban area. In a CSA consumers cooperate with farmers instead of exploiting them. There are many ways in which a CSA can work. In one model, for instance, a number of households join together and contract with an organic farmer for deliveries throughout the growing season. Each household owns a "share" or part of a share, and weekly produce gets delivered equally among all the shares. In some cases, members help with some of the harvesting and in this way get to know more about the farm.

But all this doesn't just happen. It takes planning, and there are many details to be worked out. The New Environment Institute is just now beginning to explore how Community Supported Agriculture can be strengthened in the Syracuse area—by assisting and strengthening existing CSA projects and/or initiating new ones. Might you be interested in helping with this? If you can come to a planning meeting, have some thoughts you wish to convey, or would like to become a shareholder once things get going, call Harry Schwarzlander at 446-8009 or send e-mail to hs38@mailbox.syr.edu

Harry is director of the New Environment Association and the editor of their newsletter, New Environment Bulletin.



RANGRIG YESHE

Teachings on Compassion

On **Thursday, May 22** the Venerable Shyalpa Tenzin Rinpoche will give a public talk entitled "Mindfulness: Introduction to Luminous Compassionate Mind" at Hendricks Chapel of Syracuse University at 7:30 PM.

Rinpoche is a highly accomplished meditation master and scholar in the Nyingma and Kagyu lineages of Tibetan Buddhism. He has led teachings, meditation seminars and retreats throughout the United States. His fluency with the English language and his understanding of American culture make possible a full and accurate transmission of profound Buddhist teachings. Known for engaging each student directly and personally, Rinpoche emphasizes the role of Buddhist teachings in everyday life.

Rinpoche founded Buddhist centers in Nepal and the Rangrig Yeshe Center in Stockbridge, MA. Rangrig Yeshe Center, a non-profit organization devoted to the study and practice of Tibetan Buddhism, sponsors teachings, meditation seminars and retreats with Rinpoche year-round. Rangrig Yeshe also operates the Tibetan Refugee Children's Fund, which finds sponsors for needy Tibetan Refugee children living in Nepal and India.

The talk on May 22 will serve as an introduction to a public retreat "Mindfulness Retreat: Instruction and Practice on Luminous Compassion" with Rinpoche on Saturday and **Sunday, June 7-8**, at the Syracuse OnCenter. The cost of the talk at Hendricks Chapel is \$15, with scholarships available. The cost of the retreat is TBA. Both the talk and the retreat are rare, precious opportunities to experience the profound teachings and for personal contact with a highly realized teacher; all are encouraged to attend. For further information, contact Madalyn Smith, 635-7154.

— Lisa Costanzo

SYRACUSE COMMUNITY RADIO

Taking Radio Back to Its Roots

Syracuse Community Radio (SCR) has submitted our first FCC applications for approval of transmitter sites! Our goal of building a community radio station has taken a great leap. Our activities take on a more meaningful urgency as we move closer to the final pre-broadcast phase. We hope you will join us in the coming months to help build a community-based broadcasting outlet in Central New York.

Our member surveys indicate a strong preference (about 90%) for acoustic, singer/songwriters and folk programming, and we are planning accordingly. SCR's broadcast week will consist of about 65% music and entertainment programming and 35% news, public affairs, and experimental programming. Our airstaff will consist of member-producers from CNY who will create most of SCR's programming.

Shows will be devoted to dozens of styles of music, much of which cannot be heard on any station in Central New York. News and public affairs programming sources will include Pacifica, the BBC, Alternative Radio, and other independent sources as well as locally produced segments. We are taking radio back to its roots and into the 21st century!

SCR is a 501(c)(3), tax exempt, not-for-profit corporation. We are able to collaborate with some groups who want to qualify for grants but are not tax exempt. Let's get creative to benefit as many organizations as possible while we build our radio station!

Tell your friends and neighbors that a real alternative can exist and encourage them to help in some capacity. Keep in touch.

Send for your copy of the latest member newsletter at Syracuse Community Radio, PO Box 6365, Syracuse 13217-6365, 478-5215, or e-mail syracomradio@juno.com

— Frédéric Noyes

Also join SAVES on **Saturday, May 17 at 6 PM** for a dinner catered by Mr. Arnold's/Shooting Star followed by the lecture, "Better Health Through A Vegetarian Diet" by Jennifer Daniels, MD at the Westcott Community Center. This is a fundraiser for SAVES. Call 437-2163 for reservations or info.

Socialist Forum

Housing: National Priorities and Grassroots Initiatives

On **May 18, at 3 PM** at the Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave, Jim Dessauer will discuss housing issues at the Socialist Forum. Jim is the director of ENIP (Eastside Neighbors in Partnership) and will

be joined by representatives of other community organizations involved with housing issues.

The forum is free and open to the public. Call Dave Edelstein at 475-2395 for info.

El Salvador: FMLN Rebels Gain in Elections

Ann Tiffany

ELECTIONS IN El Salvador came and went on April 16. There was little fanfare in the US press. But with the now-legal FMLN struggling to establish itself as a viable political party, this election of national deputies and municipal councils was of utmost importance.

During the February campaign, polls indicated that the FMLN was preferred 37% to 27% over President Calderon Sol's right-wing ARENA party. And that's when the problems started.

- Soon thereafter four FMLN campaigners were killed and eight wounded.
- The Christian Democratic Party (PDC) submitted a proposal in the Legislative Assembly to investigate whether the FMLN's campaign money came from arms sales.

- There was a charge that the Zapatistas were receiving weapons from El Salvador.
- The Salvadoran Democratic Party (PD)—made up primarily of former FMLN members—charged that FMLN leaders were supporting rebel movements in Peru and Mexico.
- There were charges that Cuba, China and North Korea were providing the FMLN with campaign funds. Sound familiar?

Despite these attacks, the FMLN won the mayoral race in the capital, San Salvador, and gained control of Santa Ana and San Miguel, El Salvador's second and third cities. The FMLN won 48 municipal governments, up from 15 in the 1994 elections. ARENA won control of 161 municipalities.

Of 84 deputy seats in the National Assembly, 28 went to ARENA and 27 to the FMLN. This means the FMLN will have to forge alliances to proceed with its economic platform. In contrast to ARENA's neo-liberal

economic policies, the FMLN proposes controlling the cost of living and slowing the privatization of some state institutions. The FMLN's 27 deputies include a number of former rebel commanders including Schafick Handal.

Fewer than half of the eligible voters voted. This hurt ARENA. Up to now President Calderon Sol, unlike the FMLN, has not supported electoral reform to get more voters to the polls. However, his tune has changed and reform may become a bi-partisan effort. Politics are politics wherever you are.

Hopefully, El Salvador's economic, social, and educational problems—which are as grave as ever—will be addressed in the Legislative Assembly. And not on the killing fields.

Source: recent Nicaragua Solidarity Network weekly newsletters.

In February Ann visited El Salvador for the fourth time for 10 days with the Syracuse/La Estancia Sister Community.



Central America/Caribbean Coalition Notes

- **Cuba:** The blockade continues and once more the Pastors for Peace Caravan will pass through Syracuse. Join the Abolish the Blockade of Cuba Committee (ABC) welcoming their arrival on **Sunday, May 9, at 5 PM**, at a potluck at South Presbyterian Church, corner of S. Salina and Colvin St.

Also join the Caravan as it crosses the border in Buffalo on **May 14**. Call elana at **472-5711** for car-pool information. Call Doug at **471-5749** for info about the potluck, the two days of civil disobedience training on **May 13 and 14** in Buffalo, or about how to donate support to help pay for truck rental costs and gas.

- **El Salvador:** See Ann Tiffany's article, above, about the elections. Since our delegation's return from Sister Community La Estancia in March, regular communication has continued with all five caserios, and the Sister Community Project has formalized several committees in order to operate more efficiently as we enter our sixth year.

Roberto and Gloria Zamora were in Sanctuary in Syracuse between 1987 and 1988. For the past seven years they have been living in Edmonton, Alberta. They and their daughter Alba have each had the opportunity to make at least one return trip to El

Salvador since the peace accords were signed in 1991. Roberto is making plans to take their two sons, Alfonso and Osmaro, to El Salvador in this summer.

Many Syracuseans who were involved with the Zamora family years ago continue to accompany them in their abiding connection with their homeland. Alfonso and Osmaro were born in Mexico and have never seen El Salvador. Nor have they met most of their relatives on Roberto's side. Shirley Novak is coordinating local contributions towards the \$1500 airfare. Call **446-6099**.

- **Haiti:** Medea Benjamin of Global Exchange has proposed a "Coalition for a Living Wage Worldwide," as a step towards addressing the extreme exploitation of labor in Haiti and many other Third World nations. CACC will explore this proposal in future meetings. In Haiti's recent local elections, former President Aristide's new organization,

Lavalas Family Party, won most races and controls many local councils, the Chamber of Deputies, and will probably control the Senate. US media have neglected the widespread rejection of President Preval's regime, and the ongoing popular embrace of the Lavalas movement. There was a generally low turn-out for the local elections, which were afflicted by very poor organization.

- **School of the Americas Watch:** Fr. Roy Bourgeois of SOA Watch will be speaking at the Interfaith Center adjacent to the SUNY Geneseo campus at **7 PM, Saturday, May 17**. The event is the Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace 25th Birthday Party and will be preceded by music and a 5:30 PM potluck dinner. Fr. Roy, a decorated Viet Nam veteran, has spent more time in US prisons than most college grads have spent in college. His quietly galvanizing talk is not to be missed. To carpool, call SPC, **472-5478**.

The SOA vigil in Washington, DC ended on April 29. Many people from Central New York participated in the Washington, DC activities. In Syracuse a noon solidarity rally was held at Columbus Circle on **Monday, April 28**.

cont'd on next page

Next CACC Meeting

Wednesday, May 14

from 6 - 7:30 PM

(working potluck)

at Plymouth Congregational Church, 232 E. Onondaga St.

School of Assassins:

The Case for Closing the School of the Americas and for Fundamentally Changing US Foreign Policy

Review by Ed Griffin-Nolan

by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer
Orbis Books, 1997, 112 pages,
\$12 paperback
to order call (800) 258-5838

JACK NELSON-Pallmeyer is convinced that the School of the Americas (SOA), the US Army's training ground for 59,000 Latin American military officers, will soon be closed. He presents the arguments for closing the school early and cogently in his book, *School of Assassins*.

But he is worried that the school might be closed not because of its atrocious record but because of its mission of repressing Latin American rebels has been successfully accomplished. Closing the school would be something to celebrate, he declares, but only a stop on the way to an overhaul of US foreign policy objectives and methods.

It is not enough, argues Nelson-Pallmeyer, to see the school dead and buried. It is crucial to know what will be written on its gravestone. He credits the activists of SOA Watch, including Central New Yorkers, with generating the outrage and the momentum that may be sealing the fate of this abhorrent academy. Then he challenges them, and all of us, to conduct this campaign so that it continues to provoke a fundamental re-examination of US foreign policy.

The book is organized like a court case. Nelson-Pallmeyer presents the charges against the SOA. He acknowledges the arguments of its defenders. Finally, he renders his verdict, shared now by editorialists, a growing minor-

ity in Congress, religious leaders and even some members of the military: the school should and must be closed.

The atrocities attributed to the SOA are well-known by now. Nelson-Pallmeyer's compilation of crimes places graduates of SOA at the scene of every major crime in Latin America since the end of World War II.

He spends quite a bit of time on the involvement of SOA graduates in the repression of religious progressives. The flavor of the book, as befits an Orbis publication, is religiously inspired, though never preachy. (Orbis is a publishing house run by the Maryknoll Catholic missionary order; the book begins with a quote from Jesus Christ and ends with one from Father Roy Bourgeois, the leader of resistance to the SOA.)

Then he presents the defense, as espoused by the SOA itself. The arguments for the SOA's continued operation are several:

There's the "bad apples" theory, in which SOA defenders argue that the school's reputation should not be tarnished by the actions of a few graduates. Nelson-Pallmeyer makes applesauce of this one, noting that fully two thirds of the worst violators singled out by the

UN Truth Commission in El Salvador were SOA alumni. And that is just the beginning.

There's the "engagement" theory. In this one the defenders argue that Latin American military officers learn positive values by rubbing elbows with their US peers. A corollary of this argument, citing the academy's revised curriculum, notes that the course of study at

SOA now includes human rights work. To which the book replies: "by their fruits you shall know them."

Finally, there's the "war is hell" theory, in which supporters of the school argue that US national security interests are at stake in Latin America, and that such interests are more important than human rights concerns. Such defenders have the virtue of rugged honesty; they're impatient with the squeamish who don't want to support rape and murder with their tax payments. The response to such arguments is in the activi-

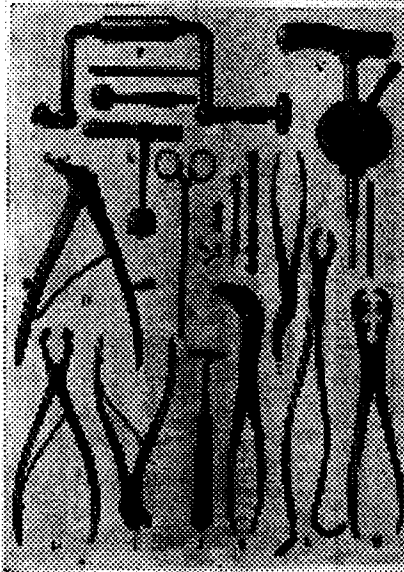
ties of SOA Watch, the group which had been working to close the school since 1989.

Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer concludes that the SOA can only be understood in two ways: either as a colossal success or a colossal failure. Either way, he argues, the pressure to close it will mount until it is finally shut down.

His book is the most compelling summary available of the activities of the school. "Without vigilance and vision," he writes, "the SOA could be closed through our efforts but the practices that have led it to be known as the 'School of the Assassins' or the 'School of Dictators' could be carried out elsewhere within the broader US foreign policy establishment. If that happens, then closing the SOA will be a victory more symbolic than real. For the sake of all of us who live in the Americas we must not let that happen."

Ed is the father of two young boys, and will graduate from massage therapy school in July. He is the author of Witness For Peace.

SOA: School of Torture?



BONE INSTRUMENTS (1943 Medical Guide)

CACC cont'd from page 18

• **Resources:** Two new books of significance for Central America have recently been published. Cynthia Banas highly recommends *Searching for Everado*, by Jennifer Harbury, a human rights activist in Guatemala. CACC's own Ed Kinane was a copy editor of former SPC staffperson Liam Mahoney's book *Unarmed Bodyguards*, about Peace Brigades International.

• **What's in a Name?** While we are the Central America/Caribbean Coalition, our interests take us beyond that limited, though extremely rich turf. We are very aware of the struggles of the Zapatistas in Chiapas, Mexico, and the conflicts in Colombia and Peru, among other countries, and how these are connected to the realities of oppression and popular response in Central America and the Caribbean. At our next meeting, **Wednesday, May 14, from 6 - 7:30 PM** (working potluck), we will discuss a name change, possibly to Latin America/Caribbean Coalition.

— Paul Weichselbaum



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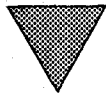
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LETTERS

To the editor,

I would like to acknowledge the generosity of diverse members of the Syracuse community who attended two recent fund-raising events for an important video project. The two events were organized by Sue Weiss and many associates to raise funds for "Murshidat, Midwives and Nurses: Women Transforming Health Care and Social Relations in Yemen," a video on the female primary health care workers called *Murshidat*. Yemen is located on the Arabian peninsula. Due to your support, the editing process for the video documentary will soon begin.

Held on International Women's Day, March 8, the Women's showcase provided both local talent and a guest poet from the west coast. Local artists included the Women's Choir *Womanspirit Rising*, directed by Cherie Ackerson, and performances by Wendy Caplan and Roslyn Raspberry, and Jolie Rickman. Seattle poet Mona Lake Jones presented excerpts from her recent books. The second event, held on March 18, was a slide presentation and discussion of the *Murshidat's* roles in delivering health care and integrating African-identified groups into their coastal Yemeni community. I was deeply grateful for the op-

portunity to share these women's success story with members of the Syracuse community. As an anthropologist I recognize that people in various cultures are committed to such self-help efforts—strikingly similar endeavors are underway right here in our own Syracuse neighborhoods.

I wish to thank numerous friends and neighbors who so generously contributed their time, talent, and money that will support production of the video documenting the work and achievements of these remarkable women.

—Delores M. Walters, Ph.D.
Syracuse

(A SEPERATE) PEACES

HIV Confinement Bill

Governor Edward Schafer of North Dakota signed a measure on April 10 giving judges the power to detain a person without a hearing, and force that person to take a blood test for HIV.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, the law serves no public health purpose, and is a violation of due process and the Fourth Amendment's guarantee against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Under the measure, a person who believes that another individual has "significantly" exposed them to blood may secure a state court order confining that individual for up to five days, during which time a judge can rule on whether to order an HIV test.

The legislation specifies a "person" as a police officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, health care worker or a patient—in other words, practically anyone could be detained. The law also allows a person to be imprisoned even though no criminal charges have been filed.

The law also provides no guidance to courts on how the results of the forced HIV test will be kept confidential, raising important questions about individual privacy.

—source: *ACLU Newsfeed*

Gulf War Syndrome Cover-Up

The Depleted Uranium Education Project (DUEP) is demanding a complete and independent investigation into the toxicological and radiological effects of the use of depleted uranium weapons during the Persian Gulf War.

Poisonous, radioactive uranium-compound has been recycled into millions of rounds of large and small calibre weapons by the US. These weapons were used in combat for the

first time during the Gulf War, scattering between 300 and 800 tons of depleted uranium.

The people suffering from the effects of these weapons must receive medical attention. The DUEP wants to raise awareness regarding the use of these weapons. The book, *Metal of Dishonor—How the Pentagon Radiates Soldiers and Civilians with Depleted Uranium Weapons*, can be ordered from the DUEP, 39 W. 14th St. #206, NY, NY 10011, (212) 633-6646, or email: <lacenter@lacenter.org>

Feminist Bookstore Week

The National Feminist Bookstore Collective, a four-year-old association of 115 feminist bookstores in the US and Canada is sponsoring Feminist Bookstore Week, May 10-18. Syracuse boasts the largest feminist bookstore in NYS, *My Sisters' Words*. Given the cut-throat climate of the book industry, it is impressive that *My Sisters' Words* will celebrate ten years of serving the CNY community this October.

My Sisters' Words, 304 N. McBride St., celebrates the week with the following events:

- **Sat. May 10:** Amy E. Bartell will launch her new poster commemorating the 60th anniversary of Amelia Earhart's historic flight. Reception and signing is from 11-5 PM.
- **Mon. May 12:** Sherry Chayat signs *Subtle Sound: Zen Teachings of Maurine Stuart* from 4-6 PM.
- **Tues. May 13:** Jennifer MacPherson signs "*Cute and Perky, Slim and Sexy*": *Poet's Guide to Personal Ads*, from 4-6 PM.
- **Thurs. May 15:** staff reads from current favorites, beginning at 7PM.
- **Sat. May 17:** Prism Collective from Rochester sign *Sisters of the 13th Moon: Rituals Celebrating Women's Lives* from 1-3 PM.

COMMUNITY UPDATE ACLU

New Report on "Civil Liberties and Welfare Reform"

The New York Civil Liberties Union has released a 24-page report, "Civil Liberties Issues and Welfare Reform." State executive director Norman Siegel visited Syracuse during April as part of a tour of all chapter offices to respond to particular "welfare reform" proposals advanced by Governor Pataki. Siegel reiterated that there are constitutional limits on what New York State can do to the poor in the name of "reform."

Siegel said, "Public assistance should not be denied to any child or adult who, in fact, is needy or lacking in adequate food, clothing or other basic necessities of life."

NYCLU supports creation of jobs and job training, counting educational programs toward eligibility for welfare, and careful due process protections.

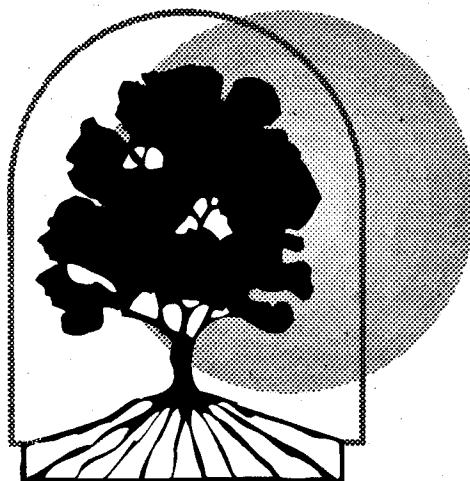
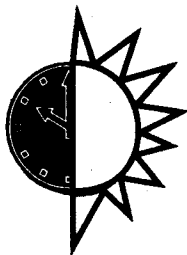
NYCLU opposes Pataki's proposals to reduce cash benefits, cap the number of children eligible in a family, force work for unfair wages, deny assistance to get children to attend school ("learnfare"), residency requirements, forcing teen parents to live with a parent to qualify, and various coercive tactics that invade privacy.

To get a copy of the full report, contact Barrie Gewanter, director of the Central New York Chapter, at 471-2821, Monday through Thursday, 1-5 PM.

UNCLASSIFIED

Worker Needed: The Syracuse Cultural Workers is looking for a person to sell its goodies at the farmers market Saturdays from 7AM - noon beginning May 3, 1997 or ASAP. Call 474-1132.

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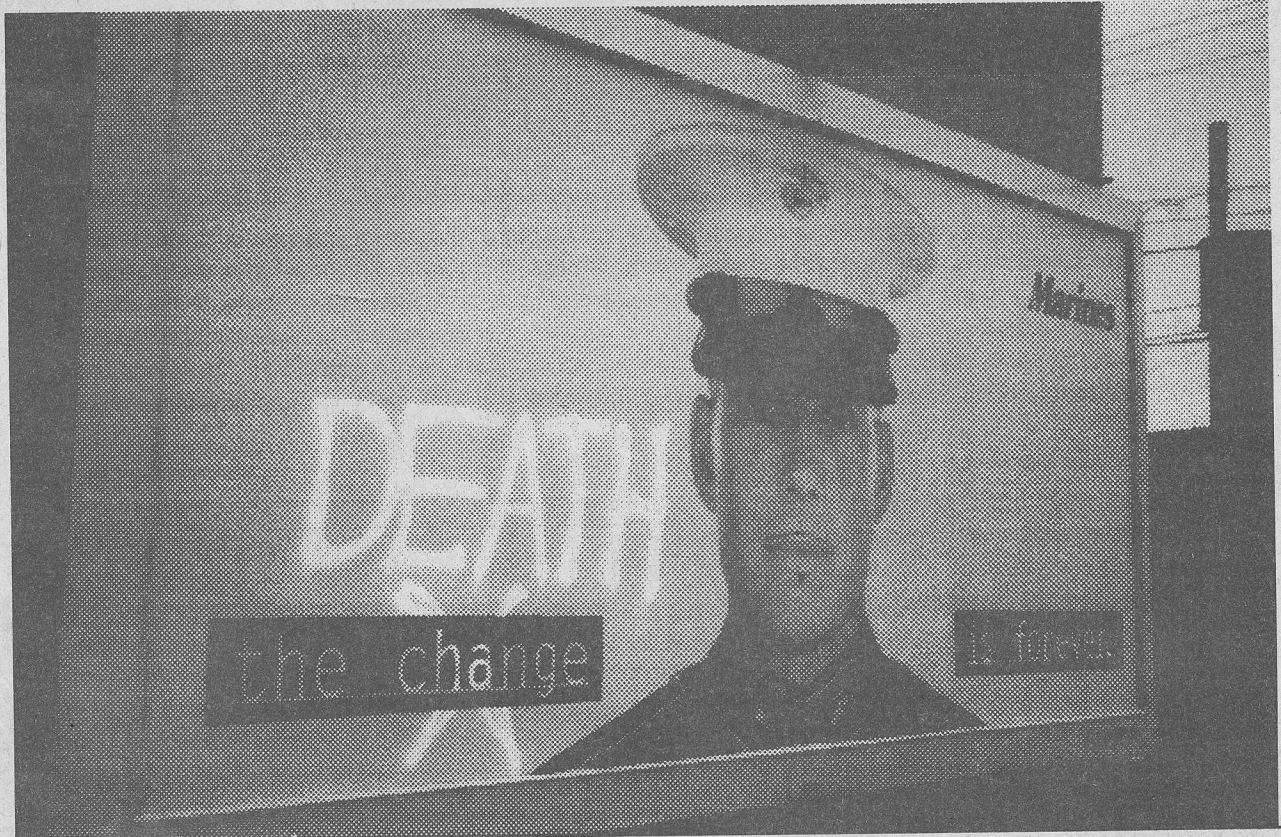
**Syracuse Peace Council
Community Event Calendar**

May 1997

OTHER MAY EVENTS
 May 14: Join the Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba as it crosses from Buffalo into Canada. Call Elena, 472-5711, to carpool from Syracuse.
 May 22: "Mindfulness: Introduction to Luminous Compassionate Mind" w/Tibetan Buddhist Rinpoche, Hendrick's Chapel, SU. 7:30pm. \$15. Medialyn, 635-7154.

<p>4 Women's Brunch at Berkana, 203 S. Beech St. Bring a dish to pass. Noon-2pm. 428-9724. Lake Ontario Bird Festival & Art Show at Mexico Point State Park. Call M.A. Koehnke for info, 342-3402. Also on Sunday. Alternative Energy Fair & Home Tours. Cheel Campus Center, Clarkson Univ., Potsdam, NY. 11am-5pm. Sponsored by Seedcom. Info: (315) 265-4819. Celebrating 16 Years of Co-ordinating for a Change* party for Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave. History, music, dancing, refreshments. 7:30-11:30pm. 475-5280.</p>	<p>1 Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 5:30pm. 476-6226. Syracuse United Neighbors Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, across from Southwest Community Center, 401 South Ave. 7pm. 476-7475.</p>	<p>2 Podluck to welcome the Passengers for Peace Caravan to Cuba. S. Presbyterian Church, corners of S. Salina & Colvin. 5pm. Doug, 471-5749. Women's Coffeehouses with coffee, desserts, lively conversation. This week: Mothers/Daughters. Women's INFO Center, 601 Allen St. 7:30-9:30pm. Free. 446-7259.</p>	<p>3 Lake Ontario Bird Festival & Art Show at Mexico Point State Park. Call M.A. Koehnke for info, 342-3402. Also on Sunday. Alternative Energy Fair & Home Tours. Cheel Campus Center, Clarkson Univ., Potsdam, NY. 11am-5pm. Sponsored by Seedcom. Info: (315) 265-4819. Celebrating 16 Years of Co-ordinating for a Change* party for Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave. History, music, dancing, refreshments. 7:30-11:30pm. 475-5280.</p>	<p>10 Feminist Bookstore Week begins. See page 21 for complete list of events. Women's Showcase, an evening of music, readings, dance & other performing arts. Celebrates Mother's Day. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 98-15 sliding scale.</p>
<p>5 People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878. People for Animal Rights general meeting. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.</p>	<p>8 EVERY THURSDAY: "Evening Arabesque" Arabic television with news & entertainment. 5:30pm. Adelphia Cable Ch. 7. People's Roundtable. This week: "Workfare: the Job That's Lost May Be Your Own." Discuss issues of concern in our communities. At S. Presbyterian Church, corners of S. Salina & W. Colvin. 7-9pm. 478-1592.</p>	<p>15 Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 206 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-6237. Every Thursday: Prayer, vigil in front of Landis Plastics Solvay plant on Milton Ave. Sponsored by Labor-Religious Coalition. Show support for Landis workers and union organizing struggles. 4 pm. 1st & 3rd THURSDAYS: Gay & Lesbian Alliance meeting. Enable, 1603 Court St. 7:30pm. 472-5732.</p>	<p>9 Podluck to welcome the Passengers for Peace Caravan to Cuba. S. Presbyterian Church, corners of S. Salina & Colvin. 5pm. Doug, 471-5749. Women's Coffeehouses with coffee, desserts, lively conversation. This week: Mothers/Daughters. Women's INFO Center, 601 Allen St. 7:30-9:30pm. Free. 446-7259.</p>	<p>17 Feminist Bookstore Week event at My Sister's Words, 304 N. McBride. Prism Collective members sign their work. 1-3pm Fr. Roy Bourgeois of School of Americas Watch speaking at birthday party for Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace. Interfaith Center, next to SUNY Genesee. Potluck at 5:30, talk at 7pm.</p>
<p>6 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442. Peace Action program. Call for topic. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.</p>	<p>14 Feminist Bookstore Week HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616. Central America Caribbean Coalition working podluck at Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St. 6:30pm. 478-4571. NOW CNY Chapter meeting. Marine Midland Bank, 360 S. Warren, 7pm. 487-3188.</p>	<p>21 Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community center, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731. EVERY WEDNESDAY: Alliance membership meeting. Westcott Community Center, 2nd fl., 826 Euclid Ave. 2pm. 475-4120. NAAACP general mtg. 7pm. NAAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina. 422-5993.</p>	<p>16 Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 206 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-6237. Every Thursday: Prayer, vigil in front of Landis Plastics Solvay plant on Milton Ave. Sponsored by Labor-Religious Coalition. Show support for Landis workers and union organizing struggles. 4 pm. 1st & 3rd THURSDAYS: Gay & Lesbian Alliance meeting. Enable, 1603 Court St. 7:30pm. 472-5732.</p>	<p>23 People's Roundtable. Topic: How to Keep \$ in Our Community. Discuss issues of concern in our communities. At S. Presbyterian Church, corners of S. Salina & Colvin. 7-9pm. Peace Council Work Party. Help us with cleaning/fixing tasks. Light munchies, music, camaraderie. Good way to get involved. 6:30-8:30pm.</p>
<p>7 1st THREE WEDNESDAYS: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. Call SPC for time & location. 472-5478. EVERY WED: Syracuse Community Choir rehearsal. Westcott Community Center. New members welcome. 7:30pm. 479-7664.</p>	<p>22 People's Roundtable. Topic: How to Keep \$ in Our Community. Discuss issues of concern in our communities. At S. Presbyterian Church, corners of S. Salina & Colvin. 7-9pm. Peace Council Work Party. Help us with cleaning/fixing tasks. Light munchies, music, camaraderie. Good way to get involved. 6:30-8:30pm.</p>	<p>29 Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, downtown Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cyndi 475-1878. Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Free Food! All welcome!</p>	<p>20 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442. EVERY TUESDAY: Student Environmental Action Coalition meeting. Noble Room, Hendricks Chapel, SU. 6:30pm.</p>	<p>30 EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7pm. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 492-8035.</p>
<p>11 EVERY SUNDAY: Support group for former and current mental patients. Sponsored by Alliance Plymouth Church. 3-5pm. Peggy Anne 475-4120. Feminist Bookstore Week</p>	<p>31 Women's Art Show. 11am-5pm. Women's INFO Center, 601 Allen St. Pat. 446-7259. Music release party for Rita Condon's "Intimate Strangers". May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7pm. Free.</p>	<p>28 EVERY WEDNESDAY: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478. Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker Benefit Dinner. St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center, Winton St., off Burnet Ave. 5:30 pm. \$0-\$15 donation. 471-6853.</p>	<p>24 "Better Health Through a Vegetarian Diet" talk by Dr. Jennifer Daniels. Also catered dinner by Mr. Arnold's. At Westcott Community Center. Sponsored by Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society. 6pm. 437-2163 for reservations.</p>	<p>18 Hemlock Society meeting at May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 3pm. Socialist Forum. "Housing: National Priorities & Grassroots Initiatives" with Jim Dessauer, director of ENP. Westcott Community Center. 3pm. Dave, 475-2395.</p>

Spring Cleaning: The Death is Forever



Somewhere inside this *PNL* someone makes reference to recruiting billboards "sprouting up like daffodils." While we would hate to give the impression that SPC supports the destruction of private property, SPC clearly does support city beautification projects. For example, the billboard above was beautified quite simply. It's amazing what a touch of red paint here and there can do for one's spirit. So we'd like to encourage each and every one of you to enjoy spring, and re-decorate when the spirit moves you. *Photo by Ann Tiffany.*

Syracuse Peace Council

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Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice June 1997 PNL 656

**NOT
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Direct Action Issue

Inside: Plowshares, SOA Pentagon Action, Nuclear Reprocessing, Tupac Amaru, Racism at Denny's & the 1997 Alternative Vacation Guide

Published Monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council - Founded in 1936

THE SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL

New people are always welcome to join any of these activities. Contact SPC at 472-5478 or the person listed to find out what you can do.

Collectives, Committees & Projects

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Bill Mazza

Bookkeeper

Duane Hardy

SPC Press

Paul Pearce

• The Literature Committee

• Program Committee

• Political Action Committee

• Organizational Maintenance Committee

• Pledge Coordinator: Pat Hoffman

SPC Council:

Marge Rusk, Beth Mosley,

Daniella Levy-Salzman,

Carl Mellor, Ann Tiffany

The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets the first three Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 PM. Call SPC for location.

Editorial Collective: Tim Judson, Ed Kinane, elana levy, Bill Mazza, Carole Resnick, Nancy Rhodes

Production Committee: Andy Molloy

Poetry Editor: Michelle Brisson

Graphics Coordinator: Anita Welych

Cover Coordinator: Karen Kerney

SPC Projects: 472-5478

• Plowshares Craftsair

• SPC-TV — Paul Pearce

• Fair Trial for Mumia Committee — Thano Paris

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Chuck Durand, Rae Kramer, Mardea Warner, Karen Kerney, Amy Bartell, Vanessa Johnson, Margaret Birtleough, Kathy Barry, Brian Caufield, Fredrick Noyes, Jolie Rickman, Lance Hogan, Bill Hamler, Thano Paris, Sylvia Burgess, Daniel Bowers, Carol Baum, Chris Spies-Rusk, Susan Adair, Joy Meeker, Nick Orth, Michael DeSalvo

Volunteer Coordinator: Paul Frazier

Statement of Purpose

The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC), founded in 1936, is an antiwar/social justice organization. It is community-based, autonomous and funded by the contributions of its supporters.

SPC educates, agitates and organizes for a world where war, violence and exploitation in any form will no longer exist. It challenges the existing unjust power relationships among nations, among people and between ourselves and the environment. As members, we work to replace inequality, hierarchy, domination and powerlessness with mutual respect, personal empowerment, cooperation and a sense of community.

Present social injustices cannot be understood in isolation from each other nor can they be overcome without recognizing their economic and militaristic roots. SPC stresses a strategy that makes these connections clear. We initiate and support activities that help build this sense of community and help tear down the walls of oppression. A fundamental basis for peace and justice is an economic system that places human need above monetary profit. We establish relationships among people based on cooperation rather than competition or the threat of destruction.

Our political values and personal lives shape and reflect each other. In both we are committed to nonviolent means of conflict resolution and to a process of decision-making that responds to the needs of us all.

Alliances, Coalitions & Contacts

Abolish the Blockade of Cuba

Doug Igelsrud 471-5749

ACLU-CNY Chapter

Barrie Gewanter 471-2821

Alliance-Psychiatric System

George Ebert 475-4120

Alternatives to Violence Project

Jay Liestee 499-0845

American Friends Service

Committee 475-4822

Animal Defense League

479-9105

ARISE

472-3171

Atlantic States Legal Foundation

475-1170

Citizens Against Radioactive

Dumping (607) 753-6271

Citizen Review Board

Felicia Davis 448-8750

CNY Center for Occupational

Health and Safety 471-6187

CNY Environment

Lee Gechas 446-5319

CNY N.O.W.

487-3188

CUSLAR

(607) 255-7293

Dunbar Center

Louches Powell 476-4269

EON/Transgender Community

Melissa 423-4099

Fair Housing Council of CNY

Merrilee Witherell 471-0518

Fair Trial for Mumia Committee

Thano Paris 472-5478

Fightback! of CNY

422-0555

Food Bank of CNY

437-1899

Friends of the Filipino People

John & Sally Brulé 445-0698

Gay/Lesbian Alliance

422-5732

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student

Assoc. (SU) 443-3599

Haiti Solidarity

Ann Tiffany 478-4571

Hemlock Society

Betty Bentley 463-0782

Hotel Employees 150

Jail Ministry 424-1877

Kenlark Center for Creative

Spirituality

Bourke Kennedy 685-5414

Caribbean/Latin America

Coalition Shirley Novak 446-6099

Lesbian/Gay Youth

443-3599

NAACP

Van Robinson 422-6933

Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.

Ammie Chickering 365-2299

New Environment Association

Harry Schwarzlander 446-8009

NYPIRG

476-8381

Onondaga Audubon

457-7731

Onondaga Women's Political

Peggy Murray 475-7671

Open Hand Theatre

Geoff Navias 476-0466

Pax Christi

Frank Woolever 446-1693

Peace Action of CNY

Diane Swords 478-7442

Peace Brigades International

Ed Kinane 478-4571

P.E.A.C.E., Inc.

Louis Clark 470-3300

People Against the Death Penalty

637-3344

People for Animal Rights

488-PURR (7877)

Persons With AIDS Support

Hotline

Sandra 471-5911

Physicians for Social

Responsibility 488-2140

Planned Parenthood

475-5525

ReConsider

Nick or Alex Eyle 422-6231

Religion: Other

Phoenix or Kat 474-8801

Rose Center

Teri Cameron 422-3426

CNY Center for Occupational

Sarah House 475-1747

Save the County

637-6066

SEEDS

(607) 749-2818

Service Employees International

Robert Tompkins 424-1750

Sierra Club

Sue Carlson 445-1663

Small Claims Court Action

Center 443-1401

S.O.A. Watch/ CNY

Ed Kinane, Ann Tiffany 478-4571

Social Workers for Peace

Dick Mundy 445-0797

Socialist Party

Ron Ehrenreich 478-0793

Spanish Action League

Sam Velasquez 471-3762

Student African-American Society

Kathy Ade 443-4633

Student Environmental Action

Coalition

Mike Sanfilippo 423-5607

Syracuse Alt. Media Network

Tim Brachocki 425-8806

Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society

SAVES/Joe Connolly 437-2163

Syracuse Community Choir

Karen Mihalyi 428-8724

Syracuse Community Radio

Frederic Noyes 474-9507, 478-5215

Syracuse Cooperative Federal

Credit Union 471-1116

Syracuse Cultural Workers

Dik Cool 474-1132

Syracuse N.O.W.

472-3294

Syr. Real Food Coop

472-1385

Syracuse United Neighbors

Rich Puchalski 476-7475

S.U. for Animal Rights

Urban League 443-4199

Witness Dowdell Curry

472-6955

Eloise for Peace Delegations

Nancy Gwin 422-4689

Women's Center (SU)

443-4268

Women's Health Outreach

425-3653

Women's INFO Center

478-4636

(If you do not see your group listed please call)

In This Issue

Direct Action seems to be getting a lot of attention lately, and I'm not sure I approve. I guess that's the point, really: *attention*. But if these direct action types are only in it for attention, then I don't see why we have to play into it by covering things like Plowshares actions. It's certainly not the first time someone hammered on something and threw a little blood around. And what about these SOA people, grave-digging up old stories? And if you really want to talk "Me, Me, Me" types, let's talk anti-nuclear people. I'm sorry, but a little extra radiation doesn't seem like too high a price to pay for waking up knowing your toaster will toast. Toast, of course, reminds me of Denny's, where I'm told they only serve white toast these days. Perhaps they need some crusts cut off. And Peru's a *perfect* example...they made a fuss, got on the TV, and then what? I don't hear too much about them anymore.... Maybe we all need a long vacation. Any ideas? — *Bill Mazza*

The Peace Newsletter (PNL) is published monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council. SPC, founded in 1936, is the oldest community-based peace and justice organization in the United States.

The **PNL** strives to serve as the internal organ of SPC and as a forum for articles which discuss issues of concern to the peace movement. The opinions expressed in the **PNL** reflect the diversity of opinions within SPC itself. While we are not able to print every possible viewpoint, we do welcome letter and article submissions as well as suggestions and assistance.

The PNL has very reasonable ad rates; call or write for our rates. Movement groups are free to reprint articles and graphics, but please give credits and send us a copy flagging the reprint. For-profit groups, please inquire.

ISSN #0735-4134

The **PNL** is available on microfilm from University Microfilms, Inc., 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Subscriptions are \$12 a year in the U.S., \$15 in Canada and Mexico and \$25 overseas. The institutional rate is \$15. The **PNL** is free to prisoners and low-income people. Your organization, co-op, etc. can receive 5-25 **PNL**s each month. Our circulation is 4500.

Contributions to SPC beyond **PNL** subscriptions support our activist programs. We always need your support. *Peace Newsletter/Syracuse Peace Council*, 924 Burnet Ave, Syracuse, NY 13203.

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May Mailing Party Helpers

Paul "Joe Hill" Frazier, Chris "Speedy" Spies, Daniella "Cookie" Salzman, Carl "the Wizard of Westcott" Mellor, "Jaholie's Witness" Rickman, elana "rosa" levy, Tim "She-Ra" Judson, Gabe Barry-Caufield, Pye Edwards, Frederic "Hoot" Noyes, and Marge "Grandma" Rusk

July Issue Deadlines

Articles	Jun 12
Ads	Jun 19
Calendar Items	Jun 19

PEACE NEWSLETTER

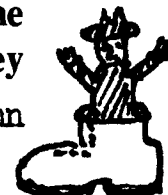
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About the cover: Not In Our Name
and With Our Money

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Bread and Puppet Press



PETER SCHUMANN, founder of Bread & Puppet Theater, created this image (one of a series of eight) during the early 80s. At the time major show themes were focused on oppression in Latin America—the destruction of land and people by military invasions. These military actions were often sponsored and supported by the US government.

Local activists used this image again in the early 90s during the Gulf War and the continued occupation of Iraq. Most recently, the image was used during a protest against local District Attorney William Fitzpatrick receiving a "Humanitarian" award from Catholic Charities. Fitzpatrick is a death penalty proponent.

Unfortunately, the image's message continues to ring true.

Look to the Vacation Guide on pages 11-14 for more of Peter's graphics.

For more info on Bread & Puppet Theater and a mail order catalog of their publications and prints, write to:

Bread & Puppet Theater
RD #2, Box 153
Glover, VT 05839

— Karen Kerney

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

Staff Infection

I've now spent one sixth of my life as the Syracuse Peace Council staffperson. I figure, the first half of my life I wasn't offered much choice as to how I could spend my time. I can account for about the next one-third of the living, breathing me with high school and an art degree. When the childhood and school stuff is added up, I only find about eight years unaccounted for. Of these eight, I've been at SPC for 75% of this "self-directed" 26.666% of my life. And since some of the missing two years was probably spent driving or eating, a pretty hefty part of my adulthood identity is linked to this little peace and justice community. Luckily, this isn't the activist Hotel California.

In January 1992 when I first accepted the job at SPC, I had no idea how long I would stay or what, for that matter, I was expected to do. I'm still a little fuzzy on the job description, but I *have* decided when I'll leave. Almost. Although I start a new job on June 2, the date to hire new SPC staff is July 1. With job training for the new staff, I guess I'll be untangling myself from SPC throughout the summer and into the fall.

I came to nonviolent activism (and eventually SPC) in response to the Gulf War. I joined the hundreds of thousands raising their voices, some for the first time, to protest that US government-sponsored crime. However, the violence and decisiveness with which the US government ignored massive domestic and foreign opposition was bewildering. Af-

terwards, many activist organizations experienced a large drop in volunteers and a general malaise.

In other words, if SPC works in tides, I arrived at an ebb. After a rush of interest and support for SPC activities, people began drifting away.

For this new nonviolent activist, SPC seemed to exist behind the scenes. I was somewhat familiar with the *Peace Newsletter*, which I found littered around the city or when short stacks of *PNLs* were brought into meetings I attended.

I've always found it easy to neglect certain connections and questions. One was the idea that the *PNL* might be attached to the strange brown house on Burnet Ave. sporting a "Syracuse Peace Council" sign. I had my small activist community, and never considered who or what SPC was, or thought I could get involved. Even having helped write two articles for the *PNL*, I still felt too intimidated to walk in the door and ask questions.

Now I giggle when I hear similar stories about folks feeling intimidated by this little brown house. However, I also believe that one aspect of our alienating modern lives is the way our fears infiltrate our better judgements and stop us from exploring our unknowns. When dealing with day-to-day stress, it's hard to justify getting involved in something new. No time, no money, no energy. Often times it takes a Gulf War to rearrange our daily priorities. In my case I found that my sense of

intimidation had little to do with SPC, and a lot to do with me.

Anyway, from the first time I walked through the door at 924 Burnet, I found myself introduced to a group of interesting, dedicated, independent, individual, and just-plain-wonderful people. From my first year I realized what a rare gift it was to work in a progressive, multigenerational, and diverse office-place. I've been lucky enough to have dear friends, peers, and co-workers born in eight decades. Go figure.

Working at SPC is a crash course in real-life training. Not "Real Life" in the sense of "when are you going to get a REAL job" or, the counter-protest, "GET A LIFE!" Instead, it's meant interacting with many of the biggest, strongest, and loudest characters in Central New York. Although often short on funds or volunteers, social movements are rarely short on personalities.

My time at SPC has gained me a wealth of relationships. I've come to appreciate what it means to share time with people. Every day I'm exposed to new dimensions of the words "family" and "commitment," two words tossed around so often the meaning has almost been shaken out of them. Those who know me can rest assured that I'm not slipping fast—I've never been one to confuse family or community with warm and fuzzy.

At SPC I've come face to face with a kaleidoscope of tolerance and acceptance (not to be confused), challenge, honesty, sweat, pain, growth, desire, risk, failure, creativity and trust. I've heard more stories than anyone has a right to hear, and I've worked closely with generations of peace and social justice workers. My guess is that there aren't many jobs left in this world where you get to live history. A little more poetic than the day-to-day reality of the job, but in retrospect it rings as true as a bell.

SPC is an organization of survivors. If you choose to take a chance and hang around, with a little patience, some hard work, and the willingness to listen when spoken to, you might just pick up some of the tools of the trade. And in our world survival is more than a fallout shelter and a case of twinkies. Thanks to all of you.

In Peace,
Bill Mazza, ex-Staffperson of SPC
(and proud of it)

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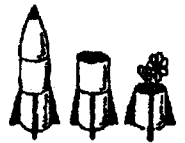
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Swords into Plowshares

The Trial of the Portland Six

Lisa Guido

BEFORE DAWN on February 12, six Plowshares activists boarded a US Navy nuclear ship in Bath, Maine, 40 miles north of Portland. They poured their own blood on the missile hatches, control panel, radar screen and steering wheel, and hammered on navigational equipment. Arrested and held at Cumberland County Jail in Portland, they refused pre-trial release because it meant staying out of the shipyard.

The six are: Phil Berrigan from Baltimore's Jonah House, Steven Baggaly of Norfolk, Mark Colville of New Haven, Susan Crane of Ukiah (CA), Steve Kelly of New York City, and Thoman Lewis-Borgely of Worcester.

I drove to Portland for their trial on May 5-7. Only 40 people were allowed in the courtroom at once, but 300 kept vigil outside. Another nuclear warship was docked down at the Bath Iron Works shipyards. So we also leafleted at the World's Greatest Shipbuilders' front gate about the Plowshares action, nonviolent resistance, and the World Court's July 1996 ruling that the use, fabrication or threat of nuclear weapons is illegal. East coast shipyards continue to build these vessels of mass destruction. Plowshares actions have also occurred in Connecticut, Virginia, and North Carolina to name a few. You may remember actions at nearby Griffiss Air Force Base, where our own Kathleen Rumpf took her hammer to a B-52 bomber.

This was my first Plowshares trial, but once I got in the courtroom I was so disgusted with the proceedings that I spent the rest of the time outside. The prosecutor asked the judge to stop our drumming outside the window. The judge said that would be futile, one of his few reasonable rulings. International law was not admissable, nor could an expert from the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy testify. The jury never heard the Nuremberg Principles. Someone wearing a T-shirt with "Nuremberg" on it was even ejected.

Witnesses for the prosecution called the activists' blood "a red substance" and flyers about international law and Nuremberg "propaganda." They used clean, high-tech language to describe the launching area for missiles capable of incinerating a continent. The prosecutor said it upset Navy personnel that such a "mess" was made of their "home." The judge ruled testimony about the "mess" left at Hiroshima irrelevant.

At noon on the last day, the six defendants turned their back on the judge. The 40 supporters who did so too were removed for the rest of the trial.

Outside, Jim Reale, one of the 40, climbed quickly to the courthouse roof, greatly annoying the federal marshals and police. My rock-climbing skills weren't advanced enough for me to go along, but I appreciated both his invitation and attention to gender balance. He hung the Plowshares banner and read the Nuremberg Principles out loud. Twenty minutes later a cherry picker arrived to get him down, providing the Associated Press with some fine photo ops.

Our crowd outside had dwindled, but about 50 remained, chatting with reporters. *The New York Times* and the *Boston Globe* were there. Phil Berrigan was quoted on the local front page, "We are not lawbreakers, we break illegal laws." The *Boston Globe* reporter, there daily, plans to visit Baltimore's Jonah House resistance community.

The jury never heard the Nuremberg Principles. Someone wearing a T-shirt with "Nuremberg" on it was even ejected.

The jury delivered guilty verdicts after two hours' deliberation. About 25 of us paraded down to the Bath Iron Works and 12 went in. The police gave us a chance to leave, but by then we wanted to visit the Plowshares activists. They had our company in jail until our court appearance two days later.

Our group was eight women (four in jail for the first time) and four men, ages 23 to 75. It was great to learn from the old hands. We invited other women in our cell block to join our meetings. A few did. We talked about who should really be in jail (if anyone), civil resistance, and the "corrections" system being the second largest US industry after the military. We learned

all the unwritten rules we needed to know and we listened to their stories. When guards threatened us with solitary confinement, I got a small glimpse of how people are controlled in jail, because it is hard for me to be alone. I thought about preparing for jail next time, and how I live my life. I saw a little of what many people deal with for much longer periods, and what release might be like.

We were shackled and handcuffed for our arraignment. We all pleaded "no contest," which was fitting after a trial where no one could make an honest argument. We got misdemeanor convictions after we each said why we trespassed at the shipyard.

A few hours later I sat on the rocky coastline reflecting on the week and the supporters from all over the Northeast. I felt strange out of my orange jail suit and I thought of those who will wear their's a lot longer.

The Portland Plowshares sentencing comes in June or July. Many supporters will return to Maine and perhaps jail. Are you up for a trip?

Lisa is a physical therapist who worked on local Plowshares activist Kathleen Rumpf's knees and now look what happened. In 1995 she walked from Auschwitz to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in February she went to Syracuse's sister community in El Salvador, and in April she was in DC against the SOA. She was very sorry not to get her shovel out to dig up the lawn. Maybe another time soon. This month she goes to Belgium for an anti-nuclear summer.



SOA Update:

CNY Leaves No Sod Unturned Opposing Uncle Sam's House of Ill Repute

Ed Kinane

IN EARLY APRIL the Syracuse Peace Council held a workshop on nonviolent direct action [see 5/97 PNL]. In it we reenacted a few of the many creative acts of civil disobedience done by Central New Yorkers over the years.

On Monday, April 28, over a dozen of us were back at it again. Along with about 200 others from all over the country, we protested the School of the Americas at its very source: the Pentagon. Seventeen were arrested, including four Central New Yorkers: Ann Tiffany, Kathleen Rumpf, Rev. Nick Cardell, and Anne Herman of the Women's Peace Encampment in Romulus.

In planning this Pentagon action, SOA Watch worked closely with Art Laffin and Bill Frankel-Streit of the Washington, DC Catholic Worker. Bill and his partner Susan were among those on trial here in Syracuse in 1991 as part of the Anzus Plowshares. Art literally "wrote the book" on direct action; he co-edited *Swords Into Plowshares: Nonviolent Direct Action for Disarmament... Peace... Social Justice*, reviewed in the March PNL.

DC Catholic Workers—and, when possible, folks from Baltimore's Jonah House—have been vigiling against militarism

at the Pentagon's south entrance every Monday morning for the past ten years. Some of their numerous nonviolent actions there have led to arrests and imprisonment. Our April 28 action built on that steadfast tradition.

These days the Pentagon seems to be in siege mode. For weeks its Public Affairs office has been refusing to respond to media inquiries about the SOA. On just a day's notice the Pentagon canceled an April 24 meeting on the SOA with a high level citizen's delegation. The delegation included veterans, religious leaders, and leaders of national peace organizations who had flown in from around the country.

Another siege indicator is that the April 21 *Army Times* carried a three-page cover story on the School of the Americas. Subtitled, "Does it help or hurt human rights?", it questioned whether "the controversial training center [was] past its prime." The story failed, however, to explain that the SOA continues to be very relevant to US economic exploitation of Latin America. And it failed to mention prominent atrocities and assassinations by SOA grads. To its credit the article devoted about seven column inches to quoting SOA Watch founder Fr. Roy Bourgeois.

For nine days prior to our Pentagon action SOA Watch held its fourth annual spring vigil on the steps of the Capitol in DC. During that

time about 1000 people took part and many lobbied on the Hill. One afternoon 16 of us from New York State met for 45 minutes with two aides of Senator Daniel Moynihan (D-NY). The two young men showed little interest in the SOA issue. One said he wouldn't find time to watch our 18-minute Academy Award-nominated documentary, "School of Assassins." The encounter reinforced what I already knew: it was time for direct action.

Each noon on the Capitol steps we did street theater putting the SOA and Uncle Sam (in full costume) on trial for crimes against humanity. Kathleen Rumpf played the prosecuting attorney. Each day's trial featured a

different Latin American country with testimony from two or three victims of its SOA grads.

The night before our April 28 action the planning committee convened a meeting in a church basement near the Capitol to discuss the proposed scenario. Art and Bill assured everyone that it was unlikely anyone would be arrested at the Pentagon for merely demonstrating or for holding a banner, or even for planting a cross. However, if anyone tried to blockade a door, or damage property, arrest was certain. Pentagon security would be alert for any move against the building—such as someone throwing their blood at it. (Blood seems to horrify the Pentagon.) To outflank security we decided against targeting the building itself.

As part of the planning committee I presented the scenario using charts of the Pentagon and its parade ground. To engage as many participants as possible, we included a range of roles with lesser or greater risk of arrest. After everyone was issued the props for their chosen role, we had a dress rehearsal. And twice we read aloud together an 11-item pledge of "Nonviolent Discipline." Given our scenario, we felt a need to discuss item 8, "We will not damage any property." We soon agreed, however, that Mother Earth would readily repair herself.

The next morning around 7AM we gathered at the Pentagon's south entrance. As is done there every Monday morning, we greeted and leafleted those coming to work. We sang songs and recited names of SOA grads and their victims. Again everyone read aloud the nonviolence pledge.

At Uncle Sam's signal, a soldier ordered the campesinos to get down on their knees.



Protesters re-enacting SOA campesino massacre, April 28. Photos by John Amidon.

At 7:30 we left the south entrance in silent procession. We were led by a drummer beating a funereal cadence on a five-gallon can. We proceeded clockwise two-thirds of the way around the Pentagon to the river entrance. Used by the brass, it looks out on the grassy parade ground. The Potomac and the Washington Monument are visible in the distance. The river entrance faces *away* from the white crosses of nearby Arlington National Cemetery.

Then came Uncle Sam leading eight "campesinos" by ropes around their necks. Each wore a sombrero and serape and bore the name of a Latin American country. Sister Megan Rice of Manlius was "Peru." I was one of the two SOA soldiers toting cardboard machine guns flanking the campesinos.

Next came scores of crossbearers walking two by two. Among them were Central New Yorkers Rita Gabaccia, Cynthia Banas, Rosa Schram, Karen Houghton, and Dan and Doris Sage. Their white crosses were inscribed with names of Latin Americans killed by those trained at the SOA. These were the same crosses planted at Fort Benning last November 16—the anniversary of the 1989 massacre of six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter. (Of the 10 Central New Yorkers arrested at Fort Benning then, nine took part in this Pentagon action.) Then came numerous sign and banner holders, including Syracusans Lisa Guido and Hannah Novak.

When we arrived at the parade ground, Paddy Inman, a schoolteacher from Spokane, WA, directed everyone to their places. Our sign and banner holders lined both sides of the field. At Uncle Sam's signal, a soldier ordered the *campesinos* to get down on their knees. He then "executed" them one by one with a shot to the head. As the *campesinos* fell to the ground, the crossbearers planted their crosses cemetery-fashion in neat rows in the grass.

Then 16 crossbearers came forward to dig a mass grave next to the corpses. The diggers used lightweight collapsible army surplus shovels which they had been hiding under their raincoats. Although the preceding days had been rainy, the digging was tough. The shovels were cheap and some of them broke.

A few diggers got down on their knees and began digging with their hands. A couple more of the demonstrators joined in the digging. Not knowing when Pentagon security would stop them, the diggers dug furiously.

After maybe 15 minutes, security police streamed out of the building and began arresting and handcuffing the diggers. Of 17 arrested, 13 were women, including six nuns. The killer of the *campesinos* continued in role, directing security to take this or that digger away. Security ignored him and all other demonstrators, and even—for no discernible reason—left one digger unarrested.

As security removed the diggers, John Amidon of Albany, NY was moved to drag the eight corpses into the shallow grave. He partially covered them with dirt and clods of turf. The next morning's *Syracuse Post Standard* featured an AP photo of this "burial." The *PS* also carried its DC correspondent's story on the action and on our vigil. That evening's *Syracuse Herald Journal* carried the same



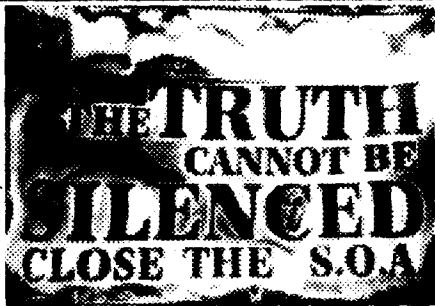
Ann Tiffany, Nick Cardell and others digging mass grave in the Pentagon parade ground.

story with a photo of Kathleen continuing to dig as security closes in.

All 17 captives were released later that morning. Unaccountably, Ann Tiffany and four others got *no* appearance ticket. Kathleen and Anne Herman got one, and Nick got *two*. Charged with destruction of government property, 12 of the diggers must appear in court in Alexandria, VA on June 6.

In El Salvador during our DC vigil and Pentagon action, about 100 people gathered each day at the US Embassy to demand clo-

Banner by Jaci Domin of Rochester, NY.



sure of the SOA. To symbolize that demand, on April 29 they hammered shut a huge door marked "SOA." We also heard about support actions in Tucson, Cleveland and elsewhere around the US.

In downtown Syracuse, over 40 took part in an April 28 noontime vigil at Columbus Circle. The event was organized by local activist Paul Frazier and sponsored by CNY Witness for Peace and our local Central America/Caribbean Coalition. Whether it be in San Salvador, Syracuse, Washington or at the Pentagon, such vigiling is in solidarity with the voiceless of Latin America—those disenfranchised by the power structures the SOA seeks to prop up.

The next morning, April 29, Fr. Roy Bourgeois and Rep. Joe Kennedy (D-MA & sponsor of HR611, a bill requiring immediate closure of the SOA), held a press conference on the Capitol lawn. They were accompanied by Uncle Sam and the *campesinos*, now resurrected. Joe announced that HR611 had 101 co-sponsors (up from 82 when we began vigiling and lobbying on April 19). He also reported that Richard Durban (IL) would soon introduce a companion bill in the Senate. Senate co-sponsors include Dianne Feinstein (CA), Robert Torricelli (NJ), Jack Reed (RI), and Paul Wellstone (MI), all Democrats. The legislative task now is to get more co-sponsors in both House and Senate.

Besides ongoing lobbying, SOA Watch is calling for 1000 people to come to Fort Benning, GA this **November 13 to 16** to march on the School of the Americas. This is twice the number that came to Fort Benning last November 16. Please mark your calendar. For more info, call Ed or Ann at (315) 478-4571. Central New York must keep doing all it can to close Uncle Sam's house of ill repute.

Ed, a PNL editor and former member of Peace Brigades International teams in Latin America, has been working to close the SOA for several years.



Nuclear Reprocessing

Military Plutonium Mixes With Civilian Reactors for "Waste Management"



Simon Morrin

FOR DECADES the US government rejected nuclear reprocessing. Now it has resumed the controversial practice at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL).

The Department of Energy's new reprocessing program is intended to convert tons of plutonium from obsolete nuclear weapons into non-weapons grade plutonium. It is also an attempt to clean up nuclear messes left over from previous reprocessing programs.

The term "nuclear reprocessing" applies to various techniques for either extracting plutonium from spent nuclear reactor fuel or combining former weapons plutonium with other materials. One technique uses weapons plutonium to produce mixed oxide fuel (MOX), which under certain circumstances can be used to fuel reactors.

Plutonium itself is highly carcinogenic, and has been described as the most deadly substance known to science. It does not occur in nature, but is produced in nuclear reactors when uranium-238 fuel atoms absorb neutrons and are "transmuted" into plutonium-239.

Plutonium is one of two fissile isotopes, together with uranium-235, used in nuclear weapons production. With a half-life of 24,000 years, its disposal presents considerable prob-

lems. The US government halted reprocessing in the '70s due to the potential global trade in plutonium leading to nuclear weapons proliferation.

During the Cold War, the US (and the USSR) operated plutonium reactors and reprocessing plants to produce plutonium for their huge nuclear arsenals. In 1994 the global supply of separated plutonium was 450 metric tons, enough for 110,000 nuclear weapons.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is now developing a "dual track strategy to irreversibly dispose of the nation's surplus plutonium." Part of the plan is to immobilize the plutonium by vitrification, combining it with glass and storing it above ground. A second approach is to produce MOX. Of the two plans, vitrification offers a safer, cheaper and faster method of handling the plutonium.

Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary has stated, "The US should take no actions to encourage or support a civil plutonium economy." Nonetheless, the 1998 DOE budget includes about \$50 million for pyroprocessing, an experimental reprocessing technique based at INEEL.

Globally, MOX production takes place in Britain and France (the biggest radioactive polluters of the Atlantic Ocean), India, Japan and Russia. In Russia plutonium is viewed as a valuable "wonder fuel" rather than a toxic liability.

The US nuclear establishment and corporate energy contractors such as the Westinghouse Corporation favor the MOX proposal. They see reprocessing as a "solution" to the commercial nuclear waste mess.

But, according to Larry Yates of the Arlington, VA-based Nuclear Waste Citizen's Coalition, "Billions have been spent worldwide on the fantasy of a cycle in which plutonium from reprocessed reactor fuel would be re-used over and over in MOX fuel."

The MOX project has serious environmental and safety implications and could waste billions of tax dollars. Reprocessing is promoted as "waste management," but it actually produces large quantities of highly radioactive liquid wastes. One process would generate over 500,000 gallons of waste for every 30 metric tons of plutonium.

Added to this environmental cost, the use of MOX as a commercial reactor fuel increases operational safety risks and generates greater amounts of more lethal waste products. In order to use MOX, civilian nuclear power plants would need to be refitted, relicensed and subsidized by the DOE at a possible rate of over \$1 billion each.

In a December 1996 report in its newsletter, *Citizen's Watch*, California's Tri-Valley Citizens against a Radioactive Environment state, "Some analyses suggest that MOX fuel would likely accelerate the aging of reactor core components." To date, at least 16 utilities have expressed interest in the MOX program, including Niagara Mohawk, owner of one of the country's most seriously deteriorated reactors.

The Nuclear Waste Citizen's Coalition predicts that the revival of reprocessing military waste will intensify pressure to reprocess commercial reactor waste. As the first generation of nuclear power plants nears the end of service the problem of waste remains intractable. There is every possibility that the nuclear establishment will seek to use reprocessing as their answer to waste disposal, and justify the construction of a second generation of nuclear reactors.

Simon is a British citizen appalled at how the UK pollutes the world with its Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant.



What To Do

Write to Hazel O'Leary, Secretary of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20085

For more info contact: Larry Lamar Yates, The Nuclear Waste Citizen's Coalition, (703) 553-4440,

e-mail lamaryates@igc.apc.org

Or call Simon at 422-4219.

Nine Mile One Update

On May 8, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced authorization of the restart of Niagara Mohawk's Nine Mile One nuclear power plant near Oswego, New York. The plant had been the subject of controversy due to the presence of severe weld cracking in its core shroud, a vital internal component. (See 5/97 PNL).

An NRC safety evaluation concluded that the plant is safe to operate for approximately 14 1/2 months. The evaluation was based on information and analysis provided by Niagara Mohawk.

The NRC is requiring Niagara Mohawk to apply for a license amendment reflecting technical requirements within 60 days. Defective tie rod assemblies also discovered during the recent refueling outage are men-

tioned in passing in the NRC announcement. That announcement oozes denial of the extremely dangerous phase now being entered in the lives of decrepit nuclear reactors.

Despite clear evidence of numerous hazards to health and life, an intractable radioactive waste problem, and the total absence of any economic justification, the pro-nuclear NRC continues to cooperate with profiteering nuclear utilities and manufacturing corporations at our expense.

Niagara Mohawk is required to inspect the Nine Mile One core shroud in the summer of 1998. While it is important to monitor activities and make our voices heard on this subject, we must also remember that nuclear power is not safe, never has been safe, and never will be safe.

— Simon Morrin

Stopping the Next Arms Race

“Subcritical” Testing May Start This Month

Diane Swords

Even as the nuclear powers signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTB) last September, peace activists knew that our government was giving up the option of exploding nuclear weapons underground only because nuclear weapons without explosions were finally possible.

Now, the Department of Energy (DOE) claims that a major testing program is necessary to maintain the “safety and reliability” of nuclear weapons. Called “Stockpile Stewardship and Management,” this program will cost over \$40 billion in the next ten years. The DOE will not deny the program’s purpose is developing new weapons—and it certainly has the capacity to do so.

A careful look at the DOE’s terminology shows they are not talking about preventing accidental explosions. “Reliability” refers to the weapon’s performance - that is, its explosion at the “desired yield” point. “Safety” means the compatibility of the safety feature with the desired yield. Talking of safety and reliability presupposes maintaining the intent to use these weapons.

Four US weapons laboratories do these kinds of experiments. The director of one of the largest labs now says they can only “guarantee the safety and reliability” of the nuclear arsenal for ten years. This suggests they’ll demand funding to continue testing after that time.

There has been little public notice of this. Many in Congress accept Stockpile Stewardship as the price paid for the Comprehensive Test Ban, and as the prerequisite for Senate ratification of the CTB treaty. The Senate is unlikely to formally consider the CTB before next spring, given the recent struggle to ratify the Chemical Weapons Ban, begun under Ronald Reagan. Considered more radical, the CTB will be harder to ratify.

One component of SS&M is a series of “subcritical” nuclear tests which the DOE announced on April 3. In the classic nuclear explosion, there is an irreversible chain reaction, including the release of radiation. “Subcriticals” stop short of this chain reac-

tion, but involve high level explosions in close proximity to plutonium to see what else happens to it.

Intense grassroots opposition and international diplomatic pressure stemming from the CTB negotiations both helped postpone these tests since last June. Peace Action and colleagues were in the forefront of pressing for cancellation. Right now the Washington disarmament community is debating “subcritical” testing intensely. Peace Action’s position is that we won’t accept these tests as a trade-off for Senate ratification of the treaty.

Our immediate primary focus is the first “subcritical” test, now scheduled for late June (with a second by late August). DOE will no longer specify the number of tests planned, but the 1998 budget appears to account for four more tests next year. While continuing efforts to stop the tests, we are now planning how we will respond when they do take place.

The Military Production Network is a national alliance, including Peace Action, working to stop nuclear weapons production and improve waste clean-up. MPN’s Maureen Eldridge attended a May 7 DOE roundtable on the “subcritical” nuclear tests. The Arms Control and Disarmament Agency’s Ambassador Thomas Graham gave the impression, according to Eldridge’s notes, that negotiating the CTB was so difficult that he would “do just about anything to get it ratified.” In his view, subcritical tests are essential for this. He feels other participating countries understand the need to do the subcritical tests for US Senate ratification of the treaty.

For many reasons, this is simply not acceptable:

- First, the DOE is noncommittal about using “subcritical” tests to design new weapons. Richard Garwin, a government consultant whose nuclear work dates to Los Alamos in the 1950s, is one of several experts who says these tests would clearly benefit such efforts.

- The CTB treaty does not explicitly prohibit these tests, but they certainly violate its spirit. The CTB bans nuclear explosions. Technically, “subcriticals” stop just short of that, but will the 44 nations needed for ratification consider the distinction big enough to satisfy them?

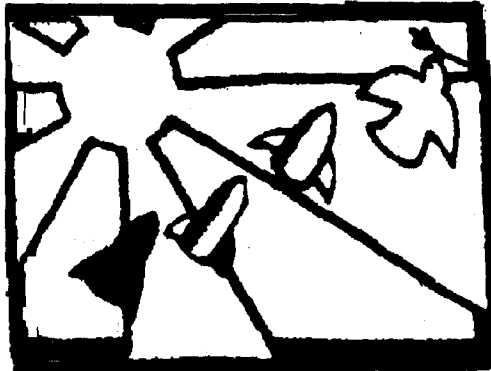
- The question remains of whether such tests could “go critical.”
- The DOE claims there will be no “self-sustaining” nuclear reaction, but these tests take place underground at the Nevada Test Site. This might complicate verification procedures of the CTB treaty.
- If the US conducts these tests, who can say that others should not? This could actually clear the

way for other countries to develop nuclear weapons for the first time.

- “Subcritical” tests cost about \$20 million each. The DOE has not provided any persuasive reason to conduct these tests. Who will explain to mothers who can’t feed their children that we should fund this “welfare” project for nuclear scientists?

Demonstrations are planned around the country when the first test takes place this month, including at the Nevada Test Site and the DOE in Washington, DC. Our local Peace Action plans an event to mourn these tests and needs your help! Call us at 478-7442.

Diane is chapter director of Peace Action of CNY.



Peace Action brings Brian Costner and Helen Caldicott to town in June.

On June 3, Brian Costner of South Carolina’s Energy Research Foundation will present a slide show & talk, “Danger/Opportunity: Nuclear Weapons at the Crossroads,” including info on subcriticals and nuclear waste reprocessing. (Free)

On June 19, Dr. Helen Caldicott, author and founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility, presents a talk, “Nuclear Madness Continues.” (\$3-30)

Both events at 7:30 PM at May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St., Syracuse.

On June 19, Helen Caldicott will also speak at 10 AM at Syracuse University’s Maxwell School.

Many Fronts, One Struggle

Prison Legal News

Nancy Rhodes

THANKS TO Paul Wright and Dan Pens, the *Peace Newsletter* is both going to jail and seeing the world. State inmates in Monroe, Washington, they co-edit *Prison Legal News (PLN)*, which has published monthly since May, 1990. Paul Wright first teamed up in 1989 with inmate Ed Mead to create the publication. *Prison Legal News* goes to about 2,300 people in the US and 160 in 28 other countries.

Last winter Wright and Pens started getting the *Peace Newsletter* regularly. Wright had received copies before, when his readers would send him one. In September 1996 *Prison Legal News* reprinted "Challenging Evil That Ills This Society: The September, 1995 New York State Prison Strike," our interview with Alvin Johnson/ Musaa, then a Dannemora inmate, on the two-week protest that commemorated the 1971 Attica Rebellion.

Now, Wright confirms that *Prison Legal News* also plans to reprint "Are Cops Who Batter Above the Law? The Lautenberg Gun Ban" (*PNL*, 3/97), with additional material relating to prison guards, in either July or August.

Wright and Pens are working with Common Courage Press in Monroe, Maine, on a 288-page anthology of *Prison Legal News* articles due for Spring 1998 release. Common Courage publishes such titles as Jennifer Harbury's *Bridge of Courage* about Guatemala, Mumia Abu-Jamal attorney Len Weinglass' *Race for Justice*, Philip Berrigan's autobiography *Fighting the Lamb's War*, and anti-racist activist Michael Novick's *White Lies, White Power*.

Wright has also confirmed that the Musaa interview will be included in that upcoming anthology.

While the *Prison Legal News's* mailing list was originally handled from Florida by Paul Wright's father, there is now a Seattle office whose volunteers do layout. As noted in the *Seattle Times* (6/6/95), *Prison Legal News* has avoided the general decline in prison news-

papers and is one of only a handful still independently published. Its monthly editions are now online at www.synapse.net/~arrakis/pln/pln.html. The US Dept. of Justice lists it as a criminal justice resource.

Meanwhile, *Prison Legal News* is no longer banned in all Washington state prisons, but Wright reports a new ban on third and fourth class mail. He says prison authorities are "claiming they want to eliminate 'junk mail' but specifically are targeting stuff from non-profits. We'll be filing a class-action suit on that shortly."

Subscriptions for *Prison Legal News* are \$15 a year for inmates, \$20 for non-incarcerated individuals, and \$50 for institutions. Make checks payable to *Prison Legal News*, 2400 NW 80th St., #148, Seattle, WA 98117. Send \$1 for a sample issue.

Nancy is a contributing editor of the *PNL*. She writes on police violence and human rights issues.



Death Penalty D.A. Protest, May 8, 1997.



Dozens protested outside the Syracuse OnCenter as Catholic Charities presented D.A. William Fitzpatrick, who favors executions, with their annual humanitarian award. Jail Ministry, a Catholic Charities agency, sponsored the protest. Photo by Carol Baum.

News Flash: Róisín Granted Bail

Róisín McAliskey, the 25 year-old pregnant daughter of Irish nationalist Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, held for six months without charge in a London prison, was released to Whittington Hospital in north London Friday evening, May 23. A London High Court judge granted her one week's bail despite the new Labor government's objection. McAliskey's health had so deteriorated that she was unable to attend her last scheduled court appearance. She has a single police officer at her door.

The Irish Times (5/24) reported that both she and her baby are expected to need hospital care after delivery. (See *PNL* 4 & 5/97; also watch for Laura Flanders' commentary in *The Nation*.)

For a list of other Irish POWs and how to write to them, contact Nancy Rhodes via the Syracuse Peace Council, 472-5478.

[Editors's note: Just before publication we found out that Róisín had a baby girl. Just thought you'd like to know....]

1997 Vacation Guide

compiled by Andy Molloy

OUR ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE vacation guide introduces a variety of progressive events occurring around the US and a few other countries this June through August. Events are grouped into four categories—Politics, Festivals, Schools, and Tours. The summer months are filled with opportunities to advance your knowledge, make new contacts, or renew your commitment to positive social change. Whether your work is in documenting remaining eastern old growth trees, solidarity with Guatemalans, micro-radio, union support or resisting the commissioning of the first Seawolf nuclear submarine, you have a place to be this summer. The Peace Council has flyers and brochures announcing many of these events—please give us a call to view them.



POLITICS

Timber Roads Lobby Week

DATE: June 2-6
PLACE: Washington, DC
CONTACT: Steve Holmer (202) 879-3188
COMMENT: Meet your elected officials and help put an end to new logging roads.

Justice Without Violence Conference

DATE: June 5-7
PLACE: Albany, NY
CONTACT: Dennis Sullivan, POB 262, Voorheesville, NY 12186, (518) 765-2468
COMMENT: Explore peacemaking, criminology & restorative justice; sponsored by Institute for Economic & Restorative Justice.

Peace Studies Association Conference: New Directions in Peace Studies

DATE: June 5-8
PLACE: Washington, DC
CONTACT: PSA, Earlham College, Dr. #105, Richmond, IN 47374, <http://www.georgetown.edu/pjplconf.html>
COMMENT: Brings together diverse scholars, practitioners & activists from around the world.

Eastern Old Growth Conference

DATE: June 5-8
PLACE: PA
CONTACT: Robert T. Leverett (413) 538-8631, dbh.guru@chicopee.com

Guatemala Solidarity Conference: Towards Peace With Justice in Post-War Guatemala

DATE: June 6-8
PLACE: Washington, DC
CONTACT: Guatemala Solidarity Conference, POB 6069, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 223-6474, nisgua@igc.spc.org
COMMENT: Join with hundreds of people from the U.S. and Guatemala to build new long-term strategies to support the people of Guatemala.

Conference on Socialism

DATE: June 7
PLACE: San Francisco, CA
CONTACT: Workers World Party, (415) 826-4828
COMMENT: Topics include Props 187 and 209, the end of liberalism, US-China relations, art and culture under capitalism and socialism, whether US society is being re-segregated, whether socialism is possible in the US.

Fourth Annual Forest Activist Training Week

DATE: June 8-15
PLACE: Greensboro Bend, VT
CONTACT: Anne Peterman, Native Forest Network, POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402, (802) 863-0571
COMMENT: Experienced activists from around the Northeast will work with participants in hands-on learning about forest activism.

Conference on Peacemaking: The Power of Nonviolence

DATE: June 9-11
PLACE: San Francisco, CA
CONTACT: Info (800) 937-8728
COMMENT: Featuring Dalai Lama of Tibet, Rigoberta Menchu of Guatemala, and Jose Ramos-Horta of East Timor. These Nobel Laureates will be joined by over 80 experts on violence prevention, community and social activism, education, the arts, religion and spirituality, psychology and youth. Speakers include author Alice Walker, actor Edward James Olmos, activist Yolanda King, and Chinese human rights campaigner Harry Wu.

Nonviolent Direct Action to Oppose the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test

DATE: mid-June
PLACE: Nevada Test Site
CONTACT: Shundahai Network, 5007 Elmhurst St, Las Vegas, NV 89108, (702) 647-3095, www.macronet.org/macronet/shundahai/
COMMENT: Help stop the first subcritical (sic) nuclear weapons test.

National March to Support the Detroit Newspaper Strikers

DATE: June 20-21
PLACE: Detroit, MI
CONTACT: Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO, (888) 97-motown, info@action97.w1.com
COMMENT: Mass national mobilization to focus attention on anti-union Gannett Corporation, which is spending millions to break the unions.

Micro-Power Radio Conference

DATE: June 20-21
PLACE: Carson, CA
CONTACT: Paul Griffin (510) 848-1455 or Lee Ballinger (310) 398-4477, Paul_W_Griffin@bmgug.org
COMMENT: Free speech advocates gather to get more organized. Speakers' panel, workshops, strategy sessions. Participants: Napoleon Williams (Black Liberation Radio), Stephen Dunifer (Free Radio Berkeley), and others.

People's Summit: The Other Economic Summit

DATE: June 20-22
PLACE: Denver, CO
CONTACT: The Other Economic Summit, 6612 Piney Branch NW, Washington, DC 20012, (212) 972-9877, TOESDC@igc.org
COMMENT: counter conference to the G8 summit; theme: Working Alternatives: A World That Works.

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Kingian Nonviolence & the Struggle for Justice & Peace Workshop

DATE: June 23-25
PLACE: Nyack, NY
CONTACT: Fellowship of Reconciliation, forpti@igc.apc.org

COMMENT: Dorothy Cotton and Richard Deats examine the development of Martin Luther King Jr's philosophy of nonviolence and its application to the ongoing struggle for justice and peace today.

Animal Rights '97 National Convention

DATE: June 26-30
PLACE: Washington, DC
CONTACT: AR97, POB 5888, Bethesda, MD 20824, (888) FARM-USA, farmusa@erols.com
COMMENT: Speakers, workshops, rap sessions, exhibits, music, food.

Weaving the Web for the 21st Century: Piecing It All Together WILPF Regional Congress

DATE: June 26-29
PLACE: Portland, OR
CONTACT: Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, 1213 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19107, (215) 563-7110, wilpfmatl@igc.apc.org
COMMENT: The midwest regional conference is held in Berrea, OH from June 27-29.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Weekend

PLACE: Downtown San Francisco, CA
DATE: June 28-29
CONTACT: Celebration Committee (415) 864-FREE, <http://www.SF-Pride.org>
COMMENT: Annual parade and celebration.

1997 San Francisco Dyke March

DATE: June 28
PLACE: San Francisco, CA
CONTACT: Damn Lesbians Dyke March Planning Committee (415) 241-8882, SFDykeMarch@queernet.org <http://www.lesbian.org/sf-dykemarch/>
COMMENT: Also rally.

37th Annual American Vegan Society Convention

DATE: July 2-6
PLACE: Olympia, WA
CONTACT: (609) 694-2887

Northwest Regional Fellowship of Reconciliation Conference

DATE: July 3-6
PLACE: Seabeck, WA
CONTACT: forpti@igc.apc.org

Protest & Blockade of National Security Agency

DATE: July 4
PLACE: Washington, DC
CONTACT: Jonah House, 1301 Moreland Av., Baltimore, MD 21216, (410) 233-6238
COMMENT: In solidarity with an "Independence from the USA" action at Menwith Hill spy base in England.

Anti-nuclear Direct Action Camp at the Unfinished Temelin Nuclear Power Plant

DATE: July 6-14
PLACE: CZECH REPUBLIC
CONTACT: Prague International Anti-Nuclear Office (PIANO), Chvalova 3, 13000 Praha 3, Czech Republic, tel. 42 2 90031895, piano@ecn.cz

8th Youth Building the Future Conference

DATE: July 7-11
PLACE: MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
CONTACT: Roman Ilguskaas, conference coordinator, tel. 613 9660 4754, www.ip.rmit.edu.au/internet/youth.htm
COMMENT: Theme "Youth Leadership for Global Responsibility."

Association for the Study of Literature & Environment Conference

DATE: July 17-19
PLACE: Missoula, MT
CONTACT: John Talmage, ASLE, 6538 Teakwood Ct, Cincinnati, OH 45224, (513) 681-0944, jtall@interramp.com
COMMENT: Guests include Gary Snyder, Pattian Rogers & Rick Bass.

Civil Resistance Actions For the Seawolf Nuclear Submarine

DATE: July 19
PLACE: Groton, CT
CONTACT: (203) 777-3849
COMMENT: Protest the commissioning of the first Seawolf nuclear submarine at the Electric Boat shipyard.

National Day to Acknowledge the Devastation of Indigenous Peoples by the Nuclear Industry

DATE: July 25
CONTACT: Indigenous Environmental Network, POB. 485, Bemidji, MN 56619, ien@igc.apc.org
COMMENT: Commemorating the anniversaries of French nuclear testing at Bikini Atoll and the nuclear accident at Rio Puerco.

10th Annual Peace Action Congress

DATE: July 25-27
PLACE: Portland, OR
CONTACT: Info: (503) 585-2767
COMMENT: Weekend of networking, skill building, seminars, activist training & celebration of Peace Action's 40th anniversary.

International Workers Meeting: Confronting Neoliberalism & the Global Economy

DATE: August 6-8
PLACE: HAVANA, CUBA
CONTACT: US/Cuba Labor Exchange, (313) 836-3752

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance Faith & Resistance

DATE: August 6-9
PLACE: Washington, DC
CONTACT: Jonah House, 1301 Moreland Av., Baltimore, MD 21216, (410) 233-6238

Annual August Desert Witness

DATE: August 8-10
PLACE: Nevada Test Site
CONTACT: Nevada Desert Experience, POB 4487, Las Vegas, NV 89127, (702) 646-4814, nde@igc.org

Pax Christi USA National Assembly

DATE: August 8-10
PLACE: Washington, DC
CONTACT: Pax Christi USA, 532 West 8th Street Erie, PA 16502, (814) 453-4955, paxchristi@igc.apc.org
COMMENT: "Proclaiming the Peace of Christ: The Pilgrimage Continues." For 25 years, Pax Christi USA has been on a pilgrimage of faith, actively proclaiming and witnessing to the power of nonviolence. Keynote speaker: Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Natural Areas Association Conference

DATE: August 27-30
PLACE: Portland, OR
CONTACT: Kathleen Bergquist, Conference Coordinator, (503) 579-2920, kbconnor@ix.netcom.com
COMMENT: Theme "Bridging Natural & Social Landscapes." Field trips, contributed papers, symposia.

Peace Brigades International/USA Biannual National Gathering

DATE: August 29-31
PLACE: Yellow Springs, OH
CONTACT: PBI/USA, 2642 College Av, Berkeley, CA 94704, (510) 540-0749, pbiousa@igc.apc.org

Union Summer '97

DATE: all summer
PLACE: Nationwide
CONTACT: Union Summer, 815 16th St, NW, Washington, DC 20010, (800) 952-2550, <http://www.unionsum.org>
COMMENT: Internships with the AFL-CIO. Spend a month in the streets and neighborhoods organizing for workplace rights and social justice. Housing and stipend provided. Sites are located nationwide.



FESTIVALS

18th Annual Otsiningo Pow Wow

DATE: June 6-8

PLACE: Otsiningo Park, near Broome Community College, Binghamton, NY

CONTACT: Otsiningo American Indian Program, 28 Zevan Rd, Johnson City, NY 13790, (607) 729-0016

COMMENT: This year honors the Navajo, Indian Craft Fair, Western Navajo Indian Dancers, Allegany River Indian Dancers, lectures, exhibits, food, campfire storytelling, art.

Street Theater Festival

DATE: June 7-8

PLACE: San Francisco, CA

CONTACT: In The Street, (415) 905-5958

(Wise Fool Puppet Intervention)

COMMENT: Free.

Health & Harmony Music & Arts Festival

DATE: June 14-15

PLACE: Santa Rosa, CA

CONTACT: Wishing Well Productions,

(707) 575-9355

COMMENT: Ongoing outdoor music concerts for the whole family, arts and crafts fair, environmental expo, health expo, natural foods, children's activities, community resources, Internet pavilion, hemp market.

International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

DATE: June 20-29

PLACE: San Francisco, CA

CONTACT: Frameline (415) 703-8658

Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival

DATE: June 21-22

PLACE: Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY

CONTACT: Clearwater Revival, 112 Market St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

COMMENT: 7 stages of folk, blues, gospel, Irish, Cajun, world, swing, children's theater, crafts, storytelling, ethnic foods.

17th Annual Old Songs Festival

DATE: June 27-29

PLACE: Altamont Fairgrounds, Altamont, NY

CONTACT: Old Songs, Inc., POB 399, Guilderland, NY 12084, (518) 765-2815, <http://www.crisny.org/not-for-profit/oldsongs>

COMMENT: Traditional music & dance, children's activities, crafts, feature Cajun, harp, banjo, fiddling, contra dances, flamenco music.

15th Annual Winterhawk Bluegrass Festival

DATE: July 17-20

PLACE: south of Hillsdale, NY

CONTACT: Winterhawk, POB 161, Tremont City, OH 45372, (888) 946-8495, <http://www.interport.net/~wnthawk>

COMMENT: All kinds of performances, workshops, contests, dancing, camping.

7th Annual Traditional Irish Music Festival

DATE: July 19

PLACE: East Durham, NY

CONTACT: Irish Cultural Center, Box 320, Tre 145, East Durham, NY 12423, (800) 434-3378

COMMENT: Noon-10pm, three stages.

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

DATE: August 12-17

PLACE: near Hunt, MI

CONTACT: WWTMC, Box 22, Valhalla, MI 49458, (616) 757-4766

Elderflower Womenspirit Festival

DATE: August 14-17

PLACE: Mendocino Woodlands, CA

CONTACT: Elderflower, POB 460790, San Francisco, CA 94146, (415) 253-5719,

elderflower@sfbayguardian.com

COMMENT: Campfires, plant walks, arts, crafts, open air market, rituals.



SCHOOLS

Green Woodworking & Blacksmithing

DATE: June 3-8

PLACE: Orleans, CA

CONTACT: Sandy Bar Ranch,

sandybar@earthlink.net

COMMENT: Intensive workshop teaches how to use everyday materials to build ecological equipment and structures. Cost: \$450 per person, which includes lodging and three meals per day. Partial scholarships available.

The Goddess: A Sacred Tradition From the Dawn of Time

DATE: June 6-8

PLACE: Washington, DC

CONTACT: The Smithsonian Associates, (202) 357-3030 ext. 0564, <http://www.booktrends.com/goddess.htm>

Feeling our Fire, Healing our World: A Ritual Celebrating Women's Power

DATE: June 8

PLACE: Washington, DC

CONTACT: (301) 320-9361,

<http://www.booktrends.com/goddess.htm>

Socialist Summer School '97

DATE: June 19-22

PLACE: Chicago, IL

CONTACT: Socialist Summer School c/o ISO, Box 16085, Chicago, IL 60616, (773) 665-7337

COMMENT: More than 70 talks & discussions, join Robert Meseropol, son of the Rosenbergs; Constancio Pinto of East Timor; & Norman Solomon of FAIR.

United for Change Youth Training

DATE: June 25-July 3

PLACE: Seattle, WA

CONTACT: Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271,

Nyack, NY 10960, (914) 358-4601,

forpti@igc.apc.org

COMMENT: Opportunity for young activists to develop nonviolence, leadership and organizing skills. Part of FOR's Peacemaker Training Institute.

Open Hand Theater Circus Camp

DATE: June 30-July 12, July 14-26

PLACE: Grimshaw School, LaFayette, NY; HW

Smith School, Syracuse, NY

CONTACT: Open Hand Theater, (315) 476-0466

COMMENT: For children 8-14; comedy & mime, music & sound effects, movement & dance, magic & juggling, mask making.

Vegetarian Summerfest

DATE: July 9-13

PLACE: Johnstown, PA

CONTACT: North American Vegetarian Society,

POB 72, Dolgeville, NY 13329, (518) 568-7970

COMMENT: Learn from the experts in the fields of health, nutrition, exercise, animal rights & the environment.

Applied Deep Ecology "Action for Earth" Residential Trainings

DATE: July 12-20, August 8-16

PLACE: Whidbey Island, WA & Wilton, NH

CONTACT: Institute for Deep Ecology, POB 1050, Occidental, CA 95465, (707) 874-2347, ide@igc.org

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Deep Ecology Workshop

DATE: July 14-18
PLACE: Telluride, CO
CONTACT: Greg Cumberford, Way of the Mountain, POB 280, Norwood, CO 81423, (888) 609-2414, wom@frontier.net
COMMENT: Wilderness philosophy & experiential ecology workshop, presenters include Dolores LaChapelle & George Sessions. Cost \$450, includes all meals.

Permaculture Design

DATE: July 14-25
CONTACT: International Institute for Ecological Design (415) 365-2993, dblume@igc.apc.org
COMMENT: A two-week residential course on a 1000-acre ranch, taught by permaculture originator Bill Mollison and alternative builder and designer Scott Pittman.

Peace Camp For Children

DATE: August 8-10
PLACE: Washington, DC
CONTACT: Pax Christi USA, 532 West 8th St, Erie, PA 16502, (814) 453-4955, paxchristi@igc.apc.org
COMMENT: Ongoing with Pax Christi Assembly, Mary Joan and Jerry Park, founders of Little Friends for Peace and popular educators in children's peacemaking, will be facilitating for children 4-11 years old. Theme "Children Creating A Circle of Peace."

YouthPeace Organizer's Training Program

DATE: August 10-16
PLACE: Voluntown, CT
CONTACT: War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette St, New York, NY 10012, (212) 228-0450, wrl@igc.apc.org
COMMENT: For ages 13-18, promotes nonviolence, justice & an end to the militarization of youth.

Skills For Change

DATE: August 16-24
PLACE: Washington, DC
CONTACT: Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960, (914) 358-4601, forpti@igc.apc.org
COMMENT: For ages 17-25; focuses on multiculturalism, racial & social justice, & strategies for creating positive social change. Part of FOR's Peacemaker Training Institute.

Omega Institute Workshops

DATE: all summer
PLACE: Rhinebeck, NY
CONTACT: Omega Institute, 260 Lake Dr, Rhinebeck, NY 12572, (800) 944-1001
COMMENT: Over 250 workshops, trainings, retreats in personal health & development; gender, relationships & family; the arts; sports; nature & society; & spiritual understanding.

Herbal Medicine & Wise Woman Workshops

DATE: all summer
PLACE: Woodstock, NY
CONTACT: Susan Weed, POB 64, Woodstock, NY 12498, (914) 246-8081
COMMENT: Write for listing; examples: Weed Wise apprenticeships, Sacred Medicines, Green Witch Intensive, Moonlodge.

Learning Alliance Summer Programs

DATE: all summer
PLACE: New York, NY
CONTACT: Learning Alliance, 324 Lafayette St, 7th Fl, New York NY 10012, (212) 226-7171
COMMENT: Many classes & workshops including Black liberation, biotechnology, project censored, freeing the local media, compassionate action, fundraising, activist organizing.



TOURS

Labor & Religion Delegation to Guatemala

DATE: June 11-22
PLACE: GUATEMALA
CONTACT: Maureen Casey, 327 Tenth St, Troy, NY 12180, (518) 272-8275, caseym@sage.edu
COMMENT: Sponsored by Witness for Peace and NYS Religion & Labor Coalition. Dialogue with representatives of diverse sectors of Guatemalan society, including human rights and indigenous groups and faith-based communities.

Mexico Human Rights Delegation Reality Tour

DATE: June 15-22
PLACE: MEXICO
CONTACT: Learning Alliance, (212) 226-7171
COMMENT: Learn about the Zapatista uprising & peace talks; talk to indigenous groups & women leaders.

Israel-Palestine: Beyond Conflict Reality Tour

DATE: June 16-28
PLACE: WEST BANK, RAMALLAH, JERICHO, HEBRON
CONTACT: Learning Alliance, (212) 226-7171
COMMENT: Engage in dialogues with members of Palestinian & Israeli peace, democracy & human rights organizations; visit villages & refugee camps.

Venceremos Brigade

DATE: late July-early August
PLACE: CUBA
CONTACT: National Venceremos Brigade, (510) 236-9347
COMMENT: Join international work brigades to build solidarity with the Cuban people.



White Supremacist Violence on the Rise

For several months in 1996, a gang of skinheads harassed the residents of a Boston suburb. In October their obnoxious behavior turned deadly. A half-dozen members of the group showed up uninvited at a party. They mingled with the guests for several hours, but were asked to leave after they began drawing swastikas on their hands. They promised to return and did, with reinforcements. According to police and media reports, over a dozen members of the group invaded the party, wielding knives, chains and pipes. The Skinheads directed most of their rage at 22 year-old Jayson Linsky, who had originally asked them to leave the party. Linsky died after being beaten and stabbed. John Tague was charged with murder, and ten others were also indicted on charges related to the attack.

Researchers at Klanwatch have documented 51 crimes attributed to skinheads in 1996, up from 29 in 1995. Thirty-seven active skinhead groups were identified in 1996, up from 30 in 1995. To be included on the list of active hate groups, a skinhead group must have a name, an organizational structure, and adhere to white supremacist philosophy. For several years, criminologists have been predicting an increase in bias crime among young people in the US. They blame it on violent entertainment, racial conflict in the schools, the availability of hate-oriented material on the Internet, and poor job prospects for young people. The upsurge of skinhead activity, as well as the appearance of other racially oriented gangs, are the most visible example of this phenomenon.

Source: *Southern Poverty Law Center Report*, March 1997, Volume 27, Number 1.

Queer Youth Anthology

Papers, essays, poetry, fiction, artwork, commentaries, reflections, editorials, prose, photography, screen plays, speeches, and all other forms of expression are being accepted for an anthology by and for queer youth—be they gay, lesbian, bi, transgendered, intersexual, and so on. Age is not restricted, however submissions by those under 25 are most strongly encouraged. The anthology is part of an Honors Program thesis at Syracuse University, and may be published.

Deadline: Sept. 1, 1997. Please include your name, age and return address. **Send to:** Amy Sonnie, 846 Sumner Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13210, or call (215) 579-2795 (through August); email: alsonnie@mailbox.syr.edu

Police Raids/Help Needed

Black Liberation Radio in Decatur, Illinois has been raided by state and local authorities in January and April of this year. Black Liberation Radio is a small, unlicensed FM station that has been exposing police brutality and official misconduct. It played an important role in building ties between the African American poor of central Illinois and the largely white work force at the local Caterpillar Tractor plant during the bitter strike there in the early 90s. They need our donations and support. Contact: Black Liberation Radio, 629 E. Center Street, Decatur, IL 62526; (217) 423-9997.

Source: *Z Magazine*, May, 1997.



Girls at Risk

Researchers such as Carol Gilligan have shown that between the ages of nine and 14 girls often lose self-confidence and self-worth. They perform less well at school, are less physically active, and lose interest in extracurricular activities. Girls are at greater risk for suicide than boys and have an alarmingly high incidence of eating disorders.

At the onset of puberty, girls receive very different messages than boys do about their strengths and skills. Athletic prowess is often affirmed in young girls but may be discouraged when their bodies begin to show signs of maturity. Girls who perform well in class tend to receive less attention than boys, especially when they reach the ages of 13 and 14. Girls in their early teens are often encouraged to emphasize their personalities, social skills, looks and ability to please others than on developing their own interests and aspirations. Even though girls share many social-environmental risk factors with boys, girls experience another layer of reasons for risky behaviors connected with poor self-image and esteem.

Girl Power is a national campaign sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services to provide positive messages, accurate health information, and support for girls. To participate in the campaign or receive materials call the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at (1-800) 487-4889, or visit their Web Site at: <http://www.health.org>.

Source: *Off Our Backs*, Vol. 27, number 5, May, 1997.

A Day Without the Pentagon

The War Resisters League has issued a call to action to join in making **October 24, 1997** A Day Without the Pentagon. On that day decentralized nonviolent direct action and education will be focused on local symbols of the military, whether a military base, a recruiting center, an arms manufacturer, or a federal building, with the intention of converting it to a facility that can help people rather than harm them. Or, they will simply be shut down. A year later, on **October 19, 1998** there will be a gathering at the national center of the military, the Pentagon. On that day nonviolent actions seek to halt business as usual. For information contact the War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012; (212) 228-0450, fax: 228-6193, email: wrl@lgc.apc.org

Two Local Events

CNY Premiere of *Stonewall*

The Stonewall Committee presents *Stonewall* on **Saturday June 28 at 8PM**. This feature film by Nigel Finch chronicles the 1969 riots at the Stonewall Inn. The showing is at Carrier Theater, in the Civic Center in downtown Syracuse.

Join us for *Stonewall* if you can't make it to New York City for the Gay Pride Rally, or if you just want to spend an enjoyable evening watching a romantic comedy. *Stonewall* reflects the dreams and frustrations of the 60s features a soundtrack with the hit sounds of the Shangri-las, the Shirelles, Judy Garland, Patti LaBelle and the Butterflies. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Tickets are available starting June 1 at **My Sisters' Words**, 304 North McBride Street, Syracuse, and **Hairanota**, 906 Park Avenue, Syracuse.

— *Bonnie Strunk*

June Socialist Forum

The June 8 Socialist Forum will focus on the topic, "Left Electoral Alliances: Greens, Socialists, Labor, Others?" The panel discussion, beginning at 3 PM at the Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave. in Syracuse, will explore current political activity on the left and the possibility of alliances between various groups involved in electoral politics. The panel will be led by Howie Hawkins.

The forum is free and open to the public.

— *Carl Mellor*

twenty-second of april nineteen ninety-seven, lima, peru

elana levy

during the attica rebellion¹
the killings of hostages and prisoners occurred too, after the state used
its military men and might
regained state control of the prison yard.
dozens killed,
not by those labelled criminals.
their order was restored.

when is killing criminal?
when is it not?

seventeenth of december last year,
hundreds feasting to celebrate the emperor of japan
taken hostage,
the tupac amaru rebels released women, sick, elderly, men not as
powerful
honed down to seventy-some men who had had a say
in how it was
unbearable for the many.
fourteen armed rebels
four months
zero deaths

young women and men black and red bandana over their face
demanding their comrades be released from the coffins² holding them
demanding four hundred freed
compromising to a hundred some
in the last days hearing
the tunnels grow holding on to
good faith of the watching world
— knew better of fujimori —
thought hoped negotiations
could
possibly
be
for real
compromised down to twenty
for the sake of

when is killing criminal?
when is it not?

fujimori kept the guarantors²
talking
the tunnel furrowing
despite two dead workers
communicating to the trusted from the beginning
only one possible end —
by shooting.

when the man dressed in white shoots
the man all in black dead
at the end of the movie,
you're expected to applaud.
when the man who looks like you and
talks like you,
shoots dead the one who looks different and
talks funny during the battle,
it's called a victory.
when the man called the president calls the shots
during his divorce proceeding⁴
(reminiscent of reports by victims of their torturers taking a break to
call home and chat about dinner plans, then return to the task at hand)
bombs the residence
kills seventeen,
congratulations are sent by the world's democracies.

fujimori
lied to the government of japan
lied to the families of the dead
ended any semblance of democracy
created a self-coup so he'd have even more control
and less dissent to listen to
more hungry
military trials with
no rights
opposition dead or tortured and jailed
it's no secret
the SIE⁵ abuses were the news
until
the seventeen congratulated deaths
take no prisoners
no matter they raise their arms in surrender
seen alive hands tied in back.
dismembered beheaded
the emperor gloats one leg on the headless corpse.

when is killing criminal?
when is it not?

MRTA cont'd on next page

Last December 17, fourteen members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) took over the residence of the Japanese ambassador to Peru during a reception, taking the hundreds of guests hostage. The guests were high Peruvian government officials and important diplomats with their families. In exchange for these captives the Tupac Amaru guerillas demanded that 400 political prisoners associated with their movement be freed, and that conditions for all political prisoners in Peru be improved.

Within a couple of weeks the guerillas released most of the hostages, holding 72 men with key positions in the Peruvian government and economy. Negotiations between Peruvian president Fujimori and the MRTA guerillas were mediated by a commission of guarantors.

On April 22 Fujimori ordered a well-planned attack via tunnels under the residence constructed by over 100 Peruvian military commandos during the negotiations. All 14 MRTA rebels, a Peruvian supreme court justice who had been a hostage, and two members of the commando unit were killed.

the takeover was a success.
previously not a hostage killed,
not even glory mitigated?
a success for whom?

"neither the movement nor the Peruvian people have gained anything
from this."⁶

comrades still entombed
peruvians still under-ed

fed schooled jobbed

infidencia-ed? into silence
previous victims modelling what's ahead

The president "had declared that MRTA was dead years ago.
He will do that now again."⁷

"Sure, this is a serious defeat for the MRTA....But it is
not over yet.

We lost the battle,
but the struggle continues."⁸

Footnotes

1. Attica Prison Rebellion, September 13, 1971. 43 killed when NY State troopers attacked.
2. Prison conditions in Peru have been cited as abusive by many international human rights organizations. For example, Victor Polay Campos, Tupac Amaru founder, is imprisoned in a dark concrete box 6.5 feet by 6.5 feet. (See April 1997 PNL.)
3. The Commission of Guarantors mediated negotiations between the rebels and the Fujimori government during the months the rebels held hostages in the Japanese ambassador's residence.
4. Fujimori gave the signal for the attack to begin while in court for divorce proceedings.
5. SIE is the Peruvian army intelligence (forgive the oxymoron) service of Peru who tortured two of their agents for giving information on the hostage crisis.
6. Norma Velazco, the European Spokeswoman for the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), April 24, 1997 interview.
7. *Infidencia* means "untrustworthiness" and is the charge the tortured SIE agent is facing. Ex-hostages were ordered not to talk to press under threat of being charged with *infidencia*.
8. Norma Velazco, *ibid*.

sources: Weekly NewsUpdate on the Americas #378; *NY Times*.
elana is a member of the PNL editorial collective.



Denny's Clash

Yes, In Our Town

Nancy Rhodes

ON APRIL 11, seven Syracuse University students were assaulted in Denny's parking lot on Erie Blvd. East. Three were chapter officers of A.S.I.A. (Asian Students in America). The Filipino American male, Chinese American female, Japanese American female, three international Japanese, and their white male companion had been asked to leave Denny's after they complained that white customers were seated before them.

New York City-based AALDEF (Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund) now represents the seven. On May 14, AALDEF said that once outside the restaurant a Denny's security guard had pushed a student. Suddenly, about 20 white patrons rushed out to attack the students. They beat two students unconscious. AALDEF charges that Denny's security guards (off-duty sheriff's deputies) ignored bystanders' repeated pleas to intervene. Two black students did help, ending a beating which included one young woman being kicked in the head.

At least two students said DeWitt and Syracuse police arrived during the fray, failing to stop it or detain white attackers. Students

also said police denied their request to file a police misconduct complaint and refused students breathalyzer tests after accusing them of being drunk.

Word of the attack raced by e-mail through SU and beyond. Queries and offers of help still arrive from across the US, and updates are available, thanks to Asian Buying Consortium's Jimmy Chow, at <http://www.abcfash.com>.

On Monday, April 14, eight SU student groups rallied in Schine Student Center and called for a picket of Denny's later that week. Somewhat mysteriously, that action was cancelled. And, despite strong early editorial comment, local media coverage abruptly halted. (Out-of-towners even asked if the incident were an Internet hoax.)

Denny's franchise owner Charles Davis apologized and met with the students. As part of the \$46 million settlement when a Denny's refused service to black Secret Service agents, the US Dept. of Justice investigates every Denny's charged with discrimination. But that may mask significant home-grown issues. The well-travelled Erie Blvd. East strip separates the city's east and north sides—the latter a site of recent Asian refugee resettlement. Identifying the attackers would clarify whether the parking lot clash was a spill-over of north-side ethnic tensions crossing paths with Asian students.

Racist Attack on the Boulevard

Denny's notoriety may overshadow police conduct too. The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium's 1994 *Audit of Violence* found that police themselves commit 50% of reported racial incidents against Asians in New York State. AALDEF attorney Elizabeth OuYang, working on the Denny's case, knows this. Writing in *Policing by Consent* (8/95), she noted "numerous cases of false arrest, failure of police to record and/or listen to the Asian victim's account..., mistaken identity..., and disparate treatment" by police.

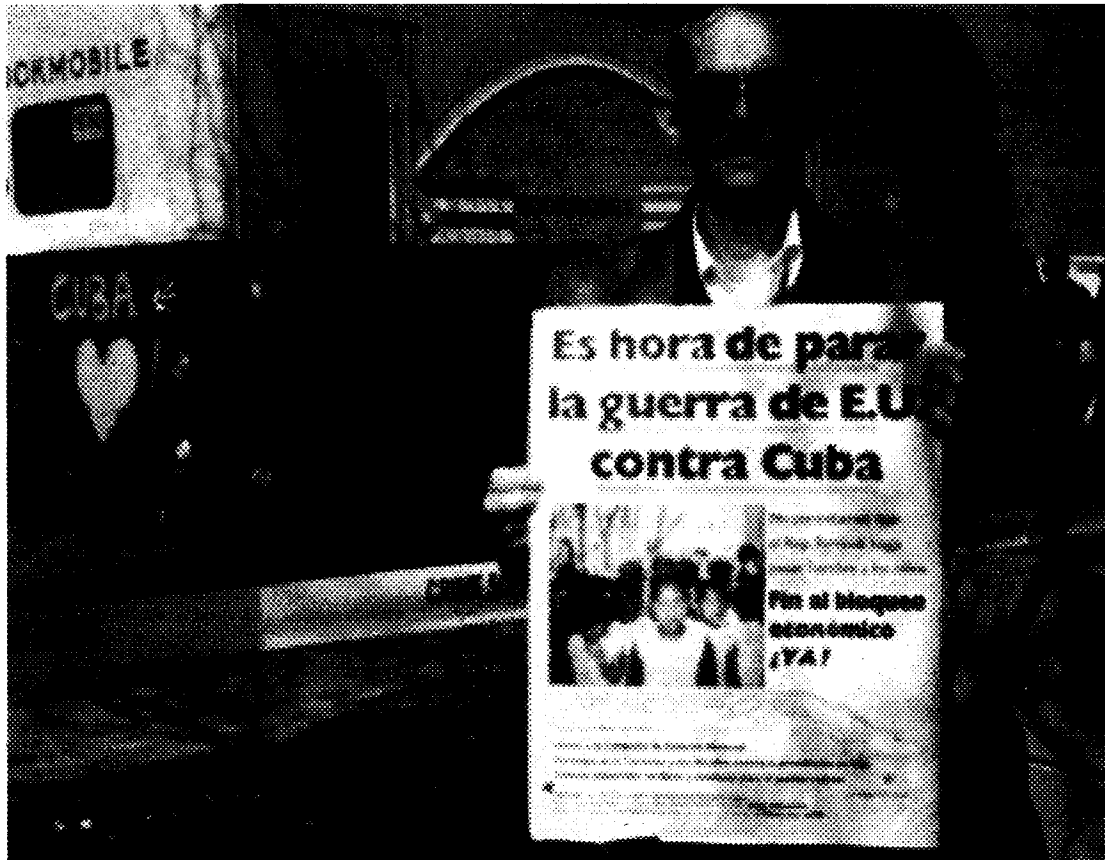
Despite coverage in the student paper, *The Daily Orange*, SU officials were silent until May 19. Then, in SU's weekly, *The Record*, Chancellor Kenneth Shaw explained that SU was too busy ministering to the "five" students and brokering meetings among various parties to "pause" for public outrage until "encouraged" by others to do so.

AALDEF requests calls to District Attorney William Fitzpatrick (435-2470) to urge active investigation of this case, and to Acting Assistant Attorney General Isabelle Pinzler, Civil Rights Division, (202/514-6715) and the DOJ's Civil Rights Monitor, Sharon Leibeck

Hartman (213/965-5618), for vigorous federal action.

Nancy is a contributing editor of the PNL.





"The implications are mind-boggling—a precedent has been set for taking massive amounts of aid to Cuba without license and with full knowledge of the US Treasury. This literally means that we can open the humanitarian aid to Cuba without license...."
 — Pastors for Peace director Lucius Walker after crossing the bridge to Canada on May 14.

"It's time to stop the war of the United States against Cuba." On May 14 this activist joined hundreds of others protesting the US policy toward Cuba, as the Pastors for Peace Caravan for the Children of Cuba crossed the US-Canada border.

Photo by Doug Igelsrud.

Caribbean/Latin America Coalition* Update

*** Name Change:** At our May 14 meeting CACC (Caribbean/Central America Coalition), became CLAC. This change reflects our growing concern with areas beyond Central America—e.g. Mexico, Colombia and Peru. Not to mention the School of the Americas whose mischievous graduates deform the politics of the entire region.

Cuba: On May 9, the Abolish the Blockade of Cuba (ABC) Committee hosted six Pastors for Peace caravanistas at a potluck at South Presbyterian Church. The six were on their way to the May 14 crossing at the US/Canada border. Six Central New Yorkers also participated in the uncontested crossing. Pastors for Peace material aid now en route to Cuba includes tons of crutches, wheelchairs, eyeglasses, antibiotics, pain relievers, school supplies, and computers.

Peru: We were shocked to hear of the slaughter of the Tupac Amaru Front members during the Peruvian government's assault on the Japanese Embassy in Lima in April. Reportedly some Tupac Amaru Front members were executed even while trying to surrender. The guerillas' bodies were whisked away and buried by the government, giving their families no opportunity to verify how they were killed, nor to hold funerals for them, or otherwise participate in traditional mourning. The only hostage killed in the assault was a Peruvian Supreme Court Justice said to be a critic of Fujimori's human rights record. As of May 14 the miners who dug the tunnels under the embassy compound were still sequestered in a secret location. Despite US government claims that it wasn't involved, nine members of the assault force were trained at the School of the Americas.

Haiti: Although Luckner Morange's immigration appeal was recently turned down, he'll continue to pursue the right to remain in the US. He's paying for his own lawyer to pursue further appeals. Widens Norcillus may likewise be affected eventually.

Bill Clinton recently met with Central American leaders and loosened up some of the restrictiveness of last year's immigration law changes; however there has been no softening of the hard stance against Haitian "economic" refugees.

Chiapas, Mexico: Doctors for Global Health were invited to Chiapas to investigate the political and health situation there. Questions continue to be raised about officers who trained at the SOA and who may be involved in Mexico's brutal counter-insurgency campaign.

— Paul Weichselbaum

Our Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 11 from 6-7:30PM, a working potluck at Plymouth Congregational Church, 232 E. Onondaga St. in downtown Syracuse.

ADL

Activist Support

The Animal Defense League (ADL), amid a flurry of court dates and legal proceedings, has been supporting jailed animal liberation activists across the country.

Early in April, five Syracuse ADL activists traveled to Indianapolis to join in protest of the jailing of 16 year-old Tony Wong. Tony was being held at the Indiana "Boys School" (a.k.a. *prison*) for an indefinite sentence on charges relating to nonviolent civil resistance at anti-fur demonstrations. Tony immediately began a hunger strike to protest against an INjustice system that jails compassionate activists while animals are murdered for the skin off their backs. Eventually, Tony was illegally force-fed via plastic tubes inserted through his nasal passages while he was physically restrained.

Over 100 activists from across the US gathered at Tony's prison and marched through police barricades to the gates of the prison despite warnings and promises of arrest. Out-numbered and morally defeated, the police stood by and the protest continued and ended without arrests. Tony was eventually released on April 25.

Two weeks later on April 26, three Syracuse ADL activists joined in a World Lab Day protest at Yerkes Primate "Research" (a.k.a. *torture*) Center at Emory University in Atlanta. What ensued was the largest arrest-count to date for animal liberation nonviolent civil resistance in the 90s. The 150 protestors from around the country were met with violent opposition from the riot-clad police who fired tear gas and flash grenades into the peaceful march. Helicopters hovered above, dropping tear gas canisters into the crowd. Sixty-five arrests were made at Yerkes, including all three from Syracuse. Some juveniles were released while remaining protestors were held as long as four days. Those not released held hunger and thirst strikes inside the Dekalb County jail.

Back in Syracuse, the ADL continues to support ADL member Jeff Watkins, currently being held in the Onondaga County Correctional Facility in Jamesville. Letters of support can be written directly to: Jeff Watkins, PO Box 143, Jamesville, NY 13078.

The ADL will host a national Animal Liberation Conference in Syracuse, in July. For further info contact: John Reith 458-9451 or ADL 479-9105. — Joel Capalango

S.O.S.

SUPPORT ONONDAGA SOVEREIGNTY

There is much to celebrate and much to agonize over this spring:

- On May 4 the Haudenosaunee had cause to celebrate: sacred wampum was returned to Onondaga by the National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History. Wampum is made of beads drilled from the quohog shell and is sacred to the Iroquois. Various belts and strings of wampum taken from the Iroquois have been returned only after a generations-long struggle by the Haudenosaunee. These wampum will play an active role in traditions still practiced today.
- On May 15 the dedication of a major new addition to the Onondaga Nation School took place. The Nation School is a place for elementary students to learn about the world around them and how to succeed in it. It is also a place to recognize their unique history and reinforce their native culture. The impressive architecture of the new addition uses symbols from their culture and ethereal spaces to enhance the learning environment and the connection to their spiritual heritage.
- In Federal court, US District Judge Rosemary Pooler refused to hear a challenge to the leadership of Oneida representative Ray Halbritter. As an extension of the federal government, she could have undone misguided policies that have empowered Halbritter to take total control over the Oneida Nation. The Grand Council of the Haudenosaunee had originally placed Halbritter in office to facilitate the reinstatement of a traditional government. This government would rely on Clan Mothers and the Grand Council of Chiefs to appoint and remove chiefs from power.

Halbritter took advantage of his temporary appointment to build an empire that has been recognized by both New York State and the US Federal government. He has firm control over the Oneida people and the millions of dollars of federal aid they receive. He also controls operation of the Turning Stone Casino with its millions of dollars lost by NYS gamblers. He is parlaying his success by using his power and money for influence while denying benefits to those Oneidas that challenge him. He has ignored his formal

removal from power by the Grand Council as well as his Clan Mother. Pooler's court could have been the place to finally recognize these injustices and make a significant difference.

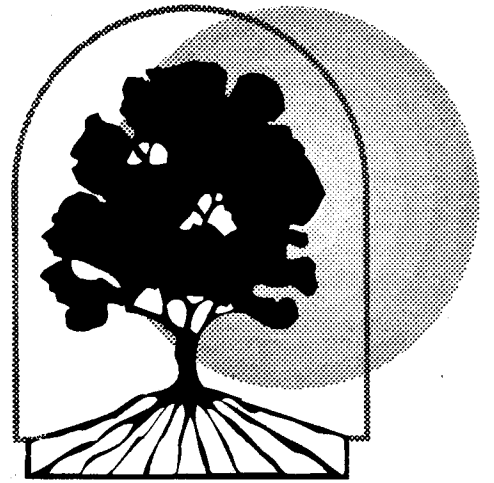
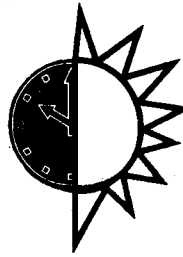
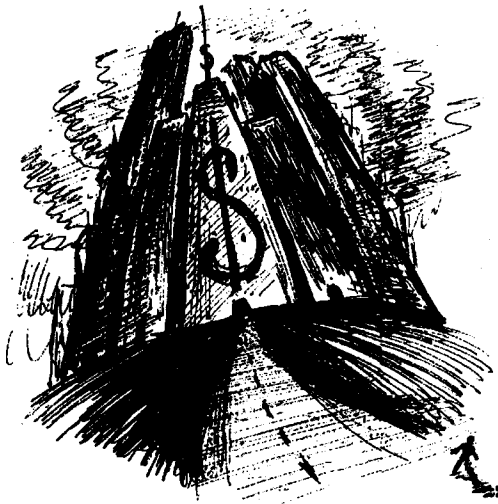
- In the Tuscarora territory near Niagara Falls, Chief Leo Henry has been struggling against the contamination of the environment and for workers' rights, and was part of the taxation settlement delegation. On April 24, someone threw a firebomb into his living room, destroying most of his possessions and family heirlooms. People on the Onondaga Nation are raising funds to help rebuild his home. Contributions may be sent to: The Leo Henry Benefit, c/o Onondaga Nation, Box 319B Hemlock Road, Nedrow, NY 13120.
- The dispute over taxation of gasoline and cigarettes has been widely and inaccurately reported by much of the mainstream media. They often neglect to differentiate between the traditional communities and the agitators who resort to confrontations with NYS.

This is a complicated issue with much at stake. In light of the federal Government's inconsistent handling of native leadership issues, it is noteworthy that Haudenosaunee leaders have reinforced their sovereign status. They negotiated a temporary agreement that would exclude New York from imposing taxes on native territory, recognizing control of commerce by the Iroquois Governments themselves. The opposition to these negotiations stems from a group of native business owners who have gotten rich in the past by exploiting the price imbalances that existed before this agreement. They are supported by the militant Warrior factions that can be seen burning fires and flying the Warrior flag.

— Paul Pearce

[Editors note: There are still disturbing questions left unanswered regarding the conduct of the NY State Troopers in the 5118 conflict on the Onondaga Nation. Unfortunately, there was neither time nor space to adequately explore these issues in this PNL. Since the above was written, NYS Gov. Pataki has dropped the agreement, further complicating matters. Although the agreement was temporarily blocked by court order, Pataki's motive for backing-out is still unclear. The continued US policy of pitting Indian against Indian to destabilize native land claims and sovereignty, however, is obvious. The PNL plans significant coverage of this topic in July.]

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Landmark Anthology Has Local Roots

Spirit and Flame: An Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry

Review by Howard Gordon

edited by Keith Gilyard
Syracuse University Press (1997)
304 pp. ISBN#0-8156-2731-9, (paper)
304pp. \$25

IN APRIL I had the pleasure to attend a wonderful Paul Robeson Performing Arts Center Company program, a Community Celebration of *Spirit and Flame*, honoring the national publication of *Spirit and Flame: An Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry*. This event included mesmerizing readings by the anthology's editor, Keith Gilyard, and by one of the volume's featured poets, Jackie Warren-Moore. Dr. Gilyard, who directs Syracuse University's Writing Program, read from his own work and from several of the 55 African American poets whose work he has assembled in this impressive new text. Hearing his interpretation of Nikkey Finney's "Fishing Among the Learned," watching the shy smile cross his lips as he began—"On the banks of her butterfly pond/Grandmother would stand/as fluid as a waterfall/teaching with a Five and Dime pole in her hand"—I saw Gilyard's pride, even glee, at having collected these two hundred poems.

Just as pleasurable that evening was Ms. Warren-Moore's reading of her own poems, which when heard live are like small gift-wrapped packages skillfully unveiled to draw the listener into the music and drama of her gracefully constructed yet haunting scenes:

*I learned of your death over spiced tea
with my breath blowing against
the thin membrane of the academic circle
the one constantly turning in on itself.*

One need not, however, attend a reading to enjoy and appreciate the work of these dynamic writers. Gilyard's book somehow manages to capture the magic and power of verse among a group of writers with wide ranging styles and voices. Indeed, so impressive is *Spirit and Flame* that the book is certain to become a favorite on bookshelves and coffee tables, as it rightfully takes its place among the rich tradition of African American literature.

In his introduction to *Spirit and Flame*, Gilyard announces his goal of outlining "the African American poetic conversation of the

1990's." As important, his task was to pick up the poetic dialogue of past generations and reveal both the connections and departures made by these fresh, new voices. To accomplish this feat, familiar names proliferate *Spirit and Flame*. Here, one finds 1993 United States Poet Laureate Rita Dove, Amiri Baraka, Ishmael Reed, Sonia Sanchez, and others. Award-winning artists abound, as do poets made famous by their work in other genres.

Shayk Saliaman El-Hadi, for example, checks in. El-Hadi was a member of The Last Poets, whose internationally known mix of poetry, rap, and congas exploded from black radio stations and juke boxes in the late Sixties and Seventies with "message" pieces like "When the Revolution Comes" and "Niggers R Scared of Revolution." Sadly, El-Hadi died in 1995, shortly after submitting his entries to Gilyard. These poets, pioneers in many respects, deserve to be read. Gilyard dedicates the book to El-Hadi.

Gilyard is equally adept at presenting lesser known talent like Ruth Forman, who commands attention as her "This Poem" leaps off the page. This particular poem, the narrator announces, "gonna be so slammin/dogs start barkin at nobody passin by/n everybody on Wall Street stop what they doin n say/damn." Forman's unique "Waitin on Summer" evokes a past familiar to many of us:

Daddy

*is hot butter corn bread in the winter
n a big size 44 belt
chasin me around the kitchen table*

Daddy

*is thunder with the brothers
light rain with the sisters
n lighting with me n Richie
if we dance on the living room floor*

gale jackson's "Fugitive Slaves..." forces attention to a past some would rather forget, the plight of enslaved Africans on the run throughout the Americas. jackson's narrator calls up images of slavery in a ghostly voice that is unforgettable: "I live in chains/I eat chains/I eat chains/iron/fingers/blood/Zabeth is not my name."

Gilyard's own poems are lucid, melodic gems. This stanza is from "Portrait of a Moment":

*I sip of the joy
in your eyes
and they capture me:
your eyes, like the sun,
already as constant and good
as they must be
and just as the sun
please eyes like the sun
rise always*

Reading these poems and the many other wonderful pieces reminds one of *Spirit and Flame's* true importance. It is the first major anthology in 20 years to chronicle the poetry of contemporary African American writers. It is critical that this text has found publication after so long a dry spell. It is historic that the editor who conceived this project is a prominent member of this community. I applaud the obvious love and care that went into Dr. Gilyard's *Spirit and Flame: An Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry*. This outstanding collection of the best writers in the country should not be missed.

Howard's collection of stories, *The African in Me*, was published by George Braziller in 1992. His "After Dreaming of President Johnson" was included in *Children of the Night: The Best Short Stories by Black Writers* (Little, Brown, 1995). He lives in Syracuse.

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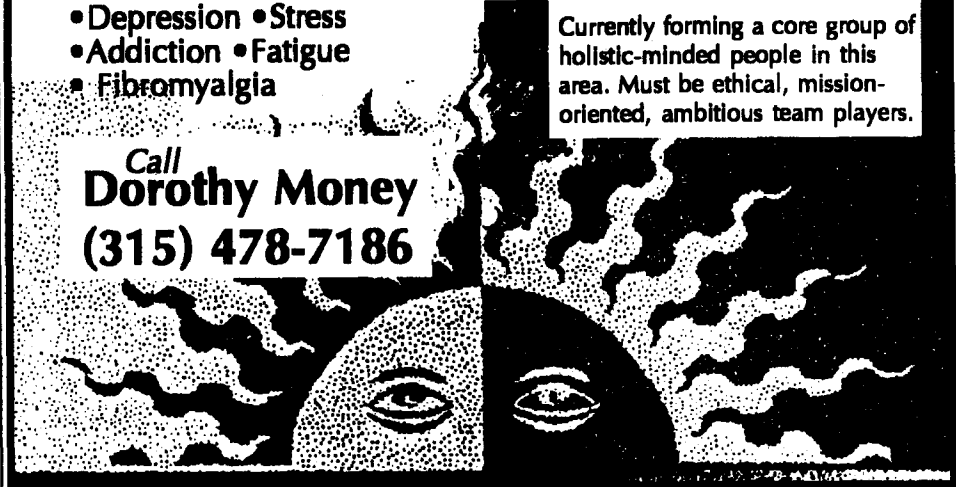
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<p>1 Women's Brunch at Berkana, 203 S. Beech St. Bring a dish to pass. Noon-2pm. 428-8724.</p> <p>Beyond Boundaries Multicultural Silent Art Auction, Community Folk Art Gallery, 2223 E. Genesee St. 3-5pm. Raises funds for work with Lakotas at Pine Ridge, South Dakota.</p>	<p>2 People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.</p>	<p>3 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p> <p>Peace Action program. "DANGER/Opportunity: Nuclear Weapons At The Crossroads" with Brian Costner. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7-9pm. Potluck at 8pm. 478-7442.</p>	<p>4 EVERY WEDNESDAY: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478.</p> <p>1st THREE WEDNESDAYS: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. Call SPC for time & place. 472-5478.</p>	<p>5 Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 5:30pm. 476-6226.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, across from Southwest Community Center, 401 South Av. 7pm. 476-7475.</p>	<p>6 June 6-8: 18th Annual Otsiningo Pow Wow, a celebration of American Indian art, crafts, dancing, food, music & storytelling. Otsiningo Park, near Broome Community College, Binghamton. (607) 729-0016. Fr. 6-9pm; Sat. 10-10pm; Sun. 10-6pm.</p>	<p>7 4th Annual Rainbow Front. Le Moyne Manor, Liverpool. \$25 w/ out dinner. \$35 includes dinner. Music, dance, desserts. Chorus Line, 476-4329.</p>														
<p>8 Otsiningo Pow Wow. see see 6/6 for info.</p> <p>Socialist Forum "Left Electoral Alliances: Greens, Socialists, Labor, Others?" At Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 3pm. Dave, 475-2395.</p> <p>Fightback! Annual Potluck Picnic. Graduates & friends invited. 3:30pm. Call 422-0555 for place.</p> <p>Poetry Explosion! "Words Spoken Here." Featured poet Gary Whitehead & open mike Westcott Community Center. 7-9pm. Sponsored by Altered Space & Drive-by Poets.</p>	<p>9 Syracuse Common Council regular meeting. 6pm. Common Council Chambers, City Hall. 448-8466.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin. 7pm. 476-7475.</p>	<p>10 HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.</p> <p>Central America / Caribbean Coalition working potluck at Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St. 6-7:30pm. 478-4571.</p> <p>NOW CNY Chapter meeting. Marine Midland Bank, 360 S. Warren, 7pm. 487-3188.</p> <p>Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.</p>	<p>11 Pre-order gathering at the Syracuse Real Food Co-op. 618 Kensington Rd. 6-7pm.</p> <p>NAACP general mtg. 7pm. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 422-6933.</p>	<p>12 Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 206 Onondaga Av. 7:30pm. 422-6237.</p> <p>Justice for Jonny Garmage vigil. God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 5:30pm.</p> <p>People's Round Table. Discuss issues of concern in our communities. At S. Presbyterian Church, corner of S. Salina & Colvin. 7-9pm. 478-1592.</p>	<p>13 EVERY THURSDAY: 19 Prayer vigil at Landis Plastics Solvay plant on Milton Av. Sponsored by Labor-Religious Coalition. Support Landis workers & union organizing struggles. 4 pm.</p> <p>EVERY THURSDAY: "Evening Arabesque" Arabic television with news & entertainment. 5:30pm. Adelphia Cable Ch. 7.</p> <p>1st & 3rd THURSDAYS: Gay & Lesbian Alliance meeting. Enable, 1603 Court St. 7:30pm. 472-5732.</p>	<p>14 EVERY FRIDAY: Gay & Lesbian Young Adult meeting (ages 21-25). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 422-9741 for time.</p>	<p>15 Pride Celebration Concert. Chorus cabaret groups, solo & duet performances. Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St. 2pm. Donation. 476-4329. Sponsored by Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus.</p>	<p>16 Annual Bloomsday reading of James Joyce's Ulysses. 11am-10pm. Nibsy's Pub, 201 Ulster St. James Joyce Club, 677-9287.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors Westside meeting. Anna Mae Williams Community Center, 228 Shonnard St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.</p>	<p>17 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p> <p>Annex International Group #373 meeting. Mundy Branch Library, 1204 S. Geddes St. 7-9pm. Letter writing, updates on cases. 668-7441.</p>	<p>18 Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.</p>	<p>19 Syracuse Common Council regular meeting. 1pm. Common Council Chambers, City Hall. 448-9466.</p> <p>Syracuse Real Food Co-op council meeting. Open to members. 618 Kensington Rd. 7pm.</p>	<p>20 EVERY SUNDAY: Support group for former and current mental patients. Sponsored by Alliance Plymouth Church. 3-5pm. Peggy Anne 475-4120.</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.</p>	<p>21 Film: "Stonewall" at Carrier Theater, Civic Center, downtown Syracuse. 9pm. \$5 advance, \$6 at door. 476-6226.</p> <p>Potluck at Real Food Co-op. Bring family & friends. 618 Kensington Rd. 6:30pm.</p> <p>EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7pm. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 492-8035.</p>	<p>22 EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent. Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes. Adelphia Cable Ch. 3. 8pm. Produced by Peace Council.</p>	<p>23 Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, downtown Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cyndi 475-1878.</p> <p>Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Av. 5-7pm. Free Food! All welcome.</p> <p>People's Round Table. "Echo of a Gunshot: From Our Neighborhoods to World Conflicts." Premier of Peace Action CNY video. At S. Presbyterian Church, corner of S. Salina & W. Colvin. 7-9pm. 478-1592.</p> <p>To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to SPC. 472-5478. July deadline: 6/20.</p>	<p>24 Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker Benefit Dinner. St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center, Winton St., off Burnet Av. 5:30pm. \$9-\$15 donation. 471-6853.</p> <p>Syracuse Community Choir Summer Solstice Concert with Pat Humphries. University United Methodist Church, E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. \$5-\$15.</p>	<p>25 OTHER JUNE EVENTS: June 19: Helen Caldwell on "Nuclear Madness" at May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7-9pm. Sponsored by Peace Action. Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Peace Council. 478-7442.</p> <p>June 19: June/teenth. Call Southwest Community Center for list of events. 474-6623.</p>	<p>26 June 19: Helen Caldwell on "Nuclear Madness" at May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7-9pm. Sponsored by Peace Action. Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Peace Council. 478-7442.</p>	<p>27 June 19: June/teenth. Call Southwest Community Center for list of events. 474-6623.</p>	<p>28 June 19: June/teenth. Call Southwest Community Center for list of events. 474-6623.</p>

Syracuse Peace Council Community Event Calendar June 1997

Helen Caldicott *presents*

Nuclear Madness Continues

Thursday, June 19 at 7:30pm

**May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society
3800 E. Genesee St., Syracuse**

Helen Caldicott is the author of *Nuclear Madness*, *Missile Envy*, *If You Love This Planet*, and *Desperate Passion*. She is also a founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility and Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament.

Presentation followed by reception & Book Signing.



**Sponsored by: Peace Action of CNY, Syracuse Peace Council,
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Presbytery Compassion and Advocacy Committee, Pax Christi**

(Helen Caldicott will also speak at 10am on June 19 at 220 Eggers Hall on the SU campus)

**Child Care provided by arrangement. Call 478-7442 by 6/17/97,
or for info about the event.**

Syracuse Peace Council

924 Burnet Ave.
Syracuse, NY 13203
(315) 472-5478



*Complementary Copy
Please Subscribe! \$12/yr*

Educate, Agitate, Organize

Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice July 1997 PNL 657

When Four Heads are Better than One...



SPC Hires Four New Part-Time Staff-people to Begin July 1

by Ann Tiffany

AS PNL READERS know, our one staff person, Bill Mazza, is no longer with us. At least not as our staffperson. In early June, Bill began working full-time with the Syracuse Cultural Workers. Fortunately Bill had given us several months notice that he was looking for another job.

So last March an SPC hiring committee began the tough task of replacing Bill. The committee included members of our major standing committees: Nancy Rhodes (PNL), Paul Pearce and Andy Molloy (OM/Program), Beth Mosley, Marge Rusk, Daniella Salzman and Ann Tiffany (Program/Council), as well as Bill Mazza.

First the hiring committee had to generate a job description. This forced us to think about priorities, finances, committee structure, finances, major house repairs, finances, long-range planning, and finances. To help us figure out what his job was all about Bill kept track of his activities hour by hour for a week.

Members of SPC's new staff collective, from left: Tim Judson, Val Singer, Beth Mosley, Nicole Rogers, Paul Pearce.

Four Heads cont. on next page

Four Heads cont. from page 1

We began advertising locally for one full-time or two part-time positions and listed a daunting array of "preferred capabilities": community organizing and activist experience, personable, good communication skills, volunteer coordination, event programming, writing and editing, fund-raising and grant writing, desktop and database management.... And we had the gall to offer a full-time salary of \$12,000 a year—i.e., \$6 an hour! As for benefits, our ad vaguely promised, "benefits will be discussed." And it stated, "We strongly encourage women and minorities to apply."

Applications began arriving—some for full-time, some for part-time, and some for 'anytime.' Catching the spirit, Beth Mosley resigned from the hiring committee and submitted her own job application. We received some excellent applications from out of town. (Folks all over the country read the *PNL*.) Given the fragility of our finances, however, we decided to try to hire locally. Prolonged orienting of new staff to our community is a luxury we cannot now afford.

As the committee reviewed the applications, we were struck by their quality, by the variety of talent, the activist backgrounds, the flexibility of time, and the sheer eagerness to climb aboard this leaky vessel. (Just check out our roof!) Gradually an idea emerged. With applicants like these, why not try to get as many on board as possible? Why not revive SPC's tradition of a staff collective? Why not hire *four* staff instead of one or two? Why not take a risk?

Community Credit Union Staff Position open

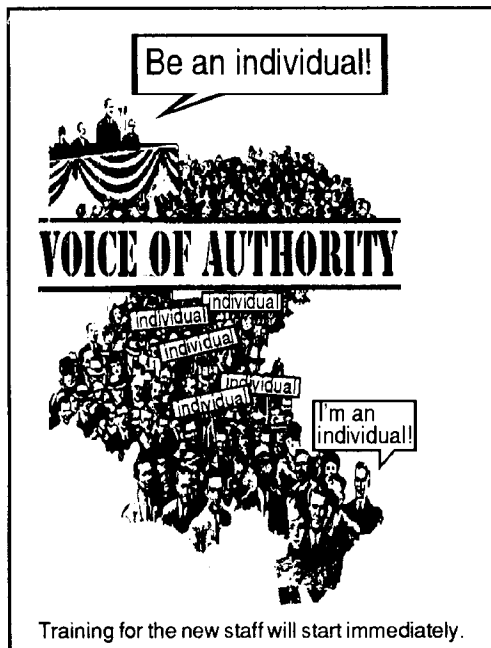
Responsibility for day-to-day operations, including oversight of members' accounts. Must be organized, detail-oriented, have good people skills, basic math and computer competence, able to handle money. Experience in similar level position needed; we will train in specifics. Full-time preferred.

Community involvement, accounting skills a plus. Some benefits. EOE.

Send letter of application or résumé to:

**SYRACUSE COOPERATIVE
Federal Credit Union**

Attn: Staff Search
723 Westcott Street
Syracuse, NY 13210



Back in the 70s and early 80s we had three and four staff people at a time. Bill always said going it alone was crazy. The wonder is he survived that long loneliness for *five* years.

I should hasten to add, however, that for over eleven years Paul Pearce of the SPC Press has been an ongoing presence in the house. Paul has been far more than our person in the press room. As an adjunct SPC staff person, Paul has all too frequently had to fill in at the office and deal with all the phone calls when no one's been around. Paul is essential to maintaining continuity while over the years staff have come and gone.

A staff collective—if only made up of part-timers—means we'll have more diversity and more new energy. We expect to increase programming, community involvement, and education. At the same time, we have to strengthen our committee system in order to provide staff with the support they need to do the job. We need a strong council, a personnel committee, a finance committee, and a plan to evaluate ongoing work. We'll have to commit ourselves to raising the money to pay the additional salary. To do all this, we'll need to recruit SPC supporters to join us.

The hiring committee didn't just run with this vision. Each committee member checked with several SPCers to get feedback. These included: Rae Kramer, Carl Mellor, Ron Ehrenreich, Paul Frazier, elana levy, Carole Resnick, Ed Kinane, and Duane Hardy.

There were no strong "don't do it" voices. The biggest concern was that there was no person of color being hired—a concern that we must address in our current programming

and outreach and in our next staff search. Clearly a staff collective means a greater financial responsibility, but our four new people are sure to expand our community and generate more resources.

Although none of our new staff applied to join a staff collective, they each readily agreed to the new plan. As one who has been quite involved in the staff search and in launching the staff collective proposal, I particularly appreciate Beth, Nicole, Tim and Val's enthusiasm. There'll be time for reflection and caution later!

Who *are* our new staff? Well, here are some bare particulars (they'll each be introducing themselves more fully in subsequent *PNLs*):

- **Beth Mosley**, 20 hours a week. Beth is a feminist, a parent of three young women, a partner, a political activist, and an advocate for those whose voices are not as loud and strong as her own.
- **Nicole Rogers**, 15 hours. Nicole has been a Syracuse resident her whole life, and an activist for much of it. In addition to working at SPC, she studies education and history at Onondaga Community College; eventually, she wants to be a teacher.
- **Tim Judson**, 20 hours, new *PNL* coordinator. Tim has lived in Syracuse for several years, and has background in writing, editing, education, and community organizing. He is interested in issues of inequality and the process of community-building.
- **Val Singer**, 15 hours. Val came to Syracuse for graduate work in anthropology and social movements and has since chosen Syracuse as her home. Already active in environmental activism, during the Gulf War she involved herself in the anti-war movement. She now tries to link education and activism.

The hiring committee is presenting *PNL* readers not only several excellent staff people, but a new/old vision for SPC. It's not yet concrete, not spelled out in detail—but it is propelled by the belief that we can further energize SPC. And that—with your help—we can make it work.

So please drop by SPC and introduce yourself to our new staff.

Ann is a long-time activist and member of the SPC hiring committee.



Customer service/data entry and shipping positions available at the Syracuse Cultural Workers, part-time, seasonal work (Aug-Jan). \$5.50/hr. start. Looking for mature, responsible, but fun-loving individuals. Call 474-1132 for info.

What Happened to This Issue of the *PNL*?

NO DOUBT you have noticed that instead of the regular 24-pager you were expecting, this little guy is much lighter.

In the past three years, we've put out a mini-issue in August. Besides changing its length, the mini-issue only goes to our subscribers. We print enough to mail, but not the extra 3,000+ copies which we distribute free. However, this year we've changed our normal summer production schedule. Due to the staff transition it made more sense to produce the short issue in July and return to a full-format issue in August. The August issue will be the first produced by the new staff collective.

Switching the short-issue-schedule gave us a little breathing room when we were really scrambling. Some of us have participated in the staff search and selection, which was a lot of work—more than we planned. Then, former staffer Bill Mazza had to take a new job sooner than expected, though he's staying with the *PNL* editorial collective. And the short newsletter helps us save a little money when times are tight.

So we used this issue to take care of SPC business. We wanted to introduce you to the new staff collective. We also thought it would be great to let you know what the meeting on July 16 is all about. When the Ice Cream Social is. Where to bring your stuff for the September Garage Sale. And of course how to meet the deadlines for the August Issue:

Articles:	July 10
Ads:	July 17
Calendar items:	July 17



Please Help SPC Plan Into 1998 and Beyond

**Come to SPC on Wednesday, July 16, 7 - 9 PM
help set the short and long-term SPC agendas**

THE SYRACUSE Peace Council is an entity with a significant and meaningful history and an uncertain future.

The mainstream press assures us there is no longer a looming danger of major military conflict. While not neglecting a response to nuclear hazard, militarism and "small" wars around the world, our work of conscience and progressive change also includes the fundamental violence of economic and social injustice.

This work cannot happen if our energy is constantly consumed in subsistence fund-raising. Financial stability means more than measuring the success of several fund-raising events a year in hundreds of dollars, increas-

ing *PNL* subscriptions by 5%, collecting donations at Plowshares, and hoping the past generosity of certain individuals will continue.

Financial stability means we have identified the work we want to do for a period of time, have the resources to do that work, and have a plan we can share. While we cannot predict circumstances, we can choose activities that address our own statement of purpose: to educate, agitate, and organize.

Based on work of our October 1996 retreat, Rae Kramer has drafted a proposal for creating a work plan and finance committee process. You can pick up a copy of Rae's proposal at the Peace Council in advance, or just come to the meeting. See you there!

A Very Important Meeting!



?th Annual Garage Sale Coming in September!

Westcott Community Center (corner of Westcott & Euclid)
Save your treasures, drop off at SPC after August first.
If you can't hold your stuff till then, call SPC (472-5478),
we'll pick up and store.
See the August *PNL* for more information.

SPC July 1997 Community Events Calendar

- Sat. July 5** 13th Annual Strawberry Festival at Common Place Land Trust, Truxton, NY, 1 pm. Talent show at 4 pm; potluck supper at 7 pm. Directions: Rte 13, 1.5 miles east of intersection of Rte 13 and Rte 91. Bring shortcake, cream, bathing suit.
- Sat. July 12** People for Animal Rights vegetarian picnic. Willow Bay Picnic Area, Onondaga Lake Park. Noon-3 pm. Free, bring a dish. 478-7877. Rain date July 13.
- Sat. July 12** Syracuse Peace Council's Summer Social at Westcott Community Center. Meet & welcome the new SPC staff! 1-4 pm. 472-5478. See back page ad.
- Sat. July 12** Food Not Bombs meeting. Petit Branch Library, 105 Victoria Pl. Info call Thano at 445-9164.
- Sat. July 12** Justice for Jonny Gammage vigil. God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 5:30 pm.
- Th.-Sun. July 17-20** Fingerlakes Grassroots Festival of Music & Dance. Trumansburg, NY. 4 stages, 40 bands. Supports arts & the fight against AIDS. (607) 387-5098.
- Sat.-Sun. July 19-20** Annual NYS Blues Festival. Clinton Square, downtown Syracuse. Info call 470-1910.
- Fri. July 25** SCR Night, Benefit for Syracuse Community Radio 8 performers (Moxy Fruvous, Wallmen, Mulligans, Oz & Biz, Groove Merchants, etc.) 3 Venues (Happy Endings, Hungry Charley's, Styleen's) 1 Night SCR 446-4769
- Sun. August 3** Bus trip to the birthplace of the Women's Rights Movement. Visit Women's Hall of Fame, Women's National Park at Seneca Falls & more. 9 am-6 pm. \$45 includes bus, lunch, all fees. Reservation- Women's Political Caucus 471-0745.
- Wed. August 6.** Watch for upcoming Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration events.

Syracuse
Peace Council



fund fun raiser

Summer Social

meet the new SPC staff

- Come and enjoy
- after lunch dessert or
 - spoil your appetite - before dinner treat

Saturday July 12, 1-4pm

Westcott Community Center · corner of Westcott & Euclid

**berries · desserts · ices · ice cream
baked goods · lemonade**

a benefit for the Syracuse Peace Council
for information call (315) 472-5478



sliding scale \$0-\$350
(the SPC property taxes due in July)

Syracuse Peace Council
924 Burnet Ave.
Syracuse, NY 13203
(315) 472-5478



Subscribing to our Newsletter will demonstrate
your support and give us much need financial help!
Only \$12 a year!

Educate, Agitate, Organize

Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice August 1997 PNL 658

CANANDAIGUA TREATY NOVEMBER 11
1794 ARTICLE V11

'...THEN THE NATIONS SHOULD RUN THE
CIGARETTES AND INDIVIDUALS SHOULD NOT
USE THE SOVEREIGNTY THAT BELONGS TO
EVERYONE OF US AND THOSE CHILDREN, TAX
FREE FOR THEIR OWN PROFIT.'

JAY TREATY NOVEMBER 19, 1794
ARTICLE 111 TAX EX. #663323



GAYANEREKOWA
the great binding law

Around 1pm a fireside vigil off
interstate 81 was started to dis-
pute internal leadership and a
interim tax compact between
the Haudenosaunee and New
York state. 1:45 pm, troopers
ordered the protesters to leave.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES,
SEPTEMBER 12, 1787 ARTICLE 1, SECTION 10

Published Monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council - Founded in 1936

Inside: Interview with Onondaga Nation Women, Native Taxes, Northern Ireland, A Zapatista Primer,
Consensus Workshop, SOA, and Meet the New SPC Staff Collective

THE SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL

New people are always welcome to join any of these activities. Contact SPC at 472-5478 or the person listed to find out what you can do.

Collectives, Committees

SPC Staff Collective

Tim Judson Valerie Singer
Beth Mosley SPC Press
Nicole Rogers Paul Pearce

- The Literature Committee
- Program Committee
- Political Action Committee
- Organizational Maintenance Committee
- Pledge Coordinator: Pat Hoffman

Bookkeeper

Duane Hardy

SPC Council: Bill Mazza,
Carl Mellor, Marge Rusk,
Daniella Levy-Salzman, Ann
Tiffany

The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets the first three Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 PM. Call SPC for location.

Editorial Collective: Tim Judson, Ed Kinane, elana levy,
Carole Resnick, Nancy Rhodes

Production Committee: Andy Molloy, Bill Mazza

Poetry Editor: Michelle Brisson

Graphics Coordinator: Anita Welych

Cover Coordinator: Karen Kerney

SPC Projects: 472-5478

- SPC-TV — Paul Pearce
- Plowshares Craftsair
- Fair Trial for Mumia Committee — Thano Paris

Other Volunteers

Chuck Durand, Rae Kramer, Mardea Warner, Karen Kerney,
Amy Bartell, Vanessa Johnson, Margaret Birtlebough, Kathy
Barry, Brian Caufield, Fredrick Noyes, Jolie Rickman, Lance
Hogan, Bill Hamler, Thano Paris, Sylvia Burgess, Daniel
Bowers, Carol Baum, Chris Spies-Rusk, Susan Adair, Joy
Meeker, Nick Orth, Michael DeSalvo

Volunteer Coordinator: Paul Frazier

Statement of Purpose

The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC), founded in 1936, is an antiwar/social justice organization. It is community-based, autonomous and funded by the contributions of its supporters.

SPC educates, agitates and organizes for a world where war, violence and exploitation in any form will no longer exist. It challenges the existing unjust power relationships among nations, among people and between ourselves and the environment. As members, we work to replace inequality, hierarchy, domination and powerlessness with mutual respect, personal empowerment, cooperation and a sense of community.

Present social injustices cannot be understood in isolation from each other nor can they be overcome without recognizing their economic and militaristic roots. SPC stresses a strategy that makes these connections clear. We initiate and support activities that help build this sense of community and help tear down the walls of oppression. A fundamental basis for peace and justice is an economic system that places human need above monetary profit. We establish relationships among people based on cooperation rather than competition or the threat of destruction.

Our political values and personal lives shape and reflect each other. In both we are committed to nonviolent means of conflict resolution and to a process of decision-making that responds to the needs of us all.

Alliances, Coalitions & Contacts

Abolish the Blocade of Cuba	P.E.A.C.E., Inc.
Doug Igelsrud 471-5749	Louis Clark 470-3300
ACLU-CNY Chapter	People Against the Death Penalty
Barrie Gewanter 471-2821	637-3344
Alliance-Psychiatric System	People for Animal Rights
Survivors	488-PURR (7877)
George Ebert 475-4120	Persons With AIDS Support
Alternatives to Violence Project	Hotline
Jay Liestee 499-0845	Sandra 471-5911
American Friends Service	Physicians for Social
Committee 475-4822	Responsibility 488-2140
Animal Defense League 479-9105	Planned Parenthood 475-5525
ARISE 472-3171	Reconsider
Atlantic States Legal Foundation	Nick or Alex Eyle 422-6231
475-1170	Religion: Other
Caribbean/Latin American	Phoenix or Kat 474-8801
Coalition	Rose Center
Shirley Novak 446-6099	Teri Cameron 422-3426
Citizens Against Radioactive	Sarah House 475-1747
Dumping (607) 753-6271	Save the County 637-6066
Citizen Review Board	SEEDS (607) 749-2818
Felicia Davis 448-8750	Service Employees International
CNY Center for Occupational	Robert Tompkins 424-1750
Health and Safety 471-6187	Sierra Club
CNY Environment	Sue Carlson 445-1663
Lee Gechas 446-5319	Small Claims Court Action
CNY N.O.W. 487-3188	Center 443-1401
CUSLAR (607) 255-7293	S.O.A. Watch/ CNY
Dunbar Center	Ed Kinane 478-4571
Louches Powell 476-4269	Social Workers for Peace
EON/Transgender Community	Dick Mundy 445-0797
Melissa 423-4099	Socialist Party
Fair Housing Council of CNY	Ron Ehrenreich 478-0793
Merrilee Witherell 471-0518	Spanish Action League
Fair Trial for Mumia Committee	Sam Velasquez 471-3762
472-5478	Student African-American Society
Fightback! of CNY 422-0555	Kathy Ade 443-4633
Food Bank of CNY 437-1899	Student Environmental Action
Friends of the Filipino People	Coalition
John & Sally Brulé 445-0698	Mike Sanfilippo 423-5607
Gay/Lesbian Alliance 422-5732	Syracuse Alt. Media Network
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student	Tim Brachocki 425-8806
Assoc. (SU) 443-3599	Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society
Haiti Solidarity	SAVES/Joe Connolly 437-2163
Ann Tiffany 478-4571	Syracuse Community Choir
Hemlock Society	Karen Mihalyi 428-8724
Betty Bentley 463-0782	Syracuse Community Radio
Hotel Employees 150 437-0373	Frederic Noyes 474-9507, 478-5215
Jail Ministry 424-1877	Syracuse Cooperative Federal
Kenlark Center for Creative	Credit Union 471-1116
Spirituality	Syracuse Cultural Workers
Bourke Kennedy 685-5414	Dik Cool 474-1132
Lesbian/Gay Youth 443-3599	Syracuse N.O.W. 472-3294
NAACP	Syr. Real Food Coop 472-1385
Van Robinson 422-6933	Syr. Social Movement Initiative
Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.	John Burdick 443-3822
Ammie Chickering 365-2299	Syracuse United Neighbors
New Environment Association	Rich Puchalski 476-7475
Harry Schwarlander 446-8009	S.U. for Animal Rights 443-4199
NYPIRG 476-8381	Urban League
Onondaga Audobon 457-7731	Eloise Dowdell Curry 472-6955
Onon. Women's Political Caucus	Utica Community Action
Peggy Murray 475-7671	John Furman 797-7020
Open Hand Theatre	Witness for Peace Delegations
Geoff Navias 476-0466	Nancy Gwin 422-4689
Pax Christi	Women's Center (SU) 443-4268
Frank Woolever 446-1693	Women's Health Outreach
Peace Action of CNY	425-3653
Diane Swords 478-7442	Women's INFO Center 478-4636
Peace Brigades International	
Ed Kinane 478-4571	(If you do not see your group listed please call)

In This Issue:

...lots of history. As we're finishing up the issue, Utah Phillips is telling someone: "Now, I can go outside and pick up a rock that's older than the oldest song you know, and bring it back in here and drop it on your foot. Now, the past didn't go anywhere. Did it? It's right here, right now." Sort of brings the issue into focus. Indigenous sovereignty, for instance. Been an issue for centuries—about five or so, whether you look home at the Haudenosaunee or far away in Chiapas; at least eight if you look at Ireland. How about consensus democracy? The Haudenosaunee have had it for nearly ten centuries—and they still do! SPC's got it now too, and with Nick & Joy's training, maybe everyone will soon. Now the staff are mostly new, but the SPC Staff Collective isn't, even though we haven't seen it for a few years. I guess that's the point really, to put things in context—to remember that the foot planted behind you is the one that pushes you a step forward.

The Peace Newsletter (PNL) is published monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council: SPC, founded in 1936, is the oldest community-based peace and justice organization in the United States.

The *PNL* strives to serve as the internal organ of SPC and as a forum for articles which discuss issues of concern to the peace movement. The opinions expressed in the *PNL* reflect the diversity of opinions within SPC itself. While we are not able to print every possible viewpoint, we do welcome letter and article submissions as well as suggestions and assistance.

The *PNL* has very reasonable ad rates; call or write for our rates. Movement groups are free to reprint articles and graphics, but please give credits and send us a copy flagging the reprint. For-profit groups, please inquire.

ISSN #0735-4134

The *PNL* is available on microfilm from University Microfilms, Inc., 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Subscriptions are \$12 a year in the U.S., \$15 in Canada and Mexico and \$25 overseas. The institutional rate is \$15. The *PNL* is free to prisoners and low-income people. Your organization, co-op, etc. can receive 5-25 *PNL*s each month. Our circulation is 4500.

Contributions to SPC beyond *PNL* subscriptions support our activist programs. We always need your support. *Peace Newsletter/Syracuse Peace Council*, 924 Burnet Ave, Syracuse, NY 13203.

***PNL* Distributors (We Need You Too!)**

Pat Hoffman, Elinor Cramer, Chuck Durand, Marge Rusk, Duane Hardy, Bill Hamler, Daniel Bowers, Cynthia Maud-Gembler
June Mailing Party Helpers

We had a wonderful evening with many beautiful, lovely people, and lots of food. [Ed. note: Here is an example of state propaganda.]

PEACE NEWSLETTER

August 1997
PNL 658

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About the cover:

"Many Voices"

by Clint Shenandoah

Clint Shenandoah, a recent graduate of the Syracuse University Visual and Performing Arts program in painting, resides on the Onondaga Nation. The cover, titled "Many Voices," depicts the complex nature of the taxation issue within the Haudenosaunee communities as well as the many layers of truths, lies, interpretations, misinterpretations, and contradictions which lend themselves to a lack of clarity or confusion within the Haudenosaunee. An exhibition of his work is at Happy Endings Cafe & Coffee House through August, 317 S. Clinton St.

PNL Readers' Exchange

"What is the role of Animal Rights/Liberation in the peace and justice movement?"

WE OURSELVES have been grappling with this topic. There's a diversity of opinion among us, and we know the same is true among our readers.

We'd like to publish some of these views in the *PNL*. Please drop us a line with your ideas:

Readers' Exchange, *Peace Newsletter*, 924 Burnet Ave, Syracuse 13203

Include your name, address, and phone number. So that we can print more responses, please be concise. We may excerpt and edit for clarity and brevity.

— *PNL* Editorial Collective

September Issue Deadlines

Articles	Aug 13
Ads	Aug 20
Calendar Items	Aug 20

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

It's a Hot Month in July at SPC

SPC Staff Collective

HELLO SPCERS! This is your new staff-collective writing our first SPC page! The four new staff members (Beth, Nicole, Tim, and Valerie) have joined with Paul Pearce (our staff member of 11+ years) to form a staff collective. This decision came as a surprise to all of us, but we quickly embraced this exciting expansion of the Peace Council. We are raring to educate, agitate, and organize TOGETHER, with each other and with you. Hiring four part-time staff people represents a big expansion for SPC—a very positive move. But to make this expansion sustainable we will need more support than ever—both volunteer and financial support. Several people have already increased their support in one or both ways, and we thank them. We hope this is just the beginning!

Summer Social

The summer social on July 12 was a huge success. There was a sizable crowd at the Westcott Community Center enjoying such seasonal treats as lemon ice, ice cream, cakes, pies, fruit and cool drinks. Artists of all ages decorated the front parking lot with beautiful chalk designs. The atmosphere was truly so-

cial... people were catching up with old friends and making new ones. Several passers-by joined the party, some even staying for several hours to familiarize themselves with SPC. And on top of all this merry-making, the event was a financial success. We (the staff) want to thank everyone who came, and especially the volunteers and cooks who made it happen!

There are several more great events being planned now. Our annual garage sale is coming up on **September 6** (for details, see p. 24). **September 27** will be another wonderful food event at the Westcott Community Center: Nick Orth and the Caribbean/Latin American Coalition (CLAC) are getting together to host a fundraising brunch for SPC. This will be the first of several SPC brunches, so get ready for some feasting.

SPC is currently working on a number of events and campaigns in coalition with several other local peace-loving groups:

- Our annual commemoration of Hiroshima takes place on **August 6** (see Peace Action update, p. 19).
- The campaign to close Nine Mile One is heating up. For details about this local cracked nuclear monstrosity, see the May *PNL* and call SPC. SPC staff is preparing a packet



Meet the SPC Staff Collective! To find out more about us, see p. 21. (l-r) Tim, Valerie, Beth, Nicole, and Paul.

Photo by D. Levy-Salzman and P. Pearce.

outlining our 30-year history opposing this nuclear power plant.

- The War Resisters League has declared **October 24** "A Day Without the Pentagon." Much like Earth Day, it would be great if we didn't need such "holidays." But in the meantime, SPC and numerous others are preparing for action on October 24. There is a planning potluck meeting **August 13, 6 PM** at Plymouth Church (see p. 17).

Bill...

Bill Mazza has spent the past five years of his life putting a great deal of work, time, energy, and spirit into SPC. He has left a legacy of staff dedication and skill which we (the new staff) will work to carry on. Thankfully Bill remains involved in SPC in a variety of volunteer capacities. But as he passes his staff position on to the four of us part-timers, we would like to recognize the vital part he has played in sustaining, maintaining and creating the Syracuse Peace Council as it is today. We are honored to collectively take his job, but we can never take his place.

House News

The staff expansion has created a new air of activity at 924 Burnet Ave. The front room has become a comfortable lounging space, so feel free to drop in to catch up on your political reading or just to chat. Christian Spies-Rusk has been doing some much needed painting inside the house. Thank you Chris!!

The SPC roof is still in serious need of repair. We have some funds set aside for the roof, but we are hoping to find some cheap (or free) materials and potentially even some volunteer roofers.



"Meet the Staff!" see p. 21

Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

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The Syracuse Peace Council, 924 Burnet Ave. Syracuse, NY 15205



The Rest of the Story

Onondaga Nation Women Speak

A PNL Interview

THERE HAS BEEN a profound split within the Native American community, between those identified as "business people," and supporters of the traditional government currently existing within the Onondaga Nation. This is often confusing to non-Indians: both groups present themselves as representing their community and their traditions. Locally individuals such as Ray Halbritter and Kenneth Papineau are associated with the "business people," while Onondaga Chiefs and Clan Mothers, such as Oren Lyons and Audrey Shenandoah, are associated with the traditional existing government of the Nation.

As sovereign Nations, members of the Iroquois Confederacy have been exempt from State regulation of cigarettes and gasoline sales. Consequently they have been able to sell at lower retail prices, without payment of tax to

the State. From the point of view of an outsider, the conflict appears to be between those who wish to have the right to exclusively pursue individual profit through these businesses, and those who instead support regulating these ventures, with funds coming back to the government to be shared by the community as a whole. The "business people" also advocate opening casinos as another source of profit. Those supporting the traditional forms do not wish to enter into trade in gambling, regardless of where the profit goes.

At the Onondaga Nation, this conflict first became public when the Council of Chiefs closed down businesses which were not complying with an agreement to pay a portion of profits on cigarette sales to the Onondaga government. These stores were blockaded, and several years of bitter dispute followed. Eventually the extreme measure of banishment was taken against those business owners

who continued to refuse to work within the governmental regulations. During this time business supporters circulated petitions in an unsuccessful attempt to oust the Council of Chiefs.

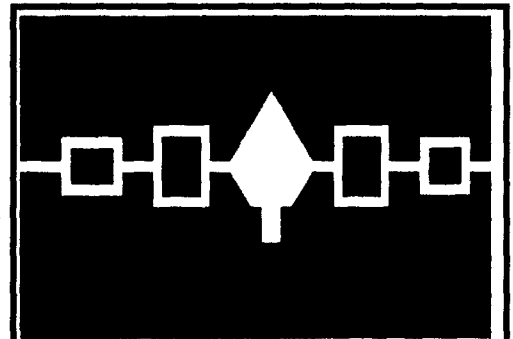
Recently the conflict became public again with a demonstration at the side of Interstate 81, near the Onondaga Nation just south of Syracuse. Billboards displayed slogans calling for removal of Onondaga Chiefs, and accusing them of "selling out" by signing a cigarette tax agreement with New York State. There has been much media coverage of these events, particularly after a violent encounter between protesters and NYS State troopers. The actions of the troopers were videotaped, and there is a federal investigation underway.

The following are excerpts taken from a meeting on June 6, 1997, called by women of the Onondaga Nation, with reporters from the Syracuse Newspapers. I attended, representing the PNL. Onondaga women present were: Audrey Shenandoah, Jeannie Shenandoah, Cheech Honyoust, Yvonne Henhawk, Wendy Thomas, Denise Waterman, and Phoebe Hill. Often, more than one person spoke in response to a question.

The women emphasize that the demonstrators do not represent the traditional people of the Onondaga Nation, and that the agreement which is being protested was never completed. There has been confusion in the media about the nature of the proposed agreement, according to which no taxes would be paid to New York State by the Onondaga Nation. Instead, prices for cigarettes would have been raised to meet the concerns of competing small businesses outside of the Nation. The additional revenue would have been paid directly to the Onondaga government, not to New York State.

Extensive information, including the text of the proposed agreement, is available in Daybreak, Vol. 5, No. 3, published by the Native Studies Component, American Studies Department, SUNY at Buffalo. Contact them at P.O. Box 315, Williamsville, NY 14231-0315.

cont. on next page



The Hiawatha Belt of Union, shown above is also the national flag of the Haudenosaunee (circa 1000 AD)

The Hiawatha Belt of Union symbolizes an ancient tradition of nationhood that developed long before contact with the Europeans. Our traditional values are the basis for our social and political institutions, as well as our sense of our place within in the natural order.... Upon the continent of North America, prior to the landfall of the first white man, a great league of peace was formed. The inspiration for the founding of the league came from a messenger called the Peacemaker.

He was a spiritual being, fulfilling the mission of organizing warring nations into a confederation, governed by Gianashanagonah, the Great Law of Peace. He organized the families into the clans, and then he set up the leaders of the clans. He established that the league of peace would be matrilineal and that each clan would have a clan mother.... Henceforth, he said, these men will be chosen by the clan mother, freely using her insight and wisdom and ratified by full consensus of the clans, chiefs and Grand Council of the Five Nations.

Then, he also made two houses in each nation. One he called the Long House and the other he called the Mud House. The houses would work together in ceremony and council, establishing the inner source of vitality and dynamics necessary for community. He made two houses in the Grand Council, one called the Younger Brothers, consisting of the Oneida and the Cayuga Nation and later enlarged to include the Tuscarora. The other was the Elder Brothers, consisting of the Mohawks as the Keepers of the Eastern Door, the Onondaga he made the Firekeepers, and the Senecas who were the Keepers of the Western Door. Thus, he established in North America the principal of a bicameral form of government that continues up to this day.

—Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force

cont. from page 5

In choosing these excerpts, I am aware that the process of selection and shortening changes the quality of the communication. The Onondagas continue a tradition of oral history, which is reflected in the way that information is presented. Past and present situations are woven together, often through the recounting of stories about individuals. Time and care is taken to bring together the significance of personal interactions with events in the larger Native community as well as forces outside the Nation. Using short selections to represent the meaning of what is being said changes what is being said. Given this limitation I have done my best, in consultation with the women who spoke, to represent their words and intent as accurately as possible.

— Carole Resnick

ONONDAGA WOMEN: What we really wanted was to have this [meeting] last week-end, because it seemed like everyone who has been reporting on the incidents in the recent past are people who haven't really known us and haven't talked to any others than those that were up on the highway protesting. And the main body of them were not from here, and they have not been involved with our Onondaga politics and community issues here at all. So we thought that we would like to be heard. This didn't all just start now, but it's sort of a continuation [of our conflict] with the business people.

— This is the last stronghold right here. Our government and our Nation. Our spirituality is so strong that they have to try to take this place. If they try to take over us, then they've got control over the whole situation. These are the people who are claim-

ing to know the Great Law, to live by the Great Law. Nowhere in the Great Law does it say you can pick up a gun, or firebomb houses. They knew exactly what was going to happen with that "peaceful demonstration," where they sent children out on the road first. Would you send your children out on 81?

"The police got over-zealous. The responsibility is on them, not on us."

— We see each other almost every single day, and we know each other's children by name. We're a close knit community. And [the protesters] don't ever take part in it. When our Chiefs' Council has meetings here they're public meetings. The door is never locked. I do not ever recall seeing those people coming in and sitting in our community meetings with concern for anything.

They're talking about their sovereignty. I don't even think they know what sovereignty means, because sovereignty doesn't belong to anybody and it's not a gift. It's something that has had to be maintained every single day by our leaders throughout their whole lives. And not only the present-day ones but the ones before them. And that's going to be our children's responsibility too. I don't think those people realize what it takes to do that. [The Chiefs] don't really have personal lives because once they take that position they're in charge of taking care of everything that has to do with our life. And not only the political side, the spiritual side too.

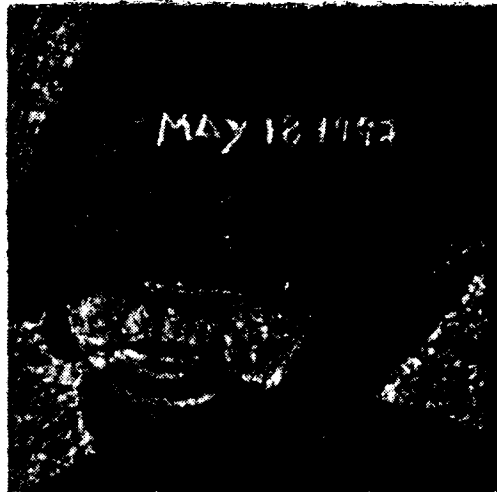
They're up there shouting for their rights. You have to work and take part in the community to keep things like that alive, and have respect. And they're calling our leaders traitors, saying they went off and signed this agreement with the State.

If they [the protesters] were really truly people who took part and were active in our community and knew our ways, our Haudenosaunee ways, the way that our Confederacy meets in a Grand Council, they would know that there was no agreement made because it hadn't even been brought to the Grand Council yet for all the Nations to discuss. It was the Chiefs and the delegates who had met to make a basic plan. Then it would come to the Six Nations meeting and all the communities would come together and discuss it, make changes, make suggestions, before any decision was even made.

— [At Onondaga] we are strong in our government still after all this time. And what has kept our people strong is the belief in our spirituality. Our foundation is the spiritual side of our lives which governs how we live and how we treat the people around us. [The business people] have all been taken in by another kind of power, the power of money.

And they feel that with that they will be able to just take over the government of all our Nations. And when they take this one over then the rest of course will be much easier.

PNL: Can you tell us about the negotiations with Governor Pataki?



C. Shenandoah 1997

ONONDAGA WOMEN: All of the Nations were represented in these meetings with the governor's side. It was hard. I was at the first meeting when we went to Albany, and there were a lot of us. There were Clan Mothers and Chiefs and leadership from all the Nations that met with the governor. He said, "This is the law of NYS State and I am bound by the law of NY State. I have to collect these taxes." This is what he said. And one of our leaders got up and said, "This is our law," and he told about the Wampum. "We have an agreement between your people and ours and neither side is going to try to make laws to regulate the other side, and that's the law we have to live under. We have a law, our own government has a law, and that's the law that we will live by." And so from that point began the talks, and this was last February.

[The negotiators] were interrupted early on by some of the people. Some of these people can't trust anybody I guess, and they began these undertones of, "Our Chiefs are selling out. Our Chiefs are talking with the State." And so [the opposition] began coming into the meetings and disrupting the meetings, and talks couldn't go on. And so [the negotiators] had their meetings in another place. And then [the opposition] got there, and they forced their way in. They allowed them in. And over there, again, they demanded all the papers that were on the table, and there was nothing left

there for them to have any suspicions over. They just had to read them to know what was on them. It was ideas that they were writing down, a draft. And as soon as they saw—it was an attendance list—that they had signed their names on the attendance list, they said our Chiefs sold us out. This was about in October. "Too late, the Chiefs had already signed everything away, it's no use." And then the propaganda began hard and heavy. And at one point a woman threatened, "We'll burn this place down, or blow it up," and so immediately the State said "No, we're going to have to close these meetings." And so they did.

Syracuse Newspapers: *Are you angry at the State now [for having withdrawn from the proposed agreement]?*

Onondaga Women: I'm not really sure yet. I'm still thinking about it. I'm angry at the way that it was handled by the governor who could just drop it like that without a call to the people that they were negotiating with. It could have been handled in a more respectful way.

— Look at your leader. Now what kind of person is that? He had no respect for something that he was taking part in. And now they say that he wants to be the president. What's he going to do to everybody else?

PNL: *Could you speak more about what you see as the root of the problem, the cause of the separation among Indian people?*

Onondaga Women: There are people who don't have it built into their beliefs that you can trust anybody. [The business people and their supporters] don't live within a trusting community. They're the sort of individuals who can be easily swayed by stronger people who do have motives. And their motives might be greed, usually money, almost universally it's money. Sometimes it's envy. A lot of those people that are opposing are people who have

a weakness in drugs and alcohol. Those people who are in command of those camps, not only here but all over, feed them. They feed their weakness and they give them what they need quite easily to do their bidding. You don't see

their leadership out there [at the protest].

PNL: *What about the motivation of their leadership?*

Onondaga Women: To make money and to keep it all to them-

selves, and not to be responsible to anybody. That's evident. They don't want to pay their state taxes or their federal taxes and they don't want to pay taxes to their own people. But they're using the laws of their own people to evade the taxes from the other side. They still claim that they're immune to the taxes because of the sovereignty of our government.

— That our Chiefs work on constantly, daily to maintain.

Syracuse Newspapers: *How many of these people live in Onondaga and are a part of the community?*

Onondaga Women: They live here but they're not part of the community. They don't take part in the community, they're isolated.

Syracuse Newspapers: *But do most of them live here?*

Onondaga Women: Very few of them live here.

Syracuse Newspapers: *Some of the protesters I spoke to said that they're not allowed in the longhouse, that they've been locked out.*

"...a constant barrage of people [come] here wanting to make some kind of commercial enterprise out of our land. They think we're not using it. But we live here."

Onondaga Women: That longhouse is never locked, except for one time.

— The Clan Mother would not let them in there and they told them why.

— They just said, "This time, this time you can't go in there."

— [The Chiefs and Clan Mothers] told them they knew they [the business people] were meeting to overthrow the Chiefs. And all the papers, all the propaganda they were putting out were lies.

— They had women who were putting out that they were Clan Mothers. They never went through the correct procedures to do that.

PNL: *Where is all of this conflict leading?*

ONONDAGA WOMEN: In my mind, now here's what I think [the business people] want—is a pan-Indian government, with all of these people in control because they have money. They will take over, you know. They'll probably change the longhouse. The ceremonies can't go on without our language. Our ceremonies can't go on without people who are appointed to do them. Like anybody's beliefs. The people that are chosen are chosen carefully, for very specific reasons. There's almost a probation time. And that probation time isn't six months or a year. Some of them have been watched for 10 years, getting ready for when this old person is not going to be able to do their job anymore, their responsibilities. Then someone we've been watching that we know has the abilities, has a lot of the characteristics that it's going to take—

— Such as honor [is chosen].

— They're not little, they're big with their money. Their main idea, the leadership of those poor people that got caught standing in the rain, is to have casinos. That's their bottom

cont. on next page



Gai hwa na ge' 1993

cont. from page 7

line at this point. I pity the poor people that can't see any farther than that.

— If you lived by our beliefs, you couldn't have a casino, you couldn't behave the way they do. I mean, our religion is based on giving thanks. You don't ask, "Can I have casinos?" It's giving thanks for everything that has already been given to us. Everything we need to live by is already here, we don't need more than that. And they're complaining that, "Oh, you just want us to be poor." That's not it, we're not poor.

— I wouldn't want my children to be next door to a casino and have the types of characters that are attracted to that.

Syracuse Newspapers: Could your government fall? Are you concerned that your government could be in trouble like that?

Onondaga Women: We are in trouble. We've been in trouble for centuries. In 1924—maybe before some of you were even alive—it was at that time that a law went through making all Native Americans citizens. The people put up a firm stand against it. But some of our people wanted it, again. And then HUD [Housing & Urban Development] came along shortly after the war. And the Clan Mothers and the Council said, "We don't want that kind of program coming here. What are we going to do when you pull that program out?" Which has happened to a lot of Indian people all over the country. And so they said "No, we don't want it." And it caused a great big conflict in the community, because they [the opposition to the Council] had already talked to some people who liked it, who wanted it. They couldn't see far enough into the future, how we could become dependent, like other Nations have on those government hand-outs.

We have also had a constant barrage of people coming here wanting to make some kind of commercial enterprise out of our land. They think we're not using it. But we live here. And just simply enjoying it is enough for me. If I don't make two cents on my land—and I don't, you know—I'm happy. The children always had the hills to run, the creeks—wherever they wanted to play and go.

Syracuse Newspapers: How do you deal with it when other Native people who are heavily armed and proven that they're not afraid of violence come to your land? That's the threat right now. How do you protect yourselves?

Onondaga Women: We have ceremonial ways. What we do is keep our connection with our Creator. We keep our ceremonies going stronger. And we ask our Creator for help. When we heard that there were some guns coming here, the first thing we did was gather our people, call our religious leaders, and had a ceremony right here to bring about peace, so that our people would have peace of mind. Because they're dangerous people. They didn't care who they killed or shot at. The gun is for only one thing—to kill. Not to scare anyone, but it's to kill. And that's what we are taught. We don't use guns. We don't raise a gun against anyone.

— But now it's like these people are determined to destroy this Confederacy, and

[The business people] are talking about their sovereignty. I don't even think they know what sovereignty means, because sovereignty doesn't belong to anybody and it's not a gift. It's something that has had to be maintained every single day... I don't think those people realize what it takes to do that.

what's here. They don't know what they're up against. They don't know what they're losing because they've never had it, they've never felt it.

PNL: What about the role of the state police?

Onondaga Women: We're very patient people. We don't like to push and make a big scene about something. One of our Chiefs went up there and asked them to just keep it peaceful. A state trooper went up there and he said pretty much the same thing—"You can have your fire, just keep it quiet and don't try to go on the road." But that's exactly what they had in mind. And that's what they did. But you don't read that anywhere, that this is what happened.

— The state police were told they could make sure of the safety of the people who were going through, and also the people who were up there. The Chiefs have said this within our own talks, that the police did not have the authority to go into that person's yard. They were supposed to just watch there on the highway. But of course after the fracas began, they went into the yard.

— The police got over-zealous. The responsibility is on them, not on us.

PNL: Is there anything more that you would like people to know?

Onondaga Women: I shop mainly at the P&C in the Valley, and I've met people down there who want to shake my hand. "Well gee, we're backing you up. You're up there on the highway, what can we do to help you?" and all this. And I explain to those few people that I talk with that it isn't the Onondaga Nation up there on the highway.

You don't know how bad I feel to have to say these things about our own people. About what some of our own people are doing. It's not a good feeling that I have because of it. But, protecting what we have, to uphold our government and our leadership, we have to say something because what was coming out was just too incomplete.

Carole is a member of the PNL Editorial Collective, and a friend of the Onondagans.



Finding a Peaceful Way

Regulating Trade Among the Iroquois

Doug George-Kanentiiio

DURING THE PAST YEAR representatives of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy have been meeting to find a peaceful way to resolve the current economic crisis affecting most Iroquois communities.

For many years the Iroquois people have been saddled with high unemployment and poverty. These problems in turn have resulted in an unhealthy reliance on state and federal programs.

As prescribed by treaty, both federal and state levels of US government have been providing such basic services as road maintenance, minimal health care and education. In the past generation this support has been expanded to include housing, job training, welfare, and various youth-oriented activities.

As beneficial as some of these things might be, the Confederacy leadership is concerned that the Iroquois people are becoming too dependent on outside agencies.

They know that neither New York State nor the Feds give anything to Native people out of pure benevolence. Our common history teaches that there will be an accounting for every dime spent on the Iroquois with the total deducted from our land claims settlements.

There had to be a way to stimulate our local economies, the leadership believed, without compromising our ancient teachings and traditional values. The obvious source of income—commercial gaming—was ruled out because it violated Iroquois law. Tobacco and petroleum sales were another possibility. Iroquois elders, however, have warned of the danger to our spiritual health if we get involved in marketing such a sacred plant as tobacco.

The chiefs and clan mothers at Onondaga adamantly oppose setting up gas stations. They know Iroquois governments don't have the means to clean up the inevitable fuel spills. They are well aware of the contamination of the aquifer beneath Onondaga by one of the banished "businessmen" and do not want a repeat of that environmental crisis.

So the Tuscarora, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Tonawanda Senecas decided not to get

involved in fuel. The Mohawk Nation Council, however, decided to continue licensing two gas stations for at least a little while.

As much as New York State is a concern for the Haudenosaunee, there is also the threat of domestic turmoil should the traditional councils try to rein in certain unregulated businesses.

For over a decade the councils have been wrestling with these businesses with little to show other than mutually bitter feelings. The chiefs saw business owners taking advantage of the lack of police and courts on Iroquois land. In previous times discipline was applied through the clan system guided by the principles of reconciliation and the restoration of peace.

Given the decision by a few business owners to use weapons to defend their interest, the leadership faced an all-out fight if it pressed for internal regulations and enforcement.

At Akwesasne, near the NYS/Canada border, this problem was most acute. A small group linked to the so-called "warrior" movement used the open border there to accumulate great wealth. According to US federal authorities, in a four year period this group made almost \$700,000,000 smuggling fuel and tobacco. Yet very little of this trickled down to the people.

On June 21 the US indicted 21 alleged smugglers, nine of whom were non-Natives. On July 9 the Syracuse *Post-Standard* reported that one of the smuggling cartel leaders had made enough money channeling liquor and cigarettes through Akwesasne to open a \$22,000,000 casino in Moscow.

Late last fall Iroquois leaders saw an opportunity to change the grim situation by meeting with New York State officials to discuss a trade and commerce compact.

As envisioned by the Iroquois, the compact would remove the threat of State-imposed taxes on Native businesses while providing the councils with a way to control what came into our territories.

This would be accomplished, not by confrontation, but by the Confederacy licensing all retailers, and itself becoming the wholesaler for tobacco. The State and Feds would act to fulfill the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua by keeping out anyone not licensed by the

Confederacy. And the State and Feds would pledge to refrain from entering our lands. This would take place while the Iroquois gradually moved away from selling tobacco and into food production and distribution.

This simple, yet effective, solution took months of intense discussion before the State agreed. On April 1 Governor Pataki acted to prevent any delivery of fuel or tobacco to the Iroquois without our prior approval.

The outlaw businesses reacted predictably. They took to the roads at Onondaga and Cattaraugus to oppose the Confederacy. On May 21 Pataki shocked the Haudenosaunee by caving in to businessmen's demands. He unilaterally withdrew his support for a negotiated settlement.

Of course, Pataki's decision was more complicated than it appeared. It seems that certain NYS power brokers told Pataki that if he wanted to seriously bid for the presidency in the year 2000 he would have to abandon the Confederacy and support the pro-gaming elements.

If it had had the financial resources, the Confederacy could have effectively prevented any further casino development. And control over the tobacco trade would have pumped millions into the accounts of the Confederate nations.

In the weeks since Pataki made his retreat, there have been arson attacks and minor clashes at Onondaga and Tuscarora directed at the traditional leaders and their supporters.

The June 21 Akwesasne arrests may well have prevented more confrontation since some of the key "warrior" leaders were nabbed and now face years in prison.

Traditional leaders don't view the arrests as violating Iroquois law. Some of those apprehended may have been ethnic Mohawks who had lost their Haudenosaunee citizenship when they picked up arms against their people.

The legitimate Haudenosaunee leaders have not been deterred from upholding the Great Law of Peace while responding to the needs of their communities. The Confederacy will be issuing economic development plans to provide for the people while preserving Mother Earth.

Doug is an Akwesasne Mohawk residing on Oneida Territory with his wife Joanne Shenandoah.



AKSKVA 1987





Crowd Control, RUC-Style

Support the IRA's Cease-fire by Banning Plastic Bullets

Nancy Keefe Rhodes

For those watching Northern Ireland (NI), July was a roller-coaster of mass protest, police violence and a sudden cease-fire. On July 12, close to 100 from around CNY rallied in downtown Syracuse in solidarity with nationalists. Pat Ahern of the Red Branch Irish Americans for Justice & Peace says of NI in the "marching season," "It would be like the Ku Klux Klan marching down South Ave. here in Syracuse."

Fifteen other US cities held rallies too, called by Irish Northern Aid (NORAID), the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) and others, after extreme violence on July 6 in Portadown, southwest of Belfast. There, thousands of Royal Ulster Constabulary officers (RUC) and British troops had brutally cleared the Garavghy Road to force a Protestant parade through the Catholic, nationalist enclave. After weeks meeting with both sides, NI Secretary Mo Mowlam promised to personally tell residents whether she'd allow the parade. Instead, tanks rolled. Then a leaked memo revealed the "game-plan" was set in June.

Across the North, nationalists protested. Besides Mowlam's Portadown betrayal, the RUC used 2,500 plastic bullets that week. Gary Lawlor, 14, lay comatose; one hit him in the back of his head.

Under pressure, Protestant lodges in four key areas abruptly cancelled or re-routed July 12 marches. But most parades went on.

At Syracuse's rally, Rep. Jim Walsh's spokesman said Walsh met with the British ambassador. AOH national Secretary Thomas McNabb told the rally the Sinn Féin party must finally get a seat in the Irish peace talks.

Sectarian parades

July 12 marks William of Orange's final defeat of exiled Catholic King James II in 1690's Battle of the Boyne. New Jersey-sized, NI endures 2,500 summer parades glorifying British Protestant military victories. Parading lodges like the Orange Order are fervent UK loyalists. The dozen most contentious parades occur in cities like Portadown, Belfast and Derry, but villages also get overrun.

Three years ago, nationalist urban en-

claves organized to negotiate parade re-routes. Even those Orange lodges that changed their July 12 plans refused to talk with them.

In Northern Ireland the indigenous Catholic population is 43% and growing fast. They are twice as likely to be unemployed as the Protestant majority, which is mostly descended from Scots Presbyterians installed to colonize the North in the 1600's. When the 26 counties won independence in 1921 after 800 years of British occupation, the treaty partitioned Ireland and the UK kept six counties in the North.

British propaganda shapes US stereotypes of the "Troubles" as a religious feud the Irish brew themselves. US media often equates Sinn Féin with the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA). Syracuse media didn't carry McNabb's remarks, Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams' greeting to US demonstrators, nor reports that Sinn Féin urged calm through NI. But Adams' call for a new IRA cease-fire made headlines. The IRA agreed, effective noon, July 20. Syracuse's rally opened with the 1916 Easter Rebellion Proclamation to emphasize hopes for a free, united Ireland one day cherishing all her children equally, "oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government." Historically, Irish labor and women peace organizers also worked to unite both faiths. Sinn Féin's recent electoral mandate came after stressing that Protestants need not fear for their rights in days ahead.

Banning plastic bullets

On July 12, Syracuse NORAID chair Patrick Smith told TV-5, "There will be no peace without justice." Four days later, 400 Belfast youth rallied to ban plastic bullets. In the recent UK election campaign, Tony Blair's Labour Party promised such a ban. The British use plastic bullets only in Northern Ireland.

Human rights groups have long said the 93% Protestant RUC does not police evenhandedly. A spate of recent reports by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, Amnesty International, Belfast's Committee on Administration of Justice, and Derry's Pat Finucane Centre (where Syracusan Stuart Ross is working now), plus US Congressional hearings chaired by Rep. Chris Smith on June 24, detail plastic bullet abuse and urge broad justice reform too. Juryless trials, "emergency powers" suspending civil rights, and conditions in prisons and interrogation centers are notorious. The one RUC officer prosecuted

for plastic bullets was acquitted in John Downes' 1984 death. Downes' widow Brenda now heads the United Campaign to Ban Plastic Bullets. What many observers verified at Portadown only boosted this campaign.

Plastic bullets are called "non-lethal." Introduced to replace rubber bullets, over 64,000 were fired in NI from 1973-1996, says Human Rights Watch/Helsinki in *To Serve Without Favor* (5/97). Thousands have suffered traumatic injury—blinded, maimed, facial bones shattered. Seventeen have died—most children, 16 Catholics, only two actually "rioting," all from head or chest injuries. Guidelines require riot conditions, verbal warning, and aiming below waist level from at least 20 meters. Physicians for Human Rights is concerned since June's recall of "faulty," higher velocity plastic bullets in use since 1994.

As early as 1981 a tribunal found plastic bullets were "deliberately misused on a large scale." The European Parliament has banned them four times since 1982. Three UN Committees (on Human rights, Torture, and Rights of the Child) have expressed grave concern. Last year, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary conceded plastic bullets escalate disorder, finding RUC officers badly trained and too reliant on force.

On July 11, the *Herald-Journal* decried plastic bullets, noting that Rep. Walsh now co-sponsors House bill HR 1075. Introduced in March, HR 1075 would ban US plastic bullets sale and export and mandate efforts via the UN toward international sanctions.

HR 1075 may be hard to pass. Plastic bullet manufacture is entwined with other "non-lethal" weapons like pepper spray, bean-bag bullets, and stun grenades. Post-Cold War "defense" industry decline has made companies seek replacement markets in prisons and civil disorder. National Institute of Justice director Jeremy Travis and others encourage this. In 1995, US Asst. Secretary of State John Shattuck said plastic bullets must be eliminated. But he skipped the June 24 Congressional hearing.

From Derry, Stuart Ross says "what will secure the peace" now is de-militarizing the rest of the North. Besides banning plastic bullets, the RUC itself should be disbanded.

Nancy is a PNL contributing editor. Red Branch IAJP meets the first Thursday each month, 7 p.m., Coleman's Pub. For info, call Pat Ahern, 475-0345. For CNY NORAID's next meeting, call Patrick Smith at 469-8948.

Chiapas 101: A Zapatista Primer

Time-line of Major Events

1598-1993: Spanish colonialism tries to shatter indigenous culture, enslave native people, & turn local resources into exportable profits. Independence does little to change this in 1821. Even the 1910-21 Revolution has less impact on the southeastern state of Chiapas than elsewhere in Mexico. There, peasants receive less land than in any other state. Chiapas has the greatest gaps between rich & poor—who retreat further into mountains & jungles.

1/1/94: NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) takes effect. *Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional*/Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) stages a primarily indigenous armed uprising in Chiapas. They take five municipalities including San Cristóbal de las Casas. Two weeks' fighting leaves 145* dead. Lightning-strike rebellion frees indigenous prisoners, temporarily disrupts local bureaucracy, captures national & worldwide attention with its cause & mysterious Subcomandante Marcos. Anxious to appear First World to international banking community & revolutionary to its people, Mexico starts talks with EZLN, but also builds military presence in Chiapas.

* The "official" statistic. *San Cristóbal Diocese estimates deaths exceed 500.*

2-3/94: Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia moderates peace talks in San Cristóbal. Agreements reached on 24 points are submitted to Zapatista communities.

8/5-9/94: National Democracy Convention at *Aguascalientes* (EZLN "convention center"). About 5,000 leftists converge, without reaching hoped-for consensus.

10-12/94: Formation of National Mediation Commission (CONAI). Citing army build-ups, EZLN breaks off talks. Bishop Ruiz proposes CONAI, which both parties recognize. Troops halt military operations. EZLN reopens Chiapas to civilians. Salinas' presidency ends in December. Soon, the peso crashes.

2/95: Military offensive destroys *Aguascalientes*. In New York, Chase Manhattan Bank internal memo says new President

Zedillo must crush EZLN to restore "investor confidence." Dozens arrested & some tortured in Chiapas, Veracruz, & Mexico City. In Chiapas, rebels move further into mountains. Thousands of villagers flee.

3-4/11/95: Mexican Congress passes law to reopen peace talks, suspending military operations & arrest of EZLN leadership as long as dialogue continues. President Zedillo signs. New legislative commission (Cocopa) to oversee dialogue. Village of San Andrés hosts new talks.

7/95: *Consulta nacional*. Government refusal to negotiate anything beyond local level leads to EZLN's massive plebiscite. Over 1.2 million Mexicans vote on Mexico's need for political reform, whether democratic forces should unite, women's presence & participation in government & civic life, questions regarding principal demands (for land, housing, work, food, health, education, culture, information, independence, democracy, liberty, justice, peace, security, combatting corruption & defense of environment).

10/95: Talks begin on Indigenous Rights & Culture.

11/95: SIPAZ (*Servicio Internacional para la Paz*/International Service for Peace) opens a San Cristóbal office. Tasks include visiting indigenous communities, documenting human rights abuses, & conflict resolution training.

12/95: Four new *Aguascalientes* constructed. New Year's festivities at Oventic village, despite Mexican army's new military buildup.

1/96: Indigenous conference in San Cristóbal. Marcos ceremoniously surrenders his arms & addresses conference (500 representatives of 30 indigenous groups). Government debates whether to nab Marcos; they decide not to molest him in front of a watching world.

2-3/96: Government signs accords on Indigenous Rights & Culture (autonomy), but

fails to pass enabling legislation. Talks begin on Democracy & Justice; EZLN invites broad spectrum of 125 citizens from across Mexico as "advisors." Army & police attack indigenous groups.

7/96: *Encuentro Intercontinental par Humanidad y Contra el Neoliberalismo*. Over 5,000 people from 42 countries meet to discuss global crisis of neoliberalism.

8/96: Talks on Democracy & Justice end without agreement; government will only negotiate "local issues."

10/96: Zapatista Comandante Ramona addresses Indigenous Congress in Mexico City.

11-12/96: After further talks, EZLN accepts San Andrés Accords on Indigenous Rights & Culture. At first receptive, Zedillo's sudden counterproposal then rejects San Andrés Accords. EZLN rejects this.

12/96 - present: "Low-intensity war" against EZLN communities includes attacks against civilian Zapatistas & sympathizers, disappearances, mass evictions of families, heavy military occupation. Mexican officers learn "strategic hamlet" strategy at US School of Americas. US aid includes 73 helicopters & \$16 million for training, equipment.

7/25-8/3/97: Opening of Second Intercontinental Encounter, with supporting demos in many US cities, after school-building in Chiapas by international summer volunteers & election of new Mexican Congress & new Mexico City mayor, Cuahatemoc Cardenas. Mexico now has world's largest out-migration (approx. 15 million people).

Thanks to Peter Rashkin for permission to adapt his Zapatista chronology. Access his Spanish Dagger Publications on-line at www.wavenet.com/~prashkin/dag9.html. Material also added from the Zapatista webpage at www.peak.org/~joshua/fzln/, & from EZLN Rep. to the US Cecilia Rodriguez in her June 14 call to publicize Chiapas. See p.14 for "Further Resources & Contacts."

I HAVE A QUESTION

**OF THOSE MEN WHO RAPED ME.
WHY DID YOU NOT KILL ME?**

IT WAS A MISTAKE TO SPARE MY LIFE.

I WILL NOT SHUT UP,

**I WILL NOT STOP MY WORK OF TRAVEL TO CHIAPAS
OR MY WORK IN THE UNITED STATES AS**

A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CAPATISTAS,

THIS HAS NOT TRAUMATIZED ME TO

THE POINT OF

PARALYSIS.

I WILL FOLLOW

THOUSANDS OF MEXICANS WHO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A TRUE DEMOCRACY IN MEXICO IN SPIKE OF THE DANGER TO THEMSELVES AND THEIR LOVED ONES, WHO TELL THE TRUTH

in spite of physical and mental suffering. - Cecilia Rodriguez

Yo tengo una pregunta para aquellos hombres que se vickaron. ¿Por qué se me vickaron? Fue un error por donde me la vida. Ya no voy a callarme, no voy a parar mi trabajo ni mi viaje a Chiapas ni mi trabajo en los Estados Unidos como representante de los Zapatistas. Esto no me ha traumatizado ni purificado de la parálisis. Yo seguiré el ejemplo de los otros miles de mexicanos que continúan trabajando por la verdadera democracia en México, a pesar del peligro que implica para ellos y para sus hijos que están, que ahora la verdad a pesar de sufrimientos físicos y mentales.

RESISTANT STRAINS
POSTERS
ZAPATISTA POSTER SERIES 1994
this poster: Nick Jochen

Poster quote by Cecilia Rodriguez. Rodriguez is the Zapatista Representative to the US. She visited Syracuse University last winter, invited by Latino students during a speaking tour of US campuses. Ms. Magazine profiled her in last January's issue. She was raped during an early working trip to Chiapas. Making up over 40% of Zapatista members and leaders, women have played a central role in the uprising. This has led to intense debate about women in the context of democracy. Indigenous communities have developed new guidelines about women's participation and rights. This activity has made women the targets of harsh repression by the Mexican military. Over 50 women living and working in Chiapas have been raped in the past two years, including teenage girls, health care workers, nuns, and international human rights advocates. Many others have been harassed, beaten, tortured, disappeared. This has severely disrupted life in the villages. Because of antiquated sexual assault laws and military impunity—although rape is now classified as a war crime—no one has been prosecuted for these atrocities.

The Resistant Strains Zapatista Poster Series is an expression of solidarity with the Zapatistas in the context of the ongoing and underpublicized war in Mexico. Apart from coverage during a few brief days at the start of the uprising, corporate-state media has either ignored this struggle outright, or told only the sweet story of the Mexican government's beneficent restraint and open-minded willingness to negotiate a peaceful resolution to the conflict. "We have not, with this project, assumed that a series of posters can make up for massive disinformation, or that we can address all the aspects of the Zapatista rebellion that deserve our direct support. Our hope is that these works will echo the Zapatistas' assertion 'We are still here, and serve as a reminder of the spirit of resistance and hope in a time when we are told that defeat is our best and only option.'"
Text from a press release written by David Thorne of the Resistant Strains working group. Resistant Strains is an alternative media project examining historical and ongoing resistances to political, social, and economic domination. Sets of 10 posters are \$15, plus \$3 shipping. To order, contact: Resistant Strains, POBox 153B, Glover, VT, 05639. (802)525-8853. e-mail: <baseline@igc.apc.org>

Further Chiapas Resources & Contacts

National Commission on Democracy in Mexico (NCDM)

EZLN recognizes this structure to represent them and coordinate support in the US. Houses the Sisters Across Borders project; publishes *Libertad*. Contact for Cecelia Rodriguez, EZLN Rep to the US. NCDM carries posters from Resistant Strains' Zapatista Poster Series (see pp.12-13).

2001 Montana Ave., Suite B
El Paso, Texas 79903

<http://www.igc.apc.org/ncdm>

Phone/fax (915) 532-8382 or e-mail
<moonlight@igc.apc.org>

The Diocese of San Cristóbal de las Casas

The diocese provides info about the EZLN. Also a good way to send support to the Zapatistas. Calle 5 de Febrero, Colonia Centro
29200 San Cristóbal, Chiapas, MEXICO
Phone 011-52-967-80053

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

IATP produces *Chiapas Digest*, which has timely and useful information. IATP seeks to educate the public on links among community development, the environment, and international trade policy. Digest available from Hannah Holm at <hhholm@igc.apc.org> or write IATP at:
1313 Fifth Street, SE #303
Minneapolis, MN 55414
(612) 379-5980

Equipo Pueblo

Works closely with popular movements to promote democracy, defend human rights and advance economic justice. An ongoing source of Zapatista primary materials. News bulletin, *La Otra Cara de Mexico*, available for US\$15.

Equipo Pueblo

Apartado Postal 27-467

06760 México D.F. MEXICO

Phone 011-525-539-0015

E-mail: <pueblo@laneta.igc.apc.org>

Love and Rage

Consistent, thoughtful Zapatista coverage from an anarchist perspective; also publishes the newspaper *Amor y Rabia* in Mexico City.

PO Box 853

New York, NY 10009

(718) 834-9077

E-mail: <lnr@blythe.org>

Weekly News Update on the Americas

One of the best ongoing sources for news. Available directly through Nicanet or, for e-mail users, regularly posted to the ACTIV-L list

(see below); archived by the New York Transfer New Collective Online Library. Reach NYT at <nyt@blythe.org> or write to:
Nicaragua Solidarity Network
339 Lafayette St.
New York, NY 10012
(212) 674-9499

Resource Center of the Americas

A US-based group that links people throughout the Americas and monitors Chiapas.
317 17th Ave. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
(612) 627-9445

SIPAZ

See page 14 for information.

CHIAPAS-L and MEXICO94 (Internet)

The Chiapas Discussion List was created after the uprising. The Mexican Elections List was created later to focus on the August 1994 elections. Both are maintained by PROFMEXIS at CETEI-UNAM (Center for Technology and Information at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, *Centro de Tecnologia e Informatica* at UNAM). Both have archives (*Correspondencia*) that can be accessed via gopher <lanic.utexas.edu>. Subscribe by sending the command "subscribe chiapas-l (or Mexico94-l) your_name" to <llstproc@listas.unam.mx>, subject line empty.

NATIVE-L and NATCHAT (Internet)

These two listserves—*Aboriginal Peoples: News and Information* and *Aboriginal Peoples: Discussion List*—are part of the NATIVENET series. NATIVE-L archives are maintained at Texas A&M University. To subscribe, send the command "subscribe native-l (or natchat) your_name" to <listserv@tamvml.tamu.edu>, subject line empty.

CENTAM-L (Internet)

The Central American Discussion List also covers struggles in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. To subscribe, send the command "subscribe centam-l yourname" to <listserv@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu>, subject line empty.

ACTIV-L (Internet)

The Activist Mailing List posts material on the Zapatistas and a vast array of other activist issues. You can also subscribe to a daily index of stories available. To subscribe, send "subscribe activ-l" to <listserv@mizzoul.missouri.edu>, subject line empty. For daily index, "set activ-l index" to same address.

Source: List Mexico2000 <mexico2000@mep-d.org>, via Coordinadora 96's List on Advocacy for Human Labor and Civil Rights <96seradc@u.washington.edu>, 5/97.



Chiapas Primer compiled by Nancy Keefe Rhodes.



Summer School-Building Project

San Diegans for Peace in Mexico are coordinating an international volunteer project this summer to build a junior high school in the Zapatista community of Oventic in Chiapas. They need volunteer, financial and in-kind assistance. (Remember that any supplies you might eventually send should be new or in very good condition.) For further information:

San Diegans for Peace in Mexico

3909 Centre Street, San Diego, CA 92103

Phone (619) 232-2841 E-mail <mexicopeace@igc.apc.org>

Web-site at <<http://www.igc.org/mexicopeace>>

* The Oventic students will have access to the the internet. If you would like to correspond with them, send a message with the command "subscribe mayan pen pals" to <mexicopeace@igc.apc.org>.

Coming to Power, Together

SPC's "Building Resistance" Workshops Continue

Nick Orth

I HAVE OFTEN FOUND the attitude of the peace and justice movement toward consensus decision making oddly out of synch with itself. Although consensus is considered the ideal way of making decisions, there is often a sense of burden about the process, as if it were not power sharing but power sapping.

I call this an odd split because it was in a Catholic Worker community using consensus decision-making that I came into a sense of my power and found a voice which feels both authentic and integrated with my core values. I'm not try-

ing to say that what this community brought me was only due to consensus, but it was certainly an important factor.

When I sat in on my first Catholic Worker meeting, I had no idea what was going on. Literally. I had never heard of "consensus decision making," and I thought that the label of facilitator was just a nongendered way of saying chairman. Oddly enough I wasn't too disruptive in that first meeting even though I had no introduction to the process nor the theory of consensus.

I think the reason this very informal attitude worked for that group is because it was a community of people who lived together, who were in the habit of listening carefully to each other, and who were getting enough out of the process to make it worthwhile.

It wasn't until I attended an American Peace Test action at the nuclear test site in Nevada that I became aware that a "formal" consensus process existed. In preparing for civil disobedience against the testing, we were given a booklet which included an outline of a consensus model to be used by the affinity groups participating in the action. This formal model gave me tools to think more tangibly about the usefulness of consensus.

After the nuclear action, I took the con-

sensus model and insights back to my community to help improve our group process. This process helped me let go of my ownership of the ideas I brought to the group. In watching ideas evolve and change, what became more important was that the idea was reflective of the group at large rather than being determined by the specific personality or power of the member who proposed the idea.

For example, our community was struggling over the issue of housekeeping. Several members who had lived there a long time insisted that tasks needed to be delineated to

make sure that they got done; others felt a more casual setup would work better. Instead of going with the decision that reflected any one person's conviction of what was best, we worked on an agreement in which the wider group felt more invested. That decision was easier when we consciously worked to let

go of what we wanted as individuals and to trust the group to come up with the best idea for the group as a whole. The subtleties of this type of decision are what we hope to unpack in our workshop.

"... I look forward to the rest of this series on creative non-violence. These kinds of skills are what will build a decent, livable community."

*Philip Prehn
Syracuse United Neighbors*

Volunteer for Peace & Human Rights

Joint Training in NYS This Fall

Join the SIPAZ (pronounced "see poss," as the Spanish for "yes to peace") team in San Cristóbal, or go elsewhere with Peace Brigades International (PBI). PBI and SIPAZ both seek volunteers and will hold a joint training in October. Both share a commitment to nonviolence and believe that local people can create peaceful and just communities.

Since 1983, PBI has accompanied campesino groups, labor unions, human rights organizations, refugees and many others. Last December's peace accord between the Guatemalan government and rebels ended 36 years of civil war. PBI volunteers monitor the peace process, accompany threatened activists, and report to the international community. PBI teams are also in Sri Lanka, Colombia (subsidy available), Native communities (US and Canada), Haiti, and the Balkans.

Both groups ask for Spanish fluency (or others as needed) and at least one year's

Coming to Power, Together

a workshop on consensus decision-making presented by Nick Orth and Joy Meeker.

The second in SPC's "Building Resistance" nonviolence training series

**1-4 pm Sunday, August 24
@ SPC (924 Burnet Ave.)**

Consensus is not a way of thinking about power that is encouraged by our culture. This perspective is not often considered "natural," nor is it something that will come with an individual's or groups' good intentions. It is something we need to consciously learn and practice. To this end Joy Meeker and I are preparing a workshop on consensus decision making. It will be the second event in SPC's Building Resistance Series. We will offer models of consensus and opportunities to practice and experiment with group processes. Come share your stories and experiences about using consensus, including frustrations, ideas and suggestions. We hope to see you there!

Nick is a Catholic Worker living in Syracuse with his partner Michael and their little foofy dog Molly.



commitment. PBI volunteers must be at least 25 years old and SIPAZ volunteers, 21. The groups seek volunteers with group skills, strong political analysis, flexibility, background in peacemaking or conflict resolution, reporting and investigative abilities, and either international experience or knowledge of the region.

Both pay living expenses. SIPAZ sometimes provides international travel expenses. PBI encourages fundraising from one's home community.

Training for Volunteers: **October 3 - 10.**

Deadline: September 1.

Cost: \$250-350 (sliding scale). To be held at Lake Pyramid, Paradox, New York

Contact:

Peace Brigades International/USA
2642 College Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704

(510) 540-0749 or e-mail:

pbiusa@lpc.apc.org

SOA Update

Pentagon Drops Charges Against Parade Ground Gravediggers

Ed Kinane

IT SEEMS the Pentagon is unwilling to give SOA activists another day in court.

On April 28 Pentagon security arrested 17 protesters for digging a simulated mass grave on the Pentagon's parade ground (see 6/97PNL). The dig-in was part of a demo calling for closure of the School of the Americas. For over five decades the SOA has trained Latin American military to do the Pentagon's dirty work among our satellites to the south.

Five of the 17 were released—inexplicably—without charges. The remaining 12 were given tickets to appear in court in Alexandria, Virginia on June 6. Among these were Syracusans Nick Cardell and Kathleen Rumpf. On June 6, with the 12 defendants and the arresting officers on hand, the Pentagon dropped all charges. Its strategy is clear: keep the issue out of public view.

This strategy isn't new. Since its founding in 1946 the SOA has kept an extremely low profile. Until recently very few Americans had even heard of it. Our job as activists is to make sure the SOA gets exposed. And to translate that exposure into getting Congress to vote to cut off SOA funding.

Now for the first time in the Senate there is a companion bill to Rep. Joe Kennedy's HR611. Senator Dick Durban (D-IL) introduced S980 in June. Please urge NYS Senators D'Amato and Moynihan to vote for and co-sponsor this bill. In April when we lobbied them in DC, Moynihan's aides showed little interest. Clearly, Moynihan and his staff need a wakeup call. And let's not write off D'Amato: he may surprise us with how responsive he can be during an election year.

Plan Now for November Action

Central New Yorkers will be returning to Fort Benning, Georgia again in mid-November. Some cars will be leaving shortly before dawn on Tuesday, Nov. 11, for the two-day trip. SOA Watch/CNY has reserved two town houses at the South Gate Motel in Columbus, GA. These modest (and cheap) group accommodations are just 200 yards from Fort Benning's main gate, the site of our Nov. 13-

16 vigil and action. To plug in, call Ann Tiffany at 478-4571.

Fr. Roy Bourgeois of SOA Watch has called for 1000 people from all over the country to converge on Fort Benning on Nov. 16 to march on SOA headquarters. At Headquarters we'll present a thick stack of petitions. (For a copy of the petition to circulate, call Ann.)

Without such mass nonviolent direct action, it's unlikely the SOA will close. Please consider taking part; it could be one of the most useful weeks of your life. Note: while a mass arrest is likely, this action isn't necessarily civil disobedience. Fort Benning is open to the public and political activity *does* occur thereon. Nonetheless anti-SOA protesters tend to be detained for a few hours...although, as we've seen, recently the Pentagon has refrained from prosecuting. (The 60 arrested at Fort Benning last Nov. 16 were given ban and bar letters, but were never even arraigned.)*

Despite the Pentagon's caginess, the SOA is getting some mainstream press coverage. *GO*, a glossy men's fashion magazine, featured a lengthy exposé in its June issue. On July 23, National Public Radio carried a 45-minute talk show on the SOA with guest Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, author of *School of Assassins*. Locally, on July 7 the *Herald-Journal* ran a powerful editorial, "Accessories to Torture: Our Money Trains Killers at SOA." Here's an excerpt:

[The SOA] is a school for murderers, torturers, thugs. There, they learn the most efficient methods for killing their own people, for oppressing those who call for change. And, sadly, the victims most often are those who seek the democratic freedoms we have here, indeed the ones this country was built on—freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, the right to vote.

On July 17, the local *Post-Standard* carried a lengthy editorial, also calling for defunding the SOA. It noted that Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-New Hartford) says he plans to vote against the SOA for the first time. The occasion of these editorials was an amendment that Rep. Estaban Torres (D-CA) was to offer the House Appropriations Committee on July 9. Torres called for depriving the SOA of certain critical funding. Our own Rep. James Walsh is on the Appropriations Committee. The *H-J* editorial called on him to do the right

thing. After a heated debate the amendment was defeated 23 to 21.

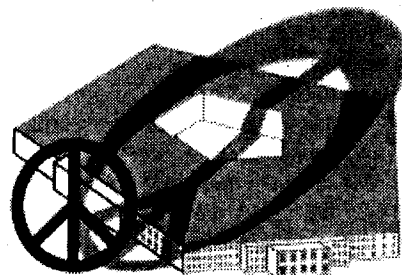
These days many members of the House resist voting to close military bases for fear of jeopardizing jobs in their districts. They may see a vote against the SOA in that light. According to his office, Rep. Walsh *did* vote for the amendment.

* *In June the US Court of Appeals in Georgia heard the appeal in the case of the 10 of us arrested at Fort Benning on Nov. 16, 1995. Our pro bono lawyers argued that we were selectively prosecuted and that the arrest violated our 1st Amendment rights. We may have to wait up to a year for the Court's decision.*

Ed thinks working to close the SOA is a great "starter" issue for new activists: the issue is clear and unambiguous and has immense implications for our national soul. He hopes numerous SPC and CNY activists will march on the SOA in November.



A DAY WITHOUT THE PENTAGON



National Day Without the Pentagon (Fri., Oct. 24) is being organized nation-wide by the War Resisters League. This year's observance will focus on local embodiments/excrescences of the Pentagon. The 1998 Day Without the Pentagon will focus on the Pentagon itself.

Caribbean/Latin-American Coalition (CLAC) is inviting two representatives each of local peace and justice groups to join us at our next monthly potluck meeting to plan Central New York's local role. That meeting will be held at CLAC's usual time: **Wed., Aug. 13, 6-7:30pm** at Plymouth Church in downtown Syracuse.

Groups invited include SPC, and the Syracuse Social Movement Initiative (SU), and local chapters of AFSC, FOR, Pax Christi, Peace Action and Veterans for Peace. Other groups are also most welcome. For more info, call Ann at 478-4571.

June & July Caribbean/Latin America Coalition Notes

Cuba

According to Radio Habana, medicines have arrived from recent Pastors for Peace caravans—including the May caravan which Syracuse activists accompanied across the Canadian border near Buffalo. Local Cuban expatriate Juan Lorenzo (whose op-ed appeared in the Syracuse *Post-Standard* in June) heard a description of these essential medical supplies being delivered to a hospital near where he once worked.

El Salvador

The Sister Community Project was heartened to receive three timely letters recently from La Estancia.

- Syracuse friends of our former Sanctuary family, the Zamoras (now of Edmonton, Canada), helped them to travel to El Salvador again this summer. This trip allowed Alfonso and Osmaro, now 14 and 15, born as refugees in Mexico during the civil war, to visit their "homeland" for the first time.

They've written from El Salvador expressing appreciation for the support.

- US-based multi-national corporations, including communications giants, are actively involved in new privatization efforts targeting utilities chartered to run in the public interest.
- President Calderon Sol visited Washington to urge that Salvadoran nationals not be sent back to El Salvador. Their cash remittances play a key role in the Salvadoran economy at a time when unemployment there is rife.

Guatemala

In May Doug Igelsrud attended a conference of Guatemala solidarity groups in Washington, DC. A key point, often underlined there, was that the Peace Accords are a result of a 40-year struggle, and afford an opportunity for all groups to work together both within Guatemala and internationally. Guatemalans asked the US solidarity movement to support

unity, to provide accompaniment, and to press the Clinton administration to hold the Guatemalan government to honoring the Accords. Guatemalans also need *economic* solidarity from the US movement.

Doug points out that Central New York has never had a formally organized Guatemala solidarity movement. Call him at 471-5749 to explore ways to better bring Guatemala solidarity work into the local loop.

From Oct. 3-10 at Pyramid Lake in Paradox, NY, Peace Brigades International will hold a training for new volunteers to provide protective accompaniment in Chiapas and Guatemala. For details, see box on p. 15.

SOA

See update on p. 16.

Chiapas

See pull-out centerfold section, "Chiapas 101," pp. 11-14.

— Paul Weichselbaum



NPR: Still Silent on Mumia

In April, National Public Radio decided not to air a poem by Martin Espada, from whom they had commissioned a piece for National Poetry Month. The poem Espada submitted, entitled "Another Nameless Prostitute Says the Man Is Innocent," was inspired by news that a witness was willing to come forward with new evidence of Mumia Abu-Jamal's innocence. The sole justification for NPR's censorship of the poem, despite their contractual arrangement to air it, was the network's policy of silence on Mumia and his case. Although Espada knew of NPR's policy beforehand, he "had hoped that a sense of fairness...would compel *All Things Considered* to broadcast the poem."

NPR's position was that Espada still "should have known better." NPR's policy of censorship on this issue has been in effect since 1994, after pressure from the Fraternal Order of Police, then-Senator Bob Dole, and other conservatives convinced it to cancel a series of Mumia's radio commentaries from deathrow. Mumia and the Prison Radio Project filed suit against NPR in a case still pending. NPR's action violates the First Amendment,

in spirit if not in fact. Further, the network's reputation as "alternative media" undermines attempts to raise national awareness of Mumia's situation. NPR, one of the least "dangerous" alternative news sources, is itself in danger of submitting to the alternative of complicit silence. Espada is asking that NPR supporters redirect their financial contributions to the Committee to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal, 163 Amsterdam Avenue, #115, New York, NY 10023.

Source: *The Progressive* July 1997.

State Knows Best

In June, *Sojourner Magazine* reported that charges had been dropped against police in Blair, Nebraska, for obstructing a teenage woman's access to abortion counseling. Ruby Scott, 15 years old when she was taken into custody in 1994 from her parents' home, had taken a pregnancy test at her boyfriend's home two days before. Her boyfriend's mother requested a doctor to submit a letter "warn[ing] of the general medical precautions associated

with any abortion—including 'emotional damage.'" Apparently harassment by the boyfriend and his family, and abduction and invasion of privacy by police, under the rubric of "protective custody," are less "damaging" in the eyes of the state.

Although Scott's parents consented to their daughter's decision, the police labelled them "neglectful" for endangering their daughter's well-being. Reporters Shelley Mains and Angela Wessels note the implicit irony that parents forfeit their "right to consent" when they support a daughter when seeking an abortion. The ease with which the "parents' rights" provision was turned against itself should also be noted, since the court's decision suggests the underlying spirit of the regulations on women's/girls' right to choose: if the state only has to challenge parents' competency, how many more poor women and girls could be legally intimidated, if not economically excluded, from accessing safe and adequate health care?

— Tim Judson



Coming Soon!
Brunch
 Saturday, September 27th
 10am-1pm - Westcott Community Center
 Hosted by: CLAC, Caribbean/Latin America Coalition
 with chef Nick Orth, a benefit for Syracuse Peace Council

FIGHTBACK!

of Central New York

FIGHTBACK! of Central New York, a not-for-profit, grassroots organization providing self-defense and empowerment training for women, young women, and children, is experiencing some exciting developments as we approach our 7th year.

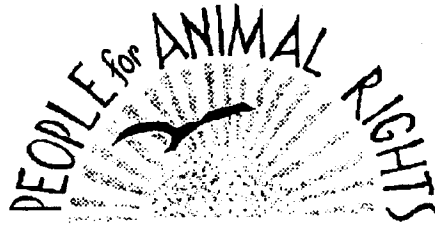
Since 1991, FIGHTBACK! has been run exclusively by volunteers, all of whom were graduates of the program. This summer we decided to invest in a part-time staff person, at least until September. We hope that we will generate adequate funding to extend the position into FIGHTBACK!'s future. We unanimously agreed that our new "executive director" needed to be someone already intimately connected to the organization's day-to-day operations. This left us with a pool of five women to choose from. And the winner is—ME, Elizabeth Corbett. I have the flexibility in my schedule to accommodate this work, and I thoroughly embrace the opportunity to do so.

In addition to networking with others working against violence against women, and pursuing grant money, FIGHTBACK!'s major focus this summer is on our fall fundraiser, *One Loud NO!* The event will be an evening of exhibition, performance, and reading dedicated to bringing together an inclusive range of women's creative work dealing with violence against women and the ways we resist it. We are currently accepting submissions of artwork of all kinds from women who would like to be a part of *One Loud NO!* Deadline for submissions is **September 1**. The event will be held from **7:30-10:30 pm** on **September 27**, at the Westcott Community Center. Martha McCaughey, author of *Real Knockouts: The Physical Feminism of Women's Self-Defense* (due in July from NYU Press) will be the keynote speaker. Beautiful, bountiful dessert will be served.

Another priority for FIGHTBACK! is finding a new "mugger." We are looking for a man (or two) interested in making a commitment to helping women to learn self-defense in an intensely supportive, empowering atmosphere. Ideally, training would begin in the fall. Fully trained, certified instructors are paid for the classes they teach.

For more info about our program, to inquire about submitting artwork to *One Loud NO!*, or to find out more about the opening for a mugger trainee, please contact: FIGHTBACK!, PO Box 6013, Syracuse, 13217. 422-0555.

—Elizabeth Corbett



Health Charities that Do Not Fund Animal Experiments

If you contribute to health charities, consider giving your money to those that do *not* fund experimentation on animals. Beware of charities with "similar" names. For a single address, call PAR at (315)488-PURR. For a complete list write to PAR, PO Box 358, Syracuse, 13215.

- American Fund for Alternatives to Animal Research
- American Kidney Fund
- AmVets National Service Foundation
- Arthritis Research Institute of America
- Association of Birth Defect Children
- Brain Injury Association
- Calvary Fund, Inc.
- Cancer Care, Inc.
- The Cancer Federation
- Cancer Fund of America, Inc.
- Cancer Prevention and Survival Fund (a special project of PCRM)
- Child Health Foundation
- Design Industries Foundation for AIDS
- Disabled American Veterans
- Elton John AIDS Foundation
- Endometriosis Association
- Foundation for the Junior Blind
- The Green Foundation, Inc.
- Heimlich Foundation
- International Eye Foundation
- Multiple Sclerosis Assn. of America
- Natl. Assn. for the Cranofacially Handicapped
- National Easter Seal Society
- Nation Federation for the Blind
- Project Cure
- Quest Cancer Test
- Rheumatoid Disease Foundation (aka The Arthritis Fund)
- Southeast Vitiligo Research Foundation Inc.
- Trauma Foundation/Mary Martin Trauma Center

Info courtesy of PCRM (Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine), 5100 Wisconsin Ave NW, Suite 404, Washington, DC 20016. Revised April 1997.



My Sisters' Words

My Sisters' Words Celebrates 10th Anniversary!

My Sisters' Words, the largest feminist bookstore in New York State, will celebrate its 10th anniversary the first weekend in October.

For ten years, My Sisters' Words has been committed to keeping our sisters' voices alive. As one more way of sharing and preserving these voices, we will be producing a 10th Anniversary Commemorative Book. This book will be filled with the words of the sisters in Central New York (and beyond) who want to make a public (or anonymous) statement about the place the bookstore has held in our lives over the past decade. We invite women to submit a one-liner, a poem, a memory, or an essay. The writing can be humorous or serious, anecdotal or philosophical. It simply needs to answer the question: How has My Sisters' Words impacted my life?

In order to distribute the book at no cost, we ask a \$5-\$50 donation with your submission. But please don't let this request for money keep you from submitting something. By **August 15**, please submit on disk in any Mac format (if possible) as well as a printout to My Sisters' Words, 304 N. McBride St., Syracuse, 13203, ATTN: Commemorative Book. (Make checks payable to My Sisters' Words.)

We look forward to a wonderful celebration **Oct. 3-5**. Many women who have read or performed at the bookstore over the years will be joining us. On Friday, Oct. 3, Marie Summerwood will lead a ritual blessing of our past and encouraging our future. Saturday, Oct. 4, there will be an evening of celebration at 7 PM at the Civic Center featuring Jamie Anderson as MC, Irene Zahava, Pat Humphries, Nancy Bereano, Shay Youngblood, Rita Schiano, Rachel Guido deVries and Jackie Warren-Moore. On Sunday, Oct. 5, the celebration continues with a noon brunch at Drumlins with Sally Roesch Wagner, Donna Woolfolk Cross, Patrick Lawler, Mary Demetrick, and Joan Cofrancesco.

Mark your calendars now. We look forward to celebrating with you.

—Radell Roberts, Commemorative Book Coordinator

CANCEL CASSINI

International Demonstration & Nonviolent Actions

Cape Canaveral, FL, October 4, 1997, 1:00pm

Protest the launch of the Cassini
Space Probe with 73 pounds of
plutonium on board!



Peace Action

Remembering Hiroshima--1997

Behind anti-nuclear work is the burning mission to ensure that there is never another Hiroshima—anywhere—by abolishing nuclear weapons. An April '97 Lake Sosin & Snell poll shows that public opinion agrees: almost 80% of those polled wanted a treaty by the year 2000 to set steps for nuclear abolition. But governments, our own in particular, are not heeding the cries of the people.

One example was the July 2 "subcritical" nuclear test conducted by the US Energy Department, the first of six. The next is due in August or September. "Subcritical" tests maintain the capability to break out of the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, jeopardizing the efficacy of the treaty and the likelihood of its ratification.

Two Syracuse actions will challenge this arrogance:

On Monday, August 4, we will "table" at the Everson Museum plaza during lunch hour. As part of a national campaign, we will wrap soda cans with messages to "Can the Subcriticals" to be mailed to our president and senators. We will also gather signatures on the Stop Cassini petition, distribute literature drawing attention to the Nine Mile I "bomb" in our back yard, and hold a media event. Our bunny mascot will let the public know that nuclear testing "keeps going and going and going and going." Please join us. Find our bunny near the corner of Harrison and State streets between noon and 1:30 PM.

On Hiroshima Day, Wednesday, August 6, please gather with us for a noon vigil at Columbus Circle, joined by Fire in the Belly Theater's giant puppets. Call to confirm location. At the end of the vigil, Fire in the Belly will lead us to the Salina Street post office to mail our cans.

Join us in saying "Never Again." For more info call Peace Action (478-7442) or SPC (472-5478).

— Diane Swords

and we arrived at the Federal Building during the Party in the Plaza. People there were very dismayed to find out about the test, and their concern showed on their faces...

The action dovetails well with anti-nuclear actions internationally, and began a local campaign that will be continuing into the fall. For more info, see Lisa Guido's communiqué and Peace Action's update on actions planned for Hiroshima Day, both on this page.

— Tim Judson

Nuclear Plans Illegal, NATO Told

Ed. note: We received the following communique by e-mail from Lisa Guido, a Syracuse activist in Belgium this summer doing anti-nuclear work with the group For Mother Earth. The report was written by a member of the group there.

Madrid—July 8, 1997

At the start of the NATO Summit in Madrid, an international delegation of disarmament campaigners marched to the *Palacio Municipal de Congresos* and succeeded in presenting notarized Citizens' Summons for the Secretary General Xavier Solana, to be handed to all 16 NATO heads of government.

Endorsed by more than 60 international and national peace groups and several Members of Parliament (UK), the Citizens' Summons were presented on the first anniversary of the historic Advisory Opinion of the World Court. That opinion declared the threat or use of nuclear weapons generally contrary to international humanitarian law. The World Court also declared that there is an obligation to achieve an international convention abolishing all nuclear weapons.

Under a cloudless summer sky the 35-member delegation met first with an imposing Spanish police presence. Although all demonstrations near the NATO Summit were prohibited, the police finally agreed to escort the procession for over two kilometers to within 300 meters of the conference center. Wearing white radiation suits, the delegates carried colorful banners proclaiming, "NATO's nuclear plans illegal" and "Nuclear weapons off alert now!"

Arriving at the site, delegates signed the 16 enlargements of the Citizens' Summons, which carried national flags of the NATO member states and were addressed personally to each head of government. The Summons was notarized in Madrid by a Spanish notary, Señor Antonio de la Esperanza.

NATO agreed to receive three representatives of the delegation. George Farebrother (World Court Project, UK), Florentina Carrasco (*Association Libre de Abogados*, Spain) and Pol D'Huyvetter (For Mother Earth, Belgium) were escorted and met with Señor Angel Sanchos Ampudia, director of the NATO Summit Organizing Committee. He said he would personally deliver the documents to Xavier Solana, Secretary General of NATO.

Pol D'Huyvetter said afterward, "If NATO does not comply with international law here in Madrid, we see no other choice but to call for nonviolent direct actions by citizens to uphold international law." The first series of actions will come as soon as August 6 and 9 for the observance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

About Madrid, Lisa adds, "It was a good action and people felt really thrilled that it was somehow not squashed by the cops. The Spanish activists we worked with said it was typical for arrests to happen immediately, but maybe due to the presence of many international press folks, the police didn't disrupt us." Lisa last reported in the PNL about the Portland Plowshares trial in Maine. You can reach her this summer in Belgium by e-mail at:

<lisa@motherearth.knooppunt.be>



Locals Oppose Sub-critical Testing

On July 3, Peace Action organized an action downtown to draw attention to the federal government's sub-critical nuclear tests in Nevada. About 15 people gathered near the Armory in downtown Syracuse to march in a "funeral procession" for the death of nuclear weapons testing. We marched solemnly down to the Federal Building between Clinton and Franklin streets—some as pallbearers and sign carriers, while others distributed leaflets. Several SPC members participated, including three of the four new staffpersons; Paul Pearce was there to videotape the event. The timing of the event was especially successful, as there was plenty of rush-hour car and pedestrian traffic,

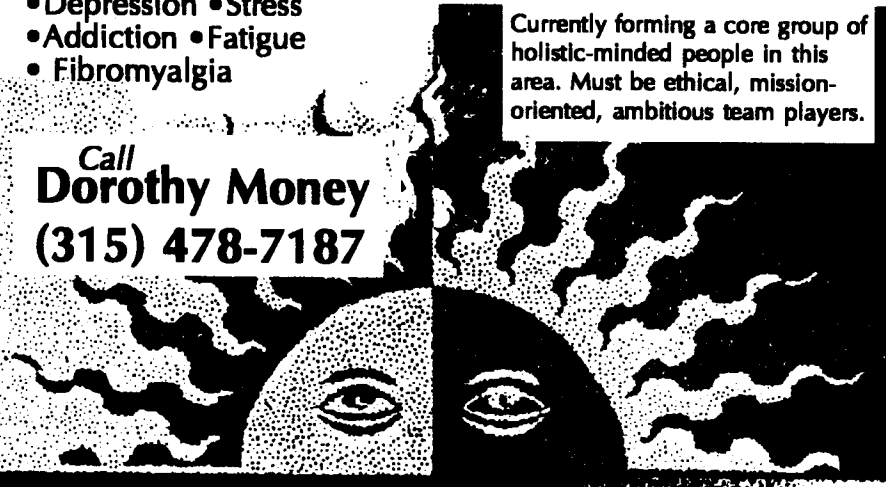
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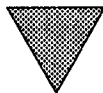
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Meet the SPC Staff Collective!

AT SEVERAL POINTS during its history, SPC's staff has operated as a collective. As the latest incarnation of the SPC Staff Collective, we are excited about the prospects this revival opens up for SPC and peace and social justice activism in the Syracuse area. So that the community can know a bit about who we are and what we bring to our jobs, we each prepared a personal statement.

Beth Mosley

I am a feminist, a parent of three young women ages nineteen, sixteen, and seven, a partner, a political activist, and an advocate for those whose voices are not as loud and strong as mine.

I have based my life on principles of non-violence.

I have been active on the Syracuse Peace Council's Council, the Literature Committee, and Plowshares Crafts Fair Committee for a number of years. I have enjoyed doing food in partnership with Nick Orth and being a part of a support system for Friends of Dorothy.

Parenting is a critical focus in my life, whether through home schooling, Girl Scouts, 4-H, or daily listening. My life is currently enhanced by three canoes and a canoe trailer in my driveway and conversations about the next canoe race.

I have participated in numerous demonstrations and actions involving diverse issues (gay rights, Central American issues, various wars, prison rights, workers' rights, Take Back the Night, nuclear disarmament, women's rights, Native American sovereignty, anti-racism, -nuclear power, -incinerator, -death penalty, and -domestic violence). I have committed civil disobedience and nonviolent direct actions, and led civil disobedience trainings.

I hope we continue to expand as a resource and voice for political action in our community.

Nicole Rogers

As a Syracuse native, I began my activism seven years ago while a freshman at Liverpool High School. My involvement with the school's environmental youth group gave me the courage to found the Syracuse Animal Defense League. I remained one of the main organizers of the group from 1991-1996, raising consciousness throughout the local community on issues of animal exploitation and oppression.

I have trained extensively in nonviolent civil-disobedience protest, and continue travel to other communities, holding workshops for young people on the connection between earth and animal liberation. I am currently involved in Feminists for Justice, a women's collective that distributes women's writings and educational literature on women's issues, as well as other social justice information. Feminists for Justice also holds workshops on social issues like ageism, heterosexism, speciesism, and racism.

I have recently begun recognizing the connection of all social-political movements, and am looking forward to broadening my activist horizon here at SPC. My main vision for SPC is the potential to reach out to more young people. One of my goals is to create an SPC youth program.

Paul Pearce

Having grown up in Central New York, it is gratifying to be associated with an organization such as SPC. Its history and commitment to nonviolent activism is a constant inspiration. Unfortunately, I was not even aware of the Syracuse Peace Council until after I was drafted into the US Army and spent a tour of combat duty in Viet Nam. I often wonder about the direction my life would have taken if I hadn't fought in Viet Nam.

Although I was never "gung ho" or even a supporter of the war, I "did my duty" as I was conditioned to do. I was raised to respect and obey our institutions of church and state in a sheltered and moderately privileged environment. I was naive and isolated from the voices and influences that might have validated the anti-violent, peace loving part of me. I was among the majority of fellow combatants that knew the war was wrong while I was there, and I attended my first anti-war rally (with camera in hand) shortly after returning from the war in the Spring of 1970. My personal work as a photographer and graphic artist often deals with the indoctrination toward violence and war that prevails in our society.

My initial volunteering with SPC involved photographing events for the *PNL*. I later became a technical support person for SPC Press. In Spring of 1986 I was asked to work in the press, and here I am today. The basis for my commitment is the necessity of the work we do and the potential to do it even better.

Tim Judson

My main job at SPC will be coordinating production of the *PNL*. I moved to Syracuse four years ago this summer, with the idea of getting myself enlightened, and qualified to help others do the same. I'd spend two years, and then "get the hell out of Dodge." My first week here, I found out Marxist revolutionaries still existed at SU, and out of ignorance, I laughed.

Within a year I was ready to join them, except that there was always something missing for me, and lots of things wrong. Sexual harassment and institutional corruption and ol'-boy networks in the English Department were awful, but they were also just the tip of the iceberg. I was ready to get out of the academic head-space, too. Almost by accident, I ended up sticking around, and eventually found the Syracuse Real Food Co-op (SRFC), Altered Space, East-side Neighbors In Partnership, and the Peace Council.

Since taking that step through the door into a community of people who *live* change (not just work for it), I've found "home." Looking through old *PNL*'s, the newsletter seems to record the history of that community as much as it does the news. Because of that, I'm both excited and humbled by my new job.

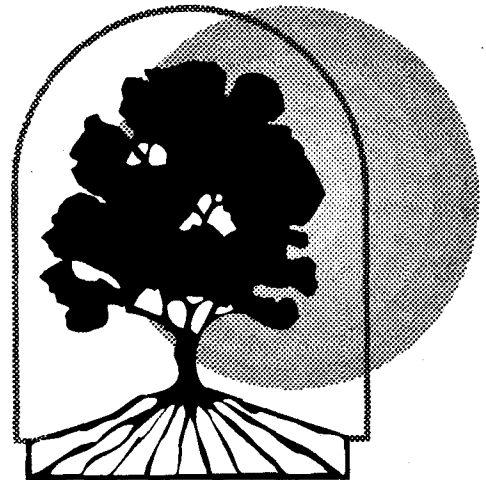
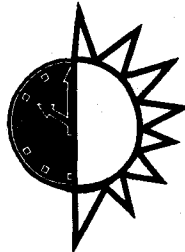
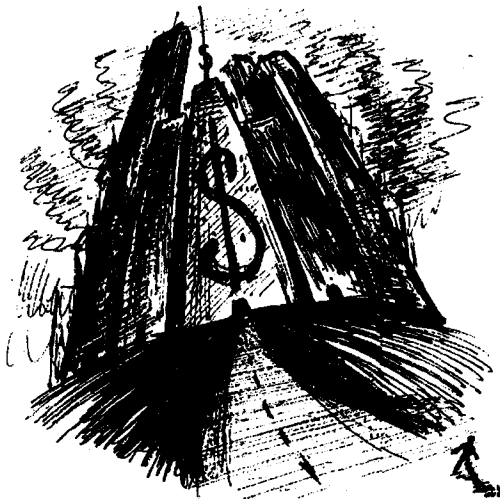
Valerie Slinger

The first time I read SPC's statement of purpose, I realized how closely linked my social/activist goals are with those of SPC. Making the links between the many forms of personal and global oppression is vital and difficult work. (The statement is in the inside cover of every *PNL*. If you haven't read it recently, check it out.)

Since college, the central elements of my life have been activism and cultural anthropology. I came to Syracuse three years ago for grad school. My graduate work with the SU's Social Movement Initiative led me to the Syracuse Real Food Co-op and the broader progressive community. I believe education and action are intimately linked in any social change work, and yet understanding does not always lead to action. It is this gap that I hope to explore when I research how religion motivates the Brazilian environmental movement (research which is still a year or two away). Until then I hope to do a lot of agitating, educating, and organizing with the Syracuse Peace Council!



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**SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL
COMMUNITY EVENT CALENDAR
AUGUST 1997**

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to SPC, 472-5478. September deadline: Aug. 22.

<p>3 Bus trip to birthplace of Women's Rights Movement. Visit Women's Hall of Fame, Women's National Park at Seneca Falls & more. 9am-5pm. \$45 includes bus, lunch, all fees. Reservations call Onondaga Women's Political Caucus at 471-0745.</p> <p>Women's Brunch at Berkana, 203 S. Beech St. Bring a dish to pass. Noon-2pm. 428-8724.</p>	<p>4 Tabling at Everson Museum Plaza to stop the U.S. subcritical nuclear tests. Noon-1:30pm. Call Peace Action (478-7442) or Peace Council (472-5478). See p. 19.</p> <p>People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.</p> <p>People for Animal Rights general mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.</p>	<p>5 EVERY TUESDAY: Downtown Farmers' Market. More than 60 farmers & producers. Corner of S. Salina & Washington St., Syracuse. 7am-4pm. 422-8284.</p> <p>Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p>	<p>6 Hiroshima & Nagasaki Commemoration Vigil & Procession. March from Columbus Circle to Post Office. Fire in the Belly Theater's giant puppets will take part. Noon. Call Peace Action (478-7442) or Peace Council (472-5478). See p. 19.</p>	<p>7 Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 5:30pm. 476-6226.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, across from Southwest Community Center, 401 South Av. 7pm. 476-7475.</p> <p>1st & 3rd THURSDAYS: Gay & Lesbian Alliance meeting. Enable, 1603 Court St. 7:30pm. 472-5732.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by Repercussion Theater. Enjoy an outdoor performance of one of William Shakespeare's timeless tales. Army Square, Jefferson & Clinton Sts. 8pm. Bring lawn seating. Free.</p>
<p>10 EVERY SUNDAY: Support group for former and current mental patients. Sponsored by Alliance, Plymouth Church. 3-5pm. Peggy Anne 475-4120.</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out, Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.</p>	<p>11 Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin. 7pm. 476-7475.</p> <p>Jail Ministry death penalty meeting. 208 Slocum Av. 7-9pm. 424-1877.</p> <p>18 Syracuse United Neighbors/ Westside meeting. Anna Mae Williams Community Center, 228 Shonhard St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.</p> <p>Syracuse Community Radio general membership meeting. Call 446-4769 for time & place.</p> <p>Aug. 18-22: Summer Arts Camp for Children. Theme "Cultures Week." At Metropolitan School for the Arts. 320 Montgomery St., Syracuse. 475-5414 to register.</p>	<p>12 Justice for Jonny Gammage vigil. God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 5:30pm.</p> <p>19 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p>	<p>13 HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 328 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.</p> <p>Caribbean/Latin America Coalition working potluck at Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St. Planning for "Day Without the Pentagon" action. 6-7:30pm. 478-4571. See p. 17.</p> <p>NOW CNY Chapter meeting. Marine Midland Bank, 360 S. Warren. 7pm. 487-3188.</p> <p>Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.</p> <p>20 NAACP general mtg. 7pm. NAACP Office, 1125 W. Salina St. 422-5933.</p>	<p>14 Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 206 Onondaga Av. 7:30pm. 422-6237.</p> <p>21 Prayer vigil at Landis Plaza sponsored by Labor-Religious Coalition. Support Landis workers & union organizing struggles. 4 pm.</p>	<p>15 Submission deadline for 10th anniversary commemorative book honoring My Sisters' Words bookstore. 428-0227.</p> <p>22</p>	<p>16 </p> <p>23 Syracuse Community Radio potluck picnic. 4pm-9pm. Call 446-4769 for place. Rain date Aug. 24.</p>
<p>EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes. Adelphi Cable Ch. 3, 8pm. Produced by Peace Council.</p> <p>24 Syracuse Peace Council Consensus Workshop. Led by Nick Orth & Joy Meeker. Learn how to use and practice consensus decision making. 1-4pm. Call 472-5478 for place. Free. See p. 15.</p>	<p>25 EVERY MONDAY: "Radiovision" on Adelphi Cable Ch. 3 at 9pm. Presented by Syracuse Community Radio.</p>	<p>26 Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 250 Warring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.</p>	<p>27 EVERY WEDNESDAY: Alliance membership meeting. Westcott Community Center, 2nd fl., 826 Euclid Av. 2pm. 475-4120.</p>	<p>28 Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, downtown Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cyndi. 475-1878.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>UPCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>Sept. 4: Peace Council Garage Sale at Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 9am-4pm. Call 472-5478 to volunteer or drop off items.</p> <p>Sept. 27: Peace Council brunch at Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 10am-1pm. Call 472-5478 for info.</p>						
<p>Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnett Av. 5-7pm. Free Food! All welcome.</p>						
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Syracuse Peace Council

Garage Sale

Saturday, September 6
9am - 4pm

Westcott Community Center
corner of Westcott & Euclid

Save your treasures, drop off at SPC after August 1st.
We can help pick up large items, call SPC (472-5478)

Syracuse Peace Council
924 Burnet Ave.
Syracuse, NY 13203
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Educate, Agitate, Organize

Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice September 1997 PNL 659

BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE

UNIVERSITY



LONG KESH

EST 1971

OF FREEDOM

Published Monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council - Founded in 1936 - ISSN 0735-4134

Inside: Mohawk Prison Riot, a Special Letter, Irish POW's & the Ceasefire, Syracuse NORAI, Peru & Lori Berenson, Remembrances of Attica & Victor Jara, UPS Strike, & Responding to Corporate Greed

THE SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL

New people are always welcome to join any of these activities. Contact SPC at 472-5478 or the person listed to find out what you can do.

Collectives, Committees

SPC Staff Collective

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Beth Mosley **SPC Press**
Nicole Rogers Paul Pearce

• **The Literature Committee**

• **Program Committee**

• **Political Action Committee**

• **Organizational Maintenance Committee**

• **Pledge Coordinator:** Pat Hoffman

Bookkeeper

Duane Hardy

SPC Council: Paul Frazier,
Ed Kinane, Rae Kramer,
Carl Mellor, Andy Molloy,
Marge Rusk, Daniella Levy-
Salzman, Ann Tiffany

The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets the first three Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 PM. Call SPC for location.

Editorial Collective: Tim Judson, Ed Kinane, Elana Levy,
Carole Resnick, Nancy Rhodes

Production Committee: Andy Molloy, Bill Mazza, Joy Meeker

Poetry Editor: Michelle Brisson

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Cover Coordinator: Karen Kerney

SPC Projects: 472-5478

- **SPC-TV** — Paul Pearce
- **Plowshares Craftsair**
- **Fair Trial for Mumia Committee** — Thano Paris

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Volunteer Coordinator: Paul Frazier

Statement of Purpose

The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC), founded in 1936, is an antiwar/social justice organization. It is community-based, autonomous and funded by the contributions of its supporters.

SPC educates, agitates and organizes for a world where war, violence and exploitation in any form will no longer exist. It challenges the existing unjust power relationships among nations, among people and between ourselves and the environment. As members, we work to replace inequality, hierarchy, domination and powerlessness with mutual respect, personal empowerment, cooperation and a sense of community.

Present social injustices cannot be understood in isolation from each other nor can they be overcome without recognizing their economic and militaristic roots. SPC stresses a strategy that makes these connections clear. We initiate and support activities that help build this sense of community and help tear down the walls of oppression. A fundamental basis for peace and justice is an economic system that places human need above monetary profit. We establish relationships among people based on cooperation rather than competition or the threat of destruction.

Our political values and personal lives shape and reflect each other. In both we are committed to nonviolent means of conflict resolution and to a process of decision-making that responds to the needs of us all.

Alliances, Coalitions & Contacts

Abolish the Blocade of Cuba	P.E.A.C.E., Inc.
Doug Igelsrud 471-5749	Louis Clark 470-3300
ACLU-CNY Chapter	People Against the Death Penalty
Barrie Gewanter 471-2821	637-3344
Alliance-Psychiatric System	People for Animal Rights
Survivors	488-PURR (7877)
George Ebert 475-4120	Persons With AIDS Support
Alternatives to Violence Project	Hotline
Jay Liestee 499-0845	Sandra 471-5911
American Friends Service	Physicians for Social
Committee 475-4822	Responsibility 488-2140
Animal Defense League 479-9105	Planned Parenthood 475-5525
ARISE 472-3171	Reconsider
Atlantic States Legal Foundation	Nick or Alex Eyle 422-6231
475-1170	Religion: Other
Caribbean/Latin American	Phoenix or Kat 474-8801
Coalition	Rose Center
Shirley Novak 446-6099	Teri Cameron 422-3426
Citizens Against Radioactive	Sarah House 475-1747
Dumping (607) 753-6271	Save the County 637-6066
Citizen Review Board	SEEDS (607) 749-2818
Felicia Davis 448-8750	Service Employees International
CNY Center for Occupational	Robert Tompkins 424-1750
Health and Safety 471-6187	Sierra Club
CNY Environment	Sue Carlson 445-1663
Lee Gechas 446-5319	Small Claims Court Action
CNY N.O.W. 487-3188	Center 443-1401
CUSLAR (607) 255-7293	S.O.A. Watch/ CNY
Dunbar Center	Ed Kinane 478-4571
Louches Powell 476-4269	Social Workers for Peace
EON/Transgender Community	Dick Mundy 445-0797
Melissa 423-4099	Socialist Party
Fair Housing Council of CNY	Ron Ehrenreich 478-0793
Merrilee Witherell 471-0518	Spanish Action League
Fair Trial for Mumia Committee	Sam Velasquez 471-3762
472-5478	Student African-American Society
Fightback! of CNY 422-0555	Kathy Ade 443-4633
Food Bank of CNY 437-1899	Student Environmental Action
Friends of the Filippino People	Coalition
John & Sally Brulé 445-0698	Mike Sanfilippo 423-5607
Gay/Lesbian Alliance 422-5732	Syr. Alternative Media Network
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student	Tim Brachocki 425-8806
Assoc. (SU) 443-3599	Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society
Haiti Solidarity	SAVES/Joe Connolly 437-2163
Ann Tiffany 478-4571	Syracuse Community Choir
Hemlock Society	Karen Mihalyi 428-8724
Betty Bentley 463-0782	Syracuse Community Radio
Hotel Employees 150 437-0373	Frederic Noyes 446-4749
Jail Ministry 424-1877	Syracuse Cooperative Federal
Kenark Center for Creative	Credit Union 471-1116
Spirituality	Syracuse Cultural Workers
Bourke Kennedy 685-5414	Dik Cool 474-1132
Lesbian/Gay Youth 443-3599	Syracuse N.O.W. 472-3294
NAACP	Syr. Real Food Coop 472-1385
Van Robinson 422-6933	Syr. Social Movement Initiative
Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.	Pramod Parajuli 443-4822
Ammie Chickering 365-2299	Syracuse United Neighbors
New Environment Association	Rich Puchalski 476-7475
Harry Schwarzlander 446-8009	S.U. for Animal Rights 443-4199
NYPIRG 476-8381	Urban League
Onondaga Audobon 457-7731	Eloise Dowdell Curry 472-6955
Onon. Women's Political Caucus	Utica Community Action
Peggy Murray 475-7671	John Furman 797-7020
Open Hand Theatre	Witness for Peace Delegations
Geoff Navias 476-0466	Nancy Gwin 422-4689
Pax Christi	Women's Center (SU) 443-4268
Frank Woolever 446-1693	Women's Health Outreach
Peace Action of CNY	425-3653
Diane Swords 478-7442	Women's INFO Center 478-4636
Peace Brigades International	
Ed Kinane 478-4571	(If you do not see your group listed please call)

In this Issue: Its tell-tale sign is the question, "How come no one told us this before?" Young people instinctively know they should be told, that not knowing imperils them. In prisons, freedom struggles and other locations of extremity, you learn for your life (as in "running for"). This month, we profile an uncommon teacher. An inmate's wife goes beyond merely "telling her own story." An attorney pries the silence off a prison riot. The British Information Services employs 600 people just to spin US news of the Irish conflict. Lori Berenson's prison has no non-fiction reading, no hot water. Challenging NATO starts in summer classes. A workshop sparks an activist's first *PNL* article. Cuba, SOA, Pentagon, Chile, UPS strikers, Attica's quarter-century shadow — all evoke Brecht's warning about those leading us into the abyss constantly telling us politics are too complicated for ordinary people. — *NKR*

The Peace Newsletter (PNL) is published monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council. SPC, founded in 1936, is the oldest community-based peace and justice organization in the United States.

The *PNL* strives to serve as the internal organ of SPC and as a forum for articles which discuss issues of concern to the peace movement. The opinions expressed in the *PNL* reflect the diversity of opinions within SPC itself. While we are not able to print every possible viewpoint, we do welcome letter and article submissions as well as suggestions and assistance.

The *PNL* has very reasonable ad rates; call or write for our rates. Movement groups are free to reprint articles and graphics, but please give credits and send us a copy flagging the reprint. For-profit groups, please inquire.

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Contributions to SPC beyond *PNL* subscriptions support our activist programs. We always need your support. *Peace Newsletter/Syracuse Peace Council*, 924 Burnet Ave, Syracuse, NY 13203.

PNL Distributors (We Need You Too!)
Pat Hoffman, Elinor Cramer, Chuck Durand, Marge Rusk, Duane Hardy, Bill Hamler, Daniel Bowers, Ted Widay, Cynthia Maud-Gembler

August Mailing Party Helpers
Daniel Bowers, Bill Hammler, Carl Mellor, Nancy Rhodes, Marge Rusk, Chris Spies-Rusk, Diane Swords, Peter Swords.

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About the Cover: "Learn for Your Life"

Across 20th century freedom fights, prisons have been hotbeds of — learning. In 1981, ten Irish republican prisoners, beginning with Bobby Sands, died during a hunger strike at Long Kesh prison near Belfast, Ireland (North). They demanded improved conditions and protested attempts by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's regime to abolish their political classification and convert them to criminal status.

Intense study was one way the Irish POWs sustained themselves within "the Kesh." Long-time activist Patrick Smith (see p. 9) says, "Ten and 15 years in jail, and most of them came out speaking two or three languages. Bobby Sands was a notorious debater. They'd memorize whole plays and shout them back and forth."

The 18th century Penal Laws imposed across Ireland forbade education in any form to Irish Catholics. As we go to press, one state-run university in Belfast has just decreed that student organizations must remove campus signs giving simple directions in English and Gaelic, calling such indigenous language use "divisive."

In many states in the US, legal sanctions forbade teaching slaves to read. Myles Horton, founder of the Highlander School in Tennessee — Rosa Parks attended a workshop there two weeks before she changed history in refusing to give up her seat on a bus — used to lament that he could not get US activists more interested in history.

How do you sort out your revolutions? One clue lies in Cambodian dictator Pol Pot's criterion for the killing fields — he aimed to execute anyone who could read — versus school programs like those of the Black Panthers, the Sandanistas and now the Zapatistas.

PNL Readers' Exchange

"What is the role of Animal Rights/Liberation in the peace and justice movement?"

WE OURSELVES have been grappling with this topic. There's a diversity of opinion among us, and we know the same is true among our readers. We'd like to publish some of these views in the *PNL*. Please drop us a line with your ideas:

Readers' Exchange, Peace Newsletter, 924 Burnet Ave, Syracuse 13203

Include your name, address, and phone number. So that we can print more responses, please be concise. We may excerpt and edit for clarity and brevity.

— *PNL Editorial Collective*

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGES

SPC Staff Collective

SUMMER HAS (all too quickly) wound to a close, but things are still heating up at SPC. As part of SPC's on-going "Building Resistance" workshop series, August 24, Joy Mecker and Nick Orth held a training session on consensus decision-making. The workshop brought together the variety of people's experiences with consensus, and allowed both the more and less experienced to work out problems and to see the process with fresh eyes. The Building Resistance series is intended to share skills within the activist community so our work becomes more sustainable and we can encourage each other to be strong, effective activists. The next workshop will be held later this fall.

August 6 we held our annual Hiroshima Day vigil at Columbus Square. This year the Peace Council joined with Peace Action, the American Friends Service Committee, and Fire in the Belly Theater. Sixty or so people held a vigil of both silence and song. Then we marched to the Post Office on South Salina Street lead by a huge Mother Earth puppet and a flock of peace cranes. We mailed dozens of letters wrapped around soda-cans to President Clinton asking him to "can the sub-critical nuclear testing" now taking place in Nevada.

We had collected these "can-letters" two days earlier at Everson Museum Plaza. (See page 11 to read about Hiroshima Day events in Europe.) As we fight present and future injustices, we can not forget the horror and significance of past atrocities.



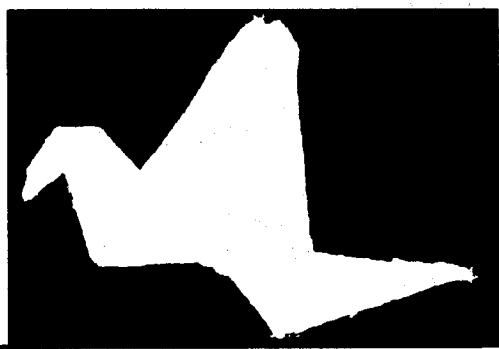
Duane and Nell Hardy take to the streets again in their tireless quest to shape up the planet.

On a lighter note....

SPC has two great events planned for September: On the 6th will be our MAMMOTH garage sale at the Westcott Community Center. Our attic and front room are already overflowing with lots of spectacular STUFF donated by lots of wonderful people. We've got furniture, clothes, toys, dishes, books, jewelry, appliances, and knick-knacks galore. This event is a fund-raiser for SPC and (as Marge Rusk reminds us) a chance to do some productive reusing and recycling. So don't spend your money and Saturday at the mall... spend both at the Garage Sale!!



September 27 we'll have a marvelous brunch held for the Peace Council by the Caribbean/Latin American Coalition (CLAC), also at the Westcott Community Center. It promises to be a great event to meet new friends and catch up with old ones. CLAC, as our hosts, will provide the volunteers, and your sliding scale donation will go to benefit SPC. (Thank you CLAC!) If this weren't enough reason to come, Nick Orth will be cooking one of his amazing meals! An opportunity to eat Nick's food should never be missed, so we'll see you there.



Syracuse Peace Council

Garage Sale

Sail

Saturday, September 6
9am - 4pm

Westcott Community Center
corner of Westcott & Euclid

Save your treasures, drop off at SPC.
We can help pick up large items, call SPC (472-5478)



SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGES

Your Help Needed at SPC

We are continuing to expand our activities here at SPC, and we could use your help. There are a variety of ways to get more involved with the Peace Council, including:

- **Fundraising...** we are trying to establish a finance committee to work on fundraising, grants, donations, pledges and long-range finances.
- **Close Nine Mile One...** help us get this campaign off the ground and mobilize the community against nuclear power and Niagara Mohawk.
- **National Day Without the Pentagon...** we are planning three related events in Syracuse on October 24 in coalition with several other groups.

Radical Activists Come of Age

Friends and family recently held a celebration in Wallingford, PA, to commemorate the birthdays of Duane and Nell Hardy. The Peace Council expressed its deep appreciation, respect and love for these inspiring and committed activists by publishing a special edition of the *Peace Newsletter* full of remembrances and greetings. The special *PNL* was distributed to friends and family at the birthday party.

Mark Your Calendar

Other fall events are being planned:

The Plowshares committee has begun planning for this year's Plowshares Craft Fair. They are taking applications NOW from

crafters for table space. If you need an application, call SPC.

A Day Without the Pentagon is being planned for **October 24, 1997**. This is a national day of action which has been initiated by the War Resister's League. The Peace Council, in coalition with several other groups, is planning for it locally. From our initial meeting on August 13, we came up with ideas for three events and are hoping to do them all. There will be more details in the October *PNL*. In the meantime, reserve October 24 on your calendar, and call SPC if you or your organization would like to be involved in the planning. For more details, see CLAC's report on the first organizing meeting, page 15.

Close Nine Mile One!

SPC Helps Organize Campaign

The following is an excerpt of a letter from SPC activist Simon Morrin to the Post-Standard Reader's Page, which ran Tuesday August 12. On July 2, two weeks prior to Simon's letter, the papers had printed an editorial by Nicholas J. Ashooh, a publicist for Niagara Mohawk, which asserted that the information Helen Caldicott presented on the dangers of nuclear power in her June talks in Syracuse was inaccurate. Simon's letter was in response to Ashooh's claims. Look for updated versions of it in other local and national publications later this fall:

...The Nine Mile One core shroud is the most seriously deteriorated in the country. If an earthquake or other accident were to occur sections of the shroud could move, misaligning the top guide and preventing the operation of the control rods. This would very likely lead to a meltdown...

[A]ccording to NRC Commissioner James K. Asseltine in 1986, "given the present level of safety being achieved...we can expect to see a core meltdown accident within the next 20 years, and it is possible that such an accident could result in off-site releases of radiation which are as large as, or larger than the releases estimated to have occurred at Chernobyl."

The 1986 Chernobyl disaster released between 50 and 100 megacuries of radiation. The land there is now uninhabitable to a radius of 18.6 miles around the former plant. Children were evacuated and water contaminated to a distance of 80 miles. All dairy, meat and

N **NO**
N **MORE**
N **NINE**
N **MILE**
N **NUCLEAR**
N **MADNESS**

fresh vegetable sales were banned up to 630 miles away: the distance from Nine Mile One to Chicago and North Carolina.

A meltdown at Nine Mile One would likely cause thousands of deaths, cost billions of dollars to clean up, and devastate the agricultural and tourism economies of the entire north-eastern United States, stretching into the Mid-West, the South, and Canada.

As far as levels of safety, according to the NRC Niagara Mohawk has one of the worst records in the country. Repeated violations of NRC operating requirements have led to numerous fines for the utility, most recently \$200,000 for, among other things, failing to adequately maintain important safety devices.

We have high-level NRC officials predicting a meltdown. We have America's worst core shroud and one of the country's oldest operating reactors. We have a utility repeatedly in violation of NRC safety requirements.

We have a meltdown waiting to happen.

SIMON MORRIN

SPC, Peace Action, and several residents of Syracuse and Oswego are now meeting to Close Nine Mile One. Our next meeting is at 7:15pm on September 9 at SPC. We will be planning our first action for September 26 at the NiMo building on Erie Blvd. To succeed we need your help. If you are unable to make the meeting or action and would like to know what else you could do, please call SPC. We also have put together a file with information about the dangers and history of the plant dating from the 60's. As the War Resister's League has said "If you think you are too small to make a difference, you have never been in bed with a mosquito!"



WE RECEIVED this letter in July from Glens Falls, and it's a longer letter than we normally print. Sometimes, those who endure the justice system are invited to "tell their story." But the system rarely invites their critique. We hope that including this letter in this special issue provides it the widest possible exposure.

— Ed. note.

Dear Folks,

An inmate did me the honor of having your newsletter sent to me recently. This man was a facilitator with our nonviolent program until transferred to another prison. He knows the importance of grassroots people networking and so I extend my hand to you all in friendship.

Besides being a concerned citizen, I am also the wife of an inmate. As I travel to visit my husband each week-end, I have come to know many other families also trying to remain supportive and hopeful. Most of us have only the encouragement that we share among ourselves in this uphill battle.

I find that strange. I find that strange because the US now incarcerates more people than any other nation. I find it strange because crime touches us all in some way. I find it strange that we spend so much time and money on recycling plastic and not on people.

We live in a culture that promotes whatever is politically popular without taking the time to discover what lies beneath it. Those in power manipulate the media, deftly controlling the composite inmate stereotype. The public apathetically swallows this like a spoon-fed child. And for what purpose? To justify building more prisons in New York State and to promote the prison industry.

Our prisons now house a population that is over 80% African American and Latino. Three-quarters come from targeted boroughs of New York City and the rest from your area, Buffalo, Rochester, Mid-Hudson Valley and Westchester. These communities have become the fields from which men and women are harvested.

The money that the State uses to build new prisons could be better used by the communities that seed the system with inmates. Taxpayers need to understand that the State is "borrowing from Peter to pay Paul" and ask where those funds are coming from.

Prisons are not about rehabilitation. They are not about correction. It is not socially

acceptable to imagine that a person sent to prison could ever become any more that they once were. This is demonstrated over and over as individuals appear before the Parole Board after having served their minimum sentence, completed required programming (when it's available) and are denied parole based on "the nature of the crime and your criminal past."

The Parole Board cites astronomical recidivism rates and public safety as justifications. I dispute where the responsibility lies for these issues. A 1991 study showed that persons who can continue college programs leading to degrees with employment opportunities have a 23% recidivism rate compared to the 47% rate of others. Prisoners with the option to learn viable job skills are anxious to

Any sane human being would come out damaged and angry.

prove that they are not the face that appears exclusively behind prison bars.

Public safety is another fable. Our prisons are boiling pots of blatant racism, injustice and smug cover-ups. Any sane human being would come out damaged and angry. If prisons were truly designed for public safety, don't they have the responsibility for rehabilitation? Who among us, any of us, is beyond redemption? Go ahead, throw the first stone. I dare you.

This is a wake-up call, people of the State of New York. Crime touches us all. No one escapes the pain! Not the victims. Not the criminals. Not the families of both. Locking away a 16-year-old kid in a maximum prison is not the answer. Nor is hitting a man with two more years every time he goes to the Parole Board.

Recidivism rates are our responsibility. Communities, churches, social organizations, spiritual brotherhoods, families, Christians, Jews, Muslims, whoever has a hand to hold it out to someone who is trying to change their life and make better choices. Nobody can do it alone. Nobody. Those who have just been released from the equivalent of a bloody battlefield need support to stay sober and straight and hopeful and motivated and focused. If you don't expect that, you are living in the same fairy tale that keeps us thinking plastic bottles deserve more care than people.

Support prison moratoriums! Locked doors don't promote any kind of health and healing. Write your legislators and tell them you want your tax dollars spent on communities, education programs, jobs and aftercare. Can you live with choosing to remain part of the problem by staying silent?

Don't let state politicians put words in your mouth. Let's be the voice of the people instead of being the puppet sitting in the ventriloquist's lap. Explore the facts. Talk to inmates and their families. Make Albany accountable. We can be communities of healing and vision.

CATHY S. MCDOWELL



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Mohawk Prison Riot - July 18, 1997

Karen L. Murtaugh-Monks

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS little press coverage at the time, there was a riot at Mohawk Correctional Facility in Rome, New York on July 18, 1997. Local newspapers reported that the riot involved about 300 inmates but investigations have now shown that nowhere near 300 inmates actually participated. Many inmates were simply in the yards when the riot broke out.

The July 18 riot began near 7:00 Friday evening. Media initially reported that the riot started when a fight broke out among a small group of men on a walkway outside their dorm-style housing. Supposedly inmates from the West Yard rushed the walkway and entered the East Yard, where there as another large group of inmates. A later newspaper account speculated the riot may have resulted from a direct assault on staff. Our organization, Prisoners' Legal Services, spoke with several individuals who gave us a very different explanation about how and why the riot happened.

Our sources advised us that racial tension has been very high at Mohawk. Over the past year, we have received complaints from inmates claiming constant verbal harassment from some guards. They say certain guards often make racial slurs toward inmates. Certain guards are reportedly overt racists who make no bones about their hatred toward minorities. In the prison system minorities constitute the majority.

One person told us there is a guard at Mohawk who often points to his name tag and says to black inmates, "Monkey, can you spell my name?" Taken all together, reports suggest that the use of the word "nigger" is common. Still other men complain that at least one guard, and maybe more, has a tattoo on his arm of a black baby with a noose around its neck. Thus the mood at Mohawk, besides being one of heightened racial tension, has included inmates' feelings of helplessness.

Such was the atmosphere on the Thursday before the riot. About 2:35 p.m., a 22 year old black inmate allegedly committed suicide inside Mohawk. This young man is said to

have hung himself in his cell after being placed in the Special Housing Unit. (The SHU is, in reality, solitary confinement, where inmates are forced to remain in their cells 23 hours a day and are denied privileges such as packages, commissary and telephone. The one hour a day out of cell time is typically spent in a small caged-in area where the inmate is allowed to exercise.)

Many inmates are suspicious of the suicide report because some of the guards who reportedly found the body were guards they say had engaged in racial harassment. The inmates also saw suicide as untenable because this inmate would have been eligible for

The inmates didn't believe the suicide happened the way the guards said it did.

parole in June 1998 and he did not seem depressed or distraught to other inmates. The suicide victim supposedly hung himself by attaching a sheet to a wire cover on a ceiling smoke detector. Many inmates believe that the wire cover could not have held the weight of an inmate. Many believe that the inmate involved did not commit suicide. Others believe that if he did attempt to take his own life, the guards failed to respond adequately and thus allowed him to die.

Approximately seventeen hours after the alleged suicide, the riot began.

Mohawk Correctional Facility has two yards, the East and the West. For recreational purposes, inmates are divided into two groups of about 150 each. Each group goes to its assigned yard. Some men told us that at mealtime on that Friday the mess hall was silent and there was a great deal of tension. At 7:00 that night, Group Two was called into their yard. After that, Group One was called into the East Yard. Some sources simply said that a fight broke out between a guard and an inmate. Others say that when the inmates went into the yard a dispute arose between a guard and an inmate who was questioning the guard about the suicide. Apparently another guard came over and struck the inmate in the back of the

head, knocking him down. Despite these discrepancies, evidently many inmates were agitated because of the suicide incident and general racial harassment that has been pervasive at Mohawk for some time.

Our sources say that the inmates charged the West Yard, grabbing any items they could use either as a weapon or for protection. Then they rushed the East Yard. Guards had closed and locked the gate to the East Yard but the inmates broke it down. The prison officials then ordered the guards and state police to surround the Yard. The newspapers reported that 60 state troopers and guards were called in, and 329 guards, some from as far away as Attica, arrived to assist the 85 guards on duty. Two warning shots and tear gas were fired into the Yard. When this was done, inmates allowed the remaining staff in the yard to leave the Yard.

The inmates were in the yard until about 4 a.m. At this point, exhausted and bitten with mosquitos, the inmates negotiated with the guards and went back in groups of ten. Guards handcuffed each prisoner, brought them into a building, took photographs and checked the ID of each inmate and then forced them to sit facing the wall until 7 p.m. the following day. They were not fed. The prison officials immediately transferred anyone identified as a major player in the incident.

Of the 28 inmates who went into the yard that day from one of our source's group, only 15 came back to their cells.

Apparently there are videotapes of the incident. There were cameras in the yard. We have communicated with several inmates who have been charged with misbehavior reports because of their possible involvement in the riot. The typical punishment for group disruptive behavior is between 12-24 months in SHU. As a result of being found guilty on these charges, some inmates have received punishments of up to 14 years in the SHU.

Upon hearing reports of the riot together with the allegations that some Mohawk guards have the tattoo on their arms, Assemblyman Dan Feldman has asked for an official investigation. Our most recent information is that the FBI has been called in to investigate.

Karen is the Managing Attorney of the Albany office of New York State's Prisoners' Legal Services.



Irish Rebels in English Prisons

POW's Fate a Test of British Intentions

F. Stuart Ross

LAST MONTH 12 human rights organizations* published an open letter across Britain and Ireland, warmly welcoming the restoration of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) cease-fire 18 months after its collapse. But they warned that a "just and lasting peace" will be enormously difficult without clear movement on the prisoner issue.

About 400 Irish "republican" men and women — they seek British departure from the North of Ireland and reunification with the South — now find themselves in prison as a direct result of the conflict in the North. The Sinn Féin party enters peace talks for the first time this month with prisoner release a centerpiece of its agenda. In days to come, activists in Britain, Ireland and the US will renew campaigns for early release for all prisoners of the conflict. Many will likely focus first on prisoners in England. Their plight is most extreme. Under Prime Minister John Major, their treatment in Britain actually worsened during the 1994 IRA cease-fire, hastening its end.

PNL readers know about Roisin McAliskey and conditions of her imprisonment in England from the April-June issues. Since the days of Thomas Clarke and Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa — jailed revolutionaries of the late 1800's, then called Fenians — Irish political prisoners have endured incredibly harsh confinement in England. During the last IRA cease-fire, a parliamentary delegation from Fine Gael — an Irish political party in the South known for hostility to Northern republicanism — went so far as to call Britain's treatment of these prisoners "cruel and inhumane."

Today, 26 individuals charged or convicted of offenses connected with "the Troubles" are held in Belmarsh, Whitemoor, Full Sutton and Frankland prisons. Some are

amongst the longest serving prisoners in the conflict, with over 20 years behind bars. They face conditions far more severe than comrades in Ireland (North or South) or the US.

Activists have long campaigned for repatriation of republican prisoners in English jails to prisons in the North of Ireland. England routinely grants transfer to "non-political" offenders but has systematically refused republican requests. Prisoners, their families, and campaigners for penal reform and human rights consistently argue that transfer should occur simply on humanitarian grounds, irrespective of cease-fires. In effect, English imprisonment is a "double sentence," punishing both prisoner and loved ones by denying regular contact.

The British government now accepts the principle of transfer. It has signed the European Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, and procedures are already in place. But actual progress has been painfully slow. The few transferred back on temporary status can be returned to England at any time. The past British track record on transfer has been one of political gamesmanship subject to whim.

The vindictiveness of the British government and its prison regime is exposed by the excessive, unnecessary security measures imposed on Irish republicans in English jails. One such "security measure" is the strip search. Prison authorities easily and often abuse this humiliating practice (particularly for women). Some prisoners have been strip searched before and after court hearings, legal consultations, and visits — despite constant guard and no physical contact with another person. Some visiting families have been strip searched. Still, nothing of significance has ever been found during a strip search.

"Special Secure Units" (SSUs) confine those who are judged to be high escape risks or who might endanger themselves or others. Only in England have republican prisoners been held in SSUs. Locked in 21 hours daily under constant surveillance, they have endured solitary confinement, often deprived of sleep, sunlight, reading materials and other

mental stimulation. Over half the republican prisoners in England were in SSUs until August 19. Suddenly, 13 were "reclassified" out of the SSUs. The next day, the British Prison Service announced it would also consider repatriating 18 prisoners.

This past March, an Amnesty International report claimed the SSU regime violates international standards regarding "cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment." Conditions inside SSUs have led to serious physical and psychological disorders in prisoners. Britain's own 1996 inquiry into the SSU system, headed by Sir Donald Acheson, concluded that long-term imprisonment in SSUs could cause mental illness. Amnesty International urged the British to publish the results of their own inquiry and to act on its recommendations.

Not all parties need convincing that the prisoner issue is urgent. Dublin's new government under Bertie Ahern has moved toward resuming an early release policy for certain republican inmates it holds.

Still, most eyes are on London. The tomb-like SSUs are not permanently closed and just one has been "mothballed." Given Britain's response to the last IRA cease-fire, decisive steps from Tony Blair's new government would build confidence. A firm start would be immediate closure of Special Secure Units and repatriation of all republican prisoners now serving time in England.

*Signatories were: Pat Finucane Centre, Dublin Peace and Justice Group, Britain and Ireland Human Rights Centre, British Irish Rights Watch, Centre for Research and Documentation, Committee on the Administration of Justice, Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas, Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Laois Justice and Peace Group, Liberty (National Council for Civil Liberties), and The Table Campaign.

Stuart is a native Syracusan working with the Pat Finucane Centre in Derry, North of Ireland. Began in 1989, the independent resource center is named for a human rights attorney murdered that year by loyalist paramilitaries. Reach Stuart via e-mail at <ptc@iol.ie>. PFC's website at <http://www.serve.com/ptc/>.



POW Issue May Prove Daunting in CNY

Syracuse NORAID Unit Among the Oldest

Nancy Keefe Rhodes

"**T**HEY HAVE BEEN nothing but treacherous up till now," says Patrick Smith about British behavior toward Irish political prisoners. He has watched that behavior a long time. In 1971, he and about 40 Central New Yorkers organized a relief group for Irish prisoners' families. In 1965 he came to Syracuse from County Cavan, Ireland. Raised among Catholics and Protestants in a "mixed" area, he is clear the Irish conflict is not at heart a religious fight. In New York City, the Irish Northern Aid Committee (NORAID) formed the same month in 1971. Within weeks the two groups affiliated, making Syracuse's NORAID among the oldest.

Food, Not Bombs

NORAID supplies most funding for An Cumann Cabhrach (the Republican Aid Committee) in Dublin, which subsidizes the Belfast-based Green Cross. Prisoners' families get a small weekly subsidy. In past years, local NORAID often raised \$5-6,000 annually for this purpose. Building CNY support for prisoner families has often been rough and lonely going.

"The press villified us," Smith says. "It's a bit better now down at the Syracuse papers, but lots of people still think our money goes for guns. Every time they'd read something, people would drop out. They'd say, well, maybe we were wrong. I could show you a stack of letters we wrote and they'd never print them. The Feds used to call our homes, even call people out of work. Just, you know, ask them questions to scare them. 'Do you know NORAID supports terrorists? Do you know what the money's going for?'"

Sue Ellen Smith met Patrick in 1979 and they married in 1990. She says, "It took me years to become really committed. I'd read something negative and I'd wonder too. But I

was appalled that anyone did not have food. There's people who still need help."

In 1989, Patrick Smith was arrested in the parking lot of an Erie Boulevard eatery in the company of a decade-long NORAID member. He relates, "When they were questioning me they brought out my file. They said, 'Well, look at it.' I'm not exaggerating, it was three inches thick. There's phone conversations, embarrassing things like Sue Ellen talking with her sisters about being in labor. They had guys coming to meetings with wires. This one set me up. He says he can get a couple guns and I thought, well, my daughters could use them for protection. I meet him that night, and he says, 'We can make a lot of money on this!' I say, 'What do you mean? I want no part of that. I just want the two we said.' So he says, 'I can't do it here, come out back.' I'm moving my car and a shotgun comes right in my window. I look over and cops have him on the ground. But when they took me in, he was nowhere to be seen. Gone. That guy's still around Syracuse too. I got five years probation, two months house arrest. The judge said I was investigated for three years for 'border violations!'"

Peace Talks Resuming

This month on the 15th, having brokered the new Irish Republican Army (IRA) cease-fire on July 20, the Sinn Féin party enters reopened Irish peace talks. Although dissent exists about both the cease-fire's wisdom and the talks' chances, Sinn Féin's getting in is itself regarded as a triumph. Sinn Féin participation also boosts prison issues enormously. The party's chief negotiator, Martin McGuinness, served prison time, as did several on Sinn Féin's team at the talks. It was inside Long Kesh prison that Gerry Adams, under the name "Brownie," began arguing for a political solution years ago in columns smuggled out for publication. They take with them into the talks the trust of Patrick Smith and others who believe the British will never change voluntarily.

What Can You Do?

Ongoing Local Participation

For CNY NORAID meetings & activities, call Patrick Smith at 459-7635. Red Branch Irish Americans for Justice & Peace meets 7pm, 1st Thursday of the month at Coleman's Pub; call Pat Ahern at 475-0345.

NORAID

National office & the Irish People weekly newspaper at 363 Seventh Ave., #405, New York, NY 10001, 212/736-1915, e-mail <73160.40@compuserve.com>, webpage <<http://inac.org/>>.

H-Block 3 Support

Urge their bail be restored. Address letters to: Hon. Charles Legge, US District Court, 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco 94102 & mail them to: Morrison & Foerster, Attn.: Mark Davis, 425 Market St., San Francisco 94105.

Also helpful: letters to the San Francisco Chronicle, FAX 415/986-1107, e-mail <chronletters@sfgate.com> and the Examiner, Fax 415/957-4428, e-mail <letters@examiner.com>.

Sinn Féin's US September 2-7 Visit

Contributions payable to "Friends of Sinn Féin" will go to hiring attorneys and other costs of participating in the Mitchell peace talks resuming this month. Mail to: Sinn Féin - Capital Hill, 510 C St., NE, Washington, DC 20002. Website: <<http://www.irfnet.com/sinnfein/index.html>>.

New York City rally Fri. 9/15,
7pm at Roseland.

There are over 400 Irish republican prisoners in the North of Ireland, the 26 Counties of the South, in England, and even several in the US. Two hundred are serving life sentences. Some have 35-40 year sentences. Almost 100 await trial "on remand." In the US, besides several serving time, the "deportees"

cont. page 21



Hope for "a New Day of Justice in Peru"

Lori Berenson Awaits a New Trial as Support for Fujimori Wanes

elana levy

PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI is in big trouble. In a poll taken on July 17 only 19% of respondents had a favorable opinion of him; another poll showed even less support. In June and July the largest street demonstrations in recent years were held in Lima almost daily, and demonstrations followed Fujimori wherever he went.

Protests were sparked by the dismissal of three justices of the Constitutional Court who opposed allowing reelection to a third term for the President. The polls show that the people want to decide by referendum whether Fujimori should be allowed to run for reelection, and the media has reported many other scandals in recent months.

Two former female agents of Peru's Army Intelligence Service (SIE) were tortured by members of SIE for leaking information to the press about SIE activities. One of the women died as a result of the torture. The second, Leonor La Rosa Bustamante is still speaking out, though her motor skills have been severely impaired. She has charged that SIE members tried to murder Hildebrandt, a journalist and well-known government critic, as part of a "Bermuda" plan. In June journalists marched to protest the government's severe harassment and threats to the media. Two examples include threats to an executive of the television station, *Frecuencia Latina*, critical of the Fujimori regime, and a journalist who was attacked and beaten in public by three assailants. A police source claims that Peru's intelligence forces have launched a plan, *Azar* (or "chance," as in gambling), to intimidate the press, by hiring thugs to beat up the victims who are chosen by lottery.

All this is part of the "Bulldozer Plan," designed by Peruvian intelligence forces to obliterate anything standing in the way of Fujimori's reelection in 2000. Many former members of Fujimori's government are speaking out against his dictatorial tactics and corrupt regime, including his former wife, his former Vice President, Foreign Minister, Defense Minister and Justice Minister.

Vladimiro Montesinos, Fujimori's clos-

est adviser, has been linked to the army intelligence officers' torture and death. Though he has no official capacity in the government, he has an income of millions. Proceedings against him for illicit enrichment were recently dropped. He's considered the second most powerful person in Peru, and some think that's an understatement. Evidence revealed that Fujimori's birth documents had been tampered with, and that perhaps he was born in Japan, not Peru. Only Peruvian-born citizens are eligible to become president. There's talk that Montesinos's knowledge of Fujimori's birthplace is the source of much of his power. Montesinos's background includes CIA ties and decades as attorney to drug traffickers.

Political Prisoner in Peru

This is the government that pulled Lori Berenson off a city bus in November 1995. Since January 1996, Lori Berenson has been

freezing in the infamous Yanamayo prison, 12,700 ft. high in the Andes, with hundreds of Peruvian prisoners. The prison has no windows, and temperature never rises above 40°F. There are no lights in the cells, and the only reading material allowed is novels. A secret military court convicted her of "treason against the fatherland of Peru," and sentenced her to life in prison without parole. Her judges were hooded military men who convict 97% of those brought before them. They are so notorious that the Peruvian government has allowed a commission to reopen select cases.

Lori Berenson arrived in Peru in 1994 after having lived and worked in El Salvador and Nicaragua. She attended MIT, in 1987, but left to work for CISPES (Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador), in 1989. Since that time she has worked for political and economic justice in Latin America.



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Belgian Summer

Actions on Hiroshima & Nagasaki Days, August 6 & 9

Lisa Guido

I HAVE BEEN volunteering with the Belgian group For Mother Earth this summer. During August we participated in actions at the NATO Headquarters (HQ) in Belgium on August 6 and at Kleine Brogel military base on August 8-9. Called the Nuclear Weapons Abolition Days Campaign, this project began on July 8 with an action at the NATO Summit in Madrid (see *PNL* 8/97), where NATO decided to expand eastward in Europe. In Madrid we also called attention to NATO's illegal nuclear policy, which violates the July 1996 World Court ruling that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is contrary to international law.

The Belgian actions grew from an international peace camp in Belgium the first 11 days of August. Activists from Belgium, Britain, Canada, Finland, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Romania, Ukraine, and the US participated in workshops on international law, mock blockade and arrest scenarios, nonviolent resistance, and consensus decision-making.

On August 6, about 60 of us risked arrest by walking to NATO HQ's main gate. A four-member "war crime inspection team" cut through the front gate fencing and asked to discuss NATO's nuclear illegality. The rest of the group blockaded the front gate. Activists also painted human shadows on the pavement, acted as police spokespersons, legal observers, press liaisons, and guardian angels for blockaders. Others put up police tape in front of the HQ. With a megaphone, we informed passersby that the HQ was closed for inspection of NATO's war crimes. A Japanese activist, following a moment of silence, beat a drum 52 times to mark the 52nd anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing. The band SET (Sustainable Europe Tour) performed songs and banners proclaimed "Nuclear Weapons Off Alert Now."

The blockade and inspectors meeting lasted four hours, with no arrests. Belgian national television and newspapers covered the event, as did Associated Press.

After Hiroshima Day, other camp-members returned home for further actions. Our peace camp boosted US demos at Lawrence Livermore nuclear weapons laboratory and Lockheed Martin's Valley Forge plant (world's #1 nuclear bomb contractor). In all, on August 9 our camp-members were at ten different "sites of nuclear crime" in eight countries.

Meanwhile, here in Belgium we visited the Kleine Brogel military base on August 8. We asked to inspect the base for B-61 nuclear weapons and warplanes (that is, US weapons). We were denied, so we announced we would return on August 9, an "international day of inspection by citizens."

Since the 1960s Kleine Brogel's B-61 nuclear bombs at Kleine Brogel have been a "public secret." In September 1996 Belgian authorities still refused to say whether the base held nuclear weapons, though Lt. Gen. G. Vanhecke confirmed their presence during a television interview in April 1995. B-61 bombs were eventually put on Belgian F-16s to fly them to their target, which violates the first two articles of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Today, For Mother Earth activists believe new B61-11's may be stored in Kleine Brogel, replacing the older B61-3, -4 and -10's. The B61-11 is a new weapon developed in complete secrecy and without Congressional or public debate. "Earth-penetrating," it could reach an underground bunker. The US started deployment of the B61-11 in May 1997.

Even though Kleine Brogel personnel knew we were coming on the 9th, we still walked freely around the base for nearly an hour before they found us. Fifteen activists trespassed the base, with 12 arrested for six hours. Three painted "REMEMBER NAGASAKI" on the runway and left base undetected to tell the press about it. The actions got strong press coverage.

The 12 arrested were in small teams of "international war crimes inspectors." A report of our findings will be sent to the World Court. Two activists allowed a Belgian television crew to film them as they cut the fence to enter the base. This act symbolized the right and duty to inspect the base according to the Nuremberg Principles, and to make more pub-

lic the illegality and inhumanity of possessing weapons of mass destruction.

Meanwhile, about 40 supporters outside again announced the base was closed — to remember the victims and survivors of Nagasaki and all those who suffer still from nuclear weapons and power, and to inspire others to speak out in whatever form they can imagine.

I may visit Belgium again in the coming months if called for a trial. Then I can then give my inspector's report, and try to use international law and Nuremberg Principles as part of my defense. A precedent-setting case in Britain last year acquitted four women using this defense after they trespassed a base and disarmed a plane there, causing about \$3 million damage. We merely cut some NATO wire. We shall find out if they cover up the holes and try to forget about us or call us in for some days of court.

Lisa is a Syracusan who spent the summer doing anti-nuclear work in Europe. In last month's PNL she reported on travelling to Madrid for the NATO Summit. At the end of August she left Belgium for Greenham Common's Women's Peace Encampment in England. We may hear from her in time for October's issue.

Though more modestly, we commemorated Hiroshima Day here in Syracuse. For a brief report, see the SPC Pages, page 4.



Down-Sizing the Fortune 500

Workshop Teaches Communities to Regain Control

John Fitzsimmons

GIANT CORPORATIONS are the enemy of the people. They are undemocratic organizations that control the use of our natural resources, what products will be made, the nature of work, and investment decisions including the mobility of capital. Their goal is to maximize profit for the stockholders, regardless of negative effects on their workers, the environment, or the public.

As a result of court decisions made a century ago, corporations wield enormous economic and political power. Their excessive power and wealth are damaging our communities and corrupting our politics. In 1996, hundreds of millions of dollars were "legally" contributed to both major political parties to buy access to lawmakers, leaving us citizens as mere spectators to political decision making. As a result of the undemocratic influence of corporate power, our jobs are disappearing, our standard of living is decreasing, and the social safety net is being shredded. The control over our lives is increasingly yielding to the profit demands of huge corporations.

For example, every other major industrialized nation has a government-sponsored medical plan covering all citizens. A testimonial to the corrupting political power of corporate America was the 1994 defeat of such legislation in Congress. Now, managed care corporations are dictating to patients and doctors how health care should be performed, with profit having priority over patients' well-being.

Today's grim reality did not exist 120 years ago. For the republic's first century, state legislatures tightly controlled corporations. They gave revokable corporate charters for limited periods of time and for specific activities. A charter was written so as to oblige the business to serve the common good. Involvement in politics was prohibited.

During the late 19th century, corporations, flush with profits made during the Civil War, subverted the regulatory power of state governments. The federal courts encouraged this despite fierce opposition. In 1886 the Supreme Court ruled that a private corpora-

tion was a "natural person," protected by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment. So, until women's suffrage, corporations had more legal rights than women! The federal courts determined that citizens and communities could no longer question a corporation's right to decide on investment practices, production of goods, industrial processes, or organization of work. Workers ended up severely exploited. By 1900, corporations had won complete victory over the states, communities and citizens.

In this century, legislation such as the 1914 Clayton Anti-Trust Act establishing the Federal Trade Commission has helped control corporate misdeeds. The 1935 Wagner Act forced businesses to bargain collectively with workers. During the past 30 years many environmental regulations have been imposed on



business, though business has been able to help write — and therefore weaken — these. Taking a business which has violated a regulation to court is expensive and time consuming: corporate lawyers are skilled at delaying tactics. We need a better approach.

The Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy (POCLAD) held a workshop for community activists which I attended in late June near Ossining, NY. Formed in 1994 by Richard Grossman of Provincetown, MA and Ward Morehouse of Croton-on-Hudson, NY, POCLAD works to help citizens regain control over corporations.

POCLAD's approach relates to two local problems: first, the Landis Plastics labor and OSHA conflict, and second, the struggle to shut down Niagara Mohawk's Nine Mile One unsafe nuclear plant [for details on the plant, see page 5].

The workshop I attended was one of 60 held throughout the country. We discussed how to end corporate economic and political dominance. We need to:

- change our thinking so we do not accept that

corporations must dominate our politics and economy;

- go beyond challenging corporate acts one-by-one in the regulatory arena, which is on the corporation's turf, and instead challenge the legitimacy of the corporate form;
- challenge the political and property rights that corporations claim are protected by the Constitution;
- explore how people and their organizations, nationally and internationally, can build interconnected movements to make business (and government) subservient to citizens;
- develop strategies to accomplish these tasks, realizing it is a long-term process; and
- research and encourage the formation of alternative forms of business such as cooperatives, worker-owned businesses, and community-owned businesses.

The task, of course, is formidable. But there are models out there. For example, in the Basque region of Spain there are the Mondragon co-ops. This network of community owned and operated factories and businesses has been successful for decades and is worthy of our study.

Besides study, there's urgent legislative work to be done with Congress: (1) defeating NAFTA's expansion, and (2) blocking passage of the Multilateral Agreement on Investments (MAI). The MAI is a new international economic agreement currently being negotiated by the large industrial nations. By making it easier for businesses to shift production around the world, this "super NAFTA" will hasten the "race to the bottom." Countries will be pressured to lower living standards and weaken worker and environmental laws in order to attract investment. The MAI imposes no restrictions on corporations with regard to labor rights, environmental standards, or monopolistic business practices. MAI regulations will supersede national and state laws.

Passage by Congress of either the expanded NAFTA or the MAI would further expand corporate power. Because a further reduction of our political and economic freedoms is at stake, these schemes must be defeated.

John is concerned about issues of economic and social justice. He lives in Auburn, NY and is a recently retired business owner. For more info about POCLAD, call John at 255-4362.



This Time We Won!

A Note Concerning the UPS Strike and Outcome

elana levy

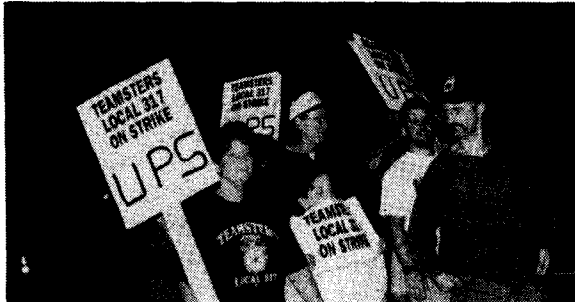
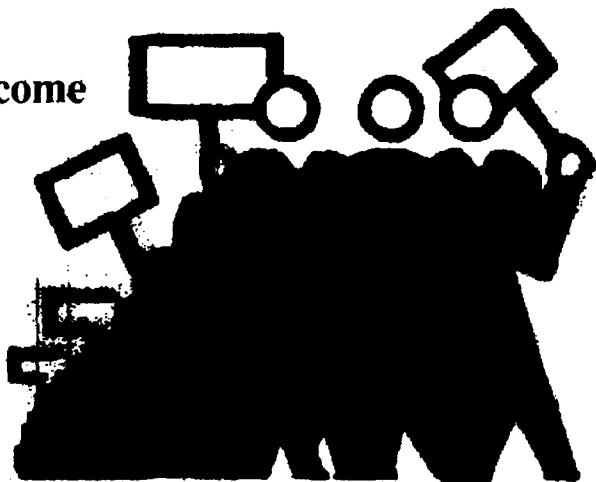


photo by elana levy



Syracusans on the line at UPS.

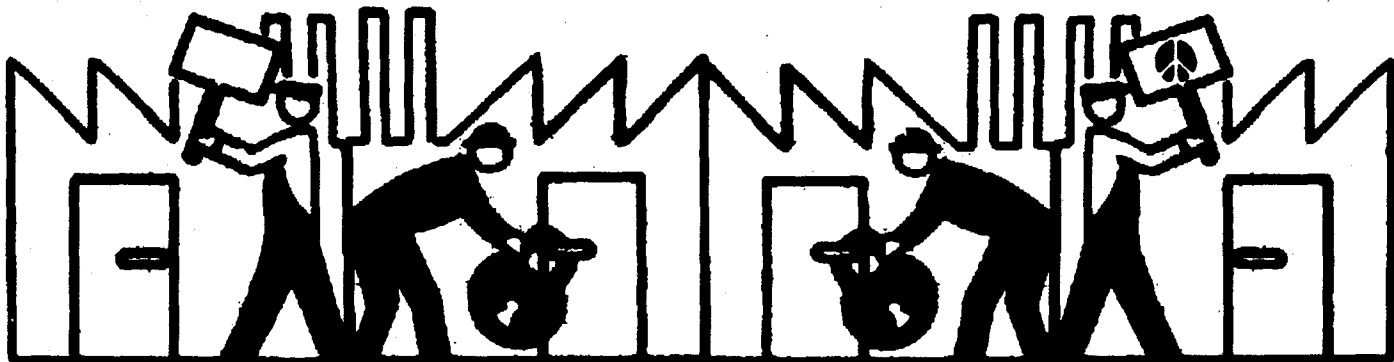
ON THE PICKET LINE out on Northern Boulevard, the support poured in. The UPS facility there is the hub of UPS in the CNY region, where 1100 workers are employed, over 60% part-time). UAW, CSEA, SEIU, NYSUT, USW, and many other union members walked the picket lines. A solidarity rally had been planned for Thursday, August 21 by the Central Labor Council. Food poured in, pizzas, coffee, doughnuts, meals, fruit. Gary Staring, President of the Teamster local said: "Nobody's going hungry."

The national media reported that the public supported the strikers by 2:1, despite the bias of the media towards UPS (poor UPS, \$1 billion profit last year), particularly when the strike began. Staring said: "I was worried when the decision to strike first came down. Right away the phone calls came in asking what people could do to help. The phone didn't stop ringing. Then the first day out on the picket line, people kept stopping by to drop off food and show their support. I stopped worrying. We have been overjoyed with the support we've received from people here."

The company didn't expect that. UPS couldn't foresee how much of the population would side with the workers on the issues of part-time work, health and safety (over 10,000 back injuries a year) and control of funds. 13,000 UPS "part-time" workers work 35 hours a week or more. So many, from supermarket workers, fast food workers to university professors are forced into working part-time because nothing else is available. Wegman's in Dewitt has over 1000 employees. Less than 10% are full-time; they're the managers.

We have had a victory. Our side won. Let's notice that showing support in all the ways that happened all over the US made a difference. Ron Carey, president of Teamsters Union, said after the settlement, "This strike was for all the families in America." Kelly, President of UPS, said, "I don't know what Mr. Carey's talking about when he says this was for all the families in America....," but I think "the families in America" do know what Carey was talking about. YES!

Statistics from Counterpunch and Newsweek. elana spoke with Gary Staring on the picket line.



PNL Subscriber Profile — Marge Rusk



Germany illegally one day from Strasbourg, France. Another woman and I just started biking east....

What about your family? Were they activists?

My son Chris is. I'm not a second generation peace person, but in some ways my mother was what used to be called "liberal." My Aunt Ruth was a birdwatcher. I was being dumped on in school,

so I'd come home, get in a fight with my family and have no human recourse. I'd go out bird-watching. I really think that rescued me. I might have wound up in some girls' reform school. I was a congenital rebel. The birds brought me peace.

As an SPC volunteer, what do you do?

I'm a regular volunteer so I do what needs to be done. Right now, the new staff are educating themselves for a renewed anti-nuclear power program. I'm flagging articles for them, back to the early 70's. For the past 25 years, I've made an effort to integrate my peace and natural science interests. My concern about environment was very connected to nuclear weapons and power. One of the things I'm happiest about is helping to create an environmental awareness among Peace Council people. That was a turn in SPC's road that I helped with.

— Interview by Nancy Keefe Rhodes

Marge Rusk on "Social Change"

Putting my coin change into a "Social Change" jar for the Peace Council didn't strike me as very cool. Suppose I need bus fare or a tip in the diner? What if I have to make a phone call?

That term "social change" is ambivalent anyway. So much retrogressive change spews forth from the government all the time. But this was the Syracuse Peace Council, about a year ago, introducing a cute gimmick for lots of people to make small contributions to help all the good stuff SPC does. So it must mean *progressive* "social change," and I wanted to help.

I thought up my own sub-gimmick, which I heartily recommend. Ever since the 1984 bottle bill I've been confiscating roadside 5-cent bottles and cans, and sometimes bonanza chunks of 46-cents-a-pound construction aluminum, for a cleaner environment. Now it's all translated into Peace Council projects besides.

Somehow, I scan the highways and by-ways more thoroughly than when the nickels only went into my personal coffers. At around \$2.50 from an average month's haul (April's the best—guess why) times 12 months, that's about \$30 a year just from my efforts. Times several hundred other PNL readers, that's...!! That's my sub-gimmick. What's yours?

How long have you been connected with SPC?

Since the early 50's. I think I got on the mailing list from American Friends Service Committee. There was sort of a mutual founding, you know. The Peace Council was started by AFSC-connected people. Then partly because of SPC there was an AFSC office here during Viet Nam. Well, I was working in Oswego, which wasn't a very activist place then. I was a field director of the Girl Scouts for two and a half years. I had been staying with college friends in New York City, looking for jobs. The Girl Scouts had three jobs in the Northeast and I chose Oswego. Otherwise I probably wouldn't be in Syracuse now.

Where are you from?

Catonsville, Maryland, founded in the 1700s. The most famous thing that ever happened there was the Catonsville Nine, the war resisters' trial in 1968. I went to college in New England and taught in Pennsylvania. I've taught everything from kindergarten to conversational English for university kids in Colombia, but mostly high school chemistry.

How did you get involved in peace activism?

In college, but not from courses. This was after World War II. I heard of AFSC when I went on a youth hostel trip to the Netherlands in 1947. We sailed over on a converted troop ship that was the most wonderful example of swords into plowshares. The gun turrets were used in the day for meetings, lectures. At night they were used for "make love, not war." The Youth Hostels were internationalist, but not very political. On the ship over, I probably went to every AFSC lecture and regretted I wasn't going on an AFSC project. I went into

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The Syracuse Peace Council, 924 Burnet Ave. Syracuse, NY 13205

Making Oct. 24 A Day Without the Pentagon

REPRESENTATIVES of nine local groups met on Aug. 13 at the Caribbean/Latin America Coalition's monthly working potluck to plan the upcoming "A Day Without the Pentagon." The Friday, Oct. 24 event is being organized by the War Resisters League (800/975-9688) with local actions in communities across the nation. Next year the Oct. 24 actions will be on a Saturday and will be at the Pentagon itself.

The WRL sees that the US is addicted to the military. It wants us to question our own communities as to:

- why are social programs being cut while military spending continues to rise?
- why are the poor encouraged to join the military rather than seek productive jobs?
- why do communities have monuments to wars but not to peacemakers?
- why do we resort to violence as the ultimate solution to conflict?

So far the following local groups are involved: AFSC, CLAC, Coalition for the Common Good, Pax Christi, Peace Action, SOA Watch, SPC, and Syracuse University students. Other groups expressing interest in-

clude the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Veterans for Peace. CLAC is providing \$50 seed money.

Our Day Without the Pentagon will take a three-fold approach, each with its subcommittee:

1. *Community Education.* We want to reach out to diverse populations in Syracuse — particularly individuals and organizations affected by spending cuts. We'll seek statements from folks on how they might use funds freed up by slashing the Pentagon's vast budget.

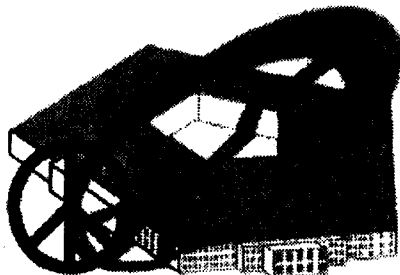
Contact Paul Frazier, subcommittee chair, at 487-2739.

2. *SU's Newhouse School.* We want to meet with SU students to discuss the several million dollar contract between the Pentagon and Newhouse School of Communications, and to

demonstrate there on Friday, Oct. 24. The demo will expose the impropriety of Pentagon money shaping the training of future journalists. Contact Val Singer, SPC staff person, at 472-5478 to help out.

3. *Allan Nairn.* This internationally known human rights journalist and author, will speak at the Peoples' Round Table, 7pm Thursday, Oct. 23 at South Presbyterian Church. Allan may also be available to speak elsewhere in

A DAY WITHOUT THE PENTAGON



Give a Damn

On Nov. 16, March to Close the School of the Americas

Help detoxify US foreign policy. Help rescue the American soul. Join a thousand others from all over the country on November 13-16 at Fort Benning, Georgia. From the main gate we'll all march on the School of the Americas to deliver petitions demanding its closure.

Several cars and vans will be leaving Syracuse before dawn on Tuesday, Nov. 11 for the two-day drive south. Please join us. We'll keep expenses to a minimum. If you've never done this sort of thing before, this is a great "starter" action.

For more info, call Ed or Ann at 478-4571 (after Sept. 20), or SOA Watch (202) 234-3440.

CNY while he's here. For more info, contact Ann Tiffany or Ed Kinane after September 20, 478-4571.

The next Day Without the Pentagon general organizing meeting will again be at CLAC's monthly potluck (Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 6pm). CLAC always meets the second Wednesday of the month at Plymouth Church in downtown Syracuse. Please join us and invite folks from your organization to join us. Shirley Novak, 446-6099, will facilitate.

— Ed Kinane

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two weeks

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• we can even get to a beach and a nightspot.

contact elana levy
(315) 472-5711

levye@aurora.sunyocc.edu

*you can see some of elana's fotos of cuba at provisions
in armory square for the month of september.*

“by secret subterranean springs ...”

Remembering Victor Jara — Chile, September 11, 1971

ON SEPTEMBER 11TH, in the Stadium, Victor went down to the arena and came near one of the doors from which new prisoners entered. Here he collided — in a bottleneck — with the commander of the prison camp. The commander looked at him, made a tiny gesture of someone playing the guitar. Victor gave an affirmative sign with his head, smiling sadly and candidly. The military man smiled to himself, as if congratulating himself for his discovery. They took Victor to the [arena] and ordered him to put his hands on [the table]. In the hands of the officer rose, swiftly, an ax.

... His legend is
He was singing
Vencemos
when they shot him.
Even for them, it was too much
they killed him,
they couldn't kill him enough
Victor Jara
in guitars,
who'd held out with bloody stumps
and sung
— James Scully

Tyranny beheads the bards, but by
secret subterranean springs their voice
returns from the bottom of the well to
the surface, and even in the darkness
rises to the lips of the people.
— Pablo Neruda



With one single stroke he severed the fingers of the left hand and, with another stroke, the fingers of Victor's right hand. The fingers fell to the wooden floor, trembling and still moving, while Victor's body fell heavily down....

Unexpectedly, Victor laboriously raised himself to his feet and, with

unseeing eyes, turned towards the bleachers of the Stadium... hands stretched forward like those of a sleepwalker.

When he came to where arena and bleachers meet, a deep silence ensued. And then his voice was crying: “All right, comrades, let's do the senior commandante the favor!”

... When those six thousand voices were singing Victor marked the time with his mutilated hands. On his face was a smile — open and released — and his eyes shone as if he were possessed.

This sight was too much for the military. A volley, and Victor's body began to fall forward as if he were bowing long and slowly in a reverence to his comrades.

... More volleys followed from the mouths of the machine guns, but those were directed against the bleacher full of the people who had accompanied Victor's song.... The cries of the wounded were horrible. But Victor Jara did not hear them anymore. He was dead.

Miguel Cabezas
Victor Jara was a folk singer in Chile. Along with thousands of others, he was killed during the military coup of 1971. Miguel Cabezas was head of Chile's Quimantu publishing house.

Lori Berenson cont. from p. 10

I see Lori being used as an example to scare activists away from working in solidarity with the struggles of the poor in Latin America. It is so important that we show our solidarity with our activists. We cannot allow them to isolate us, one from the other. It is the responsibility of those of us on the outside to never forget our compañera/os on the inside.

Lori and her family only ask that her case be heard in a Peruvian civilian court, with rights to call witnesses, cross-examine, and speak in her own defense. Lori specifically requests that all efforts in her behalf also emphasize the need to abolish completely the secret military trials which violate human rights and international law. Thousands of innocent Peruvians languish in prison because of these tribunals.

elana is a member of the PNL Editorial Collective.

Let Lori and Our Representatives Know She Has Support

Please Write Today.

MARK AND RHODA BERENSON, Lori's parents, ask us to contact Secretary of State Madeleine Albright this month. They request that our Senators and Representatives write to Pres. Fujimori or add their signatures to the letters circulating in Congress to get Lori a trial in a civilian court in Peru.

Here is a sample letter to Sec'y Albright that the Berensons provide at their website (see below): I urge you to press the government of Peru to afford Lori Berenson a fair, open trial in a civilian court where she can demonstrate her innocence. The combination of lack of due process, the failure of the Peruvian prison system to satisfy even minimum internationally accepted standards, and Lori's deteriorating health make this a matter of immediate importance.

Madeline K. Albright
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Lori's family also asks us to write directly to Lori. *The letters or cards must be in Spanish.* (Lori's website includes phrases in Spanish so you can compose a short note.) The prison guards must be able to read them. One should not discuss her case, or anything on the news, as those are the prison's rules. One family member will be travelling to visit every five weeks, and they will carry the letters. Mail sent directly to her at Yanamayo Prison in Puno, Peru takes four months to reach her. For mail to Lori:

Mark Lloyd
50 Lexington Ave, Box 200
New York, NY 10001

Lori Berenson's website:
<<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/9988/>>

Sources: Lori Berenson website and Weekly News Update on the Americas, #384-392. See also, March 1997 PNL centerfold.

I Am Attica

Margaret Randall

I want to write about Attica
because I am Attica
that was our battle: September 9th to September 13th,
shouting:

WE HAVE THE ANSWER! THE ANSWER IS UNITY!

Fifteen thousand brothers
in the blackest hell hole in New York State,
they wanted
adequate food and water
adequate shelter
religious freedom
medical attention
from doctors who spoke their language
uncensored mail
freedom to communicate
with people on the "outside"

maximum and minimum security amerikkka

they wanted the pigs off their backs
twenty-five hours a day
removal to a nonimperialistic country
for all political prisoners who so desired
amnesty for fighting to be men.

Maximum security amerikkka
leading their minimum security sisters and brothers
black brown and white
together in one fierce cry of

REVOLUTION...REVOLUTION NOW!...

L.D. read a statement following the demands, that said:

"We are men. We are not beasts, and we do not intend to be beaten
or driven as such.."

and Brother Herb told the negotiating committee:

"what you are hearing is but the sound before the
fury of those who are oppressed; when you are the anvil
you bend but when you are the hammer you strike."

September 13, 1971. 42 dead: 32 rebels and 10 hostage guards,
all killed by the coward power of The Man:

Outside the gates
a black woman reporter called it "shooting fish in a barrel,"
a medic who served in Vietnam call it a "war zone,"
a lawyer called it My Lai.

Akil Al-Jundi, 56

As Minister of Information for the Attica Brothers Legal Defense Fund, Akil Al-Jundi was the lead plaintiff in a massive federal class action suit leading to the 1992 verdict holding New York State responsible for atrocities. His suit represented over 1200 prisoners who were beaten, tortured or denied medical care at Attica prison near Buffalo, New York after what even the *New York Times* now acknowledges was an "uprising" on September 9-13, 1971.

Al-Jundi was part of the Muslim contingent that supervised and protected guards taken hostage at Attica. During the all-out assault ordered by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, Al-Jundi was struck in the face with buckshot, shot through the hand and dumped bleeding into a cell for hours before getting medical attention.

Al-Jundi was paroled in 1975 after 15 years in prison. From 1976 he worked for the Legal Aid Society in New York City, preparing pre-sentencing reports. In prison, he converted to Islam and became a "demon for education" and a life-long voracious reader. As a Legal Aid Society advocate, he focused on young people entering the justice system.

Akil Al-Jundi died August 13 in Manhattan of complications due to diabetes.

Thanks to Sis Marpessa for providing this

A sister going down to pay final tribute to Sam Melville's body said:

"...they don't let revolutionaries live, but they can't keep the inspiration they give us from us..."

And another sister wrote:

"Attica. If the murder of George Jackson represented one more chapter in imperialism's unchanging strategy of dealing the the black liberation struggle — killing the best of their leaders from Lumumba to Mondlane to Malcolm — then Attica is the other side: pure genocide. I can't begin to express to you the kind of heroic revolutionary society that those incredible brothers built in cellblock D...the brothers would pass a cup of watered-down coffee around so that everyone got a little, pass cigarettes around, gave the hostages the best, had built an internal discipline based on democracy and firm leadership, loved and respected each other and felt like human beings...a glimpse for us of just how deep the waters of courage run in the people. Attica."

WHAT IS YOUR NAME? a visitor asked.
I AM ATTICA the prisoner replied.

November, 1971
from Part of the Solution



beyond boundaries

Recruiting for 1998 Projects

BEYOND BOUNDARIES COMPLETED two trips this summer: a work project in Porcupine, South Dakota with Lakota Indians and an exploratory trip to Bolgatanga, Ghana, West Africa. Beyond Boundaries is recruiting for 1998 Lakota and West African projects. Next meeting is Sunday, **September 7** at 340 Midland Ave, Syracuse from 4-6 pm. For more info, call me at **478-4571**.

— Aggie Lane

Jail Ministry

Jail Ministry Seeks Volunteers to Visit Inmates

FOR 21 YEARS Jail Ministry volunteers have been visiting inmates in the downtown jail. Volunteers visit a particular inmate each week; they also often serve as that inmate's unofficial advocate in the legal/penal system.

Before taking on such work, volunteers go through a course of training provided by Jail Ministry, a local grassroots non-profit organization inspired by the Catholic Worker tradition.

On Tuesday, **September 30** from 7 to 9pm there'll be an Information Night for prospective volunteers at the Jail Ministry office, a large house at 208 Slocum Ave. on Syracuse's near west side. Call **424-1877** for more information and to register.

The training sessions are free and open to the public. They're held at Jail Ministry most Tuesday nights from 7 to 9pm between Sept. 30 and Nov. 18. There will also be a Saturday morning visit to city court and a Saturday morning guided tour of the jail. Trainees completing the course begin their weekly visits with an inmate in January.

Volunteers come in all shapes and sizes and from all walks of life. To increase its effectiveness, Jail Ministry especially welcomes volunteers from diverse communities.



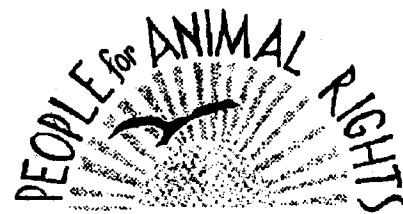
JULY 22 SAW THE RELEASE of ADL member and political prisoner, Jeff Watkins from the county jail. We celebrated the release with workshops on civil resistance, direct action, and nonviolence, as well as peaceful protests at local fur-selling establishments.

We are currently working on a support campaign for imprisoned UK activist Barry Horne. Barry was arrested last July and has spent over a year in custody awaiting trial for alleged arson attacks on British vivisection labs. This year, on January 6, Barry began what was to be a 34-day hunger strike. He demanded that the incoming Labour Party investigate a plan to phase out vivisection over the course of five years in Britain. After receiving assurance from the government that solutions would be explored and a wave of unprecedented activism hit the vivisection industry in Britain, Barry ended the hunger strike.

On August 11 of this year, Barry resumed his hunger strike. This came after it became clear that the Labour Party never had any intention of honoring their pledges. Barry has shown us his resolve before and seems more determined than ever to see an end to the obscenity known as vivisection.

This may be Barry's last stand for the animals, so the ADL in Syracuse is in full support of Barry's second, and possibly last, hunger strike for animal liberation. We have done a support demo at Bristol-Myers already and are planning future rallies to end animal experimentation. For daily updates, e-mail us at onestruggle@juno.com.

Most importantly, send Barry a letter of encouragement and support that political prisoners so desperately need. Mail him directly at: Barry Horne VC2141, HMP Bristol, Cambridge Rd. Horfield, Bristol, England BS7 8PS. Let Barry know that we are all behind him in his fight to end the oppression in vivisection labs.



The Facts on Deer Hunting & "Resource Management"

WE WILL SOON BE at the threshold of summer and fall, and deer hunters in New York State are now preparing for their annual fall pilgrimage to the country. Their aim is to shoot-to-kill the white-tailed deer.

New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) calls deer a "valuable renewable resource" and deer hunting a "harvest opportunity." The DEC notes, "The sport of hunting generates very significant revenues to the economy of the state." It is no coincidence that deer populations rebound each year to numbers deemed too high for each area's "carrying capacity." The business of deer propagation and reduction is, indeed, profitable.

Hunting is done in such a manner that, while initially reducing a wildlife population, ultimately maximizes the birth rate and breeding success of the survivors. This is especially true of deer hunting. Wildlife agencies, including New York's DEC, calculate the number of males and females that can be killed in an attempt to sell hunting licenses, reduce car/deer collisions and other people/deer problems and still retain enough deer to ensure their overabundance in future years.

Deer are quite capable of controlling their own populations. If breeding occurs when food supplies are low, female deer often absorb their embryos. Normally, does do not reach sexual maturity until their second or third year. But, where hunting is intense, does may ovulate and breed during their first autumn. Also, a single fawn is the norm in areas where hunting has no significant impact on herd size. However, twins and even triplets are born to does in heavily-hunted areas.

In short, so-called wildlife management, as it is practiced today, is ecologically unsound. It is time for nature lovers and environmentalists to actively oppose hunting. People for Animal Rights is a Syracuse-based organization that opposes hunting. PAR also works on environmental issues and promotes vegetarianism. PAR's address is P.O. Box 358, Syracuse, 13215, or you can call PAR at **488-PURR**.

— Jennifer Johnson

Progressive Lifestyle Made Easy(er)

I HAVE BEEN in several meetings recently in which a similar idea has surfaced. We need to create a comprehensive guide or information resource to the progressive community/lifestyle in the Greater Syracuse area. The most urgent need seems to be to create a truly comprehensive monthly calendar of events for the progressive community. This would help us plan non-simultaneous organizational meetings or events as much as possible and make it easier to support one another.

I know that there is partial information available. The inside front cover of the *Peace Newsletter* and the inside back cover of *The Pink Paper*, as well as the directory put out by the Women's Info Center and the Stonewall Committee's yearly booklet are good examples. The *Pride of Syracuse* listed all those who support them. The environmental resources collected this year by *Central New York Environment* is another excellent beginning. These are good starting points, but it would be nice to have as comprehensive a source of information as possible.

"Comprehensive" in this case means both a more detailed and, even more importantly, a more inclusive vision of who "we" are in the progressive community. Hopefully this guide could help us better recognize our allies or potential allies, and allow us to comprehend the choices available to us in terms of living a progressive lifestyle in this city, county, and region.

This guide should make it easier to identify how to meet one's daily needs in a manner which supports cooperative enterprises, the local and regional economy, and pro-equality businesses. Here in Syracuse one can acquire food, housing, child care, media, and entertainment to greater and lesser degrees in a socially conscious manner.

This guide should also help one or one's organization contact and solicit support from others who see inequality as a social problem. For issues that require rapid response by the progressive community, the guide should provide for quick, reliable access to all our collective resources. It should be useful for both activist and electoral efforts.

So what will it take to make it work? It will require that all and any organizations that wish to end inequality provide the relevant information to be included in the guide. This would mean a name, an efficient and reliable

Invite a woman friend to the Women's Friday Night Coffeehouses 7:30-9:30pm

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FALL 1997

September 26 — "Rededication and Autumn Equinox Celebration"

October 3 — TBA (show from 8:00-10:00pm)

October 17 — "Straight-Gay Dialogue"

Moderator: Mary Ann Zapetello

October 31 — Halloween Party (7:30-10:30pm)

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means of contact, a description of the goals, projects, past successes, terms of membership, dates and locations of meetings, and a description of the organization's structure and decision-making processes.

Businesses should describe goals, ownership, products and services offered, as well as their location, opening and closing times, and reliable means of communication, as well as events, meetings, or membership information if relevant.

No organization, business, social service, publication, community group, political party, or individual should consider itself outside of

the parameters of this guide. The definition of "progressive" is dynamic and negotiable. Once a small working group begins to act on this idea we will better know how it will look the first time around and what form it will take. Will we just barter for publication, accept advertising in a more blatant form (it will all be advertising to some degree), depend upon a cooperative ownership, or all of the above? This depends a great deal on you. If interested please contact Tim Judson at 472-5478 or me at 423-3592, or via e-mail <awells@mailbox.syr.edu>.

— Andrew I. Roth-Wells

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Syracuse NORAIID cont. from page 9

and recently jailed "H-block 3" fighting extradition claim political refugee status.

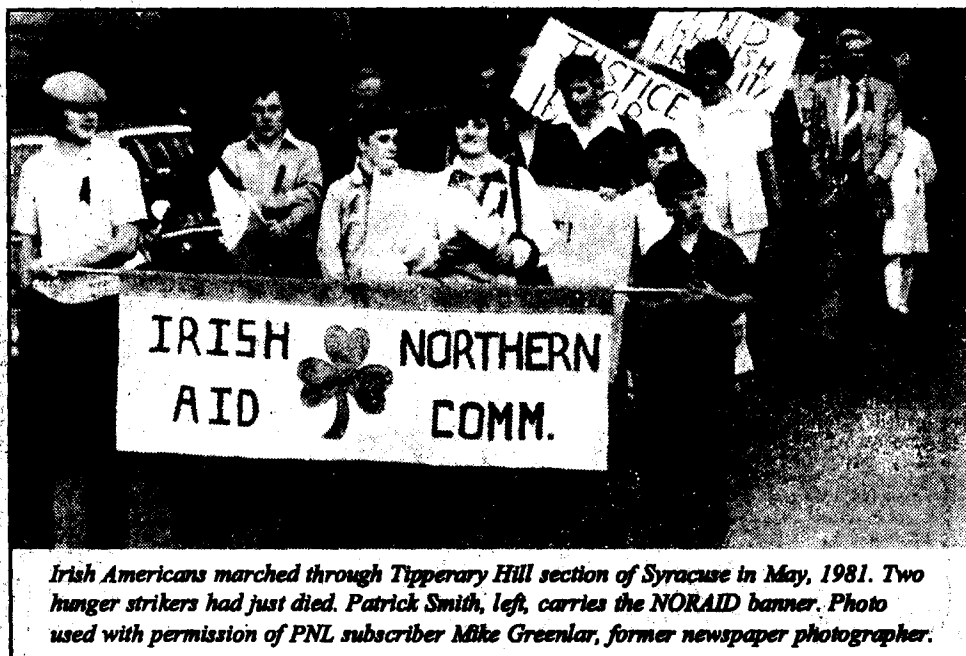
Critical for the peace talks, republicans declare any settlement must release the prisoners. Signals defining the POWs as full participants in the peace process have abounded. Ten days into the cease-fire, Sinn Féin began a series of well-publicized visits to consult with imprisoned republicans throughout Ireland and England. Adams hosted a major Associated Press interview at a POW family drop-in center. Well-known ex-POW Martin Ferris accompanied Adams to meet with Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam. Prisoner support campaigns have relaunched. NORAIID's national US newsweekly, the *Irish People*, recently proposed massive foundation funding for prisoners re-entering communities.

Such embrace has its price in the largely pro-British US press. Several major US newspapers have resumed identifying Irish republicans one-dimensionally as "IRA-supporters." When Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and Caoimhghín ÓCaoláin (kwe-veen o-cay-lawn) visit the US September 2-7, they represent the third largest political party in the North of Ireland and the only "all-Ireland" party. When meeting Congressional leaders in Washington, Adams and McGuinness are themselves recently elected MPs, Members of Parliament. ÓCaoláin is a TD, member of the Dail (the national legislature of the South). Then they will separately travel to rallies in New York City, Chicago and San Francisco. During his 24-hour visit to San Francisco, McGuinness will visit the "H-Block 3" in jail.

Many Irish American communities were recently buoyed by the national day of action on July 12 protesting forced sectarian parades (see PNL 8/97). Syracuse's Red Branch rally at the federal building, hastily organized in three days, was joined by NORAIID and Ancient Order of Hibernians. The rally drew close to 100 people, holding its own with rallies in larger US cities that day, and made the front page of the *Irish People*. Smith hopes this and Sinn Féin's US tour prior to the peace talks lead to revitalized organizing work here and elsewhere.

1985 a Watershed Year

Fear of controversy has characterized much Irish immigrant striving for respectabil-



Irish Americans marched through Tipperary Hill section of Syracuse in May, 1981. Two hunger strikers had just died. Patrick Smith, left, carries the NORAIID banner. Photo used with permission of PNL subscriber Mike Greenlar, former newspaper photographer.

ity. In 1985, NORAIID was in 16 countries and there were 125 units in the US. There were 1400 Irish republican prisoners.

"You have to remember there was heavy IRA military action that year," Patrick Smith says. "They were firing rockets at Parliament, trying to get the British to see they couldn't win this thing, that they would have to sit down with the Irish. But it meant NORAIID was were feeding 7,000 people a week. The families refused to go on the dole, to beg money from the Brits. At that point, 2300 Irish people had been killed. Per capita, that is eight times the number of Americans killed in Viet Nam."

In 1985, NORAIID was not allowed to march in Syracuse's St. Patrick's Day Parade nor to have a booth at the State Fair.

"We just jumped in and marched anyway," says Patrick Smith. "We'd marched the year before. We were at the Fair too, selling tee-shirts and baby dresses. Members like Maurice Shanahan helped — he was well known, part of the labor movement, a church goer. He came to Syracuse in 1928. As a boy he was a volunteer, running messages in the civil war in Ireland in 1918, 1920. We were the only NORAIID in the US not allowed to march in the St. Patrick's parade. But there is still some of that around the country today, festivals and whatnot where they say they can't 'be political.' The British will play on that fear people have."

The H-Block 3

Patrick and Sue Ellen Smith were talking in their kitchen on August 12, the day after the

H-Block 3 decision. They worry that these men and the "deportees" will need NORAIID help too, though Sinn Féin's US tour could generate critical timely support for them all.

In 1983, 38 prisoners in Long Kesh escaped. On August 11, Judge Charles Legge ruled in federal district court in San Francisco that the British could extradite the "H-block 3" — Pol Brennan, Kevin Barry Art and Terry Kirby — back to the North of Ireland. In their early 40's, two have since married US citizens and have children; Art is engaged.

Judge Legge also revoked their bail, though they've complied with bail conditions set since January 1996. If bail is not reinstated, they could stay in prison two or three years in the next phase of their appeal. They argue that return to Long Kesh denies their refugee status and violates the 1986 US-UK extradition treaty exempting those who face threats to their human rights due to nationality, religion or political beliefs. A fourth H-block escapee, Jimmy Smyth, lost his US court fight in 1966. Despite British assurances of his safety to the US, Smyth was singled out and beaten by Long Kesh guards last spring when a tunnel-in-progress was discovered under the prison.

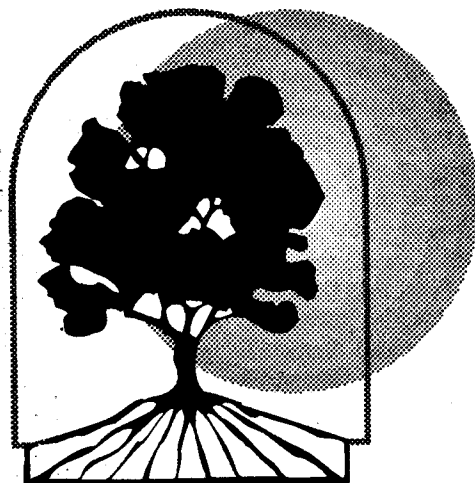
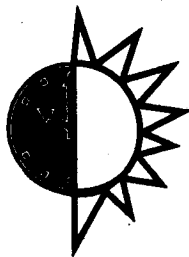
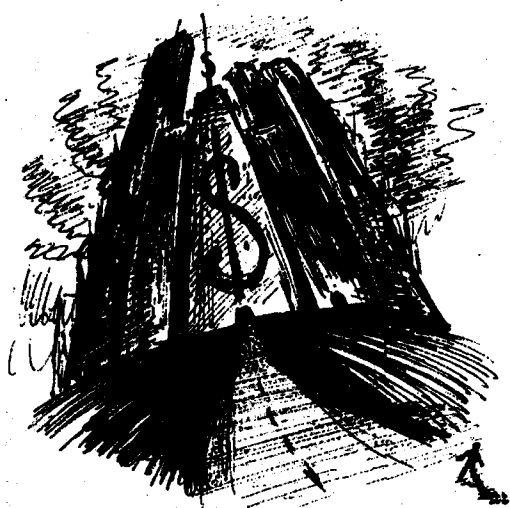
Patrick Smith says that prisoner release is not negotiable in any peace settlement. "We won't see them abandoned."

According to one of the North's leading criminologists, Kieran McEvoy of Queen's University, there is also no legal impediment to freeing political prisoners. In fact, he says prisoner releases have precedents for 500 years in resolving political conflict.

Nancy is a PNL contributing editor. She writes on police violence and human rights.



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SUN**MON****TUES****WED****THURS****FRI****SAT**

1 Month of September: Photography of Cuba by Elena Levy. At Provisions Bakery on Walton St. in Armory Square.

EVERY SUNDAY: Support group for former and current mental patients. Sponsored by Alliance. Plymouth Church, 3-5pm. Peggy Anne 475-4120.

EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent. Women's issues radio program, WRVO FM 90. 6:30-8pm.

7 Women's Brunch at Berkana, 203 S. Beech St. Bring a dish to pass. Noon-2pm. 428-8724.

EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.

14 Westcott Street Cultural Fair. Music, food, performances, literature tables. All along Westcott St. 10am-4pm. Rain date Sept. 21. "...words spoken here..." poetry reading at Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. Poet Rachel Guido de Vries & open mic. Sponsored by Altered Space & Drive-By Poetry Nation. 7-9pm. \$2.

Onondaga Nation Music, Art & Cultural Fair. Dancing, music, craft demonstrations, food & more. At Lacrosse Field off Rte 11A, Onondaga Nation. Also on Saturday, Sept. 13.

21 **EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes.** Adelphia Cable Ch. 3, 8pm. Produced by Peace Council.

2 People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.

People for Animal Rights general mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.

EVERY MONDAY: "Radiovision" on Adelphia Cable Ch. 3 at 9pm. Presented by Syracuse Community Radio.

8 Syracuse United Neighbors/ Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin. 7pm. 476-7475.

15 Syracuse United Neighbors/ Westside meeting. Anna Mae Williams Community Center, 228 Shonnard St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.

Syracuse Community Radio general membership meeting. Call 446-4769 for time & place.

22

23 Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.

3 **EVERY TUESDAY:** Downtown Farmers' Market. More than 60 farmers & producers. Corner of S. Salina & Washington St., Syracuse. 7am-4pm. 422-8284.

1st THREE OR FOUR WEDNESDAYS: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. Call SPC for time & place. 472-5478.

10 HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.

Caribbean/Latin America Coalition working poduck at Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St. 8:30pm. 478-4571.

Socialist Forum. "Socialism & Democracy in Eastern Europe: Rethinking a Left Politics" with political scientist John Nagle. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 7pm. Free. 475-2395.

NOW CNY Chapter meeting. Marine Midland Bank, 360 S Warren, 7pm. 487-3188.

Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.

17 NAACP general mtg 7pm. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 422-6933.

24

29

4 Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 5:30pm. 476-6226.

Syracuse United Neighbors/ Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, across from Southwest Community Center, 401 South Av. 7pm. 476-7475.

Red Branch Irish American meeting at Coleman's Pub. 7pm. 475-0345.

11 **EVERY THURSDAY: "Evening Arabesque"** Arabic television with news & entertainment. 5:30pm. Adelphia Cable Ch. 7.

Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 206 Onondaga Av. 7:30pm. 422-6237.

18 1st & 3rd THURSDAYS: Gay & Lesbian Alliance meeting. Enable, 1603 Court St. 7:30pm. 472-5732.

EVERY THURSDAY: Lesbian & Gay Youth Support group meets (ages 14-21). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. Call for time 422-9741.

25 **Vigil Against the Death Penalty.** Columbus Circle, downtown Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cyndi 475-1878.

Prayer vigil at Landis Plastics Solvay plant on Milton Av. Sponsored by Labor-Religious Coalition. Support Landis workers & union organizing struggles. 4pm.

Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC. 924 Burnet Av. 5-7pm. Free Food!

5 **EVERY FRIDAY:** Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7pm. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 492-8035.

EVERY FRIDAY: Gay & Lesbian Young Adult meeting (ages 21-25). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 422-9741 for time.

12 Justice for Jonny Garmage vigil. God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 5:30pm.

19

26 Women's Friday Night Coffeeshouses. This week: "Re-dedication & Autumn Equinox Celebration." Women's INFO Center, 601 Allen St. 7:30-9:30pm. Free. 426-1253.

27 Peace Council Brunch. Stimulating dialogue & delicious food prepared by Nick Orth & Caribean/Latin America Coalition. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 10am-1pm. \$0-\$20 sliding scale. 472-5478.

"One Loud NO!" An evening celebrating resistance to violence against women. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. Sponsored by Fightheck! of Central New York. 7:30-10:30pm. 422-0555.

6 Peace Council Garage Sale. Recycle your consumerism. Find lots of necessities, necessities, and just plain ol' kitsch. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 9am-4pm. Call 472-5478 to donate or volunteer.

Emergency Meeting to discuss James Bay II hydroelectric project in Quebec. Help strategize & bring yourself up to date on this important issue. Mother Earth Cafe, Albany. 10am-3pm. (914) 466-5334 for more info.

Syracuse Real Food Co-op Inventory Exploitation Celebration. Games, music & food samples. 618 Kensington Rd. 472-1365.

13 Onondaga Nation Music, Art & Cultural Fair. Dancing, music, craft demonstrations, food & more. At Lacrosse Field off Rte 11A, Onondaga Nation. Also on Sunday, Sept. 14.

20

21 Peace Council Brunch. Stimulating dialogue & delicious food prepared by Nick Orth & Caribean/Latin America Coalition. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 10am-1pm. \$0-\$20 sliding scale. 472-5478.

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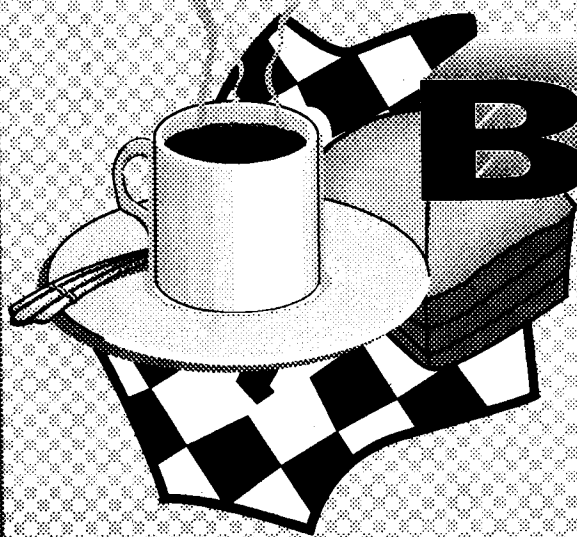
Irish Northern Aid meeting. Call Patrick Smith for time & place. 469-7635.

**28**

31 **EVERY WEDNESDAY: Alliance membership meeting.** Westcott Community Center, 2nd fl., 826 Euclid Av. 2pm. 475-4120.

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to SPC. 472-5478. October deadline. Sept 17

**SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL
COMMUNITY CALENDAR
SEPT. 1997**



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Brunch

Saturday
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Westcott Community Center
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