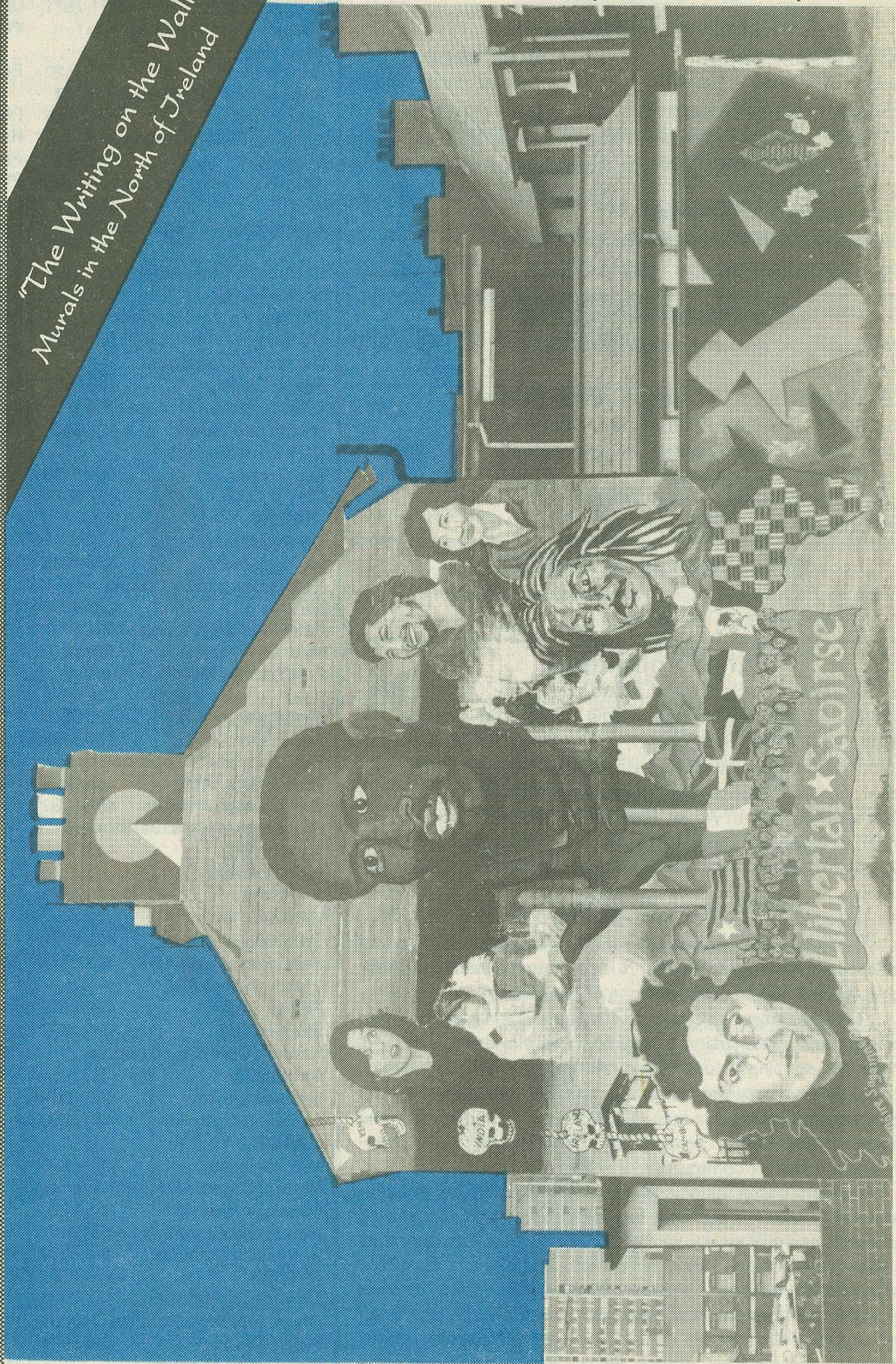


# Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice January 1998 PNL 663

*"The Writing on the Wall"  
Murals in the North of Ireland*

*Belfast, 1997. Photo: Kaya Adams*



Published Monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council - Founded in 1936 - ISSN 0735-4134

## Inside:

SPC Staff Reflections on 1997, Iraqi People Still Suffering, A Walk in the Woods, Nevada Test Site Action, Fort Benning SOA Arrests, Public Art Centerfold, Community Updates and Calendar



# 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:

Paul Frazier, Rae Kramer,  
Carl Mellor, Andy Molloy,  
Marge Rusk, Ann Tiffany

## The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets most Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. Call SPC for location.

- Editorial Collective:** Tim Judson, Nancy Rhodes  
**Production Committee:** Karen Hall, Brian McCord,  
Joy Meeker, Andy Molloy  
**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

## Other Volunteers

Sonali Sathaye, Chuck Durand, Mardea Warner, Amy Bartell, Vanessa Johnson, Ed Kinane, Aggie Lane, Joan Goldberg, Ruth Putter, Margaret Birtleough, Kathy Barry, Brian Caufield, Fredrick Noyes, Jolie Rickman, Bill Mazza, Lance Hogan, Bill Hamler, Sylvia Burgess, Daniel Bowers, Carol Baum, Chris Spies-Rusk, Susan Adair, 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

<b>Abolish the Blocade of Cuba</b>		<b>Peace Brigades International</b>	
Doug Igelsrud	471-5749	Ed Kinane	478-4571
<b>ACLU-CNY Chapter</b>		<b>P.E.A.C.E., Inc.</b>	
Barrie Gewanter	471-2821	Louis Clark	470-3300
<b>Alliance-Psychiatric System</b>		<b>People Against the Death Penalty</b>	
<b>Survivors</b>			637-3344
George Ebert	475-4120	<b>People for Animal Rights</b>	
<b>Alternatives to Violence Project</b>			488-PURR (7877)
Jay Liestee	499-0845	<b>Physicians for Social</b>	
<b>American Friends Service</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>	488-2140
<b>Committee</b>	475-4822	<b>Planned Parenthood</b>	475-5525
<b>Animal Defense League</b>	479-9105	<b>PWHIV/AIDS Support Hotline</b>	
<b>ARISE</b>	472-3171	Sandra	471-5911
<b>Atlantic States Legal Foundation</b>		<b>Reconsider</b>	
	475-1170	Nick or Alex Eyle	422-6231
<b>Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition</b>		<b>Religion: Other</b>	
Shirley Novak	446-6099	Phoenix or Kat	474-8801
<b>Citizens Against Radioactive</b>		<b>Rose Center</b>	
<b>Dumping</b>	(607) 753-6271	Teri Cameron	422-3426
<b>Citizen Review Board</b>		<b>Sarah House</b>	475-1747
Felicia Davis	448-8750	<b>Save the County</b>	637-6066
<b>CNY Center for Occupational</b>		<b>SEEDS</b>	(607) 749-2818
<b>Health and Safety</b>	471-6187	<b>Service Employees International</b>	
<b>CNY Environment</b>		Robert Tompkins	424-1750
Lee Gechas	446-5319	<b>Sierra Club</b>	
<b>CNY N.O.W.</b>	487-3188	Sue Carlson	445-1663
<b>CUSLAR</b>	(607) 255-7293	<b>Small Claims Court Action</b>	
<b>Dunbar Center</b>		<b>Center</b>	443-1401
Merriete Pollard	476-4269	<b>S.O.A. Watch/ CNY</b>	
<b>EON/Transgender Community</b>		Ed Kinane	478-4571
Melissa	423-4099	<b>Social Workers for Peace</b>	
<b>Fair Housing Council of CNY</b>		Dick Mundy	445-0797
Merrilee Witherell	471-0518	<b>Socialist Party</b>	
<b>Fair Trial for Mumia Committee</b>		Ron Ehrenreich	478-0793
	472-5478	<b>Spanish Action League</b>	471-3762
<b>Fightback! of CNY</b>	422-0555	<b>SU African-American Society</b>	
<b>Food Bank of CNY</b>	437-1899		443-4633
<b>Friends of the Filipino People</b>		<b>Student Environmental Action</b>	
John & Sally Brulé	445-0698	<b>Coalition</b>	
<b>Gay/Lesbian Alliance</b>	422-5732	Michelle Baumfleck	423-8000
<b>Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student</b>		<b>Syr. Alternative Media Network</b>	
<b>Assoc. (SU)</b>	443-3599	Tim Brachocki	425-8806
<b>Halt Solidarity</b>		<b>Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society</b>	
Ann Tiffany	478-4571	<b>SAVES/Joe Connolly</b>	437-2163
<b>Hemlock Society</b>		<b>Syracuse Community Choir</b>	
Betty Bentley	463-0782	Karen Mihalyi	428-8724
<b>Hotel Employees 150</b>	437-0373	<b>Syracuse Community Radio</b>	
<b>Irish Northern Aid</b>		Frederic Noyes	446-4769
Patrick Smith	469-8948	<b>Syracuse Cooperative Federal</b>	
<b>Jail Ministry</b>	424-1877	<b>Credit Union</b>	471-1116
<b>Kenlark Center for Creative</b>		<b>Syracuse Cultural Workers</b>	
<b>Spirituality</b>		Dik Cool	474-1132
Bourke Kennedy	685-5414	<b>Syracuse N.O.W.</b>	472-3294
<b>Lesbian/Gay Youth</b>	443-3599	<b>Syr. Real Food Coop</b>	472-1385
<b>NAACP</b>		<b>Syr. Social Movement Initiative</b>	
Van Robinson	422-6933	Pramod Parajuli	443-4822
<b>Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.</b>		<b>Syracuse United Neighbors</b>	
Ammie Chickering	365-2299	Rich Puchalski	476-7475
<b>New Environment Association</b>		<b>S.U. for Animal Rights</b>	443-4199
Harry Schwarzlander	446-8009	<b>Urban League</b>	
<b>NYPIRG</b>	476-8381	Eloise Dowdell Curry	472-6955
<b>Onondaga Audobon</b>	457-7731	<b>Utica Community Action</b>	
<b>Onon. Women's Political Caucus</b>		John Furman	797-7020
Peggy Murray	475-7671	<b>Witness for Peace Delegations</b>	
<b>Open Hand Theatre</b>		Nancy Gwin	422-4689
Geoff Navias	476-0466	<b>Women's Center (SU)</b>	443-4268
<b>Pax Christi</b>		<b>Women's Health Outreach</b>	
Frank Woollever	446-1693		425-3653
<b>Peace Action of CNY</b>		<b>Women's INFO Center</b>	478-4636
Diane Swords	478-7442		

(If you want your group listed, please call)

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



**In This Issue:** ...nothing medium-sized. From big actions with hundreds & thousands of people to solitary walks through old, quiet woods. From extravagantly long sentences — both Marge's whopper at the tail end of her little doormouse of a piece, and Ed Kinane's possible decade in jail — to stolen moments of memory & reflection. From Duane's little piece that speaks volumes to Ed's exposition on the hugely haunting, silent march. And don't forget the little snapshots of the house-size paintings.

As I'm noticing all the big little things, and all the little things in the big ones, Nancy's saying something about "people living inside their public statements ..." Just a fragment, really — a thought so big it doesn't need to be a sentence ... This first issue of 1998 is a little short, but there's plenty of room ... room enough to look around. Make yourself at home. Happy New Year. — *Tim Judson*

**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.

*Thanks to December's mailing party helpers! It would have been a bumper Thanksgiving without you.*

**February Issue Deadlines**

Articles	Jan 15
Ads	Jan 22
Calendar Items	Jan 22

# PEACE NEWSLETTER

January 1998  
PNL 663

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**About the cover:**

**"Libertat = Saoirse = Freedom"**

This mural was completed in Belfast in August 1997 by activists from South Africa, who have long-time close ties with the Sinn Féin party and nationalist community in the North of Ireland. The center figure is Steve Biko, prison martyr under apartheid. Clockwise, figures include Ché Guevera, imprisoned American Indian Movement (AIM) activist Leonard Peltier, a Sandanista woman. Lower left is Mairé Drumm, Sinn Féin president assassinated in 1976 by loyalist gunmen. Also left, a Palestinian woman, and Mairead Farrell, Irish Republican executed by the British in 1988 at Gibraltar. Skulls labelled Cambodia, Ireland, India and Kenya represent nations the British Empire has terrorized; the prison tower, Long Kesh. Flags at the bottom are Catalonian, Irish, Basque, Palestinian, and Mexican. Lower right, map of Africa, African National Congress symbols, and (not visible on lower perpendicular wall) Nelson Mandela. Chimney has Australian aboriginal symbols.

Loyalists in the North of Ireland have painted murals since the early 1900s, but nationalist murals date back only about three decades. Murals illustrating parallel national liberation struggles are common — some painted by visiting delegations such as those listed above.

Stuart Ross (see PNL 12/97) returned from the North recently with photos of this vibrant public art. Local Irish Northern Aid members soon shared their photo stashes. See our centerfold...

To learn more, see Bill Rolston's *Drawing Support* (vol. 1 & 2, Beyond the Pale) and Oona Woods' *Seeing is Believing* (Guildhall), available from Irish Books & Media, Inc. in Minneapolis, (800)229-3505 or <Irishbook@aol.com>. — NKR



**Correction**

In Simon Morrin's December article on the woes of the Nine Mile One nuclear plant, intergranular stress cracking is sometimes referred to merely as "stress cracking." However, the intergranular stress cracks are distinct from other types of stress cracking.



# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGES

## Plowshares 97: A Grand Success

ANOTHER PLOWSHARES has come and gone! It was a wonderful weekend filled with friends, laughter, impressive crafts, scrumptious food, delightful entertainment, and many smiling people. So, you say to yourself, "That sounds exactly like all the other previous 26 Plowshares." This year's Plowshares surely followed the long history of the ghosts of Plowshares past. This year there were some additional elements: we dipped into the ghosts of SPC's past to create an historical display. The archives yielded SPC photos, newsletters, fliers, and posters dating back to 1936. (For those of you who don't know, SPC is the *oldest local independent* peace and justice group in the country — 62 years old and counting.) The ghost of SPC present was also there with a display reviewing 1997 activities.

Dozens of crafters filled the gym at Southwest Community Center. It's a good thing that Plowshares lasts all weekend because it's hard to see all the beautiful crafts in one day. Many



shoppers successfully avoided supporting some big nasty multi-national corporation. Instead, they purchased handmade local crafts for holiday gifts.

With entertainment adding performance to material artists, the whole event took on the air of a winter festival. Gypsy Fire, Dan Duggan, the Friendly Persuasions, Ribbonsteel Rapper, Southwest Creative Arts Program members and others took the stage to dance, drum, sing and read poetry. Meanwhile, the roving minstrels strolled through the crowds.

Nick Orth and Beth Mosley coordinated food again this year, with many volunteers assisting. Food sales benefitted both the Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker and SPC. Those of you familiar with what Nick can produce in a kitchen know the food was fabulous. As with all Peace Council events, everything was vegetarian or vegan.

Part of SPC's political work is sustaining strong ties with other local activists. Plowshares provided space for nearly a dozen other local organizations to share information, circulate petitions and connect with each other. Beyond Boundaries, the Caribbean/Latin American Coalition (CLAC), Coalition '97, Hospice of CNY, House of Prayer, the Living Room, Mainstreaming Youth, New Environmental Association, Peace Action/CNY, Planned Parenthood, Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union, and the Syracuse Real Food Co-op occupied an entire room adjoining the main crafts area.

Plowshares is a huge event. Thankfully, a dedicated committee focuses entirely on Plowshares throughout the year. SPC staff alone would surely be unable to create such an event. We can't underestimate our thanks to them: Margaret Birtlebough, Lanny Freshman, Karen Kearney, Rae Kraemer, Andy Molloy and Mardea Warner — as well as staffers Beth Mosley and Paul Pearce.

**THANK-YOU!**  
to all who made this year's Plowshares Craftsfair possible by volunteering your time, presence and energy. Volunteers served the food, operated SPC's Front Room Bookstore, greeted everyone at the door, and handled the crucial, complicated tasks of setup and cleanup. It couldn't happen without you!

## Close Nine Mile One Campaign

ON DECEMBER 9, those crazy anti-nuclear activists once again took to the street — or rather to the corner (of Erie Blvd. and Franklin St.). A larger number of press showed for our most recent protest against Nine Mile One than for previous protests. We hope this reflects a growing concern in mainstream media about Niagara Mohawk's actions.

TV-Channel 3, however, reported that NiMo says it will cost \$1.9 billion to close and decommission the plant. They neglected to explain clearly that such decommissioning costs are inevitable, whether the plant is closed today or in ten years. And they ignore that the cost of an accident would be much greater, even before considering the unmeasurable loss of life in a serious accident.

Our Close Nine Mile One campaign recently began circulating a petition calling for the closure of this plant. We have already collected about 500 signatures.

### Here's how you can join the campaign:

- Come pick up a blank petition from SPC and return it full!
- The NiMo Campaign needs donations to help with publicity and outreach.
- Come to our next planning meeting at 7 pm on Tues., Jan. 6 at the new Good Earth Cafe, 110 Harvard Place.
- Regular meetings: third Tuesday of the month at Good Earth, 7pm.
- Call SPC to get involved!

## Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice  
for Peace and Social Justice

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 Please contact me about volunteering.

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the Syracuse Peace Council •  
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SPC honors Nate Zepetello, who recently took his own life after a long illness. Nate belonged to the Hemlock Society, and was a leader of the Communist Party during the McCarthy era. His wife Mary Ann survives him. Donations in memoriam can be made to the ACLU or SPC.



# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGES

## A Reflection on Our First Six Months

Nicole Rogers and  
Valerie Singer

**A**lthough half a year has passed since we became part of the new SPC staff, our short time has already been full of many surprising experiences. The five members of the new staff collective came in with quite different skills and experiences of activism. Learning to share our skills, strengths, and differences to all work together has been one of the challenging yet rewarding aspects of our new jobs.

When the SPC Council made the hiring decision last June, we unexpectedly found ourselves in the situation of working in a collective. Other staffers ranged from strangers to friends. We all had to learn to work together in new ways. Six months later, "family" describes our motley crew, the same word our predecessor Bill Mazza used in his June good-bye letter.

Like a true family, SPC is an organization with amazing history and depth. We have had the pleasure of meeting and working with activists born throughout this century. SPC's historical depth exists in the minds of its members. People like Chuck Durand, who volunteers each Tuesday, can tell us stories about being a Conscientious Objector during WWII. There are many who can relate decades of their radical/progressive peace activism, much of it linked to SPC. The archives and the PNLs stretch back to the 1930s — not a month missed that we know of. We marvel at both the change and continuity in the issues we face.

For example, we have a picture of an unidentified woman in the 1970s protesting nuclear power (one issue unfortunately we still need to *successfully* tackle) — while wearing a multicolored fur coat (reflecting a lack of sensitivity to the relevance of animal liberation in our peace struggles which we feel *has* changed somewhat since the early 1970s).

So, the wealth and strength of SPC's knowledge and history is wonderful. It is part of what makes SPC so special as an activist organization. But at times it seems that this strength is also a weakness. As a group, we lack the level of organization that would en-

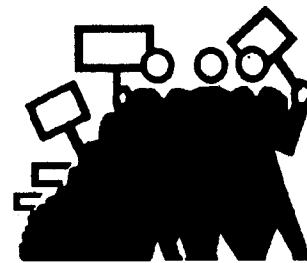
able us to tap into these resources. Many of our vast written resources are still not centralized and ordered in a useful manner. And while we have amazing people involved who carry great amounts of knowledge around in their heads, we can rarely take the time to share enough of that knowledge with each other.

Those of us with most of our experiences coming from student activism have sometimes found the style of activism at SPC to be very different. On one hand, students are more likely to share similar lives and responsibilities, enabling them to have more time to connect for both social and political reasons. The diversity of activists at SPC often makes it difficult to find enough time to spend together. The student groups we have worked with tended to have smaller numbers and more focused agendas. So, SPC's holistic approach to a broad range of issues and its wide social network have meant an adjustment for us. But in many ways we have welcomed this adjustment.

While student groups are often more goal oriented, SPC is more process oriented — built to endure for the long haul. We have both experienced a mentality in student activism which prioritized immediate goals over long-term-connections and feelings. Because SPC is not a transient group of people, it strives to function and maintain itself as a community, and there are greater efforts to prevent individual burnout. We have learned to see the benefits in both approaches to activism, where they converge and where they differ. And we have grown from the chance to share such perspectives with the many activists — both student and community — we have the pleasure to work with through SPC.

Looking forward into 1998, we have several goals, hopes, and resolutions for the new year. Foremost among these: CLOSE NINE MILE ONE once and forever. Find ways to support the "Syracuse Seven," those local activists going to trial for their work against SOA. Improve the financial situation of SPC. Get better organized. Increase the scope and effectiveness of what we do. And as always, EDUCATE, AGITATE, & ORGANIZE!

*Nicole Rogers and Valerie Singer are members of the SPC staff collective.*



## Iraqi People Still Suffer

In a Friends meeting for worship in 1940, A. J. Muste acknowledged the agonizing challenge that the Fuhrer created for pacifists, reflecting, "If I can't love Hitler, I can't love at all." For years, Muste had tried to persuade a policy of atonement to Germany for the terrible injustices imposed by the Treaty of Versailles, rejecting the "mad man" theory.

Now the UN and the US demonize Saddam Hussein, demanding the equivalent unconditional surrender. Like Germany after the Versailles Treaty, Iraq sees itself as the victim. The history of intervention in the Persian Gulf lends much credence to this view.

Isn't it time for the UN and the US to stop demanding and start negotiating? At stake are tens of thousands of Iraqi lives. Brad Simpson, an AFSC volunteer, has documented conditions in Iraq in the pages of the War Resister League's *Nonviolent Activist*.

Brad says, "Nothing could prepare me for the overwhelming suffering I witnessed there."

He notes that, according to the UN, 600,000 children under the age of six have died of malnutrition and disease since sanctions were imposed in August 1990.

Today the children of Basrah wade through raw sewage. Hospitals have no medicine and can't repair their equipment. Malnutrition is epidemic among over half the population. Diseases that sickened many of our Gulf War soldiers are rampant.

Most of this goes unreported, except for a few articles in peace publications and former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark's statement. But even arch conservative John McLaughlin expressed outrage on his Nov. 21 PBS program as he quoted UN figures on the deaths of children.

It is way past time that we raise the cry with our representatives, the State Dept., the president, and the United Nations. This "silent war" against the Iraqi people must end. This is going on in our name. We must say, no more.

— Duane Hardy



## Camillus Forest Now a "Unique Area"

Marge Rusk

SUNY COLLEGE of Environmental Science and Forestry had asked Audubon Society people to contribute bird lists from the state Dept. of Environmental Conservation's newly acquired Camillus Forest Unique Area, so I made my first-ever visit there. Last spring, this tract was up for logging and development. Quick action by environmental groups saved it. Driving northwest from Onondaga Hill on Route 173 for about six miles, one crosses Ninemile Creek in the hamlet of Amboy. Just beyond the creek, Thompson Rd. runs southwest. A quarter-mile more and the first building on the left has a DEC sign in front.

I parked behind the high, somber, boarded-up old schoolhouse. That gray November day, it reminded me of something out of Charles Dickens. A clear, mowed trail through the fields starts here, fine for a hike west, up into the old-growth woods. Partway up, one looks south to Ninemile Creek valley and the Old

Eric Canal, and east to Onondaga Lake. The trail dips into a brushy brook crossing and follows a berry-rich overgrown hedgerow. All this should be great bird habitat, but that day all the thrushes, sparrows and finches were following the rule well-known to birders, of being "spooked" by an east wind.

Near the woods, about a mile upslope, the trail forks, and a distinct arrow points right. "Questioning Authority," I wondered what happens if you go left, but chose the right fork. Up in the forest, the path became vague, and new-fallen maple leaves covered the footprints of whatever creatures had recently trodden it. "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood," Robert Frost wrote, but here it was impossible (unless you are a psychic tracker) to figure out which was "the one less traveled" or whether either was a trail at all. No likelihood of becoming seriously lost so they'd send the helicopters out for you, but an excellent chance to get late for your SPC phone shift.

Back out in the field, I took time to

confirm that the un-arrowed left trail also runs into the woods. When DEC makes their flagging and tagging (for better or worse) more noticeable and frequent, the left trail will loop through the woods and connect with the right. The day I was there, it was a fine treasure hunt to find the next scrap of flagging, in between admiring the golden maple leaves, both on the ground and still high in the old trees, glowing — despite the dull sky — by their own light; their contrast with the handsome elephant-gray beech trunks was striking.

For brevity's sake, I'll leave it to you readers to discover whether, walking farther west through the woods, you'd come out on Devoe Road, whence you could walk south to Sims Store on the Old Erie Canal, and back northeast via the towpath to Route 173. Barring a timewarp during your four-mile hike, you'd return to the ancient school, with your motorized vehicle parked in back.

Marge is a member of the SPC Council.

## Syracusans Visit Nevada Test Site

Sr. Megan Rice

ACTIVIST DOROTHY DAY resisted even the suspicion of nuclear weaponry so thoroughly that she refused to obey air raid drills in Manhattan during the 1950s. In celebration of what would've been her 90th birthday in November 1987, 500 Catholic Workers, whose movement she founded, gathered from nearly 100 communities in Canada and the US at the Nuclear Test Site in the Nevada desert (sacred lands to the Western Shoshone people).

During the late 80s and early 90s, these annual gatherings sometimes swelled to 5,000 and included daily arrests of as many as 1,200. These birthday celebrations may have moved President George Bush toward a moratorium on nuclear testing and serious consideration of the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty that Bill Clinton finally signed in early 1996.

This past November 6-9, 150 gathered again in the desert. Central New Yorkers Michael DiSalvo, Nick Orth, Kathleen Rumpf, Fr. Ted Sizing, Mary Sullivan and I were there to symbolically "cross the line" in honor of Dorothy, the native landlords and all who are gravely concerned about this "inherently dangerous, hugely expensive, militarily ineffi-



En route to crossing the line. Photo: Sr. Megan Rice

cient and morally indefensible" activity, as retired General Butler, in charge of nuclear weapons from 1991-94, puts it. Since 1942, nuclear weapons have consumed \$4 trillion — 80% of our national debt.

The main mission of the Nevada Test Site, funded at \$40 billion over the next decade, is to maintain the capacity to reactivate full-scale nuclear testing within six months.

Contact President Bill Clinton at 202/456-1111 or <president@whitehouse.gov> and urge him to stop all new and modified nuclear weapons development, cancel "sub-critical" nuclear tests, close nuclear laboratories, and use the Nevada Test Site for alternative peaceful energy research.

Sr. Megan works at St. Lucy's Parish.

# Feral Justice in Georgia

## 601 Arrested Petitioning the SOA

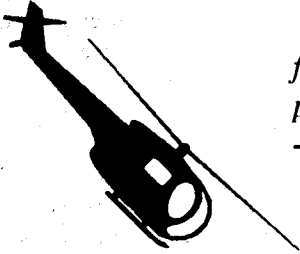
by Ed Kinane

*Twenty years ago, most Latin American countries were under some form of repressive rule. Today, all but one of them are democratic societies. SOA takes partial credit for making democracy possible in Latin America.*

— SOA promotional flyer

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for the redress of grievances.*

— 1st Amendment to the US Constitution



ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, at Fort Benning, 601 of us sought to deliver petitions to the School of the Americas demanding that it be closed. The SOA is paid for by our tax money. Hundreds of thousands of people from around the country and the world had signed those petitions.

The event was preceded by three days of vigiling on the Columbus, Georgia side of Benning's main gate. On the 16th, 2000 people assembled there for the first part of the day's liturgy. The second part entailed crossing the line onto the US Army base. Led by Fr. Roy Bourgeois and Rev. Carol Richardson, co-directors of SOA Watch, hundreds of us walked, two by two, in a silent funeral procession.

We intended to walk the two or three miles into the base to deliver our petitions to SOA headquarters. We carried the petitions in eight coffins commemorating the six Jesuit professors and their two women co-workers killed by SOA grads in El Salvador on Nov. 16, 1989. The coffins also represented the hundreds of thousands of other SOA victims throughout Latin America.

We were flanked by our own peacekeepers. A drummer set our cadence. As on other such occasions, we each carried a white cross with the name of a victim. As we walked deeper into the base, a lector back at the gate read aloud the victims' names. To signify that those who had been tortured or raped or disappeared were with us in spirit, after each name those by the gate chanted, "¡PRESENTE!"

Benning is open to the public...or at least

to some of the public. The base allows entry of SOA boosters. Critics, however, engage in "partisan political activity," which is forbidden by base regs.

Within minutes of our entering the base, Department of Defense police began arresting. They took us in 12 buses to the MP compound. MPs confiscated the coffins and the petitions. They searched everyone, confiscating personal papers or even T-shirts referring to the SOA.

Before being bussed off base and released seven hours later, we each got a ban and bar letter. This means we risk arrest if we're found on base within a year. Twenty eight of us, the repeat offenders, were charged with criminal trespass in violation of an exclusion order as per Title 18 US Code Section 1382. The maximum penalty for this misdemeanor is six months in prison and a \$5000 fine.

Perhaps because there were so many of them, the other 573 weren't charged. We 28 were arraigned before the US Magistrate for the Middle District of Georgia, in Columbus on Nov. 19, the following Wednesday.

### Testing the waters

On Tuesday we met with our local *pro bono* lawyer, David Grindle. An ACLU lawyer, David had helped defend the "SOA 13" in the spring of 1996 and had carried that case on appeal to the 11th Circuit Court in Atlanta in June 1997.

Nearly all of us wanted to plead not guilty. But to "test the waters,"

three decided to plead no contest. That meant they would be tried before a magistrate on Wednesday. The rest of us arraigned that day would also have to appear before federal judge J. Robert Elliott in Columbus sometime in 1998.

Usually for such a petty offense, sentences are nominal or charges are dismissed. To avoid publicity or an adverse legal judgment, the military often refuses to prosecute. The School of the Americas in particular prefers to avoid publicity. The trial and imprisonment of the SOA 13, arrested at Benning on Nov. 16, 1995 for re-enacting the 1989 Jesuit massacre, helped to "out" the SOA. In 1996, some 60 had entered the base on Nov. 16. While those 60 were banned and charged with criminal trespass, Benning declined to prosecute.

Again, last April, 17 SOA Watch demonstrators were arrested for digging a mass grave in the parade ground at the Pentagon [see 6/97 PNL]. All charges were dropped at their court appearance six weeks later. The Pentagon

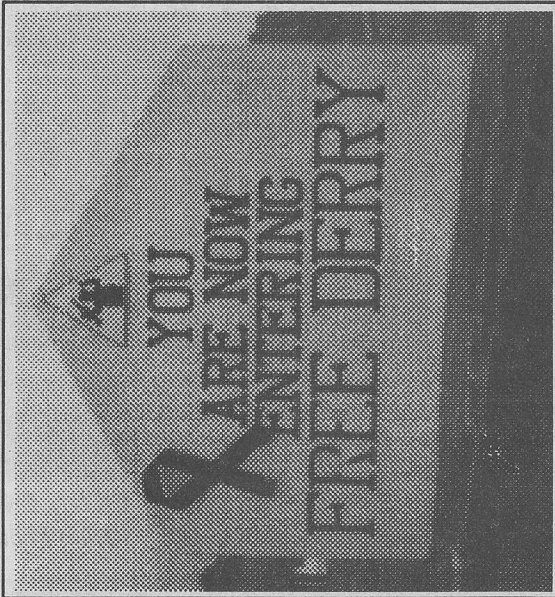


CNYers Eric Denk, Mike Pasquale, Olivia Durant, & Molly Flynn. Photo: International House at LeMoyn College.



# The Writing on the Wall

## Murals in the North of Ireland



Free Derry Corner, first painted Jan. 1969 by Johnny "Caker" Casey, after security forces attacked civil rights marchers. Photo: Stuart Ross.



Derry, "Bloody Sunday," by Sean Loughrey, Kevin Hasson & Tom Kelly. On Jan. 30, 1972, British paratroopers killed 14 unarmed marchers. Demands persist to reopen investigations. Photo: Stuart Ross.

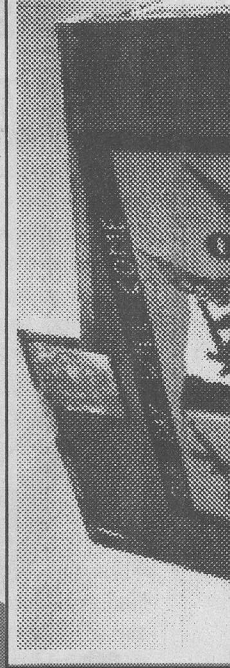


Belfast, 1991. 75th anniversary of the Easter 1916 Rising, with signatories of the Proclamation of Independence, by Gerard Kelly. Photo: Stuart Ross.

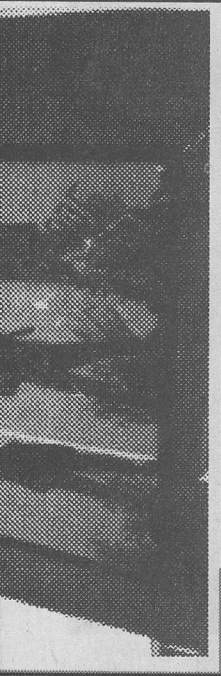


When children are more valued than bombs  
And they read the books that we write  
When women are more valued than work  
And our homes are no longer prisons  
When justice no longer huddles in cells  
Nor strangers crouch armed in our streets  
When we own our own cities and fields  
We will know the meaning of freedom.

Until such time  
The cries of our cities and the groans of our





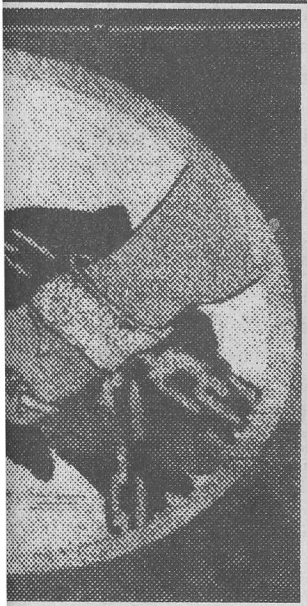


Ballymurphy, Co. Antrim, 1991. "Our Day Will Come" — "Tíofaigh ár lá" in Irish — is a signature rallying cry of the Republican movement. Three IRA Volunteers, with the Irish tricolor. Photo: Stuart Ross.

Will be the songs of our wisdom  
Our poetry of anger and hope.  
Until such time  
Our wonderful murals and graffitied thoughts  
Will be our street newspaper  
Our uncensored judgement and art.

But while you dance to our songs  
And market our lives  
Read our lips:  
We are the people of struggle  
Ours is the culture of change

— from Derry Frontline, 1989.  
Written for Derry's 2020 Vision Community  
Festival of Democracy & Change

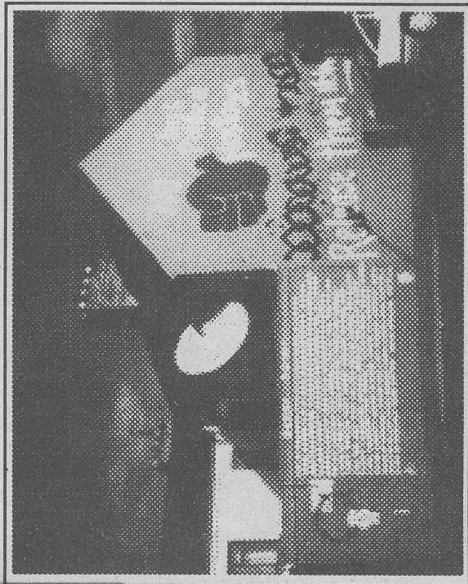


West Belfast, 1991. Detail of 1916 anniversary mural, with Easter lily. Photo: Al Kissane.

*Godspeed Liam Avoill*



Belfast, 1997. Detail, solidarity mural painted by visiting Basque delegation. "Freedom" in Basque and Irish. Photo: Kaya Adams.



The Bookie's Wall on Westland Street, Derry. Freedom for POWs, painted in 1994 by local artists group Inside Out. This site has carried a long series of murals. Photo: Don McCall.



South Armagh, rural Co. Armagh, near the border. Photo: Stuart Ross.

Censorship has been integral to British policy in the North of Ireland for three decades. In 1988 Margaret Thatcher's Tory government enacted formal censorship laws. The Irish government had statutes in place in the mid-'70s. Censorship has forced Northern Nationalists to find alternative means of political expression in pirate radio stations and small publications. "Watchful murals and graffitied thoughts" have become "street newspaper" for many. The murals now found in most Northern Nationalist ghettos call attention to their Civil Rights movement, the Hunger Strikes, the plight of Republican prisoners in Long Kesh, the armed struggle, support for Sinn Féin's electoral campaigns, solidarity with other struggles for self-determination. Recent murals express desire for lasting peace (with justice!).



## Ft. Benning Action Cont. from page 7

seemed to realize that prosecuting anti-SOA demonstrators leads to the SOA itself being put on trial, not only in court but in the media.

But this time the prosecutor went for the jugular. On Wednesday we crowded into the small third floor courtroom of federal magistrate William L. Slaughter. There representing the government were an officer from the base, numerous federal marshals, and prosecutor Dixie Morrow, a former military lawyer.

(As we took our seats, an FBI agent handed arrest warrants to me and three others who took part in the Sept. 29 re-writing — with blood and red paint — of the “Welcome to Fort Benning” sign at the main gate [see 11/97 PNL]. We added HOME OF SCHOOL OF AMERICAS/SCHOOL OF SHAME and SOA = TORTURE to the sign. For thus “destroying” government property, Kathleen Rumpf of Syracuse, three others, and I are being charged with two felonies, one carrying a max of ten years in prison. For each count the maximum fine is \$250,000. Our trial will probably be in February.)

The Nov. 19 trial of the three pleading no contest was brief. Each made a statement. First to speak was Carol Richardson, 53, of the Washington, DC office of SOA Watch. Carol is a Methodist pastor. Next came Anne Herman, 64, a grandmother formerly with the Women's Peace Encampment and now with the Binghamton Catholic Worker. Last was Richard Streb, 72, of Roanoke. Richard is a graduate of SU's Maxwell School, a World War II combat veteran, and retired Columbia University professor.

The three statements were eloquent. Yet Mr. Slaughter's only comment before sentencing was, “For the life of me I can't understand why you did what you did instead of lobbying Congress who's responsible for this.” Then, he sentenced Carol, Anne and Richard each to six months in prison and a \$3000 fine.

### Why the maximum sentence?

A magistrate has wide discretion. Maximum sentences are usually reserved for the defiant, or for habitual criminals, threats to society. Often, pleading no contest and not forcing the prosecution to prove its case leads to leniency. Often — given our racist and classist judicial system — harsh sentences are reserved for people of color or indigents represented by court-appointed lawyers.

But these factors weren't at play. Why was it different this time?.



Entering the gate at Fort Benning. Photo: International House at LeMoyne College.

Look at it from Benning's perspective.

Its once prestigious School of the Americas is now a public relations nightmare. On Nov. 16, SOA commandant Col. Ray Trumble held a rare press conference. According to the Nov. 17 *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, Trumble declared that the US government is the “ultimate enemy” of those protesting the SOA. This is what the SOA teaches its Latin American students: dissent = treason.

The SOA “torture manuals,” released by the Pentagon in September 1996, are better described as “subversion manuals.” They teach that even electoral opposition is enemy action. For decades the SOA has taught its Latin American students to crush demonstrators in their home countries. How, then, can the SOA go easy on demonstrators here? To keep doing so might send its students the wrong signal.

Trumble, a former Special Forces commander, spent 12 years in Peru, Costa Rica and El Salvador. Now the commandant of a cold war dinosaur, Trumble is one himself. He's still red-baiting: “This protest has a clear line that has been drawn,” Trumble explained at the press conference. “One side led by Roy Bourgeois, a communist, a participant with the communist guerrillas in El Salvador. You've got liberation theology, and Castro. On the other side you've got US military who went and died. The US Army and the USA” (Cara Ben-Yaacov, Nov. 26, '97 *Ithaca Times*).

### Check out the numbers

In November, 1996 the multitude took Benning by surprise. This time, however, it

was well-prepared for what was one of the largest civil disobedience actions in this country in years. Even so, the multiplication of demonstrators over the past several years may be triggering its harsh reaction.

Here are the numbers at Benning's main gate on each succeeding Nov. 16: 1995: 23; 1996: 450; 1997: 2000. Of these, the following were arrested upon entering the base: 1994: three; 1995 ten; 1996: sixty; and 1997: 601. Not exponential, but close.

However, even if many more risk arrest in 1998, it'll mean little — at least pragmatically — if those numbers aren't somehow translated into the votes in Congress needed to close the SOA. Not coincidentally, there *has* been distinct growth in Congressional support for closing the school. In 1993 Rep. Joe Kennedy's amendment to cut the SOA's operation and maintenance budget from the Defense Appropriations bill was defeated by 82 votes. In 1995 his bill, HR2652, was defeated by 32 votes. In Sept. '97 Rep. Esteban Torres' amendment to cut SOA funding was defeated by only seven votes.

Benning may hope the prison sentences and fines will chill anti-SOA activism. It may hope that imprisoning the SOA Watch leadership — once again — will break the back of the movement. On the contrary, such feral “justice” will only adrenalize us.

Ed, one of the SOA 13 imprisoned in 1996, is already setting aside books to read for his upcoming incarceration.



# The Annual CNY-to-Benning Migration

THIS FALL CENTRAL NEW YORKERS flocked to Benning to take part in the annual Nov. 16 vigil and action. Before dawn on a snowy Nov. 11 four vehicles headed south together for the two-day drive. In them were: \*Angus MacDonald, \*\*Ann Tiffany, \*Barbara de Francqueville, Clayton Koontz, \*\*Dan and \*\*Doris Sage, \*\*Ed Kinane, George Burton, \*John Fitzsimmons, \*Julienne Oldfield, \*Margaret Birdlebough, \*\*Rev. Nick Cardell, Rita Gabaccia, and \*Sister Sylvia Gamberoni. We picked up \*Ann Clune and \*\*Anne Herman in Binghamton.

Flying in were: \*\*Sara Lucas from Jamesville; \*Cynthia Banas from Vernon; \*Jack Gilroy and \*Fr. Tim Taugher from Binghamton; and Emily Good (age 15), her father Bob, and Lil Lassen from Rochester. \*\*Sister Megan Rice from Manlius and \*Fr. Ted Sizing from Syracuse both flew in from Nevada where they had been celebrating the 100th anniversary of Dorothy Day's birth with a civil disobedience (a.k.a. divine obedience) action at the Nevada nuclear test site.

\*Nancy Gwin of Syracuse bussed down

\* = arrested, \*\* = repeat offender

with around 30 tax resisters, Catholic Workers, CUSLAR folks, and Gradys and their kids from Ithaca. Four from Le Moyne College — Erik Denk, Mike Pasquale, Molly Flynn and Olivia Durant — drove down later in the week. And former Syracusean Norm Balbanian was there from Florida.

Going back to the pre-Civil War abolitionist tradition, Central New York has a proud tradition of direct action and civil disobedience. For several years Central New Yorkers have participated in direct action to close the SOA. Our growing involvement reflects the growth in the national movement. In Nov. 1995 *one* CNYer was arrested at Benning; in Nov. 1996 *ten* were. At the April 1997 Pentagon action *four* of the 17 arrested were CNYers. CNYers were *two* of the five indicted for the Sept. 1997 re-writing at Benning's main gate. This November *eight* of the 28 recidivists were CNYers.

Here in Syracuse, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, over 20 of those who went to Georgia met to prepare for the protracted struggle. That meeting generated committees for support, education and legal work. To join

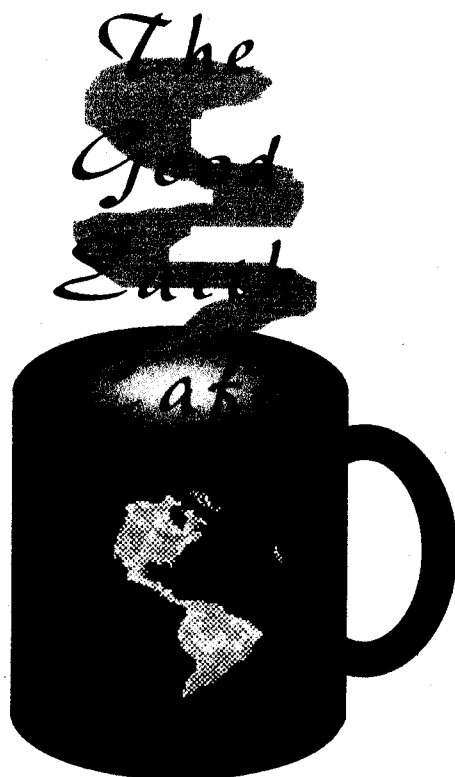


*Guerilla theater performed by the Justice and Peace Street Theater of Minneapolis at the main gate. Photo: Sara Lucas*

these efforts, call Margaret at 422-4201 or SPC at 472-5478. Also, please consider inviting an SOA Watch speaker to address your class or group. To arrange a local speaker, call Ed or Ann at 478-4571. *La lucha continua!*

— Ed Kinane

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## Media Unit Plays at Everson & Points South

The Media Unit's 90-minute award-winning production, *From the Back of the Bus*, will take one more ride, starting from the Everson Museum's Hosmer Auditorium on Saturday, Dec. 27 at 8 pm.

In October, the Media Unit received an annual Human Rights Commission award. This led to an invitation to perform in Jackson, Miss., where teens are launching their own "media unit." In April, the show goes to New York City's Westbeth Theater.

*From the Back of the Bus* explores teens and race through drama, dance, comedy and music. The show has brought critical acclaim to the Media Unit and the beginning of national networking. Last February critic Neal Novelli wrote of the show's Black History Month tour debut at LeMoynes Firebarn Theater, "Hard to find enough superlatives." The tour included 22 regional performances.

Tickets for the one night only Everson performance are \$10. For info, 478-UNIT.



## Showcase Kicks off 1998

The next Women's Showcase is Saturday, Jan. 10, at 7:30 pm at May Memorial Society, 3800 E. Genesee St., Syracuse. The Showcase offers an evening of music, readings, and performances by area women and girls. A special Cafe follows at 9:30 pm with music by Vision, an all-women band.

Admission at the door, \$6 - 20 (more if you can, less if you can't). Proceeds from the evening go to Miss Helen's House: A Wendi Project, named after Wendi Alexis Modeste. This program will provide transitional housing and other HIV/AIDS-related services for women of color.

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

**Last Call!** We are seeking original writings, artwork and photos by women and girls for an anthology to be published in March 1998 for Women's History Month. Submissions are due no later than Jan. 15. For more specific guidelines, send an SASE to Showcase Productions (address above).

— Susie Wiess

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472-5711 or Deb at  
487-2739.

## SEAC Launches Bike Campaign

The Student Environmental Action Campaign (SEAC) recently began the JABBY! (Joggers And Bikers Belong, Yes!) campaign for pedestrian and bicycle safety, promoting bike racks on buses, more campus bike racks, striped jogging/bike lanes on streets, and pavement repair in Walnut and Thornden Parks.

SEAC wants the CNY Regional Transportation Authority to install bike racks on all new buses as part of the new \$4.3 million federal grant for new Centro buses.

According to *Bicycling* magazine, in the past four years 125 cities have added bike racks to 3,100 buses. This improves safety by allowing bikers to ride during bad weather and after dark, eases parking and traffic problems, and makes buses more accessible. With less than 15 seconds' load-time, bus schedules are not delayed.

Contact Becky Battoe at 471-7582 or <rbattoe@syr.edu> or Seth Levin at 425-7492 or <sslevin@syr.edu>.

## Anti-Racist Quarterly 10 Years Old

*Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Activism, Research and Education*, celebrates its tenth anniversary with a special upcoming double issue. Edited by Michael Novick (*White Lies, White Power, Common Courage Press*). *Turning the Tide* is a grassroots publication of People Against Racist Terror (PART) in southern California.

TTT combats organized white supremacists and police violence, and links struggles for human liberation, defense of the environment, and social and economic justice.

First subscriptions are \$15/yr. Subsidize a prisoner's subscription for \$10. Free sample copy. Check/MO to: PART, PO Box 1055, Culver City, CA 90232. E-mail <mnovickttt@igc.org>.



Sierra Club

## Coalition Fights Incinerator Expansion

Opponents of increased trash burning by the Onondaga County trash incinerator got to speak at the public hearing on Dec. 4. But first the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) and Ogden-Martin (they operate the incinerator) waltzed their way into the hearing room as the public literally had the doors locked in our faces! The Director of OCRRA, who told me only his people could enter the hearing room at 1:30, personally blocked my way. Eventually, the public was allowed in, but only after Ogden-Martin/OCRRA employees and board members (past and present) were signed up to speak, dominating the first hour of the hearing. State Assemblymember Joan Christensen got lively applause for pointing out the "lock-out" ploy, noting that many reporters were gone before opponents could speak.

Judy Lieblein, holding her infant Rachel, said she does not want those profiting from the incinerator in charge of the air that her baby breathes. Dr. Richard Weiskopf spoke about public health as our top priority. He treats many people with respiratory disease and believes trash burning worsens these problems. Several people noted that the county's recycling operation has not prevented many recyclables still being burned. The direction should be more recycling, not more burning.

The next step involves a legal process presided over by an administrative law judge. The Environmental Coalition has hired an attorney and may have to pay for expert witnesses. The Environmental Coalition includes Atlantic States Legal Foundation, Drumlins Citizens for Environmental Protection, Jamesville Positive Action Committee, New York Public Interest Research Group, Outer Comstock Neighborhood Association, South-East University Neighborhood Association, the Iroquois Group of the Sierra Club and Recycle First.

We must raise funds. *Please help us and yourself* by contributing to "Recycle First." Send to Recycle First, PO Box 182, Jamesville, 13078. Or call Sierra Club at 492-4745 or 488-2140.

—Linda DeStefano



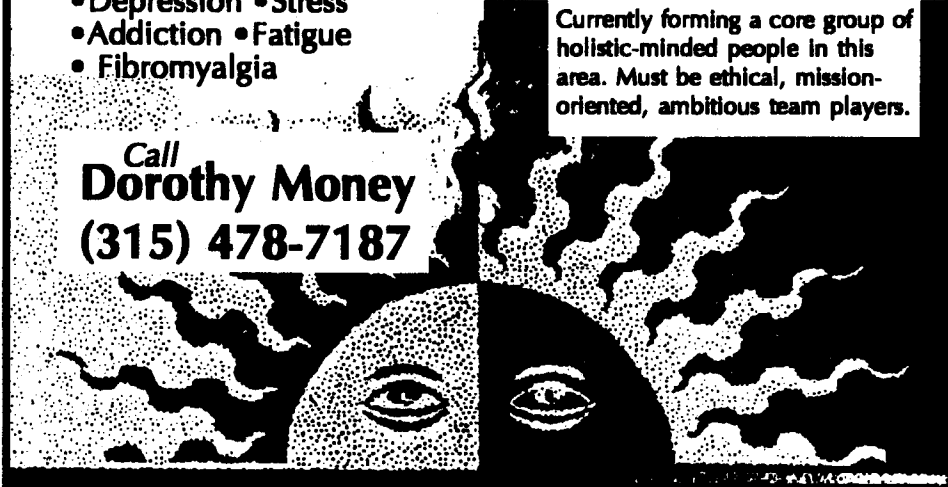
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SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY  
1998

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to SPC, 472-5478. February deadline: Jan. 21.

<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.</p> <p>EVERY MONDAY: "Radiovision" on Adelphia Cable Ch. 3 at 9pm. Presented by Syracuse Community Radio.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p> <p>Close Nine Mile One meeting. Good Earth Cafe, 110 Harvard Pl. 7pm.</p> <p>Peace Action monthly program. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>EVERY WEDNESDAY: Military &amp; Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478.</p> <p>1st THREE WEDNESDAYS: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Av. 4pm. 472-5478.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>EVERY THURSDAY: Lesbian &amp; Gay Youth Support group (ages 14-21). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. Call for time 422-9741.</p> <p>Red Branch Irish Americans for Peace &amp; Justice meets at Coleman's Pub. 7pm. 475-0345.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7pm. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 492-8035.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Irish Northern Aid meeting. Call Patrick Smith for time &amp; place. 469-8948. (Meeting is usually the last Saturday of the month.)</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes. Adelphia Cable Ch. 3, 8pm. Produced by Peace Council.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Justice for Jonny Gammage vigil. God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 5:30pm.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/ Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland &amp; Colvin St. 7pm. 476-7475.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>HOPE, Inc. meeting (grassroots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.</p> <p>Caribbean/Latin America 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><b>14</b></p> <p>EVERY THURSDAY: "Evening Arabesque" Arabic television with news &amp; entertainment. 5:30pm. Adelphia Cable Ch. 7.</p> <p>ReconSIDer: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 205 Onondaga Av. 7:30pm. 422-6237.</p> <p>1st &amp; 3rd THURSDAYS: Gay &amp; Lesbian Alliance meeting. Enable, 1603 Court St. 7:30pm. 472-5732.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>EVERY THURSDAY: Student Environmental Action Coalition meeting. Room 306, HBC Bldg, SU. 6:30pm.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>EVERY THURSDAY: Lesbian &amp; Gay Youth Support group (ages 14-21). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. Call for time 422-9741.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p>President of the NAACP Kwesi Mfume speaking on "Empowering Our Youth" at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. Cathedral Dome. Dinner at 7:15pm is \$15; program at 8:15pm is free. 443-2901.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Syracuse Community Radio general membership meeting. Call 446-4769 for time &amp; place.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>NAACP general mtg. 7pm. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 422-6933.</p> <p>EVERY WEDNESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>EVERY THURSDAY: Student Environmental Action Coalition meeting. Room 306, HBC Bldg, SU. 6:30pm.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>EVERY FRIDAY: Gay &amp; Lesbian Young Adult meeting (ages 21-25). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 422-8741 for time.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>
<p><b>25</b></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 &amp; Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>EVERY MONDAY: HIV+ Issues Group meeting. 6:30-8pm. Sponsored by AIDS Community Resources. Call Bob for place. 475-2430.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Parents, Family &amp; Friends of Lesbians &amp; Gays (PFLAG) meeting. First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5840.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker Benefit Dinner. St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center, Winton St., off Burnet Av. 5:30pm. \$0-\$15 donation. 471-6853.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, downtown Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cyndi 475-1878.</p> <p>Prayer vigil at Landis Plastics Schway plant on Milton Av. Sponsored by Labor-Religious Coalition. Support Landis workers &amp; union organizing struggles. 4pm.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC. 924 Burnet Av. 5-7pm. Free Food!</p>



JANUARY 1, 1998  
2-5PM

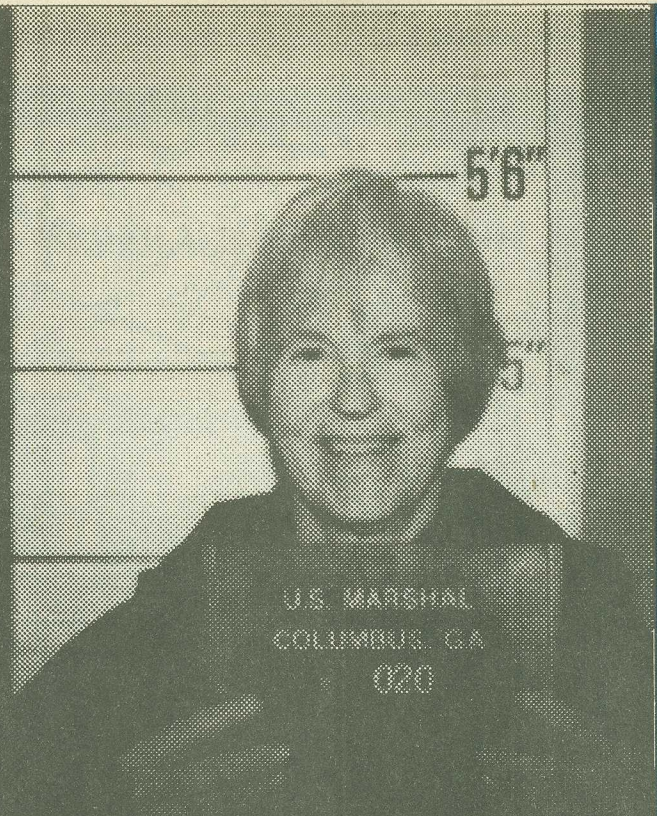
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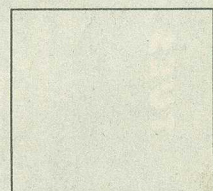
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*Syracuse repeat offender Ann Tiffany during booking following Nov. 19 arraignment in US Magistrate's court. Photo: US Marshal's Office.*

*Syracuse Peace Council*

924 Burnet Ave.  
Syracuse, NY 13203  
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*Educate, Agitate, Organize*



# Peace News Letter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice February 1998 PNL 664



**Change the CDC definition!**

Published Monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council - Founded in 1936 - ISSN 0735-4134

Inside:

Syracuse Activists Remembered, Cree Campaign Continues, Lisa Guido Interview, Lori Berenson — Political Prisoner, CNY Activists Return from Central America, Miss Helen's House — A Living Memory

Photo by Ellen Blalock

# 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

### Bookkeeper

Duane Hardy

### SPC Council:

Paul Frazier, Rae Kramer,  
Carl Mellor, Andy Molloy,  
Marge Rusk, Ann Tiffany

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

## The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets most Wednesdays at 5:30 PM at the Peace Council. Call SPC to confirm the time.

**Editorial & Production:** Tim Judson, Karen Hall, Brian McCord, Bill Hamler, Joy Meeker, Andy Molloy, Paul Pearce, Nancy Rhodes, Valerie Singer

**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

## Other Volunteers

Sonali Sathaye, Chuck Durand, Mardea Warner, Amy Bartell, Vanessa Johnson, Ed Kinane, Aggie Lane, Joan Goldberg, Ruth Putter, Margaret Birtlebough, Kathy Barry, Brian Caufield, Fredrick Noyes, Jolie Rickman, Bill Mazza, Lance Hogan, Bill Hamler, Sylvia Burgess, Daniel Bowers, Carol Baum, Chris Spies-Rusk, Susan Adair, 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

<b>Abolish the Blocade of Cuba</b>		<b>Peace Brigades International</b>	
Doug Igelsrud	471-5749	Ed Kinane	478-4571
<b>ACLU-CNY Chapter</b>		<b>P.E.A.C.E., Inc.</b>	
Barrie Gewanter	471-2821	Louis Clark	470-3300
<b>Alliance-Psychiatric System Survivors</b>		<b>People Against the Death Penalty</b>	637-3344
George Ebert	475-4120	<b>People for Animal Rights</b>	488-PURR(7877)
<b>Alternatives to Violence Project</b>		<b>Physicians for Social Responsibility</b>	488-2140
Jay Liestee	499-0845	<b>Planned Parenthood</b>	475-5525
<b>American Friends Service Committee</b>	475-4822	<b>PWHIV/ AIDS Support Hotline</b>	
<b>Animal Defense League</b>	479-9105	Sandra	471-5911
<b>ARISE</b>	472-3171	<b>Reconsider</b>	
<b>Atlantic States Legal Foundation</b>	475-1170	Nick or Alex Eyle	422-6231
<b>Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition</b>		<b>Religion: Other</b>	
Shirley Novak	446-6099	Phoenix or Kat	474-8801
<b>Citizens Against Radioactive Dumping</b>	(607) 753-6271	<b>Rose Center</b>	
<b>Citizen Review Board</b>		Teri Cameron	422-3426
Felicia Davis	448-8750	<b>Sarah House</b>	475-1747
<b>CNY Center for Occupational Health and Safety</b>	471-6187	<b>Save the County SEEDS</b>	(607) 749-2818
<b>CNY Environment</b>		<b>Service Employees International</b>	
Lee Gechas	446-5319	Robert Tompkins	424-1750
<b>CNY N.O.W.</b>	487-3188	<b>Sierra Club</b>	
<b>CUSLAR</b>	(607) 255-7293	Sue Carlson	445-1663
<b>Dunbar Center</b>		<b>Small Claims Court Action Center</b>	443-1401
Merriete Pollard	476-4269	<b>S.O.A. Watch/ CNY</b>	
<b>EON/Transgender Community</b>		Ed Kinane	478-4571
Melissa	423-4099	<b>Social Workers for Peace</b>	
<b>Fair Housing Council of CNY</b>		Dick Mundy	445-0797
Merrilee Witherell	471-0518	<b>Socialist Party</b>	
<b>Fair Trial for Mumia Committee</b>	472-5478	Ron Ehrenreich	478-0793
<b>Fightback! of CNY</b>	422-0555	<b>Spanish Action League</b>	471-3762
<b>Food Bank of CNY</b>	437-1899	<b>SU African-American Society</b>	443-4633
<b>Friends of the Filipino People</b>		<b>Student Environmental Action Coalition</b>	
John Brulé	445-0698	Michelle Baumfleck	423-8000
<b>Gay/Lesbian Alliance</b>	422-5732	<b>Syr. Alternative Media Network</b>	
<b>Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Assoc. (SU)</b>	443-3599	Tim Brachocki	425-8806
<b>Haiti Solidarity</b>		<b>Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society</b>	
Ann Tiffany	478-4571	<b>SAVES/Joe Connolly</b>	437-2163
<b>Hemlock Society</b>		<b>Syracuse Community Choir</b>	
Betty Bentley	463-0782	Karen Mihalyi	428-8724
<b>Hotel Employees 150</b>	437-0373	<b>Syracuse Community Radio</b>	
<b>Irish Northern Aid</b>		Frederic Noyes	446-4769
Patrick Smith	469-8948	<b>Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union</b>	471-1116
<b>Jail Ministry</b>	424-1877	<b>Syracuse Cultural Workers</b>	
<b>Kenark Center for Creative Spirituality</b>		Dik Cool	474-1132
Bourke Kennedy	685-5414	<b>Syracuse N.O.W.</b>	472-3294
<b>Lesbian/Gay Youth</b>	443-3599	<b>Syr. Real Food Coop</b>	472-1385
<b>NAACP</b>		<b>Syr. Social Movement Initiative</b>	
Van Robinson	422-6933	Pramod Parajuli	443-4822
<b>Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.</b>		<b>Syracuse United Neighbors</b>	
Ammie Chickering	365-2299	Rich Puchalski	476-7475
<b>New Environment Association</b>		<b>S.U. for Animal Rights</b>	443-4199
Harry Schwarzlander	446-8009	<b>Urban League</b>	
<b>NYPIRG</b>	476-8381	Eloise Dowdell Curry	472-6955
<b>Onondaga Audobon</b>	457-7731	<b>Utica Community Action</b>	
<b>Onon. Women's Political Caucus</b>		John Furman	797-7020
Peggy Murray	475-7671	<b>Witness for Peace Delegations</b>	
<b>Open Hand Theatre</b>		Nancy Gwin	422-4689
Geoff Navias	476-0466	<b>Women's Center (SU)</b>	443-4268
<b>Pax Christi</b>		<b>Women's Health Outreach</b>	
Frank Woolever	446-1693		425-3653
<b>Peace Action of CNY</b>		<b>Women's INFO Center</b>	478-4636
Diane Swords	478-7442		

(If you want your group listed, please call)

# PEACE NEWSLETTER

February 1998  
PNL 664

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, Ted Widay, Cynthia Maud-Gembler

#### January Mailing Party Helpers

An especial thank you to all the folks who came in early for our January mailing. The March mailing will be on February 26 — free pizza (vegan too) for all!

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## About the Cover: "Let's Do It Now"

Ellen Bialock is an artist and a Syracuse Newspapers photographer who often photographed AIDS activist Wendi Alexis Modeste (see Melody Holmes' article, p. 14). Among her observations:

*This is my favorite photo that I took of Wendi.*

*Her whole point was, let's do it now. By the time I was shooting her for the [annual Post-Standard] People of Achievement Awards, if it was a difficult day for her, I'd say we can do it later. She was like, no, let's do it now. She wanted to be productive. Wendi did not take tomorrow for granted at all.*

*Another time I ran into her after the paper did a story on prisons. Several reporters and photographers worked on this, travelled around the state gathering stories on prison health care. So I told her about it. She was so excited! The next week she was going to*

*Albany or DC, so she was going to use it. She'd been trying to say the same things, and here it was, like we did it for her, something she could pull out and show people.*

*The first time I met Wendi, even before I shot her, we sat down. We talked about her having AIDS, what it meant to me. She generously gave me her ear and time. She did not fault me for any of my feelings. Intellectually I know she can't give me AIDS, but just being there with her, it makes me uneasy. So she was easing me. It's weird, for someone who's supposed to help her, she's helping me. I thought it was a wonderful thing. Yeah. I really liked her honesty.*

*I was not really in her circle of friends. I had the pleasure of photographing her several times. We reached a point where she asked for me [to be the photographer if the paper was doing a story]. That I felt good about.*

*She made me a stronger person. One of the wonderful things about my job is you look at your phobias face to face. Say if you're afraid of old people. Not like old age would jump on me, but — maybe it's contagious. Or like height. You climb a couple bell towers, you get over your fear. She helped me.*

*So many people — me as well — we want AIDS "over there." In dealing with Wendi, it wasn't ever "over there." She brings out the humanity in you. She allowed me to be me, to move to another level, just by being in contact with her. Especially at the end, dealing with time. "Let's do it now." You understand your gifts even more. Life is a gift. You have to allow yourself — give yourself — purpose.*

## Join the PNL Collective!



Pooh and Christopher Robin say, "After a long day storming the barricades overthrowing the last bastions of modern day capitalism, we like to sit down with the latest issue of the *PNL*. In order to continue producing such fine issues the *PNL* needs new writers, editors, artists, and layout wizards. So put down that honey jar and skip on over to the Peace Council! Meetings are Wednesdays at 5:30pm."

#### March Issue Deadlines

Articles	Feb 13
Ads	Feb 20
Calendar Items	Feb 20



# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

## SPC Infrastructure and Pledge Support

We, as you might well know, have been incredibly busy in recent months. A plethora of events, actions, and activities have kept the SPC staff and Council on the go.

Winter, for many creatures, is a time for hibernation. It is a time to tuck oneself away in a warm comfy place to rejuvenate and build energy for a spring flurry of activity.

SPC isn't exactly in hibernation; in fact we are quite busy. We are, however, spending a good part of January and February to take a collective deep breath, a step back from events and protests, and focus on building our infrastructure.

Several pieces of our infrastructure could stand to use some improvement. Amongst the things we are currently working on are: volunteer involvement, our work space, and finances.

Volunteers are needed on several projects/committees: the PNL, programming, our spring dinner, and the NiMo campaign. The staff at points this fall was too busy to seek out volunteers, and even sometimes to incorporate those individuals that came forward. This is now one of our priorities.

The OM committee is rebuilding our back office which will create more functional space. And we are finally getting our act together to create multiple desk spaces and extend telephones throughout the house.

### Finances, Pledges, and You

The Peace Council needs to expand its

financial base. We ended 1997 in the red, and were required for the first time in years to take out a loan. Our finances have constant ups and downs, and January is traditionally one of the worst months in that regard. Building our financial strength also involves increasing the consistency of our income.

Our income is solely based upon donations, subscriptions, and fundraising events.

The most consistent money we receive comes from our "pledgers." Pledgers are people who commit to giving us a set amount of money either quarterly or monthly - currently ranging from \$5-100 a month.

We are conducting a pledge drive this February to increase our pledges. It is not often we make a personal plea for money...

If you subscribe to the PNL, you will receive a letter and call from us this month requesting your additional support. If you do not subscribe to the PNL, please consider that you could, with just \$12 a year, support our continued efforts to be a consistent voice for Peace and Justice.

- 
- **"How can I make a tax deductible contribution to the Syracuse Peace Council?"**
- To make a tax deductible contribution to SPC simply send us a check made out to "Alternative Efforts", and mark it "for the Syracuse Peace Council"
- What a great idea! More money for us and less for Uncle Sam's War Machine!
- 



## Parting Is Such Sweet Sorrow

Well, after seven months of working with the Syracuse Peace Council I must say good-bye. When I began this venture I never imagined all I would learn, and all the activists I would come to work with. At times it's been wonderful, and there were some difficult moments as well, but it certainly has been a pivotal point in my activist career.

I had been a grassroots organizer for animal rights for four years before I came to the Peace Council. During the later part of those four years I began feeling stagnant, I was no longer growing as an activist, and I needed to broaden my horizons. Just about the same time, I received a letter in the mail outlining the SPC staff position that had just opened. It must have been a sign from up above...this is exactly what I needed!

So, for the past seven months as I've been working with Beth, Val, Tim and Paul on socials, dinners, SPC pages in the PNL, campaigns and others, I've also been working on myself. The Peace Council community helped me gain a better understanding of social justice and a sense of how all our struggles are connected. Now you may be asking yourselves, if it's been so great then why am I leaving?

With all this unfounded understanding comes energy, and I find myself getting very anxious to finish school, get my teaching degree and share this knowledge with the rest of the world. But you can't get rid of me that easily, I'm sticking around! I'm looking forward to continued work against Nine Mile One, and since I have first hand knowledge about SPC's financial situation I'll certainly stick around to help raise funds! I also look forward to working with affiliated groups that I learned about during my time here like the SOA campaign.

So good-bye, but not good riddance. I'll still be around (sometimes as much as I was before) but this time as a volunteer. The Peace Council has helped me grow, and I hope I played a part in helping SPC grow as well.

To everyone I've met here: **Thank You.**

— Nicole Rogers

# Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

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- Enclosed \$12 for one year.  This is a new subscription.
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ additional donation for all your great work!  This is a renewal
- Please contact me about volunteering.  My address has changed

the Syracuse Peace Council • 924 Burnet Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203



# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

## Sally Brulé: a life of commitment and joy.

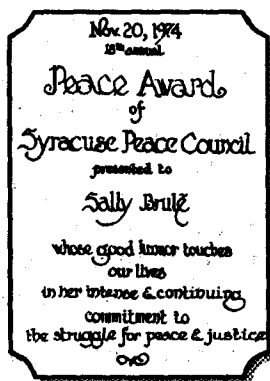


THE SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL is deeply saddened by the loss of Sally Brulé who died on January 3, 1998. Her life was dedicated to issues of peace and justice which was demonstrated by her commitment to personal and community activism.

Sally was a staff person at the Syracuse Peace Council from the late 60's until the mid 70's. She kept our books, she worked on the Peace Newsletter and Peace Calendar, organized weekly protests at the local draft board during the Vietnam war while fulfilling the role of surrogate mom to the many "young people" coming into SPC. Former co-staffperson David Easter reflects fondly on Sally's strong sense of humor, personal warmth, and commitment to SPC's anti-war

organizing and her direct manner of describing human foolishness that she observed. To recognize her incredible work, we awarded Sally our 18th annual Peace Award.

Sally and her husband John were also craftspeople. Their horseshoe nail figures and mobiles were a dynamic part of our Plowshares Craftsfair for many years. The SPC house has one of their creative



mobiles which contains the figures reproduced on this page.

After Sally left the SPC staff, she and John continued to volunteer with SPC. She also continued her work on the Peace Calendar by supporting and volunteering with the Syracuse Cultural Workers. She did the braille for the Syracuse Community Choir.

Our deepest sympathies go out to John and the Brulé family as well as the extended community affected by this great loss. Her contributions have been a joy and a sustaining strength that will long be missed.



Beth Mosley & Paul Pearce

## Nate Zeppetello and an Era Remembered

July 16, 1919 - November 20, 1997

Dik Cool

It was the Summer of 1973. We had recently moved the Peace Council's offices from two tiny rooms in the Chuch Center (Across from Nottingham H.S.) to a huge house at 924 Burnet Avenue. The Paris Peace Accords, signed in January, supposedly ended the genocidal Viet Nam war; but, of course, the war would rage on until the Vietnamese drove the U.S. out on April 30, 1975.

The new SPC house had a big problem — an old octopus-like furnace made the winter of '72 a challenge. I "spotted" a relatively new furnace in a row of vacant buildings on Madison Street across from Grace Church that were slated for demolition by "urban removal".

I called Nate for help. Never questioning the ethics of liberating needed equipment, he agreed to check it out. He pedaled over to the site on his beloved bike, determined the furnace was usable and then marked all the duct work we should also take. Several nights later David Coons, Joe Horsington, Tom Diehl and I, using Red Emma (Grassroots/Dandelion's



old VW bus named for Emma Goldman), did the deed.

Nate installed it, and SPC had the first liberated furnace in Central NY. He also overhauled SPC's electrical system over several years.

Nate grew up on Syracuse's Italian northside. After high school he worked in the steel mill and joined the American Labor Party. In 1943 he joined the Army Air Corps as a navigator, became a 1st lieutenant and a war hero, flying 35 missions in the South Pacific. His commission was held up when someone overheard him giving an impassioned anti-fascist talk to other soldiers.

After WWII Nate joined the Communist Party (CP) and became a union organizer for the United Electrical Workers in Rome. In 1949 he met a radical northside woman named Mary Ann Carrino. Five months later, in August, they were married, but it wasn't quite that simple. Mary Ann's family wanted a Catholic wedding so Nate agreed to undergo "instruction". The priest's final de-

mand was that Nate renounce his CP membership. (In 1948, fearing a national victory by the CP in Italy, the Pope had ex-communicated all CP members). Nate and Mary Ann refused, and were instead married by Rev. Payton in a small African American Church on Cedar Street in the old 15th ward.

Nate was the local CP chair from 1950-1956, when US Sen. Joe McCarthy and the House Unamerican Activities Committee instigated a wave of anti-left repression. Radicals like Nate and Mary Ann lost jobs, friends and homes and lived in constant fear of internment in concentration camps.

Nate and Mary Ann were married for 35 years and had three sons, Philip, Marc and Michael. Two of Nate's most memorable moments were meeting Paul Robeson and kissing Jane Fonda.

It is certainly consistent with Nate's non-sense style that he chose to end his life on his terms. His entire family has great respect for that courageous decision. Rest in Peace, Nate, and thank you.

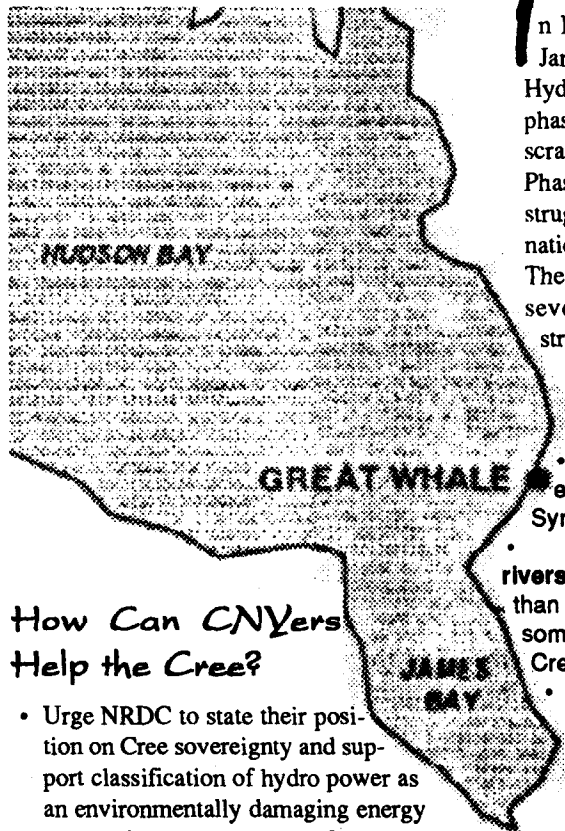
Please send contributions in his name to SPC and to Syracuse Cultural Workers, Box 6367, Syracuse, NY 13217.

Dik Cool was on SPC staff from 1970 to 1981.

# Truth to Power

## CNY Support Needed as Cree Campaign Continues

compiled by Tim Judson



In November, the PNL began covering the James Bay Cree's ongoing struggle against Hydro-Quebec (HQ). Since the end of the last phase of their campaign in 1994, when HQ scrapped the first plans for the Great Whale Phase II of the James Bay Project, the Cree's struggle has faded from the spotlight and international awareness and support have waned. The Cree are now working simultaneously on several different fronts, with resources stretched thin.

The most immediate threats the Cree face

at the moment have to do with HQ's revised plans for the James Bay Project (see top right) and the possible effects of the US's deregulated utilities market. Not surprisingly, those two issues are intimately connected — as they were in the early 90s as well. One of the important parts of that campaign was getting New York State to cancel its \$17 billion contract with HQ. The dynamics of the situation have changed with the deregulation piece, but our role on the US side of the border is no less immediate — it may even be more so ...

### Hydro's New Plans

- **Within 10 years** — produce enough energy to power 74,000 cities the size of Syracuse.
- **Divert the Great Whale and Rupert rivers into the La Grande reservoir**, rather than build separate reservoirs. Will save HQ some money, but is no less destructive to Cree communities and local ecosystems.
- **Undermine Cree Sovereignty.** "Economically Conquer the north of Canada"

(Robert Bourassa, former Québec Premier).

- **Sell power on the US's deregulated "Grid"** at rates up to 50% lower than other producers, underselling the small, independent producers deregulation is supposed to favor, and development of "green" energy.
- **Dominate the US power market** in the northeast.

### How Can CNYers Help the Cree?

- Urge NRDC to state their position on Cree sovereignty and support classification of hydro power as an environmentally damaging energy source. Direct letters to NRDC, attn: **Katherine Morrison**, 1200 New York Ave. NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005. For better or worse, their opinion carries significant weight in Washington, and they claim to be on the same side as us.
- Support legislation on these issues. Watch the PNL for further developments.
- Weigh your power choices locally, and work to ensure that we have acceptable choices before us. When deregulation goes into effect, choose wind, solar, or small-scale geothermal or biomass.
- As always — CONSERVE. Oppose wasteful energy use.
- **Close Nine Mile One!** These struggles are connected — there are no safe, large-scale power projects. Insist that large corporations not be allowed to recklessly endanger the public under the pretense of giving us what we want. Tell them you want power on your own terms.

### NRDC Turns its Back

The Natural Resources Defense Council, headed by Bobby Kennedy Jr., is currently lobbying HQ to support Clean Air Act legislation in Congress. Kennedy was one of the high-profile US supporters of the Cree campaign in the early 90s, but NRDC has not contacted the Cree about their current actions.

Such an alliance would further cloud the issue of "clean energy" and undermine the Cree cause.

In defense of natural resources, as well as local communities and ecosystems, the NRDC should support classification of hydro power as environmentally damaging.

### FERC & Congress Regulations Crucial

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has recently decided to admit HQ as an equal competitor in the deregulated "free market." This despite FERC's own rules of reciprocity, which prohibit monopolies as "equal competitors." FERC will decide by early February whether to review this decision in light of concerns raised by the Cree.

Congress is deciding whether there should be national standards on the deregulated utilities market, which would pre-empt individual state decisions as well as interpretations of NAFTA that favor HQ. Some possibilities for this involve:

- listing energy sources that are environmentally damaging
- requiring that power corporations have renewable resources as part of their "portfolio"
- require that Québec admit competition into the province, effectively ending HQ's monopoly — and there ability to undertake such huge, risky projects.



A logo from the Cree campaign in the early 90s.





# Take Heart: We're Still Everywhere

## Lisa Guido's Work Links Many Struggles

An Interview

by Nancy Keefe Rhodes

*In mid-December, activist Lisa Guido returned to Syracuse after nearly half a year in Belgium working with the anti-nuclear group, For Mother Earth. Before she left, Lisa contributed coverage to the PNL about the Plowshares trial in Maine. Her bulletins from abroad have enlivened several PNLs since. Recently, she talked with me about her travels in Europe and her plans to participate in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Peace Walk.*

**LG:** . . . I'll bring flyers about the School of the Americas on the Peace Walk and the video. I'm going for a month. Two friends from England and Holland are joining me. My hope is, if we're lucky, we can take the Walk right to the SOA trials. There are so many connections, and you know it's the same judge who went after Dr. King.

**PNL:** What do you think King would say about the SOA?

**LG:** He was so strongly anti-military, especially at the end of his life. I think he'd say it's an abomination. It's such interesting timing, the trial and the Peace Walk. It's a great idea for the SOA trial, a banner with, "What would MLK say?" Using one event to frame the other and make that connection. It also coincides with Black History month, and King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference is co-sponsoring the Walk.

**PNL:** When did you decide to go?

**LG:** I was thinking about it for a few months. Then I came home from Europe and learned that friends would go on trial for the SOA protests and I thought of the connection. I actually heard via e-mail first. My friends said, we'll go too! I like the remembrance walks but I want to connect it to the present. Of course racism is still with us.

**PNL:** Kathleen Rumpf says it's fate, being tried by the same judge that MLK faced.

**LG:** In Belgium I saw a video by a French journalist who went to the Deep South of the US. He had recent footage of white supremacists, KKK gatherings. The local anarchist center showed it at one weekly dinner and movie night. He interviewed one guy in a tee-

shirt with Martin Luther King in a gunsight, saying, "This is my dream." He had people at gun shows, explaining why they want more guns. It's a reminder of what's happening with fascist groups and hate groups today. This is very present for Europeans.

**PNL:** How do audiences react to this?

**LG:** They see the US as more violent than other industrialized, capitalist nations — the so-called "First World." More violent than Europe, even though we can look at Bosnia and the North of Ireland. The US feels more



Lisa Guido on a 1995 journey. Photo courtesy of Karen Hall

violent than Europe. Statistically, there are by far more homicides in the US. People know that a growing neo-Nazi movement, especially in Germany, coincides with that in the US. There is still a Nazi Party.

**PNL:** It's the old one, not a rebirth.

**LG:** Yes. In Hamburg, they got 5% of the vote in the last election. And Hamburg's a pretty funky town. That is, it has a reputation as very progressive. The activists took to the streets over that election. I was actually in Germany then, doing an action.

**PNL:** How'd that feel?

**LG:** Oh, very positive actually. Seeing so many hundreds of activists responding. But it's chilling to see that the party exists. We always think it's historical. They're still here. There's definitely a direct connection among fascism, the arms race, fear of disarming, maintaining so-called enemies and so-called deterrents. That is, a connection between state repression and economics. Whenever we did an action, the local people and reporters both would say, "This is the biggest employer in the region. How can we shut this down?"

**PNL:** Did you see yesterday's paper? [New York State Gov.] Pataki took away Tupper Lake's proposed new prison because of its environmental impact in the Adirondack region, based on a report from the Dept. of Environmental Conservation. The local people are losing 350 new jobs. They say that "outsiders" are making their decisions, that the DEC ruling is really big city folks denying them equal economic development.

**LG:** Yes, it's really appropriating the language of democracy, turning it on its head. It's a lot like what Judge Elliott did in '62 with his ruling on the 14th Amendment against demonstrations [see p. 8 sidebar].

**PNL:** New York State's strategy for rural poverty has been prison-building since Cuomo's time. What about Europe? Are there similar depressed areas there that are more receptive to such projects?

**LG:** Actually, yes. In England, Greenham Common is rural, and Aldermasten is right down the road. That's a nuclear lab. Right here, look at Oswego and Nine Mile One.

**PNL:** There's some attention now on border areas suffering greater environmental degradation when both nations, paradoxically, consider such areas peripheral and neither wants to own such problems. Say, along both the Canadian and Mexican borders. Look how heavily the US has fortified the border around El Paso, yet El Paso/Juarez is incredibly polluted.

**LG:** Yes, it's classic. The nuclear plant at Doel is right on the Belgian/Dutch border.

**PNL:** How about For Mother Earth. How did you get involved?

**LG:** I was in Japan in 1995 for the 50th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I met a Belgian activist and we became good friends. He told me about European anti-nuclear campaigns and a walk across Europe for a Nuclear-Free World, from Brussels to Moscow. That caught my attention, especially as they were doing actions along the way at plants and weapons establishments. So I thought, why not take a chunk of time and learn what I can from them? My friend and I corresponded regularly after that. In April he said there would be a summer campaign in '97 — the Abolition Days — focusing on the expansion of NATO nuclear capacity and the World Court decision on nuclear war's illegality. I

Cont. on p. 8

## JUDGE ELLIOTT, THE MLK-SOA- MY LAJ CONNECTION

Recently the NAACP (whose new Executive Director, Kweisi Mfume, spoke in Syracuse during this year's MLK festivities) passed a resolution condemning the School of the Americas. Several other factors now converge to highlight the racist nature of the SOA's enterprise.

The Martin Luther King Remembrance Walk starts on January 19 in Atlanta, King's birthplace, and winds up on April 4 in Memphis, where he was assassinated. The Walk is an interfaith project of Nippon Zan Mihoji, a Japanese order of Buddhist monks and nuns, who have supported plowshares actions for many years. They also participated in chanting and vigiling in Brussels last October while Lisa was there.

The MLK Walk may cross paths with the SOA trials in Georgia, given the presiding federal judge is J. Robert Elliott, appointed by Kennedy in 1962. As chronicled in Taylor Branch's *Parting the Waters: America During the King Years* (1988), Elliott banned a civil rights march planned by King through Albany, Georgia in the early 60s. He "turned upside down the Civil Rights' cherished stand on the 14th Amendment" when he granted an injunction, ruling that the march denied Albany's white citizens equal protection by drawing police manpower and other public resources out of white neighborhoods to monitor such a march. Years earlier, Elliott had led the walk-out of the Georgia delegation at the 1948 Democratic National Convention in protest of the party's civil rights stance.

In citing Elliott as "worst" among US judges, *The American Lawyer* (July/August 1983) also noted that in 1974 Lt. William Calley appealed his court-martial for the My Lai massacre in Viet Nam to Judge Elliott's court. Elliott set aside Calley's conviction. His decision devoted nearly 50 pages to reviewing what he deemed Calley's martyrdom in the press, comparing him to such figures as the Biblical Joshua, Winston Churchill, General Sherman and Dwight Eisenhower. A year later, the Fifth Circuit found Elliott in error and ordered Calley back to prison.

Observers back from the January round of SOA trials have commented that Elliott promptly read his decision aloud when testimony ended. Syracusans Ed Kinane and Kathleen Rumpf face further trial on March 2.

wanted to be part of the peace camps that were planned. I also wanted to do whatever I could to help, and learn more about organizing, so I could understand more about creating an action. The peace camps would teach consensus decision-making and explore base democratic structures.

**PNL:** *How did it work there? Democracy, after all, is messy, time-consuming, inefficient — and worth it.*

**LG:** Yes, the trials and tribulations to get it to work! We truly believe in it, but it takes such time and effort. Sometimes hierarchy seems faster and requires less thought. It's totally worth it. This reaffirmed for me that learning the process is as important as creating the action. People are doing it here. The same struggles and rewards occur in other similar groups.

**PNL:** *How many people took part?*

**LG:** About a hundred people in the peace camps, not to mention all the health food stores who donated all the food and were there in spirit. We had a surplus of food. We were in the Brussels camp for ten days, beginning on

August 1. If you see 60 people at an action, there's sure to be others behind the scenes doing support — logistics, food, press work.

**PNL:** *You were part of a later project?*

**LG:** I planned to stay about three months.

Then this other project came along, the Indigenous Peoples Speaking Tour, about uranium mining in their lands fueling nuclear power in Europe and North America. It was a chance to lobby with indigenous peoples from several continents in the European Parliament and do street action together. I learned a lot about the logistics of bringing delegations together. Again, it was very worth it. I've been involved in other delegations, for example, the one from here in Central New York that went to Central America — they were to learn, to get first-hand knowledge, though they evolved to the sister-city project and so on. But this was about oppressed people getting to voice their concerns and demands on the oppressors' home ground. This taught me that it's possible to host a delegation on a shoestring. They loved the home stays, home-cooked meals. You don't need a municipal budget. There we

were in the European Parliament, trying to get a voice. It was a huge maze to negotiate, physically and emotionally. They felt it was positive, but exhausting. For Mother Earth invited delegates from Africa — from Namibia, and from Australia, Sashkatchewan, the Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico, the Cree from Canada. For Mother Earth has a long relationship with indigenous peoples. In 1992 For Mother Earth was involved in walks across the US from the UN to the Nevada Test Site (a.k.a. the Western Shoshone Nation Territory).

**PNL:** *How old is For Mother Earth?*

**LG:** About seven years old, I think. It



grew out of the cruise missile, anti-nuclear demonstrations and peace camps of the 80s.

**PNL:** *Is there a particular Belgian tradition for peace activism, other than its status as a neutral nation?*

**LG:** Well, Belgium is not quite a mobilized as, say, England, on nuclear issues. England has a big history of nuclear resistance. Belgium is the home of For Mother Earth, but other small independent groups have sprung up elsewhere. People are becoming very politicized, I think, seeing the concentration of power now in Brussels. There was this image of neutrality that permitted locating certain offices there. The Big Three — Germany, France, England — they didn't have it. People were originally less fearful to see a center there. So the European Parliament is there, the NATO headquarters are there. I should say the mythical image of neutrality.

**PNL:** *The squatters movement supported your efforts in Brussels ...*

**LG:** Yes. Again, you see how building community and networks of resistance is just as important as the direct action. The Euro-



pean squatter movement — that is, where grassroots communities take over abandoned buildings and neighborhoods — is very involved in the anti-military movement. I saw resistance communities in every country I visited. Quite often anti-nuclear and anti-military communities were organized in squats. Holland is really strong in squatters. Some Amsterdam squats have weekly dinners open to the public as fund raisers. It's more organized than here, and more accepted, but I understand that some police evicting squatters' communities, like in New York City, has brought US squats into the news sometimes.

*PNL: What did you bring back?*

*LG:* This is useful for me — to reflect, to compare, to see what I want to ask activists here. What sustains movements here? What are we lacking, what are we strong at? Actually, I see a lot of community around revolution and food. Locally, there are the monthly dinners that Michael [DiSalvo] and Nick [Orth] hold [to help support Friends of Dorothy, which offers hospitality to those with HIV/AIDS]. There's Food Not Bombs. SPC is holding brunches again. Yeah, including food is fundamentally important. We'll share food with people along the way on the King Peace Walk. The cooking crews, the travelling kitchens really help.

*PNL: Was there anything like Food Not Bombs in Europe?*

*LG:* I didn't see a lot of Food Not Bombs-type activity, but we did a lot of "dumpster-diving" — we were able to live very cheaply. There was a very positive local TV story about that in Gent, where I stayed. I must say that Wegman's has been bountiful here too.

*PNL: Do you think the distance factor affects organizing in Europe?*

*LG:* A lot — you travel a short distance, language and currency and culture changes. It sensitizes you very quickly to differences. I should qualify it. Here, you can drive from Manlius to the South Side and see changes.

*PNL: Can you talk some more about the indigenous people speaking tour?*

*LG:* I'm still trying to sort out the worthwhileness of that. Making the connection between abuse of indigenous people and the wealth of industrialized nations, violations of rights and treaties. I was just looking at a book today, *American Ground Zero* — I think from the 80s. Nevada Test Site is in the heart of Shoshone land. The book showed areas of fall-out in the Southwest, massive radioactive contamination. The European tour was effective

in educating Europeans about some similar indigenous issues, namely land rights violations, use of land as toxic waste dumps, exploitation of resources. That's part of what is happening here at Big Mountain in Arizona — I think they're planning to dig for coal and under that is uranium. A number of sacred native sites are being considered for nuclear waste sites. Nuclear waste is still goes into Nevada regularly. The tour in Europe was stressful because it was very emotional for delegates to speak out about similar horrific things over and over. The original speaker from Laguna Pueblo had to cancel because her cancer got worse. Her replacement had lost several family members and now lives off the reservation to get away from the uranium mine. The aboriginal woman, Joan Wingfield, had a family member blinded by an above-ground nuclear test on their lands. The guy from Namibia, his village was going to be flooded, destroyed by a dam. His village was moved, ancient burial grounds torn up to build infrastructure for mining. Europe is giving money to his government for this. There was a Cree woman on the tour — 32% of the world's uranium comes from Canada's First Nation people. As with AIDS activism, it was hard to speak out to an unknowing public about these things. I was on the support team, to do logistics as well as emotional support. They were coming to the belly of the beast, where colonialism sprang from.

*PNL: What did you do afterward?*

*LG:* I took a break! I went to Greenham Common in England for a few days with the four women still living there. It's been 16 years for them. The cruise missiles were removed, but they stay there partly to monitor the transition of that land from military to civilian use. Right now, some big businesses are eying the property. The women are facing another trial too. They focus on "de-fencing" at the local weapons lab. They take down large portions of fence, to represent taking down barriers, creating access where there's been none. It creates an opportunity for the trial to use the World Court decision against nuclear war. They are trying to do enough property damage to get a jury trial, which may come up in February, actually, to get the World Court decision into court. The World Court decision has prompted efforts to get a series of court cases leading to legal precedent. Many people here in the States are working on the same thing. Last year four women in England were acquitted in a trial using international law — the Hawk Plow-



*Angie Zelter of the UK's Hawk Plowshares protested NATO's illegal nuclear plans.*

#### **TRIDENT PLOWSHARES 2000**

A May press conference in the UK will announce Trident 2000, a mass plowshares action next summer against the Trident nuclear base in Scotland.

Lisa says, "Usually plowshares actions are secret, so this is a huge departure. Under UK law, they are risking 10 years for conspiracy for planning this."

For further info, contact the Trident 2000 Core Group at 42-46 Bethel St., Norwich NR2 1 NR, United Kingdom.

shares women. They got a video introduced into evidence — they left it on the pilot's seat of a warplane during their action. Often you are stifled in court. They were very well-prepared. Their video was "evidence," the jury saw it. It documented their letter campaign, their demos, each woman was interviewed about why she was in this action. I love the cleverness of getting that video into court so your intentions are clear. It shows the build-up in their campaign. In the last year I've been meeting more and more people in the States and abroad who are all working on the same issues. It's pretty energizing.

*Nancy is a PNL contributing editor. Photos on pp. 8 - 9 by Anguira of Romania's For Mother Earth. Contact Lisa Guido via e-mail at <lisa@motherearth.org>.*



# No Night Lasts Forever ...

## LORI BERENSON: POLITICAL PRISONER IN PERU

By Steven Penn

*"This has been a very cold year—the frosts came to Puno early. But even so the blue sky continues to be beautiful, as must be the fields and Lake Atitlán (Titicaca), which I remember vividly although I can't see them."*

High in the Peruvian Andes stretches a wide plateau above the shores of Lake Titicaca. Once an ancient Inca stronghold, life on the plateau is difficult; at 12,500 feet the temperatures rarely climb above the 40's even in the summer, and the winds are unrelenting. In the mountains above the lake stands the Yanamayo prison, a maximum security facility which international human rights groups have universally condemned as draconian and inhumane.

Only the persistent mountain wind freely enters Yanamayo. Rushing past the external rock barricade, across the mine field, over the tall inner perimeter wall with its guard towers and razor wire, the cold wind whistles through a narrow penitentiary window into a tiny cell where there sits a young woman knitting — maybe playing the guitar — and silently marking a solemn anniversary, the second year of a life sentence. Twenty-eight year old Lori Berenson has dedicated her life to furthering human rights and fighting the systems that create poverty, working first in Nicaragua and El Salvador, and finally in Peru. She has known people in the rebel movements. She has even been a translator during the Salvadoran peace negotiations. But in the harsh political landscape of Peru, associating with a rebel is a crime and being charged means being convicted. Evidence of any actual wrongdoing is irrelevant in the closed military trials where hooded judges hear a hooded prosecutor present the "facts" which the defense may not question. The whole proceeding takes about an hour. In 1995 Peru's National Human Rights Coordinator estimated that the military trials, with their 97% conviction rate, had sent nearly 1000 innocent people to prison. Thus a young woman, who has never been known to raise a hand, much less a gun, against anyone, is sent to prison for life.

On November 30, 1995 Lori was riding the bus from downtown Lima back to her apartment. She had visited the Peruvian Congress seeking interviews with congressmen for an article she was writing for the New York-based magazine *Third World Viewpoint*. The bus was pulled over by two plainclothes policemen, and Lori was dragged off and arrested. That night police raided a house in Lima being used by the rebel group Tupac Amaru (MRTA). The ensuing shoot-out killed 6 people before 14 MRTA members surrendered. Within days after these arrests, before Lori was even



Photo courtesy Reuters

charged, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori publicly stated that Lori was guilty of aiding the MRTA and that this set of arrests was crucial in dismantling the rebel group. For 29 days the police held Lori, interrogating her at all hours before finally charging her with treason. On January 8, 1996, in a highly unusual procedure, they paraded her out in chains and told her to make a statement to the media. Visibly strained from a month's incarceration, she said:

"I am to be condemned for my concern about the conditions of hunger and misery which exist in this country. Here nobody can deny that in Peru there is much injustice. There is institutionalized violence that has killed the people's best sons and has condemned children to die of hunger. If it is a crime to worry about the subhuman conditions in which the majority of this population lives, then I will accept my punishment. But this is not a love of violence. This is not to be a criminal terrorist because in the MRTA there are no criminal terrorists. It is a revolutionary movement.

"I love this people. I love this people and although this love is going to make — cost — me years in prison, I will never stop loving, and never lose the hope and confidence that there will be a new day of justice in Peru."

Her speech generated harsh repercussions. Rather than grovel, Lori had defiantly stuck to her principles. In apparent retribution, her trial judge ignored the prosecutors demand for 30 years and sentenced her to life.

The media widely reported that Lori confessed to being in the MRTA, which she has always denied. She later clarified her statement saying that although she was not in the MRTA, if she had been in the MRTA then she would have been a revolutionary, not a terrorist. A clear academic distinction exists be-

tween a terrorist and a revolutionary. A terrorist incites fear in a population for gain, sometimes political but often personal. A revolutionary uses a variety of means to create a new society including, when necessary, combating or destroying the old order to make way for the new. Anyone familiar with the topic, including Lori, would recognize this distinction. Conversely, it should be noted that any criteria which would characterize the MRTA's actions as terrorism would be forced to label the Peruvian government as a much larger terrorist organization.

Lori admittedly knew people in the MRTA. She told her father after her arrest that she did not believe in violence, but that some people felt that under a repressive government there was no other option. Later she told him, "Dad, I never dishonored you. We might not agree on everything... but I've never dishonored you.... I know these people, and in Peru, guilt by association exists. I have to face the consequences."

The Fujimori government accused Berenson of planning an MRTA kidnapping of Peruvian Congressmen. They said that her Congressional interviews were a front to obtain information for the plan. The American media attention on the Berenson case prodded the government to take the unusual step of announcing, and in some cases revealing, their evidence. The evidence included: a lease for the MRTA house with Berenson's signature, a US bank account in which she supposedly raised funds for the MRTA, a seating chart of the Congress, a map of an alleged escape route from the Lima house, a confession from Pacifico Castreñan confirming her role in the rebel group, and a film of Lori at an MRTA military training.

The only reporter to investigate the

government's claims, John Richardson (*New York*, Feb. '96) found little hard evidence. The film, for example, is dark and the people hooded so that "you can't even tell if the participants are men or women, let alone whether Lori was among them." The "escape map" is a rough sketch of a few streets near the house. The bank account, held jointly with her mother, contains her father's book royalties. A Congressional seating chart is useful to a reporter interviewing members of Congress, who incidentally reported nothing suspicious about the interviews.

When Lori came to Peru from Central America, she traveled with Pacifico Castellán. It was public knowledge that he had made repeated romantic advances toward her which she had rejected. Castellán was arrested in the raid on the Lima house and was given a life sentence. The police reported he confessed that Lori was an MRTA leader and that on their way to Peru they had stopped in Ecuador to meet with Nestor Cerpa, head of the MRTA. Interpol, they said, confirmed the occurrence of the meeting with the Ecuadorian police. However when Richardson contacted Interpol, they stated that they do not investigate police reports. Ecuadorian officials said they had no knowledge of such a meeting except that they had heard a rumor of it from Peru.

When the lease itself was investigated it did not contain Lori's signature. She lived in an apartment across town, although she did admit that on occasion she had dropped off food there and borrowed the MRTA minivan. She said that she thought the house was being used as an office and a school. She claimed that she thought the MRTA had decided to transform itself into a political party. This goal was acknowledged by both Cerpa and Miguel Rincón, the MRTA second-in-command. While acting as a translator and secretary during the Salvadoran peace negotiations, Lori witnessed the FMLN undergo a similar transformation when they decided to put down the gun and seek change in a nonviolent manner. While it is not clear exactly how much she knew or did not know about the inner workings of the MRTA, the evidence for any serious crimes is lacking.

I met Lori when she entered MIT in 1987. She was an eager frosh full of ideas and energy and deeply concerned about the war in Central America. In high school she had sponsored a foster child in Guatemala which gave her an early awareness of the troubles in the region. While studying Central American Society with Prof. Martin Diskin, she was deeply troubled by the accounts of Salvadoran refugees fleeing a war fueled by her own government. Later that year she traveled to El Salvador for two months on a student exchange program. The trip had a

strong affect on her; she could not shake the memory of that war-torn country and its people. I remember one sunny afternoon on the steps of the MIT Student Center when she told me that her classes and the concerns of her classmates seemed irrelevant compared to the crisis in El Salvador.

The next year she returned on a second student exchange trip and stayed with Mario and Doris Flores, both students at the University of El Salvador. One night death squads bombed the home of the university dean in an attempt to silence her public opposition to the government. Several nights later, Mario Flores was dragged from his home by National Guard troops. He was later found shot in the head, beaten and strangled.

Lori's convictions were galvanized. She dropped out of MIT and worked for CISPES. A few years later she moved to Nicaragua to work with Salvadoran refugees. Eventually she became a secretary and translator for the FPL in El Salvador. After the peace talks were complete and El Salvador had stabilized, she moved on, eventually settling in Peru.

In Peru, Lori found conditions even worse. In a country of 24 million people live, 49% live in poverty and 17% suffer from malnutrition. In a letter she wrote, "I still think the most common illness people die from is different manifestations of malnutrition... Even in Bolivia... a farmer at least eats, even if it is just potatoes. Whereas, here, the 70% of Lima's unemployed population doesn't do that regularly." continued on p. 16

## Lori Petitions OAS Human Rights Commission

### CONGRESS PRESSURES PERU

On January 22nd, Lori's lawyers (Ramsey Clark, Thomas Nooter, and Grimaldo Achahui) filed a petition on her behalf with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States against the Government of Peru. The complaint seeks an immediate release, and, if Peru presents sufficient evidence, a new and fair trial in civil court. The complaint also demands immediate improvements, to meet minimal international standards, of inhumane conditions found at Yanamayo and other maximum security prisons in Peru.

The IACHR has condemned the use of military tribunals as a violation of the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man, the American Convention on Human Rights, and other international declarations, conventions, and laws.

### POST-CARD CAMPAIGN TO PRESIDENT CLINTON

We are collecting letters and postcards (sample below) which will be delivered by members of Congress to President Clinton in late February. Send postcards to:  
**Mark Lloyd, Box 20050, Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10010**

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

Dear President Clinton:

On November 30, 1995, Lori Berenson was arrested by Peruvian military police. She was denied due process and was subsequently sentenced to life in prison by a secret military tribunal in violation of international law. She has now spent two years in an excessively harsh Andean maximum security prison which endangers her health.

Since you have not responded to our previous requests, we are asking our elected representatives to appeal to you to meet your legal and moral obligations to obtain justice for Lori Berenson. Please do not allow her to suffer any longer.

Sincerely,



# Will the Truth be Silenced?

## Guratemala/El Salvador Trip Redefines Anti-SOA Commitment

Doris Sage

**O**n a previous trip to El Salvador, Doris Sage witnessed the effect of our country's support of the School of the Americas (SOA) on the lives of Central American people and began a commitment to close it. With her husband Dan, she began participating in demonstrations in Washington, DC and at Fort Benning, Georgia, asking for the closure of this school.

Father Roy Bourgeois, founder of the School of the Americas Watch, uses "The Truth Will Not Be Silenced" as a motto for this movement. On November 16 of last year, my husband Dan and I were arrested along with 600 other people who marched solemnly and peacefully onto Fort Benning's army base to deliver hundreds of thousands of signatures calling for the closing of the SOA. Thirty of us who were "repeaters" had to appear for arraignment. Three pleaded "no contest" immediately and were fined \$3,000 each and sentenced to the maximum term of six months in prison with no appeal. The remaining 27 of us requested trial, expecting a similar sentence. National media have given this little attention. Does this mean that the truth can be silenced?

We live in a country with a "democratic" government that guarantees freedom of speech. But at Fort Benning, an "open" military base, political statements criticizing the SOA are not allowed, though statements supporting the SOA are. The First Amendment guarantees our right to peaceably assemble and petition our government. Does the military have the power to usurp our Bill of Rights?

Two days after our November 19th arraignment, we were on our way to El Salvador and Guatemala with a delegation co-sponsored by EPICA, Witness for Peace and SOA Watch. Father Roy and Carol Richardson from SOA Watch's Washington office were going to accompany us but could not because of their Fort Benning arrests.

Our delegation experience has changed our focus and inquiries from simply closing the SOA to broader issues of the military-industrial complex and multinational business interests.

Competent coordinators organized a busy itinerary. We visited and interviewed diverse people and groups and got, I felt, a broad perspective of the current issues and problems in Central America. Our group of 23 informed people ranged in age from 18 to 81, with different backgrounds and religions, from all over the US. Our delegates were exceptionally congenial, sharing and helping one another. Together we worshipped and sang, often weeping as we shared the pain of Central American people who told their stories. We hugged, comforted and wept with mothers who had lost their children, often entire families. How can we reconcile US participation in causing their pain and suffering?

### **Why would our government support the World Bank in a program that causes genocide?**

In El Salvador, on the "sacred grounds" of the assassinations of martyrs — Archbishop Oscar Romero, the six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter — again we wept. Anguished, we remembered Diane Ortiz and four US church women. How can working with the poor be subversive?

Rufina Amaya of El Mozote says they thought they were safe because they were neutral. Over 900 persons, including her husband and four children, were murdered that day. How can civilized people do this?

An ex-military SOA graduate claims he was not trained to kill. What does the military train soldiers to do, if not to kill?

Union leaders working in the *maquiladores* report unfair labor practices and deplorable working conditions. Why do we allow US economic interests to support this?

A congressman from the ARENA party tells us that they are building a structure of human rights, the electoral process is being cleaned up, and the military reduced by half. More of the budget is going toward health, education, highways and infrastructure. "Although ARENA is conservative," he says, "We have shown we have a will to bring peace and prosperity to the country. When we have proof, the guilty parties will be punished."

Former FMLN guerrillas and *campesinos* now work side by side with ex-military people

and National Civilian Police. They recognize their former torturers. How can they get on with their lives if there is no justice, no acknowledgement of the truth, and no repentance or forgiveness?

Guatemalan women in Pacux tell of their village in Rio Negro, where people gathered because they were promised safety. They tell of losing everything when military and paramilitary civil defense patrols (PACs) burned their homes to the ground. One hundred and seventy-seven women and children died so the land could be cleared for the INDE Chixoy Dam Project. In this area 480 indigenous villages will be wiped off the map. The World Bank admits the project has been a failure. A priest says their culture, once vibrant, is threatened because they no longer sing and dance. Why would our government support the World Bank in a program that causes genocide?

Interviews with human rights advocates, religious leaders, mothers and families of the disappeared reveal that little has changed. They are still targets for oppression and threats, afraid to speak. They still need land, jobs, housing and food.

However, representatives at the US embassy in Guatemala claim we are no longer training Central American soldiers at Fort Benning. They see progress with the peace accords. They claim that *campesinos* make up stories of atrocities because they see it as a way to get asylum and leave the country for economic reasons. "The war is over, we need to forget the past and move on. Little can be accomplished by the forensic team's work of uncovering clandestine cemeteries in Guatemala." How can the people forget if there is no justice, if the truth is not known, and their loved ones do not receive the traditional rites?

As a US citizen, I am angry and embarrassed that our government's policies support multinational economic interests at the expense of indigenous peoples. I believe my commitment to merely close the SOA was naive. I now see the necessity to educate and act politically on a broader scale. Can we make a difference by going to jail?

*Doris is a peace activist and story-teller who wrote this before trial in Georgia. On January 20, she did receive a sentence of six months in prison and a \$3,000 fine. This essay also appears in the current Challenge, the quarterly publication of EPICA (Ecumenical Program in Central America), 1470 Irving St., NW, Washington, DC 20010.*



## Caribbean/Latin American Coalition Notes

### Chiapas

After the Mexican government assault on the Zapatistas (which included the New Year's massacre of dozens at Acteal), AFSC and the Green Party organized an emergency teach-in on Jan. 10 and a demonstration at the Federal Building on Jan. 12. This was part of an International Day of Action. US-supplied weapons have been used to kill and contain villages allied with the Zapatista movement, which demands "democracy, freedom, and justice for all Mexicans."

Not surprisingly, Mexican Federal Army officers have comprised the largest national contingent of School of America trainees in recent years. Chiapas state police have received counterinsurgency training from the FBI. US military, anti-drug and social development aid has been diverted to PRI-affiliated paramilitary groups. The PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party) has been in power for nearly 90 years. Only in the last decade have serious challenges to its iron grip started to flourish. The Mexican government claims it is seeking the murderers who devastated Acteal, but it is actually attacking the Tzotzil Indian villages who are most at risk from paramilitary

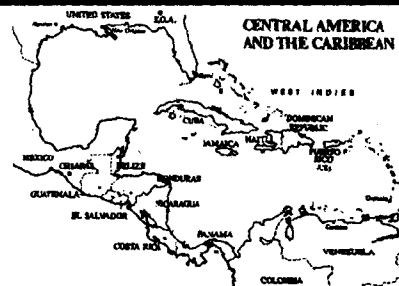
groups. The government flagrantly violates the San Andres Accords on Indigenous Rights and Culture.

*PNL* readers can urge US Rep. Jim Walsh (100 S. Clinton St., 13202, 423-5657) and both US Senators to "cosponsor legislation to suspend all military aid to Mexico which includes equipment and training of the Mexican military, in accordance with provisions established under the Leahy Amendment," and "seek a full public disclosure of the amount and type of assistance the US has given to Mexico and an accounting of how it has been used."

We also urge *PNL* readers to write letters to local newspapers, which have ignored this conflict. There will be a teach-in at Syracuse University, possibly in February. The Mexican government's war on the people of Chiapas is a major story in itself, and is even larger in scope when one considers the implications for both the survival and empowerment of indigenous peoples throughout the Americas.

### SOA Watch

Support for the Syracuse Nine has been substantial and heartening. Nancy Gwin is coordinating support to respond to the Syra-



cuse Nine's needs during whatever time they are imprisoned. Material and logistical assistance are essential. It will also be important for many people to fill in the gaps created by our friends' absence, temporary though it will be. CLAC will be particularly affected, but with the development of a new organized response to events in Chiapas, we welcome new participants who look forward to responding to these challenges.

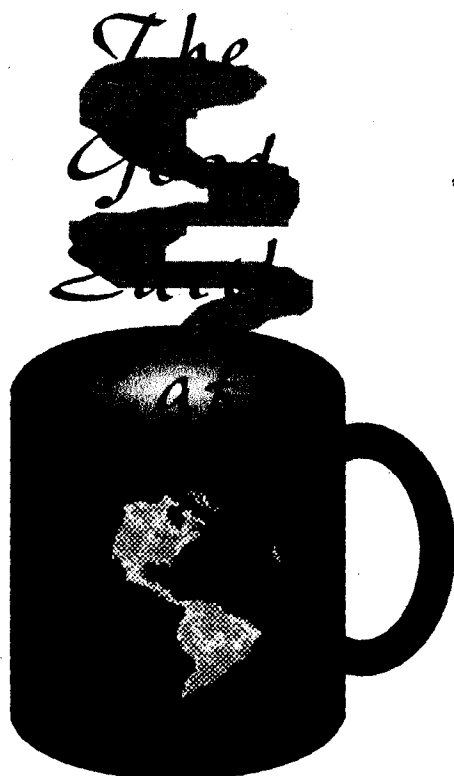
### El Salvador/Guatemala

Shirley Novak recently returned from a month in our sister community of La Estancia, El Salvador. For an update of recent support work in Central America, see Doris Sage's article, previous page.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, Feb. 11, 6 pm** working potluck, Plymouth Church on East Onondaga St.

— Paul Weichselbaum

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# A House of Compassion — Two Legacies

Melody Holmes

**M**iss Helen House: A Wendi Project was born from a conversation with one woman and another's outspoken nature. The house is dedicated to their vision and legacy. Let me tell you about these women.

## HELEN MOSLEY AUSTIN

Whenever I think of Miss Helen, I smile. She didn't make speeches or champion causes, yet she could be counted on for conversation, a visit, a place at her table. Some counted on her for spiritual guidance, for she had the ear of the Father. With immense strength Miss Helen stood out with her smile, her soul-shaking belly laughter and her ability to tell the best stories in the world. Children gathered around her like their favorite candy and she welcomed each with open arms (and usually a sweet treat because she loved to bake and was famous for her cookies, pies and breads).

Born in Fernandine, Florida, she loved to tell stories of her youth. One day she told me that when she moved to New York City she ran into a family she grew up with. One sister became her dentist. As we talked, I asked whether the family name was Delaney. Surprised, she asked how I knew. I told her the sisters were still alive and had written a book called *Having Our Say*. I bought it for her. As I grow older I am amazed by the lives she touched. Her dear friend, Miss Cynthia Barnett, says, "More often than not, when I would visit Miss Helen, someone else would be just leav-

ing, just coming, or already there. This is unusual for a household of elderly persons, but just another indication that Miss Helen was exceptionally loving, so that she effortlessly drew so many souls to herself."

## WENDI ALEXIS MODESTE

Every time I think of Wendi I smile too. Not that she had a quirky sense of humor. It's not even a single memory. But every time I think of her lately, it feels good. Knowing her was one of my best life experiences. If you've ever lost a close friend who mirrored your opposite self, you know what I mean. Wendi was the most contradictory person I will probably ever know. And she was the most compassionate person I have ever met. In all she had done (she was no angel) and in all she went through — limited self esteem, 20-year drug addiction, homelessness, prison sentence, loneliness and HIV disease — she always saw the good in others. She made lifelong friends of people she met while living on the streets of New York City. Though she may have assessed an individual a certain way, she never turned them away if she could help. Because of this vulnerability she was easily hurt. Even then, she made excuses for the offender.

We talked a lot about our lives, what we had accomplished and what we hoped for. During one of these heartfelt conversations the concept of a house for women like herself, me, all of us, took shape. Now it's becoming a reality and I'm sad she isn't physically here to see it.

This house will be a legacy to the lives of these two women. If you never had the opportunity to meet either one, you missed something wonderful. We hope it lives up to their lives of compassion, faith and grace.

## MISS HELEN'S HOUSE: A WENDI PROJECT

On the south side of the city, Miss Helen's House (MHH) will be a refuge for women and young girls in need. An 11-room, five-bath sprawling Victorian, the house will open as a drop-in center and expand to



*"Wendi was like, a 'girlfriend.' She liked chick stuff. I remember when she cut off her hair. Or she'd get a new outfit. She'd walk in and say, photograph me now. She'd say, you gotta get me like this." — Ellen Blalock, photographer*

transitional living space for three guests, including one who may be in the end stages of HIV disease. We'll offer workshops on topics from self-esteem to self-reliance, focusing on young women most at risk for substance abuse and early sexual activity. We also plan a women's health initiative, support groups, a book club and cooking classes. This will be a sister house to the familiar Friends of Dorothy, on Syracuse's north side. The house's philosophy is based on Wendi's motto:

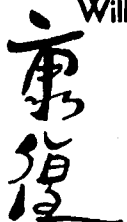
"I will not hide my face. I will not distort my face. And I will definitely not live the remainder of my life in shadows. My name is Wendi Alexis Modeste. I am a proud African American woman living with AIDS in Syracuse, New York."

Thank you for the inspiration.

Melody is a board member of *Alternative Efforts*, chair of the Syracuse Region Martin Luther King Commission, and works in state prisons doing HIV education. She is the founder of Miss Helen's House. For further info or to help, call 428-1626.

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**Change Begins with ... a  
Transmitter and a Celebration**

After more than 13 months of waiting Syracuse Community Radio (SCR) has been granted our first construction permit! On January 14, 1998 the FCC approved our application (filed Dec 4, 1996) for a non-commercial FM station in Truxton, NY. We expect to be on the air before the end of 1998 and should be easy to listen to in southern and western Onondaga County. Within a few years, SCR will have a regional network of FM stations and translators providing radio programming to most of Syracuse and CNY.

We will be the only comprehensive, consistent, independent voice for working people, unions, people of color, women, low-income communities and those seeking alternative perspectives to corporate dominated news programming. Member-owned and democratically operated, SCR will be the means for the CNY public to develop and create public radio, not just fund it.

40% of our 24 hour broadcast day will be devoted to news and public affairs programming such as **Alternative Radio** from David Barsamian, interviews with guests like Barbara Ehrenreich, as well as shows dedicated to Gay and Lesbian issues, Native American issues and programs for other ethnic communities in our region. SCR will also produce locally focused programs such as panel discussions and interviews, political analysis and regional call-in programs.

60% of our programming will be music, emphasizing local, regional and international artists as well as genres which do not receive airplay from mainstream radio.

SCR volunteers have accomplished a great deal in the past five years. We have persisted with a skeleton crew of visionary participants holding fundraisers and music events, publishing a newsletter and producing a TV program. We must now increase our volunteer staff and raise money to fund our construction phase.

We hope you agree that these kinds of programs will be important additions to the CNY broadcast day and ask you to affirm SCR's mission by volunteering, by becoming

a subscribing member or both. Please take a minute to contact us today.

To **KICK OFF** our **CONSTRUCTION PHASE**, we are having a **CELEBRATION PARTY** on Sat., Feb 7th from 7-11 pm at the Westcott Community Center. We invite families to join in the fun. Family Friendly music 7-9 pm. Syracuse Community Radio, Inc., P O Box 6365, Syracuse NY 13217-6365.

**446-4769**,  
syracomradio@juno.com  
www.serve.com/syracomradio  
www.rootmedia.com/syracomradio

— Frederic Noyes



Notes from **The Pesticide Project** (presented by "1 in 9, The Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition")

The public has been misled into believing that pesticides in general are safe, and that "registration" of these substances is an indicator of their safety. It isn't "**Registration**" balances "**risks**" vs "**benefits**." By law, pesticides may not state that they are "safe: or "non-injurious." Risk is defined as exposure X toxicity. Obviously, only "known" risks can be evaluated: multiple exposures from food, home, work, etc. might be overlooked although they are certainly important.

And whose risk is being evaluated? Scientists study a narrow genetic range of healthy, adult, male rodents, whose environment/diet/etc. are carefully controlled... the test results are then extrapolated to the human population whose genetics and exposures are infinitely more complex.

Consider how "little mistakes can have big consequences: Old ads show people, vegetables, and animals singing "DDT is good for me!" and photos of youngsters on a beach being sprayed with DDT from a truck whose sign claims it's safe. More recently concentrated weed-killer was mislabeled as being a

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dilute formula; insecticides labeled "child resistant" contained cracker-like baits easily accessible to little fingers (its label did not state the hazard of testicular damage, but only mentioned possible "eye irritation"), and "certification" was given to pesticide applicators who had only completed a portion of the required course.

Consider, too, that on a list of 300 of so chemicals, the number classified as carcinogens has gone from about 30 to about 100 in the last ten years time. Worldwide, 75,000 products now contain pesticides **intentionally**, from paints to swimming pool additives. How can we reduce our exposure and risk due to pesticides?

Statewide, NYPIRG will be trying to encourage safer alternatives on college campuses, schools and parks. For info, contact Dave Palmer, NYPIRG coordinator for SU and ESF, at (315) 476-8381. Another good resource is NYCAP (NY Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides), 353 Hamilton St, Albany, NY '2210 (518) 426-8246.

—Mardea Warner

**IRISH NIGHT  
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THE FREEBORN MEN**

**Friday, Feb. 20, 8 pm  
Knights of Columbus Hall  
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Info: 469-8948**

# beyond boundaries

## Plans Lakota, West African and Puerto Rican Projects

This year Beyond Boundaries plans to strengthen its ties with Lakota Indians and Ghanaians and to begin a relationship with Puerto Ricans. Three groups meet to plan 1998 summer trips to the Lakota Nation, South Dakota, Bolgatanga, Ghana and Loiza, Puerto Rico. The groups work together to put on fund-raisers which will support the three projects. The next Beyond Boundaries' event is:

### "KARAMU: A COMMUNITY FEAST"

Saturday, Feb. 14, 6-9pm  
at Plymouth Church

Dinner will be jollof rice (both vegetarian and with chicken), fried plantains, vegetables and upside-down cake for dessert. The Program features poetry, storytelling, African dance, a drumming circle and an excerpt from "The People Could Fly", an African-American folktale presented by Shoestring Productions and the Onondaga Dance Institute. There will be a "Marketplace" selling African art and literature.

The projects and fund-raisers help to expand cross-cultural understanding and self-awareness. Our hope is that they lead to lasting and just relationships across cultural and class boundaries.

Beyond Boundaries offers presentations and slide shows to groups and schools. If you are interested in Beyond Boundaries or wish to schedule a presentation, call Aggie Lane at 478-4571 or Mardea Warner at 479-5757.

— Mardea Warner

### Job Opportunity

#### COORDINATOR - WESTCOTT CDC

The Westcott Community Development Corporation seeks an energetic and creative person to oversee its daily operations, plan and implement community and economic development projects, coordinate outreach programs and special events and supervise interns and volunteers.

The position is full-time and will begin in February 1998. Salary: depending on experience. Send cover letter and resume to: Westcott Community Development Corp., P O Box 102, 13210-0102.

## Staff Position Open at SCFCU

Multifaceted position includes member service (teller, new accounts), some book-keeping and growth into other responsibilities. The right person will be organized and detail-oriented, with good communication and people skills, able to handle money, and have basic math and computer experience. We will train in specifics. Part time at 20 hrs. Community involvement, accounting skills are a plus. Some benefits. EOE. Send letter of application or resume ASAP to: Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union, Attn: Staff Search 723 Westcott Street, 13210

## the Stonewall Committee

### February programs...

Feb 12th ...

### Coming Out Under Fire

Feb 26th ...

### One Nation Under God

7pm admission free

First Unitarian Universalist Society  
250 Waring Rd., Syracuse

Light refreshments will be served.  
Discussion after both presentations.

## (un)class-ifieds

- Healer/therapist to rent office space with group of women healers. Call 428-8724.
- Piano seeking a good, temporary (possibly permanent) home — Hammond upright, formerly a player piano. Free. Corinne: 471-4962.

## Community Seder Planned

After a number of years without one, a few members of the now defunct group called New Jewish Agenda have come together to create a community seder that blends progressive thinking with traditional ritual. The seder is planned for Friday, April 17th, which is the last night of Passover. More details will be forthcoming, but if you are interested in helping with the planning or on the day of the seder, contact Joan at 673-1083 or Susie at 638-1993

## Lori Berenson Cont. from p. 11

Since the constitution was suspended in 1992, Peru has become a de facto police state under Fujimori. His campaign to wipe out rebel groups has transformed Peru into one of the hemisphere's worst offenders against human rights, with the highest number of forced disappearances in the world. The military has been completely unaccountable since 1991, when secret military courts began to hear cases against the military and suspected terrorists. Removed from public scrutiny, the military needed little or no evidence to imprison people. Half of the country's 22,000 prisoners have yet to stand trial. 1 in 5 prisoners were arrested for the general crime of "terrorism."

This system often invokes extreme punishments for scant evidence. Nancy Ruiz Nano, a housekeeper, was sentenced to life for terrorism because her employer, unbeknownst to her, was a leader in the Shining Path. Miguel Ruiz Conejo was sentenced to life for befriending a man who was secretly a rebel leader. Both were imprisoned in Yanamayo.

The conditions in Yanamayo are cruel and inhuman. Prisoners are kept two to a small 7 by 11 foot cell. They are allowed out for exercise only 30 minutes per day. The food, passed through a slot near the floor, is meager and often inedible. The water ration of one gallon per day is used for drinking, washing, and cleaning the toilet, a small hole in the floor. Visitation time was 30 minutes per month with no visits for the first year; it is currently 1 hr/week. Conejo describes the prison as a slow death sentence for the inmates.

After two years in the high altitude and cold, Lori suffers from constant sore throats, laryngitis, and poor circulation. Her hands have become swollen, cracked and purple. The thin air makes her dizzy, and often she cannot digest the food. Despite these hardships her spirits have not waned. During the MRTA hostage crisis last year, Lori's visitation and communication rights were revoked. Once the ban was lifted, she wrote a letter to her friends confirming her enduring spirit.

*"We have just passed through an extremely difficult period. We're leaving one extremely complex stage for another, different but equally difficult. But it is vital to remember that no night lasts forever, and even through the grief one can feel the same faith and hope in the brilliance of the rising sun at dawn."*

THE CRISIS OF LORI BERENSON AND ALL OF PERU'S POLITICAL PRISONERS IS BORNE OUT OF THE SEVERE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TURMOIL IN PERU. THESE CONDITIONS AND THE ROLE THAT THE US AND THE IMF HAVE PLAYED IN SHAPING THEM WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF PART TWO OF THIS ARTICLE, TO APPEAR IN NEXT MONTH'S PNL. FOOTNOTES FOR THIS ARTICLE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE AUTHOR.

Steve was a long-time activist at MIT. He recently moved to Syracuse.

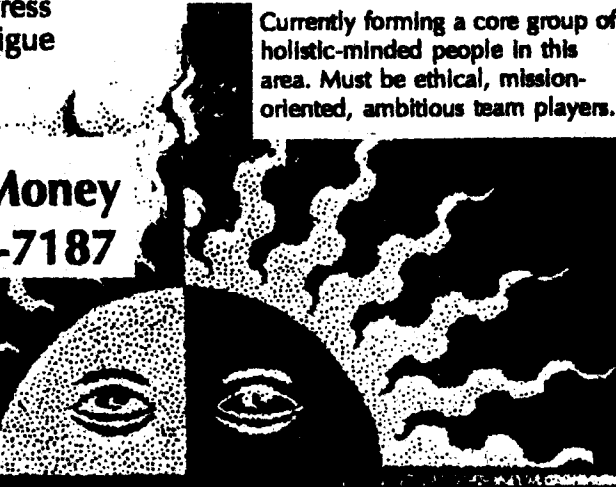
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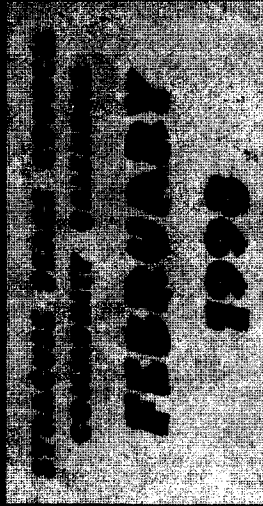
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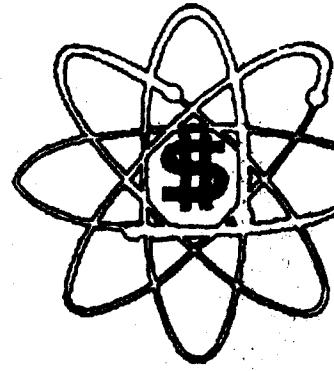


To have your group's event or meeting listed call or send the info to SPC 472-5478. March deadline Feb. 18.

Table with 7 columns (Sun-Sat) and 7 rows (1-7). Each cell contains event details such as 'MONTH OF FEBRUARY: Eclectic Flavour', 'EVERY SUNDAY: Sharing the Earth', and 'EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Coming Out Group'.

Help us

# Close Nine Mile One!



The Close Nine Mile One! Campaign continues. We are now meeting every first and third Wednesday of the month at the newly opened *Good Earth Cafe* (on Harvard Street off Westcott). Meetings are at 7pm and all are welcome.



Why are we trying to close Nine Mile One? The reasons are many, but here are a few facts to keep in mind:

- Nine Mile One is the most deteriorated boiling water nuclear plant still operating in the US.
- The core shroud of Nine Mile One is over 82% cracked in places and NiMo has no plans to repair it.
- NiMo has been repeatedly cited for the poor management of its nuclear facilities.
- The containment system of Nine Mile One, responsible for minimizing the release of radiation in an emergency, was built following a "cost saving design."

**Nine Mile One is increasingly dangerous and expensive.  
It must be closed.**

*Syracuse Peace Council*

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



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*Educate, Agitate, Organize*



# Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice March 1998 PNL 665

## STOP THE MADNESS MAKE THE CONNECTIONS

### DON'T BOMB ANYONE EVER

Diplomacy  
has not  
**FAILED:**  
we have  
**FAILED**  
at diplomacy



It won't work.

All the bombing in 1991 did not reduce significantly Saddam's weapons of mass destruction. The UN inspections did that.

Let them continue!

### It will kill thousands of innocent people

Iraq is a dictatorship. Stop punishment of the people for what this dictator does.

None of us can do enough to stop madness. All of us must.

Karen Kerney. Center image by Käthe Kollwitz.

Published Monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council - Founded in 1936 - ISSN 0735-4134

Inside: End the Silence & the Sanctions, 7 Years at War Against Iraq, the Economics of Oppression in Peru, The Return of "Peaces", Chiapas & SOA Updates, Youth Violence — Kids as Scapegoats, Friends of Dorothy Dinners, (tons of) Community Updates

# 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  
Beth Mosley  
Valerie Singer

**SPC Press**  
Paul Pearce

### Bookkeeper

Duane Hardy

### SPC Council:

Paul Frazier, Rae Kramer,  
Carl Mellor, Andy Molloy,  
Marge Rusk, Ann Tiffany

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

## The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets most Wednesdays at 5:30 PM at the Peace Council. Call SPC to confirm the time.

**Editorial & Production:** Karen Hall, Bill Hamler, Tim Judson, Brian McCord, Joy Meeker, Andy Molloy, Paul Pearce, Steve Penn, Valerie Singer

**Graphics Coordinator:** Anita Welych  
**Cover Coordinator:** Karen Kerney

## SPC Projects: 472-5478

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

## Other Volunteers

Sonali Sathaye, Chuck Durand, Mardea Warner, Amy Bartell, Vanessa Johnson, Ed Kinane, Aggie Lane, Joan Goldberg, Ruth Putter, Margaret Birtleough, Kathy Barry, Brian Caufield, Fredrick Noyes, Jolie Rickman, Bill Mazza, Lance Hogan, Bill Hamler, Sylvia Burgess, Daniel Bowers, Carol Baum, Chris Spies-Rusk, Susan Adair, 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

<b>Abolish the Blocade of Cuba</b>		<b>Peace Brigades International</b>	
Doug Igelsrud	471-5749	Ed Kinane	478-4571
<b>ACLU-CNY Chapter</b>		<b>P.E.A.C.E., Inc.</b>	
Barrie Gewanter	471-2821	Louis Clark	470-3300
<b>Alliance-Psychiatric System</b>		<b>People Against the Death Penalty</b>	637-3344
<b>Survivors</b>		<b>People for Animal Rights</b>	488-PURR (7877)
George Ebert	475-4120	<b>Physicians for Social</b>	
<b>Alternatives to Violence Project</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>	488-2140
Jay Liestee	499-0845	<b>Planned Parenthood</b>	475-5525
<b>American Friends Service</b>		<b>PWHIV/ AIDS Support Hotline</b>	
<b>Committee</b>	475-4822	Sandra	471-5911
<b>Animal Defense League</b>	479-9105	<b>Reconsider</b>	
<b>ARISE</b>	472-3171	Nick or Alex Eyle	422-6231
<b>Atlantic States Legal Foundation</b>		<b>Religion: Other</b>	
	475-1170	Phoenix or Kat	474-8801
<b>Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition</b>		<b>Rose Center</b>	
Shirley Novak	446-6099	Teri Cameron	422-3426
<b>Citizens Against Radioactive</b>		<b>Sarah House</b>	475-1747
<b>Dumping</b>	(607) 753-6271	<b>Save the County</b>	637-6066
<b>Citizen Review Board</b>		<b>SEEDS</b>	(607) 749-2818
Felicia Davis	448-8750	<b>Service Employees International</b>	
<b>CNY Center for Occupational</b>		Robert Tompkins	424-1750
<b>Health and Safety</b>	471-6187	<b>Sierra Club</b>	
<b>CNY Environment</b>		Sue Carlson	445-1663
Lee Gechas	446-5319	<b>Small Claims Court Action</b>	
<b>CNY N.O.W.</b>	487-3188	<b>Center</b>	443-1401
<b>CUSLAR</b>	(607) 255-7293	<b>S.O.A. Watch/ CNY</b>	
<b>Dunbar Center</b>		Ed Kinane	478-4571
Merriete Pollard	476-4269	<b>Social Workers for Peace</b>	
<b>EON/Transgender Community</b>		Dick Mundy	445-0797
Melissa	423-4099	<b>Socialist Party</b>	
<b>Fair Housing Council of CNY</b>		Ron Ehrenreich	478-0793
Merrilee Witherell	471-0518	<b>Spanish Action League</b>	471-3762
<b>Fair Trial for Mumia Committee</b>		<b>SU African-American Society</b>	443-4633
	472-5478	<b>Student Environmental Action</b>	
<b>Fightback! of CNY</b>	422-0555	<b>Coalition</b>	
<b>Food Bank of CNY</b>	437-1899	Michelle Baumfleck	423-8000
<b>Friends of the Filipino People</b>		<b>Syr. Alternative Media Network</b>	
John Brulé	445-0698	Tim Brachocki	425-8806
<b>Gay/Lesbian Alliance</b>	422-5732	<b>Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society</b>	
<b>Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student</b>		<b>SAVES/Joe Connolly</b>	437-2163
<b>Assoc. (SU)</b>	443-3599	<b>Syracuse Community Choir</b>	
<b>Haiti Solidarity</b>		Karen Mihalyi	428-8724
Ann Tiffany	478-4571	<b>Syracuse Community Radio</b>	
<b>Hemlock Society</b>		Frederic Noyes	446-4769
Betty Bentley	463-0782	<b>Syracuse Cooperative Federal</b>	
<b>Hotel Employees 150</b>	437-0373	<b>Credit Union</b>	471-1116
<b>Irish Northern Aid</b>		<b>Syracuse Cultural Workers</b>	
Patrick Smith	469-8948	Dik Cool	474-1132
<b>Jail Ministry</b>	424-1877	<b>Syracuse N.O.W.</b>	472-3294
<b>Kenlark Center for Creative</b>		<b>Syr. Real Food Coop</b>	472-1385
<b>Spirituality</b>		<b>Syr. Social Movement Initiative</b>	
Bourke Kennedy	685-5414	Pramod Parajuli	443-4822
<b>Lesbian/Gay Youth</b>	443-3599	<b>Syracuse United Neighbors</b>	
<b>NAACP</b>		Rich Puchalski	476-7475
Van Robinson	422-6933	<b>S.U. for Animal Rights</b>	443-4199
<b>Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.</b>		<b>Urban League</b>	
Ammie Chickering	365-2299	Eloise Dowdell Curry	472-6955
<b>New Environment Association</b>		<b>Utica Community Action</b>	
Harry Schwarzlander	446-8009	John Furman	797-7020
<b>NYPIRG</b>	476-8381	<b>Witness for Peace Delegations</b>	
<b>Onondaga Audubon</b>	457-7731	Nancy Gwin	422-4689
<b>Onon. Women's Political Caucus</b>		<b>Women's Center (SU)</b>	443-4268
Peggy Murray	475-7671	<b>Women's Health Outreach</b>	
<b>Open Hand Theatre</b>			425-3653
Geoff Navias	476-0466	<b>Women's INFO Center</b>	478-4636
<b>Pax Christi</b>			
Frank Woolever	446-1693		
<b>Peace Action of CNY</b>			
Diane Swords	478-7442		

(If you want your group listed, please call)

## About the Cover:

Karen Kerney made this month's cover. She created it from tracings of Käthe Kollwitz's *Death and the Mother* (1934) and Pablo Picasso's *Guernica* (1937). The words are from a flyer handed out at the demonstration against the bombing (February 17, 1998), and Bill Mazza's article in this issue (p. 8).

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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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 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, Ted Widay, Cynthia Maud-Gembler

### February Mailing Party Helpers

Gabe Barry-Caufield, Kathy Barry, Alexis McArthur, Carl Mellor, Marge Rusk, Chris Spies-Rusk, Margaret Wehrer, Valerie Y. Woods

# PEACE NEWSLETTER

March 1998  
PNL 665

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## In This Issue

HOPEFULLY half of this issue will have become irrelevant by the time you see it. A near miss we can all nearly forget. "Nearly" ... I picture somebody locking the doors, putting the dishes away, the kids to bed. The lights and TV are on, and somebody is still home. It's quiet. It stays that way. And it stays. Somebody is wide awake. It is the loud kind of quiet. It is not really quiet for somebody.

That's the other half of the story, the part that reminds you it isn't over. And for that we have the other half of this issue. Peru, Chiapas, SOA, people starving, kids killing kids, your own home town. In the best of all possible worlds, we would still have the other half of this issue. It might be that bombs don't drop on Iraq people this time. (It might be, we remind ourselves.) Bombs are louder than silence. Bombs come out of silence. What if we drop a bomb on silence? What would that leave us? — Tim Judson

## Join the PNL Collective!



Pooh and Christopher Robin say, "After a long day storming the barricades overthrowing the last bastions of modern day capitalism, we like to sit down with the latest issue of the PNL. In order to continue producing such fine issues the PNL needs new writers, editors, artists, and layout wizards. So put down that honey jar and skip on over to the Peace Council! Meetings are Wednesdays at 5:30pm."

## April Issue Deadlines

Articles	Mar 13
Ads	Mar 20
Calendar Items	Mar 20



# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGES

## Taking Action for Peace in Iraq

In February the Peace Council once again found itself organizing against war in Iraq. We seem to be suffering from an unpleasant sense of déjà vu. Activists are recalling with frustration efforts of the early nineties. And yet the war/massacre/genocide against Iraq has never ended.

Be sure to read the articles by Linda Aldoory and Bill Mazza further in the PNL.

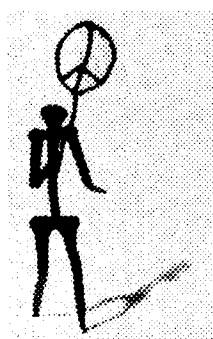
In the past month SPC has been working closely with Peace Action of CNY and other local activists. On February 11 we co-sponsored an 'Interfaith Gathering for Peace in Iraq' at South Presbyterian Church. The event was organized in just over a week's time. Despite such short notice, over 80 people came out on a Wednesday night to join the gathering. We began with six speakers from different part of the wider Syracuse community:

- Linda Aldoory (whose speech is reprinted on page 8)
- Dean Richard Bower of St. Paul's Cathedral

- Imam Kobeisy of the Islamic Society of Central New York
- Dr. Rafil Dhafir, president of Help for the Needy Relief Organization for Iraq (see box on p. 5)
- Sister Megan Rice of St. Lucy's Parish
- Dr. Lou Kreisberg, professor emeritus of Sociology at Syracuse University.

The six individuals spoke passionately about the need to put a human face on those already dying in Iraq, the hungry wolflike senselessness of US foreign policy, and need to seriously consider other alternatives.

The 80+ people in the room then had their chance to speak. Many reflected on "the last time" — activism of seven years ago. Stories were shared from 1990/91 peace efforts in other locations. One local activist recalled that a reporter asked her after the war had "ended" if she would now retract her statements "since no one died." Two hundred thousand Iraqis is hardly no one, she replied in fury.



The room full of people agreed it was time to take action. A protest was planned for noon, February 17 at the Federal Building. We ended the evening with several minutes of silent prayer/meditation.

At noon on February 17 over 150 people gathered in front of the Federal Building in protest of US policy in Iraq. The crowd included Syracuse Peace Council, Peace Action of CNY, and again what we've been calling the Syracuse Interfaith Coalition for Peace in Iraq.

We sang, we shouted, we raised a powerful moral voice (with the help of a bullhorn) against the murder of civilians, we spoke to the press, we spoke to each other. We spoke at the same time Clinton did. We, however, didn't have quite the same media access or airing.

On that note: Three cheers for the activists in Ohio!!! The strong dissenting voices they raised to Madeline Albright and CNN are

to join the

### Iraq Activism Coalition List ...

- call SPC — 472-5478
- leave your name & phone #

*please let us know ...*

- Can you help organize events?
- Help with other activities or support?
- Just notify you of events?

Because of the pace of events, we are not able to list all events in the PNL.

exactly what we need to make our views heard, and perhaps even respected.

The human reality of Iraqi suffering is a message that has come through loud and clear at these recent events. And it is perhaps the most important message that we can convey to the American people.

SPC has produced mini-posters against the bombing and deadly economic sanctions. We are asking everyone to place one (or a similar sign) in their car window, house window or office door. We must make our feelings known. It just might make a difference. Sunday February 22 we held a meeting, planned an action for Wednesday, February 25 to speak against the continued violence against Iraq. Our next meeting is March 8, 7:30pm at South Presbyterian Church to organize a teach-in. Call SPC to find out how you can get involved.

Valerie is having all too many memories of 1990/1991 activities in Newark, Delaware.

## Emergency Response Protest

As we go to press, the US has not bombed Iraq. Needless to say, we hope the same is still true as you read this...

### But!

If the US government does bomb Iraq, SPC and other coalition members will protest at the Federal Building the very next day. So if bombs drop on a Friday, we'll be there on Saturday. It is a grim plan we hope we won't to use.

## Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

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# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGES

How can I tell when the last war has ended & the next one's begun?



## Who Says PEACE Ain't Exciting?

A Note from the SPC Council

Ann Tiffany

**T**WICE A MONTH seven or eight people sit together to grapple with the issues that surround the operation of the SPC. I'm sure the readers are familiar with those issues: finances, building maintenance, program/fundraising, political coalition work, and just plain housekeeping. Not exciting but challenging meetings given our limited resources.

Since the new year we have been focusing on infrastructure — organizational issues that are a part of every retreat, every meeting, every gathering of two or more SPC folks that I have been a part of for the last four years. We have a good plan: The problem is we don't have enough people to really make it work so that everyone doesn't get overextended. Sound familiar? So a report on the SPC Council inevitably becomes a plea for increased involvement of our members.

We acknowledge that SPC hasn't done a super job of following up with volunteers. It becomes just one more task. So we need to make it easy for staff and volunteers to plug in. So what can volunteers do to help and how can we help them feel a part of our community?

Let's see ... How about two hours each week, (you name the hours) to answer the phone, make calls, support the office needs. Marge Rusk has been doing this every Wednesday (1pm-3pm) ever since I've known her. She would be an excellent trainer. And it would be a great way to get to know SPC.

OR how about choosing just one of our yearly events — anniversary dinner in the Spring, garage sail in September, Fall dinner in October or November and calling to work on a committee for one of these.

OR join the Program Committee. (PR, invitations, logistics, kitchen duty, mailing party, staffing a table — lots to do).

OR how about cleaning the kitchen twice a month, or the bathroom once a week, or sweep the floors once every two weeks.

OR how about working as an "administrative assistant" to Tim, Val, or Beth? Someone they could call when they have a specific task to do that needs more time than they have.

OR how about finding some new advertisers and/or subscribers for the PNL.

OR just taking on the billing advertisers quarterly OR taking on the PNL mailing party coordination (a once a month job, easily learned, and it would be a great help).

These are just some of the tasks that need support. SPC is a volunteer driven organization and we know via contributions, event attendance, PNL readers, and folks that just tell us that there are many of you who care about SPC. Please join us in whatever way you wish. Come be a part of the little house at 914 Burnet Ave!

*Ann Tiffany is a member of the SPC Council. She will be taking a break from the council soon when she serves six months in prison for civil disobedience against the School of the Americas.*



Mark your calendars!!!

The Syracuse Peace Council's

62th Birthday Dinner

April 18, 1998

South Presbyterian Church

Food by Nick Orth Sliding Scale \$0-62

For more information, check your April PNL, or call us at 472-5478



Two Thoughts on

What to do with Your Money

(in case you were wondering)



### Help For the Needy Relief Organization for Iraq

This local group is focused on one task: getting food to the starving population of Iraq. It is our sanctions which have caused enormous poverty, malnutrition, and starvation in Iraq since August 1990. Help for the Needy is run completely by volunteers, and takes zero overhead from their donations. All donations are used for food itself and are tax deductible. If you would like to help them, send a check to "Help for the Needy Relief Organization" or call at:

4465 E Genesee Street #137  
Dewitt, NY 13214  
1(888)88-NEEDY



### "How can I make a tax deductible contribution to the Syracuse Peace Council?"

- To make a tax deductible contribution to SPC simply send us a check made out to "Alternative Efforts," and mark it "for the Syracuse Peace Council."
- What a great idea! More money for us and less for Uncle Sam's War Machine!

**Dear friends and loved one's.**

Greetings from the end of the world, All is terrific here in this paradise of paradises, But not okay. for you know, Racism, police Brutality, violence, is what prison is all about. It will never change aslong as we have durty, crucked, correctional officers working the pris- ons. but then its just as bad on the outside; we have a durty Government, wanting to kill us by nuclear wast, weapons,. Look at a centery ago the military gave the plains Indian's, Infested-blankets, kill numers of them. The govern- ment is killing our enviroment. The millitary did radiation test on millions of people. The government invented HIV-Aids and put in people. so the government don't care who the[y] kill, weman, children, men, the govern- ment don't care. so we have to care its up to us to open eye's, open minds, Let people in the world know the true meaning of peace, Love, honor, for our world, Inden's whites, blacks, mexican's, all the world must unit as one and fight against distruction. Because if we don't, we won't have a world to call home! I would like to thank you I just got my 1998 Issue of The Syracuse Peace Council Newsletter, and please note,

I want you to know, I am to get out of

prison on 03/12/1998 so as of this date I'll be home with my Loved one's, and yes I'm happy for its bean a long 6 years I've bean in prison Now, But do I regret what I did to come to prison, NO I don't! for I came to prison for stadding a man 3 time in the stomic for Beat- ing on a women and child, my sister was that women and her 7 month old girl, the baby started crying the man said shut that kid up or I'll shut it up. Sissy tried to com the baby, the man hit the baby Just as I came in my sister's house, sissy was crying and talking crazy, I seen the man slap the baby out of my sisters arms, I exploded on the man, put him down, and stabbed him 3 times. trying to kill him. My sister knows me fill and well, she was no upset with what I did, and she did not call the police on me, the women's boyfriend call the police, after he got out of the trash dumster in the allie. for I put the trash in the trash dumster! that man wash trash! my sister said I'll come home and live with her and the baby for I'am her's and the babys hero, I said no way, I've got to go fight the ware against Nuclear waste, and against all police Brutality, and Racism, I want unity, honor, and peace in this would, my sister said well Let this be your first stop, for you need some hug's, some kisses, and a bath to get all that Prison Funk off you. :) my sister Sonna is crazy like me, but she is all right and so is Kammi her baby girl.

Well I Love yah all and may pease, unity, Love be your cause to fight a good fight. To be truthfull, I like the way (Greenpeace) does it! Dierect Action, Ask'em, tell'em the sink'em, if they don't stop welling and free willie. I Remember the first rainbow boat that one they sunk, the 2nd rainbow boat that the FBI Bombed, and the camera guy that Lost his Life trying to save his camera stuff. I could go on, the shall Issue, and others but why, whats the use, I'am Just a dum 31 year old to most people, they don't see the real me, the me that cares, the do'er in me, the man that knows to much for his own good, the one who would Risk his Life for you and any one else.

I have to Read my New Paper now, Be- cause the mind and heart is a tarible think to waste! Peace Be with you. I've moved. My address:

—Ronnie Brown, E-58568, Pelican Bay State Prison, B2- 103 PO Box 7500 cresent, city. 95531

(The PNL Staff decided that this letter should be printed verbatim)

**Dear Friends at Syracuse Peace Council:**

I am enclosing a check for renewal of my subscription to Peace News. I do find it inter- esting and encouraging... Keep it coming.

Also I am using and enclosing some old postage stamps for your trial usage. If nothing else, use of these demonstrates to what lengths you would go to save a few pennies for the SPC! These are sold by Kendall's Stamp and Coin Shop in the DeWitt Mall, Ithaca at a price discounted from face value.

Keep up your good work in these times which seem to be decidedly against us and against a hopeful long term future for our children and grandchildren. I shudder... When I think that the decisive decisions of our times are made in the board rooms of international corporations and not in the Congress of elected representatives of the people who should be (but aren't) beholden only to the voters and not to corporate financial sponsors, I realize that our government is a lackey to greedy interna- tional corporate interests who are raping and plundering the earth for the material advan- tage of the economically elite class. Nothing but disaster can come from this course of development for our sons and daughters -- innocents will suffer and all of the other aver- age people of the world. Our Congress is already a rubber stamp. We spin our wheels to try to influence it. Choreography -- Yet we must do this. Our only consolation is to keep groups like SPC alive.

—Silas Townsend, Ithaca, NY

**Dear Ed [Kinane]:**

Thanks so much for sending me the Syra- cuse Peace Newsletter. What a terrific publi- cation! I really like the SOA articles. I think this year WFP (Witness For Peace) will be placing more ads & announcements in the Newsletter! We are gearing up for a big SOA push this year. With the prison witness being so large, and the media attention still there, I see a real opportunity this year. So while y'all are in jail, we'll be working hard to make the army & Congress sorry that they put you there. 1998 will be a very, very good year for the Anti-SOA movement. Keep up the great work, Ed, and God bless.

—Steve Bennitt, WFP Exec. Director

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for Peace and Social Justice

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Please contact me about volunteering.

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# Ending the Silent Death of the Sanctions

A Statement from the Interfaith Action — February 11, 1998

Linda Aldoory

**B**EFORE THE PERSIAN Gulf War, Iraq was a country where malnutrition was virtually unknown. The scholars and medical specialists were considered some of the best in the Arab world. The Iraqi middle class was large and well educated. But that was then.

Today, over one million Iraqi children are suffering from malnutrition and starvation. The professionals are out of work and hungry. The economic sanctions that the United States imposed after the War have caused thousands of children to die each month, from malnutrition, or from curable illnesses — there is no food and no medicine.

We all care about children, but it's overwhelming to think in terms of large numbers, especially in far-away places. What I would like to do tonight is try to put a human face on the far-away numbers by talking to you about one family living in Baghdad, who was severely affected by the economic sanctions, and who will suffer even greater if our country bombs theirs. The family is mine, and I found out about details of their everyday lives from letters such as this one, sent to my father from my cousin Yusif.

Yusif and his wife Laila are in their mid-forties and have two children, Laith, a 13-year-old boy, and Samira, a five-year-old girl. Before the Gulf War, Yusif and Laila were middle-class educated professionals. Today, the couple is jobless, hungry and scared.

They receive a monthly income of 45 pounds from the State, which doesn't even afford them a single egg that costs 200 pounds. To scrape together enough money to buy food, Laila and Yusif have sold all the family jewelry, and, Yusif wrote, "We are almost out of furniture to sell..."

Simple foods that we take for granted have never been part of Samira's life, the daughter. Yusif wrote that Samira has "never seen nor eaten an orange or banana."

Without simple medicines like aspirin or antibiotics, Yusif and my family can get very sick. Real medical problems cause real fear of death. About a month ago, Laith, the 13-year old, needed routine sinus surgery. There was

an accident during surgery, which put Laith in a coma. But the hospital had no working equipment or drugs to help Laith during and after the accident. Laith was in a coma for two months before Yusif could find the right medical assistance. Can you imagine how helpless Yusif must have felt, knowing the doctors couldn't do anything?

The equipment was obsolete and there was no medicine because of our country enforcing the embargo.

For Yusif, there are no computers, no books or journals, no film for cameras, no new paper, no pencils and no new envelopes. Yusif said there was no scientific research going on in the country, that "science in Iraq is dead." He believes that the halt in creativity and technology will cause his people to be behind all others by at least thirty years.

In one letter, Yusif wrote: "Funny thing, you like to come see Baghdad, and I want to go to America. The difference is you are able to do what you want to. I am sitting here as a dead duck. We have to stay, and yet, if we stay here, we will certainly die of starvation. Please, please help me. I'm reaching a zero point, mentally, financially, and emotionally."

How can I tell my cousin that it will only get worse if the United States bombs Baghdad?



About 150 people protested US violence against Iraq at the Federal Building. Feb. 17, 1998. Photo by Jamie.

I know that the politics are complex and there are no easy answers. As an American and as an Iraqi, I am scared of Saddam Hussein, and have been before the United States started paying him attention. Yet I know there are other choices besides starving children or bombing innocent people. That all diplomatic solutions have not been exhausted.

For the sake of Yusif, Laila, Laith, and especially Samira, there has to be another way. I appreciate you showing that you care by joining me here tonight. I urge you to keep caring and joining others until we find diplomatic and — what I hope are — peaceful solutions.

Linda Aldoory is a local activist and a student at Syracuse University's St. Newhouse School of Communications.



## Write to Government Officials

### Tell Them Not to Bomb Iraq!

**President William Clinton.**  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500  
phone: (202) 456-1111  
e-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

**Mr. Bill Richardson**  
US Rep. to the UN  
799 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10012  
fax: (212) 415-4443

**Senator Daniel P. Moynihan**  
464 Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510.

phone: (202) 224-4451  
e-mail: senator@dpm.senate.gov

**Senator Alfonse D'Amato**  
520 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
phone: (202) 224-6542  
e-mail: senator\_al@damato.senate.gov

**Rep. James Walsh**  
2351 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
phone: (202) 225-3701 Syr.: 423-5657  
e-mail: rep.james.walsh@mail.house.gov

# Seven Years at War Against Iraq

Bill Mazza

*I want to write a confused article. One that befriends you before breaking. I want to write a loud, angry, dirty article. I want a violent article - one which opens with a migraine you can't set down. I want this article to hold a gun to your head, demanding you accept fiction as fact, disjointed words as grammar, nonsense as narrative.*

*I want it to read like broken glass.*

*I want to write an article of verbs. I want words of action until your heart pounds out exhausted. I want your eyes to slam into each phrase as it appears in the voices of a thousand screaming voices of a thousand screaming voices.*

*I want to create loving characters who disappear on the next page. I want random letters creating words you think you should understand. I want to make you stupid. I want to make you stupid. I want to make you understand nothing.*

Sometimes I think about Iraq only for a moment.

When I try to understand how the country I live in was born in has the power to reach across the world and kill—the kind of killing that doesn't happen to good families in good neighborhoods—I end up elsewhere. I may still be thinking about Iraq, but different. Sometimes it's distant, like a fact. Cold and brief, like a story. I imagine suffering sanctions suffering poverty suffering radiation suffering being ignored as I die. Or maybe foreign policy. There are nation-states and economies and powers and things we just don't understand. The President of the US has the toughest job in the world just be thankful you aren't in his shoes in his shoes.

I know that my government perpetrates acts of violence in Iraq against a civilian population, invoking a mythology of "just cause" consistent with it's image, but contrary to it's actions. I know these actions are consistent with the domestic and foreign policy of my country. And I know these actions play themselves out in the deaths of people whom I've never met and that these people continue to die and that my life feels no direct effect from their suffering. I know that that's what it means to be American.

For almost eight years now the US government has led a war against Iraq. Mostly it has been a low-intensity, slow, starving conflict that only the very large and strong can inflict on the very small and weak. But it remains war, just the same. To win.

For most of the period in question I was a paid peace-worker for the Syracuse Peace Council. Some details follow.

It was a tangential response to the 1991 US military action in the Gulf that I began working for SPC—January 1992 until August 1997. Because of that position it was maybe easier for me than for many to

remember the situation in the Gulf as it marched forward, except perhaps people who knew people there, or remember it like we remember places.

There was massive international protest in 1990 and 1991. As previously said within these pages, no military action ever received the kind of organized public resistance as Operation Desert Storm. Before a single bomb dropped hundreds of thousands of US citizens responded with education, civil disobedience and intensive organizing. There were many countless protests around the world.

Over warm coffee my friend Nick said, "I came through the 80s believing that if enough people gathered together to say 'NO' it could stop a war. Then we gathered enough people together and said 'NO' and nothing stopped—they marketed their killing until parades were raised around them."

Syracuse activists continued to work after the bombs stopped falling in 1991. There was trial-support for the ANZUS Plowshares disarmament action at Griffiss air-force base (Rome, NY), and a War Crimes Tribunal to draw attention to US and allied military atrocities committed against the people of Iraq.

Sanctions are war. The UN sanctions guarantee that the devastated country can not rebuild its basic needs. Contrary to numerous treaties signed by the US and many other countries, the US-led allied forces targeted the civilian infrastructure of Iraq. Words on paper are not actions. Then President Bush sent missiles into Iraq again in January 1993. Then a newly elected Bill Clinton ordered a June 1993 missile attack on Iraq in retaliation for an alleged assassination attempt, in Kuwait, on ex-President Bush. US ambassador to the UN Madeleine Albright appealed to Article 51 of the UN Charter for support of Clinton's action and called it self-defense.

Article 51, (according to the openly radical Noam Chomsky), "authorizes the use of force in self-defense against 'armed attack...' only when the necessity for self-defense is "instant, overwhelming, and leaving no choice of means and no moment for deliberation, and must be limited by that necessity and kept clearly within it." It doesn't, as they say, take a rocket scientist to figure this one out.

However, no one can accuse the American population of rocket science where Iraq is concerned. At many points over the past eight years one needed to ignore the hypocrisy of the US position.

Since 1990 history unfolds an official US misbehavior regarding Iraq. Examples include: Consistent US sabotage of diplomatic solutions to various Iraq-related crisis. A well-documented policy of manipulation and lies before and during the initial attack (and subsequent attacks) to gain broad-based support. Strong-arming other coun-

tries to fall in behind the US driven, UN policy decisions. Total disregard of opposition. The use of depleted uranium munitions in the Gulf leaving behind over 600,000 pounds of radioactive materials. A subsequent increase in radiation-related disease. Gulf War Syndrome. Blocking the ability to rebuild the basic infrastructure of the country due to the sanctions. Encouragement of an atmosphere of racism and hatred towards the Iraqi people. Cynical use of the Kurds to take action, gain support, control airspace, or create unrest. Ignoring the Kurdish issue where our allies Turkey and Saudi Arabia are involved. The vast profits gained by the oil industry during the initial conflict. Maintaining the total inability to access the most basic medicines or medical supplies.

Maybe I could write an article only of nouns. One article which lists the objects lost or destroyed in Iraq over the past eight years. An article which lists the dead. Some reports suggest that the list of dead would be over 1,000,000 entries. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization over 574,000 of these entries would be children under 15 years. Children are nouns. I told myself I wouldn't write an article which appealed with images of dead children. I told myself Americans are numb to statistics.

Our President says we should worry about weapons of mass destruction. Our President says there are biological weapons in the hands of a madman. Our President says that if we are forced to bomb Iraq it was Saddam Hussein's decision. Our President says that we may be forced to use nuclear weapons. Our President can not be insulted or ignored. Our President has to stand strong against attack. Our President has our reputation to uphold for us.

The US government has used biological warfare against Iraq since 1991. As policy. The US government signed the Geneva Conventions. In 1997 additional protocol was added that (1) starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is prohibited, and (2) It is prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless objects indispensable to the agricultural areas for the production of foodstuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and supplies, and irrigation works, for the specific purpose of denying them for their sustenance value to the civilian population or to the adverse Party, whatever the motive, whether in order to starve out civilians, to cause them to move away, or for any other motive.

The US government chooses to overlook the law as policy whenever the law interferes with policy.

In 1991 it was impossible to destroy the civilian infrastructure of a highly industrialized society, restrict the country from rebuilding that infrastructure or import goods to offset the damage, and not understand

that plague, starvation and disease would set in. Since giving small-pox ridden blankets to the American Indians the US military has known that the introduction of germs into a population is biological warfare. It is unlikely that by 1998 we have forgotten that willful maintenance of the conditions under which diseases flourish is a successful method of biological warfare. This method also reduces the inherent risks of delivery and backlash. Conventionally conceived biological weapons are rarely used, in part because of the risk to the deploying party.

Sally Struthers helps us feel sympathy for the starving and dying by allowing us to donate money for people we never meet without having it affect our lifestyles.

I want an article which disturbs the fabric of our existence.

Nuclear weapons are weapons of mass destruction. The US currently maintains the strongest arsenal of nuclear weapons in the world. The US is the only government to use atomic weapons against another population in war. The US has used atomic weapons against its own civilian and military population just to see what would happen. There are people in the world who claim that it is possible to "win" a limited nuclear war.

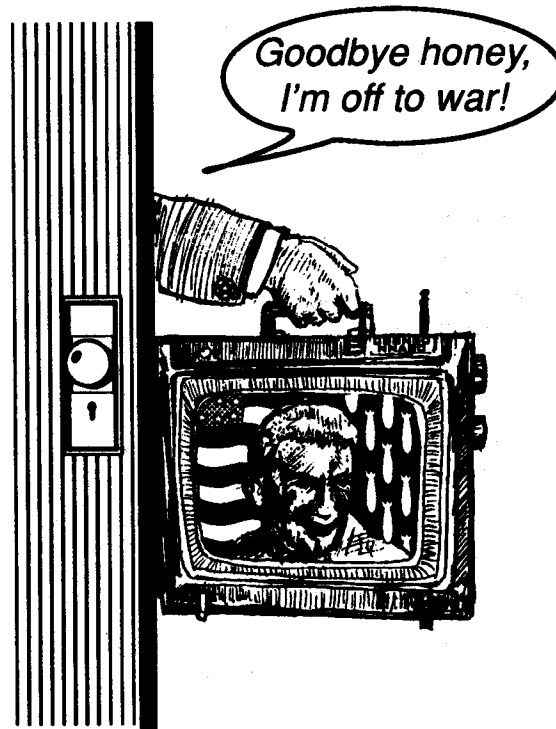
Our President says we need to put an end to a madman wielding weapons of mass destruction to achieve personal goals against the will of his people. This is the President's policy.

None of us can do enough to stop madness in our home.

I want to write an article that brings the streets into our homes into our lives that makes us stop what we are doing. I want an article that brings fury into the streets. I want to use the word *revolution*. I want you to need to change what you need. I want you to need to stop. I want you to need to take risks. You need to cry. I want you to understand that the most you can give up short of your life is nothing compared to the situation we have allowed in Iraq. You need give up some of what you have. There are costs to what you have.

For one fourth of my life my government has engineered the death of people in Iraq. That matters. It matters to the quality of our lives. None of us can do enough to stop madness in our home.

*Bill is one of those people who takes serious things seriously but otherwise has a decent sense of humor, whatever one might think.*



Bill Mazza, 1998

## **We Carry Our Culture With Us**





# MAINTAINING DISPARITY

## Poverty and Human Rights in Peru

By Steve Penn & Kristen Gardner

*"... We have about 50% of the world's wealth but only 6.3% of its population... In this situation, we cannot fail to be the object of envy and resentment. Our real task ... (is) to maintain this position of disparity without positive detriment to our national security. To do so, we will have to dispense with all sentimentality and day-dreaming.... We should cease to talk about vague and ... unreal objectives such as human rights, the raising of the living standards, and democratization. The day is not far off when we are going to have to deal in straight power concepts. The less we are then hampered by idealistic slogans, the better."*

—George Kennan, Presidential Foreign Policy Advisor, PPS/23, (Top Secret) 1948.

In my article in last month's PNL I discussed the case of Lori Berenson, a US citizen held as a political prisoner in Peru. The extreme injustice of her case cannot be understood in isolation but must be placed in the context of the changing political economy of Peru and its effects on human rights.

The closely intertwined tales of human rights and economic development in Peru are a familiar story echoed in the histories of countries throughout Latin America. There exists a well documented correlation in Latin America between a country's level of US aid and the number of human rights violations. The US aid is not provided to fund human rights abuses.



Photocourtesy William Coupon © 1997 all rights reserved.

These funds are intended to help cover the expenses entailed in transforming a country's economy to better serve US economic needs. Resources, including the country's workforce, must be available for exploitation by US-based multinational corporations, and a clear wealth disparity must be established so that the country's upper class may serve as proxies to maintain a system beneficial to US interests.

It is with some degree of naive astonishment that the mainstream press occasionally recognizes this link in underdeveloped nations between the rise of a US-serving economy and the decline in popular freedoms. In the mid 90's Fujimori's economic policies had made him the darling of the international investment community. Prior to the 1990 election Peru suffered from hyperinflation and about 1/4 of its people lived in poverty. A few years after Fujimori took office, Peru had the fastest growing economy in Latin America. Amid all the fanfare for this economic "success story", the media would occasionally note that, with the exception of the business class, the Peruvian people were actually getting poorer.

Since 1990 the poverty level has nearly doubled, including a more than 1% annual increase during the "economic miracle." Only 15% of the workforce is fully employed while 17% of the population remains malnourished. Following the 1992 "coup" in which Fujimori effectively became a military-backed dictator, Peru has been transformed into one of the hemisphere's worst offenders against human rights with the highest number of forced disappearances in the world. Special laws which make the military immune from prosecution have resulted in the imprisonment of an estimated 1000 innocent people.

A recent NYT article on business philosophy in developing nations described Peru as an "illiberal democracy", meaning that while the country has nominal elections it has severe

restrictions on political rights and personal freedoms. This type of sanitized euphemism does more than trivialize the harsh realities endured in these "democracies", it assumes that repression and serving US economic interests are a contradiction. Despite its propagandistic and even ethical appeal, any serious examination of the history of the Americas will show that this assumption is clearly false.

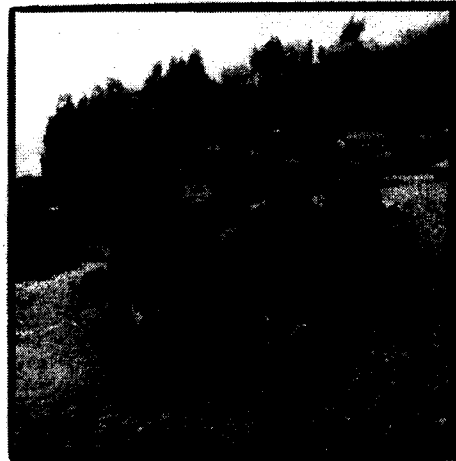
### A BRIEF HISTORY OF PERU

Around 800 AD the Incas created an empire which extended throughout the Andes and endured until the 1500's when the Conquistadores, led by Pizarro, conquered and colonized the region. The Spanish imposed a forced labor system on the native people designed primarily to mine the region's abundant valuable metals. Within a century after conquest the indig-

enous population declined from nine million to 600,000.

After winning independence from Spain in 1821, the factions in Peru fought a series of wars for control of the country. Later the large landholders allied themselves with the Chilean army to seize community lands and establish a ruling elite. The Indigenismo Movement fought against this seizure of power, calling instead for a renewal of "indigenous" principles, including reciprocity and cooperation. Although it never amassed strong opposition, the movement served as a lasting inspiration for future revolutionaries.

The Crash of 1929 shattered the Peruvian economy, leading to a series of military presidents who used repression and poverty to control the country for the next half century. In the 1970's the Socialist and Communist parties gained increasingly popular support which resulted in centrist-socialist Alan Garcia being elected President in 1985. During this same period the Maoist Peruvian Communist Party (Shining Path) built a rebel army who mounted an increasingly bloody campaign for power.



Photocourtesy William Coupon © 1997 all rights reserved.

They justified their excessive violence stating that any means were justified in winning power for the people, meaning the PCP. By 1984, the left wing of Garcia's party, APRA, broke off to form the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) claiming that Garcia had sold out to business interests. Unlike the Shining Path, the MRTA focused on "Robin Hood" tactics to redistribute wealth with relatively little violence or death. It has published a newspaper in Lima in the past, and at one point its political arm had a member elected to Congress. Many of the violent activities attributed to the MRTA have actually been Shining Path actions.

This period also marked the sharp rise in cocaine production which became a source of lucrative money and power for both the rebels and the government. The United States renewed their involvement in the region by funding cocaine eradication operations. In 1986 President Reagan declared drugs a "security threat", allowing the US to funnel money and weaponry into Peru under the auspices of the war on drugs rather than military aid. The government used the rebel ties to cocaine trafficking as justification for using the US armaments to battle the Shining Path.

In 1987 the IMF and the World Bank broke off interactions with Peru ostensibly for failure to make payments on its large debt. However, it was widely reported that the financial institutions were unhappy with Peru's slow movement toward a market economy and its failure to reign in the Shining Path. Financially isolated, the country began to suffer hyperinflation

and increased poverty. In an effort to quiet the Shining Path and other rebel groups the government declared "emergency zones." The military wiped out entire villages considered sympathetic to the rebels, including anyone showing an interest in human rights. At first the Shining Path continued flourishing, but as the military efforts claimed more lives and more of the people's land, support for the rebel group diminished. It also seems that in the face of such pressure, the Shining Path resorted to more violent tactics, further alienating the war-exhausted citizens.

#### THE AGE OF FUJIMORI

In 1990 Alberto Fujimori from the Change 90 Party was elected president on the platform of stopping the hyperinflation, moving the country toward a market economy and eliminating the Shining Path. Originally he had promised not to impose severe measures, but within two weeks an austerity program was underway. Prices skyrocketed, subsidies on basic goods were cut, and salaries were frozen, with no social programs to protect the poorest. These moves increased the number of Peruvians living in poverty from 6 million to 11 million, half of the country's population.

Fujimori then negotiated a restructuring of Peru's debt with the World Bank and IMF and began courting foreign corporations. The following year he terminated government price subsidies entirely. By 1992, the Peruvian Parliament raised a series of complaints that Fujimori was instituting changes too rapidly, that he was selling Peru to the highest bidder, and that the majority of Peruvians would not benefit from the new market economy. When they tried to relax the austerity programs, Fujimori suspended the constitution and disbanded both the Parliament and the Judiciary. He became the effective dictator of Peru. He restored the austerity programs, initiated a firesale of the country's major industries, and rescinded environmental, labor, and native rights laws which had limited efforts by multinationals to exploit Peru's rich petroleum, timber and mineral resources. Timber companies

are estimates to log 11% of the Peruvian rain forest by the year 2000. Meanwhile oil companies are moving into the land taken from the Shining Path and are forcing out the native Ashople people.

The US rewarded Peru's obedience with large aid packages from the USAID and, under the Brady plan, US banks forgave 15 billion of Peru's \$33 billion debt. By 1995 Peru had the fastest growing economy in Latin America.

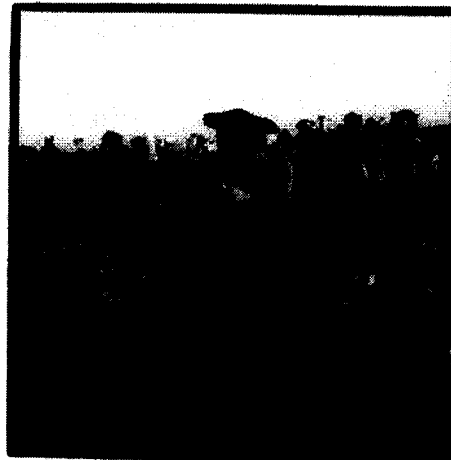
During this time Fujimori declared total war against the rebel factions. In 1991 he enacted a resolution which created secret

military courts to hear cases against the military and suspected terrorists. The law ensured that military officials will never be tried in civilian courts for any crime including human rights abuses. Peru became a de facto police state. The military, left unaccountable to the public, began to act with impunity. The army and the police began imprisoning people with little or no evidence. The secret military courts, lacking any due process, have a 97% conviction rate. Half of the country's 22,000 prisoners have yet to stand trial. 1 in 5 were arrested for the general crime of "terrorism."

Fujimori has claimed great victories in the rebel war, foremost being the capture and imprisonment of the leaders of both the Shining Path and the MRTA. In reality, his campaign against insurgency has transformed Peru into one of the hemisphere's worst offenders against human rights with the highest number of forced disappearances in the world. The human rights organization, Andean Commission of Jurists, estimated that in 1991, the bloodiest year in the conflict, government forces killed 3,145 people, compared to 1,314 killed by the Shining Path and 139 killed by the MRTA.

In general Peruvians have supported Fujimori's war against the rebels but have opposed his authoritarian power and restrictive economic policies. Whenever faced with popular opposition Fujimori has rallied support through military action. On November 12, 1995 Fujimori suffered a major setback when

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**The Old World Teaches the New**

While US communities continue their unimpeded sprawl into the countryside, the city of Edinburgh, Scotland has devised an innovative way to address a number of urban problems simultaneously. A development of 100 homes in the middle of a garden will soon rise on the site of an old railway yard near the center of the city. Heating will be supplied free-of-charge from steam generated by local factories, wastewater will be recycled for cleaning, and bathroom water will be supplied from a rainwater collection system. Power for lighting will be generated by rooftop solar panels. The catch? Car-owners are not allowed. If you absolutely must have one of the filthy things, you can rent one from a pool run by the local government.

Source: UNESCO Courier 12-97

**...and then there was none.**

The invasion by the developed world of the natural medicine market is having a predictable effect. World trade in medicinal plants now exceeds one trillion US\$ annually and, according to the World Bank, will soon cause overharvesting in the developing world, where billions of people heavily depend on them for daily health needs. While traditional cash crops are harvested with some sort of research and regulatory support, medicinal plants are not. If present trends continue, the World Bank warns that shortages are inevitable.

Source: UNESCO Courier 12-97

**You wanna spend how much to bomb Iraq?!...**

According to a recent UNESCO report entitled "Adult Education in a Polarizing World," almost one out of every four adults in the world is illiterate and unable to perform simple arithmetic. Many more lack basic parenting, work, and civic skills. The report examines the effect in 132 developing and industrial countries of a general failure to provide non-school literacy and numeracy training. Barring any coordinated large-scale efforts to address the situation, the number of adults illiterates is likely to remain at least one billion into the next century.

Source: UN Chronicle #3, 1997

**Give that woman a raise!**

The Jan/Feb 1998 issue of *Mothering* magazine evaluates the current value of the services provided by the average stay-at-home mother according to the going rate for basic services. Mom's annual salary would add up like this:

<b>Child care</b>		
50 hours/week @ \$8/hour		\$20,800
<b>Transportation</b>		
5 round trips/week @ \$12./per		\$3120
<b>Errands</b>		
2 hours/week @ \$25./hour		\$2600
<b>Cleaning</b>		
1 house cleaning/week @ \$60.		\$3120
<b>Laundry</b>		
4 hours/week @ \$4.25/hour		\$884
<b>Cooking</b>		
10 hours/week @ \$4.25/hour		\$2210
<b>Bill paying</b>		
1 hour/week @ \$4.25/hour		\$221
<b>Grocery Shopping</b>		
3 hours/week @ \$4.25/hour		\$663.
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
10 hours/week @ \$4.25/hour		\$2210
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$35,828</b>

Source: *Mothering*, Jan/Feb 1998

**Social Math 101: If each cruise missile fired at Iraq costs one million dollars, how many meals...**

According to a New York State Health Department survey released last week a rising economic tide is swamping an awful lot of boats. New York State soup kitchens served 10.3 million meals in 1995 compared with 6.4 million in 1987. The number of clients served by food pantries also more than doubled from 5.3 million to 10.8 million during the same period. Almost two-thirds of the food pantries and more than half of the soup kitchens included in the survey reported that they reduced portion sizes in an effort to keep pace with increased need.

Source: *New York Times*, Feb. 15, 1998

**Your tax dollars at work - a Whitewater scorecard**

Back in 1978, Arkansas Attorney General Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, formed a partnership with James and Susan McDougal to develop 220 acres of land for vacation homes. But the deal faltered and, in 1992, failed completely and the Clintons were left with a net loss of over \$40,000.

James McDougal also owned a savings and loan association which was one of many that failed in the 1980's. Hillary Clinton did legal work for that association. Both of the McDougals have been found guilty of fraud very loosely related to the Whitewater Development Corp.

From that seed, planted in 1993, conservative Republican activist and former Bush administration lawyer Kenneth Starr has repeatedly expanded his investigation into:

- The 1993 suicide of White House counsel Vince Foster. Conspiracy theorists have had a great deal of ghoulish fun with this.
- The disappearance and reappearance of billing records showing the extent of Hillary Clinton's legal work for McDougal's S & L.
- The firing of seven members of the White House Travel Office, allegedly to make room for Clinton cronies, and an FBI investigation of the firings, allegedly intended by Clinton to justify the firings. Republicans love to call this "Travelgate."



continued on next page

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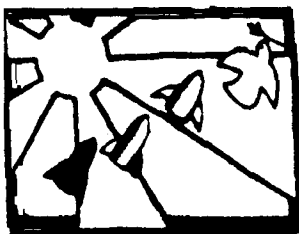


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# CHIAPAS

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY VIETNAM

by Andrew Roth-Wells

The counterinsurgency strategy of the Mexican Federal Army has killing over 1500 Chiapas Indians since it was instituted two years ago at about the time NAFTA was completed. This strategy came to world attention with the Acteal massacre of 45 Tzotzil Indians, mostly women and children, on December 22, 1997, by a paramilitary death squad affiliated with the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). It is no coincidence that one of the top brass of the Mexican Federal Army, General Jose Ruben Rivas, was trained in the US at the School of the Americas.

This policy of escalating paramilitary violence has created some 8000 Indian refugees. Yet the US continues to provide a variety of support to the Mexican government:

- Mexican Federal Army officers are trained at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia.
- Mexican Special Forces are trained by Green Berets at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.
- The Mexican Federal Army and Special Forces use US helicopters, troop carriers, and firearms.

- The FBI provides counterinsurgency training for police from Chiapas and other states.
- US military, anti-drug, and social development aid has been diverted to PRI-affiliated paramilitary groups.
- The US Ambassador to Mexico, James Jones, has publicly offered US troops to Mexico to suppress "guerilla movements."
- President Clinton publicly expressed continuing support for President Zedillo of Mexico after the Acteal massacre.

In the last five years, the US has sent over \$190 million in weapons to Mexico, including rifles, shotguns, electric prods (for torture), grenades, flame throwers, bulldozers (to scatter protesters), anti-riot armored vehicles, and helicopters like those used in Vietnam, according to a Federation of American Scientists report based on the Congressional Record. Some of these sales and gifts of weapons were stipulated to be solely for use in drug interdiction. But such agreements are neither monitored nor enforced. Drugs become the excuse to arm thugs.



Photo courtesy Peace Brigades International/USA

On January 10, numerous Peace Action (PA) CNY members attended a teach-in about the situation. One of the speakers was PA-CNY board member, Pramod Parajuli. He referred to Chiapas as the Vietnam War of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, representing a global pattern. When we examine our own society in light of the Zapatistas, as Pramod suggests, we see this same pattern of the wealthy keeping down the poor, whether with prisons as in the US, or massacres as in Mexico. This, indeed, is a worldwide pattern.

What is the solution? The people at the teach-in organized a demonstration on January 12. A number of other initiatives are taking shape. A group of Syracuse University students, with community representation, have organized a larger teach-in for March 1-3.

And PA-CNY national "Spring Cleaning" education days in Washington involves workshops on weapons trafficking in Mexico and encourages us to use Mexico as an example of the need for an Arms Trade Code of Conduct. During this event, on March 16, there will be a demonstration at the Mexican embassy.

We encourage you to write to Congressman Walsh (or your representative). Urge your representative to co-sponsor legislation to suspend all military aid to Mexico. Walsh's support for closing the School of the Americas is a positive beginning. Cutting off military aid to Mexico is a logically related step.

We also ask you to strongly consider going to the "Spring Cleaning" in D.C. to speak with your representative in person. Call the office (478-7442) for details and transportation.

Andrew is a member of the Greens of Greater Syracuse, on the Board of the Syracuse Real Food Co-op and CommonWorks, and works with the Justice for Jonny Gammage Campaign, SANE, and The Chiapas Coalition of Syracuse.

# PEACES PEACES

- The gathering of hundreds of FBI files on important Republicans by a minor White House official. Republicans love to call this "Filegate."
- Alleged perjury and obstruction of justice by President Clinton and Vernon Jordan related to Clinton's alleged affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

To date, the McDougals and former Arkansas governor Jim Guy Tucker have been convicted of some of the fraud and conspiracy charges brought against them by Starr. The Clintons were never charged. The 13-month long Senate hearings into Whitewater yielded no evidence of illegal conduct.

The current bill to US taxpayers for all this:	
Investigation by Starr	\$28M
Investigation by Special Counsel Fiske	\$6M
RTC's Report:	\$3.6M
Senate Hearings:	
1994 (Democratic-controlled)	\$0.4M
Republican-controlled (D'Amato)	\$1.4M
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$39.4M</b>

Starr has had no problem obtaining repeated six-month extensions of his investigating (and spending) authority from the Republican congress. His current mandate runs until May of this year and is assured of renewal. Source: Washington Post, New York Times

# Handwriting On The Wall

## KINANE & RUMPF FACE MARCH FELONY TRIAL

of Students at Gonzaga University, now a Catholic Worker in Tacoma, WA; and Sr. Marge Eilerman, 60, a Catholic nun, teacher, former missionary in Chiapas, from Booneville, KY.

**O**n March 2 the jury trial of Ed, Kathleen and three other SOA Watch activists begins before Judge J. Robert Elliott, 89, in federal court in Columbus, GA. The five are charged with two felony counts for allegedly destroying government property, "with malicious intent." The charges stem from their Sep 29, 1997 action at the main gate of Fort Benning [see Nov97 PNL], site of the US Army's School of the Americas, a.k.a. "school of assassins."

The maximum penalty for the charges is 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. If found guilty, they will be imprisoned while SOA trainees committing atrocities throughout Latin America have been given amnesty or remain unindicted and at large.

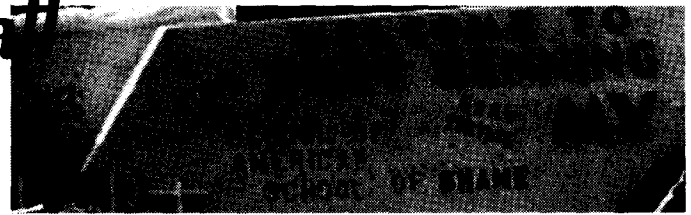
Besides Ed and Kathleen, the defendants are: Mary Trotochaud, 47, a potter and caterer from Atlanta; Fr. Bill "Bix" Bichsel, S.J., 69, a Jesuit priest and former Dean

A half-dozen or so Central New Yorkers will observe what may be a three-day trial. Each night Ann Tiffany and Margaret Birdleough will cook dinner for the crew. Witnesses for the defense — if the judge doesn't gag them — will include Jennifer Harbury, Fr. Roy Bourgeois, Fr. Javier Giraldo S.J. of Colombia, Fr. David Fernandez, S.J. of Mexico, and Congressional Medal of Honor winner Charlie Liteky, participated in the Sept. 29 action but wasn't indicted.

On Jan. 21, 1998 Judge Elliott sentenced four of the defendants and 18 others to six months in prison and a \$3000 fine for carrying anti-SOA petitions onto Fort Benning on Nov. 16, 1997. These 22 included Syracusans Ed Kinane, Ann Tiffany, Sr. Megan Rice, Nick Cardell and Doris and Dan Sage.

In the wake of the Jan. 21 trial, with its bizarrely harsh sentences, our local Republican representative

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## Signs Don't Bleed, Nor Do They Die

**ON SEP. 29, 1997**, myself and six other SOA Watch activists from around the country were arrested at Fort Benning, GA. Who are we? We are a nun, a Jesuit priest, two artists, two community activists, and a winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In October a federal grand jury indicted five of us. It charged us with two felony counts of damage to government property, with "malicious intent." One count carries a penalty of up to five years, the other, up to 10 years. Each carries a fine of up to \$250,000.

What had we done? With military police and local media present, we collectively stenciled ten words in bold red letters on the "Welcome to Fort Benning" sign at its main gate. The words were **SOA=TORTURE** and **HOME OF SCHOOL OF AMERICAS SCHOOL OF SHAME**. To fit in our message

we also pried about 20 metal letters off the sign. Additionally we pried off Benning's logo, a near life-size metal bayonet. Before propping the bayonet back against the sign, we dipped it in red paint.

The bill for repairing the wall came to \$4200. A realistic figure? Who knows. While we will argue our innocence and justify our actions, we will in no way deny our actions — even if this means we each spend months or years in prison.

Why did we so deliberately jeopardize our personal freedom? Why did we do what we did? Each of us has long worked to bring the SOA out of the shadows in which it has thrived for half a century. Our stenciling was a way to expose this vile place, this incubator of torture, death and subversion.

Because Benning seems to want to keep its association with the SOA a semi-secret, we felt impelled to edit the Benning entrance sign. We wanted that sign to acknowledge that Benning hosts the SOA. Otherwise the sign would be telling only a half-truth. It was no surprise to us that Benning closed off its main gate to incoming and outgoing traffic until our ten words could be washed off and painted over.

Besides stenciling, we also put several large photos by the sign. These portrayed the corpses of the six Jesuit priests murdered by SOA grads in El Salvador on November 16, 1989. In one photo the brains of a priest lay in the grass separated from his head. Another photo showed the

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(l-r) Ed, Kathleen, Sr. Marge, & Mary write truth to power at Ft. Benning's gate.



# Foster Kids and Scapegoats

## "Are We at War with Youth?"

by Peter Swords

Since 17 year-old Jason Crawford's senseless death by gunfire in November 1997, many community groups have met, and local leaders have called for more action against "youth violence". The mayor has appointed a task force, and churches and community agencies have started new programs. Signs on the light poles say "No Shooting".

Recently I attended a community gathering on violence. People spoke about youth as "our future"; raised concerns about kids, guns, drugs, sex and crime in the streets; and affirmed the power of family and community. Several speakers advocated tougher penalties for youth, not only in the courts but at home. One said we need to change the laws so we can hit kids again without fear of the police. Several said it wasn't like this in the good old days when kids got a whipping at home if they misbehaved in school. A respected community leader even bragged that he was whipped as a child and that he still had scars on the backs of his legs to prove it.

This meeting captured for me two things that are wrong with our community's response to the growing problem with violence. First, we blame the violence on youth, when they are mostly the victims – then call for more punishment, even bodily harm. What do we think we are teaching children about violence when we hit them? Second, we fail to consider the larger context of violence, especially class. "Poverty is the worst form of violence", as Gandhi said, but it was never once mentioned in the meetings I attended. To me, these are not just oversights but serious mistakes. They point to dangerous assumptions that have led to bad policy decisions making these social problems worse.

In his 1996 book, *The Scapegoat Generation: America's War on Adolescents*, Michael Males puts responsibility for these issues and others where it belongs: Squarely on the adult segment of society. For ongoing classism, racism, sexism and ageism; for profiting from

oppression of kids; for projecting blame on youth for the adult generation's excesses while saying "do as I say, not as I do", Males makes a convincing case that American society has made a big business of scapegoating youth and is not about to stop any time soon.

The book is thoroughly documented with statistics, charts and graphs. In the first 10 pages, Males shows the devastating denial of basic needs to children in the US (even before the passage of welfare reform legislation) while expanding tax breaks to their wealthy elders. Despite having the highest gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of Western nations, the US had the highest rate of child poverty, even after welfare payments are figured in – 21.5% in 1991, probably worse now. (Here in Syracuse, 40% of kids under 5 lived in poverty in 1990.)

Males points out that poverty, not race or age, is the biggest factor in the prevalence of violent crime. When poverty rates are held constant, race disappears altogether as a factor. Adults in their 20s and 30s have the highest rates of violent crime, while teens age 13-19 have unusually low rates of violence in relation to their poverty, he says. He shows that while all the outcry about "youth violence" goes on, while we blame TV, rap music, gun availability and high levels of adolescent hormones, the two biggest causes of the problem are (1) poverty and (2) family violence. Abused children, studies show, are several times more likely than other children to grow up violent themselves. People raised in the relentless stress of high-poverty areas are also more violent. What, Males asks, do we expect? And yet, policymakers ignore these facts even while they score political victories decrying the violence of youth.

There is a lot more. Teenage pregnancy is rightly considered a form of violence in Males'

book. He recognizes that most births to school-age mothers are fathered by older, more powerful men. But national policymaking bodies such as the Centers for Disease Control and the Surgeon General's office lament teenage sexuality and preach chastity to teenagers as if there were a new sexual revolution in junior high school. They miss this important age differential,

with potentially disastrous results in the risky environment of AIDS. Males again finds that teens are more often victims of rape, not sexually irresponsible, and that poverty is a strong contributing factor in teen pregnancy.

The book catalogs the blame game around drugs and alcohol, tobacco, mental illness and teen suicide by showing that the statistics are lower than we think for teens, while increasing in the environment of irresponsible adult models. In every area, the myth of wild teenage recklessness has bolstered an industry that profits by locking up rich adolescents in psych wards and

poorer ones in jails. As society has cut budgets for schools and social services, prisons are bulging with underage inmates, Males notes, while the older, richer population continues to profit from blaming them.

On the family level, this scapegoating pattern is more than familiar to therapists. It's a classic sign of deep dysfunction in families – those in which, as Rabbi Gershon Blackmore used to say, "Shit happens, and people don't want to talk about it". Whether it's the child of an alcoholic family, who feels all the blame from everyone else when things go wrong while the parent's secret binges ruin their life, or the sex-abuse victim, who plays the role of parent and confidant to the abuser, the scapegoated child is the "symptom bearer" for the whole family. The burden of the family's real problems may be carried by this child for years before anyone outside sees them. The child's often disruptive, defiant behavior may seem senseless until its symbolic meaning or diversionary purpose is uncovered. The child may even live out the parents' own fantasies as



"Poverty is the worst form of violence", Gandhi said

What do we think we are teaching children about violence when we hit them?

a "thrill provider", then get blamed for them, as if to reassure the parents that they are OK. The family's entire structure is built around this pattern of shifting blame, without any explicit rules or agreement, so much that parents can deny their responsibility for even severe abuse in front of the children, who will then alibi for them rather than risk blowing the whole coverup. The point is that it's the system as a whole that needs work, not just the child.

How does one help such a family, when the first demand the parents are likely to make is "fix the kid"? Family therapists work to help parents take responsibility for their actions and for the family's well-being. They try to improve communication and coherence so people can see what things like respect and trust really mean to each other, and increase the consistency of the family's rulemaking, power-sharing and honesty.

Ultimately, the family has to help each other get their needs met without oppressing any one member, even while putting their life back together from what has probably been a crisis. Sometimes there are specific turning points, as in one family with whom I worked. The parents told me they were interested in bringing their teenager home from foster care, that "he could come home if he wanted to" but that every time he came for a visit, he'd lose his temper and break something. When I turned to the boy, who was sitting way off to one side, and asked for him to respond, he said, "well, it's not all up to me", and moved his chair closer. Most often, it just takes a lot of patient work by the parents on conflict resolution, learning new ways to respond, and being ready to see little changes for the better.

We have a society in crisis, in which youth are at risk in so many ways that it may be apt to use the analogy of a dysfunctional family. What do we need to do to fix the system, or to make things even a little better? One is to listen to our youth; their awareness is disarming. In interviews with Jonathan Kozol, kids living in the poverty-stricken South Bronx said they knew society wanted them to be invisible and why. Youth's ideas may point to solutions — or at least to justice, and a clean, safe, healthy

environment. Dialogue groups have been started across class and neighborhood boundaries. They need to cross age lines too. Mentorships and tutoring give kids a chance to be heard and guided.

Another possible solution is to ask the community to set minimum standards for the care and supervision of youth, and hold ourselves accountable. Before placing a child in foster care, every family court judge is required to ask the question, "Were reasonable efforts made to maintain this child in the home?" Such "reasonable efforts" are the responsibility of the whole community. We may want teenagers to stay



out of the streets at night, but if there are no programs or adults to supervise them, then what? We may want them to "just say no" to various temptations, but where are their role models and how accountable are they? Welfare reform may be a great idea for parents, but what about their teens who see less and less of them? Education and discipline can always be improved, but how well do we agree on the goals of education, and what lessons we instill with our methods of discipline?

Which brings me back to the community meeting. On the one hand, parents need to have enforceable rules, and kids need to have meaningful consequences when they break them. On the other, kids deserve human rights. Punishment is not the only kind of discipline, corporal punishment is not the only kind of punishment.

Nonviolence training and conflict resolution have been very helpful in preventing violence to and among youth. Alternatives to Violence (AVP), a Quaker program, has been working in local schools and prisons for years. I was introduced to it by Ann Kerniski, Linda Hall and Candace LaRue. Lisa Mundy and Vivian Moore have dedicated their lives to promoting these practical strategies. Aggression Replacement Training (ART), developed by Prof. Arnold Goldstein at SU, is a curriculum that works for all ages and developmental levels to

teach specific social skills that replace violence. Peace Action's new video, *The Echo of a Gunshot*, is a good discussion starter on the topic of gun violence. These locally produced, easily available programs would be a natural first step for anyone to get involved with par-

**We have a society in crisis, in which youth are at risk in so many ways that it may be apt to use the analogy of a dysfunctional family.**

ents and youth in community-level social change.

Finally, we had better start providing the kinds of experiences and resources to our kids that they deserve as the future of our community (not as our future fighting forces). In Europe and other countries, public transportation, education and other social utilities are universally available to children. Youth can take a train or bus to town and access many more opportunities for learning and fun than they can here. Corporations and governments spend hundreds of thousands of dollars per child on apprenticeships and other kinds of training. Schools provide relevant education to all children, and homelessness and illiteracy are rare. What a concept, to have policies that support youth in their growth, health, skill and moral development without indenturing them to the military! We could afford it too, by spending less on weapons and recruitment.

We are entering a period of generational unrest unparalleled since the Vietnam years. As peace activists, we could do well to remember the exhilaration we felt at protesting an unjust system, in community with people of diverse backgrounds but similar levels of passion. The social changes we began back then have been diverted, even perverted, but it may not be too late to get them right. Remember when people said "don't trust anyone over 30"? For many of us now, the shoe is on the other foot. We can start by becoming more trustworthy, by giving our youth the benefit of a doubt, and by actively including them in the process of non-violent social change.

*Peter E. Swords is a father, a social worker and an advocate for children. As a caseworker for Onondaga County Children's Services, he sees families involved with the child welfare system. He supports the local and global work of SPC and Peace Action.*





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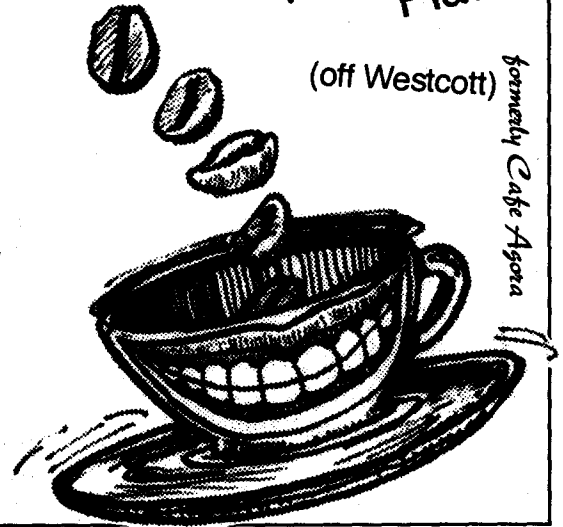
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## Special Women's Showcase

The next Women's Showcase will be on Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 pm at May Memorial Unitarian Society, 3800 E. Genesee Street in Syracuse. The Showcase offers an evening of music, readings, dance and other performing arts featuring the talents of women from Central New York. This Showcase will be a special celebration of International Women's Day and Women's History Month; everyone is welcome to attend.

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 help with the publication of Showcase Productions' second anthology. This anthology is made up of original writings honoring women or girls who have had a significant influence on one's life, and will be available the night of the Showcase and at My Sisters' Words.

As a special treat the art work used in the anthology my MJ Sehl will have its first show-

ing the night of this Women's Showcase. Sehl's powerful collection of sculpture depicting women is sure to leave a lasting impression.

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

SAVE THE DATE ...

## Women's Showcase

MARCH 7, 1998  
7:30 P.M.

SHOWCASE PRODUCTIONS  
P.O. BOX 936 · SYRACUSE, NEW YORK · 13201

## Syracuse Alternative Media Network

The Syracuse Alternative Media Network has been awarded a grant through PBS to produce an hour long documentary, titled "If I had a Hammer," that will use the life and music of Pete Seeger to present an overview of people's struggles in the U.S. over the last sixty years. The completed documentary will be aired nationally on PBS in 1998.

Throughout U.S. history, marginalized groups of citizens have come together to push for positive changes in society. These diverse groups have included workers, women, and African-Americans who fought for and won increased civil liberties and more equal opportunities in their personal and political lives. These forces for change in American society

started at the local level through community, factory, school, and church, and then pushed the issues into the national arena.

To address and to educate about these efforts, the Syracuse Alternative Media Network is producing the program through a grant from the Independent Television Service, in-kind equipment from WCNY and local support. The program's underlying theme will be that a democratic society is always evolving and requires participation from all citizens at all levels to increase social justice for each of its members. The program is intended to motivate viewers to get involved in the political process and make their ideas and voices heard.

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# Handwriting ...

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in the House, Jim Walsh, has declared that he not only supports Joe Kennedy's bill HR611 to close the SOA, but that he now has signed on as a *co-sponsor*. Now we need to get Senators D'Amato and Moynihan to support and *co-sponsor* HR611's companion bill in the Senate, S980. In a recent letter to a constituent Moynihan was critical of the SOA, but didn't even mention S980. Don't be shy about giving him a nudge!

The best possible support for our defendants of conscience would be to redouble efforts to close the SOA. Sign up now to take part in the April 26 anti-SOA demonstration at the White House, and, if possible, stay in DC a couple more days to lobby Congress. Peace Action of CNY is arranging a bus for the round trip on April 26. Fare is \$40. Call Diane Swords at Peace Action, 478-7442, to reserve a seat.

**The PNL needs you!  
We need writers,  
artists, layout  
wizards, and  
people willing  
to learn. Call  
our office at  
472-5478**



## SOA SIGNS

continued from page 14

corpses of the priests' housekeeper and her 15 year-old daughter slain with them — the child clutching her mother.

This massacre was perpetrated by the Atlacatl battalion. The officers and soldiers who methodically planned and executed the slaughter have been identified. Nineteen out of 26 of them are SOA grads. For their crime, none has spent a day in prison. In fact they've each been given amnesty.

Contrast their violence with what we did to the sign. We *blemished* it. The sign was readily repaired and repainted. It felt no pain. It felt no terror. It did not bleed, nor did it die. No one mourns the sign. It has no loved ones to be consoled. No other sign fears it may be next.

The five of us will be tried in federal court in Columbus, GA on March 2. For fear of an acquittal, it is unlikely the judge, J. Robert Elliott, will allow us to tell the jury why we did what we did or to inform them regarding the role of the SOA in spreading terror throughout Latin America. If the jury isn't permitted to hear our story and if they follow the judge's instructions, if the jury isn't allowed to consult its own innate sense of justice, surely we will be found guilty and sent to prison.

By the end of our *first* day behind bars we will have spent more time in prison than all of those 19 SOA assassins put together. I can well imagine a jury being troubled by destruction of property. Hopefully they will also be troubled — *proportionately* troubled — by the events of Nov. 16, 1989 in El Salvador.

*Ed believes that brains, lungs, hearts and limbs are sacred, and that inanimate things are much less so. He likes to ponder Proudhon's words: "Property is theft."*

## MAINTAINING DISPARITY

continued from page 11

one of his closest political allies lost in the election for Mayor of Lima. These election results underscored growing discontent with Fujimori's concentration of power and lack of concern for the social and living conditions in the country. Two weeks later, in apparent response, the military raided the MRTA's house in Lima capturing the second-in-command and arresting 13 others. Lori Berenson was arrested as part of this crackdown. Days later Fujimori rallied public support by declaring the raid as a major victory against the MRTA and by portraying Berenson as an outside agitator infecting the Peruvian way of life. Fujimori appoints himself as the Lord Protector and the populace forgets about their poverty for a while.

With the raid which ended the hostage crisis at the Japanese embassy last year, Fujimori may have vanquished his last enemy. His popularity, which remained high throughout the crisis, plummeted a few weeks afterwards when, in response to criticism by the press, he attempted to portray the Peruvian media as the new enemy of the state. The President is increasingly portrayed as a puppet leader with real power shared between the multinationals, the head of the military and Vladimiro Montesinos, a former Army intelligence officer with known ties to drug cartels and reputed links to the CIA. Despite this knowledge, it remains to be seen whether the Peruvian people will be able to finally gain democratic control of their country.

The issues of human rights and capitalism in Peru are intimately linked. Creating a market economy means opening up your country

to allow the stripping of the natural resources with modest compensation to the ruling class. Countries which fail to allow their resources to be taken are punished. Punishments range from being cut off from development loans as in the case of Peru, to being blockaded as in the case of Cuba, to having your government overthrown by the US as is the case with many Latin American countries. These market economies are also created by maintaining a poverty-level workforce where there is little regard for healthcare or workplace safety. Those who speak out for human rights, workers' rights, and the environment, are a threat to the profit margins and are often imprisoned or eliminated. There exists a clear and direct correlation between the establishment of open market economies in Latin America and an increase in human rights violations.

Despite these systematic forces, popular pressure has been effective in limiting or reversing injustice. A concerted popular campaign could reduce Peru's human rights abuses and hopefully dismantle their draconian military court system. All people unfairly imprisoned in Peru would benefit, including Lori Berenson. She deserves a fair trial. The scant evidence against her would never stand up in a public courtroom. When Lori will be released from prison is unknown, but it is clear that her day of freedom will come only when Peru's harsh military tribunals have been abolished and its people no longer suffer in poverty.

*Steve and Kristen are friends of and went to school with Lori Berenson. Kristen is a public health worker who lives in California. Steve recently moved to Syracuse.*



**SEAC-ing Fundraiser.**

SEAC, a grassroots, student-run progressive activists network, is currently hiring for the position of primary fundraiser for the organization. The position is located in SEAC's National Office in Philadelphia, PA.

For further details contact, Keegan Cox, SEAC Hiring Coordinator at 472-7487 or seacesf@mailbox.syr.edu.



**Women's Friday Night Coffeehouse**

It's free!! It's fun!!! And best of all it's Female-Focused!!!

March 6th - Women from Onondaga the Nation (Topic TBA)

7:30pm - 9:30pm @ Women's Information Center, 601 Allen Street. For more info: 426-1253



Senate Bill 1180 would gut the ESA (Endangered Species Act). It is being backed by big developers, mining, timber and oil interests. The Senate may vote the first week in March. Please contact Senators Moynihan and D' Amato to ask them to vote against 1180 and to propose a bill in line with H.R. 2351, a House of Representatives bill (main sponsor Miller) which would make the ESA stronger. Also please contact your Congressperson. Your Senators can be reached at U. S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. Your Representatives can be reached at House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

**Women's History Month Events**

**March 7** - Hobart-William Smith Women's Music Fest featuring Jolie Christa Rickman & Colleen Kattau

**March 8** - "Cuba Through Our Eyes" : A Celebration of International Women's Day featuring elena levy, Bonnie Shoultz, Rebecca Shoultz, Colleen Kattau at Good Earth Cafe

1998 Peace Action Award Nominations  
Due March 23

**Criteria for Peace Action Award**

- Local work for and commitment to peace & justice
- Influence on others through organizational affiliations
- Significance of work for achieving Peace Action's mission
- Duration, effectiveness and quality of witness in the community
- Expansion of people's understanding of peace and justice issues

For Nominations Information  
Contact Peace Action NY  
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**Peace Action March Event**

**WHAT THE MEDIA IS NOT TELLING US: NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND IRAQ**

The Peace Action program on March 3 will focus on the situation in Iraq and the nuclear threat entailed.

The "surgical strikes" we saw on TV during the Persian Gulf War were a one-sided portrayal designed to gain public support for the war. The reality was the devastation and loss of life in Iraq. The news coverage of the current "crisis" in Iraq is again sanitized. One item somehow forgotten is the question of the role of nuclear weapons in the region.

Rumors circulate on "neither ruling in nor ruling out" the use of nuclear weapons in the current conflict. This is more than we heard in 1991, but it is only the surface of discussions and directives taking place in Washington.

In his very well documented study, *With Hiroshima Eyes*, Joseph Gerson reminds us of the number of times we have "used" nuclear weapons since Hiroshima — in the way one uses a gun when holding it to someone's head. Gerson gives repeated examples of this type of US use of nuclear weapons in Iraq in 1991, from veiled threats to very explicit statements to actual deployment of weapons.

A particularly chilling remark was made by Secretary Defense Cheney in a press conference just before the 1991 ground war began: "I basically think that Truman made the right decision when he used the bomb on Hiroshima." The US Navy flotilla surrounding Iraq carried more than 700 tactical and strategic nuclear warheads, backed up by 300 land-based nuclear weapons in Turkey. Air Force Brigadier General Glossom, the officer responsible for planning US bombing attacks, proposed that nuclear weapons be used to destroy Iraq's biological weapons. Only the blast's intense heat, he advised, would ensure their complete destruction. Fortunately, at that time, Colin Powell had the sense to veto the idea.

Now, new rules are being formulated which open the door even wider to potential nuclear use in Iraq. The Pentagon's recent Nuclear Posture Review formalized US policy of targeting for nuclear attack non-nuclear states which are suspected of having chemical or biological weapons. The Presidential Policy Directive, approved by Clinton in November 1997, makes possible "first use" of nuclear weapons in the case of use of chemical or biological weapons.

Threatening the use of nuclear weapons has been declared illegal by the International Court of Justice. At a time when nuclear abolition has been embraced publicly and emphatically by 117 world leaders, as announced at a February 2 press conference, our nation is seriously out of step with the best thinking of our time.

**Join us at 7:30 on March 3 at May Memorial for presentations, video footage, and action plans on the Iraq crisis and its connection with nuclear abolition. Please be there. Your voice is needed!**

— Diane Swords

## SAMN Update cont. from page 17

The documentary film will demonstrate that citizens, just like them, have gotten involved in the past helping to shape our society, and now, continue to expand and improve these gains. It will also emphasize that at numerous times in the last sixty years, people pushed for and achieved the right to unionize - consequently winning the benefits of shorter work days, better pay and paid vacations; expansion of civil rights for minorities and women; increase of freedom of speech and association; implementation of stricter environmental laws; and many of the other freedoms, benefits, opportunities, and civil liberties that we now take for granted. Many of these successes are constantly, sometimes dangerously, challenged so that the struggle to maintain and broaden them is a constant one. All of these messages will be presented in an upbeat and entertaining way through the abundant use of music and historical visual footage - archival photos, film, video, and newspaper headlines - which will bring to life many of the progressive movements since 1930.

Interviews with Pete Seeger will form the backbone of the video. Pete has been a singer and songwriter since 1939. He traveled the country performing with Woody Guthrie and the two formed The Almanac Singers. In the early 1950s his group, The Weavers, had a number of national hit songs. Seeger was blacklisted and cited for Contempt of Congress by the House Committee on Un-American Activities for refusing to testify in 1955. He has used his music and public persona since the 1970s to support Clearwater, an organization working to clean up the Hudson River. He has employed music throughout his life to entertain, educate, and organize people concerning issues of peace and social justice.

The program will be divided into sections focusing on each major movement. The major movements which will be highlighted in the documentary include: unionization campaigns and the sit down strikes of the 1930s; anti-McCarthyism and the struggles for free speech as well as freedom of association and assembly in the 1940s and 1950s; the peace movement during the Vietnam War and after; Civil Rights movement; the women's movement and environmental movement.

Each section will feature an interview with a person who was active in each movement to bring these struggles to life and to put

a face on those involved. These will be ordinary people who did extraordinary things to bring about change, such as: Lois Gibbs, the homemaker from Love Canal, New York who helped organize the fight to expose the disastrous pollution problems in her neighborhood; and Bylye Avery, a community organizer who founded the National Black Women's Health Project (NBWHP) after realizing that most of the African-American women she worked with were in poor health.

SAMN has received a \$50,000 grant from PBS as well as a commitment to air the final program nationally in all U.S. markets. WCNY has agreed to provide an editor, access to editing equipment, and publicity materials - a contribution that amounts to nearly \$20,000. Local individual contributions and a small grant from the New York State Council of the Arts has provided an additional \$15,000 in funds. Another \$9,000 will be provided in-kind from various local organizations. SAMN still needs to raise \$25,000 to cover its budget. The production is scheduled to be completed by November of 1998.

Anyone who wishes to become involved in the project, contribute his or her time or make a donation, please contact Tim Brahmacki at 425-8806.

*- SAMN is a not-for-profit corporation that produces and distributes documentaries and educational programs that examine a variety of social problems. SAMN endeavors to enable people to work for social change and social justice through the illumination of the structural causes of social problems.*

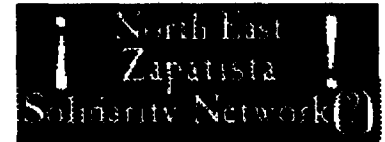


## COMMUNITY SEDER

"Again a Time to Gather" will be held on **Friday, April 17th**, beginning at **6pm**. The seder is being organized by a group of Syracuse area people from the now defunct New Jewish Agenda.

There will be both vegetarian and non-vegetarian food available. The location is yet to be determined. Space will be limited, so we suggest you make your reservations as soon as possible.

For reservations and if you are interested in helping organize the seder call Joan at 673-1083 or Susie at 638-1993.



A new network is forming in the NE US and Eastern Canada to establish an association of activists and organizations in solidarity with the Zapatistas of Southern Mexico. We will work not only in support of them but as an extension of them and their struggle in our own communities. Local Contact: Brian Dominick 423-4783, email zapnet@rootmedia.org  
<http://www.zapnet.rootmedia.org>

## Media Action Group

### Community Media Action Group

The Community Media Action Group of Syracuse, formed officially last fall is moving along. We have plenty of room for fresh ideas and voices; there's more work than the current members are able to handle. Our initial ideas for future projects include the opening of an infoshop space, training community members and organizations in making their own media, establishment of a free school program for sharing skills and knowledge, plus several small projects like press release and mass mailing services to help community groups conduct outreach.

Most of our progress thus far has been made on the internet. The CMAG is currently hosting web sites for several local people and institutions, including Critical Mess Media, Syracuse Community Radio and The Socialist Forum, with space for plenty more. We provide free email accounts and web page hosting for Central New Yorker's with Internet access. Within the year we will be helping to get the Syracuse community on-line by providing computers and low-cost accounts. Please look us up at <http://www.rootmedia.org> or write [mag@rootmedia.org](mailto:mag@rootmedia.org).

We are a collective. People with all levels of media experience are encouraged to attend our next meeting, Saturday, March 7, 3PM, at 205 Bassett St. Call Brian or Adrienne at 423-4783 for directions or more info.



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Syracuse Real Food Co-op .....	472-1385	Syracuse Cultural Workers .....	474-1132
Syracuse Peace Council .....	472-5478	Peace Action of CNY .....	478-7442
Jowonio School .....	479-7744	Open Hand Theater .....	476-0466
Women's INFO Center .....	478-4636	Syracuse Community Choir .....	428-8724
Wellspring (Syr Center for Self Healing) .....	475-7230	Common Works .....	475-4822
Eastside Neighbors in Partnership (ENIP) ....	428-2480	Syracuse Community Radio .....	478-5215

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



**1**  
Chippas Teach In: 3 days to educate yourselves about the Mexican conflict. Events are still being firming up. Call SPC (472-5478) or Peace Action (478-7442) for details.

**2**  
Chippas Teach In: speaker Nancy Gwinn from School of the Americas Watch & songwriter Jolie Rickman, Byrd Library, Room 1916, SU, 7-9pm.  
People Against the Death Penalty meeting, Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.

**3**  
Chippas Teach In: speaker David Sosa, a Mayan professor from Cortland College. Byrd Library, Room 1916, SU, 7-9pm.  
Coalition for the Common Good meeting, 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.  
Peace Action monthly program. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.

**4**  
Chippas Teach In: Mark Rupert, SU professor speaking on how the Chippas situation fits into the larger context of world globalization & corporate dominance. Westcott Community Center. 7pm.  
**1st THREE WEDNESDAYS:**  
Peace Newsletter editorial meeting, 924 Burnet Av. 5:30pm. 472-5478.

**5**  
Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 5:30pm. 478-8228.  
Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting, Brady Faith Center, South Av. 7pm. 478-7475.  
Red Branch Irish Americans for Peace & Justice meets at Coleman's Pub. 7pm. 475-0345.

**6**  
"USA Militarism, Iraq & the Iraqi People" discussion & analysis at monthly Socialist Forum. Speaker: Horace Campbell, SU Professor of Political Science & African-American Studies. Westcott Community Center. 7-9pm. 475-2385. Free.  
Women's Friday Night Coffeehouses. Women's NFO Center, 601 Allen St. 7:30-9:30pm. Free. 428-1253.

**7**  
Community Media Action Group meeting. 3pm. Call Peace Council for place (472-5478).  
Colleen Kartau & Barb Schloess in an evening of Nueva Cancion & original progressive folk music. The Cafe, Araba Taylor Hall, Cornell Univ. 8pm. \$5. Benefitor for CUSLAR. (607) 255-7283.

**8**  
EVERY MONDAY: "Radiovision" on Adelphi Cable Ch. 3 at 9pm. Presented by Syracuse Community Radio.  
Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 478-7475.

**9**  
Justice for Jonny Gammage vigil, God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 7:30pm.  
Reconciliation: Forum on Drug Policy meeting, 208 Onondaga Av. 7:30pm. 422-8237.

**10**  
EVERY THURSDAY: Student Environmental Action Coalition meeting. Room 306, HBC Bldg, SU. 6:30pm.  
1st & 3rd THURSDAYS: Gay & Lesbian Alliance meeting. Enable, 1803 Court St. 7:30pm. 472-5732.  
EVERY THURSDAY: Lesbian & Gay Youth Support group (ages 14-21). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. Call for time 422-8741.

**11**  
HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS support). Living Room, 328 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.  
Caribbean/Latin America Coalition working potluck at Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St. 6-7:30pm. 478-4571.  
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.

**12**  
Justice for Jonny Gammage vigil, God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 7:30pm.  
Reconciliation: Forum on Drug Policy meeting, 208 Onondaga Av. 7:30pm. 422-8237.

**13**  
Equality Circle Workshop at Unity House, South St., Auburn. 12:30-4:30pm. Participants discover what racism is and how it works. Pre-register by calling 252-4983.  
EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7pm. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 492-8035.

**14**  
EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time Warner Cable channel 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

**15**  
Cove-Mallard Road Show, a lively travelling presentation of music, speech and various media on the controversial logging operations in Idaho. Hall of Languages, Room 500, SU. 7pm.  
EVERY SUNDAY: 61 Percent. Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.

**16**  
People for Animal Rights bus-ness mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.  
Syracuse United Neighbors/Westside meeting, Anna Mae Williams Community Center, 228 Shannard St. 7:30pm. 478-7475.  
Syracuse Community Radio general meeting. Call for time & place. 446-4789.

**17**  
Coalition for the Common Good meeting, 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.  
Syracuse Real Food Co-op council meeting. 312 Roosevelt Av. Syracuse. Call 472-1385 for time.

**18**  
NAACP general mtg. 7pm. NAACP Office, 1125 S. State St. 422-8633.

**19**  
EVERY THURSDAY: Student Environmental Action Coalition meeting. Room 306, HBC Bldg, SU. 6:30pm.  
1st & 3rd THURSDAYS: Gay & Lesbian Alliance meeting. Enable, 1803 Court St. 7:30pm. 472-5732.  
EVERY THURSDAY: Lesbian & Gay Youth Support group (ages 14-21). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. Call for time 422-8741.

**20**  
March 20-22: Socialist Scholars Conference. "A World to Win: From the Manifesto to New Organizing for Socialist Change." New York City. Join 2,000 people. 100 panels, speakers & participants from many countries and organizations. Info: (212) 642-2828.

**21**  
Seminar for Peace & Justice led by the families of April Gregory & Jonny Gammage. Lincoln Middle School, 1613 James St., Syracuse. Donation \$15. Call the Peace Council for time (472-5478).

**22**  
EVERY SUNDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 11:30am. Adelphi Cable channel 13. Produced by People for Animal Rights.  
EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes. Adelphi Cable Ch. 3, 8pm. Produced by Peace Council.

**23**  
EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.  
Annual meeting of Syracuse Federal Cooperative Credit Union at Westcott Community Center. 3-5pm.

**24**  
Violence in the Workplace Conference. Marley Education Center, Living & Waverly Avenues. 8:30am-4pm. Call Vera House to register.  
40 hour fast begins to commemorate El Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero. Join us for a service calling for collective bargaining rights for New York farm workers. Sponsored by Labor Religious Coalition. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee. 7:30-9pm. 471-4853.

**25**  
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 Av. 5:30 pm. \$0-\$15 donation. 471-8853.  
Women of Courage Awards Dinner at Hotel Syracuse, 10th Floor. Honoring Gretchen Francis, Lisa Mc Chesney & Jacqueline Wright. 6pm. 448-8620 for tickets.  
Latin American Film Series: "Julio & His Anger" (Mexico). Urs Hall Auditorium, Cornell Univ. Sponsored by CUSLAR/LASP. 8pm. Free. (607) 255-7283.

**26**  
Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, downtown Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cymd 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 Meeting Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Av. 5-7pm. Free Food!

**27**  
EVERY FRIDAY: Gay & Lesbian Young Adult meeting (ages 21-25). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 422-8741 for time.

**28**  
Irish Northern Aid meeting. Call Patrick Smith for time & place. 469-8948.

**29**  
EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.  
Annual meeting of Syracuse Federal Cooperative Credit Union at Westcott Community Center. 3-5pm.

**30**  
EVERY MONDAY: HIV- Issues Group meeting. 6:30-8pm. Sponsored by AIDS Community Resources. Call Bob for place. 475-2430.

**31**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings** Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 9pm. \$2.

**EVERY WEDNESDAY: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478.**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478.**

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# Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker

Nick Orth

**F**RIENDS OF DOROTHY Catholic Worker offer support to people with HIV/AIDS in the following ways:

- **Hospice care** in our home, for one person (at a time) who is in the final stages of AIDS
- **Hospitality** to two other people (at a time) who are HIV+ and in need of a place to stay
- **Food & household supplies** to families and individuals living with AIDS (and others)
- **Once a month suppers at the Oxford Inn** (a local night shelter for men)
- **Once a month Community Dinners** at St. Vincent Parish Center (see schedule)



It is our philosophy to develop relationships with people with AIDS and their families. We then offer support, within the limits of our ability, in ways which reflect the individual needs of people. At any given time our focus changes from hospice care to support for surviving family members, to longer term hospitality to some time for ourselves.

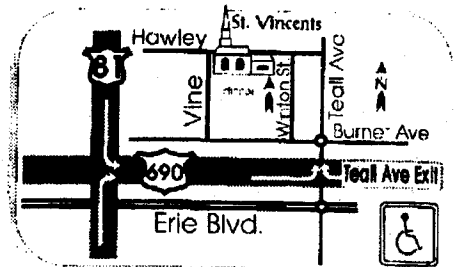
We depend on the local community for support. We are not an agency and do not receive any governmental funding or grants.

Please come see us at our community dinners.  
For more info call Michael or Nick at 471-6853.

**Friends of Dorothy Dinners**  
Spring 1998 Calendar

Wednesday evenings 5:30 - 7 pm  
@ St. Vincent De Paul Parish Center  
on Winton Street  
(off Burnet between Teall & S. Beech)

**Mar 25   Apr 29   May 27   Jun 24**  
Jul & Aug No Dinner (Make do)  
**Sep 30   Oct 28   Nov 18**



## Syracuse Peace Council

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# Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice April 1998 PNL 666



Disposable consequences? Karen K 98

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

### SPC Staff Collective

Tim Judson  
Beth Mosley

**SPC Press**  
Paul Pearce

### Bookkeeper

Duane Hardy

### SPC Council:

Paul Frazier, Rae Kramer,  
Carl Mellor, Andy Molloy,  
Marge Rusk, Ann Tiffany

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

## The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets most Wednesdays at 5:30 PM at the Peace Council. Call SPC to confirm the time.

**Editorial & Production:** Karen Hall, Bill Hamler, Tim Judson, Brian McCord, Joy Meeker, Andy Molloy, Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce, Steve Penn, Alyson Ryan, Valerie Singer

**Graphics Coordinator:** Anita Welych  
**Cover Coordinator:** Karen Kerney

## SPC Projects: 472-5478

- SPC-TV — Paul Pearce
- Plowshares Craftsfair
- Fair Trial for Mumia Committee

## Other Volunteers

Sonali Sathaye, Chuck Durand, Mardea Warner, Amy Bartell, Vanessa Johnson, Ed Kinane, Aggie Lane, Joan Goldberg, Ruth Putter, Margaret Birtleough, Kathy Barry, Brian Caufield, Fredrick Noyes, Jolie Rickman, Bill Mazza, Lance Hogan, Bill Hamler, Sylvia Burgess, Daniel Bowers, Carol Baum, Chris Spies-Rusk, Susan Adair, Nick Orth, Michael DeSalvo

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Paul Frazier

## Statement of Purpose

The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC), founded in 1956, 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

<b>Abolish the Blocade of Cuba</b>	<b>Peace Brigades International</b>
Doug Igelsrud 471-5749	Ed Kinane 478-4571
<b>ACLU-CNY Chapter</b>	<b>P.E.A.C.E., Inc.</b>
Barrie Gewanter 471-2821	Louis Clark 470-3300
<b>Alliance-Psychiatric System</b>	<b>People Against the Death Penalty</b>
<b>Survivors</b>	637-3344
George Ebert 475-4120	<b>People for Animal Rights</b>
<b>Alternatives to Violence Project</b>	488-PURR (7877)
Jay Liestee 499-0845	<b>Physicians for Social</b>
<b>American Friends Service</b>	<b>Responsibility</b> 488-2140
<b>Committee</b> 475-4822	<b>Planned Parenthood</b> 475-5525
<b>Animal Defense League</b> 479-9105	<b>PWHIV/ AIDS Support Hotline</b>
<b>ARISE</b> 472-3171	Sandra 471-5911
<b>Atlantic States Legal Foundation</b>	<b>Reconsider</b>
475-1170	Nick or Alex Eyle 422-6231
<b>Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition</b>	<b>Religion: Other</b>
Shirley Novak 446-6099	Phoenix or Kat 474-8801
<b>Citizens Against Radioactive</b>	<b>Rose Center</b>
<b>Dumping</b> (607) 753-6271	Teri Cameron 422-3426
<b>Citizen Review Board</b>	<b>Sarah House</b> 475-1747
Felicia Davis 448-8750	<b>Save the County</b> 637-6066
<b>CNY Center for Occupational</b>	<b>SEEDS</b> (607) 749-2818
<b>Health and Safety</b> 471-6187	<b>Service Employees International</b>
<b>CNY Environment</b>	Robert Tompkins 424-1750
Lee Gechas 446-5319	<b>Sierra Club</b>
<b>CNY N.O.W.</b> 487-3188	Sue Carlson 445-1663
<b>CUSLAR</b> (607) 255-7293	<b>Small Claims Court Action</b>
<b>Dunbar Center</b>	<b>Center</b> 443-1401
Merriete Pollard 476-4269	<b>S.O.A. Watch/ CNY</b>
<b>EON/Transgender Community</b>	Ed Kinane 478-4571
Melissa 423-4099	<b>Social Workers for Peace</b>
<b>Fair Housing Council of CNY</b>	Dick Mundy 445-0797
Memilee Witherell 471-0518	<b>Socialist Party</b>
<b>Fair Trial for Mumia Committee</b>	Ron Ehrenreich 478-0793
472-5478	<b>Spanish Action League</b> 471-3762
<b>Fightback! of CNY</b> 422-0555	<b>SU African-American Society</b>
<b>Food Bank of CNY</b> 437-1899	443-4633
<b>Friends of the Filipino People</b>	<b>Student Environmental Action</b>
John Brulé 445-0698	<b>Coalition</b>
<b>Gay/Lesbian Alliance</b> 422-5732	Michelle Baumfleck 423-8000
<b>Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student</b>	<b>Syr. Alternative Media Network</b>
<b>Assoc. (SU)</b> 443-3599	Tim Brachocki 425-8806
<b>Haiti Solidarity</b>	<b>Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society</b>
Ann Tiffany 478-4571	<b>SAVES/Joe Connolly</b> 437-2163
<b>Hemlock Society</b>	<b>Syracuse Community Choir</b>
Betty Bentley 463-0782	Karen Mihalyi 428-8724
<b>Hotel Employees 150</b> 437-0373	<b>Syracuse Community Radio</b>
<b>Irish Northern Aid</b>	Frederic Noyes 446-4769
Patrick Smith 469-8948	<b>Syracuse Cooperative Federal</b>
<b>Jail Ministry</b> 424-1877	<b>Credit Union</b> 471-1116
<b>Kenark Center for Creative</b>	<b>Syracuse Cultural Workers</b>
<b>Spirituality</b>	Dik Cool 474-1132
Bourke Kennedy 685-5414	<b>Syracuse N.O.W.</b> 472-3294
<b>Lesbian/Gay Youth</b> 443-3599	<b>Syr. Real Food Coop</b> 472-1385
<b>NAACP</b>	<b>Syr. Social Movement Initiative</b>
Van Robinson 422-6933	Pramod Parajuli 443-4822
<b>Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.</b>	<b>Syracuse United Neighbors</b>
Ammie Chickering 365-2299	Rich Puchalski 476-7475
<b>New Environment Association</b>	<b>S.U. for Animal Rights</b> 443-4199
Harry Schwarzlander 446-8009	<b>Urban League</b>
<b>NYPIRG</b> 476-8381	Eloise Dowdell Curry 472-6955
<b>Onondaga Audobon</b> 457-7731	<b>Utica Community Action</b>
<b>Onon. Women's Political Caucus</b>	John Furman 797-7020
Peggy Murray 475-7671	<b>Witness for Peace Delegations</b>
<b>Open Hand Theatre</b>	Nancy Gwin 422-4689
Geoff Navias 476-0466	<b>Women's Center (SU)</b> 443-4268
<b>Pax Christi</b>	<b>Women's Health Outreach</b>
Frank Woolever 446-1693	425-3653
<b>Peace Action of CNY</b>	<b>Women's INFO Center</b> 478-4636
Diane Swords 478-7442	

(If you want your group listed, please call)

## In This Issue:

No theme in this issue #666. After 9 months on the *PNL*, there seems to be something metaphysical in that fact. Something uncannily chaotic. We don't plan themes, yet one has always emerged, some thread running through the articles. ... Last Halloween, a friend of mine was a dapper Satan and handed out business cards with a slogan: "*The universe, a brief parenthesis in chaos.*" ... There are more things **not-in** this issue than **in** this issue. Themes let us feel OK about that — but they're fake. Even if "It's all about killing Indians," Chiapas ≠ Onondaga ≠ SOA. Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation ≠ War Tax Resistance. What do global warming and living with HIV have to do with each other? ... Amidst all the chaos, we still have to choose. Our choices are more eloquent than our best words. In this issue are choices. What do they say? — *Tim Judson*

*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.

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### **May Issue Deadlines**

Articles	Apr 17
Ads	Apr 24
Calendar Items	Apr 24

# PEACE NEWSLETTER

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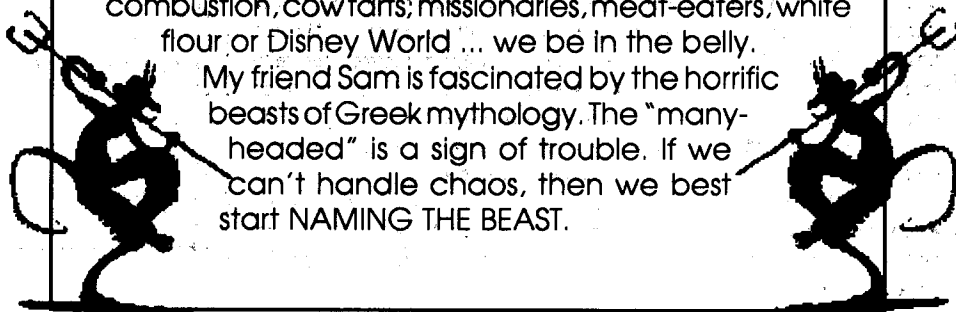


To our friends & loved ones recently incarcerated - our thoughts & actions are with you. We carry your absence with us, we see your marks in all we do. We know the worth of life and work together.  
Can't wait till you're home.

### About the cover by Karen Kerney

In brainstorming this April cover, the 666-ness of the issue seemed relevant. ... The Sign of the Beast ... (the Book of Revelations in the Bible or the movie The Omen were off-cited references to this knowledge.) ... be it Satan, evil, violence, war; floods, tornadoes, ice-storms; corporate multi-nationals, consumption, combustion, cow farts; missionaries, meat-eaters, white flour or Disney World ... we be in the belly.

My friend Sam is fascinated by the horrific beasts of Greek mythology. The "many-headed" is a sign of trouble. If we can't handle chaos, then we best start NAMING THE BEAST.



# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGES

## Changes and Continuities, SPC Then and Now.

Valerie Singer

As part of our mission to "educate, agitate, and organize", I want to call your attention to an article that appeared in the most recent issue of the academic journal *Peace & Change* (Jan 1998, vol 23 #1). The article, by former SPC staffer Allen Smith, is entitled *The Peace Movement at the Local Level: The Syracuse Peace Council 1936 1973*.

In tracing the first 37 years of SPC'S history, Smith reveals many of the ups and downs of our organizational strength. Reading about SPC's roller coaster existence was even somewhat comforting. It means we have learned to grab opportunities in good times and hang on in bad. We have remained steady as a group in only one way: our basic ideological stance.

This leads me to Smith's most interesting theoretical point; we should not con-

fuse ideology with strategy. Smith shows how SPC's strategies of activism changed a great deal from 1960-1973. He notes, for example, that we did not hold our first self-declared "protest" until December 19, 1964. We were learning the benefits of nonviolent activism from SPC members with experience in both the Gandhian movement for Indian liberation and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). From '64 forward SPC's strategies for working for peace and justice focused increasingly on nonviolent direct action, and the building of local community.

One of the interesting eye-openers in this article for me was the intensity of our early relationship with the Syracuse Friends' Meeting and the American Friends Service Committee. It was not coincidence that SPC was founded in January 1936, and the Syracuse Meeting was founded in March 1936 by many of the same people.

Though SPC has always claimed its independence, it received major support from AFSC for many decades. AFSC funded and cosponsored dozens of the conferences, workshops, and lectures that comprised the majority of SPC's activities in the early years. Several Quaker conscientious objectors served their alternative service time as SPC staff interns, again thanks to AFSC support. This support diminished dramatically in the late sixties, when the Peace Council was changing its approach and AFSC decided to open a local office.

From the late fifties through the seventies the Friends in SPC diminished in numbers but radicalized in perspective. There were an increasing number of Jews, Communists, Unitarians, Catholics and others who changed the face of SPC. I wish Smith had talked more about the ideological similarities and differences among these groups and the impact of this change on the organization. \*\*\*\*\*?

The Peace Council has an amazingly rich history, full of many personalities and cycles of change. It has remained true to many difficult issues despite challenges and changes. The faces, the specific focus, and the forum for our peace activism have all shifted repeatedly, and Allan Smith's article sheds interesting

light on these shifts. I appreciate that he has written about us *at all*; too much of the social movement literature focuses on national or international level movements. There is much we can learn about and from local level groups and struggles.

It has been an honor for me to be part of this rich Peace Council history. However, I recently resigned from my position as SPC staff member. I have decided it is time to change my own strategies of activism, though not my ideology of activism. I still have a strong ideological commitment to the Peace Council as an organization, and peace and justice work in general.

I decided to quit because I felt myself approaching major burnout. This partly reflects me and the circumstances of my life, but it also reflects the current circumstances of the Peace Council. We have a tendency to expect too much from staff. SPC is now left with Paul running the press full time, Tim doing PNL production for 20 hours a week, and Beth doing all other staff tasks. I know they are all struggling with burn out also.

I have already shared these thoughts with the Council in my resignation letter. I know, however, that they too struggle with feeling overwhelmed, and like they are already giving all they can. I think we have fallen into a damaging pattern: individuals' Peace Council involvement has increasingly become all or nothing. This needs to change.

SPC needs more people to *become* and *remain* involved at a level that is truly sustainable to them. We need to learn to respect and foster this more. We need to realize that part time staff lead full time lives, mostly away from SPC. We need to learn from our organizational history. We need to think more creatively to solve problems. We need to stop operating in a "crisis" mode and to learn to celebrate our positive moments more fully. We need people who will take on a project without feeling they need to take on the world.

From now on I intend to be one of those people. This is a major tactical change. But I know it is a step forward for me personally. I have learned a great deal in this job and with this organization. I've worked with amazing people on amazing projects. I resigned with feelings of both sadness and relief, and with a resolve to not disappear.

Call SPC for the complete Allen Smith article.

## Peace Newsletter

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for Peace and Social Justice

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# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGES

Dear Val,

When we were evaluating potential new staffers last year, I remember writing about you "We can't not hire her." Others wrote equally positive comments, expecting miracles. Now, your letter of resignation, with two sets of reasons, those about saving yourself from total burnout, as well as ones about keeping SPC out of an untenable situation, has got to be a wakeup call for all of us.

Much as we were bummed to see you leaving staff a couple of months sooner than planned, we can't keep on expecting miracles of staff people. You're perfectly right (This is the wakeup), what the Peace Council "educates, advocates and organizes" about, must take priority over raising money to do it.

You used the word "amazing" in your letter, about work done by and through the Peace Council. I want to mention just one

amazing thing SPC pulled off while you were on staff.

In the January-February 1998 War Resisters League's *Nonviolent Activist* (you've probably been too crazy-busy to have read it) is a centerfold of photos from last late-October's nationwide "Day Without the Pentagon." In one photo is Sir Pentagon, looking extremely cross because Allan Nairn has just objected to his marrying Miss Newhouse and Miss Maxwell and, in the background, you, Val, one of the main strategists for this Syracuse action. The *Nonviolent Activist*, in its accompanying article, calls this "perhaps the day's most colorful event (of) more than four dozen...coast to coast." There's *amazing* for you.

Val, we'll miss your being on SPC's staff, but we look forward to seeing you as a fellow volunteer, until Brazil!

*Peace and love,  
Marge Rusk, SPC Council*

## NIX-NI-MOX

On March 16, SPC joined a worldwide demonstration opposing the use of multi-oxide (MOX) reprocessed fuel for nuclear power. At Nimo headquarters in Syracuse, we also demanded that Niagara Mohawk withdraw from the Department of Defense

tritium production program. Tritium is used in the production of nuclear weapons. This partnership make a mockery of the notion of "peaceful nuclear power". SPC is hosting a teach in on **April 7 from 7-9pm**. Simon Morrin and Debbie Katz from Citizen Awareness Network, MA, will help develop strategies based on work in other locations.



## A Thank You from the Family of Josiah Levitan-Reiner

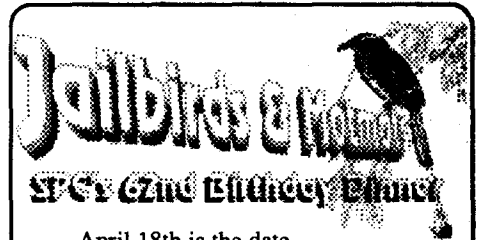
the touching reminiscences, for the songs and pictures and poetry, for the gestures of understanding and other acts of kindness that are helping us to cope with this tragedy and our tremendous sadness.

We also greatly appreciate the memorials that have been created or planned in Josiah's honor and memory; the beautiful bushes and trees, the bird feeder, the stone bench and markers, the video equipment and special fund at the Alternative Community School in Ithaca, the health clinic constructed in Honduras by Shoestrings and Grace, and the farm education program at the Sheldrake Point Vineyard and Winery where Josiah was a working partner. Thank you for these and other contributions towards keeping Josiah's memory and spirit alive.

*Lois, Martha, Erwin, Regina, Marisa, Antonia*

It has been just about six months since the automobile accident that took the life of our beloved Josiah, as he drove to work on September 18, 1997. Our hearts will always ache with this loss, but our pain has been soothed by the ever presence of Josiah's spirit and sweet smile, and by the wonderful support of the community.

We are deeply grateful for the compassion and thoughtfulness that have been shown to us, for the food and flowers, for



April 18th is the date  
South Pres is the place  
Good food for your plate  
Will put a smile on your face

Join us for an evening of good friends, food, and music. There will be personal reflections on Chiapas and the School of the Americas, followed by songs and our first annual mathom mini-auction. (You need to be there to find out what this is.)

Here's the scoop:

- Saturday, April 18, 1998
- South Presbyterian Church -  
S. Salina and Colvin Streets
- 5:30 **munch**, mingle and view the mathom
- 6:00 **dinner** - Central American cuisine (and birthday cake!) prepared by Nick Orth
- 7:00 **updates** on Chiapas and SOA
- special guests Gail and Peter Mott, Ed Kinane, Kathleen Rumpf
- music - songs with Jolie Rickman and Colleen Kateau
- 1st annual mathom mini-auction
- Sliding scale - \$0 - 62
- Childcare 7-9pm

Hope to see you soon

To share the evening's fun

Have some cake, sing a tune

For soon the party's done...

(til we meet again)

*Rae Kramer*

## Taxes Iraq & SOA

**April 15 • Noon • Columbus Circle**  
Demonstrate your disgust with your taxes & funding the war machine focus on:  
**Close the School of Americas  
Sanctionas against IRAQ**



# Going Upstream

## Kathleen Rumpf Talks to the Jury



**O**N MARCH 4 a federal jury in Columbus, GA declared five human rights activists guilty of "maliciously" destroying government property, a felony. The five included Kathleen Rumpf and Ed Kinane of Syracuse, as well as three others from around the country. The charges stem from their Sept. 29, 1997 re-writing of the sign at the main gate of Fort Benning in Georgia, home of the US Army's School of the Americas.

When their pre-sentencing investigations have been completed, the five must return to Columbus for sentencing. At their trial Ed and Kathleen represented themselves. Here is Kathleen's closing statement to the jury.

— Ed Kinane

GOOD MORNING citizens. Finally, I can talk to you. I can look you in your eyes as I give closing arguments. I want to thank you, from all of us: Ed, Bix, Mary, Marge. We thank you for your time here. Your presence in the courtroom has been a gift. You've been attentive and respectful. No matter what the outcome, I am grateful for our time here with one another.

As much as I have appreciated having this time together I would rather not be here. I feel the burden of the task at hand and know that I am not capable of telling you everything in my heart. What can I say that will make a difference here? Will being here close the School of the Americas? Probably not! Have I tried every conceivable way I know to work and close this school? You bet ya! A person can only humanly do so much.

I went to Ft. Benning on September 29 not because I wanted to, I had to. When I look at this picture [see accompanying photo] it takes me back to that morning. Did I intend to do damage? Certainly not!

What I did was an act of love. With every letter I pried off, with the carefully planted crosses, with the laying of the flowers, with the painting of the sign. All of it I did with love.

I went to Ft. Benning because I wanted to cry out, cry for, grieve. But, I also wanted to make visible the reality of what goes on beyond our line of vision.

When I questioned the prosecution witness, Investigator Schilling, who was responsible for interviewing me after my arrest on September 29, I asked him if he had seen the small pottery piece I had brought back with me from the mass graves in Panama one year after we invaded and bombed Panama. Investigator Schilling acknowledged that he had remembered the pottery container but that he had no idea where that pottery piece went. That it was missing, disappeared.

When Investigator Schilling stated that the pottery piece was missing, I was struck with how appropriate that was. Appropriate

swallowing up the dead as if they never existed. I will not give up my right or my responsibility. I will accept the consequences of my actions. I wouldn't want otherwise. Our Constitution protects our freedoms and our first amendment right to petition the Government. It is in that spirit and my responsibility to do what I did.

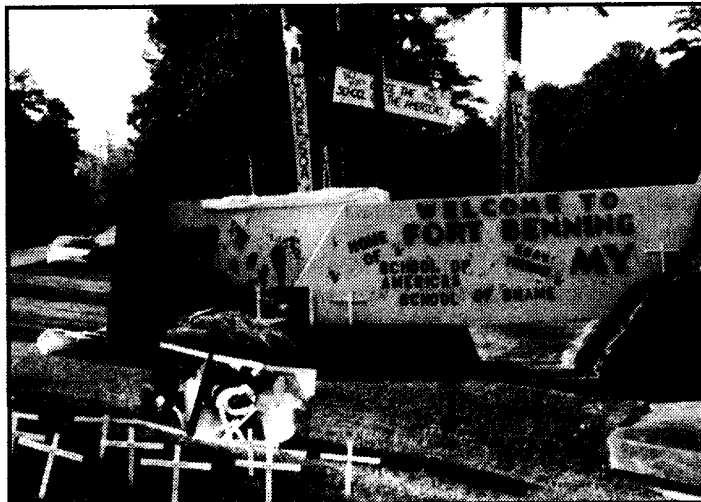
I can appreciate how difficult it is for the typical person to understand our actions. I didn't just wake up one morning and decide to go to Ft. Benning. Believe me when I say how much I didn't want to go to Ft. Benning. Often times I tell a parable to try to communicate why people like myself would take the risks we did that morning. This parable is about a small village, not in any particular country; it could be right here in Columbus:

Everyday in this village the women would gather at the river to wash their clothes on the rocks. One day, the women saw a baby floating down the river. With great alarm they jumped in to save the child. The next day while again at the river the women saw more babies and again they jumped in to rescue them. Every day afterwards more and more children were in the river and the women would rescue as many as they possibly could. One day, as the women jumped again into the river, one woman remained on the shore and started walking up stream. Those in the water called out to her.

"Where are you going?" "Come back! We've got to save the children." "We need you, come on...." The woman walking upstream stopped, turned around, and said; "I'm going upstream to find the bastard who's throwing them in!"

The United States Army's School of the Americas at Ft. Benning is upstream. That is why I went to Ft. Benning on September 29, 1997. I disfigured that wall in the hope that by doing so not one more human being would be disfigured by torture and unspeakable horror. Better to disfigure a wall than a human life!

In addition to their anti-SOA work, Kathleen and Ed are long-time Syracuse area activists and SPC supporters. For an update on other CNYers headed to prison and jail support info, see the SOA Watch update on p. 19.



The photo of the altered sign used in the trial.

because thousands and thousands have been disappeared by graduates of the United States School of the Americas.

I was also vividly taken back at another point during the trial while examining evidence. When assistant prosecutor Capt. Smawley put on a plastic glove while pulling out of the box the letters we pried off the sign, he kindly said to me, "Be careful, I don't want you to get your hands dirty." The truth is our hands are dirty and no amount of washing will remove our shame until we have closed that school down.

Was what we did good or evil? I committed the truth; it is my right as a citizen of this country to speak and act. Especially when those at the top trample on the helpless, making a living hell for those on the bottom and



# Re-Affirming Sovereignty on the Onondaga Nation



Wendy Gonyea

**O**n March 2nd the Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs, Clan Mothers, Faithkeepers, and people flexed an ancient arm and closed four illegal businesses that were operating on Nation territory, openly defiant of the laws of the Onondaga Nation since November 1977. The action was swift and complete that day, hardly indicative of the long hours of discussion that transpired as the people searched for a way to resolve the situation peacefully. Attempts were made to talk with the owners of the businesses to have them close the stores on their own, as they had opened them. Advice was sought, legal, ethical and spiritual. The general consensus was that these illegal businesses were blatant intrusions on the traditional governance. The general public, unaware and confused about events regarding business on the Nation, seemed only to care about the product, cigarettes, and where to buy them most cheaply and quickly regardless of whether or not the business was legitimate.

For the reader who may be unaware, the Onondaga people maintain a form of government passed down orally through the generations. Our unique government has functioned pre and post European contact, throughout colonial times, manifest destiny and world wars, and continues to operate on the Onondaga Nation territory to this day. Specific laws and protocol are followed in the decision-making process at Onondaga. There are no amendments, no juries, no courts, no jails. There is a Council of Chiefs, a language, a system of clans, clan leaders, and the people. Not only does the leadership carry on day to day business and represent the Nation to other governments, they carry on spiritual duties as well.

In February, the people gathered in our Longhouse for our Mid Winter Ceremonies. When the sacred time of renewal begins, everything else stops. There are no meetings, no socials, and for most days, no school on the Nation. Specific days are set for repentance, for children, for food and games, to note only some of what takes place. Each day our

creator is thanked in special ways for all the gifts surrounding us. This year Mid Winter ceremonies were attended by hundreds of community members, some coming from far away. There are no words to describe the feeling of well-being when the people dance in communal Thanksgiving for all the goodness and love of humanity.

The traditions of a spiritual way of life intertwined with our environment are the heart of Onondaga. Generations of our ancestors have worked to preserve our people as Haudenosaunee, The People of the Longhouse.

It is this, our very being, that we are protecting and preserving. There are many who believe, as I do, that our way of life is threatened and in danger of extinction if our generation fails to perpetuate the teachings and continue our ceremonies, thus preparing

last time to bring about peaceful closure. When the talks were met with a continued violation of Onondaga law, the people moved in. With quiet serious purpose the cigarettes were brought out in the open, dumped in the parking lot and burned. The business trailer was bulldozed and caught on fire when it fell into the fire of burning cigarettes. Harsh words flew and tempers flared. Some fighting broke out which was contained before serious injuries occurred. Onondaga County Sheriff's deputies arrived on the scene, apparently called by the business' employees. They quickly assessed the situation, and recognizing the jurisdiction of the Onondaga Nation, they left the area. The public, including reporters with news cameras were prevented from entering the Route 11 area, for the most part in regard for their own safety.

---

*The Onondaga Nation is a truly sovereign territory. It was the people who re-affirmed their determination to keep it that way.*

---

our children to preserve us as people in the future. Our traditional teachings sustain us, they bind us together with an inner strength, and continually guide us in facing life's challenges. In today's world this is not an easy thing to do.

And so, when a mockery is made of our government, when Chiefs and Clan Mothers are shown disrespect and ignored, as they were by the illegal business owners, the time had arrived to come to terms with the growing illegal business activity on our territory.

On the morning of March 2nd the people gathered in our Longhouse and came together as one mind. The people were unified, determined and armed only with the truth.

A large delegation arrived at the trailer set up on the former Smoke Signals site, an illegal business run by children of Kenneth Papineau, a banished former businessman. The shop had been advertised as "A People's Smokeshop", but in fact was set up on land owned by the Onondaga Nation. Again, talks were held. Clan mothers and Chiefs tried one

and fined by the EPA in 1996 for damaging the environment by having a leaking underground storage tank at his gasoline business.

At Oliver Hill's the people were met with armed resistance and threatened with shooting by a worker. Talks again ended with a refusal to close. Two Clan Mothers and a Chief grabbed and wrestled a loaded rifle away from a worker. A Clan Mother twisted and sprained her ankle in the melee. The cigarettes were again destroyed. The building, since it had been a home at one time, was in accordance with traditional law not burned. The building was, however, destroyed with a bulldozer.

The people moved en masse across Route 11 to a third illegal business trailer, run by members of the Robert Bucktooth family. Guns were visible and photographed by members of our delegation, who were documenting the events of the day. Talks went on for a long time. Also present was a representative from

continued on next page

a fourth illegal business, Ramona Thompson Shenandoah, a former participant in the blockade of illegal businesses in 1994-95, supporting the Onondaga Council. Fighting broke out and two people were injured. The business trailer was bulldozed. The cigarettes had been moved by the business owners before the delegation arrived at the trailer.

The fourth stop was at the Shenandoah business. No business workers were present. Family members of the business talked with Clan Mothers and Chiefs. A Clan decision was carried out, to bulldoze the fourth illegal business.

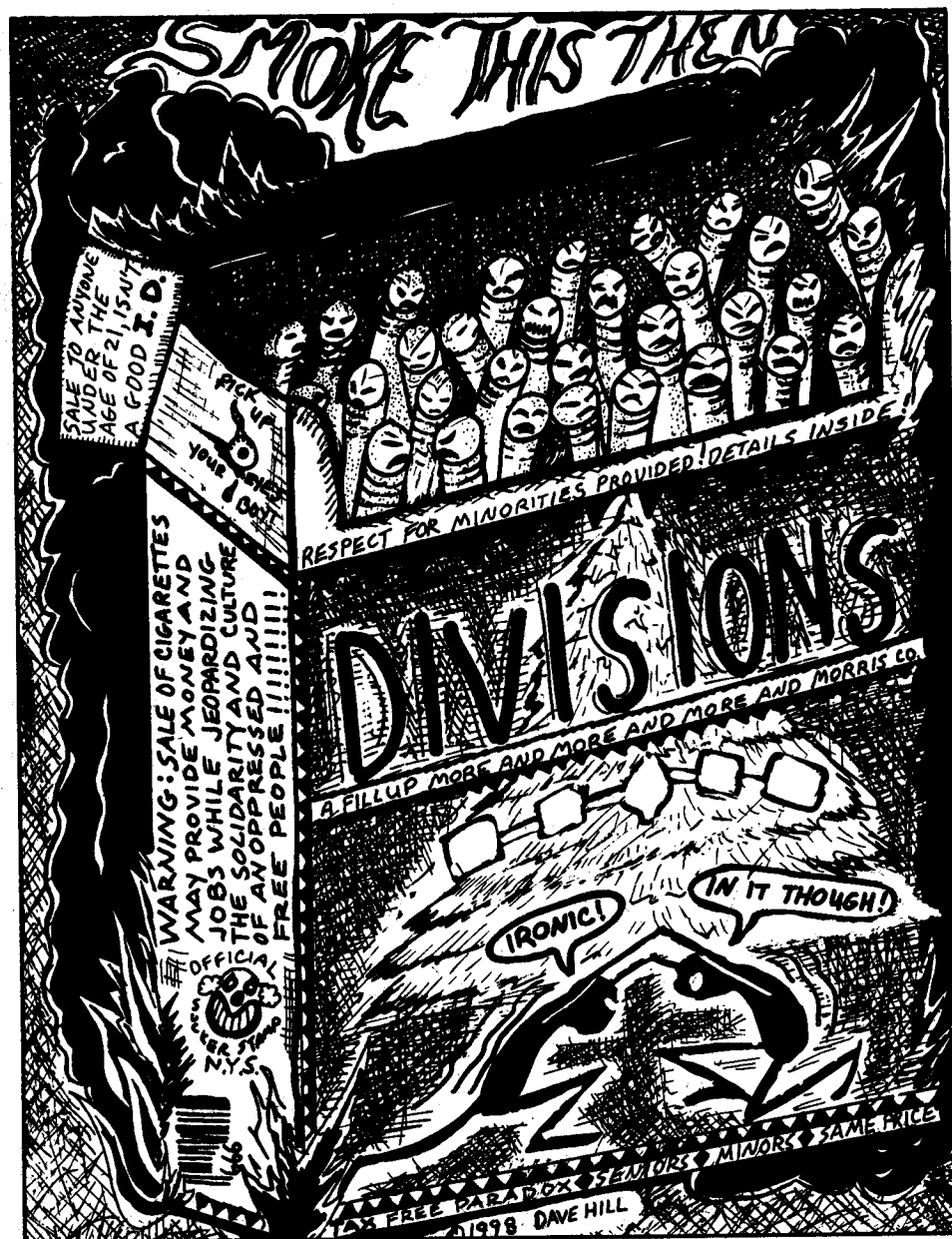
And so the closure of the illegal businesses was done. The businesses were purposefully destroyed to the extent that they couldn't be reopened in the future. Subsequent days would see Onondaga Nation workers clearing and hauling away the rubble of the businesses.

Freem's, the only legal business operating on Nation Territory voluntarily closed its doors on March 2nd. Threats were made by the illegal business owners and some workers to destroy Freem's and the front glass door was broken before a security watch was in place. At this time there are no cigarette shops open on the Onondaga Nation. Plans are being made to re-open Freem's as a Nation-owned business in the near future.

The disregard and violence of the illegal business owners was shown in other ways as well.

Threats were made and carried out to destroy the fence surrounding the Nation's buffalo herd on the southwestern corner of our territory. Nation workers immediately responded by erecting a new fence and finding an alternate water source for the herd, the original source having been tampered with by the illegal business owners. Threats were also made to burn homes of Onondaga Nation leaders. A Chief returned home on March 5th to find a fire set on his front porch.

The people returned to the Nation's cookhouse on March 2nd with thankfulness that everyone was safe. The closure was difficult, for some painful, but for all who participated it was necessary. The Onondaga Nation affirmed its authority to regulate its territory. Other governments do this every day. Other governments, however, are not like ours. Ours is the only one of its kind. The Onondaga Nation is a truly sovereign terri-



drawing by Dave Hill

tory. It was the people who re-affirmed their determination to keep it that way.

At the end of the week on a sunny warm Saturday, I walked with my children to the top of the hill behind our home. Along our way we saw deer tracks, large and small, squirrel and rabbit tracks, and large prints made by a big bird. We drank from the streams that meander in the valley. My daughter dug some clay from the hillside of a stream valley. As we journey up, there is a place where we stop to rest, and we like to say we are on top of the world. The sun shone brightly, the only sounds those of the wood life. The trees tower straight

up to the sky. The woods are as they have always been. It is here on top of my world that I thank our Creator for all that surrounds us and know in my heart why we must preserve.

Danatoh-

Wendy Gonyea is a former editor of *Gai hwa na ge'* (sadly not currently published) the newsletter of the Onondaga Nation.

A note of appreciation to my typist, reader, and friend, Loretta J. Thomas, 16, a junior at Lafayette High School.

# Update on Chiapas

## Teach-ins Bring the Crisis Home

by Andrew Roth-Wells

*(EDITORS' NOTE: We at the PNL would like to extend our sincere apologies to Andy Roth-Wells. During last month's production we inadvertently confused Andy's article with another article of similar content. The article on Chiapas which appeared in last month's issue was not written or edited by Andy, but was instead written by Diane Swords.)*

As many folks are already aware the relationship of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and their corporate backers who control the Mexican federal government, toward the indigenous Mayan people and campesinos in Chiapas has grown even more oppressive since the massacre on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1997 of 45 Tsotsil Mayan Indians by a PRI paramilitary group. Most recently the bodies of seven Zapatista supporters were found in a deep ravine outside the village from which they were taken in October. They have been missing since this time when a PRI paramilitary group took them from their village. Thousands more Mayan peasants have joined the already overwhelmed refugee settlements in the mountains of Chiapas in which Zapatista supporters and other advocates for indigenous rights and democracy have sought refuge from the federal police, state police, federal army, and PRIista paramilitaries. These PRI military forces have begun occupying many villages, burning down houses, interrogating peasants, and stealing the indigenous people's coffee crops. Some of these paramilitary groups call themselves "Paz y Justicia" (Peace and Justice) and have engaged in the rapes, tortures, and murders of many Zapatista supporters over the past four years since the revolution began. (For more information on what has been happening since January 1, 1994 see *PNL* August, 1997 pp. 11-14.)

What is perhaps most frightening and frustrating about the current situation in Chiapas and Mexico is the apparent breakdown of what democratic ele-

ments did exist in Mexico. The Mexican federal government has consistently stated that the Mexican Federal Army's, the Mexican Federal Security Force's, and the Chiapas State Security Force's continued encroachment on and occupation of indigenous people's land and villages is for the purpose of disarming the paramilitary groups responsible for the, past, and current violence against these same indigenous peoples. Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1998 when this invasion of indigenous lands began these PRI forces have joined with the paramilitary forces in attempting to interrogate, intimidate, and disarm the Zapatistas and any other pro-democracy, pro-indigenous rights villagers.

The Zapatistas did engage in an armed uprising from January 1, 1994 - January 12, 1994, and, while remaining armed, have not

engaged in violence since then. Also, according to the "Law for Dialogue, Reconciliation, and a Just Peace in Chiapas" approved by the Mexican Congress and signed by the President on March 11, 1995, the Zapatistas are the only armed civilian organization allowed to carry firearms as long as they do not use them in an offensive manner. Although there have been at least 44 armed incursions by federal troops since December 22<sup>nd</sup> into 33 Zapatista communities in the highland, north, and jungle areas of Chiapas they have been met with civil resistance by indigenous women and children.

The Zapatistas have made it clear that while they will continue to abide by the "Law for Dialogue" and will not use their weapons in an offensive manner, nor respond violently to the government's provocations, neither will they disarm.

President Zedillo has not only been completely misrepresenting what the federal troops are actually doing in Chiapas, but has also replaced all the key government figures who have been responsible for acting on the government's behalf in dialogue with the Zapatistas. He replaced the Mexican Interior Minister, the Chiapas Governor, and the government's peace negotiator all in response to public outcry to the massacre in Acteal in December. Unfortunately there is no reason to have confidence that these three men are any improvement over the three men they have replaced. The replacement of the Governor of Chiapas means that Chiapas has the fifth unelected governor in the past four years. The new interior minister has made it clear that he denies any

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### North East Zapatista (Solidarity) Network

AND

### Grassroots Activism & Media Forum

P R E S E N T

### A TWO DAY CONFERENCE

APRIL 18-19, 1998

NEZSN, a newly-formed association of activists from E. Canada and the Northeastern US, will be holding it's 1st regional meeting in Syracuse, NY on April 18, 1998. Anyone interested in Zapatista and Mexico-related solidarity, or bringing the lessons of Chiapas home to our communities, is encouraged to attend. Accommodations, meals, child care and entertainment will be provided.



Community Media Action Group of Syracuse is holding a day-long conference on communications and social change. Topics include "Revolution and Counterrevolution on the Internet", community radio, consensus decision making and the Zapatista struggle and strategy. The event begins at 10 AM on Sunday, April 19th. A free meal and child care will be provided.

INFO: 423-4783 or [zapnet@rootmedia.org](mailto:zapnet@rootmedia.org)

**Get These Men Out of the Hot Sun**

In the mid-80's the Nigerian government, under pressure from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, instituted a series of austerity measures designed to strengthen the country's economy. There is growing evidence that these measures, which have been of dubious help to the economy, have been catastrophic for the Nigerian poor.

Prices of basic goods and services have increased drastically, free education and health care now must be paid for, wages are down and unemployment is way up. Government funding for hospitals has been drastically cut. In 1987, the last year for which figures are available, 0.8% of the budget was earmarked for health.

One clear consequence of these measures is that thousands of Nigerian women die during pregnancy and childbirth because they cannot afford hospital and prenatal care. The average cost of prenatal care and a normal childbirth in Nigeria is \$50., excluding the cost of drugs and lab fees. The average Nigerian income is \$260. per year.

Maternal mortality rates in Nigeria are now among the highest in the world. The UN estimates that 1000 women die for every 100,000 live births, with half the deaths due to unsafe and illegal abortions.

Source: UNESCO, People and the Planet, Vol 7, #1

**We Have Our Priorities**

The average American continues to be oblivious to the irony of a conservative federal government noisily advocating "getting government off the backs of the people," while simultaneously endeavoring to lock them up and execute them in record numbers. When it comes to Congressional spending bills these days, the only thing resembling a sacred cow is prison construction.

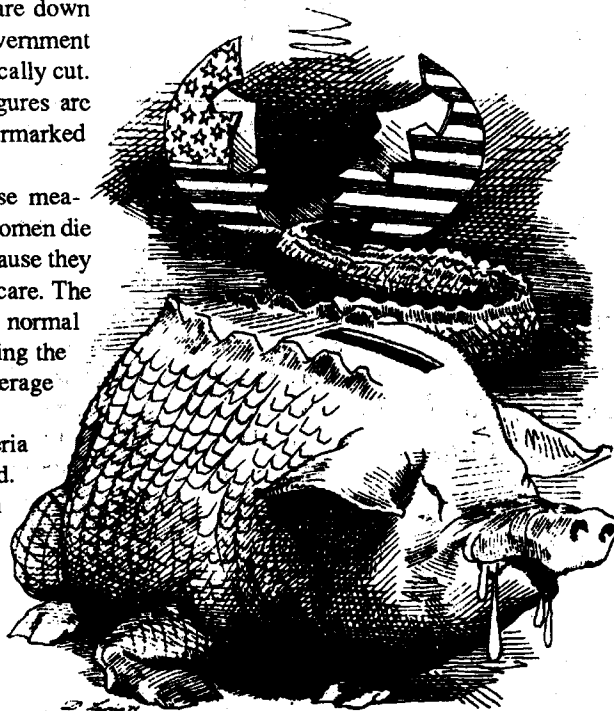
Under the Justice Department's Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-In-Sentencing Programs the federal government distributed \$311 million to states in 1996 alone. These funds are intended for states which imprison violent offenders longer, and for prison expansion and construction. California was the biggest winner with \$59.2 million, New York was the runner-up with \$32.9 million, and Florida followed next with \$29.9

million. It's probably only a coincidence that these states play a pivotal role in national elections.

Source: *The New York Times*

**Book 'em All**

The popular wisdom that the courts place more value on the rights of criminals than those of victims, while quite colorful and attention-getting, dissolves quickly in the presence of facts. According to a federal Bureau of



Justice Statistics survey of a sample of 300 counties considered nationally representative:

- 71% of all felons convicted in state court were sentenced to a term of incarceration
- Of those convicted, 45% went to a state prison, 26% to a local jail, and the rest were put on probation
- Violent offenders were the most likely to be incarcerated (82%).
- In 1994, nearly 1/3 of convicted felons were drug offenders, another third committed property crimes, and violent crimes accounted for approximately 1/5 of all convictions.
- In addition to incarceration, 41% of convicted felons were fined or ordered to get drug treatment, pay restitution to their victim, perform community service, or re-

ceived some additional penalty such as house arrest.

- 51% of convicted felons were white, 48% black, and 1% other races.

Source: "Felony Sentences in the State Courts," US Bureau of Justice Statistics

**Photos at the Post Office**

1997 was a very good year for US corporations. Business Week reported that "The worry is that many companies are taking in cash so fast they can't spend it effectively."

According to Multinational Monitor, a newsletter created by Ralph Nader to round out our view of corporate activity with information you won't find in the mainstream media, there is another side to the good news. In its annual 10 Worst Corporations of the Year listing, MM tells of coup instigators, sweatshop operators, human rights abusers, polluters, and all-around merchants of death. The lowest of the low:

- **AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER:** a coal-dependent energy company which led the way in the (fortunately unsuccessful) campaign against new clean air regulations.
- **TYSON FOODS:** the Arkansas chicken company which funneled illegal gifts to former Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy.
- **SMITHFIELD FOODS OF VIRGINIA:** proud recipient of the biggest-ever Clean Water Act fine for its sloppy operation of hog processing plants.
- **COLUMBIA/HCA:** the managed care giant which charmed Wall Street by cutting costs and staff and maximizing profits. Uncharmed federal officials now charge them with "a systematic corporate scheme" to defraud federal health programs.
- **DECOSTER EGG FARMS:** The Department of Labor fined Decoster \$2 million for violations of health, safety, wage, and hour laws. According to then-Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, "The conditions at this migrant farm site are as dangerous and oppressive as any sweatshop we have seen." Decoster employees worked up to 15 hours a day with no protective equipment, even when handling dead chickens. They were exposed to electrical hazards and inoperable smoke alarms. Overcrowded and unsanitary living conditions rivaled anything found anywhere in the developing world.

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# CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

## Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation

by Suzanne Abrams

**M**urder Victims' Families for Reconciliation (MVFR) is a remarkable group. Its members share a horrendous circumstance: each has lost a family member to murder. But these eloquent survivors' collective message is one of healing, not retribution, and it carries an authority that usually transcends debate. When they speak — and several of them will be speaking at various Syracuse locations and events from Wednesday, April 22 through Sunday, April 26 — people listen.

### WHAT MVFR MEMBERS SAY

"The emotions that family members experience in losing loved ones to violent crime ran the gamut in my family," recalls MVFR member Pat Clark of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. "I had aunts and uncles who wanted to personally wreak havoc and vengeance on the perpetrators. But my grandmother's re-

sponse to the anger and outrage of other family members was that no human being had a right to determine who should live or die.

"My grandmother was a strong, quiet, deeply religious Black matriarch," Pat continues thoughtfully. "Her faith and ultimate belief in people was memorably displayed when the son of the woman who killed my uncle came to her house to play with my cousins. To the shock and horror of other family members, my grandmother welcomed him in. Her loving example helped lay the foundation of my opposition to capital punishment."

Other MVFR members make equally powerful statements. Bud Welch's 23-year-old daughter Julie-Marie was killed in the Oklahoma City bombing. This loving father says, "... To me the death penalty is vengeance, and vengeance doesn't really help anyone in the healing process. Of course, our first reaction is to strike back. But if we permit ourselves to think through our feelings, we might get to a different place.

"I was taught that even the souls of dastardly criminals should be saved," Bud goes on. "I think it is necessary, even for the soul of Timothy McVeigh. I think my daughter's position on this would be the same as mine."

### ABOUT MVFR

Based in Atlantic, Virginia, MVFR was founded in 1976 by Marie Deans, whose beloved mother-in-law had been murdered some years before. In the murder's aftermath, Marie was vilified for not favoring the death penalty for her mother-in-law's killer. Later, she visited Death Row prisoners, and in the process she began to see that the issues their families faced were hauntingly similar to those faced by families of murder victims. The formation of MVFR came out of Marie's deepening awareness of a range of possibilities for responding to

the murder of a family member — possibilities more healing and life-giving than a second murder by the State.

In the words of MVFR's brochure, "In healing from the loss of a loved one, murder victim family members can experience reconciliation in many different ways: with

God, with society, with the act of murder itself, sometimes even with the offender. Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation is committed to promoting healing through reconciliation rather than continuing the cycle of violence through retribution and vengeance."

MVFR's work focuses on public education, policy reform, and victim support. In the course of intensive speaking tours across given states, each called a Journey of Hope, group members have reached thousands of people. They cofounded and sponsored Peace Studies/Alternatives to Violence, a prisoner-run program teaching nonviolent conflict resolution to inmates at Virginia's Augusta Correctional Center. They educate lawmakers and prosecutors on the needs of victims, emphasizing restoration



over retribution. They work with victims and victims' organizations to address areas of shared concern.

### MVFR'S SYRACUSE VISIT

At the invitation of Syracuse-based People Against the Death Penalty of Central New York, MVFR members will be in Syracuse from Wednesday, April 22 through Sunday, April 26 — among them Pat Bane, MVFR's current director. Pat lost her uncle to murder, and was at the forefront of Syracuse's anti-death penalty movement for many years before moving to Virginia.

The visiting MVFR members will speak to students in area high school and college classes and assemblies. They will speak at the Thursday Morning Round Table, an educational forum for Syracuse community leaders. And they will speak at worship services and in other religious settings.

Three free public events will highlight the group's Syracuse visit (see box below).

continued on next page

### FREE PUBLIC EVENTS WITH MURDER VICTIMS' FAMILIES FOR RECONCILIATION

**PUBLIC FORUM ON THE DEATH PENALTY**  
THURS., APRIL 23, 7:30 PM  
© WESTCOTT COMMUNITY CENTER, WESTCOTT & EUCLID

**"LEARNING TO SPEAK OUT ON THE DEATH PENALTY" WORKSHOP**  
SAT., APRIL 25, 9:30-11:30 AM  
© ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, 1515 MIDLAND AVE.

**TREE PLANTING AND HEALING SERVICE**  
SAT., APRIL 25, 12 NOON  
© COMMUNITY GARDEN, CORNER, MIDLAND & FURMAN

# Global Warming

## The Future Is Now

by Ross Gelbspan

**A**mong the consequences of the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are changes in drought and precipitation patterns, accompanied by storms of increasing strength. Today, a significantly higher proportion of rain and snow is coming in intense, severe downpours than 20 years ago.

The newly unstable climate is making itself felt, as well, in a relentless succession of extreme weather events all over the world. Nineteen ninety seven has witnessed: major ice and rainstorm damage to the Pacific Northwest; the heaviest rains in 30 years in Bolivia this spring which destroyed half that country's crops; the record flooding in March along the Ohio River; the worst winter drought in 150 years which destroyed 70% of Portugal's winter cereal crops; the epic Red River flood in April; a torrential rainfall in Manila that left 120 people homeless; the worst drought in a century in Chile followed by torrential rains which dropped six months worth of rain in a week; the worst flooding in a century in Poland and Czechoslovakia; a two-month long drought, followed by two years of flooding

which left millions of North Korea on the brink of starvation; the worst typhoon in a century in Viet Nam and Cambodia which left 2500 people missing or dead; a 60-degree Easter Sunday in Boston followed two days later by a 30-inch snowstorm, the third largest in the city's history; a three-foot blizzard in Colorado which killed thousands of cattle; and the worst flooding in memory in November in Somalia and Ethiopia which left about 200,000 people homeless.

More fundamental changes are also occurring. Most of the earth's glaciers are shrinking at accelerating rates. Twenty years ago, one of the largest glaciers in the Peruvian Andes was retreating by 14 feet a year; today it is retreating by 99 feet a year. Plants are migrating up the Alps to keep pace with the changing climate. Whole populations of fish, birds and butterflies are moving northward to survive subtle increases in temperature. Three Antarctic ice shelves have collapsed in the last three years as warming has been detected in the deep waters of the southern oceans. The US National Hurricane Center logged more hurricanes in 1995 and 1996 than in any two years since it was established in 1935, while surface temperatures in the tropical North

Atlantic were at their warmest level since records began to be kept in 1865. A new desert is spreading through parts of Spain, Portugal, Greece, and Italy, and last year scientists found that protracted droughts, punctuated by intense, soil-eroding downpours, have become the norm rather than the exception. The Alaskan tundra, which for thousands of years absorbed carbon dioxide and methane, now is thawing and releasing greenhouse gases back into the atmosphere. The melting of Alaskan permafrost has already caused extensive damage to roads, building foundations, and airport runways. Even the very timing of the seasons has shifted. Because of the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, spring is now arriving a week earlier than it did 20 years ago.

If this emerging unstable climate had begun 150 years ago, the planet might never have been able to sustain its current population of nearly 6 billion people, according to Dr. James McCarthy, who chairs one of the two scientific working groups of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

*"The Heat Is On: The High Stakes Battle Over Earth's Threatened Climate,"* By Ross Gelbspan. Reprinted with permission from *Multinational Monitor*.

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# How Money Talks

## Corporate Funding of Myths about Global Climate Change

by Mike Kernahan

**C**ORPORATE FLACKS from Zurich to Singapore and every corner office in between have been throwing a lot of dust in the air on the subject of global climate change. Unfortunately, they've had a great deal of success in further confusing a citizenry already rendered logy by the Princess Di saga, the Washington scandal factory, relentless advertising, and a general freefall in the IQ of the electronic media. The intention appears to be to take advantage of three factors:

- Traditional popular US anti-intellectual bias which casts scientists as eggheads in ivory towers lacking in common sense and divorced from reality.
- Corporate fearmongering that equates any conceivably pro-environment measure with economic ruin and job loss.
- Long-standing popular denial regarding the consequences of the energy-wasteful US lifestyle.

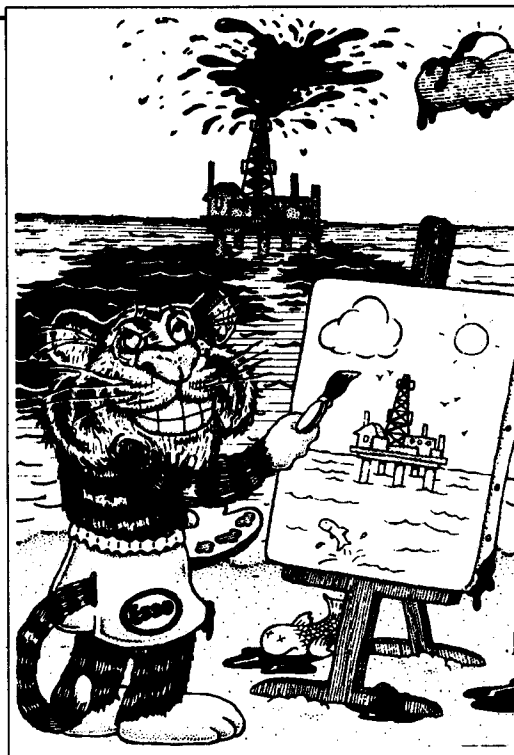
Probably the smoothest example of this campaign is a slick ad placed by Mobil Oil on the Op-Ed page of the New York Times which ran regularly late last year in the weeks preceding the international conference on global warming in Kyoto, Japan. It seeks to "respectfully submit our message" to the Kyoto conference on climate change, and it's carefully crafted to appear as if the only thing on Mobil's corporate mind is the good of the good earth.

Entitled "Climate Change: a degree of uncertainty," it presents the image of a gray-haired, grandfatherly, responsible corporate citizen counseling prudence and calm in the face of all this childish chicken-littling perpetrated by a few crackpot scientists and those wild-eyed environmental extremists who want to wreck the world economy because, after all, they haven't got any money anyway. Gosh, what a mess we'd be in without those nice, reasonable folks over at Mobil.

Obviously, Mobil is in the business, the very good business, of selling fossil fuels. The advent of local, on-site power generation such as solar, wind, and hydro power cuts Mobil out of the loop and leaves them with nothing to sell but this nasty black goop which everybody knows belongs far underground. So they have joined an industry-wide disinformation campaign to frighten the public with veiled threats of job losses and economic disaster, and are seeking to portray a clear scientific consensus on the effects of global warming seem as the ravings of a few crackpot environmental zealots.

For example, according to Multinational Monitor (a newsletter founded by Ralph Nader to counteract the corporate trivialization of the media) in 1991, Western Fuels, a \$400 million coal consortium, declared in its annual report that it was launching a direct attack on mainstream science and enlisting several scientists who are skeptical about climate change: Dr. Robert Balling of Arizona State University, Dr. Pat Michaels of the University of Virginia, and Dr. S. Fred Singer. These self-proclaimed "greenhouse skeptics" would normally not be worthy of much attention. Only about a dozen visible skeptics challenge the consensus of 2500 leading climate scientists from 100 countries. But, with substantial amounts of industry funding and extraordinary access to the media thanks to their corporate sponsors, they have been able to create the perception that the issue is hopelessly mired in uncertainty.

Still according to MM, six years ago, Western Fuels and several other coal utilities launched a half-million-dollar PR campaign called the ICE program. An ICE strategy paper called for local press, radio, and TV appearances by the good doctors Balling, Michaels, and Singer to "reposition



global warming as theory rather than fact." The document identifies the campaign's target as "older, less-well-educated men and young, low-income women" in districts which receive their electricity from coal and, preferably, have a representative on the House Energy Committee. After this program was finally exposed, Western Fuels spent \$250,000 on a propaganda video that seeks to convince viewers that enhanced carbon dioxide will benefit humanity by increasing crop yields to help feed an expanding population.

So just who's the crackpot here?

The fact is that for 10,000 years the earth's climate has been moderated by the heat-trapping effects of 280 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide, the primary "greenhouse gas" released by fossil fuel burning. Since the beginning of this century that figure has increased to 360 ppm and is projected to double in the next century. It is not a coincidence that this trend accords with the accelerated burning of fossil fuels caused by the industrial revolution, and the massive destruction of forests resulting from the human population explosion. The overwhelming scientific consensus finds cause and effect in those parallel trends, and concludes that the world's climate is being changed, possibly quite suddenly, as a result. No amount of hot air should be allowed to obscure that fact.

Mike is a member of the PNL editorial collective. He recently moved to Central New York, and now lives in Truxton.



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# New Tax Deductions Announced

by Paul Frazier

**T**he Syracuse Peace Council and the US government frequently face off on matters of war and economics. Strange, indeed, that the SPC recently took up a current cause of the government: promoting 1997 tax deductions. According to one long-time SPC activist, "It is the least we can do to help out. Given the current budget surplus and the confusing tax laws, our analyses present these two deductions for taxpayers."

## THE IRAQ DEDUCTION

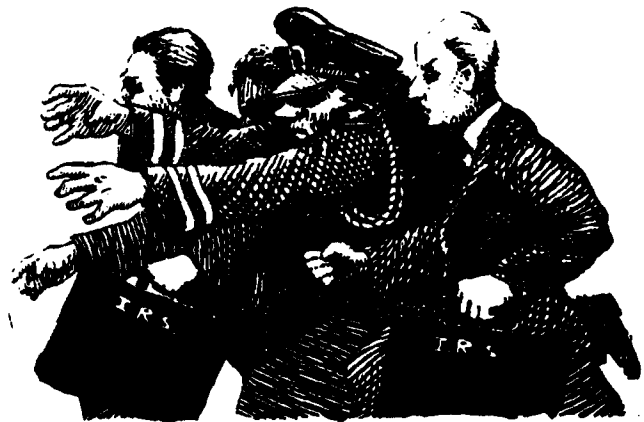
The Defense Department estimates that since 1991 they have spent nearly \$11.9 B to maintain the threat of attack against the Iraqi people. This estimate includes the cost for maintaining soldiers

at the ready on aircraft carriers, stockpiling weapons of destruction, and producing propaganda. US tax payers who oppose this policy should be eligible to deduct their share of these costs, up to \$350 per household, from this year's federal income tax. When claiming their deduction, filers should make reference to the misery that UN sanctions have imposed on the Iraqi people since the 1991 massacre.

## SOA DEDUCTION

The federal government will soon incur the expense of imprisoning six Central New York activists (Dan and Doris Sage; Nick Cardell; Sr. Megan Rice; Ann Tiffany; Anne Herman) protesting the government-run School of Assassins. The estimated cost for the 6 six-month sentences at \$125 per day total \$135,000. Since the \$3,000 in imposed fines, if collected, will not cover these expenses the difference must be accounted for using tax revenue. In a few months the government will begin bearing the additional expense of imprisoning SOA activists Ed Kinane and Kathleen Rumpf, who are likely to receive stiff jail terms.

Central New Yorkers who oppose this government expense may choose to make a federal tax deduction for any amount deemed appropriate. When claiming their deduction, filers should make reference to the long history of torture, oppression and death suffered by the people of Latin America at the hands of death squads and armies led by SOA graduates.



## RESOURCES AVAILABLE

War Tax resistance counseling is available at the SPC (472-5478). The National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWRCC - PO Box 774, Monroe, ME, 04951, 1-800-269-7464) provides an accurate and extensive list of war tax literature. An Act of Conscience is an excellent 90 minute film about war tax resisters Randy Kehler and Betsy Corner of Colrain, MA. Narrated by Martin Sheen, An Act of Conscience chronicles the story of Kehler's and Corner's public refusal to pay their federal income taxes as protest against war and military spending. The video is available from the SPC.

Finally, your conscience is your most fundamental resource. If you are considering withholding taxes which pay for weapons of war, then the groups listed above can give you the resources you need.

## WAR TAX PROTEST

A protest against War Tax will be held on April 15 at Columbus Circle at noon. The protest calls for closing the SOA and stopping the sanctions against Iraq.

*Paul Frazier is a member of the SPC council.*

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[www.igc.org/pbi/usa.html](http://www.igc.org/pbi/usa.html).

# PEACES PEACES

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- **TRW:** coordinator of the America Leads On Trade program, the corporate lobby attempting to steam-roller opposition to fast-track authority for trade agreements.
- **NIKE:** Embarrassing reports of Nike subcontract workers in Asia being underpaid, physically abused and forced to work in hazardous conditions were brought to light, surprisingly enough, by an independent audit underwritten by Nike.
- **ELF AQUITANE:** This French oil company, responsible for two thirds of Congo's oil output, became embroiled in a dispute with Congo president Pascal Lissouba and objected to his negotiating with other oil companies. So they arranged a coup which deposed him.
- **OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM:** Wants to drill in the Colombian rain forest on land sacred to the U'wa people. If the drilling goes ahead, the U'wa promise to commit collective suicide. OP doesn't seem to care.
- **PHILIP MORRIS:** The largest US cigarette company and the architect of the deal with state attorneys general rendering the tobacco industry immune from future lawsuits stemming from their efforts to addict children to tobacco.

Source: *The New York Times, Business Week, Multinational Monitor*

# Building a Positive Life

## One Mother's Efforts

An interview by Michael De Salvo and Valerie Singer

**A**s part of the Syracuse Peace Council's recently established relationship with *Alternative Efforts*, the PNL will be running a series of interviews with local people who are infected or affected by HIV or AIDS. This is the first.

*Beverly is the mother of four children (ages 9-19). She is a full time student and part time employee. Both articulate and funny. Beverly is confident, energetic, bright eyed and appears perfectly healthy. Beverly is HIV positive. As an African American woman, she is part the fastest growing population with HIV.*

*Without hesitation Beverly jumped right into the details and concerns of her life.*

**Beverly:** My main issue is really stress, because it affects me a lot. I get into these depressed moods often and I figure it has a lot to do with stress. I over do it, over work myself sometimes... Because I am still dealing with Social Services. I am working from 11-7 at night and running home to be a mother for a few hours and get the kids off to school.

Social services wanted me to work more, at least 35-40 hours. I said "Where do you think those hours are going to come from?" If I do any more hours I won't be with the kids AT ALL. They want me to give up school, which I am NOT doing for nobody.

They cut me off public assistance so I put in for a hearing. I'm in a two year program so they don't approve it. I explained I only have one semester left, 4 months. I said to them "How did you get where you are today? Did you give up going to school?" I won my hearing last week. That was good. I can continue food stamps and they'll continue to pay \$199 of my \$550 rent.

**Valerie:** Did social services know you are HIV+?

**Beverly:** Yeah, but that doesn't matter to them.

**Michael:** You are immune compromised, try-

*ing to go to school, trying to work, trying to take care of your family AND your health!*

**B:** Exactly, and this stress kills your T-cells. Once you are so stressed, you start getting sick. Here comes pneumonia or the flu, and then you are not able to do anything.

I am a mother. I am no different from another mother with four children, it's just my health concerns. A lot of people believe I am this strong person. But I'm not. Sometimes I get behind a closed wall and I fall apart too. I worry, I worry about my health, I worry about my kids, what's my future going to be like? What am I going to leave for my kids?

**V:** How does your stress effect your children?

**B:** Oh it does, because they know when I am in one of those moods, and they don't bother me. But it's bad, because sometimes they may be afraid to come ask me something. When I get in a mood I get very angry and don't want to be bothered. So sometimes instead of being mean towards them I just stay in my bed and say "I'm sick, I don't feel well". I'm just depressed, but I don't want them to know that.

It effects them in school. I can tell by the work they bring home. When they all start bringing home low grades, then I say "Beverly it's time for you to get it together". It's hard, because I have to deal with their school issues, my school issues, and then work. And this social service thing that never quits.

I was a drug abuser for 13 years, and I've been sober now for 6 years. And there are still times when I start thinking foolish, like "when I was using I didn't have all these problems. I didn't have to face all these issues. My mom would take care of the kids." Those thoughts come to my mind, but then I tell myself in the morning ARE YOU CRAZY?

**M:** You are doing well, but you've fought really hard to get where you are.

**B:** Yeah, and still fighting. Sometimes I tell myself "maybe you can give up school, because your kids need you right now. Their education is important, they have a LONG life

ahead of them. You lived your life." But then I'm almost finished, why quit now?

**V:** I think it'll mean a lot for your children to see you as a role model, getting through school with all of your challenges. That will be good for them in the long run.

**B:** Yeah, you know one day I didn't go to school and my son got home and said "What, you got home early today?" I said "No. I didn't go, I didn't feel good." And he said "WHAT? You didn't go to class? Now if that was us, you

know we'd have to face this, and you'd say this and you'd say that." He's right you know! They don't see me laying around the house all day. I am up and going. This is the way I want them to grow up and see that life is supposed to be. You want to stay home, you do it on a weekend, maybe.

**V:** How long have you known you are HIV+?

**B:** Since 1989. This October will be 9 years.

**V:** What do you think is one of the best examples of support you have found?

**B:** As far as HIV? One of the biggest supports is a place like the Living Room. What it did for me and what I think it does for a lot of people gradually is to help them accept this HIV status, and learn to live with it, and see that its OKAY. You are NOT alone, because there are so many others with you.

**M:** The Living Room is a local drop in center for people who are affected or infected with HIV/AIDS. It was started 5 years ago by John Backe.

**B:** Yeah, in 1993. And John was also a big support system in my life. Because I didn't know anyone when I came here and I had these negative thoughts in my head, like "I'm different. Everyone can look at me and tell that I am positive, they KNOW." You just feel that way. I just got to the point where I don't care what other people think anymore. This is my life and I am going to live it the best that I can.

But the Living Room brought support because of the people involved. It was like one big family, a home away from home. You didn't have to worry about people pointing a finger there. I don't have much time to go anymore, but it still means a lot to me. It's changing because the people are changing.

**M:** They've lost people, not only John moving

continued on next page



away, but people who have passed. (Michael and Beverly began reminiscing about friends no longer living... ) How has that affected you?

**B:** It used to make me angry, because every time you turned around someone you had just gotten close to passed away. It was scary, very scary. They used to go like flies before these new protease inhibitors came out.

**M:** HIV used to be like a death sentence and now people are living much longer. People are very hopeful, but we have to remember that the protease inhibitors don't work for everyone. Many people have huge side effects from these drugs and they have to be taken perfectly regularly. Things are not by any means OVER.

**B:** No, not by a long shot.

**V:** What type of support do we need more of here?

**B:** For people to be more open about it because a lot of people are still hiding it. I think it should be a required course in school. A lot of teenagers still feel it can't happen to them. And a lot of senior citizens are HIV+. Many of them are in a world of their own because they are concerned about their reputation with the church, their family and so forth. There's not a lot of support out there for them.

**M:** They are one group that wasn't educated, because no one thought they needed to be.

**B:** Exactly. We need more centers, we need to be more open. Don't hide it like it's a shameful dirty thing, because it is happening in all kinds of places.

**M:** To be out, I still find incredible ignorance, don't you? What is your experience with that?

**B:** I used to do speaking engagements in hospitals and schools. I'll never forget the time in this one hospital. I was talking about some of the things I have been through in my life, and how long I have been positive. There was a intern sitting next to me, and you could just FEEL her pulling away. You could hear the chair squeaking. When it was all over she was actually leaning away from me. I wanted to say "I hope you don't fall out of that chair!" It bothered me, to the point where I don't like that hospital anymore and I don't go there.

Last semester in one of my classes we did a thing on AIDS and HIV. There were a lot of people naive about this disease, still thinking it can't happen to them. Then they look at me like "Why do you know so much? Why do you get so ANGRY by what people say?" I don't

want to just come out and say "Because I am positive."

**M:** So there is a piece of you too that is leery of letting people know, because of the reactions? It's sad that in 1998 people still need to protect themselves. We want people to be out. But the REALITY is they risk rejection, which can bring more pain and more stress.

**B:** I figured if I told the important people in my life then I wouldn't have anything to worry about. I wouldn't have to worry about it slipping, or hiding papers around my house. I told my husband before we were married. I told my kids and my mother. I finally told my oldest brother two years ago. I figured I can live with that, but you still can't.

**M:** What is the hardest thing for you? How has HIV affected you and your children?

**B:** This affects me all the time, every day, especially when I get into one of those depressed moods. What's going to happen to my kids? I think about my little girls and what if my mother is not around? I can't think of a family member I want my kids with besides my mother. But I don't really think no one can do for them like I can. So I try every day to teach them the basic essentials of life.

**V:** Are you able to talk to them about some of your fears or their fears?

**B:** No, it's a hard thing to do when you are sitting looking at your kids.

**M:** Plus you don't want to cause them any excess worry. Everyone is probably constantly worrying about the other person in different ways.

**B:** I'm sure. I think my oldest daughter keeps all this in mind the same way I do. And the little one, my baby who is nine years old, she wants to do everything for me. She'll say "don't get up. Do you want some tea, do you want me to make you some coffee?" And she'll put the covers over me. One day they went and made the WORST cup of coffee I've had in my life! It was so funny. They brought it to me and said "Here Mommy, you said you needed coffee." I went to sip it and she was looking at me, so I said "Oh, this is very good!" I had to hurry up and get out of bed because the film in my mouth was so thick! She must have used a whole can! They do things like that.

They had a lot of fear. It would be good if they had a place where they could go and talk about what's really on their mind. Because it is hard to talk to your mother about things like that.

**M:** Sure, especially when its about YOU.

**V:** And there is not much support for that out there?

**B:** No, not much for kids whose parents are infected. There are more programs for kids who are infected themselves.

**V:** What are your thoughts on HIV/AIDS research?

**B:** They are not doing enough. I've always felt the government could do more. When I hear them spending X billion dollars on missiles and all that.. What about people here who are dying of diseases? Cancer needs more money for research. AIDS needs more money. Save people's lives! They are not doing as much as they can do.

You might hear the president talk about AIDS when he is trying to get re-elected, but then it's gone. If, God forbid, Clinton's daughter was to come up HIV+, he'd find money from ALL over the place, build a gigantic research center, and come up with a cure!

**V:** What about the lack of research being done with medications and women?

**B:** I can't talk too much about medication because I have not had to take any yet, knock on wood.

**M:** Do you have fear about taking medicine?

**B:** That kind of medicine, yeah. My T-cells are normally around 950. Right now they are 1020, and I thank God for that. I don't want anything to come between that. This is why I don't want medications in my body or stress in my life.

**V:** How does spirituality fit into your life?

**B:** I have a personal relationship with God. I love Him. I pray every day. I'm just as religious as anyone who sits in church, but the churches, I don't need them. I tried to get involve in the Church, but I sat there in amazement at how many times they expected us to put money in the basket! And I said this is not right! The way I give is by helping other people that I can help, that need my help directly.

**M:** You've worked really hard to get your life back on track, and you certainly reach out to other people to help them do the same.

**B:** Exactly. I try. And its not over yet. I am going to keep trying and keep fighting.

Michael De Salvo is a Catholic Worker and AIDS care-giver. Valerie Singer is an activist and an anthropologist. We both believe people's lives are worth hearing about and worth caring about. And we both send a big "Thank You!" to Beverly.



# Dual Power Media

## Community Control of Information: A Proposal (Part 1)

by Brian A. Dominick

Confronted by the unprecedented crisis of the corporate monopolization of the mass media, many progressives and radicals have surrendered to despair. Indeed, the effects of the ever-increasing absorption of news, pop and educational media outlets into the hierarchies of major conglomerates do seem crippling to those of us struggling to raise the social consciousness of our society. Everywhere we turn, some media corporation is being bought out by or is merging with an even bigger monster — and those bigger monsters have their claws in just about every industry, from war and computers to chemicals and household appliances. During this process, the rate of which increases exponentially with time, more and more voices are squeezed to the margins. What was a patently liberal idea a few years ago is now considered “extreme left”, and what is truly radical goes entirely unmentioned in the annals of acceptable discourse.

Some radical critics of the present state of alternative media blame the content and presentation of our ideas for the low consumption rates of our propaganda. It is true that our production capacities are not capable of the level of output enjoyed by commercial interests. Our media are neither as flashy nor as widely disseminated as those of our corporate adversaries. However, we have two important elements on our side: the formidable authenticity of our beliefs and the integrity of our intentions.

Moreover we, the producers of alternative media, tend to overlook the fact that, while the big boys consolidate control over the mainstream media, underground forms of communication are spreading faster than ever before. Between zines and community newspapers, pirate radio stations, independent artists, and thousands of socially conscious World Wide Web sites appearing each year, never has it been easier to find truly alternative or radical news and opinion.

That doesn't make it's *easy* to find alternative viewpoints amidst the far greater swamps of corporate and government propaganda. Indeed, one could go an entire lifetime without ever stumbling across a *Peace Newsletter* or a leftist web page. Rarer still does someone stumble across a pirate radio station,

which typically air about 10 hours a week over a 2 mile radius (none even exist currently in Syracuse).

Nor is it simple to produce dynamic and potent media which can even hope to compete against big budget, commercial-driven outlets. Making media takes time and energy, which aren't easy to scrounge amidst 40 or 50 hour workweeks in the wage market. At the same time, the material resources required for designing, printing, performing, broadcasting, posting or otherwise exposing our media, while more accessible than ever before, remain out of reach for many individuals and small organizations.

We need two things more than anything else: space and resources. We need time, energy, knowledge and, most important of all, freedom from the demands and commercial bombardments of mainstream society. Moreover, we must obtain access to the machines and outlets necessary for the dissemination of ideas formulated within that “liberated space.”

Where we now depend on the state and



capital to provide goods and services vital to ourselves and our communities, we neglect the high potential for grassroots, community-based self-sufficiency. Our dependence is a serious weakness when our eventual goal is the subversion of these same oppressive institutional forces. Why are our food and housing needs not being met by ourselves, as organized communities? Why are we trusting politicians to indirectly “represent” us and, simultaneously, the interests of big business, on issues which impact us dramatically? Why are our alternative media not networked for mutual aid and resource sharing; not providing a

serious alternative to the Syracuse newspapers, network TV affiliates or local radio stations?

Sane answers to these and other questions necessarily lead us to recognize the importance of building our own institutions, explicitly designed to fulfill our needs, in a decentralized, egalitarian manner. This calls for the creation of something called “grassroots dual power”, a community-based approach to organizing the political, economic, and communications infrastructure of the new society we seek to build, in the oppressive shell of the old. We form a sort of “second power” in the shadow of the state and private capital, made up of institutions providing for needs such as food, housing, health care, education, energy, and community-based political forums. By networking these new, collective and cooperative efforts, we take the means of designing our futures into our own hands, simultaneously resisting and tearing down the undesirable, and now unnecessary, structures of the old regime.

Grassroots dual power is, as revolutionary strategies go, relatively inclusive. It makes few ideological demands beyond the belief that popular empowerment and participation in struggle are preferable to elite-dominated leadership and management of the revolutionary endeavor; and the belief that decentralized, participatory democratic forms of organization are the optimal means of developing the struggle.

Recognizing the importance of free communications to these ends, we look to form dual power media, institutions which disseminate the ideas and perspectives of community groups and dissident individuals. These alternative media institutions, already existent in our community to a great extent, need to be interconnected in order to build off each other. Ideas expressed and interests pursued may be diverse, even barely related — but the base of resources and skills can be efficiently and effectively shared. The time is here for us to communicate with each other and our communities.

*Brian, a local organizer and publisher, is a member of the Community Media Action Group of Syracuse. Part two of this piece will focus on tangible alternative media projects.*



# FIGHTBACK!

## of Central New York

### An Open Letter to Our Community

WE ARE WRITING to share the news that Fightback! will not be offering any more programs in self-defense for women and children — at least not for now.

We are proud of the work we have done in Central New York since 1991. At least 400 women, children, and teens have completed our classes, and countless more attended demonstrations or workshop presentations. We have struggled to keep going, even with the odds stacked against us. We are glad to have put our hearts and souls into our work.

We mourn the loss of an organization dedicated to the empowerment of women against violence, abuse, and the scars of all types of oppression. In a society which survives based on the abuse of power, it is no surprise that a small unfunded organization of women with radical ideas against the abuse of power cannot. We do not surrender, yet we

have no choice but to give up this particular way of resisting for now. The forces of economic and social change in the '90s have combined to effectively thwart many volunteer efforts, and we are no exception. Women have a harder and harder time prioritizing or literally finding the time and money to take a class with us. There is less and less cultural validation for the struggle against sexism, no cheering for the right of women to learn to take care of themselves, to fight back. It is hard — too hard — for too many women to do what is necessary to utilize our programs, and in turn to keep our organization viable enough to survive.

Another side of the same mirror reflects the inability of women who work long hours at jobs and at home to put in the time needed to volunteer as organizers. For years now we have said that we had no shortage of ideas for things we could do to deal with these various issues and difficulties, but not remotely enough worker power to do what would be required for success.

We wish to thank all of our community for your support these many years. We hold the doors of our organization open for any who might rise feeling ready to continue the work. Many of you have supported us financially, as

volunteer workers, with good ideas, good spirit, and endless encouragement. Without you we never could have managed this long. We appreciate every contribution, and have done our best to use it all well.

We look forward to the time when Fightback! is not needed because violence against women and children has ended. That will require a just and human society in which all have enough, and none have too much. If power is not unequal, it cannot be abused.

*With love and hope we remain,*  
*The Fightback! organizing committee*  
*Leslie Bliss, Terry Brooks,*  
*Elizabeth Corbett, Roni Morgenstern,*  
*Carole Resnick*

P.S. We are discontinuing telephone service. If you wish to get in touch, please write us at P.O. Box 6013, Syracuse, NY 13217.

SAVE THE DATE . . .

*Women's Showcase*



MAY 9, 1998  
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## Fellowship of Reconciliation

### Nat'l Week of Compassion for the People of Iraq

WHILE THE NEW UN resolution has eased the US away from a military attack, another kind of war on Iraq continues. UNICEF estimates that 4,500 Iraqis die each month from malnutrition and preventable diseases as a direct result of US/UN economic sanctions. These sanctions, which have had no significant effect, are a humanitarian disaster.

Friends of Reconciliation designates the week of April 5-12, 1998, a National Week of Compassion for the People of Iraq. Holidays during the week include Buddha's Birthday, Eid al-Adha, Passover, and Easter. During this week, the sacred devotion, prayer, and reflection of all these religious traditions converges on the remembrance of compassion. We believe that this same spirit of compassion can, and must, morally undergird the relationship between the people of the United States and all the peoples of the earth.

Many Iraqis have been reduced to destitution and cannot buy what little food is available. The weekly ration distributed by the UN includes 5 pounds of flour, 1.3 pounds of rice, 0.6 pound of lentils, 0.6 pound of cooking oil, and 25 grams of tea. These items are painstakingly measured out to each person. Not only is this nutritionally deficient diet dehumanizing and totally inadequate for a healthy adult, it is often lethal for children, the elderly, and the infirm.

We request that you send President Clinton one day's allotment of an item in the UN food ration. FOR used a similar tactic in 1950, when people in China were suffering from famine and the US refused to send aid from our bulging warehouses because of Cold War politics. Reportedly, this public outcry was a factor in the Cabinet decision against a Joint Chiefs of Staff recommendation that the US bomb China as a response to the communist revolution there.

The symbolic power of sending this token amount of food to the White House may be potent, but it will not relieve the hunger pangs

of an Iraqi child. Protest alone is not enough. Your contributions to Iraqi relief will help to alleviate the inhumanity of the embargo in a small way.

In addition, we suggest that you fast one day of the week in solidarity with the people of Iraq. Alternatively, persons in good health could try to live for a week (or perhaps just a few days) on the UN food ration for an Iraqi.

These people are our brothers and sisters. They are an inextricable part of the fabric of humanity that binds us all in mutuality. We are compelled to end the cause of their suffering, and we call upon all people of conscience and compassion to do likewise.

In the words of Islamic author Muhammad Kamil Husain (1902-77), we pray: "O God, guide those who preside over human affairs that they ... do not inflict on others wrongs that are immediate and concrete for the sake of something supposedly and ultimately good for society. For this is the origin of man's tragic trouble and the source of the evil within him."

**F.A.C.E.S. Fundraiser**

**"CHOCOLATE JAM FUNDRAISER 3"**

Fri.-Sun. April 17-19

at: Ryan's 408-10 Pearl St.

This weekend of fun and fundraising will benefit the D.R.E.A.M.S. Project, a fund that awards grants to people in the Syracuse community who are HIV positive. D.R.E.A.M.S. is one of many services provided by F.A.C.E.S., a program based at the Southwest Community Center (401 South Ave., Syracuse). F.A.C.E.S. works to fight AIDS/HIV through case management, education and support. For more information about its projects and services, contact F.A.C.E.S. @ 474-6823.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (April 17-19)**  
(adv. tickets; call Silky @ 474-6823 x130)

- Friday 9pm • Dance Contest • \$5
- Saturday 12 noon • Craft vendors + Live music w/ Miss E/The Nines • \$3
- Saturday 8pm • "Pajama Jam" • \$5
- Sunday 8:30am • Pancake Breakfast • \$5
- Sunday 4pm • Chocolate Jam • \$7 (\$5 adv.)

**Stonewall Committee**

**County Wide Fairness Forum**

ON TUESDAY, April 28, The Stonewall Committee will hold a special community forum to discuss efforts to pass a County Wide Fair Practices Law. The law would provide legal protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations across all of Onondaga County. The current Fair Practices Law only grants these basic protections within the City of Syracuse.

The Stonewall Committee will provide a Spaghetti Dinner, followed by coffee and discussion about the County Wide Fair Practices Law and ways the community can get involved. All are welcome to join The Stonewall Committee on the 28th at May Memorial Unitarian Church, located at 3800 E. Genesee Street. Dinner will be served from 6-7:15 pm; the formal program starts at 7:30pm. The cost is on a sliding scale of \$6-20. This evening is designed to raise much needed funds for The Stonewall Committee to carry out their work.

For info call The Stonewall Committee at 476-6226. If you are unable to attend this evening and would like to lend your financial support, please send your checks to The Stonewall Committee, 246 E. Water Street, Syracuse, NY 13202.



**Syracuse (Temporarily) Loses Five of its Best**

ON MARCH 23, five Syracusans reported to federal minimum security prisons to begin six-month sentences for the crime of petitioning their government. On Jan. 21 Judge J. Robert Elliott found them and 17 others guilty of "illegal re-entry" on to Fort Benning on Nov. 16, 1997. This parody of justice occurred in Columbus, GA in the same federal court as Ed and Kathleen's jury trial.

Until around Sept. 22 Doris Sage, #88099-020, Ann Tiffany, #88114-020, and Sister Megan Rice, #88101-020 will be at FPC Danbury, Pembroke Station, 33½ Pembroke Rd., Danbury, CT 06811-3099. Rev. Nick Cardell, #88109-020 and Dan Sage, #88083-020, will be at FPC Allenwood, PO Box 1000, Montgomery, PA 17752. Although Ed was also found guilty on Jan. 21, he won't report until after his felony sentencing.

**Supporting our Prisoners of Conscience**

THE BEST WAY to support these good folks is to redouble efforts to close the School of the Americas. Please:

1. Order SOA Watch's new (Feb. '98) 16-minute video, "School of the Americas: An Insider Speaks Out" and show it to groups you work with. The video, which features former SOA instructor, Major Joe Blair, can be ordered for \$15+\$3s/h from SOA Watch, 1719 Irving St. NW; Washington, DC 20010; (202) 234-3440. Call Ed at (315) 478-4571 to arrange for a speaker to accompany the video.
2. Rally on Sunday, April 26 in front of the White House in Washington, DC demanding closure of the SOA. Clinton could do it with a stroke of the pen and a bit of backbone. To make your reservation on Syracuse's bus to the rally, call Diane Swords at Peace Action of CNY, (315) 478-7442. The bus costs \$40 and leaves the CBA parking lot at 3AM on the 26th, and returns about 24 hours later.
3. If you can, stay in DC on April 27 & 28 to join SOA Watch in lobbying Congress.
4. Urge Senators D'Amato and Moynihan to co-sponsor S980, the bill calling for the SOA's immediate closure.

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- singing by Syracuse Community Choir
- personal reflections on Paul



**"Compassionate Cooking" Demonstration on April 25**

ON SATURDAY, April 25, PAR will be holding their Annual Meeting for Members as well as a Vegetarian "Compassionate Cooking" Demonstration that is free and open to the public. The event will take place from 2-4 pm at the SAVES (Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society) Education Center, 4876 Onondaga Road (Route 173, in building with Onondaga Hill Masonic Club and Town of Onondaga Historical Society; next to Dewitt Real Estate; near the intersection of Velasko Road; park in back of SAVES or Dewitt Real Estate buildings).

PAR is pleased to have our favorite local cook Margo Cheney to demonstrate how to prepare vegetarian entrees that are good for you, that are utterly delicious, and that no animal was killed for! Best of all, SAMPLES of her great cooking will be provided!

In addition to the above, there will be door prizes and plenty of free literature, as well as priced literature and merchandise. We hope to see you at this great event - and feel free to bring a friend! If you have any questions about PAR or the event, contact PAR at 488-PURR (7877) between 9am and 10:45pm.

# Chiapas

continued from page 9

discrepancy between army reports of activities in Chiapas and eyewitness accounts, suggests that there are no paramilitary groups in Chiapas, that any conflicts that exist there are religious and ethnic, not political, and that the "Law for Dialogue" should be ignored in order to disarm the Zapatistas. The new peace negotiator has said that he believes that the Zapatistas should not be disarmed, that the paramilitary groups should be, and therefore the "Law for Dialogue" is not being violated. When it was pointed out that this description is the opposite of what is actually happening he stated that he could only recommend policy, not implement it. He further stated that the San Andres Accords (August PNL) should be immediately put into effect without revision, and that the congressional proposal to implement them must be revised in order to take into account the PRI's "observations" on the proposal. The point is that he makes no sense.

The point is that while the federal government appears to be in complete confusion the federal military forces and PRI paramilitary forces keep invading the indigenous base communities of the Zapatistas. Even PRI congress people are dumbfounded and outraged at the current absence of accountability and democratic process that is the norm in current Mexican policy towards the campesinos, Tzeltal, Tojolabal, and Tsotsil Mayan peoples in Chiapas.

In the first week of last month, March 2nd, 3rd and 4th, the Chiapas Coalition of Syracuse hosted three consecutive nights of teach-ins concerning the Zapatista revolution against neo-liberalism. The Chiapas Coalition of Syracuse consists of about half a dozen Syracuse University social justice organizations and half a dozen Syracuse community social justice organizations.

The first night, Monday, March 2nd, we welcomed Nancy Gwin of the School of the Americas Watch. Nancy was introduced by Diane Swords of Peace Action of CNY to discuss US involvement in the conflict in Chiapas through military training, weapons trafficking, and other forms of US military aid to Mexico. The Coalition chose this night to focus on these issues because this was the day that Ed Kinane and Kathleen Rumpf were on trial down in Georgia for their acts of social conscience at the School of Assassins.

Nancy gave an excellent presentation and then a lively discussion followed in which three members of the audience who are from Mexico, but not indigenous, spoke out against

the Zapatistas. This perspective provided the opportunity for a more rich and educational experience for us all in the ensuing exchange of ideas. It should be noted that there was also one other non-indigenous Mexican person present who has spent time working with Mayans in the Yucatan who is supportive of the Zapatistas.

On Tuesday, March 2nd, Pramod Parjuli of the Syracuse Social Movement Initiative introduced John R. Sosa to speak about Mayan culture in Mexico. John R. Sosa is a man of Mayan descent who teaches anthropology at Cortland College. He gave an enthralling presentation in which he provided some history, and cultural context which helped explain the situation for indigenous people located in Mexico. We had another long, if less contentious, question and answer session following his presentation.

Finally, on Wednesday, March 3rd, we had a panel of speakers present information on "Chiapas in a Global Context". The panel consisted of Mark Rupert, Political Science Professor at the Maxwell School speaking on global corporatism; Pramod Parjuli, Anthropology Professor at the Maxwell School speaking about the meaning of the Zapatista revolution for indigenous struggles globally, and Diego Bonilla, a writer and Ph.D. candidate in the Newhouse School presenting an anti-Zapatista perspective from a Mexican neo-liberal position. Jolie Christine Rickman broke these up with a couple of her wonderful social justice oriented, and extremely topical, folk songs. These folks were all introduced by Andy Roth-Wells of the Greens of Greater Syracuse. Another lively discussion ensued on this night.

Each night about 40 people took part in the teach-ins. The first two events were on campus and the third night took place at the Westcott Community Center. We need to offer thanks to all those who took part in any fashion and to The Good Earth Cafe for the wonderful food, and the Syracuse Cultural Workers for the Zapatista posters and the peace calanders. I hope we see more of this sort of coalition work around social justice in the community and even more people get involved next time! The Chiapas Coalition of Syracuse hopes to see you all on April 18th at the North East Zapatista Network Conference (see page 9).

*Andrew is a member of the Greens of Greater Syracuse, on the Board of the Syracuse Real Food Co-op and CommonWorks, and works with the Justice for Jonny Gammage Campaign, SANE, and The Chiapas Coalition of Syracuse.*

# Reconciliation

Continued from p. 11

## "DON'T KILL FOR ME"

Anne Coleman of Dover, Delaware, is another member of MVFR. Anne's daughter Frances was shot to death in her car while driving through South Central Los Angeles in 1985. No arrest was ever made for the crime.

During the months following the murder, Anne's youngest son Daniel fought severe anger and depression over his sister's death and repeatedly expressed his desire for revenge against the killer. At the age of 25 — two years after his sister's murder — Daniel died of cardiac arrest after taking antidepressant medications. In Anne's view, the same bullet killed two of her children.

"The death of my daughter by murder caused my family a pain that I am unable sometimes to put into words," Anne says today. "But the murder of her killer would not heal our pain. When the state kills, it does not help the victims. It creates more victims. We as a society must find a way to stop this senseless killing on both sides of the law.

"Don't kill for me in the name of justice," Anne adjures judges, prosecutors, and the rest of her fellow Americans, "because the death penalty is not justice. It is legalized killing."

*Suzanne is a member of People Against the Death Penalty/CNY. The group meets monthly every first Monday, 7-9 pm at The Center (rear door), 3049 E. Genesee St., across from Nottingham High School. PADP/CNY's monthly vigil against the death penalty is held on the last Thursday, noon-12:30 pm, at Columbus Circle, downtown Syracuse. All are welcome!*

## Former Judge Argues Death Penalty Is Racist Case to be Decided in April

The *Syracuse Post-Standard* reported on March 6 that former Court of Appeals judge Stewart Hancock has launched a legal effort to invalidate New York State's death penalty law. In the case of Allen Johnson, a black defendant accused of murdering a white man, Hancock argued in Albany County Court on March 4 that New York's death penalty statutes cannot protect defendants against racial bias. Prosecutors argued that the Court of Appeals, not county court, is the proper venue for Hancock's challenge. Judge Thomas A. Breslin will issue a decision on the arguments by late April.



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# THE SYRACUSE COOPERATIVE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

## Special Alert-Credit Unions Threatened

- Feb 25 - The Supreme Court ruled against consumers' right to choose, affecting credit union memberships.
- The last resort is Congressional Legislation, HR 1151, which must pass to protect all credit unions.
- Please help us pass HR1151, spread the word, contact your representatives, call for more information!

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SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL 1998

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to SPC, 472-5478. May deadline: April 22

Table with 7 columns (Sun-Sat) and 24 rows (1-24). Each cell contains event details including date, time, location, and contact information. Includes events like 'American Indian Festival', 'Latin American Film Series', 'Taste of the Arts', and 'Vigil Against the Death Penalty'.

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL  
PRESENTS

# Jailbirds & Motmots

**SPC's 62nd Birthday Dinner**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1998**

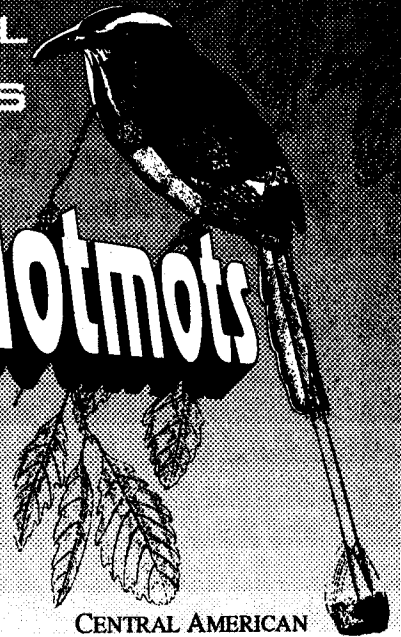
5:30 Appetizers and mingling

6:00 Central American Dinner by Nick Orth  
program & entertainment to follow - ending at 9pm

- An evening of good friends, food, and music.
- Personal reflections on Chiapas by Peter and Gail Mott
- SOA, updates and good-byes with Kathleen Rumpf and Ed Kinane
- Music by Jolie Rickman & Colleen Kateau
- Our first annual mathom mini-auction.
- Sliding scale - \$0 - 62 • Childcare 7-9pm

South Presbyterian Church • corner of South Salina and West Colvin Streets  
plenty of free parking available

CENTRAL AMERICAN  
TURQUOIS-BROWED MOTMOT



*Syracuse Peace Council*

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



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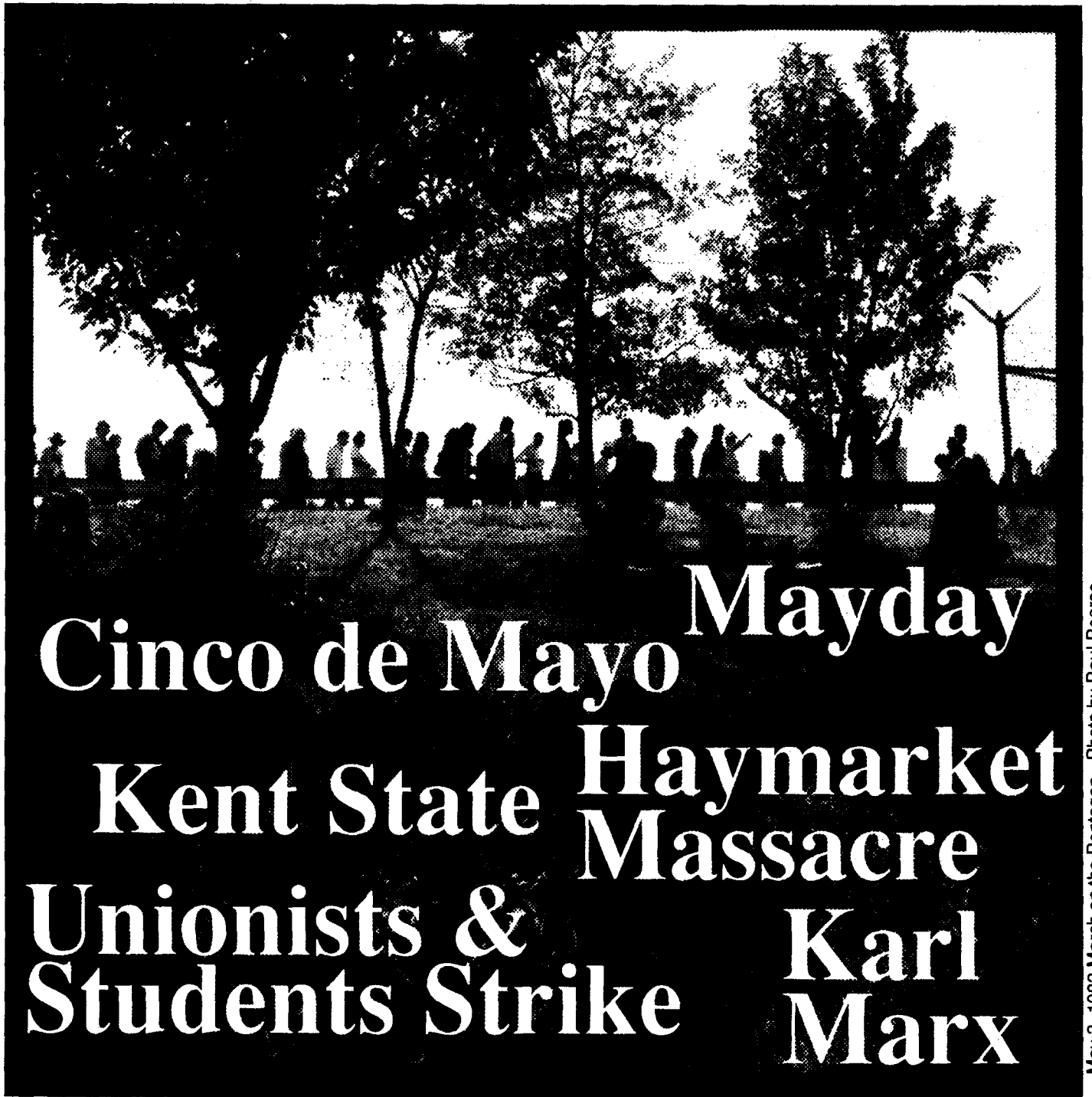
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# Peace News Letter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice May 1998 PNL 667



**Cinco de Mayo** **Mayday**  
**Kent State** **Haymarket**  
**Massacre**  
**Unionists &** **Karl**  
**Students Strike** **Marx**

May 3, 1982 March on the Pentagon - Photo by Paul Pearce

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

### SPC Staff Collective

Tim Judson  
Beth Mosley

**SPC Press**  
Paul Pearce

### Bookkeeper

Duane Hardy

### SPC Council:

Paul Frazier, Rae Kramer,  
Carl Mellor, Andy Molloy,  
Marge Rusk, Ann Tiffany

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

## The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets most Wednesdays at 5:30 PM at the Peace Council. Call SPC to confirm the time.

**Editorial & Production:** Paul Frazier, Karen Hall, Bill Hamler, Tim Judson, Rae Kramer, Brian McCord, Joy Meeker, Andy Molloy, Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce, Steve Penn  
**Graphics Coordinator:** Anita Welych  
**Cover Coordinator:** Karen Kerney

## SPC Projects: 472-5478

- SPC-TV — Paul Pearce
- Plowshares Craftsfair
- Fair Trial for Mumia Committee

## Other Volunteers

Sonali Sathaye, Chuck Durand, Mardea Warner, Amy Bartell, Vanessa Johnson, Ed Kinane, Aggie Lane, Joan Goldberg, Ruth Putter, Margaret Birtleough, Kathy Barry, Brian Caufield, Fredrick Noyes, Jolie Rickman, Bill Mazza, Lance Hogan, Bill Hamler, Sylvia Burgess, Daniel Bowers, Carol Baum, Chris Spies-Rusk, Susan Adair, 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.

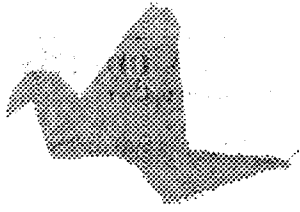
Our political values and personal lives shape and reflect each other. In both we are committed to nonviolent means of conflict resolution and to a process of decision-making that responds to the needs of us all.

## Alliances, Coalitions & Contacts

<b>Abolish the Blocade of Cuba</b>		<b>Peace Action of CNY</b>	
Doug Igelsrud	471-5749	Diane Swords	478-7442
<b>ACLU-CNY Chapter</b>		<b>Peace Brigades International</b>	
Barrie Gewanter	471-2821	Ed Kinane	478-4571
<b>Alliance-Psychiatric System</b>		<b>P.E.A.C.E., Inc.</b>	
<b>Survivors</b>		Louis Clark	470-3300
George Ebert	475-4120	<b>People Against the Death Penalty</b>	637-3344
<b>Alternatives to Violence Project</b>		<b>People for Animal Rights</b>	488-PURR (7877)
Jay Liestee	499-0845	<b>Physicians for Social Responsibility</b>	488-2140
<b>American Friends Service Committee</b>	475-4822	<b>Planned Parenthood</b>	475-5525
<b>Animal Defense League</b>	479-9105	<b>PWHIV/ AIDS Support Hotline</b>	471-5911
<b>ARISE</b>	472-3171	<b>Reconsider</b>	
<b>Atlantic States Legal Foundation</b>	475-1170	Nick or Alex Eyle	422-6231
<b>Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition</b>		<b>Religion: Other</b>	
Shirley Novak	446-6099	Phoenix or Kat	474-8801
<b>Citizens Against Radioactive Dumping</b>	(607) 753-6271	<b>Rose Center</b>	
<b>Citizen Review Board</b>		Teri Cameron	422-3426
Felicia Davis	448-8750	<b>Sarah House</b>	475-1747
<b>CNY Center for Occupational Health and Safety</b>	471-6187	<b>Save the County</b>	637-6066
<b>CNY Environment</b>		<b>SEEDS</b>	(607) 749-2818
Lee Gechas	446-5319	<b>Service Employees International</b>	
<b>CNY N.O.W.</b>	487-3188	Robert Tompkins	424-1750
<b>Community Media Action Group</b>	423-4783	<b>Sierra Club</b>	
<b>CUSLAR</b>	(607) 255-7293	Sue Carlson	445-1663
<b>Dunbar Center</b>		<b>Small Claims Court Action Center</b>	443-1401
Merriette Pollard	476-4269	<b>S.O.A. Watch/ CNY</b>	
<b>EON/Transgender Community</b>		Ed Kinane	478-4571
Melissa	423-4099	<b>Social Workers for Peace</b>	
<b>Fair Housing Council of CNY</b>		Dick Mundy	445-0797
Merrilee Witherell	471-0518	<b>Socialist Party</b>	
<b>Fair Trial for Mumia Committee</b>	472-5478	Ron Ehrenreich	478-0793
<b>Fightback! of CNY</b>	422-0555	<b>Spanish Action League</b>	471-3762
<b>Food Bank of CNY</b>	437-1899	<b>SU African-American Society</b>	443-4633
<b>Food Not Bombs</b>	423-7856	<b>Student Environmental Action Coalition</b>	
<b>Friends of the Fillippino People</b>		Michelle Baumfleck	423-8000
John Brulé	445-0698	<b>Syr. Alternative Media Network</b>	
<b>Gay/Lesbian Alliance</b>	422-5732	Tim Brachocki	425-8806
<b>Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Assoc. (SU)</b>	443-3599	<b>Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society</b>	
<b>Haiti Solidarity</b>		<b>SAVES/Joe Connolly</b>	437-2163
Ann Tiffany	478-4571	<b>Syracuse Community Choir</b>	
<b>Hemlock Society</b>		Karen Mihalyi	428-8724
Betty Bentley	463-0782	<b>Syracuse Community Radio</b>	
<b>Hotel Employees 150</b>	437-0373	Frederic Noyes	446-4769
<b>Irish Northern Aid</b>		<b>Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union</b>	471-1116
Patrick Smith	469-8948	<b>Syracuse Cultural Workers</b>	
<b>Jail Ministry</b>	424-1877	Dik Cool	474-1132
<b>Kenark Center for Creative Spirituality</b>		<b>Syracuse N.O.W.</b>	472-3294
Bourke Kennedy	685-5414	<b>Syr. Real Food Coop</b>	472-1385
<b>Lesbian/Gay Youth</b>	443-3599	<b>Syr. Social Movement Initiative</b>	
<b>NAACP</b>		Pramod Parajuli	443-4822
Van Robinson	422-6933	<b>Syracuse United Neighbors</b>	
<b>Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.</b>		Rich Puchalski	476-7475
Ammie Chickering	365-2299	<b>S.U. for Animal Rights</b>	443-4199
<b>New Environment Association</b>		<b>Urban League</b>	
Harry Schwarzlander	446-8009	Eloise Dowdell Curry	472-6955
<b>NYPIRG</b>	476-8381	<b>Utica Community Action</b>	
<b>Onondaga Audobon</b>	457-7731	John Furman	797-7020
<b>Onon. Women's Political Caucus</b>		<b>Witness for Peace Delegations</b>	
Peggy Murray	475-7671	Nancy Gwin	422-4689
<b>Open Hand Theatre</b>		<b>Women's Center (SU)</b>	443-4268
Geoff Navias	476-0466	<b>Women's Health Outreach</b>	
<b>Pax Christi</b>			425-3653
Frank Woolever	446-1693	<b>Women's INFO Center</b>	478-4636

(If you want your group listed, please call)

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



# PEACE NEWSLETTER

May 1998  
PNL 667

## April Mailing Party Helpers

Thanks to all those who helped out at the April mailing party. You are too numerous to name, and besides, we don't want to embarrass you with the effusive praise we are bound to bestow upon all of you for your terrific work, patience, and good company while we try to figure out how to coordinate all this business. Can't wait til we see you next time. Which by the way —

**JUNE PNL MAILING PARTY**  
THUR. MAY 28  
4:30PM FOR STUFFERS  
5PM MAILING  
(+ PIZZA OF COURSE!)

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 PNLs 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, Ted Widay, Cynthia Maud-Gemler

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## About the cover: photo & text by Paul Pearce

**"We are inventing a new and original world. Imagination is seizing power."**  
— statement from May '68 revolt, Paris

IF TIME WERE ROCKS, we could drop the pebbles, blocks, and boulders of this week on the feet of people in front of us and cross great streams. We could fill in large chasms and gaps, build strong, certain houses to last for generations and generations. We could make tangible things that would last and serve us well. We would work hard and together and know that it was all good ...

Yet what we have is a broken and partial map, with gaps in between all the pieces. I wonder whether the maps were empty before, and if we could change the world by filling in all the weeks on our calendars like this one. If all we could remember were people's imaginations, would we have already made them real? Or would we just have already given up our visions to hold on to their memories?

Did the workers revolt in May, 1886, so that we would remember their deaths two days later? Or was it to celebrate May Day together, and the freedom they had only to assert? Do we honor the rocks, or feel the breeze shiver on our necks. The air of May can bring us back to life. It is a good time to be in the fields, and in the streets.

## Revolution Week Calendar

- May 1<sup>st</sup> 1886 • first International Workers Day 340,000 walk out in US general strike
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1886 • Haymarket Massacre — police kill hundreds of workers at protest in Chicago
- May 4<sup>th</sup> 1970 • Kent State — 4 student protesters killed & 13 wounded while protesting invasion of Cambodia
- May 5<sup>th</sup> 1818 • Karl Marx born, revolutionary activist and writer  
1868 • Cinco de Mayo Mexican independence Day
- May 7<sup>th</sup> 1868 • Paris, May '68 Revolt, Unionists and students strike; leads to general strike of 10 million and nearly topples the government

You don't have to be a pagan or an astrologer to know the value of this time of year in the northern hemisphere. It is time to accept our freedom and know its inalienable worth over the prices we pay for its commodified substitutes. It is the time to realize the absolute sufficiency of the basics, and to appreciate the things we most readily have, like each other, and the spring air, and the work we do together in it all the time.  
— Tim Juson

# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGES

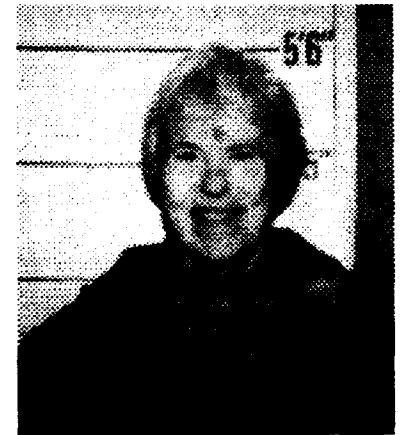
## THE TREE OF JUSTICE



The Syracuse Peace Council hopes to meet its modest 1998 \$40,000/year budget. This budget covers all SPC costs: publishing, printing, and distributing the PNL; upkeep and maintenance of our home at 924 Burnet Avenue; telephones, heat, lights, and everything else. We provide just above minimum wage stipends for two part-time staff. We do well with what we have available. And what we have comes from you. We do not receive any government grants, corporate sponsorship, or PAC funds. Our strength is grounded in the support of many who believe in the Syracuse Peace Council and nurture this tree of justice.

### Ways to contribute to the SPC

**Pledgers:** People who make a regular contributions • **Volunteers** • **Plowshares Craftsair:** organizers; craft people; craft purchasers • People who participate in SPC Programs and actions • **PNL workers:** writers, editors, typists, proofreaders, mailing party participants, distributors, Advertisers. • Newsletter Subscribers **Database updating** • **Committee membership:** Organizational Maintenance, Political Action, SPC-TV, Program, Finance, Literature • **SPC Events:** cooking, cleaning, donating food, setup, takedown, hosting tables... and many, many more.



### Letters from Prison

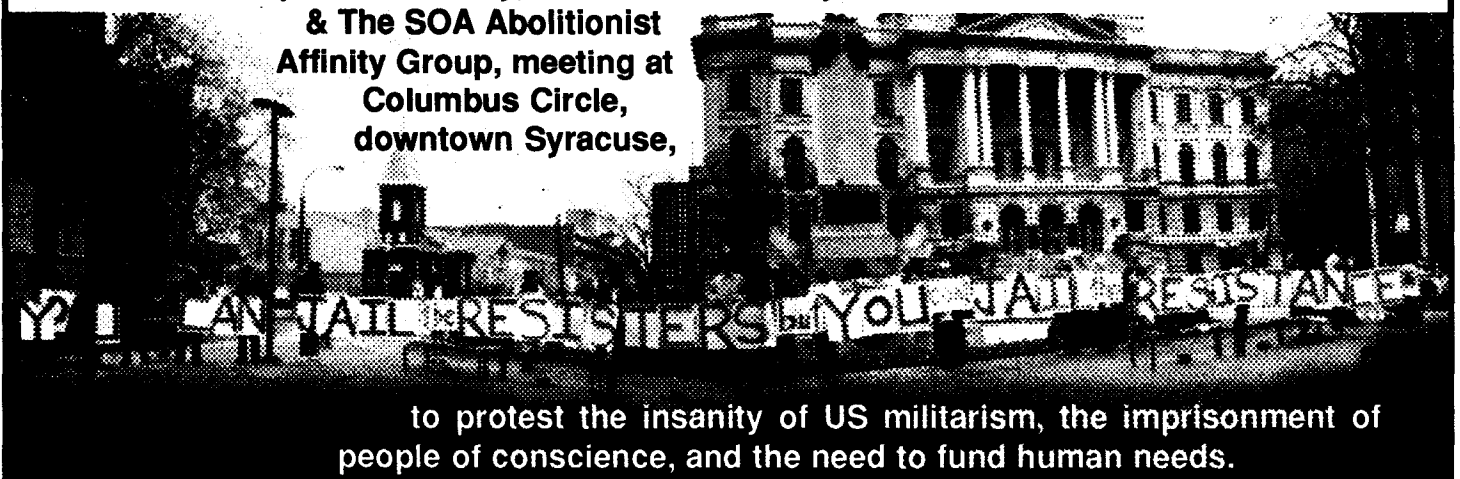
The Syracuse Peace Council is proud and supportive of our member/friends who have gone to jail for protesting the SOA. SPC is deeply affected by the absence of Ann Tiffany who served as Council member, program and finance committee member, garage sale organizer, volunteer remodeler /house-cleaner and always a cheerful and warm presence in our house. We miss her in so many ways.

Ann and five other Central New Yorkers began their six-month sentences on March 23, 1998. Ann has written to us from Danbury Prison. Her letter, first of a series, is on page 6, the SOA page.

If you are motivated to help fill in for Ann while she's away, give us a call.



On April 15, Tax Day, the Peace Council joined with Peace Action of CNY & The SOA Abolitionist Affinity Group, meeting at Columbus Circle, downtown Syracuse,



to protest the insanity of US militarism, the imprisonment of people of conscience, and the need to fund human needs.

# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGES

## 62nd Birthday Dinner Big Success for Jailbirds, Motmots & Others

On April 18, 1998 SPC celebrated its 62nd birthday with delicious food, rousing music, a (somewhat wild) mini-auction, and even some political work. While the final accounting is still underway, about 200 people attended and \$1600 was raised.

### Highlights of the evening included -

Personal reflections by Peter and Gail Mott (from Rochester) on their experiences in Chiapas and the ongoing work of U.S. and Mexican activists aimed at bringing peace to the area. Many of us met Peter and Gail for the first time and were excited about strengthening the link with Rochester peace and social justice efforts.



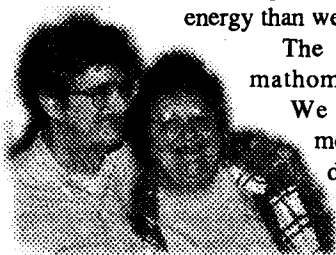
Exciting and provocative music performed by Jolie Rickman and Colleen Kattau. Time constraints were all that held us back from asking for more encores.

Heartfelt words from Ed Kinane and Kathleen Rumpf, who reported on the current situation of the five CNY SOA activists (and others) now in jail. (Ed and Kathleen are awaiting their own sentencing dates for what may be extended jail terms for repeated actions aimed at closing the SOA.)

Participation by a large number of people attending the two-day North East Zapatista Solidarity Network(ing) Meeting.

It was very satisfying to share dinner and conversation with folks from Canada, Detroit, and many parts of NY and New England.

The ever-wonderful food prepared by Nick Orth and his under-recognized helpers, all of whom give far more time and energy than we see.



The first (?) annual mathom mini-auction.

We raised some money and had fun doing it. Kudos to Bill Mazza who is non-pareil in his ability to bring excitement, wit, and humor to auctioning off the unusual (especially after spending all day in the kitchen cooking empanadas with Nick and his crew).

In addition to the people noted above, we want to thank the members of the SPC Program Committee and others whose work made the dinner as good as it was; Marge Rusk, Beth Mosely, Rae Kramer, Paul Pearce and Andy Molloy (the latter two especially for the eye-catching and informative program)

The mathom contributors and table hosts (whose carrying all place settings, bowls, cups, flowers, candles, etc. in and then taking it all back home again keeps the clean-up crew from washing dishes until the wee hours of the morning)

The set-up and clean-up crews, whose work is essential and often taken for granted

Brian Caufield for an effective sound system that enabled all 200 of us to hear the words, the music, and "Going once, going twice, ... Sold".

We have the birthday dinner for two reasons: to share a fun evening together and to raise funds for SPC work. Our hope is to continually improve how the evening goes. Please let us know your thoughts about how to make it an even better party.

*Jailbird Postscript:* Ann Tiffany, organizer and initiator of the "table host" style of SPC dinners, was dearly missed at the dinner. Ann has served on the Coun-



cil and the Program Committee, and has given great support to the maintenance and upkeep of the SPC house at 924 Burnet. Her jail stay reminds us of her missed energy at home as she confronts oppression abroad.

Rae Kramer

photos by Paul Pearce

## SPC Hosts Ni-Mo Teach-In

CLOSING NINE MILE ONE (NM1), the deteriorating nuclear power plant located on Lake Ontario about 40 miles from Syracuse, is one of SPC's major initiatives for 1998. To that end, we were very pleased to host a teach-in on April 7 about nuclear pollution, the dangers of the plant and organizing strategies for closing it.

More than twenty people participated, including members of the Massachusetts Citizens Awareness Network (CAN), who closed the Yankee Rowe nuclear plant several years ago. They were invited to share their experi-

ences and help the CNY campaign develop strategies for local action. In their view, what is most shocking about NiMo's continued use of NM1 and the NRC's complicity with that is that Central New York is being used as a guinea pig: NM1 is the first reactor of its type to develop vertical cracks in the core shroud, and no one is sure how drastically such cracks affect the safety of the plant, nor how effectively the cracks can be managed.

The plant is essentially being jury-rigged as problems develop; in an evolving fashion, the plant's design is continually departing from the original one deemed "safe" by the

NRC when the plant opened. The danger of a meltdown is therefore increasing, but the already dangerous releases of radiation from normal use are also on the rise.

CAN closed Yankee Rowe through grassroots education, community empowerment and direct action holding the NRC accountable. They did not ask the power company for permission to close the plant. We can and must do the same here. To get involved in the Close Nine Mile One! campaign, call SPC at 472-5478. Meetings are held at 5:45pm on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month at the Good Earth Café, 110 Harvard Pl.

Rae Kramer, Tim Judson

Benefit concert for SOA Watch ...

**COLLEEN KATTAU**  
**& JOUE CHRISTINE RICKMAN**  
 WITH ACTIVIST **ED KINANE**  
**Thurs., May 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Westcott Community Center**  
 (corner of Westcott & Euclid)  
 for info call 472-5478

## LETTER FROM DANBURY PRISON

On March 23 five Syracuseans began six month sentences at federal minimum security camps. Dan Sage and Nick Cardell went to FPC Allenwood in Pennsylvania and Doris Sage, Megan Rice, and Ann Tiffany went to FPC Danbury in Connecticut. All five were charged with "illegal reentry," a misdemeanor, for trying to petition their government to close the SOA at Fort Benning on November 16, 1997. Thirteen other anti-SOA activists also entered prisons all around the country on March 23 on the same charge.

Here are some of Ann's initial impressions. Later she wrote, "The glamour has worn off."

Dear PNL/SPC Friends,

One week in a Federal Prison Camp and I've learned the two most important principles we live by here: *A clean house is a happy house; And: Work is the solution of the soul.* And, oh yes: *Trying is not to be confused with doing.*

So there you have it. Six months of this could certainly lead one to be the perfect little camper, citizen, and non-thinking being.

The transition here has been remarkably easy. Megan, Doris and I went through pro-

cessing quite easily and were delivered to "the camp on the hill" — a long, low building that "houses, feeds, educates and recreates about 200 women."

We, along with Anne Herman, a fellow SOA Watcher from Binghamton, are in separate rooms, but in the same area. We're all on bottom bunks, a consideration for our age. Each room houses six women with three bunks, six lockers, and three folding chairs.

The day is very routinized — breakfast at 6:15am, lunch from 11 to noon, and supper from 4:15 to 5pm. The meals are quite good. There's always some choice: fresh vegetables in a salad and fresh fruit. We can also purchase fresh fruit in the commissary, which we have access to once a week.

Anne Herman is a tutor in the GED program (required for all those without high school

degrees. You lose "good time" for non-participation.) When we're medically cleared, we three new folks will probably be in food service or the laundry. I've had an afternoon in the laundry as an "assigned" helper. Not too bad.

Outdoors is quite lovely — benches, picnic tables, track with volley ball court and bocci ball area in the center. There's also an exercise room with aerobic videos and exercise equipment. But most of all there is lovely scenery. The back of our building faces East — sunrises and rolling mountains....

— Ann Tiffany #88114-020

## Close the SOA Update

- On April 2 the ACLU/CNY chapter awarded its annual Kharas award for "distinguished service in civil liberties in Central New York" to the "Syracuse Seven" — Ann Tiffany, Dan & Doris Sage, Ed Kinane, Megan Rice, Nick Cardell, and Sara Lucas.
- Peace Action of CNY will give the Syracuse Seven its annual peace award at a welcome home dinner for them next fall. Call Diane Swords at 478-7442 to join the planning committee.
- Our November 16, 1997 petitioning at Fort Benning — in which the Syracuse Seven and 594 others were arrested in one of this country's largest mass arrests in years — got two sentences in the next day's *New York Times*. Recently the usually timorous *Times* acknowledged the issue a little: on Sunday, March 22 it ran an entire column, datelined Westvale, on the first page of the Metro section. It was devoted to Dan and Doris and their impending incarceration.
- Ed Kinane and Kathleen Rumpf still haven't gotten their felony sentencing date. On March 4 in the Columbus, GA federal court they and three others were found guilty of destroying government property with "malicious intent" [see Nov. '97 PNL]. Because they're awaiting this more severe sentencing, the four of these five defendants also found guilty of a misdemeanor back in January didn't go to prison on March 23 with the 18 others from Syracuse and around the country. They're still at large.
- Our "you can jail the resister but you can't jail the resistance" Close the SOA T-shirts have been a great success. It's no wonder — the quality is high and the design by Karen Kerney is compelling. And they're being sold at the going-out-of-business rate of \$10 each. Call Sara Lucas at 469-5628 to do all your holiday shopping early.
- There's some serious talk going around about setting up a peace encampment just outside Fort Benning in solidarity with our people in prison. Locally, Margaret Birdleough is committed to doing what she can to make it happen. She plans to go down to Columbus, GA at the time of Ed and Kathleen's sentencing to rent a house to be occupied soon thereafter. She pictures a place just up the hill from the Benning main entrance. The house would be a base for the encampment and for community outreach. Margaret has checked it out and knows there is plenty of latent support in Columbus for closing the SOA. To join in or otherwise be supportive, give Margaret a buzz at 422-4201.
- Fr. Roy Bourgeois, founder of SOA Watch and one of those who entered prison on March 23, has declared he will not work in prison — unless the US Army calls for the prosecution of those SOA grads who, on Nov. 16, 1989, murdered the six Jesuits in El Salvador. For this act of conscience Roy is likely to spend the rest of his six months in the hole.

— Ed Kinane

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# Bubba is Everywhere

## In Our Different Voices

Deb Kreidler & Pat Taub

**O**n the morning of March 31, 1998, one week after the Jonesboro massacre, we were meeting to work on a new project when Deb's absorption with Jonesboro distracted us. The more we discussed Jonesboro, the more we felt a need to write an article.

**Pat:** I sense Deb is bottled-up. Wanting to help her release her feelings, I offer my views of Jonesboro: "I think those boys didn't really know what they were doing. ... They didn't understand that they would actually be killing people."

**Deb:** Grief. Rage. Fear. I realize I haven't talked to anyone about this situation. Pat thinks the boys "didn't understand" what they were doing. Suddenly my feelings crystallize: Outrage! "Pat, I can't believe you said that! These boys are hunters: they damn well know that guns kill. They specifically targeted females. It was a carefully planned ambush."

**Pat:** It never occurred to me that these children could have acted as cold-blooded killers. Denial. Andrew's face resembled the faces of my sons at age 11. I resist Deb's account, yet ... What does she know that I don't know? "What do you mean they knew exactly what they were doing?"

**Deb:** "Listen, Pat, I grew up on a farm, and we always hunted. Just before I turned 30, I was badly beaten. At 30, I fired my first handgun. For the next five years I was never out of arms reach of a firearm. I've had survivalist training. I understand this mentality. It's not about Bubba down there. Bubba is here."

Then Deb connected the Jonesboro massacre to the Montreal massacre; both were woman-hating crimes. On December 6, 1989, Marc Lepine broke into an engineering class

and gunned down 14 female students, wounding nine other women. Before he killed the women, Lepine ordered the men out of the classroom and shut the door. The male students and their teacher watched the shootings through a glass door panel. While Lepine was reloading, the men could have charged him, or run for help, but they did nothing.

Robin Morgan refers to the "honorable men" who analyze such events for the mass media, and who, like Richard Grossman in the *Post Standard* of April 13, 1998, ignore the existence of woman-hating crimes. Morgan terms this practice one of "collaboration by analysis."

Grossman described Jonesboro as a "turkey shoot." This was NOT a turkey shoot! Four girls and a woman are not turkeys. Grossman goes on to describe the killings as "unthinkable" and "incomprehensible." He couldn't be more wrong. Jonesboro was not "unthinkable." The boys thought about and planned their crime.

Nor is Jonesboro "incomprehensible." In a woman-hating culture these killings are about power, control, and possession. Mitchell Johnson, the 13 year old killer, clearly stated, "No one is going to break up with me!" He also told the girls, "Tomorrow you find out if you live or die!" These words fit the pattern of domestic violence.

Susan McGee, from a Michigan Safe House stated "Every day batterers of adult partners threaten to kill their girlfriends and wives if they dare to break up with them or dare to leave them. ... We are missing the boat if we address Jonesboro only as an episode of teen violence in general and fail to address the overarching epidemic of violence against women." Grossman's ignoring the pattern of domestic violence in Jonesboro was echoed in the national press. Jonathan Alther of *Newsweek* stated "The logic that connects this massacre to a larger social agenda is thin." We

abhor such thinking because it leads to superficial solutions like banning guns and suggestions to turn off the TV! American girls and women are in big trouble. The thinking of Grossman and Alther dominates our mainstream media. Susan McGee notes: "This should be a wake-up call to the nation. All of our daughters are in danger."

Despite some 30 years of feminist movements and actions in this country, there's still a pervasive attitude of woman-hating, both overt and covert. And crimes against women are as rampant in Syracuse as they are in the so-called "Southern macho gun culture." This permeates the entire county. A way to stop the tidal wave of crimes against women is to get past the NIMBY syndrome: "Not in my backyard." Among those women killed in our backyard in the recent past are: April Gregory; the Dryden cheerleaders; Quana Dickerson; Jenna, the nurse from Camillus; and Lee Ann Cruz, the S.U. librarian killed by her son. Among those who were stabbed by men and barely survived are Georgia Russell and Karina Ferra. This is a short list. In the daily paper you can spot the name of a woman killed by a boyfriend, husband, or son.

However, the epidemic crimes against women can be reversed if we begin to take grassroots action. Peace Council members and their friends can press the schools for prevention programs focusing on violence in relationships, particularly dating violence. Concerned men and boys need to lend their voices and actions to those of women working to alter the national consciousness about domestic violence.

Jonesboro was not an isolated, anomalous killing! It's wasn't just about Rodney Redneck with his rusty pick-up equipped with gun rack and a six pack. Bubba is in your back yard. Bubba is everywhere!

Deb Kreidler teaches feminist philosophy at several area colleges. Pat Taub is a family therapist and teacher of Women's Spirituality. The full text of this article is available at the SPC offices.



# Oily Politics

## Buy High, Sell Low: The Clinton Balanced Budget Plan

Mike Kernahan

In any really decent dictionary, under synonyms for "boondoggle," "corporate welfare," "pork barrel," and possibly "substance abuse," you should find prominently listed the US Department of Energy's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).

Created by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, the reserve is touted as the nation's insurance policy in the case of an interruption of our increasingly foreign oil supply. It consists of a series of five salt domes in coastal Louisiana and Texas in which Congress has authorized storage of one billion barrels of oil, less than a two-month supply at our current level of addiction (18.6 million barrels/day). However it has never contained more than 591 million barrels and presently stands at about 563 million barrels.

The average purchase price of that oil over the years has been \$27.14/barrel, though much of it was bought for \$30 to \$35/barrel. It is conservatively estimated that, to date, it has cost the federal government an additional \$3/barrel to store the oil. The last oil in the reserve was purchased in 1993. A total of \$21 billion dollars has been spent on construction and filling of the reserve, although independent sources put the actual figure at two to three

times that amount. The environmental cost has, predictably, never been calculated.

Step back a moment and try to get a mental picture of this deal. Imagine, for example, that you are an alien attempting to discern if there is intelligent life on this planet. You observe masses of industrious humans busily extracting this noxious, poisonous fluid from various holes deep in the earth, transporting it huge distances across the planet (spilling a great deal of it along the way), then secreting it in other holes closer to the surface, from which some of it leaks into the ecosystem and poisons the water which sustains human life. What would your recommendation to your superiors be regarding this particular planet?

But it gets better. Never a brilliant move, the SPR has in the past few years become a pawn in balanced budget and election battles, leading it to even greater heights of dimwittedness.

In the last two years 28 million barrels of oil, bought at up to \$35/barrel, have been sold at \$18 to \$22/barrel, ostensibly to cover the \$207 million annual cost of operating the SPR. The Department of Energy estimates that in 1998 it will receive \$13/barrel for the ever greater amount of oil that must be sold to make the SPR "self-sustaining." This spiral is expected to continue as the deep thinkers in the federal government must dump ever greater quantities of oil into an already glutted market in order to realize the same return.



Taking a lesson from the government's plundering of the Social Security "Trust" fund, President Clinton has apparently come to think of the SPR as a handy slush fund for all political contingencies. He overruled his own energy secretary last year by including the sale of 12% of the SPR in 2002 as part of the fine print in his plan to balance the federal budget in seven years. He also ordered the immediate sale of approximately 12 million barrels of SPR oil last summer to help keep gas prices low during the election season, particularly in politically crucial California. In a familiar bait-and-switch tactic, there have been proposals to sell off SPR oil for more politically palatable purposes, such as education.

Refusing to fund alternative energy development and stockpiling oil to ensure a steady supply and reduce the nation's vulnerability to foreign suppliers is like refusing to fund drug treatment programs and using the money to stockpile heroin so the nation's junkies won't be overly dependent on their pushers. The federal government has repeatedly demonstrated its incompetence in the management of the SPR.

The goal of reducing this county's enormous and unhealthy appetite for petroleum can only be seriously served by devoting resources to the development of sustainable, non-polluting, energy supplies. Our chronic order of that simple order is steadily trashing our planet and our treasury.

Mike Kernahan lives at the Common Place Land Trust and Community. He is starting a woodworking business.

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# Lessons from Chernobyl

## The Realities of a Meltdown and the Chances at Nine Mile One

Simon Morrin

On April 25, 1986, operators at Unit 4 of Ukraine's four reactor Chernobyl nuclear complex began a test on one of the plant's turbines. The test involved the disconnection of the plant's safety systems and the reduction of operating power to 1 percent of normal output. At 1:23am on April 26, the plant became unstable, and operators lost control of the reaction. The reactor jumped to 100 times normal operating power, causing a steam explosion which blew apart the reactor's containment.

As burning debris from the reactor fell on surrounding buildings, coolant water flooded the 1,700 ton reactor core producing hydrogen gas, which exploded hurling more radioactive debris and radionuclides high into the sky. The reactor's blazing graphite core spewed radioactivity into the atmosphere for the next 10 days.

According to Dr. Alexey Yablokov, Chairman of the National Security Council of the Russian Federation, "The Chernobyl accident is the greatest technological disaster in history. It drastically changed the lives of at least seven million Ukrainian, Belorussian and Russian people." Today, the effects of Chernobyl are still being felt around the world.

A 1995 United Nations study found the incidence of thyroid cancer in Belarus (whose border is 50 kilometers north of the plant) was 285 times higher than pre-accident levels and that illnesses of all kinds were 30 percent above normal in contaminated areas of Ukraine. Ukrainian officials now predict at least 200,000 local deaths, and are reporting increases in bone tumors as well as cancers of the kidney, bladder, lung and breast.

Experts predict devastating levels of cancer. Dilwyn Williams, professor of histopathology at Cambridge University in England and president of the European Thyroid Association, estimates thyroid cancer will ultimately strike more than 40 percent of the downwind children who were less than a year old when exposed. The results of his studies, he admits, "terrify me (2)."

Dr. John Gofman, founder and former director of Livermore biomedical lab for the US Atomic Energy Commission has stated, "There is no way the children of the area could not have gotten a massive dose. It's crazy to think you would not have an epidemic."

Health effects from Chernobyl are being felt worldwide. In 1997, the US Department of Energy (a pro-nuclear body) estimated that roughly one million curies of caesium-137 fell within Soviet borders, another on a million curies fell on the rest of Europe, and a final one million curies spread throughout the northern hemisphere: a total amount comparable to the fallout from all atmospheric weapons to date.

"The odds of a meltdown are one in 10,000 years."

— Vitaly Sklyarov, Ukrainian Minister of Power and Electrification, February 1986, two months before the Chernobyl accident

The total emission of all radionuclides from Chernobyl (excluding noble gases) amounted to some 50 million curies, 200 times more radioactive material than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs combined.

Estimates of the death toll outside the former Soviet Union vary widely. A conservative estimate is a long-term death rate of 20,000, made by Morris Rosen of the International Atomic Energy Agency. John Gofman has predicted half a million fatal cancers worldwide as a result of Chernobyl. In June of 1986 there was a 13 percent rise in infant mortality rates in the US as a whole, shortly after the fallout cloud passed overhead.

The environmental and financial costs of the accident are enormous. Ten years after the disaster, 46,000 square kilometers of land remained heavily contaminated and approximately 375,000 people in the three surrounding republics remain displaced. An 18 mile radius uninhabitable "dead zone" still exists around the plant, where Ukrainian officials estimate there remain more than 335 million tons of radioactive waste. The nearby towns of Pripyat (formerly 30,000 people) and

Chernobyl (formerly 12,000 people) are being demolished.

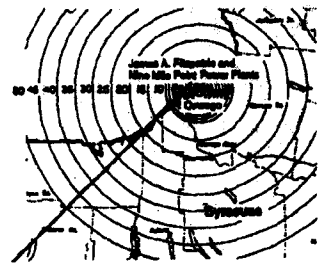
In 1990, Yuri Koryakin, chief economist at the Research and Development Institute of Power, which designed Chernobyl, estimated that the accident would cost the Soviet Union as much as \$358 billion, the equivalent of 15 percent of the Soviet GNP for 1987. In the mid-nineties, Belarus was spending approximately 25 percent of its annual budget on Chernobyl-related costs.

At the center of the exclusion zone: 185 tons of nuclear fuel, 200 kilograms of loose plutonium and hundreds of tons of hot rubble are contained in a concrete and steel "sarcophagus", completed six months after the accident, but now crumbling and leaking radioactive waste. Engineers estimate a replacement at \$1.6 billion, and there is a real danger that another explosion could occur within the molten core.

Both the nuclear industry and the government in the United States were, as always, quick to downplay the effects of the disaster. Claims that "it could never happen here" echoed the denial surrounding the 1978 partial core melt at the Three Mile Island plant in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, when the plant's owners attempted to cover up the accident and deny huge amounts of radioactivity were being released.

In 1980, a US House of Representatives Committee found that "Three Mile Island managers presented State and Federal officials misleading statements that conveyed the impression the accident was substantially less severe and the accident more under control than what the managers themselves believed and what was in fact the case." And, in a 1983 lawsuit, the US Department of Justice indicted the plant's operators, the Metropolitan Edison Company, for criminal falsification and destruction of safety data. MetEd pleaded guilty to some of the counts and no contest to the others.

And as part of their public relations campaign following Chernobyl, the US nuclear industry claimed that the Chernobyl reactor



# Me and Ed

## An Encounter with a Radical Celebrity

Joan Goldberg

**J**ULY 15, 1997: Ed Asner will be honored by Temple Adath Yeshurun as its Citizen of the Year at a community-wide event in Syracuse for "his activism and altruism across the globe." Because of his commitment to the same social justice issues so many of us have been working on for years, I decide to try to set up a meeting with him and some activists from our own peace and social justice community. I am told he's on a very strict schedule, but that I could leave some information for him.

I write him a letter to let him know that there is a community in Syracuse working on many of the same issues as he is, specifically Central/Latin America and Cuba. I tell him about our Jewish Sanctuary Committee that worked to heighten awareness within the larger Jewish community to the plight of Central American refugees and include an article I had written for the Jewish Observer about the Jews in Cuba after my 1994 trip. Shirley Novak writes about our sister community in El Salvador.

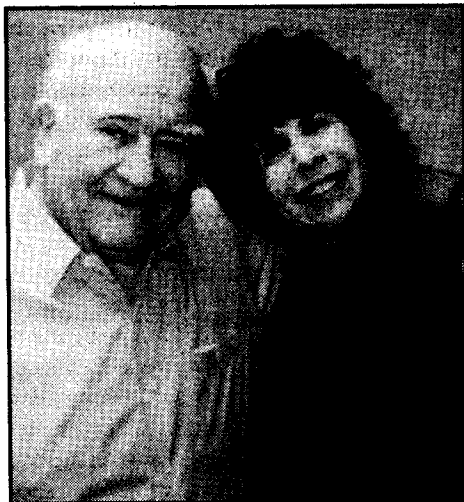
A Friday night in August: I answer my phone and a booming male voice inquires, "Joan Goldberg?" Then, "This is Ed Asner." All I can say is "Oh, my God!" He thanks me for the packet of information and tells me that HE is humbled by OUR work! I can barely focus on the conversation when suddenly he is saying that he has to take another call and here's his phone number; if I'm ever in Los Angeles I should give him a call. I put his number in a place where I'll hopefully be able to find it.

December: Doug Igelsrud and I make plans to spend a few weeks in California and Los Angeles is on our itinerary. I call the

number (his office) and explain who I am to his assistant. She checks his schedule and we set a date.

January 7: We arrive to an office filled with an extensive library of politically progressive books, memorabilia, pictures of Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King on the walls and are greeted by Lou Grant himself—Ed Asner. We three sit and talk for over an hour. He plies us with baklava and tea.

His involvement in Central America began when he heard a nun speak about the atrocities that were being committed there and the urgent need for medical aid in El Salvador. At this time he was president of the Screen



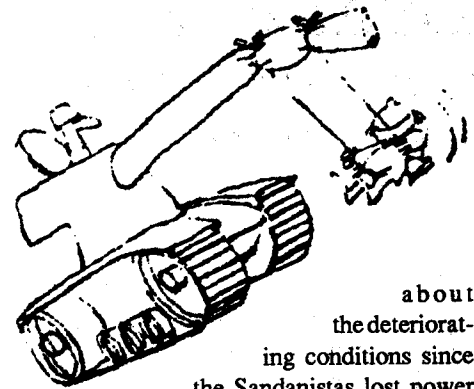
The author with Ed Asner. Photo: Doug Igelsrud

Actors' Guild. He nostalgically recounts the trouble he had when he hosted a press conference and spoke out in support of medical aid for El Salvador. A reporter asked him "What if the communists win the election?" At first he just "fluffed off" an answer but then came back to it and said, "If that's what the people want, let them have it." This was tantamount to his signing his own

death warrant. He received assassination and bomb threats as well as criticism from other actors concerned that he would be perceived as speaking for them. But he had spoken from his heart. He stayed involved and didn't back down and that saved him, he said. But his career suffered, a program was cancelled and he was blacklisted.

I tell him I receive his letters from The Disarm Education Fund's Cuban Medical Project. He says he isn't really involved with that group but that he agreed to let them use his signature because that was at least a way he could help them. And, while he expresses some concerns about Cuba's policy toward homosexuals and those with HIV, he is glad to hear about the changes we observed there on our recent trips.

I talk about my trip to Nicaragua in 1989, the 10th anniversary of the revolution. He was there in 1990 for the elections, and we speak



about the deteriorating conditions since the Sandanistas lost power and the suffering of the people because of our government's involvement.

We are charmed to be in the company of this actor activist, this man who is outspoken, unpretentious, feisty, gentle, brash, nostalgic—who, because of his commitment to what he believed in, took an unpopular stand, risked his career and has no regrets. His warmth, caring and kindness are evident in every phone conversation we can't help overhearing while we wait patiently to continue our conversation with him; his sincere commitment is present in every book, poster and award that surround him. Reluctantly we get ready to leave. He asks us if we want a cookie, thanks us for our work and says, "You're the cement."

The next night we watch him on a sitcom.

Note: For further information please call Deborah Johnson or Cheryl Abrams at 445-0002.

Joan is a local Central America activist currently supporting our prisoners of conscience in their efforts to close the SOA (School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia). Doug, a fellow activist, is a frequent travelling companion.

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# Dual Power Media

## Community Control of Information, Part Two

Brian A. Dominick

**T**oward the goal of developing an accessible foundation of community-based alternative media, countless projects have recently been initiated by activists concerned with the grim face of informational manipulation descending upon their towns and the world.

About four years ago, in Gainesville, FL, a small group of activists endeavored to create what is now the Civic Media Center (CMC), an "alternative reading room" whose storefront is prominent along the main drag of the University of Florida area. Inside the seasoned activist and passerby alike can find an assortment of books, periodicals, video and audio tapes, as well as regular meetings of several local groups from feminist organizations to Narcotics Anonymous. Like many of the now dozens of "infoshops" popping up (actually, they're being rigorously organized) throughout the US and Canada, the CMC is a space claimed by activists for the free development and sharing of ideas, first and foremost. Nearly every night of the week, something is going on at the CMC, from meetings and workshops to poetry jams and punk rock shows.

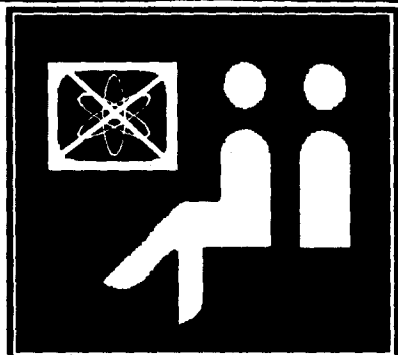
For \$10 a year, anyone can become a member of the CMC and borrow any of the thousands of books, magazines and other media available there, many of which can be found nowhere else in Alachua County. While volunteering at the Center for 4 months in 1995, I met nearly every activist in town (that's a lot in Gainesville). Perhaps more rewarding, I met numerous individuals who just wandered into the library to see what it was and wound up sticking around or even joining up!

Many infoshops host "free schools," where community members share skills and lessons with each other on topics like economics, bike repair, women's health, vegan cooking — you name it. Video series are common, and speaking tours have been coordinated among different centers.

Cities sporting infoshops of various kinds include Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, New York, New Orleans, Berkeley, Columbus (OH), Montreal, Toronto, and on and on.

Infoshops are fast becoming the radical community centers of the future, and most infoshop organizers describe the experience as both demanding and rewarding.

In Toronto, Ontario, on the 3rd Tuesday of any given month, dozens of media activists participate in an open meeting of the Toronto Media Collective. This group of activists — "collectively and individually involved in art, graffiti, zines, video, micro-power broadcasting, radio, performance art, food, street theatre, cartoons, faxing, fasting, civil-disobedience, newspapers, music, hacking, phreaking, luddism, the web, television, writing, email, video-conferencing, elite-crashing, talking, loving, partying, reading, reporting, ranting,



telephony, protesting, analysis, and straight-out revolution" — must be met to be believed. For a couple of hyperactive hours, 12 times a year, they converge upon each other for purposes of networking and sharing stories of successes and failures, ideas and frustrated blocks.

The kinds of projects which emerge from collaborations among these folks are as varied and numerous as the activists themselves — perhaps more so! From billboard modification and computer hacking to video and publishing projects, the concrete activities born in Media Collective meetings are probably not their most important product — inspiration, encouragement, skills and partnerships to do still more are what's really being developed. (Note: since the original writing, the Media Collective has dissolved, but its tenure re-

mains a shining example of the potential for spontaneous collaboration and networking.)

During Active Resistance, an anarchist conference which took place in Chicago over a period of ten days before, during and after the Democratic National Convention last year, a new form of alternative media was being experimented with. The well-prepared, ambitious coalition which undertook the effort referred to it — and themselves collectively — as CounterMedia. While two major alternative events were taking place not far from the DNC, not to mention several serious political demonstrations, the mainstream media kept their ears and eyes glued to the mainstream spectacle, ignoring the rest of us entirely. CounterMedia undertook the task of keeping one eye on the police and the other on the actions and festivities carried out by grassroots radicals defending abortion clinics, resisting neo-liberal social policies, celebrating authentic culture, and promoting alternatives to government and hierarchy.

We all know cops tend not to like being watched, so it's no surprise that they turned their eyes just as intently on the Active Resistance and CounterMedia participants with 24-hour surveillance and harassment. In the end, the police would arrest dozens of activists, brutalizing some — but not before CounterMedia recorded much of the activity on video cameras (many of which were confiscated and/or destroyed by cops). Taking advantage of the Internet, CounterMedia disseminated their version of the news, on a timely basis, to alternative media outlets throughout the world. This first, rather coarse attempt at developing our own, highly organized network of on-site media, rather than appealing to mainstream sources to carry "our side," was a small success and has yielded many lessons.

Indeed, there are lessons to be learned from so many new alternative media approaches. From many cases, like the three mentioned here, we can discover nothing more important than our own potency. When communities take media into their own hands, they begin reclaiming the power taken from them

cont. on p. 21





**Something special in the air**

European environmental groups are organizing airport protests to publicize the environmental impact of air travel. It is currently estimated that aircraft, which emit nitrous oxides, contribute 3-5 % of the emissions responsible for the greenhouse effect. These emissions also damage the high altitude ozone layer and contribute to acid rain. European airlines receive indirect corporate welfare from most European governments in the form of tax abatements. Largely as a result of these subsidies, European air traffic is expected to increase by about 6% per year in the coming decades, with a parallel substantial increase in emissions.

Source: *Friends of the Earth-Netherlands*

**Let 'em eat NOx**

Initial estimates put the 1997 expansion of world crop and livestock production at a relatively anemic 1.1 %, down from 3.6 % in 1996. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) also reports that world food aid in 1997 dropped sharply, by 37%, to 4.9 million tons, the lowest level since the inception of such programs in the 1950's.

Source: *UN Food and Agriculture Office*

**Your tax dollars at work again**

In the last six months of 1997 twelve bombings occurred at Cuban hotels and restaurants. One person was killed and many others wounded. The attacks are apparently aimed at Cuba's growing tourist industry, which is now the country's second largest industry. Last September the Cuban government arrested a Salvadoran man who was reportedly trained at "a military school in the state of Georgia." It's probably only a coincidence that the 1996 Helms-Burton Act earmarks aid, including military aid, to anti-Castro Cuban insurgent groups like the wealthy Miami-based Cuban-American National Foundation, fingered by the Cuban government for the bombings.

Source: *The New York Times, The Catholic Worker*

**Viva Italia**

The Italian government late last year took steps to remove anti-personnel landmines entirely from its weapons arsenal. Production, sale, and export of anti-personnel mines is now illegal in Italy and manufacturers are required to turn over all existing stocks to the government or face a one billion lire (\$6 million) fine.

The Italian armed forces will destroy nearly all of the 200,000 landmines currently in their possession, reserving 10,000 to be used to train troops in mine disarmament. The US government joined China, Russia, and India in refusing to join 89 other countries in a treaty banning landmines last year.

Source: *The New York Times*

**Pobre Venezuela**

In a whirlwind visit to Venezuela last year, President Clinton exhausted his Spanish vocabulary with the pronouncement "Todo esta chevere en Venezuela" (Everything is fabulous in Venezuela). Evocative of Ronald Reagan on a valium holiday, this statement puzzled many people familiar with the situation there.

In April 1996 Venezuela surrendered to pressure from the US and the international business community to join the global market crusade. President Caldera broke all election promises and signed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund known as the "Agenda Venezuela." It eliminates all government subsidies in areas related to the well-being of its citizens and constitutes a general invitation to international business to plunder the country. By any measure, the plundering is proceeding with the practiced efficiency achievable only by accomplished thieves. Some facts:

- 81% of Venezuelans live in poverty, 8% of whom joined that club in 1997 alone, the first full year of Agenda Venezuela.
- 48% of Venezuelans live in "extreme poverty," a designation which means that they lack the means to purchase even the most basic food items considered indispensable by the World Health Organization.
- The Venezuelan unemployment rate is 20%, 35% among youth. Over one million Venezuelans between the ages of 15 and 25 neither work nor study.
- Following the largest drop in food consumption in recent Venezuelan history in 1996, food consumption dropped a further 7% in 1997
- Real salaries of Venezuelans have plunged to their lowest point in 40 years.
- Following the elimination of price controls on food, Venezuelans now have one-third the food buying capacity they had in 1968.
- While the World Health Organization recommends that countries spend at least 10%

of Gross National Product on health, in 1997 that figure was 2.5% in Venezuela, down from 6% in 1991.

- Preventable diseases previously considered eradicated, such as tuberculosis and dengue, are on the rise as is the infant mortality rate.
- Venezuela is the single largest supplier of oil to the US.

Maybe Bill Clinton needs remedial Spanish lessons.

Source: *Maryknoll Justice and Peace Office*

**The more you pay, the more it's worth**

In December of last year the US Bureau of Labor Statistics released the Occupational Employment Survey, providing wage data for 764 occupations in 1996. The highest median straight-time wages were found among a select group of health-diagnosing occupations. Leading the parade were physicians and surgeons at over \$60./hour. Also in this elite group:

Dentists:	\$47.66
Podiatrists:	\$47.64
Professors of Law:	\$45.02
Professors of Medicine:	\$37.04
Professors of Engineering:	\$36.29

**The half-dozer jobs at the bottom of the list:**

Waitpersons	\$5.37
Food and Fiber Farm workers:	\$5.41
Ushers and Ticket Takers:	\$5.47
Fast Food Cooks:	\$5.48
Dining Room Attendants:	\$5.49
Food Preparation and Service workers:	\$5.49

Source: *US Department of Labor Monthly Labor Review, January 1998*

**Are politicians included?**

Contingent workers, defined as those whose jobs are not expected to last, consisted of 4.4% of all employment in 1997, down slightly from 4.9% in 1996. These workers are employed in a wide variety of jobs but are most heavily represented in the construction and service industries. They tend to be younger than other workers: about 30% are below the age of 25 compared with 13% among other workers. Contingent workers are also more likely to be female.

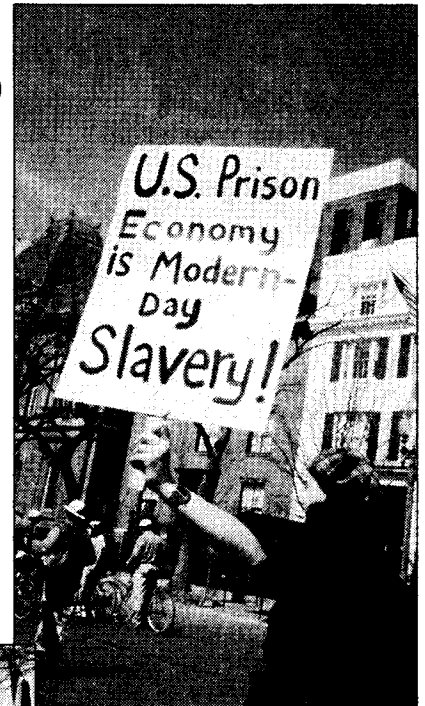
Source: *Current Population Survey, US Bureau of Labor Statistics*

**O**n 27 March about 5,000 people marched in Washington DC to demand the immediate release of all political prisoners held in the United States. The demonstration, called Jericho '98, was the first time a coalition of organizations across the U.S. had come together in support of political prisoners. The diverse crowd of mostly young people held banners and chanted slogans in support of Mumia Abu Jamal, the MOVE 9, Leonard Peltier, the Puerto Rican freedom fighters, Fred Hampton, Jr., and many others.

# JERICHO '98



graphic from ca bala



The march, held on a Friday, went through the center of the city. Many people stopped to watch, often waving and vehicles honking in support. Schoolchildren visiting the nation's capitol got to see banners and hear chants demanding that all political prisoners in the U.S. be free, now.



Jericho '98 departing Malcolm X Park in central DC.

The rally at the end of the march was in Lafayette Park across the street from the White House at which many well-known former political prisoners, such as Angela Davis, Geronimo J. Jaga Pratt, Ramona Africa and Dennis Banks spoke. Special tribute was paid to MOVE 9 political prisoner, Merle Africa, 44, who died on 13 March this year under mysterious circumstances in the Cambridge Springs "correctional" facility in Pennsylvania. The MOVE 9 have been held in prison on phony charges since August 1978.

*elana levy has written several articles on political prisoners for the PNL.*



Syracuse at Jericho '98 (l to r) Carole Resnick, Bonnie Shoultz, and Kate Corchoran, far side of banner.



*Hey Kids, Pooh here. Y'know Christopher Robin and I are getting mighty lonesome churning the humble presses of the PNL all by ourselves. We really need more writers, editors, artists, and graphic/layout folk to join our merry clan. So pick up that little black flag and skip on down to the Peace Council any Wednesday at 5:30 pm.*

# Ghostbusters II

And now from the people that brought you Star Wars...

## The Next War

by Caspar ("Cap") Weinberger  
& Peter Schweizer  
Regnery Publishing Co.,  
Washington, DC.. (470 pages)

by Mike Kernahan

**W**EINBERGER AND SCHWEIZER have written a textbook for the new generation of post-Cold-War fearmongers known variously as "uncertainty hawks" or "plausibility planners." Despite unprecedented US military and economic supremacy in the world, the same folks who once specialized in painting Soviets as twelve foot tall supermen are now busily inventing "plausibly live" modern aggressors out of whole cloth.

Life has obviously not been much fun for Messrs Schweizer and Weinberger since the good old days of the Cold War, when men were men, Reagan was president, and the deficit was colossal. Back then real patriots never concerned themselves with such fiddly things as deficits. They were firmly focused on the altar of National Security, on which virtually everything, from fiscal sanity to the Bill of Rights, was a potential sacrifice. Military procurement policy in the Weinberger era boiled down to one word: More. Foreign policy was a snap. In any given country, we simply located the anti-Communists, no matter how corrupt, inept or deranged, and threw money at them. Ah the good old days.

But as Colin Powell remarked in testimony before Congress in 1991, "I'm running out of demons. I'm down to Kim II Sung and Castro." What's a militarist to do? Weinberger supplies the answer: "fake it."

The book opens with the requisite three-miles-to-the-right-of-Genghis-Khan raving which must

be expected of Ronald Reagan's Defense Secretary. In her foreword, Margaret Thatcher blows the obligatory British kisses at her high-rolling US cousins in militarism, (whom the Brits so adeptly manipulate). There are some startling revelations, here, too. Cap informs us that the Pentagon's budget has been gutted in favor of social and environmental programs, an assertion which, I must admit, stumped me for awhile. But apparently, you just have to understand that in the Weinberger lexicon, any dollar not spent directly on a weapons system automatically falls into a nebulous sort of "miscellaneous" category encompassing social, environmental and other fuzzy sorts of stuff that doesn't profit anybody Cap knows and doesn't need much differentiation anyway.

From there, we wander into the meat and potatoes of the book: the five "plausible" scenarios for the next war. Weinberger calls these "literary war games," and dutifully installs a caveat that these should not in any way be considered a prediction of future events. Instead, these are things that could happen. Once you make that little leap, any ghost you can imagine becomes terrifyingly real. And any weapon system you can think of looks cheap at half the price.

First we have North Korea invading and over-running South Korea while China makes a grab for Taiwan. A mad-dog Iran attacks its Persian Gulf neighbors, lobs a nuke at Italy (of all places), and institutes a chemical terrorist war on the US. A corrupt Mexican government in bed with drug car-

tels unleashes twin invasions of refugees and drugs northward, requiring a reluctant US to counter-invade and restore order. An impoverished but nationalistic and adventurous Russia invades western Europe and resorts to nukes when conventional forces stall. In possibly the weirdest scenario of all, an overly aggressive US trade policy toward Japan suddenly bankrupts that country, causing a reversion to its militaristic past. It then re-enacts World War Two with some cool information-age twists: "cyberstrikes" against US financial and telecommunications computer networks.

Each of these "scenarios" is highly colored with Tom Clancy-ish details and battle yarns. There is a lot of gee-whiz technobabble and scads of military acronyms. Never do you get the sense that these devices are designed to kill large numbers of people quickly. All of the weapons systems work flawlessly: there just is never enough of them.

The military and its suppliers never fail. It's the civilians; foggy bottom diplomats, a penny-wise congress, a poll-gazing White House, who fail the military. They fail to adequately fund intelligence operations, procurement, new weapon development, fail to enforce US quarantines of rogue weapons suppliers. You wonder how we ever survived this long with nominal civilian control of the military.

Reality, of course, for those of us concerned with it, is a good deal less vivid. The Pentagon's budget stands at \$250 billion, over 77% of its 1991 level, despite the evaporation of the Warsaw Pact countries as a threat. The US share of worldwide military spending increased from 27.5% to 32% be-

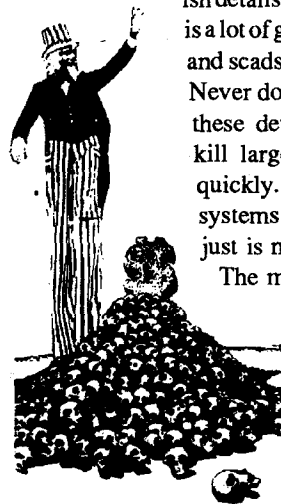
tween 1986 and 1995. In 1986, the US spent two thirds as much on defense as "potential threat states" (the Communist block). In 1995 it spent 76% more than that group of states. In economic strength, military supremacy, geographic isolation, and political stability, the US is virtually unchallenged.

Why then this need to terrify ourselves with shadowy foreign specters? Could it possibly have something to do with huge government contracts for military weaponry going to the usual corporate suspects? I find this book, its intellectual basis, the forces it represents, and particularly its methods and its motives highly offensive. It seeks to build sentiment for a return to the "good old days" by appealing to the fears of an angry, insecure citizenry whose perch on an ever-accelerating consumer treadmill leaves them little inclination for in-depth analysis of complex issues, and therefore, predisposed to snap answers readily provided by irresponsible con-men like Weinberger.

It is an indication of the sorry state of political and foreign policy discourse in this country that an intellectually bankrupt book of fantasy such as this could be written, and seriously cited by right wing militarists. There is great danger in the narcotic, reality-blurring effects of the "plausibility" concept. There is also a deadly momentum to this weary, endless cycle advocated by Weinberger. Certainly, the world is a dangerous place. What on earth makes us think it could be a less dangerous place if everyone in it were armed to the teeth with US weapons?

Mike Kernahan lives at the Common Place Land Trust and Community and is starting a woodworking business.

1. "Inventing Threats" by Carl Conetta and Charles Knight, *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist*.



# A WORLD FULL OF SMATTERING

## Jolie Christine Rickman & Music for Social Change

by Tim Judson

**T**HE JANUARY RELEASE OF *SmatterING*, local singer-songwriter-guitarist Jolie Christine Rickman's promo CD, is what one might call an event. Of course, anytime an artist puts out a piece of work it is in some sense historical, an event. A new object makes its way into the world; someone probably writes it down in some catalog or something somewhere. Someone might even write a review, publish it, create another object, make it echo....

Of course, that stuff happens all the time, and for so much of it the fact is hardly worth mentioning — much less worth the label *event*. They say that only 5% of people's thoughts each day are actually new, and the rest is just so much mental wallpaper. The same can probably be said of CDs, and of events ...

*SmatterING* is practical. It's evidence — of honesty with oneself, and of sincerity with everyone else. It drops hints of what actually happens at the scene of the crime, when Jolie Rickman plays live. And it provides ample reasons to believe that the personal and the political are two not always separate sides of the same coin.

There is no shortage of creativity and integrity in the performances, recording and production of the CD, although Rickman is decidedly a live artist, a folk singer in the disreputable tradition of Phil Ochs, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Pete Seeger, and more recently Michelle Shocked and Ani DiFranco. As an artist informed by anarchism and feminism, she uses her work to

voice the small-scale realities of larger political issues, and to give form to the depth of personal meaning in using words like justice, racism and revolution.

The whole reason for her music is performance — the intimacy and communication between performer and audience; its power comes from a shared sense of empowerment, a kind of conversation that happens when a profound silence has been broken. It often



feels like one's own voice has been heard, as well as the folk singer's. As though 5% had just become 10%, and who knows what else is possible?

While *Syracuse New Times* writer Larry Hoyt's review (2/25/98) is quite positive, he still falls victim to a limited awareness of women's political music. Descriptions such as "combin[ing] the innocence of a girl and the sensuousness of womanhood" veil the artis-

tic complexity and political message of the songs on *SmatterING*.

The likes of Sainte-Marie, Joan Baez, Shocked, DiFranco and others form a more accurate context for Rickman's work than alternative artist Tori Amos and pop star Lisa Loeb; the emotional and social insights of songs like "Margaret," "If You Were My Wife," and "Chicago" reflect much more than mere "distaff unease." (distaff: "... Work and concerns traditionally considered important to women... Women considered as a group.") Although such descriptions highlight Rickman's accessibility to today's "alternative" audiences, they really only scratch the surface.

There are at least a couple of reasons why this kind of work needs to be celebrated, disseminated, and cultivated. We live in a society that increasingly contributes to the 95%-wallpaper syndrome. Ideas and creativity are marketed and consumed spick and span prepackaged and labeled with price-tags and expiration dates on TV, over the Net, and at mega-malls that float over toxic waste dumps on hydraulic foundations next to the shores of lakes no one can swim in or eat from. If you're on that boat, it's a pretty dangerous one to rock. It's hard not to think of the Titanic, really — we all need to jump ship together, but in more creative and cooperative ways than we've ever thought of.

The gift of folk music like Jolie Rickman's is the collective experience that it's possible, that there's a better reality we each have access to. Hers is the kind of music that sustains and helps build movements, reminding us that resistance is a fully humanizing experience. When we dare to speak out, then



we can start to experience the blunt and eloquent depths of our lives; ultimately, its complicated sincerity is its own source of wealth.

The release of *SmatterING* pushes the 5% envelope. The power of media is that it's what we have to fill our minds with — how *much* of what there is to pay attention to. The less I watch TV the less disempowered and cynical I feel. The more *SmatterING*s there are, the less time we have for Ted Koppel and Jay Leno. The more honest, clear, compassionate and brave voices are heard, the less natural complacency, hate, ignorance, and apathy sound. Imagine a world full of *SmatterING*s. See if you could finally hear yourself think amidst all the *SmatterING*ing.

Jolie Rickman organizes a women's open mic at the Good Earth Cafe (110 Harvard Pl.) on Tuesday evenings. She performed with local singer-songwriter and activist Colleen Kattau at the April 18 SPC Anniversary Dinner. They played songs from their recent joint release *Sing It Down*, a live recording of anti-SOA songs at the Good Earth (\$10 — proceeds benefit SOA Watch). For copies of *SmatterING* (\$8), *Sing It Down* and booking info, contact Jolie Rickman at 203 Bassett St., Syracuse, 13210, e-mail: jcrickma@syr.edu or call (315) 472-3753.

Tim Judson is a staff person at SPC and member of the PNL editorial collective. He is rewarded daily by his friendship with the folksinger.



# LETTERS TO THE PNL...

## Induct Albright into the Hall of Shame

### To The Syracuse Peace Council:

The National Women's Hall of Fame plans to induct 21 American women into the Hall on July 11 in Seneca Falls, the birthplace of Women's Rights. The selection criteria for induction encompasses: "the value of her contribution to society, significant groups within society or to the progress and freedom of women; her significant contribution to the arts, athletics, business, education, government, humanities, philanthropy or sciences; and the enduring value of her contribution."

As a long-time feminist supporter of the Women's Hall of Fame, I am grievously disappointed in the selection of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Is she being inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame because her actions have earned her inclusion or is it merely because she is the first female Secretary of State and at present the highest-ranking woman in the U. S. Government.

Since the criteria include "the enduring value of her contribution," it is a rush to judgement to bestow the honor on Albright at this time. Many such government selections,

in effect, are political accidents. The person chosen happens to be at the right place at the right time and has the right connections. Such appointments do not necessarily prove that a person has vision, wisdom, or even wide acceptance. Albright is such a person.

We have heard very few, if any, peace-making statement from Albright. She maintains a stubborn stance for the dropping of bombs on Iraq and deplorably lacks sensitivity to beleaguered humans. There are very few women that have the opportunity to make a difference globally. Albright has such an opportunity and the power but is doing nothing. What she is doing is calling for the "punishment" of Iraq by constantly spewing out threats of military strikes and defiantly continuing to defend a blockade whose highest casualty rate is among children under five years old. When she was asked about the fact that more children had died in Iraq than in Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined, she said, "We think the price is worth it. Iraqi oil must be kept off the markets, at all costs, even if sanctions cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of children." Callous. Inhumane. Uncaring.

On February 9, Kathy Kelly from Voices in the Wilderness, a campaign to end the UN/US sanctions against Iraq, led a delegation representing thousands of supporters, into Iraq carrying \$110,000 worth of medicines. They were the 11th Voices in the Wilderness delegation to deliberately violate the sanctions as part of a nonviolent campaign to end the US-led economic warfare against Iraq. She reported: "From previous trips, we knew exactly where to find overwhelming evidence of a weapon of mass destruction. Inspectors have only to enter the wards of any hospital in Iraq to see that the sanctions themselves are a lethal weapon, destroying the lives of Iraq's most vulnerable people. In children's wards, tiny victims writhe in pain on blood-stained mats, bereft of anesthetics and antibiotics. Five thousand children, under age five, perish each month. 960,000 children who are severely malnourished will bear lifelong consequences of stunted growth, brain deficiencies and disability.

It is a story of extreme cruelty, a story of medicines being withheld from dying children. It is a story of child abuse, a story of child sacrifice. It is also the story of Secretary of

State Albright who has no concern whatsoever about the death of the innocents. Should she be inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame?

The Hall's Research Committee has unfortunately disregarded its own criteria. The selection of a merciless, war-centered woman detracts from the other prestigious women as well as casts a bad light on the Hall. A mother, former professor, and the first and highest-ranking woman in the U. S. Government, Madeleine Albright is a disgrace to womanhood, academe, and the world. To induct her into the Women's Hall of Fame is a travesty. On the basis of her actions to date, it would be far more appropriate to induct her into the Women's Hall of Shame.

—Diane C. Bonacci, Member of the Central New York Chapter of the National Organization of Women, Syracuse, NY.

## Keep up the struggle and stay strong!

### To the Editor:

Hello, I have been a subscriber of your Peace Newsletter since July. I get a lot of alternative publications that spend a lot more \$ on their magazines than you, but I want you to know that yours is one of my favorites. I live in Vermont so I don't get to go to your events or be involved in our progressive sounding community, but I love your articles and the topics you cover. So thanks for all of your great work! I also really like your statement of purpose! Keep up the struggle and stay strong!

—Karen Mackey, Turnbridge, VT

### Dear People at the SPC,

Enclosed find my donation to put into whatever fund you choose. It is respect of the 8 Central New Yorkers Ed Kinane wrote about in the January PNL. I just heard on WBAI radio that the "recidivists" have been sentenced to 6 months in prison.

I so appreciate the activist news in the PNL and even more the way that these workers for peace and justice are devoting themselves to such an important cause.

By stepping in to stop torture and murder, they are acting on behalf of all of us who work for a more just world.

Keep up the great work. In solidarity,  
—Celia Oyler

## Peace Newsletter

Central New York Chapter  
of the National Organization of Women

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# Bankers Play Monopoly ...

## Will Credit Unions Pass "Go"?

Ron Ehrenreich

**B**ANKERS ARE BUILDING a monopoly, or at least an oligopoly. With each passing month more banks merge, buy up smaller banks, or combine with other huge corporations, like insurance companies.

A handful of giants now holds most financial assets. These behemoths want to use their corporate clout to eliminate any limits and to crush credit unions as an alternative to for-profit banking. They are attacking on several fronts in the courts, in Congress and in a slick media blitz of lies and distortion.

### Courting Disaster

On Feb. 25, Clarence Thomas and Anthony Scalia led the Supreme Court's right wing in support of banks. By a 5 to 4 vote, the Court ruled that banks can sue to limit credit unions, and that credit unions can serve only one association, occupational group or community. The five judges disregarded the main purpose of the 1934 Credit Union Act which promoted credit unions as a safe and affordable alternative to the banks.

The Court also ignored prior case law holding that Banks could not sue the federal agency that regulates credit unions. They simply yielded to corporate might. A lower court will decide how this ruling will effect credit unions and members after a May 26 hearing.

Now that bankers can sue, their lawyers are plotting more suits to harass, hobble and harm credit unions. Bankers have already filed suits attacking family membership (where immediate family members can join), and "once a member, always a member," (so members can stay with their credit union if they lose their job).

### The House Is In Order

Can you imagine 2700 bankers flying to Washington to lobby against consumers and credit unions? This junket cost banks a million dollars. For the bankers, the attacks in the courts and in Congress are a cheap way to increase profits.

As one small example, look at bank fees. Credit unions have much lower fees. Stifling credit unions allows bankers to squeeze more

fees from the public. In the first 9 months of 1997, banks made over \$30.9 billion from fees. Banks want to raise profits by billions using attacks that cost millions.

Credit unions were prepared for action when the Supreme Court ruled. Members called, wrote and visited Representatives. On April 1, by a landslide 411 to 8 vote, the House of Representatives passed the Credit Union Membership Access Act (HR 1151) to restore credit unions' ability to serve several small occupational or associational groups. Now the bill must be approved by the U.S. Senate, where the corporate elite has its greatest influence. The bankers and their corporate allies will try to defeat us or, failing that, extract more benefits for corporatedom.

Bankers want Congress to pass HR 10, a bill to remove limits on combinations of banks, investment companies, and insurance companies. It would also weaken the Community Reinvestment Act and other consumer protections. They will try to combine the credit union bill with a Senate version of HR 10. Other expected tactics include introducing other "credit union" bills or amendments to harm credit unions like restricting small business lending and attacking credit unions' non-profit status. Bankers will try to incapacitate credit unions by imposing limits to stifle the movement in the long run. Banks used the same tactics to crush and then absorb the Savings and Loans in the 1980's.

### Doomed To Repeat History?

The US credit union movement began at the turn of the 20th century as part of a broad movement to empower working people. This movement generated modern labor unions, and organizations like the NAACP, the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, the IWW and the Socialist Party. Through this movement, we won pure food and drug laws, abolition of child labor, women's right to vote, public health initiatives, unemployment insurance, safer working conditions for many and more.

In the early 1930s, the Great Depression wiped out the savings of millions of Americans, as 9,000 banks failed. Many lost their

homes to foreclosures. The remaining banks were unwilling to serve any but corporations and the wealthy. In sharp contrast, the fledgling credit unions of that era survived intact and continued to serve working people. The resiliency of credit unions led Congress to recognize their role as a safe, affordable way to meet financial needs of people of modest means. The 1934 Credit Union Act was enacted to promote credit unions and to ensure their safety and soundness.

The banks strongly opposed the popular movement. Since WWII many workers have been lifted into the middle class through the collective effort of unions and civil rights. There is some irony that the banks are trying to cherry pick these workers from their credit unions while shunning the rest of us.

### History Is In Our Hands

This is a fight for working people and for the future of the cooperative movement. Post industrial economic changes leave most workplaces too small to support a credit union. Either credit unions serve more than one employer or we give banks the monopoly that they want.

With only 2% of financial assets, CUs are small, but are growing in popularity. There are now 12,000 credit unions in this country, serving 74 million members. Credit unions are member owned and operated cooperatives.

They are nonprofit organizations offering better rates, fairer terms, lower fees and higher loan approvals; all without the level of discrimination that many of us face at banks. Credit unions are also popular around the world.

Credit unions put people first and promote cooperation. The banks are driven by profit and power. They are mighty and relentless adversaries. Unless we act now, the credit union movement will be hurt, and tens of millions of people could be shut out. Credit unions are an important tool in building an economy where people matter, and a society where justice flows like a mighty stream. Join with credit union activists to do your part in this struggle.

Ron Ehrenreich is a community activist and works at the Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union.



## SYRACUSE COMMUNITY RADIO

SYRACUSE COMMUNITY RADIO (SCR) is moving into new offices at 110 Harvard Place and the construction of the studio will commence in a few short months. Listener operated radio can be a reality before the end of the year if we have enough support from the community to maintain our momentum.

We have several events coming up including our grand opening reception with live Jazz music at the Good Earth Cafe (look for signs at the cafe) and The Bevis Frond performing at Hungry Charley's on May 1. SCR needs input from our supporters and members so please come to one of our next meetings. Our next general meeting is Monday, May 18, 7 PM at the Good Earth Cafe. We have several board and committee meetings in between, so there are opportunities throughout the month to participate.

On Wednesday, June 3, SCR will have a live radio broadcast from Syracuse. The Nobody Show will be on the air for two hours at the Good Earth Cafe providing central New Yorkers with a forum to discuss important social and political issues and promote activism and organizing. This unique talk show in a cafe has something for everyone. If you don't wish to speak on the radio, you can sit back and relax with a good cup of coffee and a delicious dessert from the Good Earth and listen to the issues that our neighbors are talking about.

Program host, Jeremy Alderson, has been looking forward to returning to Syracuse and to help support Syracuse Community Radio's efforts to establish a community station. Alderson's show is currently broadcast every week on WEOS radio in Geneva and can also be heard in Ithaca. Alderson welcomes guests to step-up to the microphone and speak their minds on a variety of topics. Invited guests will include the Syracuse Food Bank, a School of the Americas activist, and a Congressperson.— *F. Noyes*

Syracuse Community Radio Inc. 88.7FM "Your Voice For A Change" PO Box 6365, Syracuse NY 13217-6365 phone 446-4769 email: [syacomradio@juno.com](mailto:syacomradio@juno.com) web: <http://www.serve.com/syacomradio> or <http://www.rootmedia.org/~syacomradio>

## North East Zapatista Solidarity Network

### Zapatista Solidarity Network Meeting a Raging Success

ON APRIL 18 the North East Zapatista Solidarity Network (NEZSN) held its first regional meeting at the Westcott Community Center. Activists from over 20 different cities around the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada came together to decide the purpose, structure, direction and future activities of such a network, working to directly and indirectly support the Zapatista struggle in Southern Mexico as well as bring the lessons of their revolution to our communities.

The energy of the activists was amazing, and the time allotted was used smoothly and productively. Food Not Bombs, serving their first meal in two years since re-grouping with new members, provided a much-needed,

scrumptious vegan lunch. The NEZSN is moving ahead with several projects and actions as a result of this meeting, including demonstrations, the provision of resources and communication among organizations and activists in our region, and direct solidarity in various forms. We could not have been nearly as successful without the generosity of organizations and members of this community, including the Syracuse Peace Council, Food Not Bombs, the Community Media Action Group and Good Earth Café.

To become more involved in the Network, local organizing (we want to form a community-based solidarity group), upcoming actions, or if you would just like to keep up with the current events in Southern Mexico and the Zapatistas' struggle, check out the NEZSN website at <http://zapnet.rootmedia.org>, email us at [zap-syr@rootmedia.org](mailto:zap-syr@rootmedia.org), write to the NEZSN-Syr, P.O. Box 7037, Syracuse, NY 13210, or call 423-4783.

## Community Media Action Group

### Grassroots Education Series Kicks Off

THE COMMUNITY MEDIA ACTION GROUP of Syracuse (CMAG) kicked off its education series on April 19 at the Westcott Community Center. The "Grassroots Activism and Media Forum" day was begun with a breakfast by Syracuse Food Not Bombs.

Jesse Hirsh of TAO Communications in Toronto presented a stimulating and philosophical discussion of the Internet; it was followed by such highlights as a discussion of community media organizing strategy, and talks with Syracuse Community Radio and the CMAG. One of the day's most exciting presentations was a Zapatista teach-in by Bob Schweitzer of Scranton, PA, and Carol Ige of Detroit, MI. Syracuse's Susan Adair and Jolie Rickman offered workshops on consensus decision-making.

All things considered, our event was very successful. Most participants were people who had come to town for the North East Zapatista Solidarity Network meeting the previous day. This concerned our collective because we attempted outreach to many community mem-

bers and groups through announcements in the *Peace Newsletter*, flyering, the [www.rootmedia.org/mag](http://www.rootmedia.org/mag) webpage, email lists and word of mouth. We would have liked, as we expected, greater participation from the community. We would appreciate feedback on our forum and outreach so that we are more successful in promoting these events in the future. Many thanks go out to our presenters, participants, and all the people who donated and volunteered their resources.

Our next event, "Culture Jamming the Mainstream Media", will be held at 7pm on Thursday, May 7 at the Good Earth Cafe. Keep an eye on the Community Calendar in the *PNL* or on our web site for future events. If you would like more information about the CMAG collective or would like to get involved, check out our web page <http://www.rootmedia.org/mag>, email us at [cmag@rootmedia.org](mailto:cmag@rootmedia.org) or call Adrienne or Brian at 423-4783.

## (un)classifieds

Good apartment, Westcott area.

1 block from Good Earth Café. Many things negotiable, including rent. Call for details. 478-8521



*Next of Kin: What Chimpanzees Have Taught Me About Who We Are* by Roger Fouts with Stephen Tukul Mills, introduction by Jane Goodall, 1997, A Living Planet Book: William Morrow & Co., New York.

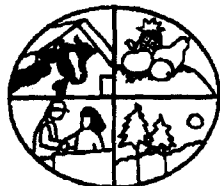
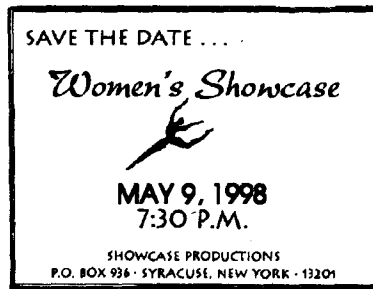
I CRIED, laughed and felt deep anger as I read this marvelous book. The style of writing is easy to follow; the thoughts are profound. Roger Fouts (hereinafter called "Roger," as I feel a kinship with him) describes his decades of relating to Washoe, the first chimp to learn American Sign Language (ASL). As a mischievous baby, she led him on many a funny adventure. Roger devises careful research designs so that other scholars can clearly see that Washoe and other chimps use ASL in a way similar to humans, not in a rote manner. Besides being a scholarly researcher, Roger is a deeply compassionate person. When he repeatedly had to choose between advancing his career or protecting Washoe, he chose to protect Washoe. She and the other chimps needed protection from researchers who regarded the chimps as "hairy test tubes" and treated them with contempt and gut-wrenching cruelty.

Roger sees the chimps as family. The DNA shared by chimps and humans (98.4%) is more than that shared between chimps and orangutans or chimps and gorillas. It's even more than that shared between red-eyed vireos and white-eyed vireos. More striking perhaps is the deep connection Roger and other people have experienced with chimps. An example is the sympathy Washoe showed for a human friend who had a miscarriage and told Washoe about it in ASL. Both of Washoe's babies had died so she immediately felt the woman's loss. Washoe signed "Cry."

Roger and his wife and colleague, Debbi Fouts, have fulfilled their dream of giving Washoe and her family of four other chimps a permanent, loving home with lots of space and natural surroundings. They continue to learn more about how chimps communicate, including the fact that the chimps teach each other ASL. However, their compassion and sense of justice doesn't stop with their own chimp family. They are haunted by the reality that hundreds of other chimps are suffering from pain, isolation and disease in labs throughout the U.S. One of these chimps, Booe, kept

signing to his keepers to give him the keys to his cage. The Fouts would love to give the keys of freedom to all the chimps. To that end, they are working with others on two important projects. One would create a system of sanctuaries where chimps used in biomedical research could be retired to live without pain and despair. The other is the Great Ape Project, which would establish in law that chimps, gorillas and orangutans (the "great apes" along with humans) have legal rights as persons and therefore can't be deprived of liberty, tortured or killed without due process of law.

Contributions to Washoe's family can be sent to Friends of Washoe, Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute, Central Washington U., 400 E. 8th Ave., Ellensburg, WA 98926-7573. — Linda DeStefano



Save Organic Standards

### Local Group Forming to Save Organic Standards

STAND UP FOR YOUR EARTH and make it known that ours is a government of the people, by the people and for the people; not to screw the people.

The US Dept. of Agriculture is attempting to redefine organic foods to include foods that are genetically engineered, irradiated, factory-farmed, and grown on top of toxic sewage sludge. This represents an "unfriendly takeover" of the organic foods industry by agribusiness, chemical-biotech corporations and giant supermarket chains.

On Dec. 16, the USDA announced their proposed organic standards. These standards define what can be legally certified and labeled as organic. In light of the current predicament with organic food and the USDA's interpretation of what's protecting its citizens' interests, I hope to be able to find others



### Local Chapter Kicks Off with Delicious Success

SYRACUSE FOOD NOT BOMBS would like to thank everyone who helped us with our serving last Saturday at the Westcott Community Center for the North East Zapatista Solidarity Network and the Community Media Action Group conferences. There were about seventy people in attendance and a lot of great work was accomplished. Our list of thanks includes; The Syracuse Real Food Co-op, The Good Earth Cafe, and The Syracuse Peace Council. Without your help and support we couldn't have done it.

Our menu was vegetable soup and couscous salad for lunch on Saturday, with oatmeal, apple crisp, fruit and potato kugel for breakfast on Sunday. We also were able to provide rice for lunch. Everyone had enough to eat and gave us wonderful compliments on food preparation. Thank you!

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Food Not Bombs, we are a non-profit organization dedicated to serving food to those in need and to ending warfare. Each year over 46 billion pounds of food is wasted, billions of people go hungry or starve and military spending continues to increase. We use nonviolence and consensus in our actions. We are currently in search of volunteers and resources (vegan and/or vegetarian food only, please.) If your business or organization would like to help your support will be greatly appreciated! If you would like to volunteer or donate resources please call 423-7856 or e-mail [ace@rootmedia.org](mailto:ace@rootmedia.org)

outraged by this agency's audacity to decide our fate in such a ruthless manner. More and more I see contaminants slipped through the back door and into our food in the name of health and safety; capitalism is out of control.

I am especially sensitive to this issue because of people who are genuinely concerned about their nourishment and how their lifestyles affect Terra. And then what happens? The people who are in power try to tarnish the whole effort and make it gray. Let's make sure they know how we feel. Our tide is turning and the heavens are dancing in our favor now.

If you are interested in forming a group in Central New York to address these issues, contact me at 475-9774 or 249 Cambridge St., Syracuse, 13210.

— Andrew Sharpless

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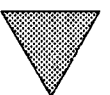
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## Chernobyl Cont. from p. 9

did not have a containment. In fact, Chernobyl had a pressure suppression containment similar to the General Electric Mark 1 containment at Nine Mile Point 1. Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations require reactor containments to withstand only certain "design basis" accidents, which exclude incidents such as core melts and hydrogen explosions. The NRC itself has calculated that the GE Mark 1 has a "90% probability of failure under accident conditions."

Nine Mile Point 1, located about 35 miles from Syracuse, is now one of the oldest operating reactors in the US, and has the most severely cracked core shroud (see article PNL ???). No other reactors have operated as long with severe aging related degradation as Nine Mile 1. It is the test case for the nuclear industry in the United States and it's on our doorstep, being operated by a utility with huge financial problems and a history of operational incompetence. How long can it go on?

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



## Dual Power Media Cont. from p. 11

by impersonal private and governmental entities.

If we are to make revolution, we will need an information-sharing infrastructure, solidly rooted in our communities, from which to struggle. Nothing draws community awareness and activism together more cohesively than media institutions which promote communication and break down the alienation our adversaries encourage. There are countless ways we might go about putting communications power into the hands of everyday people and activists. There is no one answer for any one community. The important thing is that we creatively seek out ideas for projects which use resources wisely, share our skills, and protect one another from Establishment repression, be it in the form of commercials or classrooms or cops.

Each of the kinds of projects described above, or the numerous examples of alternative media in our own area, could operate in total isolation from one another. At some point, though, we have to recognize the context in which we are working and living, in

## CARIBBEAN/LATIN AMERICA COALITION — MARCH and APRIL Meetings

**School of the Americas:** There has been a truly phenomenal gathering of support around the CNY/SOA Abolitionists, and much of the March 11 CLAC meeting was focused on the March 19 community gathering at May Memorial and the start of the prison sentences for our six sisters and brothers on March 23 (see p. 6). The issue has been covered extensively in the *Peace Newsletter* for several years. On March 11, the Abolitionists had a full meeting after the CLAC gathering. The energies of CLAC groups are directed, to at least some degree, towards closing the SOA. SOA has trained military personnel from all of the nations about which CLAC member groups are concerned.

**El Salvador:** The Sister Community Project newsletter was mailed out. Recent news articles indicate that soldiers currently imprisoned for the 1980 killing of 4 US churchwomen have implicated two Salvadoran generals who ordered the killings and then covered up their involvement. In a development with grave implications for La Estancia, some officials and/or engineers recently visited the Morazan province community to look at the possibility of building a dam on the Rio Torola and flooding the region, in order to produce electricity for export to Honduras. In a similar situation, several people who tried to question or stop such a project ended up disappearing.

**Guatemala:** CLAC members made calls and wrote letters in support of HR 2635/S 1220 to declassify vital U.S./documents about the 36 year-long war against the civilian population of Guatemala. For more information call NISGUA at (202) 223-6474 or via e-mail [nisqua@igc.apc.org](mailto:nisqua@igc.apc.org). This process is also being requested for Haiti. Several people highly recommend John Sayles' film *Men With Guns*. Jennifer Harbury has uncovered new information about the extent of the coverup of the torture killing of her husband.

activism and everyday life. If we are to form a dual power community — a self-sustaining, democratic and participatory program of action built in the shadow of the dominant system — we will need dual power media as much as alternative economic and political bases. This means some form of organization which allows us to communicate with each other, as media activists and providers, and not just with the community at large. Further,

**Cuba:** A recent clandestine poll found that 59% of the sample would vote for Fidel Castro as president. The Pentagon is recommending that the U.S. regularize contacts with Cuba, reporting to Congress that there is no military threat from Cuba. The Cuban emigre population in Florida has been lobbying hard for the Pentagon to revise its estimate, to keep the Cuban government as a pariah state. The Pastors for Peace caravan this summer will cross the border at Laredo, Texas. Look in future CLAC notes for details about materials sought and a collection center.

**Chiapas:** Syracuse University held their three-day March teach-in. On April 25, in Washington, D.C. there was a major gathering about Chiapas, just prior to the SOA demonstration in front of the White House on April 26. The Mexican armed forces have provided the largest contingent of trainees to the SOA in the 1990s. There is no local ongoing Chiapas group participating in CLAC. We would welcome the presence of such a group at the monthly CLAC meetings. We also regret that there is no group organizing to address concerns about Colombia, which has sent the most trainees to the SOA in the 52-year history of the School of Assassins, and which has the worst human rights record in the hemisphere, and historically is among the worst (but least known) militarized and violent states.

**Peru:** President Clinton attended the hemispheric summit conference in Santiago, Chile on April 18 and 19. He is being pressured to address the human rights and justice issues for which he once claimed to stand, particularly in regard to the dirty war in Peru and Lori Berenson's imprisonment there.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 13, at 6 PM (potluck supper), at Plymouth Congregational Church. For more information call Paul at 478-1592. — *Paul Weichselbaum*

we can organize so that same community can actually see our projects, not just glimpses or elements of alternative media once in a great while. The creation of dual power media has never been more socially and technologically accessible — we cannot miss this opportunity.

*Brian is a publisher and organizer involved with the Community Media Action Group of Syracuse. See this month's Community Updates for more information.*





Field of Membership: Syracuse Real Food Co-op • Syracuse Peace Council • Jowonio School

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SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY 1998

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to SPC 472-5478. June deadline: May 22

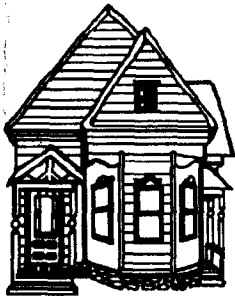
<p><b>3</b> From the Earth Arts &amp; Crafts Festival at Onondaga Nation School, 10am-6pm. See May 2.</p> <p>"The Communist Manifesto - 150 Years Later - Is it Still Relevant?" with speakers John Nagel &amp; Ron Ehrenreich. At monthly Socialist Forum. Westcott Community Center. 3-5pm. Free &amp; open to the public.</p> <p>Sister City Task Force of Metro Justice presents a classical music concert to benefit El Sauce, Nicaragua. 1st Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton Av., Rochester. Tickets \$15 or \$25. (716) 325-2560.</p>	<p><b>4</b> EVERY MONDAY: "Radio Station" on Adelpia Cable Channel 13. Presented by Syracuse Community Radio.</p> <p>People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3048 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1475.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Syracuse United Neighbors/ Southside meeting. 22 St. Anthony's Church, Midland &amp; Colvin St. 7pm. 476-7475.</p> <p>Friends of Midwives CNY Chapter meeting. 131 Seelye Av. 7-9pm. Become an advocate for midwifery care &amp; learn about natural childbirth. Kelly, 468-9229.</p>	<p><b>18</b> Syracuse Community Radio meeting. Good Earth Cafe, 110 Harvard Pl. 7pm. 446-4769.</p> <p>People for Animal Rights bus-ness mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/ Westside meeting. Anna Mae Williams Community Center, 228 Shomard St. 7:30pm. 478-7475.</p>	<p><b>25</b> EVERY MONDAY: HIV+ Issues Group meeting. 6:30-8pm. Sponsored by AIDS Community Resources. Call Bob for place. 475-2430.</p>	<p><b>31</b> EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay &amp; Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.</p>
<p><b>5</b> Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p> <p>Peace Action monthly program. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.</p> <p>EVERY TUESDAY: Women's Open Mic at Good Earth Cafe, 110 Harvard Pl.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Close Nine Mile One Campaign meeting. Good Earth Cafe, 110 Harvard Pl. 5:45pm. 472-5478.</p> <p>Justice for Jonny Gammage Vigil. God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 5:30pm.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p>	<p><b>26</b> Close Nine Mile One Campaign meeting. Good Earth Cafe, 110 Harvard Pl. 5:45pm. 472-5478.</p> <p>Parents, Family &amp; Friends of Lesbians &amp; Gays (PFLAG) meeting. First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.</p>	<p><b>27</b> Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker Benefit Dinner. St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center, Winton St., off Burnet Av. 5:30 pm. \$0-\$15 donation. 471-6883.</p> <p>EVERY WEDNESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cyndi 475-1878.</p> <p>Prayer vigil at Landis Plastics Solvay plant on Milton Av. Sponsored by Labor-Religious Coalition. Support Landis workers &amp; union organizing struggles. 4pm.</p> <p>Peace Newsletter Meeting Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Av. 5-7pm. Free Food!</p>
<p><b>6</b> EVERY WEDNESDAY: Military &amp; Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478.</p> <p>1st THREE WEDNESDAYS: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Av. 5:30pm. 472-5478.</p>	<p><b>13</b> HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3816.</p> <p>Caribbean/Latin America 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><b>20</b> NAACP general mtg. 7pm. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 422-8933.</p> <p>EVERY WED: Syracuse Community Choir rehearsal for winter solstice concert. Come sing with us! No auditions. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 7:30pm. 487-8607.</p>	<p><b>21</b> 1st &amp; 3rd THURSDAYS: Gay &amp; Lesbian Alliance meeting. Enable 1603 Court St. 7:30pm. 472-5732.</p> <p><b>28</b> Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cyndi 475-1878.</p> <p>Prayer vigil at Landis Plastics Solvay plant on Milton Av. Sponsored by Labor-Religious Coalition. Support Landis workers &amp; union organizing struggles. 4pm.</p> <p>Peace Newsletter Meeting Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Av. 5-7pm. Free Food!</p>	<p><b>22</b> EVERY FRIDAY: Gay &amp; Lesbian Young Adult meeting (ages 21-25). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 422-9741 for time.</p>	<p><b>29</b> Pianist Margie Adama performs benefit concert for feminist bookstores. Sponsored by My Sisters' Words Bookstore. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 8pm. Tickets available at the bookstore (\$16) or at door (\$18). 428-0227.</p> <p>Irish Northern Aid meeting. Call Patrick Smith for time &amp; place. 469-8948.</p>
<p><b>7</b> Domestic Violence Coalition &amp; Vera House present "Trauma &amp; Families," featuring Dr. Judith Lewis Herman. 12 workshops. Four Points Hotel, Liverpool. 8-4:30pm. 425-0818.</p> <p>Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 5:30pm. 476-6226.</p> <p>"Culture Jamming the Mainstream Media" presented by Community Media Action Group. Good Earth Cafe, 110 Harvard Pl. 7pm. 423-4783.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/ Southside meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Av. 7pm. 476-7475.</p> <p>Red Branch Irish Americans for Peace &amp; Justice meets at Coleman's Pub. 7pm. 475-0345.</p> <p>Jolie Christine Rickman &amp; Colleen Kattau in concert at Westcott Community Center. Playing songs from "Sing! Down: Songs to Close the School of the Americas." Special guest Ed Kinnane to speak. Call 472-5478 for time.</p>	<p><b>8</b> The Boys in the Band: a Slice of Gay Life Before Stonewall. 8pm. See 5/9.</p> <p>The Boys in the Band: a Slice of Gay Life Before Stonewall. 8pm. See 5/9.</p> <p>Women's Showcase, an evening of music, reading &amp; comedy in honor of Mother's Day. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. \$8-\$20 sliding scale.</p>	<p><b>15</b> The Boys in the Band: a Slice of Gay Life Before Stonewall. 8pm. See 5/9.</p> <p><b>16</b> The Boys in the Band: a Slice of Gay Life Before Stonewall. 8pm. See 5/9.</p> <p>EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights &amp; environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channel 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.</p>	<p><b>22</b> EVERY FRIDAY: Gay &amp; Lesbian Young Adult meeting (ages 21-25). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 422-9741 for time.</p>	<p><b>23</b> EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights &amp; environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channel 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.</p>	<p><b>30</b> Pianist Margie Adama performs benefit concert for feminist bookstores. Sponsored by My Sisters' Words Bookstore. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 8pm. Tickets available at the bookstore (\$16) or at door (\$18). 428-0227.</p> <p>Irish Northern Aid meeting. Call Patrick Smith for time &amp; place. 469-8948.</p>
<p><b>9</b> From the Earth Arts &amp; Crafts Festival at Onondaga Nation School, Route 11A South. Features Iroquois Singers/Dancers, Native foods, contemporary music, art demonstrations. 10am-6pm. Free admission. Info: 492-3750 or 469-1865. Also on Sunday.</p> <p>Donna the Buffalo performing at Shyken's Rhythm Palace, downtown Syracuse.</p>	<p><b>9</b> The Boys in the Band: a Slice of Gay Life Before Stonewall. 8pm. See 5/9.</p> <p>Women's Showcase, an evening of music, reading &amp; comedy in honor of Mother's Day. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. \$8-\$20 sliding scale.</p>	<p><b>16</b> The Boys in the Band: a Slice of Gay Life Before Stonewall. 8pm. See 5/9.</p> <p>EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights &amp; environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channel 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.</p>	<p><b>23</b> EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights &amp; environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channel 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.</p>	<p><b>30</b> Pianist Margie Adama performs benefit concert for feminist bookstores. Sponsored by My Sisters' Words Bookstore. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 8pm. Tickets available at the bookstore (\$16) or at door (\$18). 428-0227.</p> <p>Irish Northern Aid meeting. Call Patrick Smith for time &amp; place. 469-8948.</p>	<p><b>31</b> EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay &amp; Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.</p>

# SPC's 62nd Birthday Dinner



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story on page 5

# Jailbirds & Motmots



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# Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice June 1998 PNL 668

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# 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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### SPC Council:

Paul Frazier, Rae Kramer,  
Carl Mellor, Andy Molloy,  
Marge Rusk, Ann Tiffany

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

## The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets most Wednesdays at 5:30 PM at the Peace Council. Call SPC to confirm the time.

**Editorial & Production:** Paul Frazier, Karen Hall, Bill Hamler, Tim Judson, Mike Kernahan, Rae Kramer, Brian McCord, Joy Meeker, Andy Molloy, Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce, Steve Penn  
**Graphics Coordinator:** Anita Welych  
**Cover Coordinator:** Karen Kerney

## SPC Projects: 472-5478

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

## Other Volunteers

Sonali Sathaye, Chuck Durand, Mardea Warner, Amy Bartell, Vanessa Johnson, Ed Kinane, Aggie Lane, Joan Goldberg, Ruth Putter, Margaret Birtleough, Kathy Barry, Brian Caufield, Fredrick Noyes, Jolie Rickman, Bill Mazza, Lance Hogan, Bill Hamler, Sylvia Burgess, Daniel Bowers, Carol Baum, Chris Spies-Rusk, Susan Adair, 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

<b>Abolish the Blocade of Cuba</b>	Doug Igelsrud	471-5749	<b>Peace Action of CNY</b>	Diane Swords	478-7442
<b>ACLU-CNY Chapter</b>	Barrie Gewanter	471-2821	<b>Peace Brigades International</b>	Ed Kinane	478-4571
<b>Alliance-Psychiatric System</b>	George Ebert	475-4120	<b>P.E.A.C.E., Inc.</b>	Louis Clark	470-3300
<b>Survivors</b>	Alternatives to Violence Project		<b>People Against the Death Penalty</b>		637-3344
<b>George Ebert</b>	Jay Liestee	499-0845	<b>People for Animal Rights</b>		488-PURR (7877)
<b>Alternatives to Violence Project</b>	<b>American Friends Service Committee</b>	475-4822	<b>Physicians for Social Responsibility</b>		488-2140
<b>Jay Liestee</b>	<b>Animal Defense League</b>	479-9105	<b>Planned Parenthood</b>		475-5525
<b>American Friends Service Committee</b>	<b>ARISE</b>	472-3171	<b>PWHIV/ AIDS Support Hotline</b>	Sandra	471-5911
<b>Animal Defense League</b>	<b>Atlantic States Legal Foundation</b>	475-1170	<b>Reconsider</b>	Nick or Alex Eyle	422-6231
<b>ARISE</b>	<b>Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition</b>	Shirley Novak	<b>Religion: Other</b>	Phoenix or Kat	474-8801
<b>Atlantic States Legal Foundation</b>	<b>Citizens Against Radioactive Dumping</b>	(607) 753-6271	<b>Rose Center</b>	Teri Cameron	422-3426
<b>Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition</b>	<b>Citizen Review Board</b>	Felicia Davis	<b>Sarah House</b>		475-1747
<b>Shirley Novak</b>	<b>Health and Safety</b>	471-6187	<b>Save the County</b>		637-6066
<b>Citizens Against Radioactive Dumping</b>	<b>CNY Environment</b>	Lee Gechas	<b>SEEDS</b>		(607) 749-2818
<b>Citizen Review Board</b>	<b>CNY N.O.W.</b>	487-3188	<b>Service Employees International</b>	Robert Tompkins	424-1750
<b>Health and Safety</b>	<b>Community Media Action Group</b>	423-4783	<b>Sierra Club</b>	Sue Carlson	445-1663
<b>CNY Environment</b>	<b>CUSLAR</b>	(607) 255-7293	<b>Small Claims Court Action Center</b>		443-1401
<b>Lee Gechas</b>	<b>Dunbar Center</b>	Merriette Pollard	<b>S.O.A. Watch/ CNY</b>	Ed Kinane	478-4571
<b>CNY N.O.W.</b>	<b>EON/Transgender Community</b>	Melissa	<b>Social Workers for Peace</b>	Dick Mundy	445-0797
<b>Community Media Action Group</b>	<b>Fair Housing Council of CNY</b>	471-0518	<b>Socialist Party</b>	Ron Ehrenreich	478-0793
<b>CUSLAR</b>	<b>Fair Trial for Mumia Committee</b>	472-5478	<b>Spanish Action League</b>		471-3762
<b>Dunbar Center</b>	<b>Fightback! of CNY</b>	422-0555	<b>SU African-American Society</b>		443-4633
<b>Merriette Pollard</b>	<b>Food Bank of CNY</b>	437-1899	<b>Student Environmental Action Coalition</b>	Michelle Baumfleck	423-8000
<b>EON/Transgender Community</b>	<b>Food Not Bombs</b>	423-7856	<b>Syr. Alternative Media Network</b>	Tim Brachocki	425-8806
<b>Melissa</b>	<b>Friends of the Filipino People</b>	John Brulé	<b>Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society</b>		437-2163
<b>Fair Housing Council of CNY</b>	<b>Gay/Lesbian Alliance</b>	422-5732	<b>SAVES/Joe Connolly</b>		437-2163
<b>Fair Trial for Mumia Committee</b>	<b>Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Assoc. (SU)</b>	443-3599	<b>Syracuse Community Choir</b>	Karen Mihalyi	428-8724
<b>Fightback! of CNY</b>	<b>Haiti Solidarity</b>	Ann Tiffany	<b>Syracuse Community Radio</b>	Frederic Noyes	446-4769
<b>Food Bank of CNY</b>	<b>Hemlock Society</b>	463-0782	<b>Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union</b>		471-1116
<b>Food Not Bombs</b>	<b>Betty Bentley</b>	437-0373	<b>Syracuse Cultural Workers</b>	Dik Cool	474-1132
<b>Friends of the Filipino People</b>	<b>Hotel Employees 150</b>	437-0373	<b>Syracuse N.O.W.</b>		472-3294
<b>John Brulé</b>	<b>Irish Northern Aid</b>	Patrick Smith	<b>Syr. Real Food Coop</b>		472-1385
<b>Gay/Lesbian Alliance</b>	<b>Jail Ministry</b>	424-1877	<b>Syr. Social Movement Initiative</b>	Pramod Parajuli	443-4822
<b>Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Assoc. (SU)</b>	<b>Kenlark Center for Creative Spirituality</b>	Bourke Kennedy	<b>Syracuse United Neighbors</b>	Rich Puchalski	476-7475
<b>Haiti Solidarity</b>	<b>Bourke Kennedy</b>	685-5414	<b>S.U. for Animal Rights</b>		443-4199
<b>Hemlock Society</b>	<b>Lesbian/Gay Youth</b>	443-3599	<b>Urban League</b>	Eloise Dowdell Curry	472-6955
<b>Betty Bentley</b>	<b>NAACP</b>	Van Robinson	<b>Utica Community Action</b>	John Furman	797-7020
<b>Hotel Employees 150</b>	<b>Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.</b>	Ammie Chickering	<b>Witness for Peace Delegations</b>	Nancy Gwin	422-4689
<b>Irish Northern Aid</b>	<b>New Environment Association</b>	437-0373	<b>Women's Center (SU)</b>		443-4268
<b>Patrick Smith</b>	<b>Harry Schwarlander</b>	446-8009	<b>Women's Health Outreach</b>		425-3653
<b>Jail Ministry</b>	<b>NYPIRG</b>	476-8381	<b>Women's INFO Center</b>		478-4636
<b>Kenlark Center for Creative Spirituality</b>	<b>Onondaga Audobon</b>	457-7731			
<b>Bourke Kennedy</b>	<b>Onon. Women's Political Caucus</b>	Peggy Murray			
<b>Lesbian/Gay Youth</b>	<b>Open Hand Theatre</b>	475-7671			
<b>NAACP</b>	<b>Geoff Navias</b>	476-0466			
<b>Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.</b>	<b>Pax Christi</b>	Frank Woolever			
<b>New Environment Association</b>		446-1693			
<b>Harry Schwarlander</b>					
<b>NYPIRG</b>					
<b>Onondaga Audobon</b>					
<b>Onon. Women's Political Caucus</b>					
<b>Open Hand Theatre</b>					
<b>Geoff Navias</b>					
<b>Pax Christi</b>					
<b>Frank Woolever</b>					

(If you want your group listed, please call)

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



# PEACE NEWSLETTER

June 1998  
PNL 668

## About the cover:

HARRY R. FREEMAN JONES is an artist/activist in Syracuse. The message of his piece will always be timely so long as government sponsors homophobia and sets an example of discrimination by using power in the service of hate. However, it is especially timely now, with the campaign to pass the County-Wide Fair Practices Law.

— Karen Kerney & Tim Judson

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

### May Mailing Party Helpers

Joan Goldberg, Doug Igelsrud, Mike Kernahan, Aggie Lane, Bill Mazza, Carl Mellor, Lisa Renaud, Jolie Rickman, Radell Roberts, Marge Rusk, Margaret Wehrer

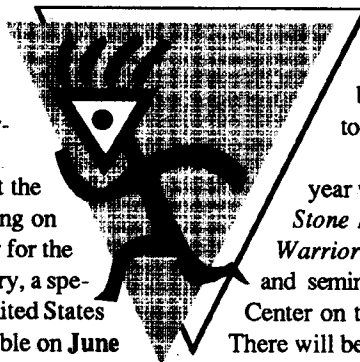
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## “Unity Through Diversity”

### Syracuse’s 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Gay Pride Parade — June 20, 11am

Once again it’s that time of the year when the Syracuse Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender community gets together to celebrate Pride in Syracuse. This year we have lots to celebrate! It’s our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

The biggest project that the Pride Committee was working on has been achieved. This year for the first time in Syracuse’s history, a special “cancellation” by the United States Postal Service will be available on June 20 at the rally location (tentative time schedule will be between 11am and 3pm). So bring all your stamped letters to mail to friends! There will also be complementing “cachet” envelopes available for a donation to the Pride Committee. They are limited to 500.



The lavender line will again grace Salina Street and guide us through the parade route.

It is now a tradition of the Pride Day celebration. Also, for the first time, the City will be closing off all of Salina Street to accommodate our Parade.

Our Grand Marshal this year will be Les Feinberg, author of *Stone Butch Blues* and *Transgender Warriors*. There will be a book signing and seminar at the Pride Community Center on the same day from 3:30-6pm. There will be a dinner and discussion at Tu Tu Venue Restaurant at 6:30pm. This will include a Veggie Buffet dinner with a price yet to be determined. RSVP’s should be e-mailed to: [Brittfether@aol.com](mailto:Brittfether@aol.com) or call 426-1658 and leave a message prior to June 5.

— Joe Carpenter

## Correction

In a recent issue of the *Peace Newsletter*, “Bubba Is Everywhere” the third paragraph from the end contained numerous spelling and punctuation errors. It should have read as follows:

“Despite some 30 years of feminist movements and actions in this country, there’s still a pervasive attitude of woman-hating, both overt and covert. And crimes against women are as rampant in Syracuse as they are in the so-called ‘Southern macho gun culture’. This culture permeates the entire country. A way to stop the tidal wave of crimes against women is to get past the NIMBY syndrome. ‘Not in my backyard’

Among those women killed in our backyard in the recent past are: April Gregory, the Dryden cheerleader; Quiana Dickerson; Jenna, the nurse from Camillus; Lee Ann Cruz; and the SU African librarian killed by her son. Among those who survived are Georgia Russell, stabbed by her son, and Karina Ferrra, shot twice in the head by her ex-boyfriend. This is a short list. In the daily paper you can spit the name of a woman killed by a boyfriend, husband, or son.”

Also, the line about Deb Kreidler at the end of the piece should read, “Deb Kreidler is writing a dissertation on feminist ethics and teaches philosophy and world religions at several area colleges.”

### July Issue Deadlines

Articles	Jun 10
Ads	Jun 19
Calendar Items	Jun 19

# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGES

## Vigil Against Violence

and for  
**Safe, Caring Communities**

EVEN THOUGH the crime rate is reported down, our violent culture continues to invade our lives. On Friday, May 15, Donovan Allen was gunned down on E. Fayette Street in front of the Syracuse Cultural Workers house. Many shots were fired and luckily, there weren't any more casualties. Many people were out on this warm afternoon, including many children. Our friends at SCW had bullets hit their house.

One week to the hour from this tragedy, the street was blockaded by the police as the community came together to symbolically reclaim the streets. The family of Donovan was joined by over 100 people who offered condolence and support. It was a time for mourning and expressions of horror and anger, as well as prayers. Flowers were placed where the victim fell and a purple ribbon symbolizing peace was tied to a nearby tree. Supporters also wore purple ribbons and carried signs denouncing guns and drugs. The people gathered to rededicate themselves to building healthy communities.

A recurrent theme expressed was the personal responsibility we all have to stop violence within ourselves and when we encounter it on the streets. The media and cultural violence we expose our children to was identified as a "workshop for the devil." We were urged to rely on our families and churches, not the government and schools, to conquer the problem of persistent violence. We also were reminded that decent jobs and affordable housing help create an environment free of violence.

This was an event with many community sponsors including ENIP, SCW, Boys & Girls Club, RUN, PEACE Inc. Eastside Family resource Cntr., Planned Parenthood, SAMN, Near Eastside Community Development Organization, Altered Space, Westcott Teen Center, & the Syracuse Peace Council. For more information call ENIP at 471-7911.

— PP

## SING IT DOWN! SINGING DOWN THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS

ON THURSDAY, MAY 7, the community gathered at the Westcott Community Center for a multi-media presentation and CD release party to close the SOA. The new video "School of the Americas: An Insider Speaks Out" was shown followed by a discussion with Ed Kinane.

Colleen Kattau and Jolie Christine Rickman inspired and entertained the crowd as they did at the SPC Birthday dinner. Their recently produced CD contains eight original songs. Their professional musicianship, heart-melting melodies and powerful lyrics provided an accessible way to explore serious issues outside the traditional lecture format. A great time was had by all!

This powerful group is arranging a tour and we encourage you to bring them to your city, town, or neighborhood. Call to make arrangements: Ed (315)478-4571 or Jolie (315)472-3753

## GODZILLA LIVES ON & ON

The newest version of the movie *GODZILLA* has invaded the country. You can find it in every cineplex, in every mall. We should remember that the original movie named *GOJIRA* was created in 1954 Japan. The tale is a blatant response to the horrors of the Atomic bombing that ravaged Japan. The American release and success of *GODZILLA King of the Monsters* in 1956 reflected both our horror and fascination with things nuclear.

The monster that unleashed the nuclear age lives on in more than those dark chambers where we eat overpriced popcorn. This newest monster apparently owes its creation to Chernobyl. Will there be a Nine Mile One sequel? India is now exploding atomic bombs, are they ready for their own *GODZILLA*?

— PP

"How can I make a tax deductible contribution to the Syracuse Peace Council?"

To make a tax-deductible contribution to SPC, simply send us a check made out to "Alternative Efforts," and mark it "for the Syracuse Peace Council."

What a great idea! More money for us and less for Uncle Sam's War Machine!

## OM in action

NOW THAT we have a new roof over our back office it is safe to remodel what will soon be the well-organized production room for the newsletter in your hands. It will also be a fresh and clean space for our Duane of all trades. Duane does many crucial things for this organization including maintaining our financial records. He has put up with working in all sorts of nasty spaces in our house with never a discouraging word.

Back in the winter, Ann Tiffany, Ed Kinane and Chris Spies-Rusk did the preliminary dirty work of tearing out plaster, bad insulation and years of accumulated grime. Right now, Chris and Mike Kernahan (from our PNL committee) are in the middle of the restoration.

New wiring is ready to go in, some insulation is installed and the new wallboard is just waiting to be put up. We really appreciate the work they have all done and continue to do and encourage anyone with an urge to tackle this old house to join in to help restore and bring some order to our space. Give us a call if you would like to help our OM (Organizational Maintenance) committee. — PP

*"It's In the Air!"*  
... the question of May re-visited

**May 1968: Students and Labor in France strike and nearly topple the government. Students at Jackson St. & Kent St. attacked by the state during protests against US Invasion of Cambodia.**

**May 1998: Student protests bring an end to Suharto's 32-year reign in Indonesia**

# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGES

## LETTER FROM DANBURY PRISON

*We received the following letter from Anne Herman, one of Syracuse's SOA 9, on April 30. Anne began her sentence earlier than the others who reported to prison in March because she plead "No Contest" to the charges against her; she did not go to trial, and was sentenced immediately to six months and a \$3,000 fine. Ed Kinane and Kathleen Rumpf are still awaiting sentencing.*

Dear Folks,

When I arrived here I had no idea what lay ahead. Some folks expressed concern as to how I would survive a long sentence. That was the least of my worries. I saw it as adventure and a kind of joke on the judge who sentenced me here. I would show him I could not be silenced by him or the system. You should not feel sorry for me as I relate my experience of the first half of my time. I was able to meet each new situation with humor and as a challenge.

When I arrived I realized once more how disorganized the Federal system is. The department responsible for admitting was in training. No one expected me. So I sat for three hours with family and friends and waited. We finally started singing hymns and peace songs in four part harmony.

Finally someone came to collect me. He told me I would be at the camp in an hour. I was searched and given an outfit of clothing. The officer who searched me was new and had some difficulty with someone who looked like a grandmother.

Next I saw a physician's assistant. I presented the letter from my treating physician explaining the medication I was on. He disposed of all that and took a medical history. He told me I would be issued approved medication at "pill line."

Then I spoke with someone who determined I was not in danger from myself or any inmate here. He determined I was not suicidal. Then he turned to the computer and discovered there was no PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION. Horrors! I would have to go to administrative detention. Not because they could not medically or socially clear me, but because a procedure could not be documented. He did not believe me when I said there wasn't one. Obviously I didn't know what I was talking about.

So I went to "seg" after two more strip

searches and another change of clothes. I was subjected to a DPT shot and TB test and off I went to the hole. I was issued two sheets and two blankets still wet from the laundry. I was told to be thankful they were wet, as that meant they had been washed recently. I had personal supplies for three days. There was only one set of underwear which I had to wash out nightly. We were allowed three showers a week.

My cell was 6' by 8' and contained a bunk bed, toilet and sink. Occasionally the toilet overflowed and we had to sit on the bunk. The officers sometimes had trouble with the electronic doors that kept us locked in 24 hours a day. I discovered if I sat on the top bunk everyone had to look up to speak with me. Life's little pleasures! It was extremely noisy. Lights were on all night. The officers were predominantly male and invariably strolled by every time I sat on the toilet. I was given some paper and a pencil that was about an inch long but no stamps or envelopes. I could borrow a Bible and all the romance novels I wanted to read. I had to threaten to stop eating before they would bring me meals without meat.

Finally I got out of there — after seven days. The freedom at the camp was almost overwhelming. True, the staff treated us with less respect but it is possible to avoid them much of the time. It is great to be able to go outside, especially in the early morning to enjoy the sunrise and the silence.

I was put in a room with beds for six women. It was light and spacious. There was a window I could open. Because I am over fifty, I am not allowed to sleep on a top bunk. I was the only one in the room for three days so I could pick a bunk where I could watch the sky. During the two months I was there I had a succession of roommates. When the other co-defendants came, we could see each other often. It was a little noisy because it was in a high-traffic area. It was MUCH better than seg.

I requested a work assignment in education. I began teaching students who were required to pass the GED. It was a challenge but interesting. Of course I had a hard time proving I had a high school diploma, but that was accomplished. Life was good. I wrote letters.

Then I was moved to "preferred housing." It is preferred housing because the staff prefers for us to be there. It is in the basement. There are two of us in a 6-foot square area with temporary walls. There is not room enough for us both to get dressed at the same time. There

is no door to shut. There is no window to open. It is VERY noisy at times. I can hear the women next door when they eat.

Each week we have room inspection. The area with the least discrepancies gets to go to meals first. Next week is the first time my dorm goes to the dining hall first since I got here. Perhaps that is because my area was not inspected this week.

The food here is hopeless. It's teenage food. For one week not long ago all there was left when I got to the salad bar was lettuce. Everything else had meat or grease in it. Finally I got hungry and ate everything not identifiable as having meat in it. It made me sick for two days. I am now back to eating only those things I can tell by sight are OK. I requested the special diet available, called common fare. That was three weeks ago. No response yet. Because I'm fasting until the 28th [of April], I'll wait to ask again until next week.

Well, last week the honeymoon ended. Without warning I was taken off my work assignment in education. I ended up working on grounds. The thing is Ann T. and Megan are working with me. Perhaps I am now using a skill I demonstrated last year at the Pentagon. Maybe they found out here I have talent for digging up chunks of sod. Here, instead of a parade ground, it has been at staff housing.

Yes, I was moved from education to help create flower beds in staff housing. It seems the new deputy warden wants to entertain this weekend. He or his wife wanted flowers so they could entertain outside. We heard indirectly they were pleased. I prayed for rain. It didn't rain until Sunday noon.

I requested to return to my old work assignment by filing a Request for Administrative Remedy. It is supposed to go to the warden. I quoted Bureau of Prisons regulations. I don't know if it got there as the camp administrator read parts of it at a Town Hall meeting. She didn't mention my name but everyone knew who it was. Oh, the embarrassment of it all! It represented a bad inmate attitude.

So, as the first half of my sentence draws to a close, life is no longer wonderful. We are reminded we are government property. We need to keep in mind we are here because we can't follow the rules. We need to demonstrate our attitudes are adjusted. — Anne Herman

88104-020

FPC Danbury, Rt. 37, Danbury, CT 06811

# Re-Visiting Sovereignty on the Onondaga Nation

The following letter by Daniel Wren was submitted in response to Wendy Gonyea's article on the Onondaga Nation business closings in the 4/98 PNL. Mr. Wren is from Syracuse and a long-time friend of the Papineau family, of which Kenneth, Michelle, Veronica are among the former business owners. They have been centrally involved in the dispute with the traditional Onondagas; Kenneth and Veronica, along with several others, were banished from the Onondaga Nation in 1994 for their disregard for the laws of the Onondaga Nation and their refusal to cease the illegal operation of their shop.

One of the complexities of the situation at Onondaga is that personal relationships and political perspectives are interwoven. Often, people's places in social networks and personal associations correlate with the political positions they have taken in this conflict. The intensely personal feelings in the conflict affect the political situation greatly. Given those factors, it is often important in understanding people's views as they are expressed to know where those views are coming from. Perhaps even more so with this issue than with others that are more distant from our communities and our lives, it is difficult (if not impossible) to have an "objective, disinterested" position; we believe it important, therefore, that people's subjective positions be identified openly so we all can at least factor in where each other's views are coming from.

Wendy was contacted for a response. Rather than specifically addressing Mr. Wren's letter, she provided the accompanying documents on these pages.

## TO THE PEACE NEWSLETTER

I read the article in the April PNL by Wendy Gonyea about the closing of businesses on the Onondaga Nation with a measure of surprise. Even the most casual analysis leaves one wondering how she draws her conclusions from the facts as she presents them. She tells us that "the people searched for a way to resolve the situation peacefully" and that they were "armed only with the truth". According to her own subsequent accounts, "the truth" apparently included bulldozers and incendiary devices.

After the author recounts a business trailer being plowed into a bonfire she states, "the potential for violence was extremely high-and the delegation was met with it head on". Where I come from, they would have called your "delegation" an angry mob bent on destruction, and forcing someone out of their place of work and wrecking the structure might just be considered an act of violence - but that's just my opinion.

The article reached its peak of irony for me with the line, "The building, since it was a home at one time, was in accordance with traditional law, not burned. The building was, however, destroyed with a bulldozer." Forgive the owner if he doesn't appreciate the importance of this distinction.

As for guns being "visible and photographed", is this so shocking? Anyone who knows will tell you that guns are part of life on The Nation and completely legal under Onondaga law. It would have seemed remarkable if guns HADN'T been present, given the tension of the situation. I know that if the U.S. Government sanctioned a threatening mob to force someone out of their shop and destroy their business while screaming "kill", a person might get defensive. In regards to the retaliations that followed, we can all agree that getting even solves nothing, but just how loudly can you cry "vandalism!" after burning someone's building down?

I'm not trying to argue right or wrong, and I wasn't there that day. I mostly only know what was in Gonyea's article. But Wendy, the next time you arm yourself only with the truth, arm yourself more completely.

Daniel Wren

## A First Hand Account

The following is an affidavit subscribed and sworn on March 3rd 1998 to the Town of Onondaga by Vincent Johnson.

I would like to say that on 03-02-98, I'm not sure what time, I went to O.R.'s to speak to Oliver Hill. Audrey Shenandoah was with me. We were going to O.R.'s to ask Oliver Hill to close his illegal cigarette shop. When I got to O.R.'s, Duane Beckman was standing in the doorway to O.R.'s. Duane had a bandolier full of ammunition around his shoulder. He was holding a semi-automatic rifle with a big clip in it. The gun was brown and black. I told Duane I was looking for O.R. to tell him to close his cigarette shop. Duane chambered a round in the rifle as I was standing there. Duane said, "I'm committed to die here, how committed are you?"

At this point, Oliver Hill (O.R.) showed up. I informed O.R. that his illegal smoke shop had to close and I gave him the letter the Council of Chiefs had written. I asked Oliver if he would close peacefully without a... He pointed at Duane and said, You're going to have to deal with him.

Duane said he was prepared to die and said no one was going to close this shop today. I told Duane that there was no need for any weapons and no one has to get shot today. Duane said that a lot of people were going to die here today. I looked to O.R. and told him none of this had to happen and there was no need for any guns. O.R. said there was nothing I could say to stop him.

I went into O.R.'s place with Duane and he gave the semi-automatic rifle he was holding to Moses and Duane picked up another rifle. It was a lever action rifle with a scope on it. The rifle had a wooden stock. I kept telling Duane he didn't have to kill anyone. At this point, Moses put the rifle he was holding down in the corner. After I knew Moses put the gun down, I reached for the gun that Duane was holding and I struggled with him for a bit. Two clan Mothers, Mary Honyoust and I think Freida Jacques, were with me. Mary Honyoust was holding the barrel of the rifle so she wouldn't get shot.

We fell to the floor and I got the rifle that Duane was holding away from him. Someone else, I'm not sure who... We all went outside of O.R.'s place and I said that there was another weapon behind the door. Someone went into O.R.'s and got this weapon, which was the rifle that Moses had put down earlier.

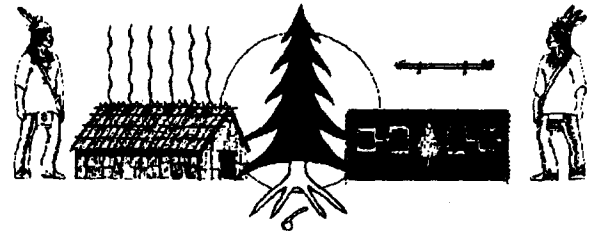
Someone pulled the bandolier full of ammunition off of Duane's shoulder and someone grabbed a faded olive color canvas bag that Duane had. I was told the bag was full of ammunition, but I never looked inside the bag.

The two rifles and handgun that we took away from Duane were loaded. I'm not sure who took the guns out of O.R.'s place, but they were immediately turned over to Joe Heath, the lawyer for the Onondaga Nation.

Chief Vincent Johnson, Onondaga

# Council of Chiefs Enforced Nation's Laws in Closing Shops

Kent Lyons



This is an attempt to clarify some of the misinformation that has been circulated in the last few months, and to also try to develop a basic understanding from the point of view of the people at Onondaga.

With all the evidence presented in the numerous articles and editorials surrounding the closure of the illegal businesses on The Onondaga Nation, the facts lead to some very simple principles that in many respects parallel those of any community municipality or state.

The Council of Chiefs is the legally constituted governing body of the Onondaga Nation, with the authority and responsibility to council for the welfare of the people. It is the duty and responsibility of the council to protect the interests of the people, to maintain peace and order and to uphold our laws.

The Onondaga Nation and The Council of Chiefs are recognized by The United States and its representatives and by the state of New York and its representatives and by county and city governments.

The Onondaga system of government adheres to strict procedures that include the direct input from a wide cross-section of its community, including the clan mothers, the female component of all Haudenosaunee governments, and the spiritual caretakers of the people.

Under the Onondaga system of three warnings, including invitations to meet with the council in the longhouse to discuss nation laws, the illegal business owners were clearly warned that their stores were in complete violation of Onondaga Nation business rules and regulations, and that they were subject to penalties which would include fines, forfeiture of all product, fixtures and buildings.

All of these written notices were ignored; the owners did not make any response of any nature, except to proclaim at every opportunity that they would continue to ignore the laws of The Nation, as well as state and federal laws.

The Onondaga Nation and its people then made the decision to close the illegal businesses owned by Oliver Hill, Michelle and

Kent Papineau, Donna and Robby Bucktooth, Leon, Jerome, Irwin and Dwayne Shenandoah.

In every nation or system of government there are rules and regulations set forth to establish guidelines by which all members must abide to ensure controlled stability and growth; the Onondagas are no different.

The Onondaga Nation business rules and regulations established procedures which must be followed before any business can be opened. The Nation requires that to open a retail establishment to sell tobacco products on the territory, a license is required by written application to the Nation. All those who apply for the license then agree to uphold the laws of the Nation.

There is no place in the country that you can open a retail operation of any kind in direct opposition to rules and regulations concerning fees, zoning, building and product; Onondaga is no different.

The illegal smokeshop owners openly defied Nation laws and attempted to establish an unlicensed, unregulated and unaccountable business that did not recognize the authority of any government.

These same business owners are responsible for over \$9 million in lost revenue to The Onondaga people; this is similar to property taxes that go to support programs for community development. This lost revenue is essential to sustaining the current established programs and ones under development.

The Onondaga Nation does not accept federal funding and has used the cigarette industry to build a foundation of economic stability without resorting to casinos and high-stakes gambling as "quick fix" solutions, that compromise issues of sovereignty.

On sovereignty one thing is for sure: Sovereignty belongs to the Nation. Individuals do not have the right to exploit everyone's collective rights for personal gain. That has been the core of the economic problem at Onondaga.

In a period of more than 12 years, these illegal businesses have amassed personal fortunes with a total disregard for the Nation and its people.

The council, operating under its sovereign right to control the behavior of its citizens, to enforce its own laws, and under its

obligation to its non-native neighbors to not permit its territory to be used for illegal activities, in compliance with the voice of the people decided to close The illegal smokeshops.

In February, this obligation became more serious with the sabotage of a 70-foot high-voltage tower on the property next to Oliver Hill's former smokeshop. In addition to written notices, the owners were approached personally by individual chiefs, Clan mothers and faithkeepers throughout the period of mid-November-1997 through February 1998. None of these verbal attempts were successful.

On the morning of March 2, the chiefs and faithkeepers held a tobacco burning ceremony to remind everyone to use a good mind and remain peaceful.

Each business was approached by a contingent of one chief and several clan mothers, who delivered the final written notice and once again asked the owners to voluntarily shut down and comply with nation laws.

The unarmed people of Onondaga were met with some armed resistance, but were able to disarm those who sought to intimidate the people with threats of death, using a far more powerful weapon: courage and unity.

In 1993, the Onondaga people closed some of these same people, only to have them return. So it was decided That the structures would be dismantled to further discourage their return.

All governments reserve the right to seize contraband by forfeiture and eventually destroy it; Onondaga is no different.

It should be noted that all of these businesses are aligned with a larger group called Voices for the Future, who seek to undermine the traditional government at Onondaga and hope to install an elective style government reliant on federal funding paid by all taxpayers of the United States.

The Onondaga government has stood for thousands of years and has never relinquished its claim to sovereignty, and like many other great nations still in existence, we also must, from time to time, fight for our right to exist.

*Lyons writes on behalf of the Onondaga Communications Liaison, a group authorized by the Council of Chiefs.*



## CLAC Notes, May 1998 Summary

*NUMEROUS MOMENTOUS EVENTS are occurring in the Caribbean and Central and South America, even as the mainstream media covers very few of them:*

The April 26 Washington, DC rally to close the **School of the Americas** was attended by some 1300 people, and speakers from Colombia, Mexico (Chiapas), Honduras and Guatemala gave vivid testimony to past and present abuses of their peoples, on the part of SOA graduates and repressive governments.

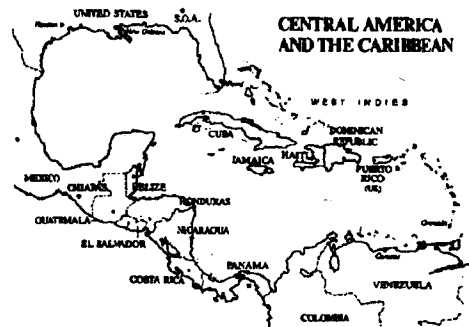
Doctors for Global Health cosponsored a major workshop on **Chiapas** in Washington, the day prior to the rally. A key delegation is travelling to Chiapas from **July 2-9**, sponsored by the new Mexican Solidarity Network. Please contact Nancy Gwin if you are interested. Italian observers were recently forcibly removed by Mexican troops in Chiapas. There will be a special meeting with a video on Chiapas at **7:30pm on June 10** at Plymouth Church, immediately following the next CLAC meeting (see notice on page 18).

In **El Salvador**, it appears that there is a

long-term threat of a dam being built in Morazan to flood the valley in which La Estancia lies. Original information suggested that this catastrophe, designed to sell electricity to **Honduras**, might occur quickly; however, it is more likely that it will take upwards of 8 years for the project to go forward, giving some time for careful but concerted organizing against this destruction. As reported here previously, there continue to be so many violent deaths throughout El Salvador that the rate of killing is higher in the 6½ years since the Peace Accords were signed than it was during the 11 years of civil war.

Cynthia Banas just returned from a delegation to **Haiti**, where the economic situation continues to deteriorate, and the hunger and desperation are as bad as she has ever seen, in numerous trips to Haiti. Petitions are being signed to ask Congress to release the FRAPH documents which the military and CIA removed from Port Au Prince when US troops invaded, ostensibly to permit President Aristide to return safely to his rightful position.

Rep. Craig Powers is promoting a Dear



Colleague letter in Congress regarding Bishop Gerardi's recent assassination in **Guatemala**. Rep. Powers or your own representative can be contacted through the congressional switchboard, (202) 224-3121.

**Rev. Harvey Pinyoun** has resigned from Plymouth Church and is about to participate in the Interfaith Pilgrimage of the Middle Passage, which will "Retrace the Journey of Slavery," with participants walking through the relevant parts of the United States, the Caribbean, Brazil, West Africa, and South Africa. Harvey has been a great spirit, inspiration, participant, and supporter in so many people's struggles. We will miss his presence, even as we wish him Godspeed on this journey.

*Next meeting: Wednesday June 10, 6pm* potluck, Plymouth Congregational Church.

— *Paul Weichselbaum*



## DePalmer House — Haven in a Hard World

VISIONS USUALLY become reality as a result of the concerted efforts of affected and concerned groups of individuals. At the end of the 1980's, a diverse coalition of AIDS activists came together to deal with the fact that alarming numbers of HIV-infected people were becoming homeless at the time of highest stress in their lives. Alternative Efforts was created, and AE joined with the AIDS Housing Coalition to create a space where people would feel safe, respected, and supported.

Reinaldo DePalmer, a dance professor at Syracuse University, had been an inspirational and practical leader in HIV/AIDS community before his death in 1993. His vision and spirit were recognized with the opening of the original DePalmer House in 1994 in a renovated building on W. Onondaga Street. To date, over 100 HIV-infected individuals have lived in this transitional housing space and received the care and support they needed to move on to the next stage of their lives.

Alternative Efforts sought a collaborator from among HIV/AIDS and other human service agencies. Before DePalmer House formally opened, Liberty Resources took over day-to-day responsibility for staffing DePalmer

House and managing the New York State grants to operate the program. At this time, DePalmer House provides transitional housing for up to ten people and there were, in fact, seven men and three women in residence in the middle of May. While six full-time staff-members provide support and supervision as needed, the residents must have independent living skills and be able to live with other people in a congregate setting.

Residents come to DePalmer House from a variety of situations: out of the hospital; evicted from apartments; living long-term in shelters; coming out of substance abuse treatment facilities; released from psychiatric inpatient stays; or recently arrived in Syracuse (and lacking adequate housing). The diversity of residents is far greater than was anticipated in earlier days of the epidemic when HIV/AIDS was mistakenly seen as only affecting gay males. Residents come to DePalmer House to prepare to manage successfully after many setbacks, and very few people come at the end-stage of terminal illness, since the multi-drug combination (including protease inhibitors) have resulted in significantly improved health for most residents.

During a stay at DePalmer House, the first task is stabilization. Staff work with each

resident to stabilize his/her HIV illness by connecting with appropriate medical care and medications. Next in importance is stabilizing a resident's income, by applying for benefits as appropriate, and helping each resident organize her/his finances so that the person can pay rent and provide for personal needs. Other aspects of stabilization include connecting each resident with AIDS case management services, addressing major personal issues (such as substance abuse treatment), and helping residents to reconnect with family and friends while coming to terms with one's HIV diagnosis and dealing with permanency issues. After basic issues are addressed, a resident deals with the gradual process of preparing to find permanent housing, with the fundamentals in place so that she or he can maintain that housing for the long haul. While at DePalmer House, people are in a home-like setting where they can be open about their serostatus, surrounded by other residents in similar situations, and supported by staff who respect and care about them.

DePalmer House gets great benefit from volunteers, and is often in need of relief staff. For more information, DePalmer House can be reached at **475-1544**. — *Paul Weichselbaum*



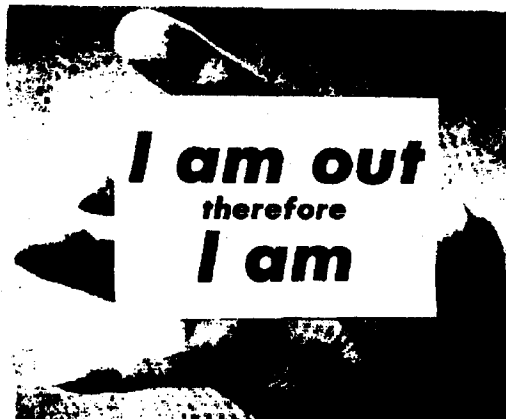
# We Are All Invited

Karen Hall

**T**hat a decidedly conservative voice is prevalent in the gay and lesbian movement is far from news. Gay conservatives largely control national gay and lesbian organizations and are recognized by the media and government as the spokespeople of what used to be a liberation movement but what has become a movement for gay and lesbian civil rights. The positions gay conservatives put forth are highly problematic because they frequently argue against issues of inclusion and they almost always work from internalized homophobic assumptions.

A common concern among gay conservatives is that folks whom they perceive to be too far to the left delegitimize the gay and lesbian movement. Too far to the left can mean anything: being part of the transgender community, using protest and civil disobedience to educate and inform, or connecting issues of class, race, and reproductive rights which gay conservatives claim are not connected to gay and lesbian issues. Use of the word "queer" frequently symbolizes a position too far to the left for gay conservatives as a recent article by Marty Heresniak in Ithaca's *Outlines* suggests. Some time ago Heresniak stated, "We gays must weigh our words and our actions that we may be seen to have worth and be valued by our fellow humans." He criticizes popular psychology's emphasis on developing self-esteem through empowerment as "systems for the dissemination of rudeness," and calling ourselves "queer" is quintessentially rude as it "embarrass[es] allies and incense[s] enemies through mannerless misbehavior."

Heresniak's logic is reminiscent of fellow gay conservative, Bruce Bawer's in his book *A Place at the Table*. Unlike these two authors, I don't believe that we will get a collective invitation to the dinner table if we politely obey the rules. We won't "win our rights by fitting



Adam Rolston, 1989. Reprinted from *AIDS DemoGraphics*, Bay Press, 1990.

into society. . . [and showing] how we are the same, how we are part of the greater group of humanity, not how we differ."

When I read Heresniak's essay, I thought of a draft of an essay I had begun which began with a personal anecdote about eating kiwi. As I sucked the sweet green fruit out of its brown skin, I thought of my family's tradition which

calls for Santa Claus to return on New Year's Eve and bring the children in the household a book and an orange—two commodities which during my

mother's childhood in the '40s were expensive and rare. Because I was the child of a woman who grew up with scarcity, a certain scarcity was enforced in my own upbringing. Eating the kiwi made me very aware of the fact that this fruit was harvested outside my bioregion and transported many thousands of

miles, and though this particular kiwi was left over from a special dessert my lover had made me for St. Valentine's Day, I couldn't help but be aware that she had purchased it at Wegman's, a grocery store where shoppers see

**My finances are queer**

kiwi and a plethora of other fruits, grains and vegetables grown in distant bioregions not as a special treat to indulge in at holidays but as an entitlement.

What does this have to do with gay conservatives or Heresniak's article against the use of the word "queer," you ask? For me, being queer has as much to do with my digestive tract as it does any aspect of my life. My sexuality is queer; my gender display is queer; my finances are queer; my style of social intercourse is queer; my eating habits are queer; my thinking is queer; frequently my behavior is queer. I refuse to contain my queerness. To be queer is to make unnatural connections. We are not supposed to think about environmental degradation when we eat fruit at lunch or

**My style of social intercourse is queer**

walk down the isles of Wegmans. We are not supposed to think that our sexuality has anything to do with our lives outside our private bedrooms, but to be queer is to see that everything is connected.

Queer is a term that links many individuals. Feminism helped teach us that women are not naturally feminine and men are not naturally masculine; there is no natural connection between sex and gender. The gay and lesbian movement helped teach us that there is no natural connection between sex

and gender configurations and sexuality; masculine men are not naturally heterosexual and feminine men homosexual. Lines cross and people express their gender and sexuality in complex ways. The transgender movement is currently teaching us that sex, like gender, is a rigid system

that an oppressive culture teaches us, not a naturally occurring phenomenon. It may feel easier and more convenient to be able to place all beings in either a

cont. on page 10

**For me, being queer has as much to do with my digestive tract as it does any aspect of my life.**

**My sexuality is queer**

**My gender display is queer**

**My eating habits are queer**

## Invited Cont. from p. 9

box marked "male" or a box marked "female," but this system brings inconvenience and discomfort to the many who don't fit the rigid definitions which come with these boxes.

What a queer movement will do for us is combine all these lessons as well as the les-

**My thinking is queer**

sons of other social movements. Thinking queerly means confronting natural laws and common sense. For gay conservatives, it is common sense that if you want something from the system, you should act politely when you ask for it. Acting queerly means exposing the fact that the conventions of polite behavior are neither common sense nor universal. It is oppressive to enforce the rules and conventions of polite behavior of the center on the margins.

The rhetoric of polite behavior in the United States demonstrates how polite, civilized behavior has been used to force those with less power to defer to authority: speak when you are spoken to, do as you are told, don't rock the boat, don't ask for things which haven't been offered to you, be grateful for what you have. If feminists, African Americans, labor unions, animal rights activists, environmentalists, people with disabilities and many others had obeyed the conventional rules of polite behavior, we would live in a very different world.

Being queer doesn't mean being rude, it means struggling

**Frequently my  
behavior is queer**

to live a compassionate and just life, a life where all are included, all have access. Buying into the belief system that good behavior will earn us rights and acceptance will only pay our entry into oppressive systems. Being queer isn't easy. Frequently being queer is uncomfortable and makes other people uncomfortable because it means speaking up when common sense and what seems natural create oppressive boundaries and social relationships.

Those of us who have taken part in any social movement have a framework for understanding the discomfort and risk that comes

with speaking out against injustice. We should, therefore, have informed ways of hearing and supporting others who speak out (especially if at first they make us feel uncomfortable) which will lead us to queer connections of revolutionary strength. During gay pride month and every month following, be queer. If you hear someone say, "Those people embarrass us" or "Including those people and their issues risks our success as a movement," speak out and be supportive of queerness.

*Karen Hall lives and writes in Syracuse and strongly supports the inclusion of "gender expression" in the Onondaga County fair practices law because she understands it to be a queer issue of inclusion.*



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### Open Letter to the Brothers of Alpha Tau Omega 304 Walnut Place, Syracuse, NY 13244 "Thanks for the Memories"

Dear ATO Brothers,

Thanks for the memories of Friday, April 24, 1998. During the Take Back the Night march, you harassed, insulted and threatened us as we went past your house. Loud music blaring, drunken invitations for women to come on in, have some beer, and get f\*\*\*\*\* are still echoing in my ears. I don't think you meant that for me. I'm old enough to be your mother. I'm a survivor of domestic violence, aggravated assault and battery, a survivor of date rape and marital rape (long before there were names for these acts of violence). Thanks for the memories. Thanks for reminding me why I had my tubes tied. Thanks for the gut-gripping, heart-wrenching choking fear I'm feeling right now as I write this.

Thanks for the terror, rage, and fear for my life as three of you came marching down the street at me and two of my friends, laughing uproariously at a woman who had survived three rapes and wondering loudly if she could survive a fourth. Thanks for the flashbacks. Thanks for the feel of male hands around my throat, choking me unconscious. Thanks for bringing back the memories of being battered, bruised and bleeding, left in a parking lot with a filthy rag stuffed in my mouth so he could get away. Thanks for the memories of the times I had to run for my life. Thanks for the anxiety attack I'm having right now. Thanks for the memories, brothers.

Thanks for the insomnia. Thanks for the terrorizing nightmares when I can fall asleep. Thanks for the 2am chain-smoking crying jags. Thanks for reminding me why I'm a feminist and have been one since long before you were born. Thanks for reminding me that I'm not safe on the streets, in the classroom, or in my own home. Thanks for reminding me that you are the bastions of white supremacist capitalist patriarchy. Thanks for reminding me that when a woman speaks her mind, she's called a man-hating dyke. She's called a bitch. She's called crazy. Thanks for the memories, brothers.

Thanks for sending me back to Audre Lorde, Gamba Adisa, who taught me "Your silence will not protect you." Thanks for the time-out I had to take to vomit right now. Thanks for reminding me that it's time for cleaning house. Thanks for reminding me to honor and cherish the courageous young women and men who are protecting me and saving my life. Thanks for reminding me I need to transform fear and rage and grief into language and action. Thanks for the memories, brothers.

It's time for cleaning house. Goodbye, brothers of ATO.

Most sincerely,  
Boadicea

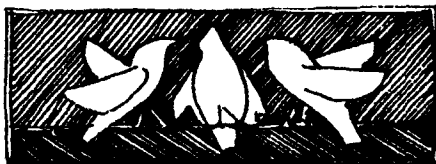


# SUMMER VACATION GUIDE

compiled by Andy Molloy

artwork by Karen Kerney

Summer vacation in the U.S. seems synonymous with travel—usually out of one's home town. If you plan to "hit the road" during June through August but can't quite decide between Disney World, Sea World or the International Boxing Hall of Fame, we have the solution. Our alternative vacation guide lists over 60 events, admittedly only a smattering of what's out there. These are events to enrich your mind, empower your heart and stoke the fire of social change. Each event is grouped under one of four categories—Politics, Festivals, Schools and Tours. The Peace Council has flyers and brochures for many of these events—please give us a call to view them. Don't forget to send us a postcard.



## POLITICS

### "George Pataki, Still a Landlord Lackey" Picket at NYS Republican Convention

DATE: June 4  
PLACE: New York, NY  
CONTACT: Metropolitan Council on Housing; (212) 693-0553

### The Challenge of Human Rights: Confronting Immigration Law Enforcement Today

DATE: June 5-7  
PLACE: Los Angeles, CA  
CONTACT: National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights, 310 Eighth St, #307, Oakland, CA 94607; (510) 465-1984; [www.nmirr.org](http://www.nmirr.org)  
COMMENT: national, bilingual conference for immigrant & refugee rights activists & allies

### Nuclear Weapons Abolition: A Regional Conference

DATE: June 6  
PLACE: Portland, ME  
CONTACT: Maine Peace Action Committee, (207) 772-0680  
COMMENT: keynote by Jonathan Schell; workshops on nuclear weapons, the Freeze campaign

### "The Remedy Is Jobs, Not Jails" Conference

DATE: June 6  
PLACE: New York, NY  
CONTACT: Jim Haughton or Stephanie Carlotti; (212) 962-1371 or 346-7971

### Radical Walking Tours of New York City

DATE: June 6 & other times throughout the summer  
PLACE: New York, NY  
CONTACT: (718) 492-0069; [www.he.net/~radtours](http://www.he.net/~radtours)  
COMMENT: learn about the social history of the city

### 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Addressing Environmental Consequences of War

DATE: June 10-12  
PLACE: Washington, DC  
CONTACT: Environmental Law Institute, 1616 P St, NW, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 939-3240; [bruch@eli.org](mailto:bruch@eli.org)  
COMMENT: legal, political, ecological aspects

### Foundations For the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Scholarship, Activism, Community

DATE: June 10-14  
PLACE: Oswego, NY  
CONTACT: Diane James, NWSA - 14B Penfield, Oswego State University, Oswego, NY 13126; (315) 341-3323; [www.nwsa.org](http://www.nwsa.org)  
COMMENT: conference of the National Women's Studies Association; also "Women's Rights Around the World: Past, Present, Future"

### Northeast Regional Anti-Hunger Network Conference

DATE: June 11-12  
PLACE: Boston, MA  
CONTACT: (802) 865-0255 or 476-3341  
COMMENT: learn how to be more effective in addressing, preventing and working to end hunger

### Independent Progressive Politics Network Summit: "For Our Survival: Who Will Have Power in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?"

DATE: June 12-14  
PLACE: Oakland, CA  
CONTACT: IPPN, POB 170610, Brooklyn, NY 11217; (718) 624-7807; [www.ippn.org](http://www.ippn.org)

COMMENT: for alternatives to the two big parties

### "Stop 100 Years of Servitude" Conference on the Philippines

DATE: June 12-14  
PLACE: New York, NY  
CONTACT: Gabriela Network; (212) 592-3507; [www.gabnet.org](http://www.gabnet.org)  
COMMENT: marks the centennial of US colonization

### Black Radical Conference: Setting a Liberation Agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

DATE: June 19-21  
PLACE: Chicago, IL  
CONTACT: Black Radical Congress, POB 5766, Chicago, Illinois 60680-5766; [www.blackradicalcongress.com/](http://www.blackradicalcongress.com/)  
COMMENT: gather to help rebuild the peoples' movement for fundamental social change in the US

### Grassroots News Network Conference & Cultural Jam

DATE: June 19-21  
PLACE: Austin, TX  
CONTACT: [www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Studio/1082/media.html](http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Studio/1082/media.html)  
COMMENT: work collectively for the creation and stability of non-corporate, non-profit media

### Connecting Voices for Environmental Change & Leadership

DATE: June 20  
PLACE: Boston, MA  
CONTACT: Environmental Diversity Forum, 294 Washington St, #751, Boston, MA 02108; (617) 338-9196; [www.envdivforum.org](http://www.envdivforum.org)  
COMMENT: addresses environmental issues faced by low income neighborhoods & communities of color

### National March for Leonard Peltier

DATE: June 27  
PLACE: Washington, DC

## 1998 VACATION GUIDE

### San Francisco Pride Parade

**DATE:** June 27-28  
**PLACE:** San Francisco, CA  
**CONTACT:** San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Parade Committee Inc., 1390 Market St, #1225, San Francisco, CA 94102; (415) 864-FREE; [www.SF-Pride.org/home.html](http://www.SF-Pride.org/home.html)  
**COMMENT:** food booths, arts & crafts, dancing and entertainment.

### Pro Gay & Pro Christian Annual Conference

**DATE:** July 2-5  
**PLACE:** Orange, CA  
**CONTACT:** (602) 893-6952; [www.ecwr.org](http://www.ecwr.org)  
**COMMENT:** offers support to integrate our spirituality & sexuality

### "A Future of Nonviolence: Shaping the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" FOR National Conference

**DATE:** July 15-19  
**PLACE:** Milford, IN  
**CONTACT:** Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960; (914) 358-4601; [forpti@igc.org](mailto:forpti@igc.org)  
**COMMENT:** plenary sessions, networking caucuses, entertainment, meditation, workshops

### Building Democracy in the Aftermath of the Cold War

**DATE:** July 17-19  
**PLACE:** Berkeley, CA  
**CONTACT:** Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute; (510) 848-0599  
**COMMENT:** a reunion, conference & banquet honoring veterans of and objectors to the Cold War; sing the songs, hear the stories, remember the lessons

### Generation Action '98

**DATE:** July 17-19  
**PLACE:** Elka Park, NY  
**CONTACT:** Catskill Bruderhof, Elka Park, NY 12427; (518) 589-5103; [frodob.brunderhof.com/genact/](http://frodob.brunderhof.com/genact/)  
**COMMENT:** 3 day conference including speakers on Iraq, Chiapas, criminal justice, American Indian Movement, US Political Prisoners, School of the Americas & more.

### First Grassroots Gathering on Biodevastation: Genetic Engineering

**DATE:** July 17-19  
**PLACE:** Fontbonne College, St. Louis, MO  
**COMMENT:** keynote speaker Vandana Shiva, author of *Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature & Knowledge*; many discussion panels & workshops

### Preparing Communities of Color for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Next Steps, New Challenges & Strategies

**DATE:** July 18  
**PLACE:** University of Maryland  
**CONTACT:** (202) 857-8766; [home1.gte.net/bte/compmp](mailto:home1.gte.net/bte/compmp)  
**COMMENT:** conference for policy students and professionals

### Bread & Roses: Women Define Globalization—WILPF International Conference

**DATE:** July 24-31  
**PLACE:** Baltimore, MD  
**CONTACT:** Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, (508) 398-1552

### National Demonstration to Denounce the Centennial of the US Invasion & Colonization of Puerto Rico

**DATE:** July 25  
**PLACE:** Washington, DC  
**CONTACT:** (773) 278-0885; [www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/6098/index2.html](http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/6098/index2.html)  
**COMMENT:** to re-affirm Puerto Rico's right as a nation to self-determination; to demand the release of the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War; also activities in Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco and New York

### Language, Race & Power in Schools

**DATE:** July 30-August 2  
**PLACE:** Washington, DC  
**CONTACT:** National Coalition of Education Activists, POB 679, Rhinebeck, NY 12572; (914) 876-4580; [rfs@aol.com](mailto:rfs@aol.com)  
**COMMENT:** conference of NCEA; program for children & youth also available

### Solidarity Summer School: Socialism and Activism 150 Years After the Communist Manifesto

**DATE:** August 3-6  
**PLACE:** Chicago, IL  
**CONTACT:** Solidarity Summer School, 7012 Michigan Av, Detroit, MI 48210; [www.igc.apc.org/solidarity/ss.html](http://www.igc.apc.org/solidarity/ss.html)  
**COMMENT:** If you are struggling with the challenge of giving your organizing projects a more theoretical basis, come to this school!

### Celebrate the Old Struggle & Join the New: Resisting Trident for 21 Years

**DATE:** August 6-9  
**PLACE:** Bremerton, WA  
**CONTACT:** Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Rd, Poulsbo, WA 98370; (360) 377-2586; [jackissue@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jackissue@ix.netcom.com)  
**COMMENT:** join the new struggle to abolish nuclear weapons; speakers, music, potluck meals, games, planning & participation in nonviolent action at Bangor Trident submarine base

### International Conference on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Communist Manifesto

**DATE:** August 7-9  
**PLACE:** New York, NY  
**CONTACT:** *Nature, Society, and Thought*, University of Minnesota, Physics Bldg, 116 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455; (612) 922-7993; [physics.spa.umn.edu/~marquit/#augconf](mailto:physics.spa.umn.edu/~marquit/#augconf)  
**COMMENT:** outstanding Marxist scholar/activists

from Europe, Canada, Cuba, and the United States will address plenary sessions; workshops

### 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Organic Farming Association Summer Conference

**DATE:** August 7-9  
**PLACE:** Amherst, MA  
**CONTACT:** (978) 355-2853; [www.nofavt.org](http://www.nofavt.org)  
**COMMENT:** keynote speaker: Wendell Berry

### Annual August Desert Witness

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



### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary New York Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

**DATE:** June 4-14  
**PLACE:** New York, NY  
**CONTACT:** The New Festival, 47 Great Jones St, 6<sup>th</sup> Fl, New York, NY 10010; (212) 254-7228; [www.newfestival.org](http://www.newfestival.org)

### 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Otsiningo Pow Wow

**DATE:** June 5-7  
**PLACE:** Otsiningo Park, near Broome Community College, Binghamton, NY  
**CONTACT:** Otsiningo American Indian Program, 28 Zevan Rd, Johnson City, NY 13790; (607) 729-0016; [www.tier.net/isa](http://www.tier.net/isa)  
**COMMENT:** this year honors the Iroquois; Indian Craft Fair, Allegany River Indian Dancers, lectures, exhibitions, food, campfire storytelling, art

### Mid-West Anarchist Picnic

**DATE:** June 6  
**PLACE:** Dayton, OH  
**CONTACT:** (937) 256-9079; [www.infinet.com/~egsmith/98picnic.html](http://www.infinet.com/~egsmith/98picnic.html)  
**COMMENT:** literature tabling, potluck, live bands in evening

### Country Hoe Down for Animal Rights

**DATE:** June 6-7  
**PLACE:** Orland, CA  
**CONTACT:** Farm Sanctuary; (530) 865-4617; [farmsanc@farmsanctuary.org](mailto:farmsanc@farmsanctuary.org)  
**COMMENT:** speakers, workshops, booths, vegetarian cookout, hayrides, barn dance



**Sistah Summerfest**

**DATE:** June 12-14  
**PLACE:** Blue Ridge Mountains, WV  
**CONTACT:** Amethyst & Indigo, Inc., 1225 Massachusetts Av, SE, Washington, DC 20003; (202) 546-5909  
**COMMENT:** the premiere mid-Atlantic womyn of color & many cultures music-spirit festival

**Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival**

**DATE:** June 20-21  
**PLACE:** Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY  
**CONTACT:** Clearwater Revival, 112 Market St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601; www.clearwater.org  
**COMMENT:** 7 stages of folk, blues, gospel, Irish, Cajun, World, Swing, Children's theater, crafts, storytelling, ethnic foods

**National Women's Music Festival**

**DATE:** June 25-28  
**PLACE:** Indianapolis, IN  
**CONTACT:** Mary Byrne, POB 1427, Indianapolis, IN 46206; (317) 923-5574; www.a1.com/wia  
**COMMENT:** oldest women's festival in the US; all concerts, workshops, intensives, crafts fair held indoors

**18th Annual Old Songs Festival**

**DATE:** June 26-28  
**PLACE:** Altamont Fairgrounds, Altamont, NY  
**CONTACT:** Old Songs, Inc., POB 399, Guilderland, NY 12084; (518) 765-2815; www.crisny.org/not-for-profit/oldsongs  
**COMMENT:** traditional music & dance, children's activities, crafts; feature Cajun, harp, banjo, fiddling, Contra dances, Flamenco music & more

**Strawberry Festival**

**DATE:** June 27  
**PLACE:** Common Place Land Trust, Truxton, NY  
**CONTACT:** (607) 842-6039  
**COMMENT:** strawberry shortcake, hiking, outdoor fun

**1st Annual Radical Lesbian Festival**

**DATE:** July 2-6  
**PLACE:** Finger Lakes Region, NY  
**CONTACT:** send SASE to RLF, POB 813, Northampton, MA 01061  
**COMMENT:** Are you sick of sex-liberal bulls\*\*t? Do you still 'want a women's revolution like a lover?' Then don't miss the festival you've been waiting for.

**Vegetarian Summerfest**

**DATE:** July 8-12  
**PLACE:** Johnstown, PA  
**CONTACT:** North American Vegetarian Society, POB 72, Dolgeville, NY 13329; (518) 568-7970; www.cyberveg.org/navs/fest98/  
**COMMENT:** health, nutrition, exercise, animal rights & the environment

**Onondaga Nation Music, Art & Cultural Festival**

**DATE:** July 11-12

**PLACE:** Onondaga Nation Lacrosse Field, Rte 11A  
**COMMENT:** family event with food, Lacrosse exhibit, dancing, crafts; free parking

**16th Annual Winterhawk Bluegrass Festival**

**DATE:** July 16-19  
**PLACE:** south of Hillsdale, NY  
**CONTACT:** Winterhawk, POB 161, Tremont City, OH 45372; (888) 946-8495; winterhawkbluegrass.com  
**COMMENT:** all kinds of performances, workshops, contests, dancing, camping

**Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival of Music & Dance**

**DATE:** July 23-26  
**PLACE:** Trumansburg, NY  
**CONTACT:** Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival, POB 941, Trumansburg, NY 14886; (607) 387-5098; www.grassrootsfest.org  
**COMMENT:** Over 40 bands including Cajun, Zydeco, stringband, African, world beat, roots rock, & alternative; food and crafts areas, art exhibits, children's area with special performances and activities for younger folks. Event supports arts, education, and the fight against AIDS.

**Solar Powered Music & Education Festival**

**DATE:** July 23-26  
**PLACE:** Westfield, MA  
**CONTACT:** Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, 50 Miles St, Greenfield, MA 01301; (413) 774-6051; www.nesea.org  
**COMMENT:** includes workshops, solar home tours, electric vehicle rides & more

**Black Expo '98**

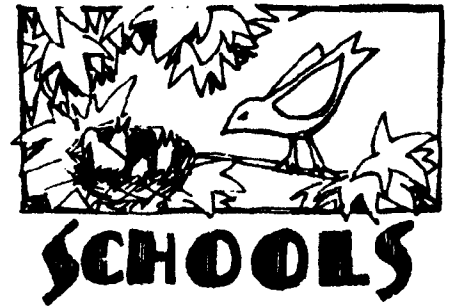
**DATE:** August 1-2  
**PLACE:** Oakland, CA  
**CONTACT:** (510) 839-0690; blackexpo@aol.com  
**COMMENT:** largest event in the African American community in northern California; over 20,000 attendees

**23rd Michigan Womyn's Music Festival**

**DATE:** August 11-16  
**PLACE:** Walhalla, MI  
**CONTACT:** WWTMC, POB 22, Walhalla, MI 49458; (616) 757-4766  
**COMMENT:** features Sweet Honey In the Rock, Indigo Girls, Alice Walker, Ferron; 40 performances, 200 workshops, film festival, crafts fair

**10th Annual Elderflower Womenspirit Festival**

**DATE:** August 13-16  
**PLACE:** Mendocino Woodlands, CA  
**CONTACT:** Elderflower, POB 460790, San Francisco, CA 94146; (415) 263-5719; elderflower@sfbayguardian.com  
**COMMENT:** campfires, plant walks, arts, crafts, open air market, rituals



**5th Annual Forest Activist Training Week**

**DATE:** June 7-14  
**PLACE:** Green Mountains of VT  
**CONTACT:** Native Forest Network, POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402; (802) 863-0571; nffena@sover.net  
**COMMENT:** hands-on learning around a wide variety of topics related to forest activism

**Organizing for Social Change**

**DATE:** June 15-19  
**PLACE:** California  
**CONTACT:** Midwest Academy, Shelby Pera, 225 W Ohio St, Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60610; (312) 645-6010  
**COMMENT:** workshops on building coalitions, recruiting leaders, using direct action, surviving for the long haul, social change movements & more

**Minority Activist Apprenticeship Program**

**DATE:** June 18-August 3  
**PLACE:** work across the nation in five local campaigns  
**CONTACT:** Center for Third World Organizing, 1218 E 21st St, Oakland, CA 94606; (510) 533-7583; www.ctwo.org  
**COMMENT:** skills in labor & community organizing

**United for Change Youth Training**

**DATE:** June 21-29  
**PLACE:** Seattle, WA  
**CONTACT:** Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960; (914) 358-4601; forpti@igc.org  
**COMMENT:** for activists age 17-25 to develop nonviolence, leadership and organizing skills; intensive nonviolence training with special focus on homeless youth; part of FOR's Peacemaker Training Institute

**Summer Institute of Human Rights in the 21st Century**

**DATE:** June 22-August 4  
**PLACE:** American University, Washington, DC  
**CONTACT:** Amnesty International, AIUSA-National Field Program, 1118 22nd St, NW, Washington, DC 20003; (202) 775-5161  
**COMMENT:** introduces theoretical & practical aspects of human rights issues, learn activist skills

## Creating Peaceable Schools: A Summer Institute

**DATE:** June 29-July 3  
**PLACE:** Cambridge, MA  
**CONTACT:** Center for Peaceable Schools, Lesley College, 29 Everett St, Cambridge, MA 02138; (800) 999-1959, ext. 8491; peace@mail.lesley.edu  
**COMMENT:** hands-on workshops for K-12 teachers, administrators, youth workers & parents; with Sonia Nieto & Howard Zinn

## Open Hand Theater's Circus Camp

**DATE:** July 6-17, 20-31  
**PLACE:** Lafayette & Syracuse, NY  
**CONTACT:** Open Hand Theater, 232 E. Onondaga St, Syracuse, NY 13202; 476-0466  
**COMMENT:** classes include Comedy & Mime, Movement & Dance, Magic & Juggling, Mask Making & Art; ages 8 and up

## Peace Brigades Volunteer Training

**DATE:** July 24-30  
**PLACE:** Lake Simcoe, Ontario, Canada  
**CONTACT:** PBI/USA, 2642 College Av, Berkeley, CA 94704; (510) 540-0749  
**COMMENT:** intensive week-long training for volunteers wishing to join our peace team in Columbia

## Work Camp, Bosnia

**DATE:** July 26-August 15  
**PLACE:** Sanski Most, Bosnia  
**CONTACT:** Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960; (914) 358-4601; forpti@igc.org  
**COMMENT:** ages 17-21; visit communities on both sides of the war while helping to repair the physical damage of war

## Seattle Peace Camp

**DATE:** July 27-August 7  
**PLACE:** Seattle, WA  
**CONTACT:** Julie Bisson, (206) 782-8066  
**COMMENT:** for children ages 4-10 & junior counselors ages 11-15; sponsored by Women's International League for Peace & Freedom

## Pax Christi Youth Summer Retreat

**DATE:** August 5-7  
**PLACE:** Collegeville, MN  
**CONTACT:** Pax Christi USA, 532 W 8<sup>th</sup> St, Erie, PA 16502; (814) 453-4955; info@paxchristiusa.org  
**COMMENT:** national gathering of faith-based young people who seek to pursue the gospel of peace & justice through prayer, study & action

## Skills For Change

**DATE:** August 15-23  
**PLACE:** Washington, DC  
**CONTACT:** Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960; (914) 358-4601; forpti@igc.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

## Human Rights Youth College

**DATE:** August 17-21  
**PLACE:** Washington, DC  
**CONTACT:** Tiffany Newton, (202) 216-1537; ycollege@hrc.org  
**COMMENT:** training leads to 3 month full time work on electoral campaign; commitment to gay & lesbian civil rights; ages 18-24

## Community Action Training

**DATE:** August 21-23, 28-30  
**PLACE:** Oakland, CA & Boston, MA  
**CONTACT:** Center for Third World Organizing, 1218 E 21<sup>st</sup> St, Oakland, CA 94606; (510) 533-7583; www.ctwo.org  
**COMMENT:** intensive 3-day hands-on introduction to community organizing

## Anti-nuclear Action Camp

**DATE:** August 22-29  
**PLACE:** Brattleboro, VT  
**CONTACT:** Syracuse Peace Council, 472-5478  
**COMMENT:** join 200 people for training, education, networking & actions; Bread & Puppet Theater

## Human Rights Action Seminar: Women's Rights

**DATE:** August  
**PLACE:** Chevy Chase, MD  
**CONTACT:** Amnesty International, AIUSA-National Field Program, 1118 22<sup>nd</sup> St, NW, Washington, DC 20003; (202) 775-5161  
**COMMENT:** provides in-depth info on women's human rights, training in leadership & organizing skills

## 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, nature & society, spiritualism

## Institute for Solar Living Workshops

**DATE:** all summer  
**PLACE:** Hopland & Ukiah, CA  
**CONTACT:** Institute for Solar Living c/o Real Goods, 555 Leslie St, Ukiah, CA 95482; (800) 762-7325; isl@realgoods.com  
**COMMENT:** various workshops focusing on renewable energy, alternative construction techniques & sustainable living practices

## Herbal Medicine & Wise Woman Workshops

**DATE:** all summer  
**PLACE:** Woodstock, NY  
**CONTACT:** Susan Weed, POB 64, Woodstock, NY 12498; (914) 246-8081  
**COMMENT:** for women and men; write for listing; examples: Hands-on Herbal Medicine, Moonlodge

## International Workcamps

**DATE:** all summer

**PLACE:** Latin America, Asia, Africa, Russia, Europe  
**CONTACT:** International Workcamps, 43 Tiffany Rd, Belmont, VT 05730; (802) 259-2759; www.vfp.org  
**COMMENT:** promote international goodwill through short-term community service projects

## Learning Alliance Summer Programs

**DATE:** all summer  
**PLACE:** New York, NY  
**CONTACT:** Learning Alliance, 324 Lafayette St, 7<sup>th</sup> Fl, New York NY 10012; (212) 226-7171  
**COMMENT:** many classes & workshops including Black liberation, biotechnology, freeing local media, compassionate action, fundraising, activist organizing



# TOURS

## The Great Iroquois Bus Tour, Part One

**DATE:** July 24-26  
**PLACE:** leave from Binghamton, NY  
**CONTACT:** Otsiningo American Indian Program, 28 Zevan Rd, Johnson City, NY 13790; (607) 729-0016; www.tier.net/isa  
**COMMENT:** visit museums, shrines, nations

## Chiapas Summer – Tourists of Conscience

**DATE:** July & August  
**PLACE:** Chiapas, Mexico  
**CONTACT:** (619) 232-2841; mexicopeace@igc.apc.org  
**COMMENT:** live & work in a rebel Maya community in the highlands of Chiapas; volunteer in a unique cultural & educational exchange working for peace & justice

## Tours to Cuba

**DATE:** July & August  
**PLACE:** Havana, Santiago, Guantanamo  
**CONTACT:** Center for Cuban Studies, 124 W 23<sup>rd</sup> St, New York, NY 10011; (212) 242-0559; cubanctr@igc.apc.org  
**COMMENT:** topics include Jewish History in Cuba, Art & Artists, African Roots of Cuban Culture & Society, Cuban Legal System & more

## Peace Delegation to El Salvador

**DATE:** August 8-16  
**PLACE:** El Salvador  
**CONTACT:** Institute of Technology, Environment & Self Sufficiency; (512) 388-7957; itama@igc.org  
**COMMENT:** includes march for peace, visits to ITAMA project sites & Local Zone of Peace



**Non-prescription drug abuse: It's worse than you think**

Human and veterinary pharmaceuticals are beginning to turn up in our drinking water supply. US and European chemists looking for pesticides and other forms of water pollution are finding widely prescribed cholesterol-lowering drugs (clofibrac acid), lipid regulating substances (phenazone and fenofibrate), analgesics (ibuprofen and diclofenac), chemotherapy drugs, antibiotics, and hormones in lakes, rivers, groundwater, and other bodies of water which supply drinking water.

Up to 90% of a delivered drug may leave the body in urine and feces. Though the body tends to break down any medicine it uses, how effectively it does so varies widely with the drug and with the individual. Partially degraded drugs may sometimes be reconverted to their active form through chemical reactions with the environment.

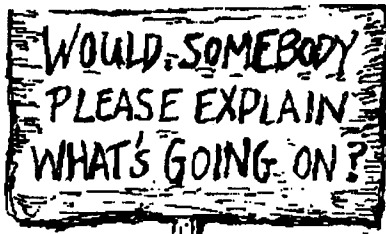
Risks to human health are as yet unknown because no testing has been done. However, waterborne estrogens in some US waters are high enough to alter reproductive organs in fish and there is concern that antibacterial drugs may foster antibiotic resistance.

Source: *Science News*, March 1998

**"Take the Rich Off Welfare"**

That's the title of a book by Mark Zepezauer and Arthur Naiman, published by Publisher's Group West, which will enlighten you and piss you off. The book gives a concise look at just how the upper crust goes about belying up to the federal trough, while the right wing would have you believe that the cause of the federal deficit is all "those" people sucking on the governmental teat. For example:

- The Pentagon lost \$28 billion between 1985 and 1995. Just lost. No clue. Take it out of Petty Cash.
- A Canadian mining company is extracting \$10 billion in gold from US land it paid the government \$5200 for.
- The US Forest Service typically sells our trees at 1% of the going commercial rate.
- William du Pont, Jr., whose vast Maryland



estate contains a grandstand that could seat 12,500 people, was able to deduct the cost of keeping professional foxhunters on staff.

Source: *Multinational Monitor*

**Death Squad Investigators are being targeted**

There is increasing concern for the safety of those investigating the activities of Brazilian death squads. In late 1996 lawyer Gilson Nogueira was killed while investigating death squad activity in the state of Rio Grande do Norte. A year later, colleagues who took over his investigations are still regularly receiving death threats. In Mato Grosso do Sul, human rights activists looking into the killings of hundreds of people along the Paraguayan and Bolivian borders were intimidated by government troops following their discovery of a mass grave in which death squad victims were buried. A recent investigation by the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies Human Rights Commission has identified death squad activities in at least nine of Brazil's 27 states. Official investigations of these activities are severely compromised by police links to the death squads, witness intimidation, death threats and assaults.

Source: *Amnesty International*

**A little goes a long way**

A two-year UN project in Nairobi, Kenya, financed by Germany and costing an estimated \$150,000., (petty cash by international aid standards) shows that a little bit of aid, intelligently applied, can go a very long way. The project targets women manufacturing garments in the *Jua Kali*, or "hot sun" informal sector of the economy, referring to micro-business operations in streets and outdoor markets. The government recognized the enormous potential of this sector to create jobs and has made its development a high priority. More than 1000 women were enrolled in a program which provided access to small-scale credit following successful completion of a six-month training course on business management, marketing, and technical subjects. About 700 women completed the course and 665 are now running

their own businesses, compared to 140 before the inception of the program. Average salaries increased by more than 100%. An estimated 2,240 jobs were directly created, and indirect employment is thought to be even higher due to the creation of 400 new start-up businesses. Repayment records are good, helped by sound profits. Product lines have expanded into home accessories, bed linens, toiletries, and children's toys. Most of the beneficiaries opened bank accounts and maintain accounting records. About 30% have relocated their operations to commercial premises, larger towns, and central business areas. The majority have legalized and registered their businesses.

Source: *United Nations Division for Sustainable Development*



**Managed Care breaks the back of workers**

Working in a nursing home can be hazardous to your health. Of the 20 fastest-growing US industries, nursing homes have the highest rate of occupational illness and injury, according to a study by the Service Employees International Union, which represents 100,000 US nursing home workers. The study found that more than 18% of all nursing home workers are injured or become ill on the job each year, up 57% from 1984.

The culprit is the trend toward "managed care." The rush to cut hospital costs has resulted in the transfer of more "medically complex residents" into nursing homes, with no corresponding increase in staffing. More than half of the injuries are back and trunk injuries occurring when workers are forced to lift patients alone due to understaffing. A lack of training and proper lifting equipment further contribute to the problem. Aside from the obvious harm to the workers, the quality of care to patients also suffers.

Source: *Service Employees International Union*

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# Blunders Continue at Nine Mile One

## An Update on Nine Mile One and the Campaign to Shut it Down

Kyle Rabin

Your health and your wallet are under renewed threat by Niagara Mohawk, operators of the beleaguered Nine Mile One nuclear reactor. Niagara Mohawk has petitioned for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to postpone for about six months a safety inspection of the reactor's severely cracked core shroud. If the Niagara Mohawk petition succeeds the damaged shroud could avoid inspection until Spring 1999. A rupture in the core shroud would likely induce a catastrophic accident since the outer containment vessel is cited as having a 90% failure rate. In addition a new series of blunders continue to plague the reactor facility, including: a shutdown last month to repair vital water level meters found to be in error since 1984; a citation by the NRC for mishandling secret security measures, and a suit by a former employee who was allegedly fired for discovering an error in Niagara Mohawk safety training. However Niagara Mohawk may soon stop worrying about making such frequent costly mistakes. Under the new "PowerChoice" agreement between Niagara Mohawk and the New York Public Service Commission, the company could simply pass off these operating losses to the consumer.

On Wednesday, April 29th, during a routine evaluation of control room instrumentation at the Nine Mile Point One nuclear power facility, plant operators came upon a startling realization. An error in the calibration instruments has caused the control room equipment to continually issue an indicated reactor vessel water level reading that is seven inches higher than the actual reactor vessel water level. This flaw in calibration has existed since 1984. As a result, many of the safety systems associated

with this flawed instrumentation (i.e. control room ventilation system, core spray initiation, low level reactor scram, emergency condenser initiation) would not have performed their safety function properly in the event of an emergency because they would not have been triggered at the minimum reactor vessel water level required by the plant technical specifications. Actual water levels would be well below the triggering point before the emergency response system would be automated.

The plant was immediately shut down so that repairs could be made. This forced

power the nuclear reactor, the 1.5 inch thick core shroud provides lateral restraint to the reactor core and supports other structural elements within the reactor assembly. The core shroud's inspection is to take place sometime in the fall of 1998, when the current extension of 10,600 operational hours is expected to expire, barring other forced outages. The NRC granted this extension of operation hours to Niagara Mohawk in late spring of 1997, at the time of the last refueling outage. Niagara Mohawk's most recent petition requests an additional 3,400 hours which will allow it to operate the Nine Mile Point One power plant up to the spring of 1999, the time frame for their next refueling outage. Niagara Mohawk has made this request so that they don't have to shut down the plant during mid 'fuel cycle'. Niagara Mohawk spokesperson, Robert Burtch Jr. claims that "there is no need for a mid cycle outage." According to Burtch, studies done on core shroud materials show that the shroud is not in danger of cracking any further and that the margins of safety regarding the core shroud are a lot greater than previously thought. As a result of these findings, Niagara Mohawk officials feel it is 'safe' to put off the inspection until the spring, during the scheduled refueling outage. Also figuring into this decision to request the postponement of the inspection are the financial costs of having to shut down the power plant during mid cycle and the impracticality of exposing plant workers to unnecessary radiation. Niagara Mohawk is putting their own spin on the

NRC petition by referring to the extension as simply seeking to avoid an unnecessary shutdown. The NRC will decide upon the petition some time in the next few months.

On May 8th, Niagara Mohawk found itself in the midst of yet another controversy. This time the issue was plant security or lack thereof. During a security inspection, an NRC inspector found what appeared to be a violation

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"Sorry about that, but 'a miss is as good as a mile' as we always say!"

outage occurred just days after Niagara Mohawk filed a petition with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, requesting the NRC to postpone the date for Niagara Mohawk's inspection of Nine Mile Point One's reactor core shroud, which suffers from intergranular stress corrosion cracking. Surrounding the highly radioactive fuel rods which

# CLOSE NINE MILE ONE CAMPAIGN

regarding the manner in which Niagara Mohawk was handling information relating to plant security and safeguards. Information concerning anti-terrorist security was improperly safeguarded. According to the NRC, such information should have been vaulted away for national security reasons. NRC Region One Public Affairs Officer Neil Sheehan stated that Niagara Mohawk may be guilty of an additional violation because they were aware of their own failure to secure this information and failed to report their oversight to the NRC. The NRC immediately summoned Niagara Mohawk officials to a May 11th Pre-decisional Enforcement Conference at the NRC's Regional One office in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania to address this issue. At this conference, Niagara Mohawk officials contested the violation claiming that the material in question did not contain information that had to be secured. The NRC will hand down a decision within the thirty days following this conference. Ironically, although these security measures are intended to counter the perceived threat of a terrorist attack, the real danger appears to lie in the plant's poor condition and mismanagement which ominously foreshadow a future catastrophic accident.

And, just a few weeks ago, Niagara Mohawk had a lawsuit submitted against it. The \$1.75 million dollar lawsuit was filed by Edward D. Stoner, a simulator test specialist from the Maryland-based General Physics Corporation. Stoner had been subcontracted out as a Unit 1 Simulator Test Specialist to Niagara Mohawk at their learning facility at Nine Mile Point. In November of last year, Stoner discovered that the training facility's computer programming contained serious errors. According to Stoner, such flaws had potentially dangerous implications regarding safety issues at Nine Mile Point One, specifically the possibility of a "nuclear meltdown." He immediately brought this to the attention of his Niagara Mohawk supervisor. A month later, Stoner discovered that the computer programming error still existed. It was apparent to him that his recommendation to remedy the computer problem was ignored and dismissed. On December 22, 1997, Stoner again approached his supervisor to raise the safety issues concerning the computer programming errors. Stoner claims that the next day he was relieved of all his duties as a Unit 1 Simulator Test Specialist at the Nine Mile Point Learning

The Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort coalition, comprised of members from the Syracuse Peace Council, Peace Action of Central New York, Student Environmental Action Coalition (SUNY ESF), Greens of Greater Syracuse, and other individuals has undertaken a number of different strategies to increase public awareness about the deteriorated and poorly managed Nine Mile Point One nuclear power plant. The coalition has staged several protests, the last being on December 9 in front of the Niagara Mohawk building on Erie Blvd. This coalition is also working on a petition drive; the goal being to obtain five thousand signatures of those who support the shutdown of NMP1 nuclear power plant. These petitions will be submitted to Niagara Mohawk and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

## ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

**JOIN SANE:** Our meetings are Mondays at 5:45 pm at the Good Earth Café. Or you can call Simon Morrin (422 - 4219), Kyle Rabin (478 - 2371), or Tim Judson (472 - 5478).

**CONTACT THE NRC:** Write or call NRC officials to express:

- your concern regarding Niagara Mohawk's inability to operate its nuclear power facilities in a safe manner, or
- your request that the NRC, not Niagara Mohawk, perform a thorough safety analysis and systems readiness review of the Nine Mile Point One nuclear power plant; and that until this analysis/review occurs the plant should be shutdown.

## NRC OFFICIALS

- Diane Screnci, NRC Public Affairs Officer for Region One, at (610) 337 - 5330 (e-mail: dps@nrc.gov)
- Neil A. Sheehan, NRC Public Affairs Officer for Region One, at (610) 337 - 5330 (e-mail: nas@nrc.gov)
- Larry Duerflein, NRC Projects Branch Chief for Region One, at 1-800-432-1156 (e-mail: ltd@nrc.gov)
- Darl Hood, NRC Reactor Project Man-

ager for Nine Mile Point One and Two Power Plants, at 1-800-368-5642 (e-mail: dsh@nrc.gov)

Center and demoted to a position with less duties and responsibilities. At a January 1998 conference held by the Society for Computer Simulation relating to issues present at nuclear power facilities, NRC officials discussed the same computer error that Stoner had discov-

er for Nine Mile Point One and Two Power Plants, at 1-800-368-5642 (e-mail: dsh@nrc.gov)

- Barry Norris, NRC Resident Inspector for Nine Mile Point 1 and 2, at 342 - 4041

**CONTACT YOUR STATE CONGRESSPERSON AND THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY:** Write or call these officials to request that they:

- Withhold support for any legislation that allows Niagara Mohawk to pass the debts that it has incurred regarding its nuclear facilities onto taxpayers and ratepayers, and
- Stop wasting money on nuclear power and invest in alternative energy research and development.

## STATE ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES:

Mike Bragman, 118th  
Joan K. Christensen, 119th (449-9536)  
Bernie Mahoney, 120th  
Hal Brown, 121st

## STATE SENATORS:

Nancy Lorraine Hoffman, 48th (478-0072)  
John DeFrancisco, 49th

## SECRETARY OF ENERGY:

Hazel O'Leary, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington DC 20085

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MEDIA:** Write or call the local media and express:

- your concerns regarding the "securitization" bill and PowerChoice agreement, and
- your feelings about Niagara Mohawk's poor safety record regarding its nuclear facilities, particularly NMP1.

**CONTACT NIAGARA MOHAWK:** Write a note on your Niagara Mohawk bill or call the company (474-1511) and demand they shut down their nuclear power plants. Call Robert Burtch Jr., Niagara Mohawk Spokesperson, 349 - 7601 (e-mail: burtchr@nimo.com)

**CONSERVE ENERGY:** Every watt saved is equivalent to a safe, cleanly-generated watt.

ered at the Nine Mile One training facility. As a result of continued harassment and intimidation by his superiors, Stoner was forced to take medical leave on January 29, 1998. Six days later, after consulting with a physician, Stoner requested and was granted disability leave.

continued on page 21



# Stonewall Committee

## Help Pass the County Fair Practices Law

WHILE THE CITY OF SYRACUSE has a law that makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation, the rest of Onondaga County offers no such protection. The Stonewall Committee is working to get such a law introduced and passed in the County, by merely adding the words "sexual orientation" to the existing human rights law. There are already two County Legislators who are willing to sponsor this law, and others who are in support or willing to consider supporting the law. However, while passage of this law is possible, it is not at all a certainty.

In order to be successful, we must bring together the same kind of widespread support and presence that there was in passing the Fair Practices Law in the City of Syracuse in 1990. We have seen, most recently in Maine, how such efforts can fail when people feel too complacent with the current state of things

Stonewall presents a  
double feature!

**SATURDAY • JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup>**  
**LANDMARK THEATRE**

**7pm — It's In the Water**

Satire on homophobia set in a small Southern town by Kelli Herd, director of *In and Out*. *Variety* notes the film works nicely as romantic comedy, as farce, and as an ultimately good natured assault on prejudice.

**9:15pm — Ma Vie en Rose**

(*My Life in Pink*) Winner of Cannes Film Festival and Golden Globe awards about a little boy who knows he is a girl and how his family and community learn to accept him.

\$6/film, \$10 f/both (\$7/\$12 @ door)  
tickets available @ My Sisters' Words (304 McBride St., Syracuse) or send a SASE to the Stonewall Committee, 246 E. Water St., Syracuse, 13202

and/or too confident that such a law would easily pass. Please consider offering your support, whether through one small task or greater involvement, to help end legally sanctioned discrimination based on sexual orientation in Onondaga County.

### Things you can do:

- Sign a petition in support of passing the law
- Write a letter to your County Legislator to vote for and co-sponsor the law
- Lobby your legislator, individually or in a small group
- Attend special legislative sessions dealing with the passage of the law
- Provide testimonials about discrimination (based on sexual orientation) that you have experienced
- Volunteer a few hours for special one-time needs/tasks
- Serve as an ambassador to get others to support the law:
  - family, friends, and neighbors
  - your place of employment
  - your community organizations
  - places you do business
  - your health care providers
  - your clergy
  - and others ...

The Stonewall Committee has resources to help you with any or all of the above. You can also add your name to their mailing list and they will keep you informed of progress and needs regarding the proposed law.

Contact the Stonewall Committee at 246 East Water St., Syracuse, 13202 or leave a message at 476-6226 and indicate the best times for someone to call you back. Please be sure to copy the Stonewall Committee on your letters and keep us informed of any lobby visits or other contacts that you make. Together, we can pass this law, and make Onondaga County an even better place for all of us to live and work. — Susie Weiss

## (un)classifieds

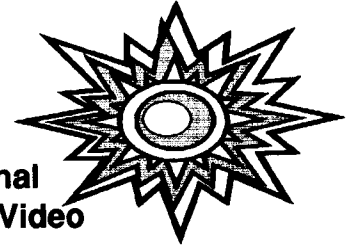
- 2-bdrm. apartment available July 1, Westcott Nation area. \$495 + utilities; security deposit; hrdwd floors; o/s parking, large yard + garden; free washer & dryer; non-smokers; pets negotiable. For more info, call Dik @ 472-9386 (h) or 474-1132 x111

## ¡GUANTANAMERA!

BECAUSE OF shipping problems, this film was NOT shown on May 17. The Westcott Cinema now has the film in its possession and will show it on **June 7 at 7pm.**

All May 17 advance tickets will be valid. Profound apologies to the 100+ people who came on May 17. Advance tickets are still available at the Peace Council, Syracuse Real Food Co-op and Seven Rays Bookstore. Many thanks to all of you who helped with this benefit for Pastors for Peace.

— Douglas Igelsrud, 471-5749



## Chiapas Informational Gathering/Video Showing

**WHAT:** Learn more about militarization & massacre in Chiapas

**WHEN & WHERE:** Wed. June 10, 1998 • 7:30pm • Plymouth Church, Downtown Syracuse (follows the monthly CLAC meeting 6-7:30, working Pot Luck. All are welcome to participate.)

**WHO:** Mexican Solidarity Network was formed April 25 at a gathering in Washington, DC of 250 folks, representing over 100 Latin American solidarity groups. Several from Syracuse who attended want to share information with YOU.

**WHY:** We share a concern that the Mexican government is pursuing a military solution to the conflict in Chiapas. We wish to see the US government stop all military aid and sales to Mexico and stop training Mexican military personnel. Mexican Solidarity Network and North East Zapatista Solidarity Network have lots of information to share about delegations to Chiapas, letter-writing campaigns, needs and donation requests, etc. A video will be shown about the Dec. 22, 1997 massacre of 45 unarmed indigenous civilians in Acteal.

### LOCAL CONTACTS:

Northeast Zapatista Solidarity Network (NEZSN), Brian Dominick by e-mail: zap-syr@rootmedia.org or at 423-4783. Mexican Solidarity Network, Shirley Novak e-mail: novak@hscsyr.edu or 446-6099.

**Nat'l Women's Studies Conference  
Right In Our Own Backyard**

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES CONFERENCE will be held in Oswego, New York, from **June 11-14**. In addition to a wide variety of workshops and plenary sessions, there will also be some great entertainment.

Kate Clinton will be appearing on Thursday, **June 11**, with the Ramparts Theater of SUNY-Purchase opening the show for her. Friday, **June 12** brings "Back of the Class," a comedy duo from Woodstock, NY, followed by Syracuse's own Jolie Christine Rickman. Completing Friday evening is a 5-piece women's percussion ensemble that you won't want to miss. And there are plans to have a coffee house with live music following the show.

Saturday night, **June 13**, will feature performance artist, Sonita Suratt and Company, singer Agnes Humphrey-Copes accompanied by pianist, Aggie Brown, and "The Nines," a



6-piece women's jazz ensemble. And if that isn't enough, there will be a dance following the show. Tickets are available for each evening of entertainment or for the entire series.

There will also be a special reading series, featuring writers and storytellers from Central New York, and special guests Diane Ackerman and Leslea Newman. This series will take place each afternoon of the conference and admission is free (with donation greatly appreciated). Readers in the series include Rachel Guido DeVries, Jackie Warren-Moore, Karen Hall, Evelyn Ayers-Marsh, Michelle Reed, Linda Loomis, and more. All readings will take place in Bell Auditorium, on the SUNY-Oswego campus, beginning at **1pm** and running through **4pm**.

For more information on the conference itself, or the entertainment and reading series, call (315) **341-3323**. Everyone is welcome to attend. —*Susie Weiss*

**CMAG**  
COMMUNITY MEDIA ACTION GROUP

**What does "community media" mean to you?**

Well, think about it and then make plans to join the Community Media Action Group (CMAG) of Syracuse upstairs at The Good Earth Cafe on Thursday, **June 4 at 7:30pm** to talk it over. If you've ever thought about creating an alternative to corporate media, or are curious as to what alternatives to the mainstream media might be, then this event is for you.

The evening will begin with a brief presentation about the CMAG and its plans for encouraging the creation and development of grass-roots media in Syracuse. Then, because there can be no community media without input from the "community," we will open the discussion so people can share their ideas about projects or the topic (or both!) with others.

It is our hope that this meeting will spur the creation of, and interest in, new media projects. So, if you've ever had an idea for a newsletter, radio program, workshop, website, video, etc., but don't know where to begin, then you don't want to miss this!

For more info call **423-4783**, check out our web page <http://www.rootmedia.org/mag>, or email us at [josmit@ntcnet.com](mailto:josmit@ntcnet.com) —*Joe Smith*

**Syracuse Community  
Choir Summer Solstice  
Concert**

Syracuse Community Choir will present its Summer Solstice Concert on Saturday, **June 13 at 7:30pm** at a new venue: May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society (3800 E. Genesee St.). The concert celebrates the Return of the Sun with favorite selections from the Choir's repertoire, freedom songs and songs honoring those activists and ancestors who have come before us.

In that spirit, the Paul Robeson Performing Arts Company, under the direction of William H. Roland II, will give a dramatic presentation of the spoken word. Additionally, the troupe will join the Choir for the finale, This Little Light of Mine. If you missed the April 9 event at the Community Folk Art Gallery, which celebrated Paul Robeson's 100th Birthday, catch the Company's encore performance with the Community Choir. Tickets are sliding scale, \$10-\$20 suggested for individuals, \$20-\$40 for families (more if you can, less if you can't).

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society is wheelchair accessible



**A Meat-Free Summer**

It is almost time for outdoor cooking and picnics. While most people think nothing of cooking meat on their grill, how about something healthier? Try cooking with vegetables. It is very healthy and smells better than burning flesh.

Grilling things such as eggplant, zucchini or corn on the grill gives the cook more options like serving a great pasta dish with grilled vegetables, or making a mix of fresh vegetables cut in medium size chunks with a little olive oil. Wrap it all in foil and cook for about 15 minutes — the results are worth it. (Season to taste.)

Remember that vegetarian cooking is fun and use your imagination while making something special for your next meat-free cook-out. Just substitute what you would cook with meat and put vegetable in its place. And soon enough you will forget about meat and how much it costs compared to the cost of vegetables, and be grilling with veggies on and on.

There are excellent resources at your local library on vegetarian cooking and I suggest you try it and see for yourself how nice a meat-free summer can be.

Remember to keep your grills at least 15 feet away from your house, apartment or any other structure. IT'S THE LAW.—*J. Freund*

**Job Opening**

Looking for a full-time job with excellent benefits and regular hours working for a peace and justice organization? Syracuse Cultural Workers has an immediate job opening for an operations supervisor. Call **474-1132, ext. 111**, for information or a job application.

and Jim Skvorak will provide American Sign Language interpretation. Free childcare is available for the duration of the concert and there will be a complimentary ice cream social — special thanks to Byrne Dairy — immediately following. For more information, contact Lisa at **487-6807**. —*Lisa Renaud*



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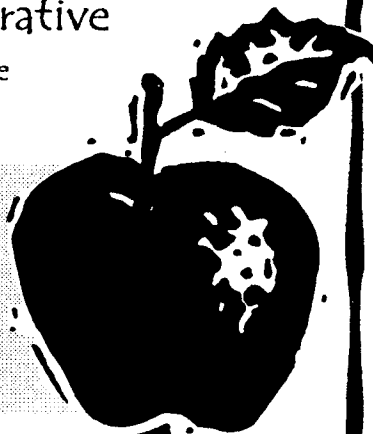
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# • NINE MILE ONE

continued from page 17

On March 30, 1998, Edward D. Stoner maintains that he was informed by his supervisor at General Physics, that he no longer had a position with Niagara Mohawk. The reason that Stoner was given for his termination was an "inability to work with co-workers." When Stoner asked Niagara Mohawk to provide him with examples with respect to their allegation, he was told that none would be given to him. Stoner feels that he was discriminated against simply for raising safety concerns at Nine Mile Point One. He is suing both Niagara Mohawk and General Physics Corporation for \$1.75 million dollars in punitive and compensatory damages. When reached for comment, Niagara Mohawk spokesperson Robert Burch, Jr. simply offered that there was no foul play involved and that Stoner was not fired, he voluntarily left his position due to a disability. NRC officials refused to comment on this pending case.

Niagara Mohawk's operation of Nine Mile Point One has a long and troubled history. This twenty-nine year old plant, one of the country's oldest operating boiling water nuclear reactors, is showing age related degradation in a variety of forms. Only recently taken off the NRC's Watchlist of "problem" power plants, Nine Mile Point One is an accident waiting to happen. According to a statement made by a top NRC official in 1986, General Electric's Mark 1 containment vessel - the last barrier to radiation emissions - has a ninety percent chance of failure in the event of a major accident. The GE Mark 1 design - similar in structure to the containment vessel that failed at Chernobyl - exists in 24 licensed reactors, including Niagara Mohawk's Nine Mile Point One plant. In 1987, an NRC task force declared the Mark 1 containment design "virtually certain" to fail in a core accident. According to the task force, containment failure could occur as early as forty minutes into an accident - leaving little time for public evacuation or other protective measures.

In addition to bearing the health risks posed by Niagara Mohawk's Nine Mile Point One nuclear generating plant, Central New Yorkers must also bear the financial risks incurred by Niagara Mohawk on such power projects. Such legislation as the "Electric Ratepayer Relief Act" (S.3486), also known as the

"securitization" bill, provides utilities like Niagara Mohawk with a guaranteed return of "stranded" investments, through charges on residential and business customers. Such "stranded" investments include the millions of dollars Niagara Mohawk has funneled into sustaining its high maintenance nuclear power facilities. This legislation has passed the Senate, but has yet to pass the Assembly. If this legislation can be defeated in the State Assembly, it would be a severe financial blow to Niagara Mohawk and it may have to shut down the NMP1 plant for good. Yet, with Niagara Mohawk's PowerChoice agreement on the near horizon, who knows what to expect. The PowerChoice agreement essentially gives Niagara Mohawk more power to choose. According to Niagara Mohawk's 1997 Annual Report "PowerChoice permits rate re-



Courtesy Roy Collins, Seattle Post-Intelligencer

covery for all radioactive and non-radioactive cost components for both Nine Mile Point One and Two units, including post-shutdown costs." For years, ratepayers and taxpayers have endlessly subsidized nuclear power. The "Securitization" bill and the PowerChoice agreement only perpetuate this trend.

<sup>1</sup>'Fuel cycle' is an industry-coined term—it is a misnomer considering the radioactive waste by-product of nuclear power generation. Dave Lochbaum, a nuclear safety engineer with the Union of Concerned Scientists, suggests the term 'operating' cycle as a more accurate and descriptive way to refer to this cycle.)

*Kyle Rabin is a member of the Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort Coalition and the Greens of Greater Syracuse.*

*This article will also appear in the June/July issue of Central New York Environment.*

# • Peaces

continued from page 15



## Where there's smoke, there's spin

The industry campaign against the Environmental Protection Agency's clean air rules claims that the regulations will restrict backyard barbecue grills, lawnmowers, and fireworks.

In reality it is large corporate polluters who are affected. A report by the Environmental Working Group found that 100 companies accounted for the majority of the smoke-stack pollution in each of three major categories covered by the EPA rules.

The report found that the 100 top sulfur dioxide polluters accounted for 83% of those emissions, 100 companies accounted for 70% of nitrogen oxide emissions, and 100 companies accounted for 51% of fine particles emitted directly from smokestacks.

"Our report shows that the major pollution sources are large, enormously wealthy companies," says Richard Wile, lead author of the report. "The real issue is not the affordability of pollution control measures. It is really a question of corporate strategy to maximize profits. Most of these companies are choosing spin control over pollution control-public relations over pollution reduction. Thousands of lives stand in the balance."

Source: *Multinational Monitor*

Field of Membership: Syracuse Real Food Co-op • Syracuse Peace Council • Jowonio School

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<p><b>1</b> June 1-3: "Does Work End Poverty? People, Policies &amp; Strategies in Reforming Welfare" Conference. SUNY Albany, info: Regina Kym at 518-788-3222.</p> <p>People Against the Death Penalty meeting, Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.</p>	<p><b>2</b> Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p> <p>Peace Action monthly program. Chiapas video &amp; board elections. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.</p>	<p><b>3</b> 1st THREE WEDNESDAYS: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Av. 5:30pm. 472-5478.</p> <p>Syracuse Community Radio presents the Nobody Show at the Good Earth Cafe, 110 Harvard Pl. 6:30-9pm. 446-4769.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 5:30pm. 476-6226.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting. Brady Falth Center, South Av. 7pm. 476-7475.</p> <p>Red Branch Irish Americans for Peace &amp; Justice meets at Coleman's Pub. 7pm. 475-0345.</p> <p>Community Media Action Group meeting. Good Earth Cafe (upstairs), 110 Harvard Pl. 7:30pm. See page 18.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Justice for Jonny Gammage Vigil. God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 5:30pm.</p> <p>EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7pm. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 492-8035.</p>	<p><b>6</b> Syracuse Gay &amp; Lesbian Chorus. 5th Annual Rainbow Prom. Formal dinner buffet &amp; dance. Le Moyne Manor, Liverpool. 9pm-1am. \$25/\$40. 476-4329 for reservations.</p> <p>EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights &amp; environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channel 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.</p>
<p><b>7</b> "Racism in Local Elections: Representation, Reapportionment &amp; Reform" video plus panel discussion. At monthly Socialist Forum. Westcott Community Center. 3-5pm. Free &amp; open to the public. 475-2395.</p> <p>Cuban Film Guantánameros at Westcott Cinema. 7pm. Pastors for peace benefit. Rescheduled from May 17. See page 18 for more info.</p>	<p><b>8</b> HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.</p> <p>Caribbean/Latin America 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><b>9</b> HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.</p> <p>Caribbean/Latin America 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><b>10</b> HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.</p> <p>Caribbean/Latin America 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><b>11</b> Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 208 Onondaga Av. 7:30pm. 422-6237.</p> <p>EVERY THURSDAY: Lesbian &amp; Gay Youth Support group (ages 14-21). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. Call for time 422-9741.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Justice for Jonny Gammage Vigil. God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 5:30pm.</p> <p>EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7pm. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 492-8035.</p>
<p><b>14</b> Domestic Violence Prevention Week - wear a white ribbon. Call Vera House, 425-0818.</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent. Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-8:30pm.</p>	<p><b>15</b> Syracuse Community Radio meeting. Good Earth Cafe, 110 Harvard Pl. 7pm. 446-4769.</p> <p>People for Animal Rights business mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Westside meeting. Anna Mae Williams Community Center, 228 Shonnard St. 7:30pm. 478-7475.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p> <p>EVERY TUESDAY: Women's Open Mic at Good Earth Cafe, 110 Harvard Pl.</p>	<p><b>17</b> NAACP general mtg. 7pm. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 422-6933.</p> <p>Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker Benefit Dinner. St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center, Winton St. off Burnet Av. 5:30 pm. \$0-\$15 donation. 471-8653.</p> <p>EVERY WED: Syracuse Community Choir rehearsal for winter solstice concert. Come sing with us! No auditions. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 7:30pm. 487-8607.</p>	<p><b>18</b> Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.</p> <p>Chiapas Informational Gathering &amp; Video Showing. Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga. 7:30pm. Free. 446-6099.</p> <p>1st &amp; 3rd THURSDAYS: Gay &amp; Lesbian Alliance meeting. Enable, 1603 Court St. 7:30pm. 472-5732.</p> <p>Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse Noon-12:30pm. Cyndi 475-1878.</p> <p>Prayer Vigil at Landis Plastics Solway plant on Milton Av. Sponsored by Labor-Religious Coalition. Support Landis workers &amp; union organizing struggles. 4pm.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Auditions for Youth Theatre's Male Perspectives on Pregnancy Prevention. For time &amp; place call Vanessa Johnson, 474-6823. Also on June 26 &amp; 27.</p> <p>Syracuse Gay &amp; Lesbian Chorus present Ten Percent Review, a musical review about Gay life. See June 13 for info.</p>
<p><b>21</b> 3rd Annual Economic Development Celebration sponsored by Nicosia's radio program. Latin cuisine, band. Ramada Inn. 5-11pm. \$20. 475-6153 to register.</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable Ch. 3, 8pm. Produced by Peace Council.</p>	<p><b>22</b> People for Animal Rights business mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Westside meeting. Anna Mae Williams Community Center, 228 Shonnard St. 7:30pm. 478-7475.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Parents, Family &amp; Friends of Lesbians &amp; Gays (PFLAG) meeting. First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 250 Warring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.</p> <p>Close Nine Mile One Campaign meeting. Good Earth Cafe, 110 Harvard Pl. 5:45pm. 472-5478.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker Benefit Dinner. St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center, Winton St. off Burnet Av. 5:30 pm. \$0-\$15 donation. 471-8653.</p> <p>EVERY WED: Syracuse Community Choir rehearsal for winter solstice concert. Come sing with us! No auditions. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 7:30pm. 487-8607.</p>	<p><b>25</b> Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse Noon-12:30pm. Cyndi 475-1878.</p> <p>Prayer Vigil at Landis Plastics Solway plant on Milton Av. Sponsored by Labor-Religious Coalition. Support Landis workers &amp; union organizing struggles. 4pm.</p>	<p><b>26</b> Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Av. 5-7pm. Free Food!</p> <p>Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Av. 5-7pm. Free Food!</p>
<p><b>28</b> EVERY SUNDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights &amp; environmental videos. 11:30am. Time Warner Cable channel 3. Produced by People for Animal Rights.</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay &amp; Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.</p>	<p><b>29</b> EVERY MONDAY: HIV+ Issues Group meeting. 6:30-8pm. Sponsored by AIDS Community Resources. Call Bob for place. 475-2430.</p>	<p><b>30</b> EVERY WEDNESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.</p>	<p><b>31</b> EVERY WEDNESDAY: Military &amp; Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478.</p> <p>EVERY WEDNESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.</p>	<p><b>32</b> MORE JUNE EVENTS</p> <p>June 13: 2nd Annual Garden Party to benefit Pride Community Center. 4pm. 426-1650.</p> <p>June 20: Juneteenth Celebration. Parade from Dunbar Center to Southwest Community Center at 10am. Vendors, music, entertainment, games, food. 474-6823.</p>	<p><b>33</b> EVERY FRIDAY: Gay &amp; Lesbian Young Adult meeting (ages 21-25). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 422-8741 for time.</p> <p>EVERY FRIDAY: Gay &amp; Lesbian Young Adult meeting (ages 21-25). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 422-8741 for time.</p>

**SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**JUNE  
1998**



If you subscribe to this newsletter, you already know much it helps us, and how much you benefit from the information you receive each month ... thank you

# Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

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*Syracuse Peace Council*

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



SYRACUSE



Celebrating Pride  
and the  
Lavender Line  
Station  
June 20, 1998  
Syracuse, NY 13202



Special Cachet envelope  
and Pride stamp cancellation  
mobile Post Office at Hanover Square  
**PRIDE '98**

10th Anniversary  
Celebrate Pride in Syracuse June 20, 1998

## Unity Through Diversity

The lavender line will again grace Salina Street and guide us through the parade route. For the first time, the City will be closing off all of Salina Street to accommodate our Parade.

This year for the first time in Syracuse's history, a special "cancellation" by the United States Postal Service will be available on 6/20/98 at the rally location. So bring all your stamped letters to mail to friends!

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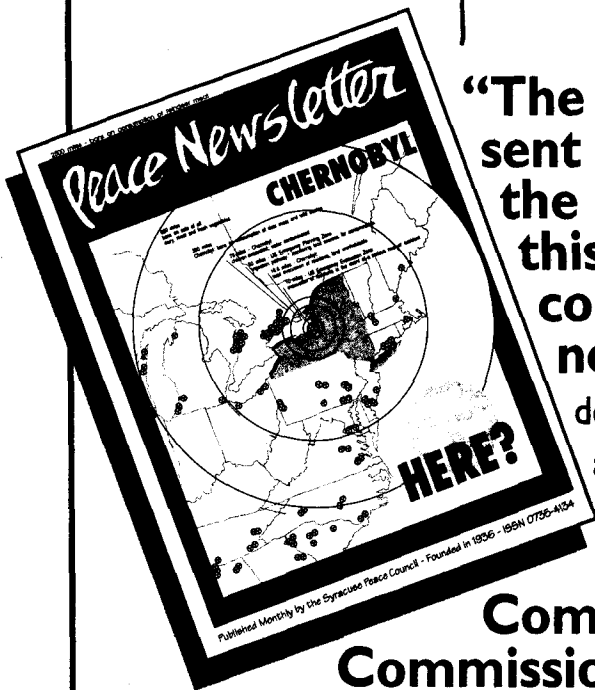
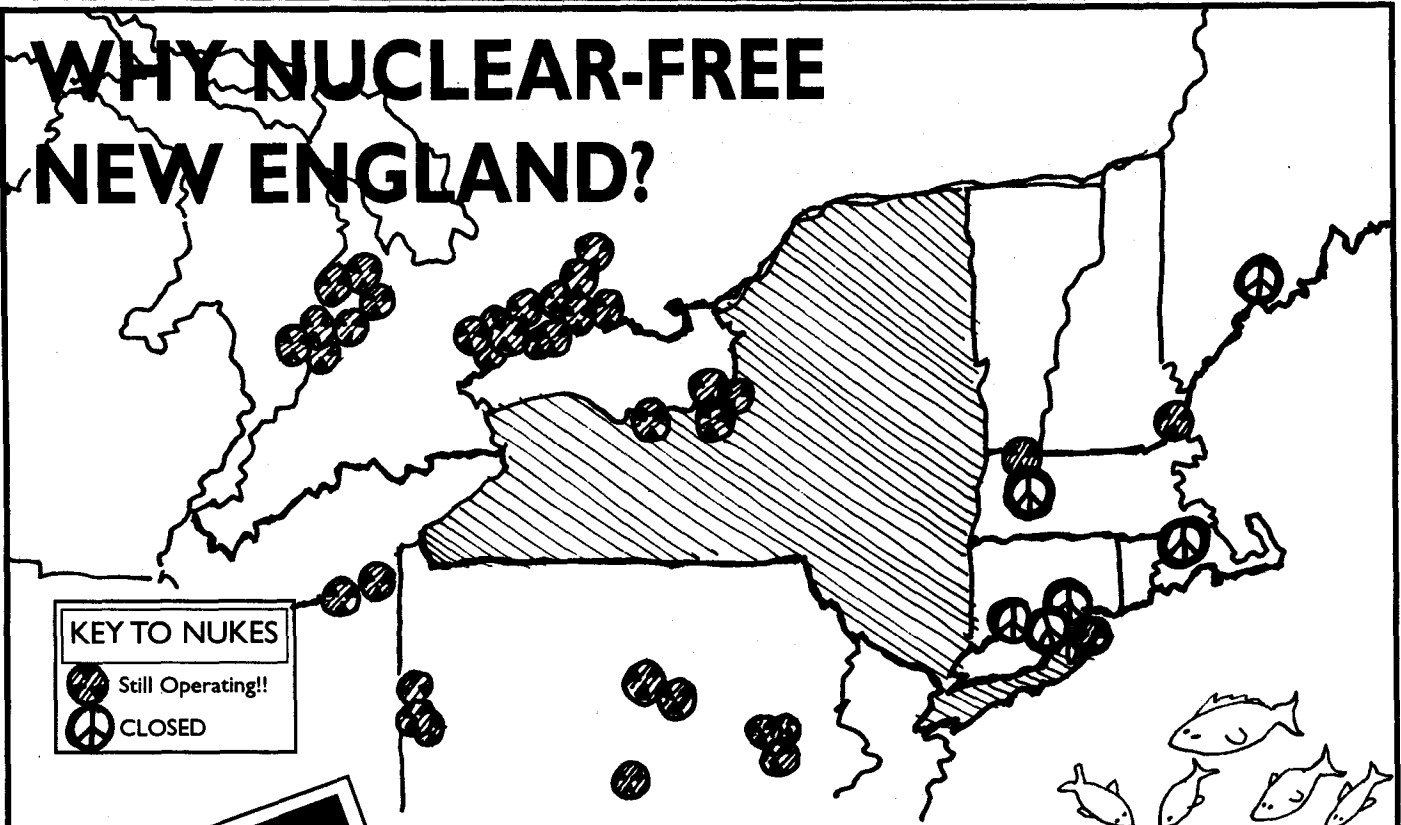
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Educate, Agitate, Organize

# Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice July 1998 PNL 669

## WHY NUCLEAR-FREE NEW ENGLAND?



**“The bottom line is that given the present level of safety being achieved by the operating nuclear power plants in this country, 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 , or larger than the releases estimated to have occurred at Chernobyl.”**

**—James K. Asseltine,  
Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission, May 1986**

# 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  
Beth Mosley

**SPC Press**  
Paul Pearce

### Bookkeeper

Duane Hardy

### SPC Council:

Paul Frazier, Rae Kramer,  
Carl Mellor, Andy Molloy,  
Marge Rusk, Ann Tiffany

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

## The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets most Wednesdays at 5:30 PM at the Peace Council. Call SPC to confirm the time.

**Editorial & Production:** Paul Frazier, Karen Hall, Bill Hamler, Tim Judson, Mike Kernahan, Rae Kramer, Brian McCord, Joy Meeker, Andy Molloy, Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce, Steve Penn  
**Graphics Coordinator:** Anita Welych  
**Cover Coordinator:** Karen Kerney

## SPC Projects: 472-5478

- SPC-TV — Paul Pearce
- Plowshares Craftsfair
- Fair Trial for Mumia Committee

## Other Volunteers

Sonali Sathaye, Chuck Durand, Mardea Warner, Amy Bartell, Vanessa Johnson, Ed Kinane, Aggie Lane, Joan Goldberg, Ruth Putter, Margaret Birtleough, Kathy Barry, Brian Caufield, Fredrick Noyes, Jolie Rickman, Bill Mazza, Lance Hogan, Bill Hamler, Sylvia Burgess, Daniel Bowers, Carol Baum, Chris Spies-Rusk, Susan Adair, 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

<b>Abolish the Blocade of Cuba</b>		<b>Peace Action of CNY</b>	
Doug Igelsrud	471-5749	Diane Swords	478-7442
<b>ACLU-CNY Chapter</b>		<b>Peace Brigades International</b>	
Barrie Gewanter	471-2821	Ed Kinane	478-4571
<b>Alliance-Psychiatric System</b>		<b>P.E.A.C.E., Inc.</b>	
<b>Survivors</b>		Louis Clark	470-3300
George Ebert	475-4120	<b>People Against the Death Penalty</b>	637-3344
<b>Alternatives to Violence Project</b>		<b>People for Animal Rights</b>	488-PURR (7877)
Jay Liestee	499-0845	<b>Physicians for Social Responsibility</b>	488-2140
<b>American Friends Service Committee</b>	475-4822	<b>Pledged Parenthood</b>	475-5525
<b>Animal Defense League</b>	479-9105	<b>PWHIV/ AIDS Support Hotline</b>	
<b>ARISE</b>	472-3171	Sandra	471-5911
<b>Atlantic States Legal Foundation</b>	475-1170	<b>Reconsider</b>	
<b>Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition</b>		Nick or Alex Eyle	422-6231
Shirley Novak	446-6099	<b>Religion: Other</b>	
<b>Citizens Against Radioactive Dumping</b>	(607) 753-6271	Phoenix or Kat	474-8801
<b>Citizen Review Board</b>		<b>Rose Center</b>	
Felicia Davis	448-8750	Teri Cameron	422-3426
<b>CNY Center for Occupational Health and Safety</b>	471-6187	<b>Sarah House</b>	475-1747
<b>CNY Environment</b>		<b>Save the County SEEDS</b>	637-6066 (607) 749-2818
Lee Gechas	446-5319	<b>Service Employees International</b>	
<b>CNY N.O.W.</b>	487-3188	Robert Tompkins	424-1750
<b>Community Media Action Group</b>	423-4783	<b>Sierra Club</b>	
<b>CUSLAR</b>	(607) 255-7293	Sue Carlson	445-1663
<b>Dunbar Center</b>		<b>Small Claims Court Action Center</b>	443-1401
Merriete Pollard	476-4269	<b>S.O.A. Watch/ CNY</b>	
<b>EON/Transgender Community</b>		Ed Kinane	478-4571
Melissa	423-4099	<b>Social Workers for Peace</b>	
<b>Fair Housing Council of CNY</b>		Dick Mundy	445-0797
Merrilee Witherell	471-0518	<b>Socialist Party</b>	
<b>Fair Trial for Mumia Committee</b>	472-5478	Ron Ehrenreich	478-0793
<b>Fightback! of CNY</b>	422-0555	<b>Spanish Action League</b>	471-3762
<b>Food Bank of CNY</b>	437-1899	<b>SU African-American Society</b>	443-4633
<b>Food Not Bombs</b>	423-7856	<b>Student Environmental Action Coalition</b>	
<b>Friends of the Filipino People</b>		Michelle Baumfleck	423-8000
John Brulé	445-0698	<b>Syr. Alternative Media Network</b>	
<b>Gay/Lesbian Alliance</b>	422-5732	Tim Brachocki	425-8806
<b>Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Assoc. (SU)</b>	443-3599	<b>Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society</b>	
<b>Haiti Solidarity</b>		<b>SAVES/Joe Connolly</b>	437-2163
Ann Tiffany	478-4571	<b>Syracuse Community Choir</b>	
<b>Hemlock Society</b>		Karen Mihalji	428-8724
Betty Bentley	463-0782	<b>Syracuse Community Radio</b>	
<b>Hotel Employees 150</b>	437-0373	Frederic Noyes	446-4769
<b>Irish Northern Aid</b>		<b>Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union</b>	471-1116
Patrick Smith	469-8948	<b>Syracuse Cultural Workers</b>	
<b>Jail Ministry</b>	424-1877	Dik Cool	474-1132
<b>Kenark Center for Creative Spirituality</b>		<b>Syracuse N.O.W.</b>	472-3294
Bourke Kennedy	685-5414	<b>Syr. Real Food Coop</b>	472-1385
<b>Lesbian/Gay Youth NAACP</b>	443-3599	<b>Syr. Social Movement Initiative</b>	
Van Robinson	422-6933	Pramod Parajuli	443-4822
<b>Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.</b>		<b>Syracuse United Neighbors</b>	
Ammie Chickering	365-2299	Rich Puchalski	476-7475
<b>New Environment Association</b>		<b>S.U. for Animal Rights</b>	443-4199
Harry Schwarlander	446-8009	<b>Urban League</b>	
<b>NYPIRG</b>	476-8381	Eloise Dowdell Curry	472-6955
<b>Onondaga Audobon</b>	457-7731	<b>Utica Community Action</b>	
<b>Onon. Women's Political Caucus</b>		John Furman	797-7020
Peggy Murray	475-7671	<b>Witness for Peace Delegations</b>	
<b>Open Hand Theatre</b>		Nancy Gwin	422-4689
Geoff Navias	476-0466	<b>Women's Center (SU)</b>	443-4268
<b>Pax Christi</b>		<b>Women's Health Outreach</b>	425-3653
Frank Woolever	446-1693	<b>Women's INFO Center</b>	478-4636

(If you want your group listed, please call)

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

## In This Issue:

Just when you thought you could sit back, relax, and enjoy a lazy Central New York summer — maybe get a start on using last month's "Vacation Guide" — the July *PNL* hits the stands (or your mailbox) with more action than you can shake an *El Niño* at.

Apparently there are people acting to get some peace in Colombia, and there are people acting to take back Take Back the Night, and people fixing to close all the nuclear plants within driving distance. And that's just for starters — then there's the Action Alerts. And on top of that you've got people like Ed Kinane thinking about what to do after they act.

Of course, there is a little bit of your typical summer fare: some light reading about genocide in Colombia, cinema with giant lizards smashing Manhattan, and nuclear-powered chocolate bars ... — *TJ*

*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

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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 *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!)

Daniel Bowers, Elinor Cramer, Chuck Durand, John Fitzsimmons, Bill Hamler, Duane Hardy, Pat Hoffman, Cynthia Maud-Gempler, Marge Rusk, Ted Widay

### June Mailing Party Helpers

Ed Kinane, Carl Mellor, Marilyn Ray, Marge Rusk, Valerie Singer, and Christian Spies-Rusk among others

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July 1998  
PNL 669

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## About the cover: "Why a Nuclear-Free New England?"

Karen Kerney and I decided to resurrect the concept of the April 1992 cover to get everyone to join the Nuclear-Free New England Campaign. Not that the part about a meltdown isn't relevant. Sure it is. But it's not the main point, or at least it doesn't have to be.

The Northeast and New England have the opportunity to be the first nuclear-free region in the US. Most of the nine nuclear power plants in New England have already been closed, despite the persistence of Seabrook (in NH) and Vermont Yankee, and the probability that Millstone 3 (in CT) will soon reopen. In the campaign to close Yankee Rowe, activists got the utility and the NRC to admit that, even under normal operation, huge amounts of radiation and radioactive waste were released into the surrounding community over many years. The connection to emerging and pervasive public health problems was not a difficult one for most people to make ...

Closing all nuclear plants is the only sure way to protect our communities from the danger of a meltdown, and to remove the menace of daily radiation releases into the environment. That is the vision behind the Nuclear-Free New England Campaign, initiated by the Citizens Awareness Network and the Nuclear Information Resource Service. As activists in New York and New Jersey have expressed interest in the campaign, it has expanded to include the Northeast as well as New England. The kick-off event will be the Anti-Nuclear Action Camp near Brattleboro, VT, August 21-28 (see page 10 for details).

The April 1992 cover was laid out by Paul Pearce from an initial design by David Martin, originally used as part of a mailing put out by the Onondaga Greens. It shows the range of effects from a potential meltdown at Nine Mile Point, based on the actual fallout from the Chernobyl tragedy. The statement by James K. Asseltine was quoted in the 'About the Cover.' — *Tim Judson*

### August Issue Deadlines

Articles	July 8
Ads	July 15
Calendar Items	July 15

# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGES



## Hiroshima Nagasaki Observance

*Our remembrance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki this summer will include a visit from Takeo Uchida, a Japanese volunteer with the Never Again Campaign. This campaign shares Japanese culture in order to promote international understanding and focuses on the abolition of war as a way to solving conflicts. Japanese volunteers spread the message of A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Never Again Pearl Harbor! Never Again Hiroshima! Never Again Nagasaki! Never Again War!*

### Thursday, August 6 Annual commemoration downtown

We will start with a procession followed by a vigil. To be part of the procession please gather at Plymouth Church (opposite Columbus Circle)



at 11:30 a.m. We will return to Columbus Circle for the vigil.

### Sunday, August 9 An Afternoon for the Whole Family with Takeo Uchido at South Presbyterian

Corner of South Salina and West Colvin Streets

- 1:00 - 1:35 Childrens activities with Mr. Uchida origami paper folding, India ink painting, Demonstration of Japanese toys Video for adults (to be announced)
- 1:35 Adult discussion with Mr. Uchido about Video Supervised Activities for Children
- 2:15 Refreshments
- 2:45 Slideshow presentation "Hiroshima, Testimony through Paintings" Supervised children's Activities

## NiMo Shareholders' Meeting

On Monday, June 29, Niagara Mohawk may hold its annual shareholders' meeting in Buffalo, NY. As the PNL goes to press, we still can't be sure since it has already been postponed three times this year. When we checked last week, they still did not have an agenda, either — and they implied that one wouldn't be available prior to the meeting. Of course, it's hard for people to be prepared (or even to decide whether to go) if they don't know what the meeting will be about ...

The utility's 1997 Annual Report published for shareholders devotes a great deal of attention to the PowerChoice agreement worked out between NiMo and

the New York State Power Authority. NiMo

expects PowerChoice to rescue them from financial disaster and allow them to be "competitive" in the deregulated utilities market. Of course, "competitive" is little more than a euphemism for many things besides actually having to compete in the supposed soon-to-be "free" market: filthy rich off of state subsidies, completely unaccountable to the rate-payers, able to do whatever they want. As in, "PowerChoice will allow us to be [filthy rich off of state subsidies] in the deregulated utilities market," or "PowerChoice will allow us to be [able to do whatever we want] in the deregulated utilities market." NiMo is so excited about this that one can only expect the share-

**YOU HAVE THE POWER  
DON'T TRASH  
THE PLANET!**

holders' meeting to be a big party, and a chance to pat the CEO and Board of Directors on their backs for manipulating the system so well.

However, the Peace Council has some suggestions for those awkward moments when there's a lull in the conversation:

- "So how 'bout those cracks in the core shrouds [at Nine Mile 1 and 2]? ... Think we can really keep 2 going for 25 years? ... Looks like we're gonna give that melt down a real run for the money, huh? We got odds on that yet?" (Bad gamblers love to talk ...)
- "Hey, that's a real pisser about those two guys who got fired. I'd sure hate to lose my job for trying to do it right ..." (Sneak in the labor issue.)
- "OK, so if PowerChoice means everyone still pays us 13¢/kW-hr, where does the 'Choice' part come in? Did the people of New York State really agree to this?" (Get someone to talk about how they circumvented any legislative or public approval process.)
- "I know our overhead costs are real high, but are those NRC inspectors gonna mind losing their jobs when we downsize 'em next year? Without them, how we gonna make sure we're not screwing up stuff like the coolant water level again?" (Get 'em to admit they don't care, and the bottom line's all that matters.)

Tim Judson

## Peace Newsletter

### Mailing List Changes

#### Not getting your PNL?

#### EMMA to Microsoft Access

After much discussion we will be changing the computer program we use to maintain the SPC/PNL volunteer and mailing lists. Our current software was provided by EMMA Revolutionary Software and has served us well. I want to thank Aggie Lane for her kind assistance in helping us prepare for the changeover. Our new mailing program will be written in Microsoft Access. Paul Pearce, Andy Molloy and I should have the new program up and running for the August 1998 PNL.

A number of errors have crept into the current mailing list with the result that some subscribers have not been receiving their PNLs -- Shame on Us. If you have a problem with your subscription, please contact us. Use the coupon on page 5 or give us a call. We are correcting this problem and will extend the expiration date for the affected subscribers. If you don't subscribe, here's a great chance to start out on our new mailing list!

William A Hamler III

#### Making a Tax Deductible Contribution

To make a tax deductible contribution to SPC, simply send us a check made out to "Alternative Efforts" and mark it "for the Syracuse Peace Council."

What a great idea! More money for us and less for Uncle Sam's War Machine.

# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGES

## “Weighing the Costs and Benefits” — a Letter from Allenwood Prison

*Ed. note: Last month SPC received the following letter from Dan Sage, one of Syracuse's SOA 9 currently serving a six-month sentence for marching on the School of the Americas last November. You can write to him at "Daniel Sage #88083-020, FPC Allenwood, PO Box 1000, Montgomery, PA, 17752." For further info on the SOA, see Ed Kinane's article on page 7.*

IN ANY CONSCIOUSLY planned activity, the objective is to maximize the benefit while considering the cost. This cost-benefit equation has been expressed in government and corporate circles as “getting the most bang for the buck.”

A parallel construct may be seen in the behavior of us protestors. As we worked through the discernment process of whether to risk (actually invite) arrest, and moreso as we “do our time” in federal prison, the primary (perhaps the only) commodity we possess to barter into the cost side of the equation is time. Exactly how we choose to expend this commodity offers some (however limited) options. I have searched a thesaurus for a synonym for benefit that begins with “t” to create a catchy idiom to express “getting more \_\_\_ for the time.” Finding none, I will have to resort to the more traditional cost-benefit.

The Rev. Roy Bourgeois, now serving time at the federal prison in Estill, SC, has made a choice. He has refused to do the menial tasks assigned, declining “to work for the same government that supports the School of the Americas, which teaches military tactics and doctrine to Latin American soldiers.” For this refusal Roy is doing his time “in the hole,” a solitary confinement situation that foregoes the relatively benign environment available to inmates of minimum security federal prisons. The calculated benefit from this action is the media attention that should raise the level of public outrage against the actions of the courts in sentencing peaceful protesters at all. Roy's letter from “the hole” will undoubtedly carry more impact than those from us who cooperate and consent to working in prison. Roy also notes in an interview with the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer that on the benefit side he “looks at the experience as an opportunity for spiritual growth.”

For my part, as much as I respect Roy's commitment and honor his decisions, my perspective is influenced by a different set of values. As a correspondingly dedicated Secular Humanist, pragmatism enters into my thinking much more prominently. There apparently is media interest in Roy's stand, but our experience thus far with the media has not been great. Our demonstrations and the 601 person procession and arrests were given minimal attention nationally. A PBS broadcast of an SOA tape (subject to local option) isn't like “Sixty Minutes,” and a favorable column in the *New York Times* doesn't have the impact of a spread in *Newsweek* for getting national attention. The volume of mail and publications we receive in prison from various peace and justice groups are reinforcing in that they demonstrate the fervor of those who are “with us,” but they certainly constitute “preaching to the choir.” In view of these factors, what kind of cost-benefit is Roy's action yielding?

In considering the implications of “working for the government,” while doing my time, perhaps my choice was made easier by the fact that I have the opportunity to teach basic academic skills in the prison's education department. Faced with the sorry state of literacy and quantitative proficiency of many of my fellow inmates, it is not hard to conclude that doing time in this way is providing a direct benefit to extremely needy individuals and is

not “working for the government.” While many of those needing help do not take it seriously and behave as they probably did 10 (or 30) years ago in high school, a significant number do recognize their deplorable situation, accept the opportunity to change it, and appreciate my contribution. Seeing the unrestrained joy and tears in the eyes of mature adults proudly showing their GED certificates and high school diplomas, I could hardly refuse to “work” under those circumstances.

However, on the broader issue of cost-benefit a number of my more astute inmate colleagues, who are aware of our reasons for being here and who are trying to understand it all, raise some good questions about the efficacy of our choices. They ask about the media attention we are getting and wonder why we aren't getting more. They ask whether we are achieving enough benefit for the time we are spending. They acknowledge that if time must be served, this is the place to do it, but they seriously question whether the gains we might achieve are worth any amount of incarcerated time.

So I am asking: Are we deluded in thinking we are making a difference? Could we make a greater impact in another way? How do I evaluate my own cost-benefit yield? I don't know. Maybe after my release September 21 and a return visit to Fort Benning in November, the equation will be more clear.

— Dan Sage



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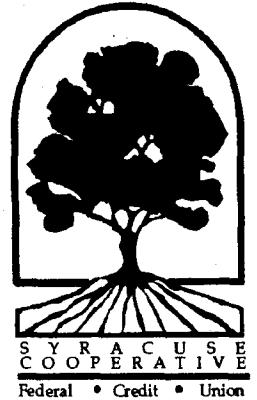
THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN down in Washington. The bankers who may not exactly own your government but have certainly made one heck of a downpayment on it, the ones who brought you the merger mania which has been so profitable for bank sign makers, the ones whose vision for the banking landscape in this country is that in a few years there will remain only The Bank, have belied up to the trough again and are trying to push the few remaining small fry out.

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Contact your federal representatives and make them aware of how important your credit union is to you. Tell them you appreciate their continued support of HR 1151. Tell them to give the banks a smack on the snout and leave your credit union alone. In the Syracuse area, call Representative James T. Walsh at 423-5627, or write him at 100 S. Clinton St., Syracuse, 13202. Outside of Syracuse, consult the US Government Offices listings in your local phone book.

— Mike Kernahan



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# SOA: The Snake on the Hydra's Head

Ed Kinane

**O**n May 30 the Board of Church and Society of the North Central New York Conference of the United Methodist Church presented its Aldersgate award to the "Prisoners of Conscience who have been arrested and are going to prison because of their efforts to close the United States Army School of the Americas." The following remarks are an expansion of those I made upon accepting the award in their behalf.

— Ed Kinane

## The Methodist Connection

Methodists are contributing mightily to closing the School of the Americas. George Baldwin, a former Methodist pastor who lived in rural Nicaragua for 12 years, has spoken to scores of Methodist congregations over the country about the SOA. In 1997 George spoke in Syracuse and later walked hundreds of miles, speaking to groups all along the way, to publicize the School.

In tiny Burdett, NY, near Watkins Glen, Wes Rehberg, a Methodist pastor, works to publicize the School. Wes focuses on the human rights situation in Chiapas and Honduras. In July he'll be part of the Mexico Solidarity Network's delegation to Chiapas.

In Syracuse one of the most steadfast anti-SOA activists is Angus MacDonald, 85, a Methodist. One of my 21 friends now in prison serving six month sentences is the co-director of SOA Watch, Carol Richardson. Carol is a Methodist pastor. While she's incarcerated, her daughter Heather Dean is taking her place in the SOA Watch DC office.

## Prisoners of Conscience

Another of the prisoners of conscience is my partner, Ann Tiffany, a registered nurse and a grandmother many times over. Besides Ann, four more exceptional people from Syracuse are in prison. These include a story teller, a Roman Catholic nun, a Syracuse University professor, and a Unitarian minister who was an escaped prisoner of war in World War II.

When these people reported to prison on March 23 they left a big hole in our community. But they risked prison for the right reasons. They are in prison for the crime of being active citizens; for the crime of speaking truth

to power; for the crime of peaceably assembling and petitioning our government; for the crime of insisting that our government respect the sacred commandment, "Thou shalt not kill."

You know, there's a fate much worse than going to prison for six months. By ignoring our consciences, we let evils like the School of the Americas thrive. We've seen that going to prison — whether individually or en masse

— for an unmistakably moral cause is very adrenalizing.

Thanks to this prison witness, the campaign to close the SOA is burgeoning. Each year hundreds more come to Fort Benning in November to take part in an ecumenical liturgy — a somber liturgy of moving feet — to demand that the SOA be abolished.

## The Big Picture

But let's put the SOA in perspective. It's part and parcel of something much bigger. The Pentagon has scores of facilities training soldiers from many countries around the world. Such training helps the Pentagon influence officers who are — or will be — in key positions in the power structure of their country. When there's a coup, the Pentagon doesn't want to be caught off guard. And it wants to be sure the perpetrators are its friends.

So many SOA grads came to power through violent coups in Latin America, that the people in Panama in the 70's and 80's called it the "School of Coups." This is the school that has the audacity to claim it is "promoting democracy."

US training of foreign soldiers provides US intelligence agencies the opportunity to

clandestinely recruit foreign military officers. Throughout the world the CIA has scads of such officers on its payroll. Think of Guatemala's Colonel Alpirez or Panama's Manuel Noriega. When the CIA wants to foment a coup, it helps to have its own people poised to make it happen. For the CIA the cultivation of treason abroad is business as usual.

The Pentagon trains foreign military with US weapons — from automatic firearms to fighter jets. Back home when these officers make procurement decisions, they're likely to purchase US war materiel. For example, Mexico — which is the country with the most students now at the SOA — buys most of the weapons it uses to terrorize Chiapas from the US. The US leads the world in exporting weapons. For US corporations, the profits are enormous.

## Hydra

Because it promotes systemic human rights abuse, there is a vigorous campaign to close the SOA. But people ask, "If we close the SOA, won't it just pop up elsewhere,

perhaps under another name?"

In Greek mythology there was a monster called Hydra. It had nine snake-like heads. Cut off one, and two others grew in its place. Closing the SOA severs only one of the Pentagon's snakes. Count on it: more snakes will emerge.

But that's true for any issue we work on. Capitalism and militarism are awesomely mobile. Stymied here, they go there. Our job is to keep hobbling them, to keep narrowing their options. And

all the while we raise consciousness, preparing the way for the paradigm shift that will cripple them.

The Pentagon won't quit doing what it has the SOA do. It will do it at Benning or elsewhere, under the SOA name or some other.

cont. on next page



John Tenniel, 1872

After all, the SOA performs essential functions. The US Southern Command recently told Congress that "the SOA is a major component of our regional strategy."

Latin America is to US corporate interests what India used to be to their British counterparts before Gandhi — a vast source of cheap labor and cheap natural resources. Also, Latin America is a major US market, and a site for US-owned assembly plants unconstrained by environmental regulation and pesky unions. This is why we've lost so many assembly jobs in the US: they've flown south.

Latin America is our special sphere of influence, our empire. Countries don't remain colonies and satellites willingly or forever. They have to be occupied militarily. But few US boys do this dirty work; the SOA is specifically in the business of training local thugs to do the job.

### Eternal Struggle

The campaign to close the SOA is fast spreading into the mainstream. With the recent spate of direct actions and imprisonments, the campaign is waking up lots of US taxpayers to the realities of US foreign policy — a policy shaped by corporate interests, not citizen interests. Witness the many resolutions by major Christian denominations — including Methodists — demanding closure of the School.

To contain this public relations disaster, the Pentagon just might be driven to close the SOA. Face will thereby be lost and key functions will have been impaired. Nonetheless, the Pentagon will salvage all it can. It will transfer SOA functions elsewhere. (Indeed it may already have begun doing so.) But it will be hard to find hosts as ideal as Beming and the state of Georgia.

The SOA, with all instruction in Spanish, is as far as I know the only major US military training facility where instruction is in a foreign language. Non-English-speaking soldiers from Latin America attend the SOA. If the SOA were closed, they would be excluded.

Many SOA trainers are themselves Latin American. Before they came to the SOA, some of them were known human rights abusers in their own countries. The trainer helps define the targets. Indoctrination tailored to Latin America (for example, demonizing practitioners of liberation theology) would be diluted if SOA trainees were trained along with soldiers from non-Latin American countries.

Some people in Georgia — even some

## Join the "Community of Peace" in Colombia

A RECENT MAILING from the Colombia Support Network brings word of what may be a unique development in nonviolent practice and international solidarity.

In the war-torn region of Uraba in north-west Colombia there's a hamlet called San Jose de Apartado. The farmers there formed a co-op to market and process cocoa beans. The Colombian army believed they were controlled by the FARC guerrillas. In February '97 the paramilitary shut down the market, forbidding the sale of all but small amounts of food, and accused the villagers of running a supply post for the guerilla. The paramilitary dragged four co-op board members out of their homes and killed them.

In response, in March '97 the people of San Jose declared themselves a Comunidad de Paz — a Community of Peace — before a delegation including members of Pax Christi International, the Dutch Parliament, and others.

In declaring themselves a Comunidad de Paz the civilian population committed itself to:

- not carry arms;
- not ask any of the parties to solve conflicts;
- not participate in the war in any direct or indirect form; and
- not manipulate or give information to any of those involved in the armed conflict.

Additionally each member committed him/herself to search for a peaceful solution to the country's conflicts.

An interesting aspect of this community is that membership is not restricted to the hamlet. Anyone — including Central New Yorkers — can become an International Mem-

ber of the Comunidad de Paz of San Jose de Apartado. To do so:

1. Send a signed statement of your support of the villagers' commitments to them c/o the Colombia Support Network, PO Box 1505, Madison, WI 53701.
2. Send faxes to:
  - Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State, (202) 647-1533
  - US Embassy, Bogota, Colombia, (011) 57 1 315 2209
  - Colombian Embassy, Washington, DC (202) 232-8643
  - Ministry of Defense, Bogota (011) 57 1 222 1874.

The faxes should request:

- a) that the paramilitary checkpoint leading to San Jose be eliminated at once;
- b) that there be an investigation as to why the Colombian army has done nothing to stop the paramilitary and its checkpoint;
- c) that the rights of BALSAMAR co-op members to carry on normal co-op functions be respected; and
- d) that the co-op equipment be secure from confiscation.

Be sure to ask US officials whether US military aid or assistance has been used in the attacks on civilians by Colombian security forces or paramilitaries.

Since March '97 San Jose has seen the death of 35 of its members — 33 executed by paramilitaries and two executed by FARC guerrillas. Our international solidarity could help provide these villagers with security. It might also give strength to a new technique — comunidades de paz — that promises to have widespread application in areas of civil strife.

— Ed Kinane

good church people — defend the SOA. If the SOA is closed, Latin American officers would no longer be able to launder their attaché cases full of money in Georgia banks. They would no longer be able to pump up Georgia's economy buying all the cars, furniture and jewelry they do. The shopping sprees and the money laundering, according to US Army Major Joe Blair,\* is a great perk of attending the school.

Sure, closing the SOA doesn't sever the Hydra's head: it doesn't end our cynical manipulations and brutal interventions abroad. But it's a wonderful start. It's part of the solution. And part of the eternal struggle of good against evil. We either wage that struggle

on its many fronts, or — by our inaction — side with the evil.

*\*For Blair's testimony see the new 16-minute video, "School of the Americas: An Insider Speaks Out," produced by Linda Panetta. Available for \$15+\$3s/h through SOA Watch, (202) 234-3440. Blair, a high school teacher now retired from the military, used to teach at the SOA and is in the forefront of those exposing it.*

*Ed was one of the 25 sentenced to pay a \$3000 fine and spend six months in prison for trying to petition their government in November, 1997. He is still at large pending a felony sentence for another SOA protest in September 1997.*



# Piercing Through the Denial

## Giraldo's *Colombia: The Genocidal Democracy* Is a Heartfelt Call for Help

review by Sara B. Lucas

*Colombia: The Genocidal Democracy* (125 pp.)  
by Javier Giraldo  
introduction by Noam Chomsky  
ISBN-1-

**C**olombia: *The Genocidal Democracy* is the courageous, personal witness of Father Javier Giraldo. As president of the Inter-Congregational Commission of Peace and Justice Father Giraldo, a gentle smiling man, is responsible for "numbering" the dead, the disappeared and the maimed victims of political violence in Colombia. Numbers so large, over 67,000 between 1988 and 1995, that they obscure the human tragedies behind each "statistic." Father Giraldo's eloquent words translate these statistics into individuals, places and incidents which make the Colombian reality come alive. Using descriptive accounts of individual and group atrocities Giraldo pierces the denial of the most hardened reader.

"There is no doubt that drugs are the first thing that come to people's minds when they think of Colombia. What is important is that this stereotype has resulted in the false conclusion that violence in Columbia is linked to drug traffic. With both sensitivity and passion Father Giraldo demystifies this stereotype. He contends that, through linking drugs and violence, the Colombian government has been allowed to present itself as a "victim of violence," while also permitting the neat concealment of crimes of state. Through his detailed accounting of Colombia's "Dirty War," Giraldo illustrates the many uses of terror and torture employed by the Colombian government.

The experience of Daniel, a poor young campesino from the department of Valle, illustrates the complexity of the multifaceted forces, military/paramilitary, drug traffickers and judicial system working together. Daniel was in the paramilitary. He completed his eighteen-month mandatory military service, and then accepted a job with the army as an "informant." Between March 31 and April 1, 1990, in what has been called the Trujillo massacre, he was horrified to discover how the army made use of his information. On the night of the 31st a combined force of military and paramilitary dragged a large number of campesinos from their homes. They were taken to the home of a wealthy drug trafficker in the

nearby countryside. There they were brutally tortured and ultimately dismembered with a chain saw. It was Daniel's responsibility to transport their headless corpses to the river and to dump them into the water. This incident continued to haunt the young man. Over one year later he confided in a conversation with Giraldo that until that night, "he had been convinced that to fight the guerrillas was to serve his country. But after what he had seen, he began to ask himself: 'Who are the bad ones and who is the enemy now?'" He sought refuge in a guerrilla camp and subsequently gave testimony to the Prosecutor General's office. On May 5, 1995 Daniel was "disappeared" while visiting his father. The Colombian judicial system absolved the individuals responsible for the massacre.

In his introduction to Giraldo's work, noted author, Noam Chomsky, urges North American readers to hold two facts uppermost in their minds. The first is that Colombia has compiled the worst human rights record in the hemisphere in recent years. The second is that the Colombian government's primary accessory is the government of the United States. "In July of 1989 the US State Department announced plans for subsidized sales of military equipment to Colombia, allegedly for antinarcotics purposes. "These sales were "justified" by the fact that Colombia has a democratic form of government and was not exhibiting a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights." Only a few months before this announcement there were over 3000 politically motivated killings documented by the Commission of Justice and Peace. The vast majority of these were grass-roots organizers, peasants or union leaders, leftist politicians, human rights workers and other activists. Chomsky points out, "The US State department surely had access to the records of atrocities that had been compiled by the leading international and Colombian human rights organizations."

Father Giraldo attributes the internal guerrilla conflict as a major contributor to the ever increasing dimensions of violence. Historically, he states, the original characterization of the country's armed insurgency as tools of international communism made it acceptable to deny its members fundamental human rights. By legitimizing the death and disappearance of these enemies, it was easy to extend these

practices to collaborators and ultimately to any and all political and social activists, campesinos, and indigenous people. In recent years the label communist has changed and reports of violence are now attributed to drug traffickers.

Also contributing to the growth of violence is the continued existence of the paramilitary. Regarded as legal entities up until 1989 when they were declared unconstitutional, the paramilitary has continued to be supported in secrecy by government officials. Used to conceal illegal government and military actions, the presence of paramilitary makes neutrality impossible for the population within a given community. "Young people are drafted, and heavy taxes are imposed to finance their groups." Individuals are forced to co-operate, or to flee the area contributing to the estimated one and a half million internal refugees.

Giraldo's book is more than a chronicle of facts. It is a heartfelt call for help. In conclusion he provides a list of actions for international groups and individuals who wish to offer support. For those who would like further information or to purchase the book, the Colombia Support Network may be reached at <http://www.igc.apc.org/csn/csn.html> or P.O. Box 1505, Madison WI 53701-1505.

*Sara lives in Syracuse and is active in the SOA Abolitionist movement. She was arrested at Ft. Benning in November, but was not convicted with the rest of the SOA 29 because of a mistake in paperwork.*

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## The Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act Needs Your Help

While Cubans and Nicaraguans were granted permanent residence if they arrived by December 1, 1995, and Salvadoran and Guatemalan illegals got lesser relief in being allowed to appeal deportation orders under more lenient rules, Haitians are still lobbying Congress to grant relief. Haitian advocacy groups attribute the unequal treatment to the persistence of the historic racism towards Haitians.

The good news is that the current bill (S-1504), THE HAITIAN REFUGEE IMMIGRATION FAIRNESS ACT would grant residence to Haitians who applied for asylum or were paroled into the country before 1996 and a small group of orphans and abandoned children. These are much stricter standards than

those applied to others but it is a small positive step.

More good news is that our own Senator Alfonso D'Amato is a co-sponsor of the bill. So I urge readers to write a thank you letter to the Senator.

Recently I returned from Haiti where as representative of the PAX USA Haiti Task Force, I was a member of the Voices for Haiti Delegation. We focused on the broad economic issues of national production and food security (the ability of Haitians to get the food they need). We learned about the way the government is turning control of public enterprises over to private companies. And we focused on the importance of the return of the

FRAPH/FADH documents in the original. (See PNL-June, 1998). Haiti continues in crisis and ongoing solidarity is essential.

For peace and solidarity, please take a few minutes to write to D'Amato. Since it's an election year for him, he'll pay more than usual attention. If half of the 4,000 people who receive the July PNL, write to the Senator, that's 2,000 letters which is a good number. Our Haitian sisters and brothers thank you.

(Sources of info in this article are the Quxiote Center, Haiti Advocacy, Inc. and Beyond Borders).

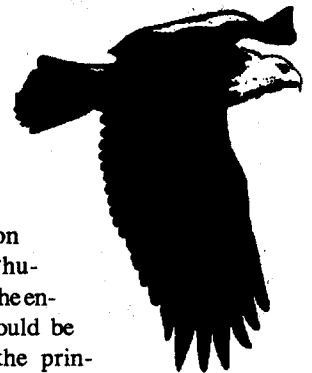
For further information contact Cynthia Banas at 829-2543.

## James Bay Resistance

Around New York State and New England, activists are gearing up for the next phase of resistance to Hydro-Quebec's megadam projects. Last fall, the James Bay and Northern Waters Network began meeting and working in coalition with other groups in the US and Canada, which has led to a statement of solidarity from the US activists and a joint declaration.

The declaration affirms that "human activity in the energy sector should be governed by the principles of environmental sustainability, social justice, and respect for the rights of all peoples, including indigenous peoples, not to be deprived of their natural heritage." The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (Quaker) signed on in December by endorsing the declaration.

Action is urgent because Hydro-Quebec plans to dam or divert ten major rivers in Northern Quebec and Labrador to feed the soon-to-be-deregulated utilities market in the US. Most immediately, two mega-dam sites are planned for the lower Churchill River, which would have a serious impact on the Innu peoples of the region. A decision on these dams will be made in Fall 1998. The project will also require huge transmission lines over Innu hunting lands, which would further damage breeding grounds and habitat for many endangered species of animals and ducks.



## August Camp to Kick Off Northeast Anti-Nuke Campaign

This August 21, up to two hundred people will gather in southern Vermont for seven days of anti-nuclear training, education, networking, actions and fun at an Action Camp now being organized by local and national activists.

The weeklong event, to be held at a summer camp near Brattleboro, Vermont, will kick off a campaign to rid New England, New York and New Jersey of all nuclear reactors. New

England's Citizen's Awareness Network and Washington, DC based Nuclear Information Resource Service are leading the initiative, supported by numerous groups and coalitions throughout the northeast, including Syracuse Peace Council and Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort.

The camp will kick off with a rally and music fest in Brattleboro on Saturday the 22nd. On

Tuesday the 25th, Bread & Puppet Theater put on a banner-making workshop. The schedule for the rest of the week will include workshops and presentations on all things nuclear, including strategies for closing nukes, health effects, successful closings, waste & transportation issues, nukes and the military and nukes in space, as well as broader topics such as leadership training, media training, and civil disobedience. Also on the program will be down time for informal networking, relaxation and fun.

Action Campers will join with other activists later in the week in a demonstration at nearby Vermont Yankee nuclear plant. Participants in the action will use non-violent civil disobedience to protest the continued operation of nuclear reactors in the face of evidence of grave health consequences for the public, risks of meltdown, intractable waste problems and immense cost.


Accommodations at the camp, a fifteen-acre site located in rural southern Vermont, will be either in camp-style cabins or your own tent; vegan/vegetarian meals will be provided in the camp's kitchen. Cost for the camp will be twenty dollars, plus five dollars per day for meals. This is an event for anyone, experienced or novice, who wants to help free us of the nuclear menace.

The August Action Camp will build on the already successful campaign of New England activists: Yankee Rowe, Connecticut Yankee and Maine Yankee are already gone and the three Millstone reactors in Connecticut are currently shut down, under pressure from activists, possibly never to reopen.

For more information call the Syracuse Peace Council at 472-5478.

— Tim Judson & Simon Morrin

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NUCLEAR INFORMATION AND RESOURCE SERVICE 907-231-0002

# Time to End the Violence

## After an Attack at SU's Take Back the Night, Feminists Take Action

Shannon McWilliams

EVERYONE HAD BEEN WORKING hard for months. Posters had been made, flyers handed out, and the quad was chalked. This whole week of events ranging from speakers to movies to an open mic evening was just one long kick-off for this night, April 24, 1998. The biggest Take Back the Night, a march and speak-out against sexualized violence, Syracuse University has seen in years. I stood on the steps of Hendrick's Chapel and watched as more and more people showed up to show their commitment to stop rape and their support for violence survivors. Over 400 people showed up that night, and more men and non-university students than in any previous years.

Inside Hendricks Chapel I listened to the speakers, but my eyes kept wandering, straying to the people packed in around me. The place was full, not a single pew was empty and many were crowded. We all roared in appreciation at the end of Kathleen Hanna's talk. Somehow, she managed to capture the hyper-active audience of soon-to-be marchers and weave all the pieces of the puzzle together to show the whole picture — the larger scale of sexualized violence of all forms within our culture.

Together we moved outside to march as a unified voice against this same sexualized violence that brought us all here tonight, stopping only to pick up posters to carry. The stack quickly diminished and was redistributed

among groups. I held one side of a poster while a friend held the other. A friend visiting from out of town stood on my other side. He had never seen this kind of gathering before, and stood amazed and appreciative of the enormous energy created as we began to form a line for the march. I linked my free arm with my poster companion and set off on the most powerful and moving adventure of my life.

I was towards the front of the march. I

looked back and saw the streams and streams of people behind me. Police lined us in the front and back, with a few spread out in the middle of our movement. Many of us had to fight our personal battles against rape alone, but now we were together as a collective force demanding change. Together we chanted, voicing what had been in our hearts for years: "No more silence, no more violence," "SU unite, take back the night," and many others. So many people were marching, and our stream of people was so long, that often the front and back ends could chant different things and not get mixed up with each other.

Another chant used at the beginning of the march was, "Hey, hey, ho, ho. Misogyny has got to go." This was replaced with, "Hey, hey, ho, ho. This sexist shit has got to go," because it voiced better the accumulated rage of the people there. Little did any of us realize that misogyny, the hatred of women, would be our true battle that night.

The emotion of our group changed as we neared "frat row," the street filled with nothing but fraternity and sorority houses. We became a little uneasy, but this nervousness of their possible reactions did not stop us. Knowing that fraternities house more rapists than will ever be accused or formally charged, we only

lifted our chins and looked the gawking brothers and sisters in the eyes as we passed. No one shirked from proudly proclaiming our War Against Sexualized Violence. We did not experience any problems until we reached one of the last houses on that street, the house belonging to the brothers of Alpha Tau Omega at 304 Walnut Place. Several brothers were out on the porch, playing loud music and drinking

beer. The events that unfolded next changed me forever.

As the first wave of our marchers passed, they began shouting obscenities at us. Then one came off the porch to the street, pretending to join the march and then called us names and

told us how we were just stupid bitches. His brother cheered him on and followed his lead. Above our call to end the violence could be heard the brothers of ATO yelling comments such as, "Come on up here and have a beer with us, and we'll show you what a frat is really about," and, "Why don't you come up here so we can fuck you?"

Several more of the brothers came down to the sidewalk next to us, shouting at us over their drinks. As more and

more of us marched passed, and not a one of us backed down at their taunts, they became increasingly "brave." They began walking among us, laughing at those who carried the posters proclaiming survivorship.

One woman was carrying a sign that read she was the survivor of three rapes. Several brothers walked up to her and wondered out loud how she would survive a fourth. Others were invited in to get drunk and have sex with them. For several moments I stood, mute in the face of my worst fears — outright malevolence against people willing to fight for what is right. Yet this blatant display of misogyny did not stop us. Wave after wave of marchers passed, continuing their chanting and attempting to ignore the shouted ignorance and insensitivity of the ATO brothers.

Then came the ultimate act of anger and violence against women willing to speak out. A woman was attacked. She had done no chanting, nor she was marching in the throngs of people. She was there as a journalist, taking pictures for the newspaper where she worked. She set her camera down to change the batteries and was jumped by several of the ATO brothers. This same woman lost her job be-

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**It is time to stop the violence that goes unrecognized daily, the usually silent, often violent aspect of society that approves of the systematic degradation of women.**



cause she was attacked. The paper she worked for fired her because she was not "acting in her journalistic capacity at that point." This same paper gave no coverage of Take Back the Night, nor of any of the prior events of the week.

We were called every name possible to degrade us, to make us feel powerless and humiliated. The brothers of Alpha Tau Omega reached for every trick in the book to try and show us our place in their world. They wanted us to be ashamed for speaking out, but no one was. We had done nothing to them, except threaten their established safety and shelter from accusations and truths about themselves. They obviously had no respect for women, for their mothers and sisters and girlfriends, for they disrespected us without consideration of effects and consequences. They obviously did not believe that we had a right to be there, for they tried everything to get rid of us. These men, if I dare call them that, obviously do not feel the fact that four women are killed each day by husbands or boyfriends is not a concern of theirs. To them, the fact that one rape is reported every five minutes in the United States is not important or relevant.

"They have both directly and indirectly made themselves a part of the 1997 American Medical Association statistic showing that 35 percent of male college students admitted anonymously that they would rape if they knew they could get away with it," now graduate of Syracuse University Amy Sommie wrote in a letter of complaint to Suzy Nelson, Director of Greek Life.

Fraternities were once seen as honorable and their members as leaders. This myth still holds too true in many minds across America. The members of ATO proved that the other reputation fraternities hold, that of being places of rape, hazing, and homophobia, is more true than the former. If fraternities such as Alpha Tau Omega are looked upon favorably, and its

members considered leaders, what does this say about this city as well as this country?

It says that it is time for change. It reinforces the desire to be able to walk alone and not fear for safety and life. It says that something

must be done to stop the violence that goes unrecognized daily, the usually silent, often violent aspect of society that approves of

the systematic degradation of women through verbal harassment and implied threats, such as those shouted by the ATO brothers. This is the same aspect of society that refuses to acknowledge the active role all people must take to end the holocaust of women's and girls' spirits and lives. To me, it also reinforces the disgust and distress that has been leaving its mark on my life since I was first raped five years ago, and the drive to eliminate it from others' lives.

This is easier said than done. For many, stepping forward and denouncing what has been ingrained as good and holy since conception is not a viable option. That is why those of us who can must take this opportunity to show our unwillingness to tolerate sexualized violence of any form, our unwillingness to be the pawns of oppression. The silent majority of those who desire change but have yet to speak must speak and act now.

Since it is summer not much can be actively done. ATO is officially suspended, meaning that they are not allowed to act as an official group. Yet they are allowed to wear their letters and have parties in their house. This suspension is not enough. A slap on the wrist will not change the fundamental lack of integrity that pervades this and many other institutions of patriarchy.

## Four women are killed each day by husbands or boyfriends. One rape is reported every five minutes in the United States.

**A 1997 American Medical Association statistic shows that 35 percent of male college students admitted anonymously that they would rape if they knew they could get away with it.**

The Feminist Collective of Syracuse University is calling for the fraternity of Alpha Tau Omega to be removed from campus, for ATO to have their national charter revoked and not returned.

When the fall semester begins again, there will be a rally. All of the fraternities and sororities of Syracuse University will be invited to speak out against this behavior and show their support and dedication to stopping it. There will be protests and demonstrations by the rest of the university and city community as well. All members of the area community are invited and encouraged to attend and to share their feelings and voice their concerns about having this kind of organization as a part of our city.

This behavior will no longer be tolerated, supported, or ignored by the Syracuse community. The concerned and caring members

of this community will help see to that. I do not want to live in a world where the survivors of sexualized violence are laughed at and degraded. I do not want to pass that kind of world on to the next generation. It is up to us, right now, to end this behavior. I will not tolerate having the people I care about assaulted and harassed, raped and abused, or verbally tormented any longer.

The brothers of Alpha Tau Omega gave me one good thing that night. During the

Speak Out after the march, I was able to tell my story and re-dedicate myself to ending the obvious and not-so-obvious violence against women that is present in today's world. I was shown exactly what the fate of people who rock the boat can be, how truly a violent world it is for those of us who want to change that world. It was on that night I realized the extent of hatred and violence against women and feminists, but I also learned the full extent of my own anger about the way society is run and how that anger can and will save my life, and hopefully many others.

*Shannon McWilliams is a student and a member of the Feminist Collective at Syracuse University. This is her first time writing for the Peace Newsletter.*



# India's Nuclear Challenge

by David Cortright

India's decision to conduct nuclear tests is a threat to peace in South Asia and the world. It is a serious setback to the cause of nuclear abolition and a rebuke to the disarmament legacy of Gandhi and Nehru. In a country where hundreds of millions are illiterate and more than half the population lacks clean water and basic sanitation, the diversion of resources to develop nuclear weapons is an affront to human decency.

India's action makes it likely that Pakistan will also test nuclear weapons and that an overt nuclear arms race will develop in South Asia. In combination with rising political animosities and the ballistic missile race already underway between India and Pakistan, the nuclear tests significantly increase the danger of war and nuclear confrontation.

While it is necessary to condemn India's tests, we must recognize that the United States bears partial responsibility for these events. By its insistence on maintaining nuclear weapons and its refusal to negotiate for disarmament, the United States has reinforced the role of nuclear weapons as the ultimate currency of power. The primary motivations for India's decision to go nuclear are nationalist. India sees itself as a great civilization with a rightful role to play in world affairs. Lacking the economic prowess to advance to the front ranks of power, India has seized upon the bomb as a shortcut to pressured greatness. India sees nuclear capability as the means of realizing its ambition of global influence and leadership. The United States and the other nuclear powers have reinforced this linkage between nuclear weapons and global status and are thus partly responsible for India's decision to exercise the nuclear option.

The United States has compounded the problem by arrogantly imposing unilateral economic sanctions against India. Under the Proliferation Prevention Act passed by Congress in 1994, the United States must halt military assistance, bar foreign aid and loans, block credit by private US banks, prohibit technological transfers, and vote within the World Bank and IMF against any loans or

financial assistance. These sanctions will have adverse impacts within India. If the United States succeeds in convincing other countries to join with it in voting against development programs and infrastructure, investment projects will be blocked. The poor and the needy will suffer most. Population planning and women's health programs could be adversely affected.

According to the Reserve Bank of India, the US sanctions will reduce development aid to India by approximately \$2.8 billion. This will be a major blow, but in a country as large and diverse as India and in an economy that has in recent years enjoyed high rates of growth, the overall impact will be relatively minor. There is little prospect that such sanctions will convince the government of India to change its nuclear policies. In fact, over the short run the political impact of sanctions is likely to be counterproductive. External pressures will help to create a rally-around-the-flag-effect within India and generate political support for the government. Over time nationalist fervor may dissipate, but for the near term the position of the government will be strengthened. Meanwhile the social and humanitarian costs for India's most venerable populations will be high.

If Islamabad proceeds with its own nuclear tests as expected, the same US sanctions will be imposed on Pakistan. The impact in Pakistan is likely to be much more severe. Unlike India, Pakistan's economy is in shambles, and the country is virtually bankrupt. Pakistan is experiencing a balance of payment crisis and is heavily dependent on IMF funding to meet debt obligations and maintain basic services. Currency reserves are dangerously low. In such a condition, Pakistan is highly vulnerable to US sanctions which could have devastating consequences and might precipitate a serious economic downturn. Again the poor and needy would be most severely affected.

The United States has no moral basis for imposing unilateral sanctions when it has conducted more than 1000 nuclear tests of its own and maintains an arsenal of 10,000 nuclear weapons. If sanctions are to be applied they must be imposed multilaterally and directed against vulnerable populations. Any case of sanctions should be brought to the UN Security Council. If coercive measures are to be approved, they should be directed against the

Indian leaders responsible for developing and conducting nuclear tests. Targeted sanctions might include canceling visas for India's leaders and revoking residency and work permits for their sons and daughters, many of whom study in the West. The financial assets of key decision makers could be frozen. Landing rights for Indian airlines could be suspended. These would be harsh measures, but the hardships would be felt by those responsible for approving the nuclear tests, not innocent civilians. However, there is no legal foundation for sanctions against India without a universal ban against nuclear weapons. This requires a commitment from all countries, most especially the nuclear powers, to abandon nuclear weapons. In the absence of such a pledge, Washington's punitive actions can only be seen as the height of hypocrisy, a classic case of the besotted drunkard preaching temperance. Washington is attempting to maintain an inequitable two-tier nonproliferation system in which the nuclear powers maintain their weapons while denying this capability to others. As long as Washington and other major capitals cling to these weapons, leaders in New Delhi and Islamabad will insist on retaining the option for themselves. Article VI of the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) specifically commits the nuclear powers to negotiate a plan for global nuclear disarmament. India and Pakistan have long insisted that the failure of the nuclear powers to fulfill this commitment is a violation of the original nonproliferation bargain, and that a discriminatory regime of nuclear haves and have nots will not succeed in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. Even a recent report of the US National Academy of Sciences notes that nuclear states "cannot be confident of maintaining indefinitely a regime in which they proclaim nuclear weapons essential to their security while denying all others the right to possess them."

The most important step Washington could take to mitigate the nuclear crisis in South Asia would be to lead by example in accelerating the process of disarmament. The US Senate should reject India's defiance of the emerging global norm against nuclear tests by moving immediately to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Washington should also commit itself unequivocally to the elimination of nuclear weapons. Public opinion surveys in India sponsored by the Fourth Free-

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# PEACES PEACES PEACES

compiled by Mike Kernahan  
Illustrated by the kids of Common Place Land Trust

## Bewitched Bothered and Bewildered



Political witch-hunts are nothing new in Washington, but a conservative Christian women's organization has given new (or very old) meaning to the term.

In a "Newsflash" to its members this past February the Concerned Women for America (CWA) advised that "The Walt Disney Company has been known for weaving witchcraft into major movies such as *Escape from Witch Mountain*, *Fantasia*, and *Peter Pan*, to name a few. Disney does not promote family values, but rather promotes such behavior as divination and entices your children to practice it." Another "Newsflash" condemned Mickey Mouse for magically manipulating a broomstick.

CWA joined the Disney boycott last year after the American Family Association and the Southern Baptist Convention denounced the company for sponsoring gay and lesbian days at their theme parks and for allowing outed lesbian Ellen DeGeneres her own TV show.

Source: *The American Prospect*

## God is on MY side

According to a recent survey by the Institute for First Amendment Studies, many self-identified Christian right activists fail to see liberals as their partners either in politics or in faith.

- 91% believe (either "agree" or "strongly agree") that god works through politics and election returns.
- 61% believe that free enterprise is the only system compatible with Christianity.
- 31% believe that a person can be both a good Christian and a liberal.

Source: *The American Prospect*

## Do videos burn as well as books do?



The Academy Award-winning film, *The Tin Drum*, is among the literary and entertainment materials seized by Oklahoma City police under pressure from a group calling itself Oklahomans for Chil-

dren and Families. *The Tin Drum*, a searching film about a weird child observing and coping with the aberrations of life in Nazi Germany, was removed from the City library and six video stores after a county judge (in an off the record opinion) concurred with OCAF that the film is "obscene." At least one copy of the film was also confiscated from the home of a private citizen (a staff member of the ACLU) by police who obtained his name from a video store. The ACLU of Oklahoma and the Video Software Dealers Association have brought suit against Oklahoma City for violating the First and Fourth Amendments and the Federal Videotape Privacy Protection Act.

The campaign for suppression extends well beyond Oklahoma with similar attacks on libraries in Medina, Ohio; Mexico, Missouri; and Oneida, New York.

Source: *Censorship News*



## A Recycled Victory

The General Services Administration (GSA), the main buying agency for most parts of the U.S. federal government, has decided that it will start respecting the law.

In February, the GSA decided that it would start supplying only recycled paper to federal agencies as soon as its existing inventory runs out. This will put the agency in compliance with a 1993 Executive Order that requires federal agencies to buy recycled paper. In 1997 less than 40% of federal paper was recycled.

The new policy represents a complete about-face for the agency. In December, GSA Federal Supply Commissioner Frank Pugliese Jr., openly scoffed at the Executive Order, saying, "Executive Orders are Executive Orders. Big deal." Pugliese also announced at that time that the GSA would abandon its policy of offering recycled paper to federal agencies at a lower price than virgin paper.

Source: *Multinational Monitor*

## Paying for Dirty Food

Over the past decade the food industry has poured more than \$41 million into the campaign treasuries of congressional lawmakers. What did it buy them? The death of every

bill which promised meaningful improvement in the food safety system.

That's the primary finding of a report,

"Safety Last: The Politics of E. Coli and other Food-Borne Killers," issued by the Washington-based Center for Public Integrity.



Thousands of people in the US die each year from

the food they eat and millions more become sick. Cases of poisoning from the E. Coli 0157:H7 bacterium have increased dramatically over the past decade, from virtually zero to 20,000 a year. Federal officials have described the current food safety situation as an epidemic.

Yet Congress has "consistently ignored the growing threat to the public health posed" by slaughterhouses and the meatpacking industry, the producers who raise the animals, and the distributors, wholesalers, and retailers who sell the products to the public, says Charles Lewis, chair and executive director of the center. "Congress has put the industry's needs before the public's," says Lewis. Lewis also points out that the highly touted new Department of Agriculture food inspection system known as Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP) is commonly referred to by US food inspectors as "Have a Cup of Coffee and Pray," because it allows industry largely to inspect itself.

Source: *Multinational Monitor*

## The Price Women Pay

The price women pay for denial of sexual and reproductive rights is tallied in the latest State of World Population report from the United Nations Population Fund. These include:

- 585,000 deaths from pregnancy-related causes each year.
- 200,000 maternal deaths each year due to the lack or failure of contraceptive services.
- 120-150 million women wish to limit or

# Godzilla Says, "Proceed With Caution"

Joseph M Smith

Historically, science fiction film has always been perceived as suffering from severe schizophrenia. One minute it's chastising humanity for its arrogant attempts to conquer the natural world, the next it's reaffirming the scientific and technological advances that make those attempts possible. Nevertheless, despite the genre's past, when I heard a new and improved version of *Godzilla* was to be released this summer, I couldn't help but wonder how the new beast and the story of its resurrection would contrast with the *Godzilla* of old.

Would today's *Godzilla* look different, or would it be another Lizz Taylor-ized version of the 50's classic? Would the new *Godzilla* be titled mid-eighties remake, *Godzilla 1985*? Would the film's producers lose that ridiculous atomic breath? Perhaps more importantly, would this *Godzilla* actually take a stand against militarism, nuclear power, and/or weapons of mass destruction? Given the end of the Cold War and our culture's new found "environmentality,"\* I was anxious to see if either of these trends had affected *Godzilla*'s scaly green skin.

In keeping with the tradition begun by the 1954 Japanese original, the new *Godzilla* also stems from the detonation of nuclear devices. However, rather than being awakened by a series of blasts, the new beast is the first of a new gargantuan lizard species created by France's recent nuclear tests in the South Pacific. Of course, the audience has to wait a while for the "official" word on this, but the filmmakers hint at the new *Godzilla*'s origins by attaching the movie's opening credits to grainy, reddish-orange scenes of iguanas staring at huge balls of fire and mile-high plumes of smoke. Thus, while nothing concerning the beast's genesis is explicitly mentioned as these pictures flash on the screen, it seems clear from the ominous music and chaotic collage of nuclear destruction and stoic-looking reptiles that change is afoot in lizard land.

\* "Environmentality" was a word coined by Disney to (as far as I can tell) be synonymous with "environmental consciousness."

As *Godzilla* evolves from the opening credits, it becomes increasingly obvious that the film is more than a cinematic protest against the continued production and testing of weapons of mass destruction. Of course, this shouldn't be surprising as few "creature features" really are; including the other 21 films boasting the *Godzilla* name. As Richard Hodgens argues in his essay, "A Brief, Tragical History of the Science Fiction Film," monsters that are awakened or created by the bomb offer little in the way of social criticism. Even though the beasts appearing in these films may be symbolic of the nuclear threat, they first and foremost give rise to humanity's more traditional fears about its relationship to the natural world. Therefore, like most of the creatures that appear in science fiction films of the "humans vs. nature" variety (as opposed to those from the humans vs. machines sub-genre), *Godzilla* represents humanity's age-old perception of wild nature as a threat to human survival and an obstacle to the (further) growth of civilization.

## Modern Folklore

Mirroring mythology's use of "monsters" (i.e. beings associated with "the other") as the ambassadors of untamed nature, science fiction film has often been characterized as a form of "modern" folklore which, in the words of folklorist Per Schelde, "rests on the on-going conflict between nature and culture."

According to Schelde, the never-ending battle between civilization and the natural world is ultimately a contest between nature's brute force and the intellectual power of humanity to control it; hence the familiar stories from the realm of myth and legend featuring trolls (or other non-human entities) attempting to prevent humans from achieving some task by testing their intellectual strength via riddles.

In today's science fiction films the trolls have disappeared, but as Schelde points out, folklore's hostile attitude toward nature has

remained intact. Thus, to gain a thorough understanding of films like *Godzilla*, acknowledging the existence of this antagonistic portrayal of the relationship between humans and nature is essential because it helps viewers perceive the way these kinds of films impede the acceptance of an ecological world view.

For instance, *Godzilla*'s migration to and subsequent ravaging of New York City was more than just an exciting plot twist. Symbolic of the lengths to which humanity has gone to divorce itself from the unpredictability of nature, cities have become icons of civilization both in and out of the cinema. In essence, they are the very antithesis of the natural world.

Reminiscent of many memorable scenes from such classic creature features as *King Kong* (1933), *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms* (1953), *It Came From Beneath the Sea* (1955), the numerous *Godzilla* films of the sixties and seventies, and more recent films such as *The Lost World* (1997) and *Mimic* (1997), the scenes chronicling *Godzilla*'s search through New York to find a suitable place for a nest are hardly framed as the benevolent actions of a caring reptilian parent; they are portrayed as the initial step in the monster's strategy to eradicate humanity from the face of the



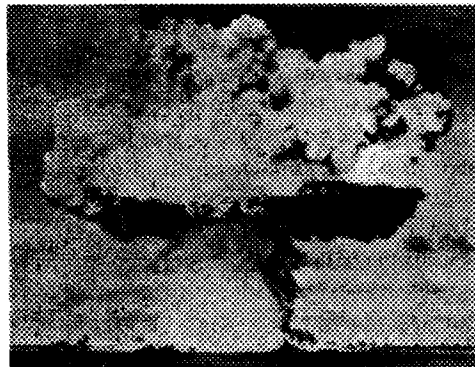
Nine Dragons Appear Through Clouds and Waves (detail), Chen Jung (AD 1244)

earth. Hence Nik Satopolis' (Matthew Broderick) statement to the military he is commissioned to help that the nest is destined to be the spot from which "the new dominant species" will emerge.

Yet, despite the feelings of ill will displayed between humanity and the beast, it would be incorrect to assert that the aim of films like *Godzilla* is to prevent filmgoers from developing environmental consciousness. The aim of science fiction film is to amuse, and because emotional conflict always makes for good entertainment, *Godzilla*'s display of hostility between humanity and nature acts as the vehicle in which that entertainment is delivered. Still, it is important to

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remember that just because something masquerades as entertainment does not mean it is devoid of cultural meaning. Thus, hitching a ride with the film's entertainment value is a truck load of ideological baggage. One prominent example is suggested by my above discussion of the monster's desire to find a birthplace for the species destined to remove humanity from its perch atop the tree of life, *Godzilla* is riddled with the mainstream culture's beliefs about the way humanity and nature ought to relate. Yet, the cultural assumptions do not stop there.



Continuing in the vein of the traditional monster movie, *Godzilla's* death at the hands of that dynamic sci-fi duo science and technology goes beyond the triumph of humans over the natural world to reinforce the very mysterious and frightening military know-how responsible for the beast's creation.

It is because of this rather ironic twist of fate that I object to the idea that *Godzilla's* creation and penchant for destruction sends an anti-militaristic message. While it is true that he\*\* is not vanquished by the same nuclear technology which creates him, his destruction via missiles still works to legitimize the production and use of non-nuclear armaments in the eyes of the public. In this light, *Godzilla* is not a cry of opposition to humankind's ability to annihilate itself with weapons of mass destruction, but a sermon oriented to the illustration of the military and its deadly hardware as a boon to human civilization.

Similarly, more of the dominant culture's values are reflected in the film's portrayal of science. *Godzilla's* creators exploit popular feelings of mistrust toward scientists and a general fear of mysterious scientific procedures (like biotechnology, nuclear fission and fusion, space travel, etc.) in various ways throughout the film to help their viewers "accept" the notions that radiation could alter the genetic make up of an existing life-form enough to create a new species, and that the French

\*\* My use of the pronoun "he" corresponds with the film's use of the male pronoun to refer to the monster; an interesting consideration since the *Godzilla* gives birth. Looks like *Godzilla* needs to be analyzed from a feminist perspective.

scientists who exploded the bombs in the South Pacific were unprepared for any potential problems that might arise.

Although the acceptance of these concepts may sound far fetched as you read them here in black and white, the film's emotionally charged images and dialogue (such as those during the opening credits) are more successful (than this text) in persuading the audience to suspend its disbelief. They have to be, or the movie would be unable to convey its message that despite the occasional

mishap, (military) science functions in the best interests of the people. Hence the character of Nik Satopolis' (Matthew Broderick), an ex-nuke activist turned Nuclear Regulatory Commission scientist who now believes he can "effect more positive (social) change from inside" the agency.

Unlike the classic sci-fi scientist mold set by the world's most infamous god-complex sufferer Dr. Frankenstein (not to those scientists in such films as *The Fly* (1958, 1986) and *Tarantula* (1955)), following the lead of such recent movies as *Jurassic Park* (1993), *The Lost World* (1997) and *Mimic* (1997), *Godzilla* breaks with traditional science fiction film by portraying



Nik as a hero, and the cornerstone of its kinder, more gentle depiction of science.

Always a step ahead of the beast, Nik's ability to anticipate *Godzilla's* every move is a cinematic obsequy to the modernist ideal that through the application of rational thought, humanity can know the inner workings of the natural world, and then utilize the information to achieve its desired aims. According to the film, the mechanistic notion that nature is merely the sum of its parts is accurate, for it is precisely this reductionist scientific mentality

that Nik employs during his successful campaign to eliminate *Godzilla's* nest and finally the monster himself. Thus, like the movie's depiction of the military's tools for war, the somewhat tarnished face of science is cleaned up as it works to protect people from the danger inherent in wild nature.

### Who Is Responsible For This Mess Anyway?

When Nik and the military finally achieve their goal and the audience watches the last bit of life's fire disappear from *Godzilla's* eyes, only then does it become apparent that the film's true villain is humanity's own arrogance.

Making a sharp U-turn, the movie abandons its hostile portrayal of nature and suddenly pulls out all the rhetorical stops to encourage sympathy for *Godzilla's* plight. I can still recall how tough it was to watch the monster die. I could not help but feel sorry for him as he laid there on the asphalt. As I listened to the ever weakening sounds of his labored breathing, I sat motionless while the camera closed in on his eye and the golden

sphere of light at its center retreated into darkness. When it was finally over, I found myself remembering Nik's previous statement to the commander of the American forces trying to hunt *Godzilla* down. "The beast isn't the enemy, he's just an animal." Clearly then, *Godzilla* isn't to blame for this mess; he's just a scapegoat.

Besides, the French are the ones who performed the tests, but the movie fails to provide

its audience with French scientists, or other French folks involved with conducting them. Thus, (surprisingly) there is no foreigner to play the role of the scapegoat either, so, by the process of elimination, it seems the only thing left to blame is the arrogant assumption that humanity is entitled to treat the earth like a punching bag.

### So where is this human arrogance represented in the film?

Barring the nuclear explosions during the continued on page 21

# Going The Wrong Way

## How we continue to make the worst of all possible energy decisions

By Mike Kernahan

**W**e live in a world beset by a booming and increasingly destructive human population and general environmental degradation. This trend is most visibly displayed in the phenomenon of global warming resulting from expanded use of fossil fuels. To meet this challenge, we have developed a political leadership with the attention span of a hyperactive child, beholden to the special interests which finance the electoral merry-go-round, and capable of focussing only on the shortest term economic and political consequences of its actions. Nowhere is this more evident than in the choices we have made, and continue to make, in the field of energy resources.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, between 1948 and 1995, the US government spent \$106 billion (in 1996 dollars) on development of energy resources. Over 60% of that total was spent on the development of nuclear power, followed by 24% spent on fossil fuels, leaving relative crumbs of 10% for renewable energy sources and only 6% for energy efficiency. The nuclear power figure vastly understates amounts spent indirectly on nuclear power development through weapons research and does not even begin to account for the prohibitive cost of dealing with the problem of nuclear waste for the next 50,000 years or so. The next 1000 generations will still have to worry about how good a job our generation did of sweeping our nuclear mess under a rug. The 1994 Republican congressional landslide has led to ever steeper declines in spending on renewable energy sources and, if present trends continue, will result in its elimination from the budget entirely as early as fiscal year 1999.

For those of you understandably unfamiliar with renewable energy, here is a brief review of the major sources:

**Solar Energy:** Solar energy is clean, inexhaustible, and domestic. Its environmental impact is virtually nil. It is extremely flexible, suitable for any size requirement and readily adaptable to changes in those requirements.

In the past, solar technology development has been stunted by an absence of the massive investment readily available to fossil and nuclear power. Nevertheless, great strides have been made in recent years in the development of solar power.

**Wind Energy:** Wind energy is also clean, inexhaustible, and domestic. Its environmental impact is also virtually nil. Most land used for wind power generation can also be used for other purposes, such as agriculture and animal husbandry. The US has enough wind resource to produce far more electricity than it currently consumes.

**Hydro Power:** I hesitate to include hydro power because, although the power produced is as clean as any other renewable source, its

**The potential benefits of renewable energy sources are environmental, economic, political, international, and huge.**

environmental impact can be massive, is often not apparent for years, and may even be too subtle for human understanding. It is safe to say, however, that small scale hydroelectric projects implemented after careful study and with due regard for their environmental impact, are certainly a far better choice than fossil or nuclear power.

**Biomass Energy:** Biomass energy is primarily produced by wood and wood wastes, agricultural and animal activities and their waste products, municipal solid waste, food waste and aquatic plants and algae. Biomass generates far less air pollution than fossil fuels and can substantially reduce landfill use. It also has the potential to create jobs, particularly in rural communities. Elevated use of biomass energy would probably require dedicated energy crop production, with resultant environmental impact. Another lesser evil, attractive only against a backdrop of widespread fossil or nuclear energy use.

The potential benefits of renewable energy sources are environmental, economic, political, international, and huge. Reduction

of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, adherence to our international treaty commitments (for a change), lowered dependence on foreign oil supplies and the military entanglements which that dependence entails, and a substantial reduction of the trade deficit, are just the beginning of the advantages of renewable energy. Unfortunately, they are beyond the scope of a political leadership narrowly fixed on the next election.

The usual argument against renewable energy sources is that they are not economically viable. But this contention is disingenuous at best. Clearly, if renewable energy sources had the benefit of even half the taxpayer largesse lavished on nuclear and fossil energy sources, their development would be a great deal further along. Certainly, they are

enormously more competitive than nuclear energy which, when all economic and environmental costs are honestly calculated, is the dumbest of all possible choices.

Obviously, the real problem with most renewable energy sources is that they lack the patronage of the corporate interests which own this country. Renewables are largely decentralized, generating power on-site, and leaving manufacturers of large-scale power generation, transmission, and distribution systems, like General Electric and Westinghouse, without a market. Developing countries just building power infrastructure are dependent for financing on government aid and World Bank funding which is heavily weighted toward traditional fossil and nuclear fueled megaprojects. The fossil fuel industry does not want to lose its second biggest customer (after the automobile), utilities will never consent to their own dismemberment, and the government, which is supposed to look after the common good, is owned by these interests.

Current US energy policy is the equivalent of a 14 foot tall truck headed for a 12 foot bridge at a high rate of speed. The bridge is only a couple of miles down the road and the driver is fully aware of it, but he's getting paid by the mile and really doesn't give a damn. So we're going to hit that bridge and it's going to be a hell of a mess. But our kids will have to deal with it, not us.

*Mike Kernahan lives at the Common Place Land Trust and Community. He is starting a woodworking business.*





**Action Alerts  
continued from page 10**

In April, NYS Senator Franz Leichter, Manhattan, introduced bills that would do two things to help consumers in a deregulated market make environmentally and culturally sound choices. First, the bills would expand "green power" to include not only generation with low air emissions, but small hydro as well; it would identify large scale hydro projects as culturally and environmentally unacceptable. Second, the bills would require providers of retail power to disclose the producer (e.g., Hydro-Quebec) to consumers. These bills would thus provide consumers with the information to make informed choices about purchasing electricity.

To get involved, contact Marilyn Ray at Ithaca Monthly Meeting, Burt House, 227 Willard Way, Ithaca, NY 14850, or via e-mail [mlr17@cornell.edu](mailto:mlr17@cornell.edu). Additional info is available at JBNWN's web site <http://www.decisivedata.nvo.com/jamesbay>, at the Innu web site <http://www.innu.ca> and the Cree web site <http://nisk.creenet.com>.

— Marilyn Ray & Tim Judson

**"Guantanamo" Benefit A  
Success!**

A big THANK YOU to the over 200 people who came to see Guantanamo on June 7th. We raised over \$1000 for Pastors for Peace, which will be used for the caravan to Cuba taking place in July. Some of the money will be used to purchase a school bus along with Rochester, Buffalo and Ithaca. The rest will be given to Pastors for Peace for the purchase of medicine. The Friendship Caravan will stop in Syracuse on July 5th. For more information call Doug at 471-5749. — Doug Igelsrud

**Save the Allegheny Forest!**

FOR THOSE who have never had the pleasure of seeing the Allegheny Forest it is a densely wooded section of America that encompasses land in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York State. Anyone who has hiked/camped or even driven through the Allegheny on Highway 17 knows how majestic the land is. It is one of the last lands left in the United States that looks remotely like it did 200 years ago.

In the U.S. there are less than 60 million acres of wooded land left (that is less than the size of New Mexico). Today the Allegheny has become the latest battlefield in war between

**Peace Brigades International**

Peace Brigades International seeks volunteers for training in NY from September 11th-18th for placement on peace teams in Chiapas (Mexico), the Balkans, Guatemala, Columbia, North American and Haiti. PBI's peace teams respond to requests for nonviolent accompaniment of threatened groups and individuals abroad. Deadline is August 1. Call PBI at (510) 540-0749 or e-mail [pbuisa@lgc.apc.org](mailto:pbuisa@lgc.apc.org)

**Mumia Abu-Jamal International  
Demonstration, July 4th**

Every year, the government uses July 3rd & 4th (the anniversary of Mumia's sentence to death) to measure just how strong the movement is to stop his execution. This year, they are putting the legal and political machinery in place to go through with an execution. *Their decision will depend on our actions.*

The courts have never offered justice for Mumia. What has stopped their attempts at murder before has been a diverse, committed movement of hundreds of thousands of people. This is the year when all those who know of Mumia's case must ask themselves, "Should this man be executed?" No matter what your reason, when the answer is NO, you must turn that knowledge into action. Be in Philadelphia July 3, 4 & 5.

If you are interested in joining people from Syracuse forming a silent meditative presence on July 4th in Philadelphia in support of Mumia against the death penalty, please call 472-5711. We will be driving from Syracuse early the morning of July 4. — WAH

corporations and nature. The U.S. forest service is planning on selling land that at this early stage includes cutting on road-less lands amounting to 8,206 of clearcuts.

Over 90.5 miles of road construction is planned for the purpose of making logging easier. This of course is only the tip of the iceberg. Timber industry has been attempting to get back into the Allegheny for the last 100 years. Many environmentalists believe if we can establish a zero-cut policy in the Allegheny it is the first step towards the abolition of clear cut nationally.

We are seeking national legislation to protect the forest. We need letters and organizers willing to go out to get signatures. Please contact CNY Allegheny Defense Project to find out how you can get involved.

— David Agranoff

**Keep Onondaga County Fair  
Practices Act Inclusive**

We members of the Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgendered community (GLBT) do not support the Stonewall Committee's current draft of the Fair Practices Act. Its exclusion of transgender expression:

- discriminates against the most vulnerable members of the GLBT community in terms of class and race;
- fails to adequately protect ALL members of the GLBT community by falsely separating sexual orientation from gender expression;
- denies the historical and factual presence of the transgendered community and of gender oppression at the very inception of the US Gay Rights movement;
- fractures the GLBT community by asking us to pit the rights of some against the rights for all.

It's not too late. Call the Stonewall Committee (476-6226) and tell them to retract the divisive bill and endorse the inclusive one.

Rosaria Champagne, Michael A. De Salvo, Harry R. Freeman-Jones, Monika Gries, Karen Hall, Margaret Hmley, Mary Ellen Kavanaugh, Joy Meeker, Nick Orth, Rob Pusch, Robin Riley, Tyler (Trish) van Vlerzen, Teri Vigars



**Peaces...  
continued from page 14**

space their pregnancies but lack the means to do so.

- 350 million women lack access to contraceptive services.
- There are at least 75 million unwanted pregnancies each year (out of about 175 million) resulting in 45 million abortions. Twenty million of these are unsafe resulting in 70,000 deaths.
- One million women die each year due to reproductive tract infections.
- Two million girls each year are at risk of female genital mutilation.
- Two million girls are introduced into the commercial sex market each year.

Source: *The Right To Choose: Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health, United Nations Population Fund*



# When It Reigns, It Pours

## Local Nukes Deal CNYers One Health Risk After Another

Kyle Rabin

As if safety concerns at Niagara Mohawk's Nine Mile Point One power plant aren't imposing enough, significant structural and technical flaws at both the Nine Mile Point Two and Fitzpatrick plants also threaten public health, safety, and welfare. During Nine Mile Point Two's refueling outage, scheduled inspections resulted in the discovery of cracks along two horizontal welds of NMP2's core shroud. At their deepest, the cracks reach through 20% to 25% of the 2 inch thick core shroud. This discovery prompted an additional, more thorough analysis of the core shroud. According to Channel 9 News, this analysis found cracks in 7 of the 8 horizontal weldings. Three of the weldings were significantly cracked. One particular weld has a crack that runs over halfway along its 650 inch length. Surrounding the highly radioactive fuel rods which power the nuclear reactor, the 2 inch thick core shroud provides lateral restraint to the reactor core and supports other structural elements within the reactor assembly. Niagara Mohawk and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) officials claim that the plant's reactor core shroud continues to be structurally sound and does not pose any concern to plant safety and public welfare. However, there is no way to guarantee that these cracked welds could withstand an earthquake. NMP2 is expected to go back on line, once the refueling process is complete.

### NRC Contacts

**Diane Scrceni**, NRC Public Affairs Officer for Region One (e-mail: [dps@nrc.gov](mailto:dps@nrc.gov))

**Nell A. Sheehan**, NRC Public Affairs Officer for Region One (e-mail: [nas@nrc.gov](mailto:nas@nrc.gov))

**Darl Hood**, NRC Reactor Project Manager for Nine Mile 1 & 2 (e-mail: [dsh@nrc.gov](mailto:dsh@nrc.gov))  
Region One phones: 1-800-368-5642

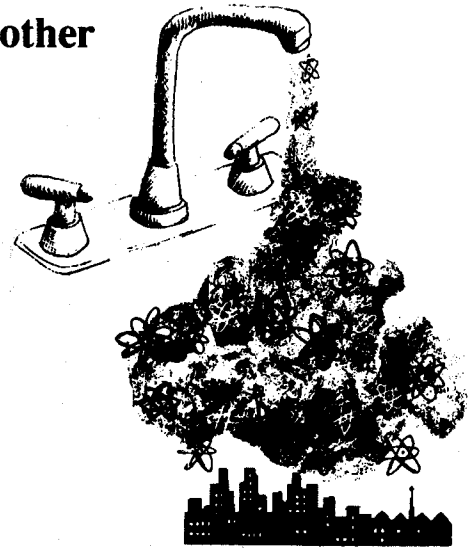
**Larry Duerflein**, NRC Projects Branch Chief for Region One  
1-800-432-1156 (e-mail: [ltd@nrc.gov](mailto:ltd@nrc.gov))

**Barry Norris**, NRC Resident Inspector for Nine Mile Point 1 and 2  
(315) 342-4041

At the James A. Fitzpatrick plant, a NRC inspection revealed a calibration error rendering the High Pressure Coolant Injection system (HPCI) inoperable. The HPCI system is one of four Emergency Core Cooling Systems (ECCCs) that provides core cooling in the event that coolant levels drop severely, thus preventing a core meltdown. Instrument and control personnel repaired the HPCI system within hours of the discovery. It is not yet known just how long the HPCI system has been inoperable.

The New York Power Authority, owner of the Fitzpatrick plant, have recently announced that they are considering plans to build a dry cask storage facility at the Fitzpatrick site. Constructed of steel and concrete, "dry casks" were developed in the 1980's when spent fuel storage pools began to reach full capacity. According to Paul Gunter, director of the Reactor Watchdog Project at the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, the casks' structural integrity is questionable. Many casks show signs of inadequate welding and material degradation. The solution to this nuclear waste storage crisis is simple: stop producing it in the first place.

Making matters worse, the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee recently (June 2) directed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to eliminate 700 jobs (from 2900 to 2200) by the end of year 2000 — steps it claimed would be consistent with industry's organizational efforts to compete in a restructured marketplace. As part of the proposal, the subcommittee suggested that the NRC cut its staff of safety inspectors for nuclear power plants from 1,440 to 904 over the next two years. According to Dave Lochbaum, Nuclear Safety Engineer for the Union of Concerned Scientists, "This cut-back, if implemented, would severely limit the NRC's ability to fulfill its vital nuclear safety oversight function." Lochbaum warns, "This ill-advised and unwarranted action could very well increase the threat of accidents at the nation's nuclear plants." Given all the safety problems at the Nine Mile One, Nine Mile Two, and James A. Fitzpatrick nuclear power plants, this Senate subcommittee's proposal could have severe implications for Central New Yorkers' safety, health, and welfare. "Worn-out emergency equipment and dwin-



Anita Welych, 1997.

dling repair budgets are reasons to increase, not reduce, the number of federal safety inspectors," said Lochbaum. Besides the NRC, there is no other agency responsible for guarding the public from the radiation risks from nuclear power facilities. Fortunately for the American public, the full Appropriations Committee on June 4th did not adopt the subcommittee's proposal for job cuts. However, the full committee did cut NRC's budget request to \$466 million, about \$17 million less than the agency's request.

Nuclear safety will also be impacted by the restructuring of the electric utility industry. Restructuring initiatives at both the federal and state levels are pushing the electric utility industry away from traditional rate regulation, with protected retail monopolies, toward increased competition. Power plants of all kinds will survive in an open market only if they generate electricity at competitive prices. Recent studies indicate that anywhere from 5 to 37 nuclear power plants will not be able to compete and probably will be shut down. As Dave Lochbaum points out, "this range of estimated closures implies that some nuclear plants face an uncertain future: they will survive only if they can cut costs." Although all power plants will be under increased competitive pressure to cut costs and raise profits, these pressures will be extreme for plants that are economically marginal. Such pressure to cut costs at marginal nuclear plants has the very serious implication of reducing the margin of error on safety. In fact, this can be

continued on page 21

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Will Fudeman, Lic.Ac., C.S.W.

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## Nine Mile Update Cont. from page 19

illustrated in a recent incident where the NRC attributed safety problems at the closed Maine Yankee nuclear plant to "economic pressure to be a low-cost energy producer"—pressure that limited available resources for repairs.

By confronting the nuclear industry at a regional level, central New Yorkers can force the shutdown of these menacing local plants; thereby preventing a public health nightmare and ensuring a clean and safe and environment for our children to grow up in. If you're interested in working with others on issues of

nuclear safety come to the next Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort Coalition meeting at The Good Earth Cafe, Mondays at 5:45pm. For more information regarding this coalition, contact: Simon Morrin (phone: 422-4219); Kyle Rabin (phone: 478-2371); or Tim Judson (phone: 472-5478).

Also, please contact the NRC officials listed below and let them know the following (see box, previous page, for names and info):

- that you are concerned about Niagara Mohawk's and other regional utilities' abil-

ity to operate nuclear power facilities in a safe manner.

- that you are requesting that an independent entity, not Niagara Mohawk, perform a thorough safety analysis and systems readiness review of the Nine Mile Point One and Two nuclear power plants; and that until this analysis/review occurs both plants should be shutdown.

*Kyle Rabin is a member of the Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort Coalition and the Greens of Greater Syracuse.*



## Radioactive Waste Reaches Columbia River Watershed

THERE ARE A NUMBER of incidents that have brought and continue to bring complete shame to the nuclear industry. The fiasco at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in southeastern Washington, is one such incident. The Hanford site was home to the world's first plutonium production facilities. Production began in the mid 1940's and ended in the late 1980's (footnote). Over the span of half a century, a massive amount of nuclear weapons waste has accumulated at Hanford. Cleaning up this mess has proven to be an ominous task. The Department of Energy estimates that it will take seven decades and \$73 billion to clean up the Hanford reservation.

Over 1,500 waste sites have been identified at Hanford. These range from small areas of surface contamination to million gallon storage tanks holding highly radioactive liquid waste. The waste of greatest concern at Hanford is this high-level liquid waste, stored in 177 underground tanks. These wastes are the by-product of chemical processes which were used to separate the plutonium from fuel rods that were irradiated in Hanford's nuclear reactors.

Of the 177 tanks, 149 are single shell tanks—many of which are about forty to fifty years old. These tanks have a single wall of carbon steel encased in concrete and range in size from 55,000 to one million gallons. As many as 67 of these tanks have leaked an estimated one million gallons of high-level radioactive waste into the soil beneath the tanks. Some of this waste has reached groundwater beneath the site. Many of the 82 other single shell tanks will likely leak in the future. The remaining 28 tanks have a double containment shell. The United States Department of Energy (USDOE) began to use these double shell tanks in 1970. Each tank holds about one million gallons of waste.

USDOE does not believe these tanks

have leaked. USDOE has pumped most of the liquid from about three quarters of the single shell tanks into the double shell tanks. When the liquids are removed, a semi-solid, sludge-like material remains behind. USDOE hasn't decided what to do with this highly radioactive sludge or the tanks themselves. The single and double shell tanks combined hold about 56 million gallons of high-level waste.

Another major waste problem is some 2,100 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel. This spent fuel is stored in two water-filled basins that are located near the Columbia River. The bottom of these basins is covered with as much as two to three feet of highly radioactive sludge. Much of the fuel is highly corroded. At least one of these basins has leaked in the past. Work is underway to remove the spent fuel from these basins, but it will take several years to complete. Hanford's nine reactor buildings, four chemical separation facilities and many other plutonium laboratories and storage areas all present major cleanup problems for USDOE.

In a November 2, 1997 Associated Press news brief, Hanford spokesperson Guy Schein said the cleanup of the nation's most polluted nuclear site is so complex that delays in deadlines are inevitable. "Everything we are doing at Hanford practically is pioneering work," Schein said. "It's all firsts." Schein's statements can also be said of the nuclear power industry, particularly in regards to core shroud intergranular stress corrosion cracking—a condition that plagues Niagara Mohawk's Nine Mile One Nuclear facility. For Niagara Mohawk, repairing the cracked weldings in Nine Mile One and Two's core shrouds is all new territory.

— Kyle Rabin

*Footnote: Plutonium from Hanford's first reactor was used in the atomic bomb which destroyed Nagasaki, Japan in August 1945.*

## Godzilla Cont. from page 16

opening credits, there isn't any. But then again, there doesn't have to be. Unlike the science fiction films of the fifties and sixties that told stories of promising scientific advances gone awry, contemporary sci-fi audiences no longer have to be convinced that humans are often foolish and arrogant, they only need to be reminded of it occasionally. *Godzilla* is that reminder, and he wastes no time metaphorically slapping humanity in the face by toppling, submerging, or squashing a few of its knick-knacks and members as restitution for its habit of testing the boundaries of the natural order.

Still, despite the presence of such moral lessons, it's important not to forget that few people would ever consider paying to see a morality tale about human arrogance if it wasn't wrapped up in something a bit more uplifting. Thus, as signified by *Godzilla's* death, human vs. nature films also instruct us that our arrogance is accompanied by an ingenuity that can (eventually) contain any of the mishaps that may occur along the sometimes rocky path of progress. Therefore, rather than suggest humanity give up its quest to be the ultimate power on the planet, *Godzilla's* message is to proceed, just at a slower and more cautious pace.

*Joseph M Smith is a sci-fi film lover, a writer, and the publisher of Orthophobe Magazine. He currently resides in Utica.*

### Sources:

- Hodgens, Richard. "A Brief, Tragical History of the Science Fiction Film," *Film Quarterly* Vol. 13 No. 2 (1959) pp. 30-39.
- Schelde, Per. *Androids, Humanoids, and Other Science Fiction Monsters*. New York University, 1993.



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## India's Nuclear Challenge continued from page 13

dom Forum (published in the 1996 book *India and the Bomb*, Notre Dame Press) show widespread support for nuclear disarmament and a willingness by educated elites in India to forego the nuclear option if the major powers abandon their weapons. India's decision to test nuclear weapons confirms that the United States cannot retain its weapons and expect other nations to accept nuclear apartheid indefinitely. By announcing a major initiative by offering political, economic, and security assurances to India and Pakistan the United States might be able to head off the emerging nuclear arms race in South Asia and shore up the tattered nuclear nonproliferation regime.

The United States and the other major powers have committed themselves on numerous occasions to the goal of nuclear weapons elimination, most recently at the NPT extension conference in New York in May 1995. As part of the agreement that led to unanimous support for indefinite extension of

the NPT, the United States and the other nuclear weapons states approved a document, "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament," that committed them to the goal of global nuclear disarmament. The document reaffirmed Article VI of the NPT and specifically promised "the determined pursuit by the nuclear weapons states of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons." Failure to fulfill these commitments "undermines the authority of the United States and other nuclear weapons states in combating proliferation," according to the National Academy of Science report. Many other experts and former military officials have made the same point. In December 1996, General George Lee Butler, former commander in chief of the US Strategic Command, joined with dozens of other retired senior officers from around the world to call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In February 1998 more than 100 civilian political leaders, including 47

present or former heads of state, issued a similar call for deep cuts and the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is long past time for the United States and the other nuclear weapons states to put forward a technologically and politically sound blueprint for moving forward in a step-by-step process toward the elimination of nuclear weapons in the shortest possible time. The outlines of such a plan were developed in 1996 by the prestigious Canberra Commission and have been further developed in a draft Nuclear Weapons Convention approved by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1997. An initiative by major powers to begin negotiating such a plan, and an invitation for India and Pakistan to sit at a table and join the process, would dramatically transform the dynamics of the nuclear competition in South Asia and the world.

*David Cortright is president of the Fourth Freedom Forum and former executive director of Sane (Reprinted from PeaceWork, June 1998)*

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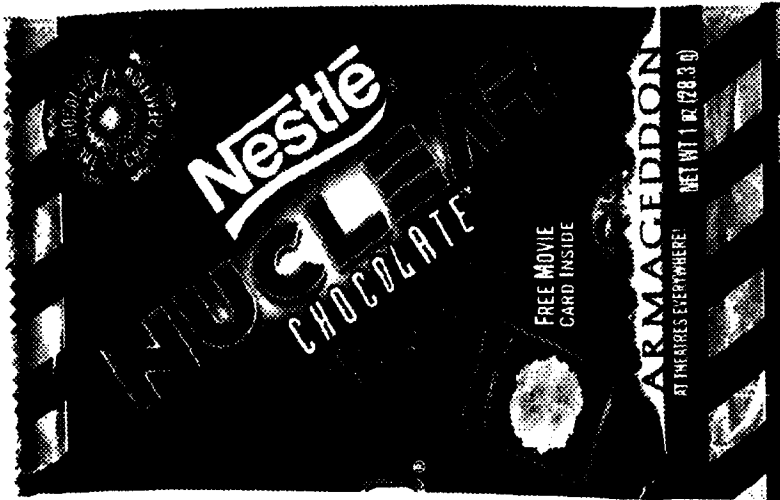
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# Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice August 1998 PNL 670



**Never Again  
Hiroshima!**  
**Never Again Nagasaki!**  
Takeo Uchida to Join Syracuse Observances

**T**his summer's remembrance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will include an afternoon with Takeo Uchida on August 9. Mr. Uchida is a volunteer with the Never Again Campaign, which shares Japanese culture in order to promote international understanding. The campaign focuses on abolition of war as a means of resolving conflicts. Volunteers like Uchida spread the message of A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: *Never Again Pearl Harbor! Never Again Hiroshima! Never Again Nagasaki!*  
*Never Again War!*

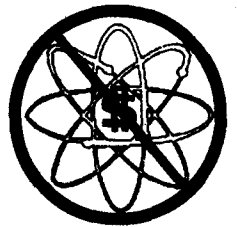
**Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**An Afternoon for the Whole Family with Takeo Uchida**  
South Presbyterian Church,  
corner S. Salina and W. Colvin  
**1pm Children's activities with Mr. Uchida: origami paper folding, India ink painting, Japanese toy demo. Video, Nagasaki, August 9<sup>th</sup>, for adults.**  
**1:45 Adult discussion with Mr. Uchida & supervised activities for children.**  
**2:15 Refreshments**  
**2:45 Slideshow, Hiroshima Testimony through Paintings. Supervised children's activities.**



**Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Procession & Vigil Downtown**  
**11:30am** — Gather at Plymouth Church, across from Columbus Circle. We will return to Columbus Circle for the vigil.

## NiMo Shareholders Applaud Anti-Nuke Activists

Tim Judson



In last month's SPC Pages we offered some speculations on what Niagara Mohawk's annual shareholders meeting would be like. The tone was admittedly sarcastic, and just a bit cynical. Those of us involved in the Close Nine Mile One! (CNM1!) campaign had heard rumors of much backpatting and repression of dissent at such events, and reading through the company's annual report for shareholders only reinforced those expectations.

Two months ago, members of CNM1! purchased some stock in the name of the Syracuse Power Alliance so we could voice concerns at the meeting, and Simon Morrin and I attended the meeting on June 29 in Buffalo. We were very nervous, especially because we were the only two people from the local group able to attend: If there were to be safety in numbers, we were sitting ducks. We went with the conviction that, regardless of those factors, ordinary people's voices are legitimate and need to be heard. There is some weird strength in knowing that, even if the worst happened and we were silenced, it would only prove the repressive and anti-democratic stance of the corporation.

Despite our expectations and all the expected backpatting and railroading of agendas (NiMo apparently has as little appreciation of democratic process within their own midst as they do in our communities), it was an unequivocally positive event. A Buffalo TV station interviewed Simon before the meeting and they got footage of the two of us holding signs and passing out fliers outside the Buffalo Convention Center.

Following CEO William Davis's summary of the report and balloting on several issues, there was an open question and answer session during which we voiced our concerns. Davis was visibly uncomfortable as we criticized NiMo on their safety record and their misrepresentation of the financial costs of their nuke plants. Many shareholders even showed their appreciation of our comments by clapping at one point. The only disappointment was that more people from the campaign were not able to attend, since we could easily have stacked the meeting with anti-nuke speakers. (NiMo virtually assured this by changing the meeting date 3 times).

continued on page 3

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August 1998  
PNL 670

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## Finding New Beauty among the Voiceless

This letter is from Sister Megan Rice, one of Syracuse's SOA 9 who is serving a six month sentence for marching on the School of Americans in November 1997. You can write to her at Megan Rice #88101-020, FPC Danbury, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811-3099. For more on the SOA, see the Caribbean/Latin America Coalition Notes on page 7.

### So what can time in prison be for one? Many different possibilities:

I have found it at times a *simulation exercise*. As I read, for example, in the *Weekly News Updates* (Nicaragua Solidarity Network of Greater NY) the litany of people dead or wounded by "anti-narcotics" patrols of Mexican military, people charged, arrested, held for "rebellion," "terrorism," "community organizing"; assaults at daybreak, with more wounded and detained; and here, I see women arriving among us, terrorized by "17 days in seg." [segregation] or after "six years in a state facility, with a year in solitary." Or I turn behind me as I garden on the camp entrance path, to face a woman friend shackled, cuffed, shuffling along to climb into a waiting, spiffy mini-van accompanied by two spiffily-

uniformed guards to go for an MRI at Danbury Hospital; or hearing my own name, "inmate Rice!" called over the loudspeaker at 10pm to report to the correctional officer. Somehow, I recall, *this* may be some *small bit* like the terror imposed by US domination and strengthening the "national security" state systems in "our own back yards" these many years.

Physically, the entire Danbury facility compound I find to be a *symbol* of contemporary US post-consumptive opulence. I see 1,200+ creative, gifted, energetic women entrapped in a gross extravagance of US Federal funding. Prime property with exquisite acreage overlooking the foothills of the Berkshires and a finger of Candlewood Lake (with the ultimate in camping lake-side facilities available to the prison staff only, of course); an enormous double-fenced, sprawling facility, close to a mile in perimeter, housing 1000+ "low security prisoners" and our own "minimum security" camp outside the walls with its own 1/4-mile track. Superfluously numerous shiny white pickups, buses, tractors, available even for certain "campers" to drive around for one of the outside departments. Grounds, maintenance, electrical, plumbing, construction corps — each lavishly equipped with tools of the trade, rendering the FCI apparently self-sufficient in all aspects of physical maintenance. There is an abundance of workers (prisoners) and ample staff — a degree of "1st World" opulence, for me almost unimaginable for the *physical* maintenance alone.

Then I see an almost total absence of "maintenance" at the basic level of *human development*: the needs for personal security, healing and loving acceptance as a human person. So, just as I've seen US foreign policy covered by a veneer of lies, lying seems to be the order of the day in keeping inmates "down." This is experienced as unavailable, yet promised, psychiatric help; delayed and inaccurately recorded medical attention; a plethora of often arbitrary regulations with threats of harsh sanctions; the use of obscenity and violent language by prison officials, with no direct opportunities for fair arbitration. Thus is created an almost unrelenting atmosphere for violent behavior needing to be constantly suppressed. Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia — USA today?

For me, time in prison has also been a deeply privileged time for revisioning.<sup>1</sup> It dis-



### Activists Meet with New SOA Commandant

In May, Ed Kinane participated in a meeting in Boston with the newly-assigned School of the Americas commandant, Capt. Weidner. Seven activists met with him for nearly 3 hours and had a very cordial and substantial exchange. The commandant is extremely well-spoken and is likely to put a better face on the SOA for the media. A radio-journalist taped 2 hours of the discussion, which will be packaged for distribution to stations all over the country. Ed now has a copy of those tapes. In Syracuse, CNY-SOA Abolitionists are working on organizational issues, as an ad hoc movement deals with growth and finances and the long-term reality that Pres. Clinton still firmly backs the SOA. Ed Kinane and Kathleen Rumpf left July 19 for their July 23 sentencing date in Columbus, GA. Kathleen will not pay an appearance bond, and will likely be taken into custody on July 23. Ed will be back for more organizing. — Paul Weichselbaum

locates one from assumed positions of entitlement — whether by accident of birth into "strata" in a "1st World" (1/3 world) culture, race, gender, or by dint of education, life-experience or whatever. I am able to take a new look from a new perspective at the reality which surrounds me, being more truly *at one* with the voiceless. Prison means a break from immersion in a life-style of "too much" reviving and enhancing in me the value of "the surplus which is enough"<sup>2</sup>. And every day I am enthralled anew, contemplating the wonders of creation. I am empowered to find new beauty in the depths of the human capacity to love, for endurance, for compassion — for life in all its grandeur, shining through laughter, tears and the stories shared. I'm given new hope that there is possibility for the Great Economy<sup>3</sup> where all *will* experience "life in all its fullness" (Jn 10:10). — Megan Rice

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Myers, Ched. *Who Will Roll Away the Stone*. Orbis. 1995.

<sup>2</sup> Taylor, John V. *Enough Is Enough*. London, SCM. 1995.

<sup>3</sup> Berry, Wendell. *Home Economics*. North Point Press. 1987.

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# Revolution You Can Dance To

## Join the Northeast Nuclear Action Camp — August 21-28

Tim Judson

People across the Northeast and New England will be gathering near Brattleboro, VT, this summer for a week of workshops, music, organizing and protest against nuclear power in the region. The Northeast Nuclear Action Camp is being organized by a coalition of groups (including SPC and the Close Nine Mile One! Campaign) working on the Nuclear-Free New England Campaign to offer education and training to people interested in organizing against nukes in their communities. People of all levels of experience are encouraged to attend.

Many activists working to close the Nine Mile One plant plan to attend, and we are gathering a large delegation of Central New Yorkers to come with us. Judging by the great



excitement and sense of empowerment generated by our modest teach-in with activists from the Citizens Awareness Network in March, the camp looks to be one of the most important events in years for the anti-nuclear movement in the Northeast: up to 200 activists will return to their communities with the skills, knowledge, resources, and resolve to rid our region of the nuclear menace.

The camp will open on **Friday, August 21**, and on **Saturday** will be a rally with speakers and music on the Brattleboro Commons. On **Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup>**, Bread & Puppet Theater will lead a guerilla theater and banner making workshop, which will generate skits and materials for a non-violent direct action on **Thursday** at the nearby Vermont Yankee plant.

Dozens of workshops will be offered on issues from radioactive waste to utility de-

It's a Bird ... It's a Tree ...  
It's a Plant ...  
**BUT WHAT KIND?**  
Join SPC and find out with a fun walk in the woods with Karen Kerney, Andy Molloy, & Marge Rusk.  
Saturday, Sept. 19.  
Details in the next PNL.

regulation to sustainable energy. Other sessions include using the media, grassroots organizing, fundraising, and more. There will also be non-violence training for those taking part in the action on Thursday.

The camp will be held on 15 acres in beautiful southern Vermont. There will be screened cabins, plenty of room for camping, and three meals prepared daily. Cost for the camp is minimal (\$10 for the week + \$5/day for food).

Help us rid Central New York and the Northeast of nuclear power — make the region a clean, safe place to live. Call SPC (472-5478) or Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort (422-4219) for more registration or info.



## NiMo Shareholders Mtg. cont. from page 1

Specifically, I responded to Davis's claim that NiMo has improved its management of the Nine Mile plants. I presented a 100-page printout of NiMo's Nuclear Regulatory Commission violations and listed some of the more damning recent incidents and issues (see June and July PNLs).

NiMo is also counting on starting a "New York Nuclear Operating Company," which would operate all the nuke plants in the state for the plants' current owners, allegedly to "increase efficiency" and improve management of the state's seven nuke facilities. I pointed out that this sounds like a great way for the company to absolve itself of accountability for the plants while still raking in all the dough; the plants need to be closed and new management is not going to keep radiation out of our communities.

Simon challenged the company's claim that nuclear represents a cost-effective and economically viable source of power. He compared the nuke industry's claim 40 years ago that nuclear power would eventually be so efficient it would be "too cheap to meter" to

the reality that it costs consumers nearly 33% more than other sources of electricity, and NiMo's nuclear costs in particular have risen rates in New York State to the second highest in the US.

Davis tried to dismiss the analysis by saying we have to "put the past behind us," but I saw several shareholders raise their heads during Simon's presentation. Judging by the presence of so many venerable gray-haired heads, the vast majority of shareholders present could remember the jingoistic claims of the budding nuclear industry of the 1950s and '60s.

We also met Joan Malone, who has been putting a proposal before the shareholders the past three years to endorse the CERES Principles. CERES is a set of directives toward corporate environmental responsibility developed by environmental groups in the wake of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The NiMo Board recommended shareholders vote against it because it would put an "unfair burden" on NiMo relative to their competitors. The measure did not pass.

Tim is a staffperson at SPC, member of the PNL Collective, and nukebuster. He is recently shiny and happy.



**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.

**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 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.

**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.

### September Issue Deadlines

Articles	Aug 6
Ads	Aug 13
Calendar Items	Aug 13

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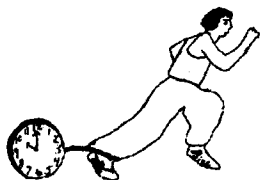
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Edited by Mike Kernahan

Illustrated by the kids of Common Place Land Trust and Community

**Do curfews reduce crime?**

The rash of school shootings has provoked an anti-youth backlash, with the usual lock-em-up noises by pols. In such a climate we can only faintly hope attention will be paid to a new study by the Justice Policy Institute in San Francisco of youth curfews.



Analyzing the impact of the youth curfews in the most populous California counties and cities, the study concludes that they did not lower the juvenile crime rate. In four of the largest counties there was racial bias in curfew enforcement. Finally, while curfews did not reduce crimes committed by black and Latino youth, they were associated with a rise in misdemeanors among white and Asian youth.

Source: *The Nation*

five times federal subsidies. Source: *Institute for Policy Studies*



**News of the weak in review**

South Carolina, where tobacco is king, has a law imposing criminal sanctions on women who use drugs or alcohol while pregnant. The state Supreme Court recently upheld the law, denying an appeal by a

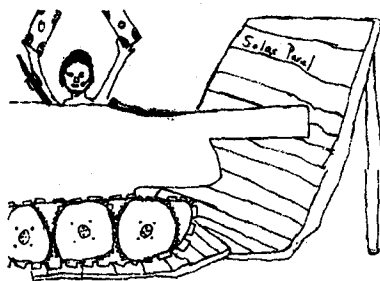
woman who was sentenced to five years in prison under the statute. In the current issue of the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, a study of animals found that cigarettes cause far more extensive fetal brain damage than does crack.

Source: *The Nation*

word 'discharge,'" Vogt told colleagues. "There is no such thing as discharge. We should get rid of the word. You're transitioning the patient into another health care environment." Source: *Multinational Monitor*

**Lock up the kids, too**

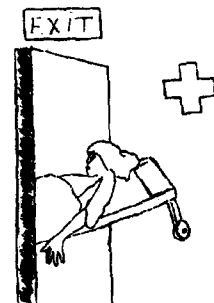
Louisiana's novel plan to transfer kids sentenced to juvenile prisons into adult prisons ran into a speed bump late last year. Juvenile court judge Kathleen Ritchey ruled it unconstitutional because the new state law permitting such transfers and its implementing policy ignore the children's due process rights. "An affected juvenile is not afforded notice, an opportunity to respond, or any avenue of review in the correction's department decision



**Kaiser's Bottom Line**

In a December 1995 speech to other HMO managers, a Kaiser Permanente executive boasted about putting the "bottom line" first and about a 1995 plan to cut hospital admissions by 30 percent. The executive said the plan was drafted when he and a colleague were drinking whiskey heavily during a delayed flight from San Jose, California to Dallas, Texas.

The transcript of the speech was filed in a Texas lawsuit that Kaiser settled in December 1997 for \$5.3 million. In that case, the family of a Texas man claimed that his death was due to Kaiser cost-cutting.



In the speech, Vogt revealed that "the first thing that ever comes out of a Kaiser CEO now is 'what's the bottom line.'" He added, "I'm trained to do that now almost automatically."

An important way to cut costs, Vogt said, is to get patients out of the hospital early. But Vogt doesn't like the use of the word "discharge." "We need to get away from this

to transfer him for adult correctional treatment." She also said a review of prison legislation around the country suggests that confining the young in unsegregated adult prisons, as Louisiana is doing, "shocks, or at least disturbs, the collective conscience of the American public."

If so, it certainly doesn't seem to bother many state and federal public officials and lawmakers. Legislation is expected to reach final passage in Congress this year to send children as young as 13 to adult prisons and, among other cruel measures, lengthen the list of crimes for which they can be tried as adults. States that follow suit will get a piece of the federal \$1.5 billion "implementation" pie. President Clinton has publicly blessed the package which has wide bipartisan support. Louisiana is in the forefront of America's war against its children.

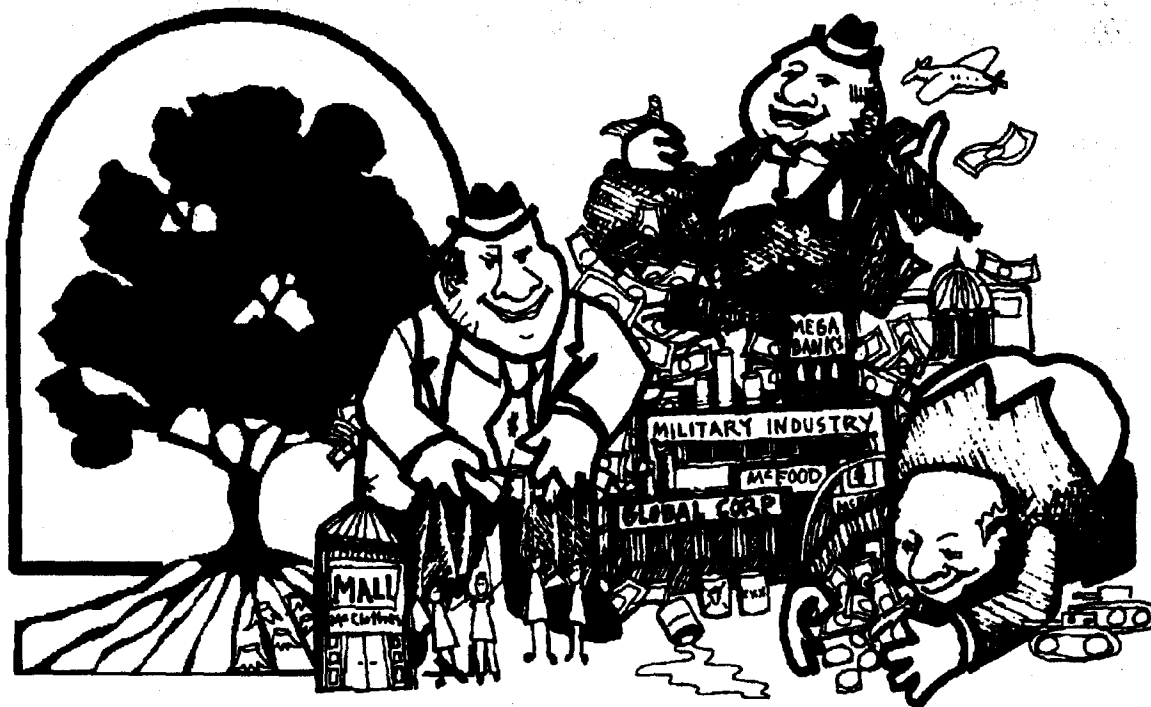
Source: *The Angolite, The Prison News Magazine of Angola (Louisiana) State Prison*

**Envirotech vs. Armstech**

The National Commission for Economic Conversion and Disarmament has issued a report entitled *A Tale of Two Markets: Trade in Arms and Environmental Technologies*. It contends that the US is missing out on the \$400 billion world market for environmental technology because it is so wedded to heavy subsidies for companies engaged in selling arms. This country is now spending twelve times as much promoting the arms traffic as it is sales of US-made environment-friendly technologies like renewable energy sources, clean cars, and energy-efficient building materials, though the arms market is declining while the environmental market is on the upswing. Federal subsidies for arms exports make up half the arms industry's export revenues, while environmental technology generates sales twenty-







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## CLAC Notes, June and July 1998 Summary

**Chiapas:** Shirley Novak participated in a large delegation to Chiapas, July 2-9. Killings in Chiapas motivated holding a prayer service at St. Lucy's Church on June 17. The international delegation was needed as the oppression has become more clandestine and the Mexican government has increasingly tried to keep observers away from the areas of conflict. Long term, Nancy Gwin is promoting a CNY delegation to Chiapas for around March 14, 1999. Please call her at 442-4689. Shirley will speak in depth about the situation in Chiapas at 7:30pm, Wed., Aug. 12, at Plymouth Church, immediately following the monthly CLAC meeting.

In July, we welcomed Brian Dominick and Adrienne Allen's participation. They will be calling a meeting of all people interested in Chiapas, to develop a united, local, grassroots organization to be part of the international solidarity network. The Zapatistas have very specific suggestions about the kind of organizing and support they value, in terms of coordination of information and public education, direct pressure on the US government, revolutionary activities in the US, and direct solidarity.

**Haiti:** Sen. D'Amato has cosponsored the Haitian Immigration Fairness Act, which would provide relief for Haitian refugees who fled Haiti for reasons similar to currently more-favored refugees from certain other countries. Cynthia Banas is carrying petitions and has written to Sen. D'Amato to thank him for his stand on this issue.

**Cuba:** The showing of the film

*Guantanamera* at the Westcott Cinema drew over 200 people and raised \$1100 for the Pastors for Peace Caravan this summer. Juan Lorenzo and Doug Igelsrud met with Rep. Walsh on June 1 regarding a bill that would allow food and medicine to reach Cuba. Walsh appeared to be receptive; he should be contacted and asked to support HR 1951. The Pastors for Peace Caravan collected twenty-eight boxes of medical aid, donated by local hospitals, on their July 4 visit.

**El Salvador:** The five enlisted men who have been jailed for the 1980 slaying of 4 US



*The Castillo-Zamora Family in Edmonton, Alberta (foreground): Roberto (Carlos), Gloria (Juana), Alfonso, Alba, (seated) Osmaro*

churchwomen will be released soon. Four of the men named the officers who ordered the killings, but the Salvadoran judiciary has reiterated that the statute of limitations has passed and the officers (some of whom are in comfortable situations in South Florida) will not be prosecuted.

**Guatemala:** There have been continued threats against human rights workers since the assassination of Bishop Gerardi in April. A second person has been arrested for the kill-

## SOA Summer Sendoff Supper

**Aug 8th @ May Memorial**

**6pm — Supper**

**7pm — Program**

*For details, see back cover.*

ing, after it became clear that the first person charged was a scapegoat who could not have been involved.

**Karen Houghton:** Long-time activist Karen Houghton died on June 27. A memorial service was planned for her on July 19 at the Mansion House in Oneida. She will be missed.

**Day Without the Pentagon:** The Day Without the Pentagon's second annual event is scheduled Oct. 19 at the Pentagon. CLAC signed on as a co-sponsor. Later that month, on Oct. 29, internationally-recognized expert on welfare and class issues Frances Fox Piven will be in town all day, giving several talks and participating in The People's Roundtable that evening.

**Castillo-Zamora Family:** At the end of June, Joan Goldberg spent four wonderful days in Edmonton visting the Castillo-Zamora family. Gloria, Roberto, their three children, Gloria's parents and her three sisters and brother and two nieces were in sanctuary in Syracuse from 1987-89. The family sends their love to everyone here and thanks us for all our work and support through the years. They remember the good and bad times, the laughter and tears, and all the people who helped them build a community here. They especially send their love and support to Ed, Kathleen, Ann, Doris, Dan and Nick. They admire their courage and wish them well.

**SOA Watch:** See page 2 for updates.

*Next meeting: Wednesday, August 12, 6pm potluck, Plymouth Congregational Church. For more information call Paul at 478-1592.* — Paul Weichselbaum



## Common Place Land Trust Summer Gathering

**2pm Saturday, August 22  
to 2pm Sunday, August 23**

*Music, singing, swimming, hiking, bonfire, potluck picnic (we provide corn and potatoes).*

*Overnight campers welcome. No dogs allowed.*

*For information call (607)842-6039*

## Abbreviated Community Calendar — August 1998

*Please consult the July PNL calendar for info on regularly scheduled meetings & events.*

**AUG. 6:** John Rossbach in concert at Marcellus Town Park, Marcellus, NY. 7pm. 673-4704.

**AUG. 6:** Hiroshima Procession featuring giant puppets of Fire in the Belly Theater. 11:30am gather on Madison St. by Plymouth Church. 12:00pm procession. 12:45pm vigil at Columbus Circle. 478-7442 or 472-5478.

**AUG. 7:** Women's Peaceland Open Campfire. Share stories & songs about Women's Herstory. 5440 Rte 96, Romulus, NY (formerly the Women's Peace Camp). 7pm. Refreshments provided. (607) 869-3801.

**AUG. 8:** Farewell to SOA Activist Ed Kinane. Dinner and Barb Dunn-Caillagh in concert. Sponsored by Syracuse Peace Council. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 6-9pm. 472-5478.

**AUG. 9:** Family Day with Takeo Uchida at South Presbyterian Church, W. Colvin & S. Salina Streets. See front cover for details. Call 478-7442 or 472-5478.

**AUG. 22-28:** Northeast Nuclear Action Camp in southern Vermont. Seven days of anti-nuclear training, education, networking, actions and fun. See page 2 for details.

Syracuse Peace Council & SOA Abolitionist Affinity Group

# Summer Social ~ Sendoff Supper

Saturday August 8, 6pm

Lite Summer Dinner Fare

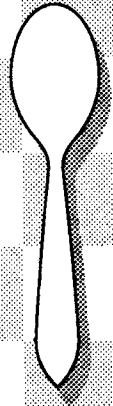


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Join us as we send off Kathleen and Ed. Help show our love, gratitude and support~ and acknowledgment of their great sacrifice.

Barb Dunn returns to the joy of her old fans and is sure to make new ones with her inspiring percussive message music. Her vocals and guitar are accompanied by Lianne on piano and djembe as they use a variety of styles to put new twists on old and new music!



Help SPC raise funds to close the SOA ~ donation 0~\$15

May Memorial Unitarian Church ~ 3800 E. Genesee St.

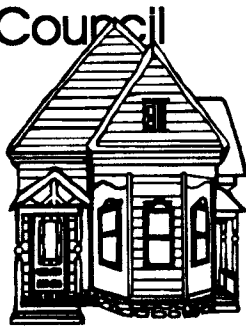
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The Welcome Back! Issue

# Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice September 1998 PNL 671



Kathleen Rumpf, arrested for demonstrating at the School of Americas, goes before same Judge who released Lt. Calley, the US Army officer directly responsible for My Lai Massacre in Viet Nam...She wore this T-Shirt fashioned by local activists Ruth Putter and Melyn Richman...Kathleen did not get off so lightly. Much more inside...



Judge Releases Lt. Calley

# 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  
Beth Mosley

**SPC Press**  
Paul Pearce

### Bookkeeper

Duane Hardy

### SPC Council:

Paul Frazier, Rae Kramer,  
Carl Mellor, Andy Molloy,  
Marge Rusk, Ann Tiffany

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

## The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets most Wednesdays at 5:30 PM at the Peace Council. Call SPC to confirm the time.

**Editorial & Production:** Beth Berila, Paul Frazier, Karen Hall, Bill Hamler, Tim Judson, Mike Kernahan, Rae Kramer, Bill Mazza, Joy Meeker, Andy Molloy, Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce

**Graphics Coordinator:** Anita Welych

**Cover Coordinator:** Karen Kerney

## SPC Projects: 472-5478

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

## Other Volunteers

Sonali Sathaye, Chuck Durand, Mardea Warner, Amy Bartell, Vanessa Johnson, Ed Kinane, Aggie Lane, Joan Goldberg, Ruth Putter, Margaret Birdlebough, Kathy Barry, Brian Caulfield, Fredrick Noyes, Jolie Rickman, Bill Mazza, Lance Hogan, Bill Hamler, Sylvia Burgess, Daniel Bowers, Carol Baum, Chris Spies-Rusk, Susan Adair, Nick Orth, Michael DeSalvo

## 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

<b>Abolish the Blocade of Cuba</b>	Doug Igelsrud	471-5749	<b>Peace Action of CNY</b>	Diane Swords	478-7442
<b>ACLU-CNY Chapter</b>	Barrie Gewanter	471-2821	<b>Peace Brigades International</b>	Ed Kinane	478-4571
<b>Alliance-Psychiatric System</b>	George Ebert	475-4120	<b>P.E.A.C.E., Inc.</b>	Louis Clark	470-3300
<b>Survivors</b>	Jay Liestee	499-0845	<b>People Against the Death Penalty</b>		637-3344
<b>Alternatives to Violence Project</b>			<b>People for Animal Rights</b>		488-PURR (7877)
<b>American Friends Service Committee</b>		475-4822	<b>Physicians for Social Responsibility</b>		488-2140
<b>Animal Defense League</b>		479-9105	<b>Planned Parenthood</b>		475-5525
<b>ARISE</b>		472-3171	<b>PWHIV/ AIDS Support Hotline</b>		471-5911
<b>Atlantic States Legal Foundation</b>		475-1170	<b>ReConsider</b>	Nick or Alex Eyle	422-6231
<b>Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition</b>	Shirley Novak	446-6099	<b>Religion: Other</b>	Phoenix or Kat	474-8801
<b>Citizens Against Radioactive Dumping</b>		(607) 753-6271	<b>Rose Center</b>	Teri Cameron	422-3426
<b>Citizen Review Board</b>	Felicia Davis	448-8750	<b>Sarah House</b>		475-1747
<b>CNY Center for Occupational Health and Safety</b>		471-6187	<b>Save the County</b>		637-6066
<b>CNY Environment</b>	Lee Gechas	446-5319	<b>SEEDS</b>		(607) 749-2818
<b>CNY N.O.W.</b>		487-3188	<b>Service Employees International</b>	Robert Tompkins	424-1750
<b>Community Media Action Group</b>		423-4783	<b>Sierra Club</b>	Sue Carlson	445-1663
<b>CUSLAR</b>		(607) 255-7293	<b>Small Claims Court Action Center</b>		443-1401
<b>Dunbar Center</b>	Merriete Pollard	476-4269	<b>S.O.A. Watch/ CNY</b>	Ed Kinane	478-4571
<b>EON/Transgender Community</b>	Melissa	423-4099	<b>Social Workers for Peace</b>	Dick Mundy	445-0797
<b>Fair Housing Council of CNY</b>	Merrilee Witherell	471-0518	<b>Socialist Party</b>	Ron Ehrenreich	478-0793
<b>Fair Trial for Mumia Committee</b>		472-5478	<b>Spanish Action League</b>		471-3762
<b>Fightback! of CNY</b>		422-0555	<b>SU African-American Society</b>		443-4633
<b>Food Bank of CNY</b>		437-1899	<b>Student Environmental Action Coalition</b>	Michelle Baumfleck	423-8000
<b>Food Not Bombs</b>		423-7856	<b>Syr. Alternative Media Network</b>	Tim Brachocki	425-8806
<b>Friends of the Filipino People</b>	John Brulé	445-0698	<b>Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society</b>	SAVES/Joe Connolly	437-2163
<b>Gay/Lesbian Alliance</b>		422-5732	<b>Syracuse Community Choir</b>	Karen Mihalyi	428-8724
<b>Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Assoc. (SU)</b>		443-3599	<b>Syracuse Community Radio</b>	Frederic Noyes	234-2000
<b>Haiti Solidarity</b>	Ann Tiffany	478-4571	<b>Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union</b>		471-1116
<b>Hemlock Society</b>	Betty Bentley	463-0782	<b>Syracuse Cultural Workers</b>	Dik Cool	474-1132
<b>Hotel Employees 150</b>		437-0373	<b>Syracuse N.O.W.</b>		472-3294
<b>Irish Northern Aid</b>	Patrick Smith	469-8948	<b>Syr. Real Food Coop</b>		472-1385
<b>Jail Ministry</b>		424-1877	<b>Syr. Social Movement Initiative</b>		472-6955
<b>Kenlark Center for Creative Spirituality</b>	Bourke Kennedy	685-5414	<b>Syracuse United Neighbors</b>	Rich Puchalski	476-7475
<b>Lesbian/Gay Youth NAACP</b>		443-3599	<b>S.U. for Animal Rights</b>		443-4199
<b>Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.</b>	Van Robinson	422-6933	<b>Urban League</b>	Eloise Dowdell Curry	472-6955
<b>New Environment Association</b>	Ammie Chickering	365-2299	<b>Utica Community Action</b>	John Furman	797-7020
<b>NYPIRG</b>	Harry Schwarzlander	446-8009	<b>Witness for Peace Delegations</b>	Nancy Gwin	422-4689
<b>Onondaga Audobon</b>		457-7731	<b>Women's Center (SU)</b>		443-4268
<b>Onon. Women's Political Caucus</b>	Peggy Murray	475-7671	<b>Women's Health Outreach</b>		425-3653
<b>Open Hand Theatre</b>	Geoff Navias	476-0466	<b>Women's INFO Center</b>		478-4636
<b>Pax Christi</b>	Frank Woolever	446-1693			

(If you want your group listed, please call)

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

## In This Issue:

WELCOME BACK TO STUDENTS AND VACATIONERS! In honor of the annual return of Syracuse's total population, we decided to stage a sort of "homecoming" with this issue. You might notice a certain focus, for instance, on antimilitarism. That's more or less the Peace Council's bag — our "roots," as it were. And what could be more peace-ful than shutting down a school of torture (the SOA) and the institutions of violence that produce it (eg, the Pentagon). And of course there's always SPC's arch-nemesis organization, NATO. Find out why it hasn't gone away — and why it still poses as big a threat as ever.

Among other business, as SU folks return, they come home to two major issues: SU's atrocious contract offer to its union workers, and another sexual harassment & assault sweep-under-the-rug job (news on the latter next month). In Sept., the NRC will be coming to CNY for a public hearing on NiMo's Nine Mile 1 plant. And if anything hits closer to home than gender identity or the status of Black Liberation in this country, we don't know what does.

We especially welcome home the six SOA prisoners of conscience, while saying good-bye to Ed & Kathleen. — TJ

*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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**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

Thank you to all of the helpers for the August Mailing Party — and apologies to all those who missed it because of the date change. We are back on our regular schedule now. See you the last Thursday of the month!

# PEACE NEWSLETTER

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PNL 671

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## About the cover: "Pardon ME, Too"

When I last saw Kathleen Rumpf she had a smile just like the one in the photo of her on the cover. It was July 23 in the federal courthouse in Columbus, GA and this Syracuse activist was being taken by US Marshals to begin her 12 month sentence (see p. 6). The photo with the "pardon me, too" slogan was on the front of the T-shirt Kathleen wore to court that day.

On the back of her T-shirt was a color photo showing the remains of some of the hundreds of victims of the My Lai massacre in Viet Nam. Superimposed on this grim scene was a US flag.

(Local artists Ruth Putter, Melyn Richman

and Kathleen Rumpf collaborated in creating the tee shirt.)

The human rights course at the School of the Americas features the My Lai massacre. Our judge on July 23 was J. Robert Elliott — the same judge who released Lt. Calley, the US Army officer directly responsible for My Lai.

And what became of Calley? Calley found Columbus/Fort Benning so congenial that he now runs a jewelry business there.

Hmmm. Ever wonder what those students learn from their SOA human rights training?

— Ed Kinane

## Welcome Home, Prisoners of Conscience!

Nick Cardell, Anne Herman, Megan Rice, Dan Sage, Doris Sage, & Ann Tiffany

It's good to have you back, safe & sound.

This issue is dedicated to the struggle for universal freedom for which SOA Abolitionists have given up some of their own.

### October Issue Deadlines

Articles	Sep. 9
Ads	Sep. 18
Calendar Items	Sep. 18

Thanks to the following for their work in making the August 8th Summer Send-off for Ed Kinane and Kathleen

Rumpf a big success!

- May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society
- Syracuse Food Not Bombs
- Syracuse Community Choir
- Lanny Freshman • Amanda Hogan
- Sarah Hogan • Betty Jones
- Deb Kenn • Julienne Oldfield
- Chris Spies-Rusk • Lance Hogan
- Diana Squillace-Manno
- Barb Dunn Callagh
- Lianne Van De Ven



# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

## Tit for Tat Terrorism: SPC Protests US bombing of Sudan & Afghanistan

**U**nder cover of darkness on August 20 -- at the peak of the prurient interest in his ejaculatory tendencies -- the Commander-in-Chief ordered the launching of Cruise missiles against targets in Sudan and Afghanistan. Clinton linked those targets to Osama bin Laden, a former CIA associate, now opposed to the US military presence in the Mideast. We're told bin Laden is responsible for the August 7 bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

The work of bullies, the twin terrorisms of August 7 and August 20 were brutal and barbaric. They spurned diplomacy, due process and international law. They violated the sovereignty of impoverished, lesser-armed nations. They displayed contempt for human -- especially civilian -- life.

In all four bombings people of color were the primary casualties.

On August 21 the Syracuse Peace Council and Peace Action of CNY held a noon hour protest at the Federal Building. Some of our signs:

- All bombing is cowardly and bararic.
- "An eye for an eye makes everyone blind." (Gandhi)
- Bombing and revenge makes the world unsafe for Americans.

- Who benefits when the US government perpetuates terrorism?
- Bombing = keeping the pot boiling = more profit for US weapons manufacturers.

Standing in a circle, over 30 of us there discussed the issue. Kathy Barry and Brian Caulfield invited everyone to an action meeting that evening. To get involved call SPC at 472-5478 *Ed is a long-time peace and justice activist based in Syracuse, NY.*

### OPEN DISCUSSION

**A new Kind of War?**

**How can anyone make sense of this?**

**How do we respond?**

**Join us in an open discussion about our latest military actions.**

**September 3, 7pm  
Syracuse Peace Council  
for info- Call 472-5478**

## Syracuse Peace Council COMMUNITY GATHERING

### Redress of Grievances

From speaking out to getting locked up  
every citizen's obligation

6PM FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 18, 1998

Potluck Dinner

Panel *Community voices on dissent*

Open discussion and desserts

*Share a meal and conversation with old and new friends*

SEE BACK COVER FOR DETAILS

## SOA Summer Send-off Supper Success!

You missed a fine farewell fling if you were not in attendance on August 8 at May Memorial for the Summer Send-off Supper for felonius Kathleen Rumpf and Ed Kinane. These SOA Abolitionist activists were sentenced on July 23: 12 months for Kathleen and 10 months for Ed (plus 6 months for his sentence from January, totaling 16 months -- for more details, see page 6). Seventy-five people showed up for a delicious, light summer dinner. After dinner Ed read his eloquent statement given in court on July 23. Mary Sopchak read Kathleen's powerful court statement (for both statements, see page 8). Kathleen could not attend since she was in county jail in Columbus, Georgia waiting transfer to a federal prison in Texas. Many moving expressions of support and farewell came from the audience.

Melodious music was supplied by Barb Dunn Caillagh on vocals and guitar, accompanied by Lianne Van De Ven on piano and djembe.

Five of our colleague/jailbirds will be released from prison in late September. We will be very happy to have them back with us.

— John Fitzsimmons

## Peace Newsletter

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 \$\_\_\_\_ additional donation for all your great work!  This is a renewal  
 Please contact me about volunteering.  My address has changed

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IT'S A BIRD...  
IT'S A TREE...  
IT'S A PLANT...  
BUT WHAT KIND?

Saturday, September 19 • 1-4pm  
(rain date, Sept 20)

Come for a walk in the woods and find out with local naturalists Andy Molloy, Marge Rusk, Karen Kerney & more. Explore two one-hour loops on the undeveloped side of Verona Beach State Park.

An SPC fun-raising Event ~  
\$5/person, \$12/family

(additional donations gratefully accepted)

phone 472-5478 RSVP by 9/17 (so we have enough guides)



# Fort Benning — Here We Come Again

## Columbus, Georgia trip, July 1998

Rae Kramer

**O**UR GROUP of six began the trip from Syracuse to Columbus, Georgia with a loving send-off at 8:30 AM July 19. A beautiful yellow and blue morning, smiles and hugs with old and new friends. A cheery beginning for a journey to bear witness to our friends' upcoming sentencing to prison.

What is the proper decorum for such a trip? Especially when one of us is one of the five to be sentenced. We quickly fell into a good mix of lightness, intense discussion and long naps.

We stopped often and took longer than had previous Syracuse-Georgia SOA trips. It only occurs to me now to wonder if somehow we were trying to slow down actually getting there.

Is Columbus like other army towns? One notices a large number of strip joints, bars and pawn shops, the latter advertising that even car titles are welcome. (One pawn shop we visited had many Gulf War medals for sale.) What does this say about the life of an American soldier assigned to a base in the U.S.?

Margaret Birdlebough, from the Syracuse-based SOA Abolitionists Affinity group, and Charlie Liteky, long-time anti-SOA activist from California, welcomed us to the vigil house they have set up about two miles from Fort Benning. The house is small, plain, with sleeping pallets on the floor, covered in cool sheets and pretty hand-dyed fabrics. There is a kind of instant family intimacy with the inside doors left open to circulate the cool air. We slip easily into the daily routine of standing vigil outside the Fort at 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM and the Federal Courthouse building from 8:30 to 10:00 AM.

Fort Benning is like an attractive college campus. Stone, brick, and wood buildings, set amidst lovely trees and plantings, calm in the soft late-afternoon light. It is clean and spacious, with ballfields and kids playing catch. Less reminiscent of Norman Rockwell was the van routinely parked just inside the entrance, its occupants watching us with binoculars, quick to approach if we moved from our vigil spot and wandered onto the Fort grounds.

Cathy Cardell (wife of Nick Cardell, currently serving six months in prison for crossing the line last November) and I visited the School of the Americas twice. The School is a handsome building that fits well into the campus atmosphere. Faculty offices were neat or messy, PC's all around, kids' drawings for Dad taped up here and there. Formal photographs of graduates and former commandants decorate the halls. Unlike most colleges, however, most of the people we saw were in uniform. No untied sneakers or big shirts over low-slung pants. Whether fatigues or dress, the uniform is unequivocal in its message of identity, of sense of self at ease in its own environment.



The first day we were given a three-hour tour and briefing by Public Affairs Officer Kevin McIver. He was polite and provided us with information packets that he reviewed in some detail (his frustration with SOA Watch slipped out only occasionally). Eager to educate us, he seemed to believe that if we were only properly informed, we would come to see that what was happening at the School was important and beneficial.

Day two Cathy and I had a short meeting with Colonel Glenn Weidner, the just-arrived new commandant of the School. Courteous and welcoming, he squeezed us into a tight schedule. He is physically reminiscent of Oliver North, neat, strong posture, self-possessed. He is articulate and while very self-controlled, passionate about his mission at the School. Like McIver, he was regretful that we were "misinformed" or "inadequately informed." A recent Harvard Fellow, Weidner is no good ole boy. He is a professional, highly educated and smooth. I believe that he is strengthened by the challenge of his new as-

signment and sees it as an opportunity for career advancement and significant service to his country.

Both McIver and Weidner emphasized that human rights material is integral to all courses at the School. They acknowledged that SOA graduates have been implicated in documented atrocities, but insisted that some proverbial bad apples can be found in any situation, and that the School, in any event, cannot be held responsible for the actions of its graduates once they return to their countries of origin. (Is this a variation of "guns don't kill people, people kill people"?)

Many late night conversations on the front porch of the vigil house. Charlie talking about one's moral imperative. What is the right thing to do? Do we belong at home, in Georgia, in jail? What happens when we close the School? If the issue is really U.S. foreign policy in Latin America, this means the protection of global corporatization directed from the boardroom, Congress, or the Pentagon. How do we speak about this in ways that mean something to the folks watching the local news at eleven?

Is it prudence or is it paranoia to be wary of the odd clicks and delays on the phone at the vigil house? Are they looking for information or trying to intimidate?

The morning of July 23 we were joined at the courthouse steps by friends and family who had come from across the country for the sentencing. Father Bix led us in prayer and reflection. A heightened atmosphere, press coverage, and then delay until afternoon. As the moment approaches for the first sentence to be given, two whispered questions race among us as we sit scattered throughout the courtroom: how long? concurrent or consecutive?

The eight days of the trip were filled with travel, sharing food, standing vigil, long talks, laughter, hard and easy times. Throughout all of it there lay inside me a kind of ache, somewhere near my breastbone. I called it a kind of schizo feeling and it would rise to my consciousness without warning, intruding on whatever I was doing or thinking at the time. This was the realization that despite the warmth of the love and solidarity, five people were being sent away to prison. Ed and Kathleen

continued on page 6

# Syracuse's Anti-SOA Felons to Depart

## Ed & Kathleen Sentenced for Transforming Benning's Sign

Ed Kinane

On July 23 in a Columbus, GA federal court, Judge J. Robert Elliott, 90, sentenced Syracuse human rights activists Ed Kinane to 10 months and Kathleen Rumpf to 12 months in prison. A jury had found them and their three co-felons guilty last March 4 of "destruction of government property with malicious intent."

Mary Trotochaud of Atlanta, Sister Marge Eilerman OSF of Booneville, KY, and Fr. Bill Bichsel S.J. of Tacoma, WA were sentenced to eight, eight, and 12 months respectively. All of the sentences were less than the 14 month maximum permitted by federal guidelines. Presumably Bix and Kathleen got longer sentences because of their more extensive prior convictions. The sentences — but not the verdict — will be appealed.

The five were also fined between \$1000 and \$1500 each, and each must undergo 24 months "supervised release" at the end of their terms. Four of the five must each pay \$1050 restitution — their share of the cost of restoring the sign at Benning's main gate after they had transformed it on September 29, 1997. While Bix, a 70 year-old Jesuit priest, didn't have to pay restitution, his sentence was particularly harsh: the jury had specifically reduced his charges in light of the fact he had only put two handprints on the sign.

Each of the five (except Kathleen) must additionally serve the six month sentence they received in January for "illegal re-entry" onto the grounds of Fort Benning on November 16, 1997. Fort Benning hosts the School of the Americas, widely known as the "School of Assassins," a US Army training facility for Latin American soldiers.

At sentencing Kathleen, "in solidarity with the poor," chose to be taken into custody. She is currently at a county jail near Columbus. Charlie Liteky and Margaret Birdlebough

of the Columbus Vigil House, (706) 682-8935, visit her on weekends.

Pat Liteky, Charlie's brother and an anti-SOA activist from Seattle, is in Columbus' Muscogee County Jail. Last winter, in a solo action, Pat threw blood at the SOA headquarters.

Ed and the other three will self-surrender, probably early this fall, to a federal minimum security prison. Kathleen asked to go to a facility in Texas which could meet her medical needs. Ed requested Allenwood in Pennsylvania, current home of Syracuseans Nick Cardell and Dan Sage. The Bureau of Prisons may or may not honor the requests.

Nick and Dan expect to finish their six month terms on September 21. Ann Tiffany, Doris Sage, and Sister Megan Rice — Syracuseans now serving their six months sentences in Danbury — expect release on September 18. Anne Herman of Binghamton and



Peter Schumann

## SOA Here We Come Cont. from page 5

have eaten with my family. Bix, Marge, and Mary are not faceless names found in the activist press. This is not some noble sacrifice of distant heroes. What does it mean when Kathleen surrenders in court and is taken away in shackles, holding onto her cane and deprived of her Bible? How many spare 18 months does Bix have after recently celebrating his 70th birthday?

Commandant Weidner speaks with passion about the role of the School in teaching the rightful place of the military in a democratic society. He speaks with pride about the School as an example for Latin America of a military responsible to civilian authority, doing its duty in a society where there is trust between the civilian and military populations. He acknowledges the legitimacy of opposing views and expresses admiration for the depth



Peter Schumann

## Support SOA Prisoners of Conscience

- 1) Urge your Congressional reps to co-sponsor the bills in the Senate (S980) and the House (HR611) that would close the SOA. (Don't delay — a vote on a key appropriations bill amendment is likely by mid-September); and
- 2) On November 20-22 join thousands from Central New York and all over the country at Fort Benning to demand closure of the School of the Americas. To plug in, call Paul at 487-2739 for details on our September 14 information meeting.
- 3) Write to prisoners of conscience. Kathleen's address is not yet known as she is awaiting "assignment" to a federal prison. Please check the October 1998 PNL or call SPC at 472-5478.

Carol Richardson of the SOA Watch DC office both finished their six month terms in late July.

of commitment shown by those calling for closure.

Then, at some point in the conversation, there is a hardening, a wall that must not be breached. Dissent, even expressed through nonviolent civil disobedience, has its limits. It is almost as if Weidner is embarrassed that the Latin Americans attending the School would see the demonstrations, these expressions of

dissent, as a refutation of the interdependence of the military and civilian spheres upon which the School is built. Is there perhaps a chink in the facade of "mutual trust"?

Weidner wants us/this to stop, to disappear. How powerful that word is.

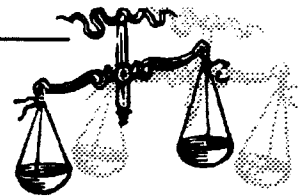
Maybe that is what the ache in my chest is about. Unshed tears for the disappeared I do not know and fear for what the next 12 - 18 months will be for Kathleen, Ed, Bix, Marge, and Mary.

Rae is a long-time activist, and member of the SPC Council.

# Is It Worth It?

## A Response to Dan Sage in Allenwood Prison

Ed Kinane



27 June 1998

**D**EAR DAN,  
I've just read your letter from Allenwood, "Weighing the Costs and Benefits," in the July *Peace Newsletter*. I find myself wondering if I too will question whether "it's worth it" during my incarceration.

Probably so. Prison de-rails our lives. The routine is deadening; the indignities and bureaucratic pettiness are maddening. Missed amenities and missed opportunities loom large. Those we love are far away. I know — I've been there (briefly).

Now that I've gotten my sentencing date (July 23), the prospect of prison is more real to me. Especially after reading my probation officer's pre-sentencing report. In it he informed the judge that, according to the federal guidelines, I should get between eight and 14 months. That's on top of the six months from the "SOA 25" trial back in January.

Since I got that report a couple weeks ago, I sometimes find myself thinking: hmmm, maybe I'd be better off getting another degree instead of spending 14 or 20 months in prison. Just before I caught the "SOA bug" in '94, I was about to begin a full-time MA program.

While I'm not sure how to weigh my own costs and benefits around working to close the School of Americas, I do know that the stakes in Latin America are huge. They not only involve human lives lost and human flesh maimed. They involve indigenous peoples' land stolen and just wages denied. Further, those stakes involve whole people's aspirations for sovereignty and democracy. I don't know how to quantify these realities.

Sure, a lot of good might have come out of that MA program, both personally and professionally. For me it would have been a kick. I'm one of these guys — you're probably one too — who loves studying, immersing himself in theory, and writing papers. I'm pretty good at it.

I'm not sure, however, that this nation has a shortage of grad students. But *I am* sure it has a shortage of *resisters*. While the campaign to close the SOA is fast growing — thanks, I

believe, to your witness and that of a few dozen others — our numbers are few. Even so, there isn't another issue in the country now with as many "prisoners of conscience." That alone suggests the unique and pivotal role our witness is playing.

The juggernaut needs sand in the gears. And you and I, my friend, are privileged to be strategically-placed grains of sand. I have no doubt that our prison witness *does* in a modest way make a difference. *We are* exposing this heinous "school" in a way that for five decades wasn't being done.

Look at the ripple effect. Its very invisibility makes it immeasurable. That's why cost and benefit analysis is tricky. Dan, let's add to your equation the fact that, in the wake of your imprisonment, your own congregation at May Memorial Unitarian has been mobi-

### **I'm not sure this nation has a shortage of grad students. But I *am* sure it has a shortage of *resisters*.**

lized. With rare unanimity it recently passed a strong resolution to close the SOA.

This weekend as I write, Sara Lucas, Cathy Cardell, and others from May have taken that resolution to the annual Unitarian conference in Rochester. At that conference, before hundreds of delegates from all over the world, May Memorial and our local SOA Abolitionists will receive the Unitarian Universalist's Adin Ballou award.

It'll be a true organizing moment: Sara will have 90 minutes on the program to make the case against the SOA. That suggests what a priority closing the SOA has now become for Unitarians everywhere. Was it such a priority a year ago?

On Tuesday the assembly will surely pass the resolution.\* It happens that US Secretary of Defense, Bill Cohen, is a Unitarian. Will the resolution be a wake-up call for Bill? Who knows. I have no idea whether Bill is wakable. But thanks to May's lobbying, hundreds more active Unitarians — undoubtedly people of conscience — will have been exposed to the "SOA bug."

Dan, I don't think this would have hap-

\* Editor's note: the May Memorial resolution, substantially intact, passed overwhelmingly.

pened without your courage in risking prison. And that of your partner Doris, your pastor Nick and your friend Ann. Maybe I should say: it wouldn't have happened without your courageous willingness to "languish" in prison. But I sense that the SOA 25 are using our prison time more constructively than we may even know.

You, for example, have had a long, distinguished career as an educator — as an educator of educators. In your current field placement, teaching GED, you are clearly making a difference in the lives of your students. But doesn't the learning go both ways? Aren't you getting a worm's eye view of some of the results of our blighted school system? My guess is that this insight will be integrated into your further work with educators.

I'll generalize. I happen to think that at one level it's *wonderful* that the SOA campaign is providing the opportunity for so many resourceful people to experience prison. It's rather like those fact-finding, consciousness-raising delegations we take to Central America — only protracted.

The SOA plays a key role in the war against the poor in Latin America. *That very same war, on a similar scale, is also being waged against the poor in the US.* In Latin America hundreds of thousands are "disappeared"; in the US hundreds of thousands are also disappeared...into prison. Our vast — and getting vaster — prison system is at the bowels of our domestic war on the poor.

It's good that there's a handful of us at the front. Hopefully we'll come back — as we did from Nicaragua, Guatemala, or El Salvador — determined not just to change US policy far away, but US policy here at home.

*In solidarity compañero,*

Ed

PS: Who knows, maybe they'll send me to Allenwood and I'll get to spend some time with you and Nick before you're released. I'd welcome that. But of course I'd much prefer to begin incarceration after Ann is released on Sept. 18.

*Ed used to do Jail Ministry work in Syracuse. His partner Ann Tiffany is among those currently serving six months for "illegal reentry" at Fort Benning last Nov. 16. In July Ed was sentenced to ten months in federal prison. See page 6 for details.*



# Guilty of Truth, Guilty of Justice

Ed Kinane & Kathleen Rumpf's Sentencing Statements, July 23, 1998

## Ed's Statement

Federal Court, Columbus, GA  
Judge J. Robert Elliott presiding

**I AM GUILTY.** But let me be clear about what I am guilty of.

For most of my 53 years I have had far more than my share of the fruits of the labor of others.

And that of course is exactly what the School of the Americas is all about: it's about systematically terrorizing Latin Americans so that North Americans can enjoy the fruits of their cheap labor.

If Latin America wasn't a vast pool of cheap labor to be preserved at any cost — even at the cost of our own soul — there would be no School of the Americas.

If it wasn't for the cheap labor of Latin Americans — so profitable to US corporations — we wouldn't need a School of the Americas to license thugs to disappear literacy volunteers and labor organizers and priests and nuns working with the poor.

All this killing is done in our name and with our tax dollars. Therein lies much of my guilt, much of my complicity.

It was this awareness of my responsibility that led me, last September, to jeopardize my personal freedom, that led me to jeopardize my comfortable lifestyle.

For four years I've worked to bring the School of the Americas out of the shadows in which it has thrived for half a century:

I've fasted for 40 days.

I've written articles.

I've lobbied Congress.

I've gone to prison.

My stenciling on the sign was yet another way to expose this vile place, this incubator of torture, death and subversion.

Besides stenciling, we also put several large photos by the sign. These portrayed the corpses of the six Jesuit priests murdered by SOA grads in El Salvador on November 16, 1989.

In one photo the brains of a priest lay in the grass separated from his head. Another photo showed the corpses of the priests' housekeeper and her 15 year-old daughter slain with them — the child clutching her mother.

This massacre was perpetrated by the

## Kathleen's Statement

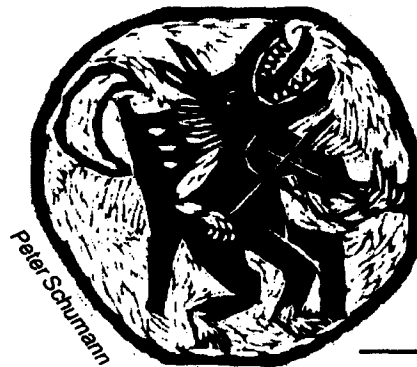
Federal Court, Columbus, GA  
Judge J. Robert Elliott presiding

**AS MY FRIENDS** have said before me, I too stand here to acknowledge my guilt and responsibility for my actions. In my life I have suffered tremendous guilt for many of my personal struggles. In spite of my pain, I have tried to make this world a better place.

As a citizen and human being I am guilty no matter what my circumstances if I turn away from the suffering of others.

For most of my life I have lived and walked with the suffering and discarded in our streets and prisons. It has not been easy, but what I suffer in no way compares to how those people suffer. Nor does it excuse me from reaching out in whatever way possible to those who suffer with no voice. It has given me much purpose and perspective.

At a defining moment in my life, while



Atlatl battalion. The Atlatl battalion trained at the SOA. Those who planned and executed the slaughter have been identified. Nineteen out of 26 of them are SOA grads: they were trained at a military school that repeatedly — ludicrously — claims to teach democracy and human rights.

For their crime, are they languishing in prison? Hardly. Where is their acceptance of responsibility!? They've each received amnesty.

Contrast their violence with what we did to the sign at Benning's main gate.

We *blemished* it. The sign was readily repaired and repainted. It felt no pain. It felt no

living with the homeless, I realized that no matter how much I tried to alleviate the suffering of others, it would never be enough. I cried night after night from exhaustion and despair. I made the connection between the rapidly changing priorities of our nation to more and more militarism and the changing face of the homeless impoverished here. Their suffering escalated radically.

When it became acceptable that highchairs and the elderly appear in our soup kitchens I cannot say. I came to realize that rather than shed tears each night I should cry out in places where I believed the injustices stemmed from. I was arrested at the White House, the Pentagon, our federal building, our jails, in our streets, at Griffiss Air Force Base, Fort Benning, and in this courtroom.

I am responsible — we are responsible — for more suffering and death than we can humanly accept. It is overwhelming, numbing. And I ask God for the strength and grace to continue to stand with those who are tortured, disappeared directly because of the training at the School of the Americas. I also pray that I continue to stand with those who suffer here in our streets because of desperately needed resources squandered by the military.

I accept the consequences of my action. In that spirit I ask of this court that I be remanded to custody today and be allowed the privilege of starting my sentence today as the poor do, as Christ did. It is an honor to stand in a place where justice has been denied to so many for so long. — Kathleen Rumpf

terror. It did not bleed, nor did it die. No one mourns the sign. It has no loved ones to be consoled. No other sign fears it may be next.

In my creed brains, lungs, hearts and limbs are sacred. But inanimate things are less so.

Judge, you may be troubled by what we did to that sign. Are you also troubled — proportionately troubled — by the many massacres perpetrated by graduates of the School of the Americas? — Ed Kinane

For details on the sentencing, see page 6.



# “Oh, and while you’re closing the SOA ...”

Initiated last year by the War Resisters League, A Day Without the Pentagon on October 19 will emphasize both shutting down the Pentagon's military function and opening up its potential for nonmilitary use. On that day, we hope to show what our world could look like freed from the addiction to militarism. To that end, we intend to stop business as usual (at least symbolically) at this center of war-making and promote a vision of a world where human needs and human potential are fulfilled.

The demonstration at the Pentagon will include a legal rally with speakers and music, as well as civil disobedience organized by affinity groups. Attending the rally is legal and will not risk arrest. Those interested in participating in civil disobedience must attend an orientation meeting. First time participants in civil disobedience are encouraged to go through nonviolence training before coming to Washington, but there will also be a training on Sunday evening (October 18) in Washington DC (place to be announced). For the tentative plan for the day, see page 10.

## Syracuse, 1997

It was cold last year on October 22, uncommonly so and windy even for a Syracuse autumn. The small flakes that intermittently sliced the cheeks of protesters and theatre guerrillas alike ought to have been enough to scatter us back indoors, to the safety and security of warmer, more discreet spaces. At the end of the march that concluded the CNY chapter in the National Day Without the Pentagon actions, my hands were painfully numb. A friend lent me her gloves so I didn't begin the cold season with a case of frost bite.

It would be exaggerating to say we were having so much fun we didn't feel the cold that day. But the collaboration of SU and SUNY-ESF students, non-university Syracusans, SPC, and the Caribbean/Latin America Coalition (CLAC) was one of the most energizing political events of 1997. For nearly a month, we worked together to develop literature to pass out at the event, to plan the action itself, and to define how SU's two Pentagon contracts (totalling over \$12 million) affect the university's moral, political and intellectual credibility.

Journalist Allan Nairn objects to the marriage.



David Velez/The Daily Orange

The centerpiece of the action was a mock wedding between SU's prize daughters (Miss Maxwell and Miss Newhouse) and General Pentagon, performed at Hendricks Chapel and Maxwell. It concluded with a honeymoon promenade around the plaza at Newhouse. We

## A Day Without The PENTAGON



# Oct. 19, 1998

distributed hundreds of fliers to passersby. Among the other highlights:

- International journalist Allan Nairn participated in the action and spoke at a Community Roundtable the next day.
  - The event received extensive and sympathetic coverage in the *Daily Orange*, including a large photo spread.
  - Coverage in peace publications, nationally and internationally. *Non-violent Activist*, the magazine of the War Resisters League, described it as “the day’s most colorful event.”
- It was even covered in the *Peace Newsletter*.

We attracted the attention and raised the consciousness of many people that day. What's just as important, however, are the larger reasons

why we did the protest. First of all, to draw attention to how our society allocates resources, especially when the people who do the allocating are talking so much about how scarce those resources are. And of course, to illustrate the pervasiveness of militarism in this country.

At this year's Day Without the Pentagon, people from around the country will be gathering in Washington, DC to “Change Business as Usual,” and possibly even shut business down entirely. At least for a day. There will be a rally addressing better ways of using our resources, and possibly civil disobedience actions organized through affinity groups (see next page).

To help organize and prepare people to participate in the Pentagon action (as well as for the SOA action in November), SPC is hosting a civil disobedience training on **October 3**. The time and place won't be set until we know how large of a group there is for the training. If you think you want to go, or just want to learn peaceful and civil ways to be disobedient, please RSVP soon by calling the Peace Council 472-5478. — *Tim Judson*

Be **OUTRAGEOUS!** Be **SMART!**  
Be **PREPARED!** Come to ...

## Civil Disobedience Training

Sunday, October 3

Training is important if you are planning on doing CD (or support work for CDers), and especially if going to actions at:

- **A Day Without the Pentagon** — Monday, Oct. 19
- **School of the Americas** — Sunday, November 22

Call SPC 472-5478, for location and time, or to help organize or participate.

DWoP 1998 continued on page 10



DWoP 1998

Continued from page 9



# The Scenario

— Monday, October 19, 1998 —

## The Rush Hour Actions at the Pentagon

**5am-8am** Some affinity groups may want to take advantage of the high visibility during morning rush hour to begin their actions. Pentagon employees begin to arrive by the thousands between the hours of 3 and 8am. Small numbers of people willing to risk arrest by blocking roadways and entrances (*not* highways) to the Pentagon not only would be seen by many commuters, but also might get mentioned in the morning traffic reports. However, considering that it may be dark and therefore dangerous for those sitting in front of vehicles, less risky activities like banner drops from highway overpasses or a series of signs lining the highways could be preferable.

## 9am The March from DC to the Pentagon

Led by Bread & Puppet Theatre

## The Rally at the Pentagon

**11am-4pm** As marchers arrive at the parade ground of the Pentagon's River Entrance, the legal rally will begin. Demonstrators who do not participate in the march should gather at the Pentagon using public transportation. The subway stops at the Metro Court Entrance, so protesters will have to walk clockwise almost all the way around to reach the River Entrance (going counterclockwise is impeded by the Jefferson Davis Hwy.). The rally will include music and theater; as we go to press, several speakers have been confirmed including Dave Dellenger, Allan Nairn, and Daniel Ellsberg. In the afternoon, civil disobedience will begin again at Pentagon entrances while the rally continues at the parade ground.

## The Civil Disobedience: No Business as Usual!

**3pm** Because A Day Without the Pentagon envisions a world without the military but with adequate healthcare, food for all, decent housing, good education, a clean environment, and a fair system of justice, we will feature different social concerns at four of the Pentagon's five sides and establish a nonviolent blockade at the fifth side. We expect these actions to dramatize our concerns and show all the things that would be possible if we were free of the budget-busting expenditure of the military. As the rally continues, affinity groups will disperse counterclockwise around the Pentagon, beginning with those going to the Metro Entrance.

For example, activists concerned with healthcare will march towards the South (Corridor 3) Entrance attempting to create a medical clinic for the day. (Some Congressmembers expected that the Pentagon would be converted to a hospital after World War II.) Stretchers and gurneys and doctors with medical gear will show that our tax dollars would be put to better use guaranteeing healthcare — not warfare — for all. See box for tentative themes for actions at the other entrances.

Blueprint for Conversion and Blockade  
(tentative plan)

Entrance Converted Use and Action

<b>Metro Hellport</b>	blockade/shut it down memorials and monuments w/o all who have died or suffered because of war and militarism
<b>Mall</b>	housing for homeless/soup kitchen/day care center
<b>River</b>	education/youth affairs/social change



# Syr. University Offers Business As Usual

## Negotiations at Standstill as SU Service Workers Demand Better Contract

Joan Hart

**J**UST AS Syracuse University students will be returning soon to classes, the members of Local 200A hope University officials will be returning soon to the bargaining table to finish contract negotiations.

The main roadblock to resuming bargaining talks is the University's lead negotiator and Director of Labor Relations, Vince Scicchitano. At the first negotiation meeting on May 28, he bluntly stated that the University would present its final offer on June 26. That declaration would seem to be the antithesis of bargaining in good faith. He was also adamant about not having an audience of staff or faculty attend the proceedings.

"I'm not going to negotiate in a fishbowl," he declared, obviously afraid he wouldn't be able to come up for air with the presence of outside observers. After 14 meetings, two in the company of a federal mediator, the bargaining sessions came to a standstill on July 28, when the University's submitted its second and final offer. The University is now refusing to engage in further negotiations, leaving the 750 service workers in limbo about the future of their jobs.

The Union bargaining committee maintains that the University's offer addresses none of their major issues. Earlier in the year, Union members voted on what they wanted addressed in a new contract. This included: clarifying language on subcontracting; pay equity for library workers; restrictions on the use of temporary workers; inclusion of Parking Services employees in the same contract; elimination of the wage step system; and the use of unskilled labor in the trades.

At a meeting August 5, the Union members unanimously decided to not bring the University's offer up for a vote.

The issue of subcontracting work has been on the table at each of the four previous contract negotiations, and each time it is swept off the table at the last minute. The current language allows the University great leeway in hiring outside contractors.

Pay equity for the library staff is another key issue in negotiations. Sandra Walker, vice-

chair of Local 200A on campus, researched other universities library salaries for comparison.

Here on campus at the entry level, a Library Assistant 2 earns an annual salary of \$10,042; their highest wage tops out at \$18,913. A Library Specialist, the highest level Union worker, starts at \$11,739 and earns a maximum of \$21,040. Brown University is located in Providence, Rhode Island. Though smaller than SU, its Library Assistant salaries range from \$17,798 to \$25,576. Their Library Specialists earn from \$21,543 per year to a maximum of \$30,972. Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, a city one third the size of Syracuse, also starts their Library Specialists within a \$20,000 to \$24,000 range, depending on their education and experience.

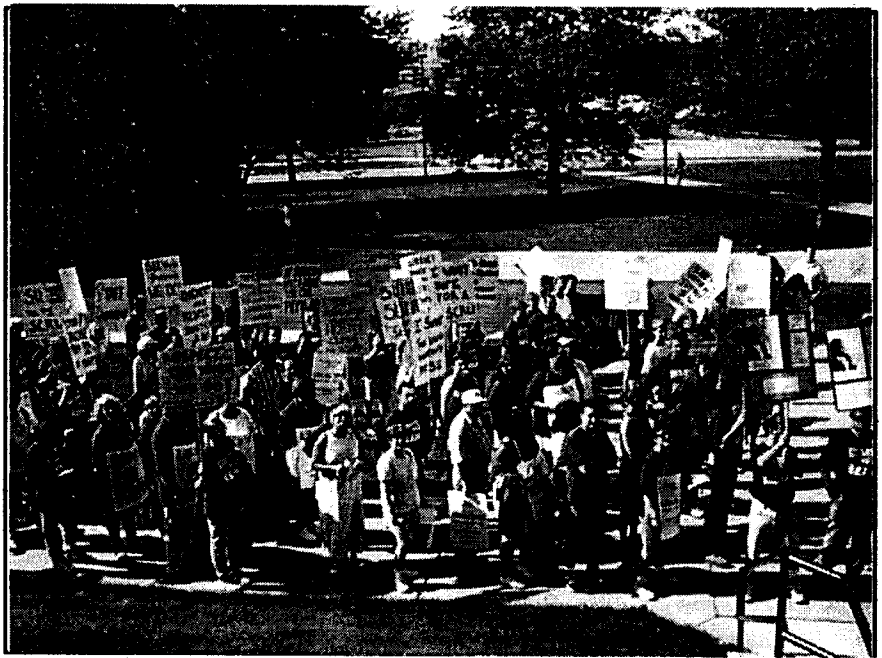
Given the technical nature of SU's libraries, its staff must work with not only books, but also magazines, microfilms, microfiches, CD ROM's, audio and video tapes. Dr. David Stam, the retiring University Librarian, stated in his annual report that his staff deserves higher salaries.

While ignoring library wages, subcontracting and the Union's other issues, the University did offer a packet of New Opportunities benefits to try to sweeten the contract.

They include financial planning, adoption assistance, increased life insurance, and an increase in the tuition cash grant program. The old rate was \$500 per semester; the new amount is \$1,250.

Unfortunately for members of 200A, SU is using the lack of a contract as a opportunity to strong arm employees. Their tuition cash grants have stayed at the old rate, or in some cases been completely denied, solely because they have not yet signed the University's contract.

Bill Ditterline, an RDSS employee, received a letter dated July 1, informing him that he would receive the \$1,250 per semester rate. He forwarded that letter to Colgate University, where his son will attend, so it could complete the financial aid calculations. On July 14, he got another letter from SU, stating that he would instead be receiving the old \$500 grant. He called the Human Resources office to investigate and was told that because the contract was not yet signed, he would receive the lesser amount. On August 4, an updated financial aid letter from Colgate reflected the decrease from SU, and a corre-



Hundreds of loud and enthusiastic people turned out near the Carrier Dome to show their solidarity during SU football team's National Media Day on August 14, 1998.

**Labor Struggle cont. on page 12**

## Labor Struggle cont. from page 11

sponding increase in the form of his expected family contributions.

"It feels like extortion," Bill remarked about SU's tactics. Denying some employees these benefits while allowing other non-union workers to receive them constitutes an unfair labor practice. The Union has filed charges against SU with the National Labor Relations Board for several policies now in effect because of the unsigned contract.

To find out how to show their support, students and faculty are encouraged to call the Union office at 424-1743. They are welcome to join in the rallies that are held to send the University the message that these service workers deserve a better contract. Such was the case on August 14, when hundreds of very loud and enthusiastic people turned out near the Carrier Dome to show their solidarity during the football team's National Media Day.

Students are the ones who will feel the full force of the breakdown in negotiations. If the Union were to strike or have a work stoppage, the disruption of services would be felt campus-



Aug 14 demonstrators show their support with signs and numbers.

wide. The residence dorms, dining halls, libraries, academic buildings, as well as the grounds and physical plant would suffer in the absence of 750 loyal, hard-working employees who are only asking for a fair contract.

Joan lives in Eastwood with her 16 year old son, ten year old daughter and one year old Black Lab, Hercules. She enjoys gardening, lawyer-bashing and raising a ruckus for good causes.



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# My Summer In Gender School, or Some Extracurricular Lessons in Self and Community

Karen Hall

**D**ISCUSSION over the wording of the Onondaga County Fair Practices legislation put the issue of transgender and bisexual inclusion in front of many people in Syracuse this summer. Syracuse's Stonewall Committee has worked for the past eight years to pass a countywide law to protect individuals from discrimination in employment and access to public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation. They felt strongly that they could pass such a bill now. Others, and I would include myself in this group, wanted to do further education in the queer community and with the county legislators in hopes of passing a fair practices law that would include protection of gender expression. Such a bill would have assured clear legal protection to all individuals whose gender expression does not fit societal norms. Such a law would also have made a clear statement that the queer community understands and supports its own diversity and that as a social movement, we move forward together.

The growth pains queer activists are feeling in Syracuse are being felt around the US. Nationally, gay and lesbian organizations are discussing when, where, and why they should change their names, mission statements, agendas and practices in order to more accurately reflect the diversity that has always existed in queer communities. These acts of re-definition and reintegration are currently taking the form of adding the words "bisexual and transgender" to places they have been missing from for too long. And because words are not enough, folks all over the country are enacting consciousness raising so that bisexual and transgender people can once again feel like the integral part of the queer community they have been since (and before) they ignited the spark that touched off the Stonewall Riot in 1969. Doing this work will ultimately change the way we define ourselves; self-redefinition will change the style of identity politics in the twenty-first century. These are hope-filled, good things. In many ways, this issue reminds me of the issue of gender inclusive language. For years feminists have argued that language reflects thinking and assumptions. Although writers and speakers may intend to include all humans when they say "man" and "mankind," such

language excludes women and is symptomatic of thinking that does not account for the full range of human experience. I firmly believe that gay and lesbian folks did not intend to exclude members of our community when we named our organizations and events "gay and lesbian." Now as bisexual and transgender people come forth with stories and feelings of exclusion and isolation, we have the opportunity to learn how our own thinking and assumptions are reflected in the way we name ourselves. And now that the fair practices law has passed in the county, local activists have the opportunity and responsibility to reflect on how we will practice our values and process conflict both within our community and within coalition groups in ways that enact unity and diversity simultaneously.

Knowing the Syracuse queer community is in deep conflict over how to express diversity and unity has made me feel a great sense of urgency. I have asked myself how conflict and gender have been connected in my life as one way of trying to make sense of my own frustrations and stubbornness this summer. Once I began connecting conflict to gender, I was flooded with scenes from the past. The first took place when I was four and was spending the weekend with my grandparents. My mother wasn't feeling well, so my grandmother volunteered to put me to bed. She laid out a nightgown for me to wear, and I defiantly said I would not to wear it. Children frequently engage in contests of will with adults at bedtime, but this contest was not about when I would go to bed. Nightgowns were uncomfortable girl clothes and I was not about to be forced into one.

Place beside this scene a similar one from a year later. It is now morning and my mother is helping me get ready to go to school. She puts a dress on the bed and I refuse to wear it. Children frequently engage in contests of will in the morning before school, but I was a child who loved school. I wanted very much to go to

*\*Eds. note: According to the 8/22/98 Syracuse Post Standard, the controversial amendment to the Fair Practices Act, which was passed by the Legislature, was NOT vetoed by Onondaga County Executive Nicholas Pirro.*

kindergarten that day;

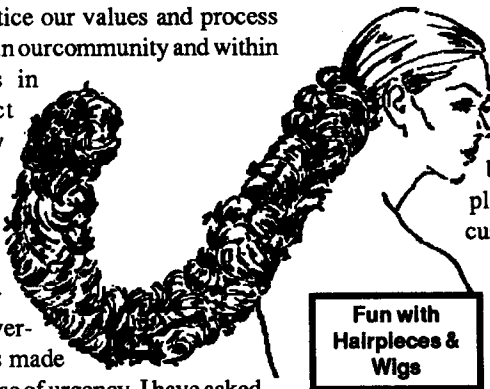
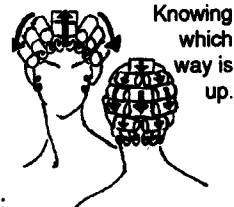
I did not want to wear a dress. Although there would be a limited number of days in the future when I would not win, I still feel a sense of triumph when I remember that on that day, my mother relented and I went to school in pants.

Beside this scene, place this moment: I am now twelve and I am at a family reunion eating corn-on-the-cob. My uncle has just told me that I am so pretty I will soon need a baseball bat to keep the boys away. Those who hear him nod and agree. My mother tells me she will buy me the new Captain and Tennille record, "You Better Shop Around" to help impress upon me

how important the choice of a mate is especially when prospective ones are so plentiful. My sense is that I have been complimented, but I feel ill at ease. I clean my plate silently and ask to be excused.

The next scene happens eighteen years later when I am a thirty-year-old woman attending my grandmother's ninetieth birthday party. I am standing apart from the many relatives in the basement of the church when I overhear someone ask the very same uncle, "Is that Floyd's son, Edward?" "No," he says, "that is Dorothea's daughter, Karen." Part of me wants to laugh out loud and remind them how pretty they once thought I was. Part of me feels like a bad daughter for shaming my mother by not growing up to be the kind of woman her family could recognize.

Place this beside a scene from 1988 when I was a twenty-something bookstore clerk in an upscale mall. One day while shelving stock, a woman comes up behind me and says, "Sir. Sir." Because I do not answer her promptly and courteously, in fact I do not answer her at all because I do not know she is speaking to me, she goes to my manager and complains that I have very rudely ignored her. I hear the anger in her voice and join the conversation to see what the problem is. She repeatedly refers to me as "he." I muster my self control and say to her, "The problem here, ma'am, is that 'he' is a 'she.'" She turns to my manager with indignant rage and says, "Well, how was I supposed to know that?!" At this point I walk off the sales



Fun with  
Hairpieces &  
Wigs

Gender Camp cont. on page 14

# Black Radical Congress

Thano Paris

It's no mystery, we making history  
— Linton Kwesi Johnson

ON THE WEEKEND of June 19 the Black Radical Congress (BRC) was convened at the Univ. of Illinois at Chicago. For three days roughly two thousand US and international leftist activists participated in workshops, plenaries, cultural performances and a demonstration in support of local housing activists. Workshops covered topics including environmental racism, organizing in the south, resisting homophobia and the internet & labor.

Most importantly the Congress was not simply a sporadic event or a media spectacle. The BRC is part of developing a united front to take on initiatives and build an organized Black left presence in our communities. Its origins lie in a series of discussions between five veteran activists: Barbra Ransby, (Committees of Correspondence) Manning Marable, Leith Mullings, (*Race Traitor* editor) Abdul

Alkalimat, and Bill Fletcher (AFL-CIO Education Dept. director). Through growing contact the BRC grew, developing a National Continuations Committee. Over two years 300+ people have participated, developing active youth, labor, feminist, gay and lesbian caucuses, several active local organizing committees, and a complex organizational apparatus.

More broadly, the BRC formed in response to the ferment and movement of the Black community throughout the '90s. The BRC is a practical answer to the question of where we stand in relation to events like the attacks on affirmative action and welfare, budget cuts, church burnings, the continued imprisonment of political prisoners such as Albert Nuh Washington, the CIA Crack controversy, World Atonement Day, Million Man March, Million Woman March, and now the Million Youth March.

Organizers adopted eleven basic "Principles of Unity" to ground the BRC. They include a commitment to move beyond electoralism, build organized resistance and a creative vision of a new society. They reject

racism—including reactionary cultural nationalist racism—patriarchy and Black capitalism. A draft program has been proposed to collect a million signatures by October '99, charging the US with violating the human rights of African Americans.

This is one proposal of many. Currently, alternative drafts are being worked on and other initiatives are being planned. The NY Metro Committee has specifically proposed a reparations for slavery campaign, and supports organizing institutes to facilitate the education of younger activists. Planning for a second BRC in 2000 is also underway. A number of local people attended and endorsed the BRC, and are in the process of organizing many projects. Get involved! Check out the BRC website at <http://www.BlackradicalCongress.com/> or e-mail: [abdul.alkalimat@utoledo.edu](mailto:abdul.alkalimat@utoledo.edu) for a list of local organizing committees and other info. Also, call (312) 706-7074; or write to BRC, PO Box 5766, Chicago, IL 60680-5766.

Thano is involved with the Atlantic Anarchist Circle and can be contacted with [arg20976@binghamton.edu](mailto:arg20976@binghamton.edu) or by telephone at (315) 445-0144

## Gender Camp cont. from page 13

floor enraged and humiliated that this woman has felt entitled to direct her anger and ignorance at me and I let her.

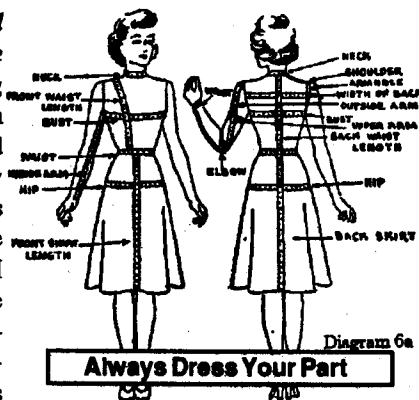
My mother and grandmother taught me to appreciate what can be done with designs, colors and textures when you quilt them together, so I piece these scenes together in my imagination to feel their different lessons and intensities hoping to understand myself and my community in new ways. I look at them for hours before I understand one way to tell the story of who I am is to tell a story of how I have been in conflict with the world over gender from my very earliest memories. But this is not how I have pieced the quilt together in the past. For the last fifteen years I have organized the stories of my life in a pattern dominated by my sexuality. I understood any discrimination I experienced, any alienation I felt, as a factor of my sexuality. Despite the fact that I was forever being called "Sir," I didn't think about my gender. The moral of every story I told about myself was that people didn't understand who I was because I was a lesbian.

But after this summer I can no longer read my life as I have been. After reading books like

Riki Anne Wilchins' *Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender*, doing political activism on transgender issues, and extending my family and friendship circles so that they include transgender people, I realize that piecing the stories of my life together in a pattern I label "lesbian" denies much of the vibrancy and texture of my history. This particular quilt pattern no longer feels accurate or large enough to represent who I think I am.

The label "lesbian" means woman loving woman—or so Cris Williamson and Meg Christian taught me. For the past fifteen years I thought I was different because I loved women, but I now that I am reading the intersections of sex, gender and sexuality in more fluid ways, I understand that I love people who have a complex blend of masculinity and femininity. It doesn't really matter what their physical sex is. I love gender queers in all the shapes, forms and transition points they come in. So what

## PATTERN FOR SUCCESS



does this make me and will my mother give a sigh of relief when she hears that at last the lesbian thing really was just a passing phase?

What I do know is that gender and sexuality blend in far more complex ways than language and culture allow us to name—and in far more complex ways than any law in this country in this century can account for. Exploring the fluidity of this blending can change

how we think of ourselves as individuals, as a community, as a political identity category, and as a culture. This fact will affect different people in different ways at different times. What's most important to me is that we keep working with the conflicts we come upon, because the conflicts must not end once we have learned our gender lessons. The queer community has many lessons to learn about race, class, ethnicity, age, and ability status. The more able we are to frame conflict in terms of opportunity, growth and redefinition, the more courageously and fully we will embrace all the members of our community.

Karen lives, writes and learns in Syracuse. This article first appeared in *Ithaca Outlook*.

# Nine Mile Cracking Still "Core" Issue

## NRC to Hold Hearing Regarding Proposed Delay of Core Shroud Inspection

Simon Morrin

**T**HE US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is to schedule a public meeting in the next few weeks to present and discuss information concerning Niagara Mohawk's defective Nine Mile Point One (NM1) reactor core shroud, and the utility's proposal to delay a scheduled inspection of the shroud for 4,100 operating hours (about five months). The NRC is required to give at least ten days notice of the date and location of the meeting, which will likely be held in Oswego County.

The NM1 core shroud has been the subject of controversy since cracking was first discovered during a refueling outage (RFO) in 1995. The core shroud is a 17' high by 15' diameter cylinder of curved plates of 1.5" thick stainless steel, which are welded together. Cracking occurs at and around the welds, which run both vertically and horizontally, in what is known as the "heat affected zone" (HAZ), that is, materials affected by the heat of the welding process.

Although core shroud cracking is an industry-wide problem, Nine Mile Point One, on line since 1969 and one of the country's oldest operating boiling water (BWR) type reactors, has the most severely deteriorated core shroud. Cracks at NM1 affect both horizontal and, unusually, vertical welds.

Clearly, given the possible consequences, any deterioration within a nuclear reactor is an extremely serious condition. Problems associated with core shroud failure include an inability to adequately cool the reactor core because of coolant leakage, and loss of the reactor core assembly's structural integrity through dislocation of sections of the core shroud. Either of these circumstances could easily lead to a core-melt incident.

After identifying numerous safety problems concerning core shroud cracking in their 1996 study, "Intergranular Stress Corrosion Cracking of BWR Core Shrouds and Other Internal Components," the NRC was able to offer the following reassurance, "... the shroud may not move

in the most adverse manner during (an accident), and there is a good chance that core cooling and reactor shutdown would be achieved with no adverse consequences." Let's hope so.

Following the 1995 discovery of core shroud cracking at NM1, Niagara Mohawk, in lieu of performing comprehensive core shroud examinations, installed tie-rod assemblies intended to stabilize the shroud in the event of 360 degree, through-wall cracking (that is, cracks that go completely around the vessel, and all the way through the wall). The tie-rods failed after a few months of operation.

During the 1997 RFO Niagara Mohawk proposed the installation of redesigned tie-rods, and a public meeting was held in April of that year following pressure from a local legislator. The meeting attracted activists from as far away as Washington, DC and Pennsylvania, and many concerned local residents.

Anti-nuclear activists approach such meetings with ambivalence. The NRC invariably decides in favor of the utilities, leading to the belief that the public meeting is merely a public relations exercise, and that NRC staff

has already decided the issue, regardless of input from the public. At a 1992 meeting held in Oswego, supposedly to listen to public concern over re-opening NM1 after it had been closed due to mismanagement, the chairman of the NRC panel inadvertently told the meeting that the plant was going to reopen.

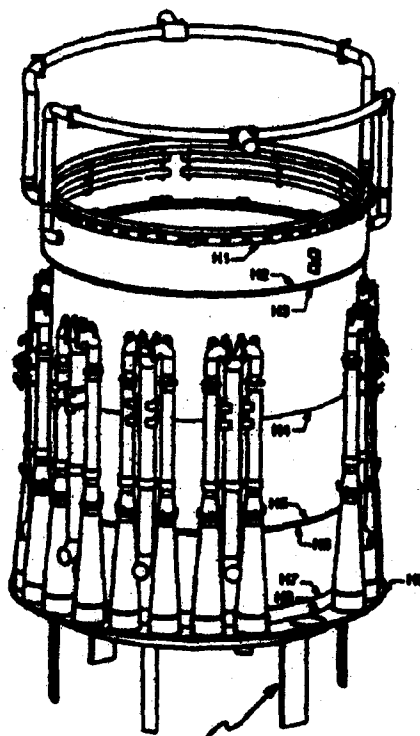
A further concern is that public meetings provide an ideal forum for the NRC and utilities to blind the public with science. The April 1997 meeting was divided into two parts: firstly Niagara Mohawk presented their proposals and technical information to the NRC committee. Typically, the highly technical presentation ran longer than the time allotted to it, eroding the time remaining for public input, which is limited to comment on the core shroud itself.

Besides the fact that a barrage of specialized engineering information can lead to feelings of powerlessness in many people, there is also the danger that debating the nuclear industry on its own terms appears to accept the continued operation of nuclear plants. Accepting the terms of the meeting, that public comments are limited to core shroud issues, seems to agree with the position that nuclear power can be "made safe."

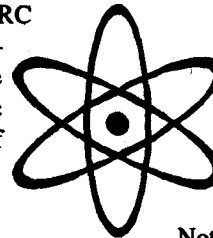
Not that there aren't immediate safety concerns particular to operating a nuclear plant with a cracked core shroud aside from the basic concerns of defective and damaged components, operator error, systemic mismanagement and negligence, routine releases of radiation, waste transportation and storage, and industry profiteering. The core shroud issue is merely the tip of the nuclear fiasco currently visible: the position of activists at the meeting is not "Fix this and we'll go away," but "This is just one more example of how nuclear power can't be made safe."

Following the 1997 meeting Niagara Mohawk agreed to re-inspect their cracked core shroud after 10,500 operating hours, which would require the expensive procedure of shutting down the plant in mid-operating cycle. Now, in order to save money, the utility is seeking to delay the inspection until the 1998 RFO based on analyses of materials taken from the core shroud at the 1997 RFO.

Nuclear engineer Dave Lochbaum of the



Support configuration varies depending on BRW series.  
Original diagram from NUREG document.



Core Problems cont. on page 16



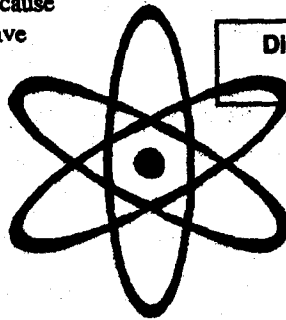
## Core Trouble cont. from page 15

Union of Concerned Scientists points to inconsistencies in Niagara Mohawk's analysis, performed by General Electric, manufacturers of the NM1 plant, and the recent discovery of significant core shroud cracks at the Nine Mile Point II plant, as reasons to oppose delaying the core shroud inspection. According to Lochbaum, the GE analyses discards some test result data as "bad data," that is inaccurate, which would have significantly impacted conclusions had it been included. In addition, the study has had no "peer review," a routine independent review usually undergone by scientific studies to verify the basic science of the study.

And according to Lochbaum's UCS predecessor Robert Pollard, "Even under ideal conditions, detecting damaged internal components is an uncertain task. Access to the components is limited, and inspection techniques are not 100% accurate. What is certain, however, is that with the passage of time deg-

radation mechanisms and internal components will interact with each other in surprising ways."

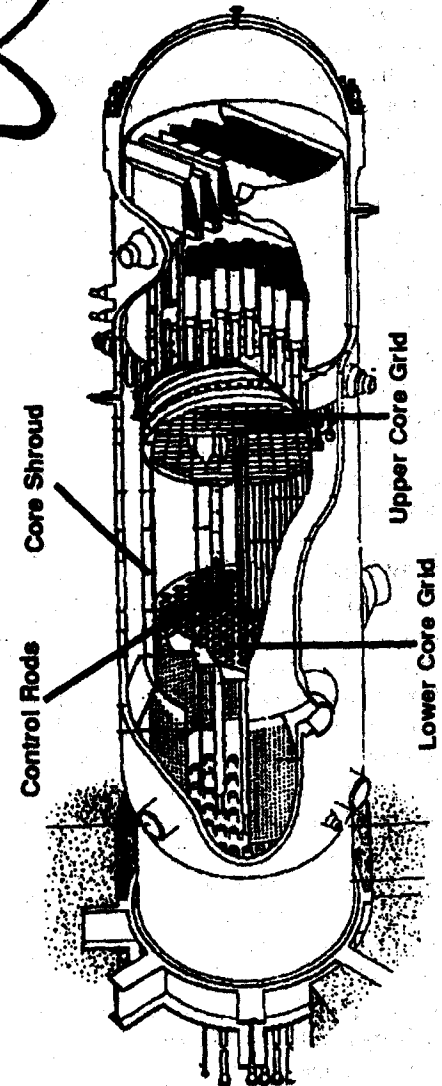
Core shroud cracking itself is cause for concern, but many industry experts, like Pollard, predict grave synergistic effects of "aging related degradation"; industry jargon for reactors getting old and breaking. In a speech before an international symposium on reactor aging, former NRC commissioner Kenneth C. Rogers stated that "(w)hile failures of individual components constitute an operational concern and can be a safety concern, the more significant safety concern results not so much at a single component level but at the higher level of components aggregation because our key safety systems have been designed to accommodate single failures.... (d)egradation would decrease the safety margins so that, in essence, we have a 'loaded gun,' an accident waiting to happen."



Core shroud cracking was never predicted, but when it occurred first in horizontal welds it was explained with bad water chemistry. It then occurred unexpectedly in vertical welds, and now at Nine Mile II, where water chemistry has not been a problem. According to Dave Lochbaum, "the industry is always one step behind the core shroud cracking issue. We don't truly know what's going on, and operating a plant when we don't know what's going on is cause for concern."

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

Diagram showing location of core shroud within BWR Internals.



### BWR Internals

without internal jet pumps.  
Original diagram from NUREG document.

## Nuclear Nightmares

From Recycling Nuclear Waste Into Consumer Products  
to the Deregulation of the Power Industry.

Judith Johnsrud, Ph.D

Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup> — 7:30 PM  
May Memorial Unitarian Society  
3800 East Genesee Street

AFTER YEARS of accumulated nuclear waste from both utilities and the defense industry, there has been no good solution for the disposal of nuclear waste. The Department of Energy, among others, has renewed its determination to get clearances for nuclear waste to be recycled for use in consumer products. This is just one of the hazards to hear about as we face an era of relaxation of controls under deregulation of the power industry.

Citizen activism and public opinion is responsible for the limited number (102) of nuclear power plants online in the United States. Yet utilities want to be able to place a new generation of nuclear power plants under their existing licenses.

Citizen activism was also responsible for the closure of four nuclear power plants in New England! Get informed and involved about the nightmares that await us if we do

nothing. Dr. Judith Johnsrud, Ph.D. directs the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power and is a consultant to public interest organizations on issues of nuclear energy, food irradiation, radioactive waste management, among others. She's served on numerous not-for-profits; she has written and testified for congressional and state legislatures and regulatory bodies; and so much more. She will have just returned from Sweden where she will have participated in an international conference on nuclear energy and its impact on the environment.

Peace Action of CNY, in conjunction with SANE (Syracuse Anti Nuclear Effort), is bringing Judith here to speak about these issues as they relate to the threat in our back yards — Nine Mile 1 & 2 and the Fitzpatrick Nuclear power plants.

— Wendy Harris



# Pentagon Welfare

## The Corporate Campaign for NATO Expansion

William D. Hartung

**W**HILE THE mainstream media has been preoccupied with the issue of White House affairs at the expense of foreign affairs, the largest US military contractors have been aggressively promoting a scheme that would cost US taxpayers up to \$250 billion between now and the year 2010: NATO expansion.

While Lockheed Martin and Boeing did not dream up the idea, they have been among its most enthusiastic supporters, and for good reason: enlarging NATO could pave the way for the creation of a huge new subsidized outlet for US weaponry, including \$8 billion to \$10 billion in sales of fighter planes and a total weapons market of \$35 billion over the next decade. With Saudi Arabia still digging out from the debts it ran up during the 1991 Persian Gulf War and Asian arms customers reeling from that region's ongoing currency crisis, East and Central Europe is one of the few potential bright spots for US weapons exporting companies in the coming years. New sales to the economically weak region will only move forward if the industry can convince the US government to pick up the tab, however.

### Why Enlarge NATO?

NATO expansion will promote "more democracy, stability, and prosperity in Europe," US Secretary of Defense William Cohen said last July in justifying the decision to add Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to NATO. But other approaches, including a vigorous program of economic aid conditioned on progress toward fair elections and a free press, would seem likely to better promote democracy and prosperity in East and Central Europe than selling F-16s and advanced missiles. Similarly, there is no strategic rationale for enlarging NATO, given that the Russian military is a shadow of its former self and the most demanding US mission in Europe (peacekeeping in Bosnia) utilizes only a few thousand troops.

The absence of compelling rationale NATO expansion, however, is more than

offset by the strong desire of powerful interests to see the alliance broadened. While military contractors are looking for new markets, the Pentagon is seeking a new mission.

The Cold War may be over, but at \$270 billion per year, the Pentagon budget is still at Cold War levels. This poses a serious public relations problem for the Department of Defense and its allies in the weapons industry, since, as Colin Powell noted a few years back, the United States is "running out of enemies." The military-industrial complex needs a mission to justify its continued hold on the public purse, and NATO expansion is the latest candidate to fill that role, and an expensive candidate at that.

### Expansion Costs: Rhetoric & Reality

The Clinton Administration has put forth a lowball estimate of the cost of expanding NATO of \$27 billion to \$35 billion between now and the year 2010, with a modest US share of \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion—small change by Pentagon standards. Bruce L. Jackson, a vice-president at Lockheed Martin who has been one of the Clinton Administration's most energetic allies in promoting NATO expansion, has even gone so far as to claim that the cost of expanding NATO will be equivalent to the cost

of "buying a candy bar for every US taxpayer." The only problem with these rosy projections is that they vastly understate the likely costs of NATO expansion for US taxpayers, which could be as much as 100 times higher than the administration's estimates.

The Clinton Administration's calculations of the cost of NATO expansion assume no more than four new countries will be added to the alliance—even though there could be a dozen or more new members added under NATO's current planning. The administration estimates also assume that other countries will cover the overwhelming share of the costs of expansion—even

**The absence of compelling rationale NATO expansion, however, is more than offset by the strong desire of powerful interests**

though the leaders of France, Germany and the United Kingdom have already indicated that they are not willing to pay a dime more than they are currently spending to support NATO. That means that the US share of the total cost of expansion could easily reach one-third to one-half, not the optimistic six to 15 percent contained in official estimates.

If a dozen new members join NATO instead of just three, the Congressional Budget Office's current top-line estimate of expansion costs could jump from \$125 billion to \$500 billion over the next dozen years or so. And if the US pays one third to one half of this cost, the total bill for US taxpayers could hit \$170 to \$250 billion.

These billions in new military expenditures will go toward upgrading the military bases and communications facilities in new member states, developing the capability to project NATO forces into these countries and—most costly of all—to outfit NATO wannabes with top-of-the-line western combat aircraft, tanks, and other advanced weaponry in the name of making their forces "inter-operable" with the rest of the alliance.

### Desperately Seeking Subsidies: The Arms Lobby Weighs In

Even before the first three new candidates for NATO expansion were selected,

**Pentagon Welfare cont. on page 18**

**Why Risk the World You Love...**  
*Put your money where your mouth is...*

**I get EXTRA-STRENGTH NATO**  
*... and stop trouble BEFORE it starts!*

**Act Now and get a Free World with every order.**  
**FREEFREEFREEFREEFREEFREEFREEFREE**

## Pentagon Welfare cont. from page 17

the arms industry lobby was already hard at work, pressing Congress and the Pentagon for billions of dollars in federal subsidies for the arming of potential NATO members. Major new NATO-related subsidies include:

- The Pentagon's Defense Export Loan Guarantee Fund (DELG), which is available to 10 nations in east and central Europe and recently made a loan to Romania for the purchase of pilotless drones from the US-based AAI Corporation;
- The Central European Defense Loan Fund (CEDL), which is authorized to make \$647 million in taxpayer-backed loans for exports of US military equipment to Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic;
- The creation of new military aid programs for 19 East and Central European states and former Soviet Republics to help them "prepare for NATO membership."

Other US government subsidies linked directly to enlarging NATO include tens of millions of dollars of weapons giveaways under the Pentagon's Excess Defense Articles (EDA) program and major loans under the Export/Import Bank's "dual use" loan program, including a recent \$90 million loan to Romania for the purchase of a Lockheed Martin radar system. These subsidies add up: from fiscal year 1995 through 1997, the US government committed more than \$1 billion for military exercises and weapons transfers involving potential new NATO members.

Creation of the Pentagon's \$15 billion arms export loan fund illustrates how relatively small investments by arms manufacturers in the political process yield gigantic returns in the form of government subsidies.

Industry executives had long sought this fund. The Defense Policy Advisory Committee on Trade (DPACT), an official government advisory committee chaired at the time by Norman Augustine, then CEO of Martin Marietta and now part of the top management team at Lockheed Martin, first recommended the fund to the Bush administration in a 1988 report. Lockheed Martin and its allies in the Aerospace Industries Association struggled mightily to get the Executive Branch and the Congress to approve the fund, finally pushing it through in 1995 with the aid of a record outpouring of political spending.

Major arms exporting firms spent a record \$11.8 million in campaign donations during the 1995-6 election cycle, and members of

Congress who voted for the industry on issues like the Arms Export Loan Fund were handsomely rewarded. A last-gasp amendment introduced by Senator Dale Bumpers, D-Arkansas, to strip the Arms Export Loan Fund out of the fiscal year 1996 Pentagon appropriations bill was defeated by a 58-to-41 vote. The 58 senators who voted to defeat the Bumpers amendment received over \$1 million from arms exporting companies during the 1995-6 election cycle, an average of \$18,113 per senator. The 41 senators who voted to block this new subsidy for weapons exporting companies received over \$316,000 from the arms industry during 1995-6, or an average of \$7,731 per senator.

### Playing the Ethnic Card

Now the arms lobby has turned its sights on the more dramatic effort to win NATO expansion. The industry's pro-expansion lobbying campaign is spearheaded by Lockheed Martin's Vice President for Strategic Planning Bruce L. Jackson, who has been moonlighting as president of the US Committee to expand NATO. The committee's lobbying efforts have included meeting individually with over one-third of the members of the Senate, testifying and distributing slick brochures at congressional hearings on NATO, and taking out full-page advertisements touting expansion in *Roll Call*, a weekly paper that is widely distributed on Capitol Hill.

But Jackson's most effective pitch may have come at a dinner sponsored by the US Committee to expand NATO in the summer of 1997. Twelve senators were wined and dined as they listened to Secretary of State Madeline Albright sing the praises of a bigger NATO alliance. On the guest list for the evening was Bernard R. Schwartz, who has the dubious distinction of being the top individual donor of soft money to Democratic Party committees during the 1995-6 election cycle, with total donations of \$601,000. Schwartz, CEO of defense contractor Loral until it merged into Lockheed in 1996, is now part of Lockheed Martin's management team. Schwartz's presence no doubt helped to focus the attention of the senators at the pro-NATO briefing, especially given the fact that he made an additional \$366,000 in soft money contributions to Democratic committees in 1997, including \$100,000 to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Com-

mittee (DSCC). Schwartz forwarded \$50,000 to the DSCC just a few weeks after the US Committee to Expand NATO's dinner meeting.

US weapons manufacturers have also attempted to gain political leverage by financing the activities of ethnic-based lobbying groups that have been pressing for NATO expansion.

Lockheed Martin and Bell Helicopter/Textron are among a number of US weapons makers supplying funds to a pre-NATO expansion foundation set up by the Romanian embassy in Washington, reports the *New York Times*. Romanian ambassador Mircea Geoana notes that "the most interested corporations are defense corporations, because they have a direct interest in the issue." Boeing, whose McDonnell-Douglas unit is competing to sell F-18 fighters to the Czech Republic, is a corporate funder of the

American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFOCR), another pro-expansion group, according to the Washington-based National Security News Service.

Ronald Bartek is one of the five directors of AFOCR and works at the consulting firm Mehl & Associates, which sets up joint ventures between Czech companies and US weapons manufacturers such as Lockheed Martin, Textron-Bell and Northrup-Grumman. Bartek claims that although his lobbying efforts have "some nice overlays with our commercial interests" he supports NATO expansion strictly out of "personal conviction."

If anything, the arms industry's lobbying efforts in east and central Europe have been even more blatant than its campaigns in Washington. In April 1997, then-Lockheed Martin CEO Norman Augustine made a whirlwind tour of Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia to generate support for NATO expansion—and to hawk his wares. In Romania, Augustine even went so far as to promise to support that nation's bid for NATO membership as quid pro quo for the Romanian purchase of an \$82 million radar system from Lockheed Martin.

Lockheed Martin had already launched a multi-pronged promotional offensive in the region well before Augustine's spring 1997 marketing trip. One of the company's most innovative tactics was to offer a series of free "defense planning seminars" for government and military officials in Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic in October 1996. Lockheed Martin's Gordon Bowen claims that the seminars "are not marketing operations—we are



Big  
Toys

not handing out pamphlets explaining why the F-16 is the best fighter in the world." But Bowen does admit that the seminars "allow us to know who the decision-makers are, what their values structures are, and what their needs are; to build relationships with these people."

The apparent goal of the seminars seemed to be to scare hell out of military officials in the region so that they would be likely to buy as many fighter planes as they could afford. For example, one page of the seminar outline is a map of Poland entitled "Postulated Military Threats" with menacing arrows converging on the country's borders and itemizing specific numbers of fighter planes (860), attack helicopters (360), and surface-to-air missiles (1,700), that Polish forces might have to contend with in a future conflict. Later in the outline, Lockheed Martin presents a "Best Acquisition Plan," for Poland that includes leasing seven free fighter planes and buying 24 more on a "12-year loan" (provided, no doubt, by the US government).

Prior to the procurement seminars, in September 1996, Lockheed Martin executive Dain Hancock made pitches for the F-16 to military officials in Prague, Budapest, and Warsaw. Hancock promised "economic cooperation equal to 100 percent of aircraft purchases" and "up to 100 percent financing." Hancock's tempting offer was supplemented by an opportunity for Polish Air Force pilots to fly US Air Force F-16's at the August 1996 Bydgoszcz Air Show, and a series of F-16 flights for senior Hungarian officials at an October 1996 air show at Keckskemet Air base in Hungary. The planes that were used for the F-16 test flights were provided to Lockheed Martin at no or low cost and flown to the shows from Germany at US taxpayer expense.

Perhaps the most enticing element of the sales pitch made by Lockheed Martin and other US weapons manufacturers to prospective clients in east and central Europe has been the promise of lucrative "offsets" for the purchasing nation. Offsets involve steering production and investment to the client nation in an arms deal to help "offset" the costs of buying big-ticket weaponry. A 1997 report by the Commerce Department indicates that offsets now amount to more than 80 percent of the

value of US arms sales, which means that most of the economic benefits of these deals are now being farmed out to overseas customers, not to workers and communities in the United States. A 1996 Commerce Department survey of 204 small and medium-sized US military subcontracting firms in the United States found that 83 percent of them reported losing significant business to foreign countries as a result of offsets.

The race to provide offsets to east and central Europe as part of NATO expansion will only make matters worse. Lockheed Martin has already held a series of "Industrial Cooperation Team Conferences" in Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, at which 11 Lockheed Martin units and 39 major Lockheed Martin subcontractors met with representatives of 136 east and central European companies. Lockheed Martin has already made a deal with the Polish firm WSK PSL-Mielec to produce F-16s at its facilities if the Polish government opts to buy the aircraft, and Textron is trying to rework the financing on a \$1.4 billion deal to build Cobra helicopters (renamed "the Dracula") in partnership with the Romanian company IAR Brasov.

**For  
Big  
Boys!**

### The Pending Arms Race

Unless the public and the press stand up and take notice soon, the result of all this furious marketing activity will be a new arms race in east and central Europe in which US taxpayers will foot the bill and Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Textron, and their corporate partners in the region will cash in. If the Senate lacks the political will to vote "no" on the expansion of NATO to include Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, the least it could do is put a cap on the levels of US government subsidies to promote enlargement of the alliance. A good starting point for the negotiations would be \$1 billion, the amount that has already been authorized for NATO-related arms sales and military activities, behind the backs of US taxpayers.

*William Hartung is the Director of the Arms Trade Resource Center at the World Policy Institute at the New School for Social Research. This article is adapted from Hartung's February 1998 report, "Welfare for Weapons Dealers 1998: The Hidden Costs of NATO Expansion," which was produced in cooperation with his colleague Jennifer Washburn. This article reprinted with permission from Multinational Monitor.*



### Petunia the Pig Says 'Boo' to Wienermobile

What's wrong with Oscar Mayer bringing its Wienermobile to the Burnet Park Zoo in Syracuse? Plenty! The Wienermobile is a promotional gimmick to urge kids and their parents to become hooked or stay hooked on hot dogs. Through contests and prizes, Oscar Mayer lulls kids into thinking that pigs actually enjoy being ground up into hot dogs. Eating meat is unhealthy for people and lethal for 'food' animals.

PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), a national organization, is following the Wienermobile throughout its national tour and asked Syracuse activists to help give people a humane, vegetarian message at the zoo. PETA sent a great pig costume, leaflets for adults explaining the problems with eating animals and the benefits of being vegetarian, and pig stickers for children, saying 'Pigs are friends, not food.' PAR and Animal Defense League demonstrated at the zoo on Aug. 8. A smaller group leafletted on Aug. 9 and 10.

The local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union intervened on behalf of our Constitutional rights to peacefully assemble and distribute leaflets, since Onondaga County tried to tell us we could not do so.

The zoo was paid handsomely to host the Wienermobile. How sad that the zoo would give its endorsement to an industry that promotes an unhealthy product and causes the suffering and premature death of huge numbers of animals. But then the zoo is also home to a Burger King restaurant so maybe the Wienermobile is just an extension of that kind of endorsement.

If you want info about environmental, health, world hunger and animal rights reasons for considering a vegetarian/vegan diet, contact People for Animal Rights, POB 15358, Syracuse, NY 13215-0358, 488-PURR (7877) between 9am and 10:45pm.

Linda DeStefano

### UNCLASSIFIED

**Housemate(s) Wanted:** Live in friendly furnished cooperative house; share meals, cooking, cleaning, low costs. Cozy fireplace, hardwood floors, yard, porch, garages/off-street parking. Non-smokers; could be vegetarian. Leave name and number: 469-1790.

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## Do You Know What You're Investing In?

Many people cannot name a single company they own  
through their mutual funds.

If you'd like to know more about the companies you may be investing in,  
please consider a

### **Seminar on Socially Responsible Investing (SRI)**

sponsored by

### **Hansen's Financial and Tax Service.**

The seminar will be held on

**Tuesday, September 22, 1998**

**from 5-6:30 p.m.**

**at the Craftsman Inn, 7300 East Genesee Street,  
Fayetteville, NY 13066.**

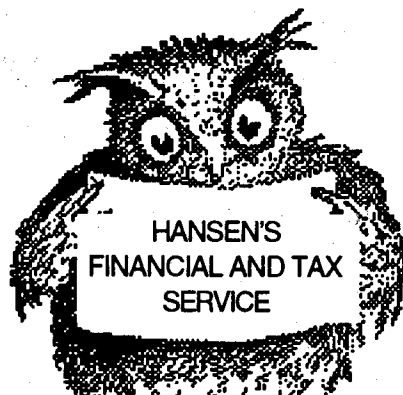
Susan Hansen, Registered Principal, CFP, LUTCF,  
and a representative from Calvert Group,  
one of the largest SRI firms, will present overviews of  
socially responsible investing.

Prospectuses will be available at the meeting.

**Please call 315-637-5153 by Monday, September 14**

to let us know if you will be attending  
since seating is limited.

Refreshments will be served.



Branch Office, Cadaret, Grant & Co., Inc., Member NASD, SIPC  
315-637-5153, FAX: 315-637-1264, 800-318-9780, E-MAIL - SSSH@AOL.COM

**Kathie Lee's at it again**

Ann Taylor, Kathie Lee/Wal-Mart, Liz Claiborne and Ralph Lauren are among the US companies employing contractors in China that produce apparel in sweatshop conditions, according to a report released by the New York City-based National Labor Committee.

"Working conditions in China actually violate China's own labor law and internationally recognized workers' rights, as well as US corporate codes of conduct," a spokesperson for the committee announced. "And US companies take advantage of their vulnerability."

For example, in the Liang Shi Handbag factory where Kathie Lee handbags are made, the workweek consists of seven ten-hour days and wages as low as 13 cents an hour. It would take more than a week's wages to purchase one of the handbags, which sell for \$12.97 in the US. The report found that there are no fire exits in the factory or in the "dirty, cramped dormitories where workers are housed five beds to a room."

Source: *Multinational Monitor*

**Coke adds fluff**

Coca-Cola, a company with a \$1.6 billion ad budget has a very specific policy when it comes to print ads. According to a letter from a Coke ad agency quoted in the *Village Voice*, Coke requires that its ads be placed next to copy (as opposed to other ads) but insists that the adjacent copy cannot discuss the following "inappropriate" subjects: "hard news, sex-related issues, drugs (prescription or illegal), medicine (chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, AIDS), health (mental or physical conditions), negative diet information (bulimia, anorexia, quick weight loss), food, political issues, articles containing vulgar language, or religion." Coke seems to want magazines as devoid of content as its soda.

Source: *The Village Voice*

**Diet Number Three**

Six giant US-based agrochemical corporations are poised to dominate global food production with genetically engineered food. In fact, they've increased the acreage covered with genetically modified crops tenfold since 1995 and are now poised to take over huge tracts throughout Asia and Africa. According to Indian activist Vandana Shiva, Asia could also become a "dumping place" for genetically

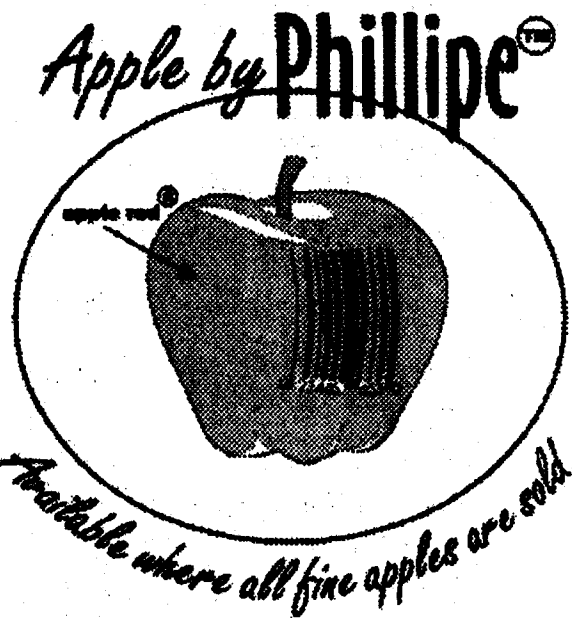
modified foods as traditional markets like Europe become more selective.

"The world is about to witness a food crop revolution," notes the *McKinsey Quarterly*, a business publication. "The science is now in the hands of large, well-funded, agricultural, chemical, and pharmaceutical giants which are poised to move from a handful of products on the market today to a full menu in five years time. Biotechnology is revolutionizing the food chain."

The companies claim the new technology will end world hunger, reduce the use of pesticides, and improve health. Says Monsanto CEO Robert Shapiro, "we may end up with prescription foods or diets. We may have Monsanto Diet Number 3."

Isn't that a comforting thought?

Source: *Women's Visions '98*



**We know it works but**

The Clinton administration has admitted that syringe exchange programs (SEPs) can reduce the spread of HIV and do not encourage drug use, but says that federal tax dollars will not fund SEPs, even on a research basis. The administration's announcement came in the wake of a March 17 resolution passed by the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (202/456-AIDS) which declared that it had "no confidence" in the administration's AIDS strategy and urged the Office of National Drug

Control Policy to use federal funds for SEPs. The House of Representatives, on the other hand, was concerned that Clinton may have come too close to sending the wrong message about drug use, so it voted 287-140 to ban permanently federal funding of SEPs.

Source: *The Drug Policy Letter*

**We know it doesn't work but**

A recently released study found that the high profile federally funded Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program does not reduce drug abuse. Dennis Rosenbaum, head of the criminal justice department at the University of Illinois, led the study of 1,800 Illinois children. The six-year study didn't find any differences between DARE and non-Dare students. It did find that children living in the suburbs who were exposed to DARE had a significantly higher level of drug use than students who didn't have DARE training.

Source: *The Drug Policy Letter*

**The Silent Pandemic**

More than a million women and children died from the complications of reproductive tract infections (RTIs) every year during the 1990s. But, worldwide, the issue is masked by a culture of silence and lack of information. That is the message of a Panos Briefing report issued last year which says that the burden of RTIs falls most heavily on women of reproductive age and newborn children. Infections acquired during unsafe childbirth, illegal and unsafe abortion, and unsafe sex account for over 25 percent of all disability of African women between the ages of 15 and 44. HIV infections and AIDS account for another 25 percent, not including deaths from AIDS.

RTIs also cause a heavy emotional burden especially when they damage fertility, says the report. While about 5 percent of women worldwide are unable to bear children due to some inherited or hormonal disorder, a much larger number are rendered infertile by damage to their reproductive tract. Untreated sexually transmitted diseases are also a significant factor in the spread of HIV in poor countries, with most sexually transmitted infections transmitted more easily from men to women than vice versa.

Source: *People and the Planet, the UN Population Fund*



Healing Arts of the Finger Lakes  
Will Fudeman, Lic.Ac., C.S.W.

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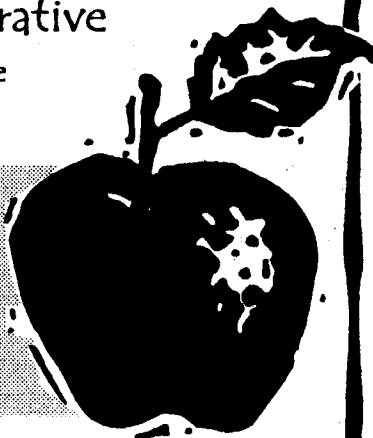
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SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

September 18

Peace Council gathering & potluck. "Redress of Grievances: Every Citizen's Obligation. From Speaking Out to Getting Locked Up." Panel discussion. Westcott Community Center. 6pm. Do action. See back cover for more info.

6

EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent. Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.

13

Westcott Street Cultural Fair. Noon-8pm. Music, community group, teaching, food, entertainment & more. Rain date September 27.

20

EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable Ch. 3, 8pm. Produced by Peace Council.

27

EVERY SUNDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 11:30am. Time Warner Cable channel 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.

1

Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 858 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.

8

"Sing it Down, Close the School of the Americas" free performances by Julie Rickman, Colleen Kaitau & Ed Kivane. Hendrick's Chapel, Syracuse University. 7pm.

15

Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.

22

Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.

29

EVERY MONDAY: HIV+ Issues Group meeting. 6:30-8pm. Sponsored by AIDS Community Resources. Call Bob for place. 475-2430.

2

1st THREE WEDNESDAYS: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Av. 5:30pm. 472-5478.

EVERY WEDNESDAY: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478.

9

HOPE, Inc. meeting (grassroots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3618.

NOW CNY Chapter meeting. Marine Midland Bank, 360 S Warren, 7pm. 487-3188.

Caribbean/Latin America Coalition working potluck at Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St. 6:30pm. 478-4571.

Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.

"Nuclear Nightmares: From Recycling Nuclear Waste into Consumer Products to the Demolition of the Power Industry" with Judith Johnson, Ph.D. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. Sponsored by Peace Action & SANE.

15

NAACP general mtg. 7pm. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 422-6633.

23

Syracuse United Neighbors/ Skunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 478-7475.

EVERY WED: Syracuse Community Choir rehearsal for winter solstice concert. Come sing with us! No auditions. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 7:30pm. 487-8607.

30

Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker/Benefit Dinner. St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center, Winton St., off Burnet Av. 5:30 pm. \$0-\$15 donation. 471-8653.

EVERY WEDNESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories 8pm. \$2.

3

Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 5:30pm. 476-6228.

Syracuse United Neighbors/ Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Av. 7pm. 476-7475.

11

Red Branch Irish Americans for Peace & Justice meets at Coleman's Pub. 7pm. 475-0345.

18

Join the Peace Council for an open discussion about the U.S. military strikes in Afghanistan & Sudan. How do we make sense of it? How do we respond? 7pm at 924 Burnet Av. 472-5478.

10

EVERY THURSDAY: Sitting Meditation at Women's Info. 801 Allen St. 7-9:05am. Free.

17

Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 208 Onondaga Av. 7:30pm. 422-6237.

24

EVERY THURSDAY: Lesbian & Gay Youth Support group (ages 14-21). Women's Info Center, 801 Allen St. Call for time 422-9741.

Community Media Action Group presents a Grassroots Media Forum. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. Tim Judson. 422-4924.

1st & 3rd THURSDAYS: Gay & Lesbian Alliance meeting. Enable, 1603 Court St. 7:30pm. 472-5732.

24

Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cynrd 475-1878.

Prayer vigil at Levitt. Plastics Solvay plant on Milton Av. Sponsored by Labor-Religious Coalition. Support Levitt workers & union organizing struggles. 4pm.

26

Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Av. 5-7pm. Free Food!

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26

Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Av. 5-7pm. Free Food!

5

EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time Warner Cable channel 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

12

Justice for Jenny Gammage vigil. God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 5:30pm.

19

"It's a Bird, It's a Tree, It's a Plant" Come for a walk in the woods with naturalists Marge Rusk, Andy Molloy & Karen Kerney at Verona Beach State Park. Fundraiser for Syracuse Peace Council. 1-4pm. \$5 adults, \$12 family. 472-5478. Rain date: Sunday, Sept. 20.

18

EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7pm. Women's Info Center, 801 Allen St. 492-8035.

18

Peace Council gathering & potluck. "Redness of Grievances: Every Citizen's Obligation, From Speaking Out to Getting Locked Up." Panel discussion. Westcott Community Center. 6pm. Do more info.

25

EVERY FRIDAY: Gay & Lesbian Young Adult meeting (ages 21-25). Women's Info Center, 801 Allen St. 422-9741 for time.

26

Irish Northern Aid meeting. Call Patrick Smith for time & place. 469-9848.

Syracuse Peace Council  
Community Calendar

September  
1998

Total support group support meeting held at the Peace Council. 472-5478. October deadline: Sept. 24

**IT'S A BIRD...  
IT'S A TREE...  
IT'S A PLANT...  
BUT WHAT KIND?**

Come for a walk in the woods and find out with local naturalists Andy Molloy, Marge Rusk, Karen Kerney & more. Explore two one-hour loops on the undeveloped side of Verona Beach State Park.

**Saturday, September 19 • 1-4pm**  
(rain date, Sept 20)

30-45 minutes East of Syracuse Off Rt. 13  
North of Canastota, Thruway exit 34  
¼ mile north of State Park Entrance  
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look for SPC sign



Bring weather appropriate clothing & footwear (sneakers ok), camera, binoculars, inquiring mind...

\$5/person, \$12/family  
(additional donations gratefully accepted)  
phone RSVP by 9/17 (so we have enough guides)

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**Syracuse Peace Council**  
COMMUNITY GATHERING

**Redress of Grievances**  
From speaking out to getting locked up  
**every citizen's obligation**

**6PM FRIDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 18, 1998**

**Potluck Dinner**

*SPC will provide table settings, beverages, desserts ~ bring main & side dishes (vegetarian please)*

**Panel**

*Community voices on dissent*

**Open discussion and desserts**

*Share a meal and conversation with old and new friends*

Westcott Community Center  
corner of Westcott and Euclid



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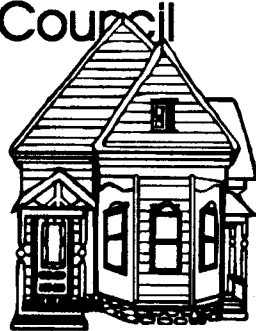


Information (315)472-5478

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**Syracuse Peace Council**

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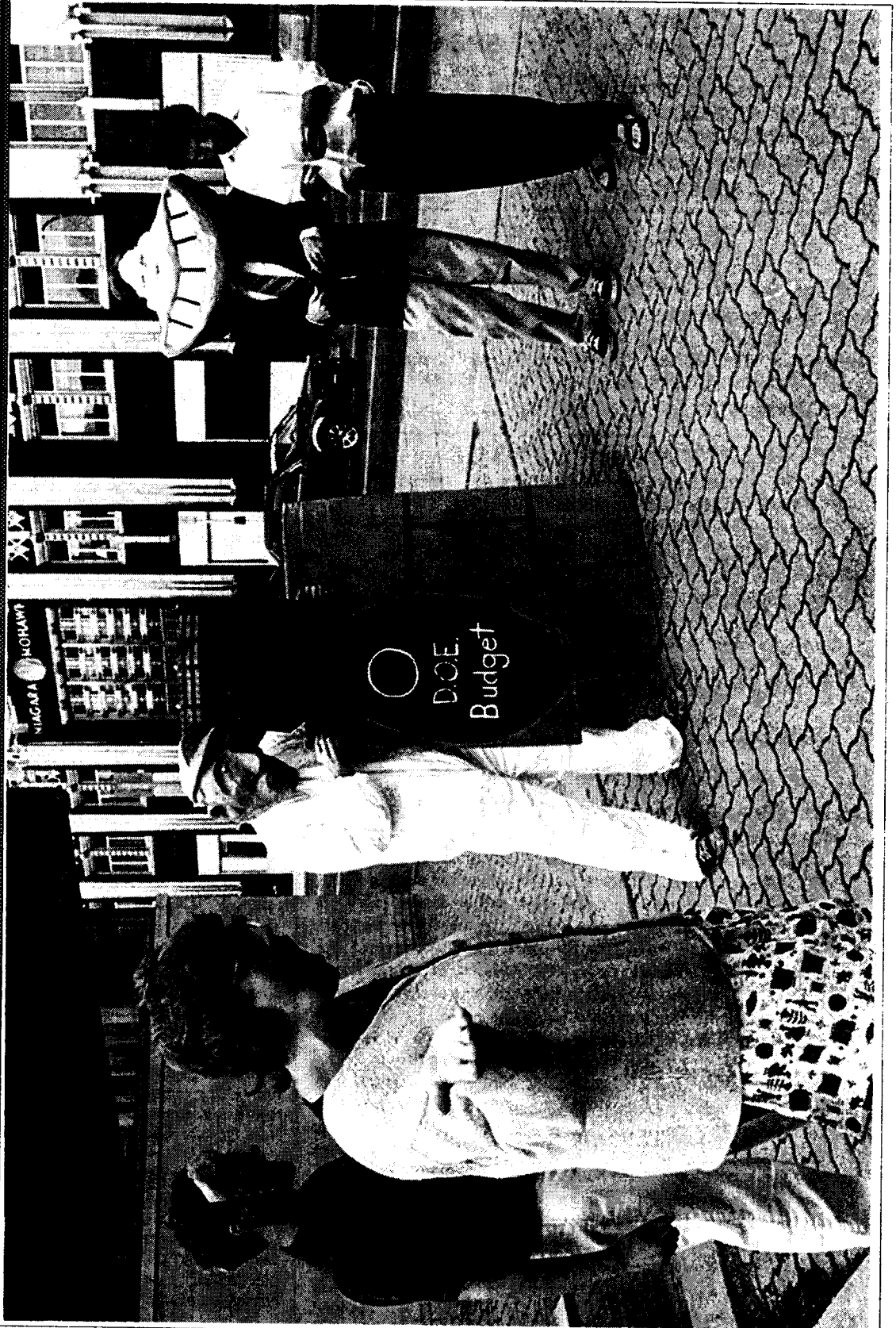
Educate, Agitate, Organize

# Peace News Letter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice October 1998 PNL 672

## Inside:

- Heading to Benning • SEIU Strike Resolved
- High-Tech War & Child Abuse • New York & the Death Penalty • Nine Mile 1 & Democratic Meltdown • Clinton Sells Out West Texas



# 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  
Beth Mosley

**SPC Press**  
Paul Pearce

### Bookkeeper

Duane Hardy

### SPC Council:

Paul Frazier, Rae Kramer,  
Carl Mellor, Andy Molloy,  
Marge Rusk, Ann Tiffany

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

## The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets most Wednesdays at 5:30 PM at the Peace Council. Call SPC to confirm the time.

**Editorial & Production:** Beth Berila, Paul Frazier, Karen Hall, Bill Hamler, Tim Judson, Mike Kernahan, Rae Kramer, Joy Meeker, Andy Molloy, Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce, David Schechter

**Graphics Coordinator:** Anita Welych

**Cover Coordinator:** Karen Kerney

## SPC Projects: 472-5478

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

## Other Volunteers

Sonali Sathaye, Chuck Durand, Mardea Warner, Amy Bartell, Vanessa Johnson, Ed Kinane, Aggie Lane, Joan Goldberg, Ruth Putter, Margaret Birdlebough, Kathy Barry, Brian Caulfield, Fredrick Noyes, Jolie Rickman, Bill Mazza, Lance Hogan, Bill Hamler, Sylvia Burgess, Daniel Bowers, Carol Baum, Chris Spies-Rusk, Susan Adair, Nick Orth, Michael DeSalvo

## 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**  
Doug Igelsrud 471-5749

**ACLU-CNY Chapter**  
Barrie Gewanter 471-2821

**Alliance-Psychiatric System Survivors**  
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

**Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition**  
Shirley Novak 446-6099

**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

**Community Media Action Group**  
423-4783

**CUSLAR** (607) 255-7293

**Dunbar Center**  
Merriete Pollard 476-4269

**EON/Transgender Community**  
Melissa 423-4099

**Fair Housing Council of CNY**  
Merrilee Witherell 471-0518

**Fair Trial for Mumia Committee**  
472-5478

**Fightback! of CNY** 422-0555

**Food Bank of CNY** 437-1899

**Food Not Bombs** 423-7856

**Friends of the Filipino People**  
John 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

**Irish Northern Aid**  
Patrick Smith 469-8948

**Jail Ministry** 424-1877

**Kenark Center for Creative Spirituality**  
Bourke Kennedy 685-5414

**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 Audobon** 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)

**Physicians for Social Responsibility** 488-2140

**Planned Parenthood** 475-5525

**PWHIV/ AIDS Support Hotline**  
Sandra 471-5911

**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**  
Robert Tompkins 424-1750

**Sierra Club**  
Sue Carlson 445-1663

**Small Claims Court Action Center** 443-1401

**S.O.A. Watch/ CNY**  
Ed Kinane 478-4571

**Social Workers for Peace**  
Dick Mundy 445-0797

**Socialist Party**  
Ron Ehrenreich 478-0793

**Spanish Action League** 471-3762

**SU African-American Society**  
443-4633

**Student Environmental Action Coalition**  
Michelle Baumfleck 423-8000

**Syr. Alternative 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 234-2000

**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

**Syr. Social Movement Initiative**  
Syracuse United Neighbors  
Rich Puchalski 476-7475

**S.U. for Animal Rights** 443-4199

**Urban League**  
Eloise Dowdell Curry 472-6955

**Utica Community Action**  
John Furman 797-7020

**Witness for Peace Delegations**  
Nancy Gwin 422-4669

**Women's Center (SU)** 443-4268

**Women's Health Outreach**  
425-3653

**Women's INFO Center** 478-4636

(If you want your group listed, please call)

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

**About the cover:**

**"Connecting Nuclear Weapons and Power"**

photo by Jamie McCallum

THE PHOTO ON THE COVER is from a skit written and performed by Fire in the Belly Theater, "The Experiment Is Over." It was performed for the first time in ten years on September 22, 1998 in front of the Niagara Mohawk building, downtown Syracuse.

Fire in the Belly resurrected the skit for the NRC public meeting on Thursday, September 24, in order to draw attention to and inform people about the dangers of nuclear power and in particular NiMo's Nine Mile 1 plant (see page 16 for more on the plant and the meeting).

In the scene shown on the cover, Sally Sensable (Kathy Barry) discovers the connection between nuclear power and nuclear weapons, with the help of Will Stopum (Simon Morrin), a NiMo worker (Brian Caufield), Will Nukem (Tim Judson), and the narrator (Steve Penn).

Jamie McCallum is an activist and a photojournalist at SU. — *Tim Judson*

**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, Ted Widay, Cynthia Maud-Gembler

**PEACE NEWSLETTER**

October 1998  
PNL 672

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**SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE**

**Helpers Needed for PNL Revolution**

THE MOST ASKED QUESTION throughout Central New York this past month: "You got power?" The best answer heard: "We got the power, but we don't have electricity."

Here at the Peace Council we got the power, but we don't have the workers. Each month the **PNL** is written, edited, published, and distributed. We are in need a few more workers to keep the **PNL** moving forward.

We believe the newsletter can become a financial asset to the SPC, not an activity that increases the debit each month. This may mean more subscribers, more ads, and more circulation. We need workers to help us accomplish modest goals for the following year.

Duane Hardy's letter (see p. 6) reflects

the current **PNL** dilemma: many articles "ought" to be written. We need writers and editors, as well as artists and graphics people. Many issues facing Central New Yorkers connect to out international justice concerns. We need reporters to go out and find those stories and write them.

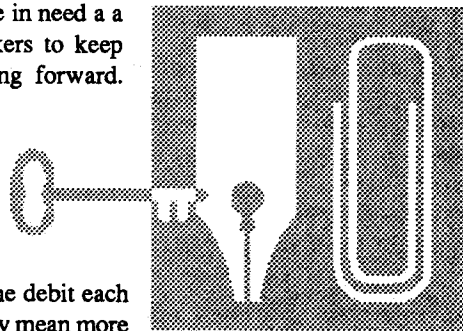
We need a talkative crew of volunteers who can get on the phones and organize a call-in for more **PNL** subscriptions.

We need someone(s) to help increase the ads in the **PNL**, moving the newsletter from the red into the black.

The current editorial staff — Bill Hammler, Tim Judson, and Mike Kernahan — welcomes your call.

Reach Tim Judson at the SPC (472-5478) and let him know your talents and interests.

— *Paul Frazier*



continued on page 5

**November Issue Deadlines**

Articles	Oct 14
Ads	Oct 23
Calendar Items	Oct 23



# The Insiders

*a letter from Doris Sage*

**"The worst sexism in America today is in our women's prisons. They may be convicted of prostitution, addiction, theft, murder... at that point they are all prisoners of a system that works impartially to pervert and destroy any woman in its power."**

From *Women In Prison* by Kathryn Watterson Burkhart, Popular Library Edition 1973; published by arrangement with Doubleday & Co., Inc.

Even though this book was published in 1973, it describes experiences and tells stories like those heard every day at Danbury Federal Prison Camp.

The first thing I felt coming into Danbury was powerlessness, which I tried to intellectualize. I knew powerlessness was an experience for the families of many of the inner city students I taught for 21 years. I rationalized it as a real-life experience of what it must be like for them.

Next I encountered mean spirit, humiliation, and cruelty, from the camp administration down. One woman told me the most helpful advice she received was as she was being processed in. The officer warned her that she will be held responsible and punished for rules she did not know. Information is power: inmates are not informed; often staff is not informed or an officer will arbitrarily and whimsically choose rules they will enforce. They may take their frustrations out on women with petty punishments, like dumping dirty mop water out on the floor after women have cleaned, ordering them to clean it up again; ordering women to stand in military drill formation, responding to military orders.

It is painful and exhausting to be constantly on guard, wondering where the next assault will come from.

Unlike most of the women here, I had support when I came in: Anne Herman, Ann Tiffany, and Megan Rice. Anne Herman, whose sentence began two months before the three of us, served time in "seg" (lockup) until the bureaucratic paperwork unique to our situation was cleared up. It made our entry much easier than she experienced. We are fortunate that we can communicate and share with each other. I am comforted because I believe I am

here for a just cause and am supported daily by people all over the United States.

My participation in jail volunteer work taught me that the prison system is unresponsive to its clients and is focused on power and punishment. I was not prepared for the pain that vengeance can cause and how pervasive it can be. I assumed that if I obeyed the rules and was respectful, I could survive the six months — and I suppose I am.

It is not just the "receiving" clothing new inmates wear that identifies them as new to Danbury. It is the dazed look in their eyes and frazzled hair. This is especially true if they came in on the "cattle airlift" where they spend weeks crossing the country in shackles, staying in county jails. The term "self-surrender"



had no significant meaning for me until I heard women tell of their experiences on the airlift. It is beautiful to see the transformation over the next few days after the women have taught them the basic rules, loaned them the necessities, and someone has done their hair and their nails. Their face softens, their eyes begin to focus and they can talk and smile.

New women are usually anxious to get their work assignments because there is so little for them to do, so few activities or programs other than the GED diploma program. Library services are extremely limited, television is not accessible, space for reading and writing has been taken for beds. Women are

not allowed in the halls or on the stairs; the few picnic tables outside are often filled with women talking and playing cards. Tables are not available in the hot sun or when it rains. An outdoor jungle gym built for visitors' children was recently bulldozed down; it became a symbol of mean-spirited repression. It was a place for women to gather.

Sitting on the edge of the bed to read or write is hard on the back and neck. Women are "out-of-bounds," punishable by being "written up" if found in a dorm or cube other than their own. Dorms are noisy, cubes are tiny and hot. Two huge industrial fans run day and night with the roar of an airplane propeller which makes conversation difficult.

Living under prevailing stress women are often exhausted and depressed. Some do their "time" sleeping when not on work assignments; some sit alone for hours staring out over the scenic valley below us; some spend hours intricately styling each other's hair and nails; some lie in the sun developing dark suntans; and a few walk the track or work out in an ancient weight room left over from the days Danbury was a prison for the Watergate conspirators.

Women learn to tune out or forget the little things that make life pleasantly civilized — a glass of wine with dinner, or mushrooms, sun-dried tomatoes, herbs and spices in their food, or a comfortable chair to sit in. Other women confirm they never think about intimate relations with their partners.

Other women admit that they are not aware of dreaming. I recall only one dream and it is still very vivid. I was in bed and rolled over (something I can't do on my bunk). I was in our queen-sized bed at home. I rolled over into Dan's arms and he said "It's all over," and I felt comforted. But when I tell this dream I cry.

I find peace on the quarter mile track, also built for the Watergate men. With a Sony Walkman purchased at the commissary I can tune into three NPR classical music stations and walk under an unobstructed, continually changing, watercolor-painted sky, with the most beautiful clouds I have ever seen — and it is healing.

*Doris has completed her six-month sentence for protesting the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia and was released from Danbury, Connecticut Federal Prison Camp on September 18.*



# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

## Redress of Grievances Pot-Luck and Panel Discussion

The timing of the SPC "Redress of Grievances" pot-luck supper and forum did not take into account the Labor Day storm. While we can fantasize hundreds of Central New Yorkers reading their *PNL* by flashlight or candlelight, news of the "Redress of Grievances" evening did not readily get into the light. Nonetheless, for the 30 community people who attended the pot-luck and discussion (Redress of Grievances, Friday, September 18, at the Westcott Community Center), quite a bit of light was shed on the essential questions: "What do we do as activists? How do we protest? How do we measure what we do? How do we use those skills when the issues may fall within the justice community itself?"

Given the small gathering, the dialogue took on a genuine feeling of personalism. Rae Kramer facilitated the evening, bringing the group from a delicious vegetarian dinner into a circle of discussion. Rae introduced the evening with recollections of Dan Sage's letter from prison, printed in the *PNL*, asking what is the best way to use ourselves in protest work. Textbook definitions of dissent were presented, and a number of books off the shelf were identified: "Here I Stand", by Paul Robeson; Blumenfeld's "Sacco and Vanzetti: Murderers or Murdered?"; "The Autobiography of Malcolm X."; and "The Berrigans," the Holy Cross quarterly dedicated to the Berrigan brothers. Dissent, Rae remarked, takes many forms. The panelists were introduced. Each presented, and we continued with a heartfelt hour discussion.

Fr. Ted Sizing, active with Central America issues for many years, shared with the community his struggle: Do I cross the line a second time at Ft. Benning? How do I discern? Whose reflections do I reread for inspiration and guidance?

Barb DeFrancqueville, working each day with social services systems: How do I speak up against the policies I am paid to enforce? When is my voice heard? And how do I register my positions on injustices, especially when the problems sometimes come from the institutions that purportedly exist to alleviate suffering?

Doug Iglesrud: How do I work against the media that paints Cuba and Castro as just this side of evil? What impressions do Central New Yorkers have of the blockade against Cuba? How do we continue to present a per-

spective that runs against mainstream America mindsets? What makes Pastors for Peace an effective political organization?

Karen Hall: How do I continue to struggle for justice when the systemic biases I sometimes face are held in place by members of the peace and justice community? (As we met, a petition went around the circle, calling for the end of the blockade of Cuba. Karen noted how the petitions were promoted by an international religious community, known not only for its social justice work but also for its homophobia). How do I create the "space" to bring to the light basic violations? I'm often the trouble-maker, it seems. If critical questions need to be brought up, even though it may cause a rocky road, it seems important to do.

The practice of action-reflection, as practiced in the peace and justice community, often emphasizes the "action" part and not enough "reflection." The Redress of Grievances gathering gave us a healthy dose of reflection and sharing. Our willingness to learn from each other, to dialogue about what we do, to share our successes and frustrations, was modeled clearly at the forum.

Thanks to Ted, Barb, Doug, and Karen for preparing and sharing.

A regular gathering of this kind may help a lot in creating that balance between action and reflection.

— Paul Frazier

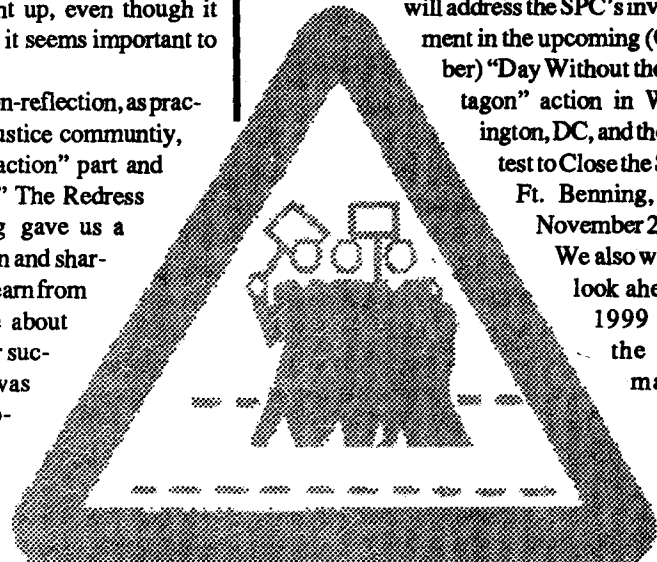
## Political Action

The political action of the SPC falls into two main areas: First, there is the work of the *PNL*, which is political action, generating and disseminating political news to the community. Second, there are the organizing, educating, and agitating activities of the SPC: the efforts to sustain a campaign against NiMo; support for the Day Without the Pentagon protest in Washington, DC; support for the upcoming protest at Ft. Benning, GA to close the SOA; organizing day-after rallies after bombings of

Iraq; supporting and assisting in protests against the blockade of Cuba. The list is long.

Last week we sent out the following postcard to a number of SPC support people. We want to make sure we did not exclude anyone who has an interest in working together on SPC political activities, and are continuing this invitation to readers of the *PNL*:

Dear friends of the Syracuse Peace Council,  
We are inviting you to a discussion about the Peace Council's involvement in upcoming and future political actions. On Thursday evening, October 8, at 7 pm at the Peace Council, 924 Burnet Ave., we will address the SPC's involvement in the upcoming (October) "Day Without the Pentagon" action in Washington, DC, and the protest to Close the SOA, Ft. Benning, GA, November 21-22. We also want to look ahead to 1999 and the formation



of an ongoing Political Action Committee of the SPC. We would like you to take part in these discussions and hope you can join us.

Please call Beth Mosley at the SPC, 472-5478, and let her know if you can make this gathering. We look forward to seeing you.

Simply, we want to develop a committee that will help organize and carry out SPC political events.

We will try to combine both the long-range planning necessary for political change and the spontaneous acts essential for community protest and education. Can you help out? Call the SPC and offer your time and talents, and come to the meeting on October 8.

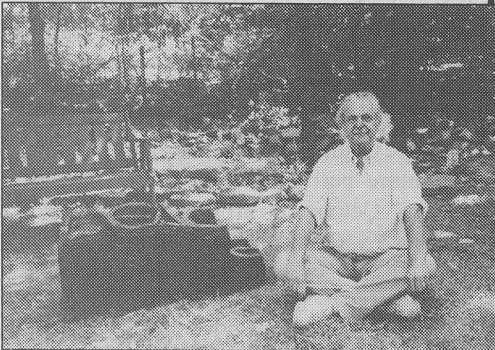
— Paul Frazier



# LETTERS

## Making a Peace-ful Culture

I am seeking to contact everyone who has a memorial of any kind to peace and peacemakers in their home or yard. My assumption is that we live in a war, warrior, and violent culture because the images and messages of aggression predominate and perpetuate those values over peace, peacemakers and nonviolence. While we work to change national policies, we



can also transform our own properties into places that educate for peace.

I have a sculpture in my back yard which has PEACE in large letters at the top, with the names of peacemakers from Jane Addams to Howard Zinn in raised letters all around the oval sides. The PEACE letters are also raised to enable me to grow moss, ferns, or flowers there, to suggest that the peace proposed is not only the ending of wars between nations and groups but between humans and nature. Instead of images and messages of aggression and violence so common on television and our culture at large, this sculpture reminds us of peaceful alternatives. A description and photo are available.

Please contact me if you have a peace memorial, or if you plan to create one. And tell your friends to contact me. I will be a clearing-house for sharing information and photos.

James R. Bennett

2582 Jimmie, Fayetteville, AR 72703-3420

jbennet@comp.uark.edu

(501) 442-4600 x3420

## What About the Sanctions?

In the Iran hostage crisis, Walter Kronkite counted up to 444 days that the hostages were held. Can we have something is every issue? If community involvement/connections are at issue, we do have a Moslem community, and, at the meeting at South Presbyterian [Church, March '98], there was a lot of feeling. I think we need to keep the issue alive. This picture [printed 8/8/98, Philadelphia Inquirer] can't

be used, of course, but it is the largest things I've seen in the PRESS. Maybe our story could be something like this:

### 600,000 AND COUNTING

Since April, 1991, when the shooting and bombing stopped in Iraq, that many civilians, mostly children have died from starvation, disease and radiation-related illnesses, especially leukemia. Because of the sanctions, food and medicines have not been available to the ordinary people. And because parts and motors cannot be imported, sewage is still running in the streets and potable water is nearly impossible to come by.

Regardless of compliance or non-compliance with weapons inspections, this is still GENOCIDE. Do we want to wait another seven plus years, when the death toll will be something over a million?

The sanctions must be lifted now.

— Duane Hardy

Duane,

Your concern about the lack of coverage of the US sanctions against Iraq in the PNL are right on the mark. There are a lot of issues we don't cover as well or as consistently as we'd like to, including issues related to the CNY community, like the Jonny Gammage case or the problems of pollution on Syracuse's south side. Because of lack of time and resources on the PNL staff, the range of our coverage has been limited to what the editorial staff can readily generate themselves or what people send to us or contact us about directly.

There are some issues, like this one and the others above, that stand out as deserving more of our attention. After the immediate crisis of US aggression against Iraq ended last March, I foresaw the issue slipping away from the PNL — because the crisis was over and activism in Syracuse was being redirected to other issues, the genocide would slip back into the shadows again. This despite the fact that the sanctions were a focus of local organizing against the US government's threats of war.

And yet it's the job of the press to keep important issues in the spotlight, and to put them there when they are not. We ask nothing less of the corporate, mainstream press, and rightly criticize them for it when (as often happens) they fail to do that job responsibly or fairly. So why have we let the sanctions slip out of the PNL's spotlight?

Photo printed in Philadelphia Inquirer, Aug. 8, 1998.



Iraqi women wait for food handouts at a mosque in Baghdad.

Whereas the mainstream press has more than enough resources to be covering far more important news than they generally do (even mainstream audiences have criticized the inundation of the media with insignificant issues, such as the marks on President Clinton's genitalia), the PNL has been too short of editorial staff to do the research or outreach to cover issues we know need to be addressed.

A small group of volunteer editors has been working hard to get the PNL to press on time each month, and yet we know this publication can be so much more than has been possible lately. While we are trying to regroup and identify the PNL's needs, it helps to get the feedback you've offered, Duane. We will devote more energy to covering the sanctions against Iraq. We also encourage the rest of our readership to call or write us with suggestions about the newsletter. Ideally, the PNL should be defined by the needs of the CNY peace and justice community, rather than just the small body of people who enjoy working on it. — Tim Judson, PNL Editorial Collective

## (UN)CLASSIFIEDS

**HOUSEMATE WANTED:** Co-op-oriented house in the Westcott area. 4 men & 2 women (2 omnivores, 2 vegans, 2 vegetarians) seek a housemate (prefer woman). Rent is affordable, utilities included. Garden, compost, garage, large porch. Sorry, no cats or dogs. 422-4924.

**Returning Peacniks Seek Humble Abode:** Looking for a small house or apartment to rent in or near Syracuse. Prefe close to a park or other natural area with community-minded neighbors. Have a dog and cat. Call Andy Mager or Cheri Campbell at (607) 842-6858 after October 3.



# Heading South to Stop Abuses

## The November Protest to Close the SOA, Ft. Benning, Georgia

**W**e unfortunately buy into the delineations foisted upon us by the "powers that be." Cross the line or not cross the line. First timers, second timers. Let us redefine and look anew at this fall's Call to Action, an invitation, to say the least; an urgent plea, quite possibly; a demand we choose to put upon ourselves because we know too much, care too much, and can't not vigil-pray-and commit civil disobedience at the call of the SOA Watch.

The story should be as known as Clinton's escapades: our government has trained, by the thousands, military personnel from Latin and Central America for acts of torture, assassination, and repression. The US Army School of the Americas at Ft. Benning, GA has become the touchstone of all that is wrong with US foreign policy. Predictably, only years of protest, Freedom of Information Act inquiries, and fearless testimony from victims brought the atrocities of the SOA to light. Understandably, denial followed; then the "few bad apples" logic. And currently modest Congressional attempts to reduce by small amounts the budget of the School of Assassins.

Ed Kinane recalls hitch-hiking to Columbus, GA a few years ago to take part in a protest at the gates of Ft. Benning. The movement grew: 601 arrests last November, and at least two busses are making the trip from Seattle, Washington this November. As he readies himself for a sixteen month federal prison sentence for nonviolent protests at the base, and as Ann Tiffany, Nick Cardell, Dan and Doris Sage, and Sr. Megan Rice return to Syracuse after serving six month sentences, and as Kathleen Rumpf calls Jail Ministry from Brooklyn, NY, on her way to her federal destination for the remainder of her twelve month sentence—as prisoners come and go, the Call to Action is heard a bit more clearly.

Cross that line. Commit civil disobedience. Fr. Roy Bourgeois, himself in a prison

cell, calls upon those who crossed for the first time last November — those numbering about 575 — to cross again and face the distinct possibility of a six month prison sentence and \$3,000 fine. The maximum fine could be \$5,000. No higher prison time could be given, given this country's laws.

The government has put the pressure on. They hold big cards. They threaten to not only arrest and prosecute those crossing the line a second time, but also this threat is in the air at Columbus: Those "crossing the line" for the first time could be charged with a misdemeanor, found guilty, and sentenced as were the CNY Prisoners of Conscience: six months and up to a \$5,000 fine. No "ban and bar" letters. Cross and get your life disrupted. Work for justice? Then pay the price.

The Peace Council hosted a dialogue on

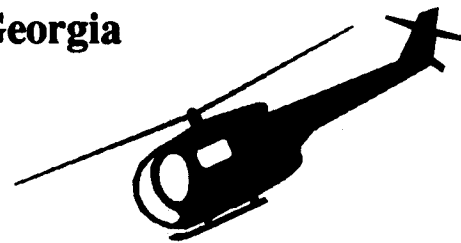
***"We are asking 1,000 'First Timers' to cross the line this year on November 22. I also make a special appeal to the 601 who crossed in 1997: Please consider crossing the line again this year. Your presence at the vigil and your possible witness from federal prison is a powerful statement to others that pumps new life and energy into the movement to close the SOA." — Fr. Roy Bourgeois***

dissent and redress of grievances at the Westcott Community Center September 18. The SOA campaign became a focus of discussion. In the reflections of the evening the trap of a false continuum became clear: write a letter to Congress; join in a noontime rally at the Syracuse federal building; go to Columbus and vigil; cross the line; cross the line again. Up the ladder of resistance and action.

Will the national media give any more attention to another 601 arrests than given last year? Will a response to the call for 1,000 to "cross the line" break through the already "bought and sold" evening news?

If the government chooses to prosecute everyone who crosses the line, first timers and second timers alike, will that moment in history move the atrocities of the SOA into the consciousness of the nation?

We pride ourselves on clear thinking and



self-determination. And we also know, giving a nod to the economic paradigms, that there is a price to pay for justice. But we must keep clear to avoid the trap of "one up-personship," the trap of the continuum created by the oppressors, and the trap of believing one person can end years of torture and international oppression.

If we were to take the artificial continuum of letter writing-to-prison time and bring those two actions together, as if bending a flexible tube, perhaps we can begin to envision a circle of support and nonviolent resistance. The

circle is strong. The circle brings all into a common design. One point on the circle is not distinguishable from another. All points are equidistant from the center, from the truth that makes us free, from the truth that breaks the lies and stops the funds that run the SOA.

If we gather ourselves in small affinity groups, acknowledge the goodness of each of us, from letter-writer to ex-prisoner, then perhaps we can find the individual and collective strengths to close the SOA.

Do you know, for sure, where you will be and what you will be doing on November 22, 1998? Are you willing to take the time to discern that which is right for you and that which will help close the SOA?

The local SOA Abolitionist Affinity Group will hold a community meeting on Monday, October 12, at the Franciscan Center, the first driveway south of the intersection of Grant Blvd. and Court St. Call the SPC at 472-5478 for more information. We will discuss the legal and practical issues relating to the protest at Ft. Benning. From travel and lodging concerns to discussions about "What if they..." we meet as a concerned community. We will look together at how we can support each other, whatever our choices. We invite your participation.

Paul Frazier helps out with the CNY/SOA Abolitionist Affinity Group, and is a member of the SPC Council.



# Day Without the Pentagon

## October 18, 1998 — Washington, DC

### The Scenario

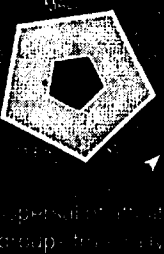
— Monday, October 19, 1998 —

#### The Rush Hour Actions at the Pentagon

**5am-8am** Some affinity groups may want to take advantage of the high visibility during morning rush hour to begin their actions. Pentagon employees begin to arrive by the thousands between the hours of 3 and 8am. Small numbers of people willing to risk arrest by blocking roadways and entrances (not highways) to the Pentagon not only would be seen by many commuters, but also might get mentioned in the morning traffic reports. However, considering that it may be dark and therefore dangerous for those sitting in front of vehicles, less risky activities like banner drops from highway overpasses or a series of signs lining the highways could be preferable.

Blueprint for Conversion and Blockade  
(tentative plan)

Entrance Converted Use and Action



<b>Metro Hellport</b>	blockade/shut it down memorials and monuments to all who have died or suffered because of war and militarism
<b>Mall</b>	housing for homeless/soup kitchen/day care center
<b>River</b>	education/youth affairs/social change

**9am** **The March from DC to the Pentagon**  
Led by Bread & Puppet Theatre

#### The Rally at the Pentagon

**11am-4pm** As marchers arrive at the parade ground of the Pentagon's River Entrance, the legal rally will begin. Demonstrators who do not participate in the march should gather at the Pentagon using public transportation. The subway stops at the Metro Court Entrance, so protesters will have to walk clockwise almost all the way around to reach the River Entrance (going counterclockwise is impeded by the Jefferson Davis Hwy.). The rally will include music and theater; as we go to press, several speakers have been confirmed including Dave Dellenger, Allan Nairn, and Daniel Ellsberg. In the afternoon, civil disobedience will begin again at Pentagon entrances while the rally continues at the parade ground.

#### The Civil Disobedience: No Business as Usual!

**3pm** Because A Day Without the Pentagon envisions a world without the military but with adequate healthcare, food for all, decent housing, good education, a clean environment, and a fair system of justice, we will feature different social concerns at four of the Pentagon's five sides and establish a nonviolent blockade at the fifth side. We expect these actions to dramatize our concerns and show all the things that would be possible if we were free of the budget-busting expenditure of the military. As the rally continues, affinity groups will disperse counterclockwise around the Pentagon, beginning with those going to the Metro Entrance.

For example, activists concerned with healthcare will march towards the South (Corridor 3) Entrance attempting to create a medical clinic for the day. (Some Congressmembers expected that the Pentagon would be converted to a hospital after World War II.) Stretchers and gurneys and doctors with medical gear will show that our tax dollars would be put to better use guaranteeing healthcare — not warfare — for all. See box for tentative themes for actions at the other entrances.



# “Divide-and-Conquer,” Conquered

## A Laundry List of Lessons Learned from the Service Workers Strike at SU

David Schechter

It has generally been assumed that the strike of library and service workers at Syracuse University was simply a mistake caused by unwise decisions on the part of university administration, a temporary dissatisfaction of a small group of workers, students, faculty, community members, a mere incidental disruption of an exploitative American work ethic, facilitated, under the specific circumstances, by unfair pay, contracts, and administration approaches to ‘negotiations’.

It was not. It was the concrete expression of the beliefs of the many who oppose the attempt of unscrupulous corporations (i.e. SU) to eliminate the right to secure jobs, health care, and pensions for all save a privileged few in the name of profit, disguised in terms such as ‘subcontracting’ and ‘temps’.

It was a representation of the beliefs of the many by a truly participatory democratic process in which those affected by an agreement voted on that contract itself rather than for ‘representatives’ whose loyalty may be bought and sold on the ‘free’ market. It was a vote against the right of employers to deliberately jeopardize the health and economic survival of workers and their loved ones for the sake of their own arrogance, their certainty in the primacy of their economic model of ‘efficiency’, by which those forced by the labor market to rely on employers for wages are made to suffer any hardship, any poverty so that wealthy owners and managers, growing wealthier, may at some time, somehow never within the foreseeable future, ‘adequately’ reimburse them for their labor.

It was a vote against the underhanded transfer of control over wages and benefits from workers to employers implicit in this, in any argument for this ‘efficiency’. It was a vote for taking that control back into the hands of the workers, and for the union as the means to do so, despite the denigration unions have suffered in past years through media and political rhetoric (and legislation) — through the corporate world’s traditional ideological means for seeking to disrupt any form of empowerment for oppressed groups.

It was not a vote that counted, not to those who would rather count campaign contributions from those exploiting the many for their own economic gain. It was a vote for the many who are not spoken for by such representatives, and who have heard their own voices in the demands of the workers of SEIU 200A for fair benefits and living wages, and come to realize that there are more direct forms of democracy.

It has once more become clear to us that what is commonly portrayed as economic, is inherently political, that, under the current economic system, it demands inherently the exercise of power by some over the health, happiness, and even survival, of others. The independence, both individual and collective, of these others, this majority, these workers, their right to a direct voice in reshaping the ways economics has power over their lives, is thus at stake.

As many graduate students and faculty testified in solidarity with the striking workers, a middle-class job, status, or education does not guarantee economic or other forms of security, making the majority, those disempowered by the new, more ‘efficient’ corporate model, even greater. The perception that being ‘middle-class’ *did* provide some measure of security was more delusion than reality, since those within it were and are employed by someone else, someone who may, for whatever reason (‘efficiency’, for instance), bring their economic security to an end.

Just as this collective delusion has been perpetuated and put to use by those who would isolate the poor, working class, and middle class from each other as political strategy, (however, strategy having real social and economic consequences for those with no say in it), the rabid creation of temporary or subcontracted, lower-paying jobs with fewer benefits has sought to reduce the participation of all those affected, in any social or political action, in any democracy: when many must work at several part-time, cruelly underpaid jobs merely to get by, and when their job security is uncertain, *and* when there are children to care for, the rich can laugh at this robbery of the time and energy which could be devoted to collective social action.

This strategy (keep the workers busy and separated) has, however, *not* succeeded, for

we have seen that it affects us all, and taken action. The strike received the participation and support of groups throughout the country, particularly from workers, students, and faculty of other universities, where subcontracting and fair wages and benefits are also at issue. It succeeded not only in achieving many of the items sought in an agreement, but built solidarity throughout and across numerous groups and communities.

Attempts by university administration to divide the protesters from each other were rampant, of course. It refused to negotiate a single agreement, seeking to isolate the small group of about fifty parking workers from the union by demanding a contract for each group. This failed — the union continues to support the parking workers, and will until an agreement ending on the same date as the general contract is achieved.

But the administration tried other tactics as well: faculty were threatened throughout the strike with the loss of pay and benefits, and the Chancellor, in a further (unsuccessful) attempt to undermine faculty support, recently announced confirmation of this. Likewise, workers, particularly those most vocal in the strike, have been the targets of various forms of reprisal, including demotions and pay cuts. All of this comes despite a prior statement by

cont. on page 21

### Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice  
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# Oily Politics II

**Q: When is a reserve not a reserve?**

**A: When your government unreservedly throws it away.**

Mike Kernahan

It's tough to have a political consciousness these days. We have a president apparently incapable of governing the appetites we share with dogs or, more to the point, without the sense to indulge them with the discretion we expect of presidents. We have a congress closely resembling a pack of ravenous huskies in its no-holds-barred pursuit of the presidential hindquarters. We have a Supreme Court preparing to enter the twenty-first century with a vision for the country firmly rooted somewhere in the seventeenth. And, to continue the canine metaphor, we have an electorate which, like Pavlov's dog, continues to respond to the usual stimuli in the usual way, but is enraged to discover that it's getting the usual result.

It's all highly diverting of course, as it is no doubt intended to be. But what you've got to ask yourself is: What's going on behind all that smoke? After all, before he became an even-more-than-usually lame duck president, when it came to standing up to special interests, Bill Clinton always was a tower of jello. And the Republicans always were, well, Republicans. Nowadays when he is desperately rooting around in his presidential bag of tricks for some deal to conclude at any cost in order to support the illusion that he is proceeding regardless with the business of the people, what is Bill Clinton giving away?

He's giving away the store, that's what.

Take for example, the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA), the official designation for 23 million acres of Alaskan wilderness inhabited by one of the last groups of native Americans, the Inupiat, who still live largely by hunting and fishing. The reserve was established by Congress in 1923 specifi-

cally to ensure a fuel supply for the Navy in time of war. The area was transferred to the Interior Department in 1976, on the condition that oil development would never take place without congressional approval. That approval was given in 1980 when a different part of the reserve was opened to oil leasing, thereby making it the decision of the Secretary of the Interior, with presidential consent, to open the reserve further. Last month, in a deal primarily designed to shore up the reelection campaign of Alaska's Democratic Governor Tony Knowles, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt opened the 4.6 million acre northeast quadrant of the NPRA to oil leasing as early as spring 1999. Never satisfied, the petroleum industry has now launched a new campaign to move that date forward.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the verb reserve as "to store for future or special use." Since we won't have this oil in future, as originally intended, this must be

The NPRA is the largest single tract of undeveloped land remaining in the United States and home to dwindling numbers of Inupiat struggling to cope with the overpowering influence of the predominant culture. It is an environmentally fragile area also home to the largest surviving herd of Arctic caribou in the world. Huge numbers of peregrine falcons, gyrfalcons, rough-legged hawks, over five million waterfowl and shorebirds, and more than 90 species of migratory birds live in the area. Environmentalists have pointed out the incalculable value of the NPRA as wilderness. As a storehouse of genetic material, for its ecological systems which maintain regional food, predator, and weather patterns, for its clean water and its function as a sink for airborne pollutants, to name a few, the NPRA is priceless. Contrasted with the extremely limited value of its use as an oil resource in a down oil market, this is the dumbest possible choice for the NPRA. In economic terms it amounts to less than pennies on the dollar.

The oil industry flacks make the usual arguments, which basically boil down to the claim that this is not an "either or" choice between wilderness and oil. Technology, they say, allows exploitation of oil reserves with no environmental impact. This is the customary fog they spew out in place of the reasoned arguments they lack and, of course, nobody with more than a room temperature IQ actually believes it. In fact, in an unusually frank statement made before he was realigned with the industry's public relations campaign, Ronnie Chappell, spokes-

person for Arco Alaska said flatly, "We can't develop (oil) fields and keep wilderness."

Mr. Chappell (who by now has presumably taken up new duties somewhere north of the Arctic Circle) is entirely correct. Drilling destroys wilderness. Development breeds more development, just as development of oil reserves in Alaska's North Slope has bred this development. It becomes an irresistible force overwhelming the power of indigenous populations to control or direct it and invariably



IF MONEY EQUALS FREE SPECIAL

what's called a "special use." What's so special about it? With oil supplies plentiful and increasing, with oil prices at historic lows and decreasing, with our climate already changing due to excessive fossil fuel burning, and with vehicle fuel efficiency steadily waning, why do we need to open what was intended to be an emergency oil reserve when there clearly is no oil emergency? Simple: A) It's what the oil companies want, and B) It's a political chip for the current occupant of the White House to play with.

Continued on page 21

# High-Tech War Enters a New Phase

## Again, America's Poor Are the Targets

Peter E. Swords

*"We have guided missiles and misguided men."*

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

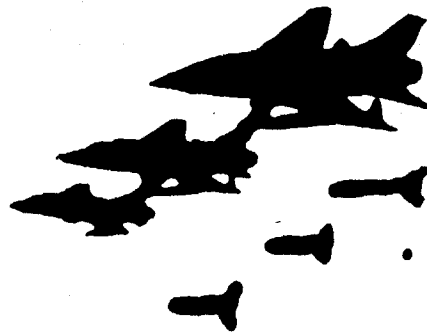
*"Smart is as smart does."* — F. Lee Gump

Last month's high-tech bombings in Afghanistan and the Sudan were targeted as "suspected terrorist" sites by the CIA, executed by US forces and covered by the media in brazen disregard for international law, without public input. Whether this was "Operation Monica" or not, the long tail of the Pentagon is still wagging the dog. This new "third wave" style of warfare, described in Alvin Toffler's book *War and Anti-War*, includes not just "smart bombs," stealth planes and cruise missiles, but satellites, global position sensors, radar, and lots of software to link them together, including many high-tech "civilian" products. The proliferation of violence in the world is thus not only due to weapons sales, training of foreign soldiers, NATO expansion and other such policies of the Pentagon, but also ushered in through the expensive "revolving door" of collusion between the DoD, government officials and military contractors such as Lockheed Martin.

There is a strong local connection. Twelve years ago, we were writing and distributing leaflets calling for "economic conversion" at the GE plants in Syracuse. "Swords into plowshares" conversion would, we thought, not only reduce the proliferation of dangerous weapons but provide more stable growth in our local economy, create more jobs for the dollar in civilian than military production, retrain workers and plan assistance for communities instead of sudden losses of jobs due to cancelled contracts. In a brilliant cooptation of this idea, GE (now Lockheed Martin) stayed in the defense business, stayed in Syracuse and "civilianized" produced more and more diverse products that looked civilian, but are now valuable components of the new high-tech warfighting strategy. By 1991, when "smart bombs" passed their combat tests in the Gulf war, important components of the "third wave" warfare were being designed and built in Syracuse.

For example, one of the many new types of radar have been developed here at LMOR&SS (Lockheed Martin Ocean Radar and Sensor Systems), the \$82 million FPS-

117 3-D radar system, is part of the NATO expansion project (see William Hartung's article in last month's PNL). The "dual-use radars modernize Romania's equipment to meet NATO standards for military uses," according to a LM press release, and are being marketed to other Eastern European countries as entrance requirements for NATO. In the



new strategy, radar sensors are integral to "forward offense" as much as to defense. LM is also a prime contractor for two air defense systems, the THAAD and the SAM/MEADS, components of which are being developed in Syracuse.

Elsewhere, Lockheed Martin continues to build some of the most destabilizing and destructive weapons in the world including the Trident nuclear missiles and depleted uranium weapons. LM also manages nuclear weapons research, testing and development facilities in Nevada and New Mexico, and is developing the electronic warfare system for the Joint Strike Fighter Team. LM has even formed a long-term alliance with IBM, of the United States and Dassault Systemes of France, to create computer-based aircraft development tools and processes to allow designers and engineers to simulate every aspect of airplane design, support and manufacture before parts, tools and processes are actually created. Eventually, such processes will allow military parts to be "faxed to the front," according to Toffler.

Just as "international terrorists" identified as such by our government tend to "up the ante" with each new bombing in an increasing

spiral of violence and secrecy, so the high-tech weapons trade grows by the need to preempt or avenge such strikes faster, farther away and more lethally. Just like the terrorists, our corporations now move from country to country in search of strategic advantages, willing labor and believable cover. They use ready-made protection rackets like fighting "rogue nations" to gain favor.

Awed by the technology, our area representatives and Senator D'Amato have willingly opened the revolving door. Congressman Walsh voted for the B-2 bomber, knowing that it didn't work or have a valid mission, because he wanted the economic "benefits" of advancing technology. D'Amato helped orchestrate state tax breaks worth \$4 million in 1995 so that Lockheed could stay in Electronics Park. Governor Pataki announced this local deal at the grand opening of JOBSplus, three weeks after the state had cut about \$3-5 million from local child-welfare funds for day care.

Lockheed Martin made deals like this by appealing to our state and local government's concern for jobs, but according to Hartung, LM has already let lots of work go foreign in "offsets" deals that allow their products to be made in other countries. How deep is their commitment to Syracuse?

### Forgetting America's Poor

Denial of basic human rights issues is always the other side of the military agenda. Here in Syracuse, despite the variety of services and experts available, the problems of poverty and discrimination still represent the greatest barriers to community building, barriers that individual families cannot solve by themselves. We will probably see our already high (40%+) levels of child poverty go higher in many city neighborhoods in the 2000 census numbers, even if adult poverty goes down. Yet this problem is routinely ignored and denied by our government and community leaders.

I work with families, some with generations of abusive histories, many living with daily levels of stress and deprivation that could harm children if no services or education were available from the community. It is sometimes hard to understand how families can be so different from each other, but there

continued on page 13

# New York and the Death Penalty

Joe Dubovy

Is the death penalty a deterrent to crime? In states that have reinstated the death penalty since 1973, the murder rate has increased. Yet, in states without a death penalty, the murder rate has dropped. If the death penalty is not about deterrence, what purpose does it serve? It is convenient for politicians who would cut funds for education, health care, drug programs, and welfare. These are the very same politicians who seek funds for jail construction. To abolish the social safety net, it is necessary to discredit or even demonize those who would be served by that net. Why take taxes from the middle and wealthy classes to pay for services that the poor would not benefit from? Three states spend more for jails than for education: New York is heading for that cynical goal.

Not long ago funds were shifted to the military budget. Ronald Reagan called the Russians "The Evil Empire" so he could accelerate military spending faster than any president. Without this "Evil Empire" how could beleaguered taxpayers fork up funds for the wealthy, while the poor are left to their own resources? Simply create a new evil. Mix

racism and fear of crime and the stew becomes the modern equivalent of "The Evil Empire." Criminalize a generation of people of color with discriminatory drug sentencing (crack vs. cocaine) and build more death rows. Spotlight the most heinous crimes to justify more jails with the death penalty.

It works in Texas where an execution takes place every two weeks and Texas has the largest jail population per capita in the nation. Professor Richard Halperin of the Southern Methodist University in Dallas predicts New York will become another Texas in a decade. One in five New Yorkers of color between the ages of 17 and 30 will be in jail or on probation.

In New York, Darrel Harris is on death row. He is there because he pled "not guilty" before he understood that he was subject to execution with such a plea. Later, his guilty plea was not accepted. A strong constitutional case exists due to the question of coercion. Last month, Governor George Pataki broadened the death penalty to bolster the myth that this would make the streets safer. While the murder has dropped since the death penalty came to New York, it has also dropped in states without a death penalty. It was not the

death penalty that was responsible for the murder rate drop.

Nine death penalty cases are pending in eight New York counties. In Cortland County, Matthew Covington awaits trial. In Monroe County, Angel Mateo awaits a trial date. In Genesee County, Michael Grinnell is accused

of murdering two fellow salesmen by stoning them to death. Grinnell's sanity could certainly be challenged.

**There is only one solution to the rising death penalty virus in New York. Repeal the death penalty Pataki gave us.**

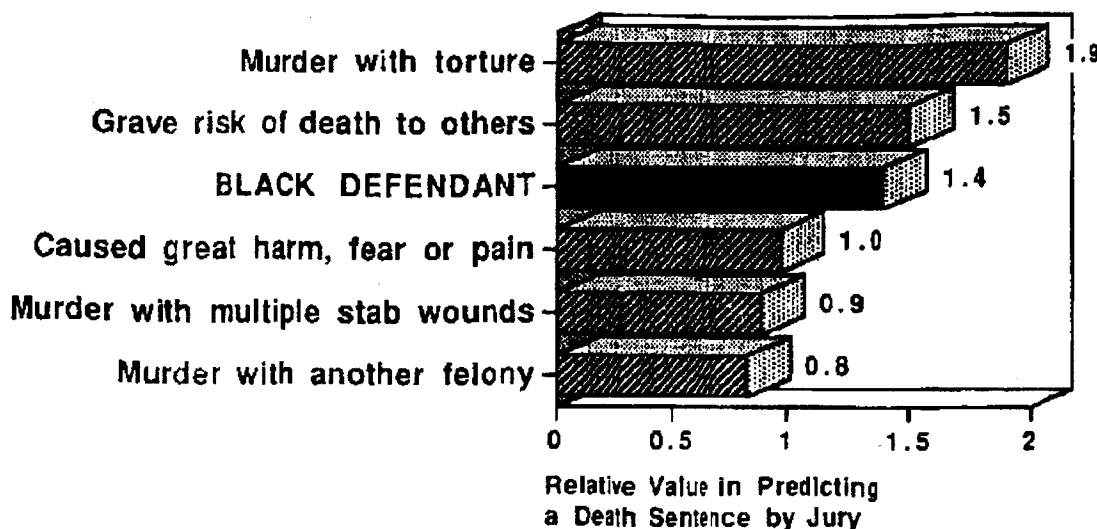
But, consider that the county prosecutor has ten times more funds for psychiatrists than does the defense. How do you think the sanity issue will be decided? There is only one solution to the rising death penalty virus in New York. Repeal the death penalty Pataki gave us. Is this feasible?

In New Hampshire, right wing elements introduced legislation to expand their death penalty. A state legislator, Robert Rennie Cushing, brought together a diverse coalition to defeat the bill. The legislative vote was a shocker. Not only was the death penalty expansion bill defeated, but thirty more votes would have repealed New Hampshire's death penalty altogether.

New York State Assemblyman Ed Sullivan (known for his arrest in the struggle to prevent college tuition increases), will introduce a repeal bill in the Assembly. Norman Siegel, Executive Director of the New York American Civil Liberties Union, is writing that bill. Siegel created the New York City Civilian Complaint Police Review Board that the present NYC mayor, Rudy Giuliani, has trashed.

Assemblyman Sullivan, Norman Siegel, and Teresa Gutierrez, a national anti-death penalty activist, will lead workshops on Saturday October 10 from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM at the Unitarian Church, in Kingston New York (on Sawkill Road one mile from Thruway exit 19). Rennie Cushing will be the keynote speaker, and will

## Being Black Can Act As An "Aggravating Factor"



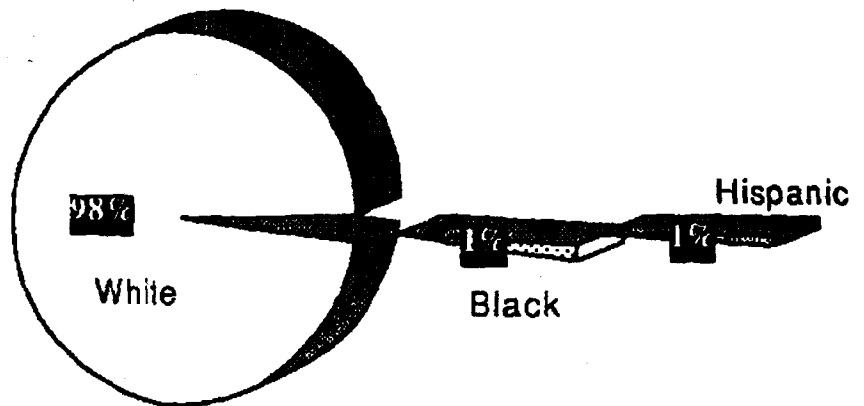
## Death Penalty Cont. from page 12

explore how New York can learn from New Hampshire's experience. A statewide death penalty print network newspaper will come out of the conference, as well as a fax and e-mail network.

Anti-death penalty activists who are discouraged forget that during another Abolitionist struggle in 1840, Abolitionists were beaten and murdered before a moral awakening against slavery ensued. As our social fabric unravels, the death penalty will be seen for what it is: a distraction from a crumbling social system. The October 10 conference, taking the first step to repeal the death penalty, becomes an historic event.

*Joe Dubovy is an activist with the New York Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty.*

## Almost All Prosecutors Responsible for Death Penalty Decisions Are White



## High-Tech War Continued from page 11

are similarities in their experiences. The common threads seem to be poverty, violence, and sexual and substance abuse. What is common in what I do with all of them is to encourage cooperation among children and parents if possible, and isolate the parent/s who continue to act abusively. While parents may have grown up in fear of beatings, they learn that with power comes responsibility. To develop a child-friendly environment, a family works on communication and cooperation, to get to a kind of democracy. The trouble is that with budget cuts in education and welfare, the community is not supporting families enough to sustain such efforts, and our local leaders are still denying and covering up the local poverty crisis.

Even I was surprised early this month when many human-service workers like me got a notice (see facing page) for a fundraiser called the Poor Man's Ball. This Depression-theme dinner-dance would cost \$25 "cheap" and have people wearing "grubbies," eating at a "soup line," drinking "jug" wine and "home brew," and even winning "poor" door prizes." Sponsors were Lockheed Martin, Omnipoint Communications and M&T Bank. I was puzzled when I read it was all to benefit "Tender Mercies Foundation, Inc.," for "educational programs for the prevention of child abuse".

Unable to figure out whether it was a joke, I called the agency which had sent the notice out. The director said it wasn't a joke, but he didn't know much about it except that "they wanted a low-ball event" that wouldn't cost people \$100 each. He referred me to the organizer and gave me her work number, which turned out to be at Lockheed Martin. I asked her how she thought people in poverty might feel about seeing the notice, whether they might find it a bit demeaning or stereotyped, and whether the event would encourage client-bashing. "We're not trying to make fun of these people," she said. I told her that poverty among children is a big problem in this city, that I felt this reality would be obscured and overlooked by people attending the event, and that poverty is a contributing factor to abuse and neglect. "I truly believe that child abuse doesn't just start in lower economic areas," she said, and added that one of her major donors was a woman who had been abused as a child. Finally, I asked her to consider changing the theme of the event, since it could be seen as demeaning to people in poverty, especially the children we are serving. The event had been "a year in the making," and could not be changed now.

I also checked with various workers and administrators in child welfare in an informal poll, some nearer the administrative top of the food chain did not see a problem with the event, while many of those line workers doing direct service found the notice in poor taste (as did

people in Human Rights). The Welfare Watchdogs sent a letter to Tender Mercies to educate them on what living in poverty is like.

As we go to press, we learned the Poor Man's Ball was cancelled, due to lack of response. Whether it was the Labor Day storm, the menu or the stereotypes, we may never know. But the larger issue that came up is a warning of the kind of conflict our community may have to resolve in the future. By getting into local charity work, Lockheed Martin will try to cement connections of dependency with governments and communities, while gaining an image as pro-family or child-friendly. By investing in human services itself (such as electronic scanning for postal systems and software to track child support and welfare fraud), LM and other military contractors will try to gain control over many erstwhile government functions as the public sector privatizes.

Where will it end? We need to educate ourselves about the new military-industrial-media complex, the global effects of our government's policies, and the local needs that go unanswered. Our currently divided community must unite around our children. At the same time, we need to make connections with communities in other countries to support each other's efforts to resolve conflicts, stop arms sales and support human rights. Look ahead to more articles in future PNLs around these issues.

*Peter is a social worker and activist who lives in Syracuse.*

Edited by Mike Kernahan

### Get these people out of the hot sun

Following last year's defeat, David Johnson, the former head of the Republic of Texas founded a new movement—"Texas: A Righteous Nation under God." It's almost certainly the first nation with a subtitle. Johnson claims more than 144,000 members/citizens. He promises that secession will be up for a vote in Texas by September 1999. Meanwhile, Johnson is busy popularizing his Texas National Constitution (which calls for legislative, executive, judicial, and religious branches), and attempting to establish diplomatic relations with Mexico and Israel. Why Israel? "They're a very integral part of the Scripture in the end times."

Source: *Mother Jones Magazine*

### But we already knew that

The Physician Leadership on National Drug Policy (401/444-1818) recently released a study showing that addiction treatment is as effective as treatments for asthma, diabetes, and hypertension, can cut crime by up to 80%, and is more cost-effective than jail. PLNDP is comprised of 37 physicians and is directed by Dr. David Lewis, a DPF board member and director of Brown University's Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies.

Source: *The Drug Policy Letter*

### The growing US Gulag

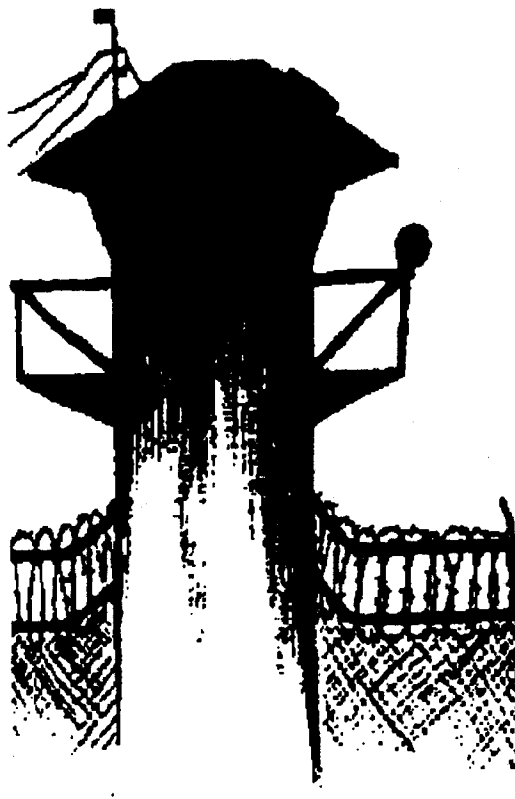
The number of people behind bars in The Land of The Free reached a new high in 1997 despite a dramatic decline in the crime rate over the past five years. By June 30, 1997, a total of 1,725,842 people were locked up in US jails and prisons, an increase of 6% over the previous year. It boosted the incarceration rate from 618 per 100,000 citizens in December 1996 to 645, the highest in the world. One of every 155 US citizens is now incarcerated.

Source: *US Bureau of Justice Statistics*

### Even a vast wasteland needs a sewer

The first Silver Sewer Award, selected by former Education Secretary William Bennett and Senator Joseph Lieberman, D-Connecticut, has been presented to Seagram, Inc., the \$12 billion owners of Tropicana Orange Juice, Universal Studios and Chivas Regal for exposing TV talk show host Jerry Springer and extremist rocker Marilyn Manson to millions

of young consumers. Bennett says that the Springer show features "undertakers having sex with corpses, strippers who spray breast milk on their patrons, teenage prostitutes brawling with pimps and various other forms of sleaze." Universal Studios produced and distributed the fight-filled Springer talk show, and Springer's producer has said publicly that Universal executives have encouraged him to make the show as prurient and violent as



possible to increase its ratings. Seagrams/Universal co-owns the Springer show in a partnership with TV mogul Barry Diller.

Source: *Multinational Monitor*

### Prehistoric Attitudes

A recent Johnny Hart "B.C." comic strip featured a character proposing a new message for the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your lying, worthless trash, your sleazy scum who cheat and steal, who see our faith as balderdash, and sin with vulgar zeal." The character sends this message out on a stone tablet and receives from abroad the following response, conveyed in a crudely stereotyped foreign accent: "A dysfunctional country! Ha! I doan bleeb it! You theenk you are unique, do you? You

lousy steenking racist pig of a Yankee infidel." (Yes, that's the punchline). As if the "joke" weren't unfunny enough, when the Council of Islamic American Relations complained about the anti-immigrant slurs, it received a tortured response from the strip's distributors, Creators Syndicate. The syndicate claimed in the letter that the language used in the reference to the Statue of Liberty was no more than an "update to our present vocabulary." It "basically describes the United States, with its noble intention to accept the downtrodden and broken of the world." As for the "steenking racist pig" and "Yankee infidel" references, Creators wrote that this was merely "a medley of the appreciation the rest of the world shows for our efforts."

Source: *EXTRA Update, the Newsletter of FAIR*

### Free Trade can be expensive

Metalclad Corp., a US-based waste disposal company, claims that the Mexican state of San Luis Potosi violated NAFTA when it declared a local plant an environmental hazard and ordered it closed down. Eventually, the Governor declared the site part of a 600,000 acre ecological zone. In response, Metalclad is seeking \$90 million in compensation for "expropriation" and treaty violations, more than the combined annual income of every family in the state. Environmental zoning has been attacked, especially in the US by "property rights" activists, known as the "takings" movement, who demand payment for complying with environmental regulations. Metalclad, for example, claims that Mexico's zoning constitutes a seizure of company property. Under the property rights extended to it by NAFTA, it charges, the government must pay up. Though this probably wouldn't fly in a US court, NAFTA's broad language emphasizes investor rights, skewing international law against public interest regulation. Metalclad also claims that Mexico's federal government unofficially encouraged the lawsuit, hoping to deflect attention from pressure it placed on the state to allow the facility. If true, this suggests that, using NAFTA, investors and governments collude to force unwanted or even dangerous development on unwilling populations.

Source: *Women's Visions '98*

### France Goes to 35

France moved to a 35-hour work week in May, as the French National Assembly voted into law Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's plan to cut France's 39 hour work week without pay cuts.

Under the law companies with more than 20 employees must shorten the work week by the year 2000. Smaller firms are given another two years to comply. The exact details of how the law will be implemented have not been worked out and will be specified in a new law to be enacted next year.

Socialists, Communists, and Greens supported the measure while the center-right opposition voted against it. President Jacques Chirac opposed the measure. France currently suffers from a 12% unemployment rate and the measure is intended to spread existing work so that the unemployed are given job opportunities.

Source: *Multinational Monitor*

### Never Enough Room at the Inn

According to a comprehensive prison census conducted every five years by the US Bureau of Justice Statistics, the US built 213 new prisons between 1990 and 1995 bringing the total to 1500 state and federal prisons with a nominal capacity of 976,000 inmates, an increase of 41%. State and federal prison employment increased by 31% to a total of 347,320 during the same period. The prison population increased from 716,000 to 1.02 million. About 20% were classified as maximum security, 40% as medium security, and 33% minimum security. Blacks accounted for 48% of the population, whites 36%, and Latinos 14%.

Despite the massive increase, state prisons operated at an average 3% above capacity, while federal prisons operated at 24% over capacity. According to the BJS, longer sentences were not a "significant factor." Tougher parole standards, mandatory minimum sentences, and, primarily, more prisoners were responsible for the increase in the prison population. The effect of longer sentences has yet to hit the system but definitely will in future as larger numbers of people continue to be com-

mitted for longer sentences while fewer are released.

These figures exclude the nation's 3300 local pokeys (county and municipal jails).

Source: *US Bureau of Justice Statistics*

### It's Getting Hot in Here

The earth's climate is definitely getting warmer. Three out of the past eight years (1990, 1995, and

warmth of several recent years appears likely to be related to human influences on climate."

An examination of the entire range of indicators to chart annual temperature patterns over the past 600 years, including tree rings, coral growth, polar ice cores, ice melt, rainfall, and historical data, shows that the northern hemisphere is at its warmest since the Middle Ages. Phillip Jones of the Climatic Research Unit of the University of East Anglia said, "The data shows that the most dramatic change in temperature has come in the twentieth century: it's higher than in the past six centuries."

The first three months of 1998 were the warmest period of this length ever recorded in the world, according to the Hadley Center for Climate Prediction and Research in England.

Source: *People and the Planet*

### Wither Welfare

When Congress block-granted welfare, many advocates for the poor worried that states might "race to the bottom," cutting benefits to avoid becoming welfare magnets. It's still early to say but, for the most part, this has yet to happen. But, says Ed Lazere of the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, other problems have developed. For example:

- Caseloads are declining dramatically, but former recipients' poverty or employment rates are not being measured. States have strong incentives to cut caseloads: block grant monies remain the same and work requirements are lower.

- Many states divert applicants by demanding up-front job searches or calling relatives to see if they can house applicants. In Alabama, 60 percent of applicants never receive assistance.
- Some applicants may be denied Medicaid and food stamps.

Lazere warns, "States have tried to make welfare less attractive, and it has worked, partially. People often don't want to deal with the hassle or may not want to use up time-limited welfare assistance. But when a recession comes, that could change."

Source: *The Neighborhood Works*



1997) have been the hottest recorded since 1400 and the increase has been firmly linked to human activity by scientists. Research published in *Nature* in April shows that while natural events such as volcanoes, solar radiation, and El Nino have influenced weather patterns for the past 500 years, temperature rise in the twentieth century has been caused by increased concentrations of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide. Professor Michael Mann of the University of Massachusetts who led the report said, "The anomalous





# "Time to Speak Out on Nine Mile One Problems"

## Peace Council's Op-Ed Submitted to the Syracuse Newspapers Goes Unprinted

Tim Judson

On Thursday, September 24, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission held its long-awaited public meeting on the Nine Mile Point 1 nuclear plant. Local activists had been waiting nearly a year-and-a-half for the inspection to happen, since it could reveal once and for all that the plant's core shroud is irreparably damaged.

There are very few formal means by which the public can hold the NRC accountable to its stated purpose of protecting the public interest. And although public meetings have an abysmal record of favoring the nuclear industry over the concerns of the public, they can be used to expose the bias and collusion inherent in NRC decision-making. For instance, while claiming interest in hearing the public's concerns and being able to take them into account when deciding whether to postpone the inspection, several of the NRC representatives at the meeting assured the crowd that their decision would ultimately be based upon science and science only.

That dynamic was apparent throughout the course of meeting, which was initially supposed to last only from 7:30-9:30pm. (It was preceded by a two-hour session in which the NRC reviewed NiMo's petition and the study it was based on.) However, the public quickly caught on to the NRC's bias toward NiMo and demanded a more fair and responsive process. Opposition at the meeting was extensive and overwhelming. Not one comment during the Public Comment session was made in favor of NiMo's request, and the meeting lasted until 12:30am—3 hours longer than it was supposed to. There were several concerns raised by the public that the NRC was not even able to answer, except by being evasive or condescending.

Among the most significant points was when the NRC was asked whether they had any idea how badly they would allow the plant's core shroud to be cracked before declaring it inoperable — or, by implication, would they allow the industry to string the process along, increasingly risking catastro-

phe. The panel sat speechless, unable to answer the question. Eventually one of the NiMo reps answered instead, describing the standard the industry is putting forward (which of course is believed to be safely beyond the point where NM1's core shroud is now).

It was abundantly clear throughout that the Commission is supporting NiMo's petition. Clearly, the public meeting was supposed to be a rubber stamp—which it probably will be despite the strength of opposition. They did, however, reveal a great deal about the incestuous relationship between the nuclear industry and the regulatory agency that is supposed to protect us.

The following op-ed, submitted to the

**N** **NO**  
**N** **MORE**  
**N** **NINE**  
**N** **MILE**  
**N** **NUCLEAR**  
**N** **MADNESS**

Syracuse Newspapers on September 17 points out that relationship, which violates the spirit in which the NRC was set up. It is a symptom of the meltdown of democracy the nuclear industry represents.

— Tim Judson, SPC Staff

Readers of the *Post-Standard* may remember Kyle Rabin's July op-ed about the problems at Niagara Mohawk's Nine Mile Point 1 (NM1) nuclear plant. In particular, Mr. Rabin described the degradation of the plant's core shroud, the vessel which houses the nuclear reactor and keeps key fuel, coolant and safety systems in precise alignment. With vertical cracks penetrating 80% through the

core shroud wall at the last inspection (March 1997), NM1 possesses by far the most severely deteriorated core shroud in the country.

Despite the severity of the issue and the increasing safety risks involved in operating the plant, NiMo submitted a petition in May to postpone an inspection of the core shroud scheduled for this November — an inspection they agreed to last year as a condition for restarting the plant. On Thursday, September 24, the NRC will hold a public meeting (5pm-9:30pm, Snygg Hall, SUNY-Oswego Campus) to review NiMo's case and to hear public comment on the issue. This is the only opportunity for grassroots citizens to participate in the process.

If the core shroud shifts even a fraction of an inch, fuel rods would be knocked out of alignment; control rods, which must insert between the fuel rods to stop the nuclear reaction, would not be able to insert, and a melt down of the reactor could result. It is a travesty that the NRC has even considered postponing the inspection, for several reasons:

- There is no known way of repairing the vertical cracks, yet they compromise the structural integrity of the piece that keeps key safety, coolant and reactor mechanisms in alignment. Postponing the inspection means that not even the plant operator can accurately assess the risk and potential problems in continuing to run the reactor.

- NiMo's basis for their petition is a study they conducted with General Electric that suggests the cracks are growing at half the expected rate. If cracks are more than 80% through, can we afford to let them grow at all? At what point should the NRC declare the reactor unsafe? In addition, GE is the builder of NM1 and supplies its fuel rods, which implies a conflict of interest in the study.

- As the US's most deteriorated core shroud, Nine Mile 1's is essentially being used as a case study for the nuclear industry. (The meltdown at Chernobyl was the result of experimental operation of the reactor.) Central New Yorkers are being forced to participate in an experiment without being properly informed, and without their consent. To allow

continued on next page

# Promises Sold Down the Rio

## Clinton Dishonors Initiative On Race by Signing the TX/VT/ME Radioactive Waste Dump Compact (HR629) into Law

Kyle Rabin

On Sunday, September 20, President Clinton desecrated his Initiative On Race and his own 1994 Executive Order on Environmental Justice by signing the Texas/Maine/Vermont Radioactive Waste Compact (HR629) into law. With a stroke of his pen, President Clinton sacrificed the civil rights of a low-income, Mexican-American community to the nuclear power industry.

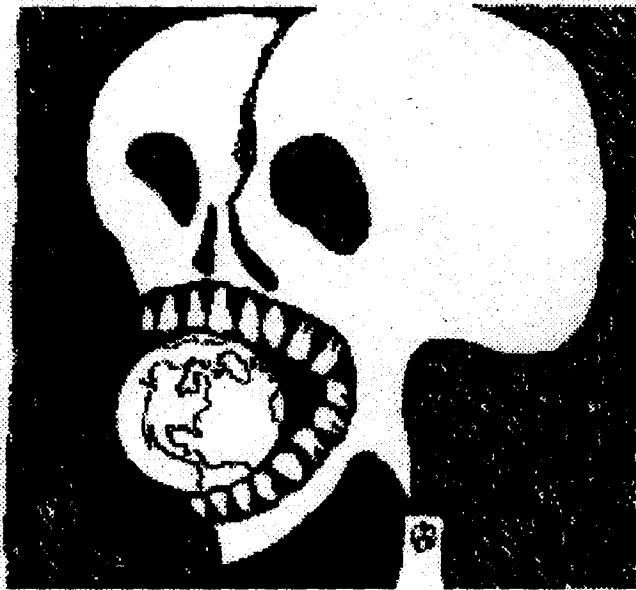
The Compact triggers funding for a nuclear waste burial ground in the low-income, Mexican-American community of Sierra Blanca, Texas. According to original language of this bill, radioactive refuse from Vermont, Maine, and Texas could be shipped to this highly controversial dump site along the Texas/Mexico border. And now, with the omission of an amendment that would have limited the waste that would go to the Sierra Blanca dump to that of Maine, Vermont and Texas only, nuclear waste generators from anywhere can send their waste to this dump site.

The 67% Mexican-American community of Sierra Blanca has an average annual income of \$8,000/year. Environmental justice is clearly being violated — the community is already taking New York City sewage sludge waste and is targeted for more hazardous facilities. In fact, an amendment that would have given local residents, or those with businesses in the impacted community, the legal right to challenge the dump for discrimination based on race, color, national origin or income level was omitted from the bill's final draft.

This legislation contradicts President Clinton's 1994 Executive Order on Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low Income Populations which

requires the federal government to ensure that people of color and low-income populations are not disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards. It also violates President Clinton's Initiative On Race, his blueprint for improving race relations in the 21st Century, which lists amongst its goals "to identify concrete policies to address critical race-based problems and to identify and create plans to calm racial tension and promote increased opportunity for all Americans." If the objective of the President's Initiative On Race is "to strengthen our shared foundation as Americans so that we can live in an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect," then he should have vetoed this terribly unjust legislation.

The Compact is opposed by the Mexican



Federal Government, three border states in Mexico and 20 counties, local governments and organizations in Mexico, Texas, and elsewhere in the US.

It's also important to mention that on September 2nd, the Senate passed the TX/ME/VT Radioactive Waste Compact Consent Act (S.270) by a vote of 78 to 15. S.270's counterpart in the House of Representatives, HR629, passed on July 29 with a vote of 305-117. Both of New York State's Senators, Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Alfonse D'Amato voted for this unjust legislation. Voters can make a statement on Election Day. Both Joel Kovel,

New York Green Party Candidate for US Senate, and Congressman Charles Schumer, Democratic Candidate for the US Senate, have spoken out against this environmentally unjust legislation.

Kyle is a member of Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort and Greens of Greater Syracuse, and opposes the nuclear industry's attempts to mess up anyone's backyard. He recently moved to Albany and works for Environmental Advocates. This article has also been submitted to the Syracuse Newspapers as an Op-Ed.



### Nine Mile One Cont. from page 16

NiMo to further endanger that public by postponing inspection is morally unconscionable.

Not only is the NRC seriously considering postponing the inspection, they have already allowed NiMo to manipulate the public meeting process. According to NRC representative Darl Hood, the commission repeatedly delayed scheduling the meeting to allow NiMo more time to prepare, leaving barely enough time to review the meeting presentations before the deadline for issuing a decision (October 6).

The date the commission chose conflicts with a number of other related events, including the first statewide meeting of the Alliance for a Nuclear-Free New York, a network of grassroots citizens groups concerned about the health and environmental effects of nuclear power on our communities. Despite the immediate response of many people involved and interested in the network, the NRC refused to reschedule the public meeting — even one day later. In the commission's estimation, Mr. Hood assured me, the conflict would only affect "a few people," and besides, they had already announced the date. While the NRC says they want to hear the public's comments, their actions demonstrate just the opposite.

People can still stop this potential meltdown of democracy and of government accountability. Attend the meeting, and demand that the inspection go forward as scheduled.

— Tim Judson, SPC Staff

**Join a Central New York  
Coalition Delegation to  
Chiapas, Mexico**

**Witness for Peace to Violence in  
Chiapas and the US School of the  
Americas Involvement**

**Approximate Dates: March 12 -22, 1999**

Community education and shared fund-raising activities will be part of planning for the delegation.

At this time of human rights abuses and increasing violence in Chiapas, international observers are needed more than ever. Our delegation will travel to indigenous communities and municipalities in Chiapas and will meet with human rights workers, community activists, grassroots groups, religious and political leaders.

In solidarity with people who are living the struggle in Chiapas, we will return to our communities with commitments and strategies to address the complicity in systems of oppression.

For more information, call Nancy Gwin at 422-4689 or Alicia Swords at 422-4924.



**Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity**

A new local group is being formed around issues of solidarity with the Zapatistas of Southern Mexico. A primarily Maya movement, the Zapatistas' objectives include autonomy and dignity for indigenous people and campesinos, as well as a general transformation of Mexican democracy. In 1994, the Zapatistas rose up in the state of Chiapas and have since formed liberated zones wherein communities operate according to participatory democratic process, controlling life within the village as well as directing the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN).

As two local organizers inspired by the Zapatistas for years, we took the initiative to call for the formation of Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity (SZS), a very different kind of "Third World solidarity" organization. For us, solidarity is not a unilateral relationship with an oppressed people. We are not a charity con-

cerned merely with sending material aid to an oppressed people. Instead, we recognize the Zapatistas as a revolutionary movement rooted in Maya culture, a resistance movement five centuries in the making, a tradition from which we can draw valuable lessons. For us, solidarity means recognizing ourselves in a similar context, acknowledging that our objectives and theirs are essentially one in the same: democracy, liberty, justice, dignity. This we have been taught by the Zapatistas themselves. SZS is a direct action group whose goals include educating our community regarding the Zapatista cause by bringing their lessons home and practicing them here.

We have been privileged to be joined by several more activists so far. But since our group is very much in the early stages of self-definition, we are taking it upon ourselves to describe here our motives and intentions, in hopes that those with similar interests will join us in this struggle. We welcome all those who wish to learn about "zapatismo," translate its teachings to the context of our community, and implement the Zapatista worldview in Central New York. Please get in touch by calling Brian (423-4783) or Ace (423-7856), or email zap-syr@rootmedia.org.

—Adrienne "Ace" Allen and Brian Dominick

*SYRACUSE ZAPATISTA SOLIDARITY PRESENTS*

**FESTIVAL of RESISTANCE**

*506 Years FROM ARAWAK GENOCIDE TO ZAPATISTA REVOLUTION*

**THEATER, MUSIC,  
SPEAKERS, VIDEO, FOOD**

When Maya people rose up in Chiapas, Mexico, in 1994, the Zapatista rebellion continued the tradition of 5 centuries of indigenous people throughout the so-called "New World." Today we celebrate not Columbus' imperial voyage, but resistance to his legacy. The Columbus Day story began with a lust for wealth and the extermination of the peaceful Arawak Indians. Five centuries later the struggle for self-determination, land, democracy and dignity continues among those of us who say "¡Enough is enough!" We will gather to learn about, celebrate and carry on a legacy of *resistance* to injustice.

*Event includes showing of The Sixth Sun, performance by Zapateatro of Toronto, a talk and blessing by Fernando Hernandez (Tzotzil Maya) and more.*

**SUNDAY, OCT. 11, WESTCOTT COMMUNITY CENTER, 2 - 6 PM**

**ADMISSION: SLIDING SCALE \$0 — \$15**

**ADDITIONAL DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

**FOR DETAILS, CALL 423-4783 OR 423-7856**



## "Dirty Books and Dangerous Ideas"

A series of readings from challenged and censored books in commemoration of Banned Books Week

Join the CNY Chapter of the NY Civil Liberties Union in our Annual Celebration of the First Amendment and the Freedom to Read

Thursday, October 1 — 6:30pm

Cazenovia College, Hubbard Hall

Dramatic readings by college students and faculty  
(Co-sponsored by the Drama Club & Students for Social Responsibility)



Monday, October 5 — 9:30am-3:30pm

Utica College, Strebel Student Center

Public readings by students, faculty and staff

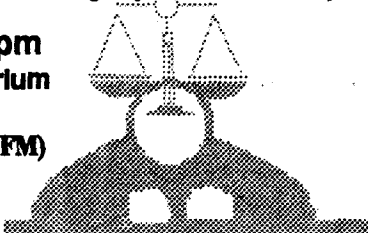


Monday, October 5 — 7-10pm

Utica College, McFarland Auditorium

Screening of *The Tin Drum*

(Co-sponsored by WENR Radio 90.7FM)



**SCFCU**  
Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union

*All Apologies ...*

SCFCU's two October workshops have been cancelled



### Community Sing to Kick Off Choir Season

If you've ever thought that "All God's children got a place in the choir," but somehow this didn't mean you, then think again. The Syracuse Community Choir invites you to test the waters at their Community Sing-Along on Wednesday, October 7 at 7:30 P.M. at the Westcott Community Center. Childcare is provided, and the center is located at 826 Euclid Ave. This date marks the beginning of the choir's rehearsal season in preparation for the Winter Solstice Concert on December 19. Newcomers and past choir members, however, should view the sing-along as a fun chance to connect or reconnect with the choir with no further obligation. For those who wish to do more that get their feet wet, the choir will continue to rehearse every Wednesday at the Westcott Community Center up to the solstice performance. This season the choir will perform with Jim Scott, a long-time member of the Paul Winter Consort. He has performed at Carnegie Hall and at the Newport Jazz Festival, and brings his classical training to jazz and folk-influenced songs whose lyrics speak directly to peace, ecology, diversity and just plain feeling good. The choir will also be joined by local guest conductor and gospel singer Frank Jones.

It is the choir's mission to provide a safe and welcome space for anyone who wants to sing. Themes of nonviolence, acceptance and inclusion, such as those promoted by Jim Scott, are expressed through song. Any and all are welcome to join the Syracuse Community Choir.

### Women and RAPE

A four-part workshop for women

**Wednesdays**

Oct. 14 • Oct. 28

Nov. 11 • Nov. 18

6:45-8:15pm

601 Allen St., Syracuse

limit 7 women — \$60

This workshop is an opportunity for integration and healing. It is a time to focus on your own experience of rape ... It is a space where you may connect with other women who have also experienced rape (assault, date rape, partner, incest).

Each session, we will engage in various expressive forms — talk therapy, writing, meditation, ritual and body-work.

• Telling Your Story, Speaking Truth • Claiming Body • Claiming Voice • A Ritual of Healing

Becoming mindful of body and mind, energy and emotion, we will explore the multiple meanings and dimensions that rape may hold for you.

Call Stacey Smith at 471-5068 to register by October 8.

### The Healing Power of Meditation a group for women

Tuesdays 9:30-10:30am

Oct 20th - Nov 24th

Westcott Community Center

(corner Euclid & Westcott)

6 week series — \$55

limit, 10 women

Meditation is a quiet, profound form of healing. Becoming mindful of breath and body, energy and emotion, significant shifts may occur.

This group will draw primarily upon Buddhist and feminist meditation traditions. We will engage a variety of images and techniques. We will practice breath awareness, grounding, circling, releasing and receiving energy and more ...

Each session there will be a brief opening circle for connection and discussion. Then we will open ourselves to the healing held within meditation.

Call Stacey Smith at 471-5068 to register by October 7.





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## Oily Politics II Cont. from page 10

results in their destruction. Anyone who truly believes the petroleum industry fantasy of "no discharge" oil development has obviously never heard of the many instances of illegal hazardous waste disposal on the North Slope, not to mention the *Exxon Valdez*.

And does anyone seriously believe that this is where it will end? That having once again gotten its foot in the door of the NPRA, the oil industry will be content? Bruce Babbitt's decision to reopen the NPRA to the oil companies and conservative Alaskan politicians is simply the latest example of what has become a depressingly familiar pattern.

Special interests make a claim on wilderness. Environmentalists oppose it, industry flacks spew out the usual cloud of nonsense, and the government appoints a body to "study" the situation. The public immediately forgets the whole thing. The "study" continues as long as the government can get some good press out of it and ends at some opportune moment, in this case (surprise!) just in time for the November election with a wise-appearing, Solomon-sounding compromise that splits the wilderness pie and appears to give something to each side. The public again forgets the whole thing, just as it has long since forgotten the 1980 lease sale. Time passes: it needn't be much because the public has no long term memory. Industry makes another claim and the cycle repeats ad nauseam. The public swallows the illusion that if you're just "smart" enough, a compromise can be found to make everybody happy.

Except that with each compromise, the wilderness pie is lessened, and can never be replaced. Four percent of the US land mass remains wilderness and that percentage is shrinking at an alarming rate.

The economy of the state of Alaska, much like that of the rest of the country, has been allowed to become almost hopelessly addicted to oil. Rather than attempt to deal with such an unhealthy development, the national government seems determined to feed that addiction at any cost. As a result this country's wilderness heritage is being trashed in the name of short term political expediency. That's the sort of deal they're making in Washington these days, while the media prattles on about Monica Lewinsky.

*Mike is a member of the PNL Editorial Collective. He lives on the Common Place Land Trust in Truxton, NY.*



## SEIU Strike Cont. from page 11

university administration promising no retribution.

The administration claimed to further the interests of students' education by seeking to end the strike without additional negotiation and a fair contract. Whatever the considerable merits of what we learned in the classroom during the strike, however, the principles gleaned from the strike itself have proven enlightening in a far more direct, appreciable sense.

We learned, first, about the rights of women and racial minorities in this country, not about rights as defined in politics, where instead of providing a fair and equal education to African Americans and the poor, those in power point to the small percentage who succeed despite the inequalities of the system, and pretend everyone will; not about rights as defined in the media, where the ceaseless objectification of women's bodies is taken to indicate sexual 'liberation', and liberation to indicate equality; but about how a university (or corporation) claiming to uphold ideals of community, equality, integrity, doesn't give a damn about women and African Americans, about the right of workers in jobs with greater numbers of women and African Americans to fair pay, fair benefits, the right to a living wage.

Because whatever claims are made to legal, bureaucratic, or theoretical equality, if this equality has not produced, cannot produce economic equality for oppressed groups, then it does no more than service and pay homage to corrupt racist, sexist systems, preventing rather than producing change by excusing them where it is most needed.

We have learned about the sense of community so prattled over by administration representatives, about how this 'community' denies a voice in it to those with the greatest need for one. What kind of community, I would ask, values profit above the right to free and open debate, demanding that faculty and workers pay to express their political beliefs? What kind of community blackmails workers by threatening their children with the loss of a college education? What kind of community uses its poorest, those on workfare, to directly oppose the just struggle of workers for economic survival and security by demanding that they cross picket lines? What kind of community legislates, in this way, passes laws to provide a captive labor force to employers having minimal concern for workers' rights?

We have learned, in the course of the struggle, that the right to freedom of speech

does *not* extend equally to everyone. We have seen students and strikers alike silenced, forced to leave the campus, harrassed by law enforcement — (just which laws or amendments were they enforcing anyway?) — their names and pictures catalogued and made suspect for engaging in peaceful protest. In this we have seen how supposedly democratic institutions revert to a form of martial law to prevent dissent, in order to serve and toady to the interests of those in power. While workers, faculty, and students were denied freedom of speech in the university, in the very locus of the struggle, the administration remained free to publicize its own views where it pleased.

We have in this the hypocrisy of corporations which would deny, or reserve the right to deny freedom of speech to those within them, on the grounds that their own geographic, physical location is private, and then employ their own wealth to disproportionately propagate their view through the mass media, which has access to virtually every 'private' residence in the United States. From this, we have learned that freedom of speech extends disproportionately to those with economic power and control over the sites of cultural and economic production.

We have learned that economics controls not only the right, but the *need* to speak: because the administration controlled the economics, (to the extent that the food, shelter, and health care of its members were not in jeopardy — in contrast to the food, shelter, health care of the striking workers), it was able to choose *not* to speak, which it did specifically to its benefit by withholding its views in the majority of public situations to prevent an analysis of any possible flaws, misconceptions, equivocations, or misrepresentations therein.

In the few instances in which the administration *did* engage in public dialogue and open debate, it often provided incomplete or misleading information, explaining no logical or credible reason or motive for its early ultimatum and refusal to negotiate, or for its treatment of workers and their right to a say in the functioning of the university community. Throughout all this, we have finally come to see that the only check to the disproportionate right of those with economic might to control the course of public and private debate lies in the collective strength and solidarity of unions and other organizations committed to social justice.

*David is a student and activist at SU.*







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WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar

OCTOBER 1998

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to SPC. 472-5478. November deadline: October 23.

4 Open Hand Theater presents "Chasing Picasso". 4pm. See 10/2 for info. EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent, Women's issues radio program, WRVO FM 90.6-6:30pm.

5 Open Hand Theater auditions new members ages 8-14 for Hand in Hand Youth Theater. Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St., 4:30-5:30pm. People Against the Death Penalty meeting, Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.

11 Festival of Resistance. Theater, music, speakers, video, food. Featuring Zapateatro of Toronto & Fernando Hernandez. Westcott Community Center. 2-6pm. Sliding scale \$0-\$15. 423-4783 or 423-7856 for info.

12 Justice for Jonny Gammage vigil. God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 5:30pm. Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 476-7475. EVERY MONDAY: "Radiovision" on Time Warner Cable Ch. 3 at 9pm. Presented by Syracuse Community Radio.

18 Socialist Forum. Topic to be announced. Westcott Community Center, 828 Euclid Av. 3-5pm. Free. 445-9232. EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable Ch. 3, 8pm. Produced by Peace Council.

19 EVERY MONDAY: HIV+ issues Group meeting. 6:30-8pm. Sponsored by AIDS Community Resources. Call Bob for place. 475-2430. People for Animal Rights bus: needs mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location. Syracuse United Neighbors/Westside meeting. Anna Mae Williams Community Center, 228 Shonhard St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.

25 EVERY SUNDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 11:30am. Time Warner Cable channel 3. Produced by People for Animal Rights. EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90.6:30-7pm.

26 Meets a Greyhound. Find out about these dogs that are throwaways of the greyhound racing industry, which keeps only the fastest runners. Liverpool Library, 310 Tulip St. 6-8pm. Sponsored by People for Animal Rights. 488-PURR.

6 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442. Peace Action monthly program. Shirley Novak presents on her recent trip to Chiapas. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.

13 EVERY TUESDAY: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 10-2pm. Meet new friends, eat lunch, take in a program. Westcott Community Center, 828 Euclid Av. 478-8634. EVERY TUESDAY: Community Media Action Group meeting. 7:30pm. Call Ace for place, 423-7856.

20 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442. EVERY TUESDAY, 10/20-11/24: Healing Power of Meditation, a group for women using feminist & Buddhist practices. Led by Steacy Smith, MA. 9:30-10:30am. Call 471-5068 for place.

27 Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 448-5840.

1st THREE WEDNESDAYS: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Av. 5:30pm. 472-5478. EVERY WEDNESDAY: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478.

7 Guatemalan speaker. Rm 402, Maxwell Hall, SU. 4pm. Evening event follows. Call Doug at 471-5749 for details. Community Sing-Along with the Syracuse Community Choir. Westcott Community Center, 828 Euclid Av. 7:30pm. Any & all are welcome.

14 EVERY WEDNESDAY, 10/18-11/18: Women & Rape, a workshop on integration & healing. Led by Stacy Smith, MA. Call 471-5068 for time & place. HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616. NOW CNY Chapter meeting. Marine Midland Bank, 360 S. Warren, 7pm. 487-3188. Caribbean/Latin America Coalition working potluck at Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St. 6-7:30pm. 478-4571. Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.

21 NAACP general mtg. 7pm. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 422-6933. Syracuse United Neighbors/ Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475. EVERY WEDNESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.

28 EVERY WED: Syracuse Community Choir rehearsal for winter solstice concert. Come sing with us! No auditions. Westcott Community Center, 828 Euclid Av. 7:30pm. 487-8607. Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker Benefit Dinner. St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center, Winton St., off Burnet Av. 5:30 pm. \$0-\$15 donation. 471-9853.

1 Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue. 731 James St. 5:30pm. 476-8226. Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Av. 7pm. 476-7475. Red Branch Irish Americans for Peace & Justice meets at Coleman's Pub. 7pm. 475-0345.

8 4th Annual Syracuse Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Film Festival. Films: Badass Supamama & Different for Gits. Grifford Auditorium, HBC Hall, SU. 7pm. \$6-\$7. 476-8228. More on 10/15 & 10/22. Peace Council invites you to a discussion about SPC's involvement in upcoming & future political actions including the "Day Without the Pentagon" and the Chase the SOA protest. 824 Burnet Av. 7pm. 472-5478.

15 Films: Scat via Buch and Paul Moravcsik: the Brick of Summers' End. Westcott Theater. 7pm. \$6-\$7. 476-8228. 1st & 3rd THURSDAYS: Gay & Lesbian Alliance meeting. Enable, 1603 Court St. 7:30pm. 472-5732.

22 Films: Some Ground to Stand On and Relax, It's Just Sex. Westcott Theater. 7pm. \$6-\$7. 476-8228. EVERY THURSDAY: Lesbian & Gay Youth Support group (ages 14-21). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 6:30 pm. 422-9741.

29 EVERY THURSDAY: Singing Meditation at Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7-8:05pm. Free. EVERY THURSDAY: Golden Cafe at Westcott Community Center. 10-2pm. Meet new friends, eat lunch, take in a program. Westcott Community Center. 478-8634. Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cnyrd 475-1878. Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Av. 5-7pm. Free Food!

2 October 1-24: "Challenges of the New Millennium" featuring works of Juan Cruz & David Mac Donald at Community Folk Art Gallery. 2223 E. Genesee St. 424-8487. Light Work Gallery 28th Anniversary Celebration. Non-profit, artist-run organization. Watson Theater at Everson Museum. 3-5pm. 10pm. Open Hand Theater presents "Chasing Picasso", a new performance about race, art & the human family. Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St. 8pm. 476-0468. Also on 10/3 & 10/4.

9 Demonstration to lift the sanctions against Iraq. Federal Bldg., downtown Syracuse. 2:15-4:30pm. Sponsored by Islamic Society of CNY, Syracuse Peace Council & Peace Action.

16 Reconciliation: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 205 Onondaga Av. 7:30pm. 422-8237. Films: Scat via Buch and Paul Moravcsik: the Brick of Summers' End. Westcott Theater. 7pm. \$6-\$7. 476-8228. 1st & 3rd THURSDAYS: Gay & Lesbian Alliance meeting. Enable, 1603 Court St. 7:30pm. 472-5732.

23 EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7pm. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 492-8035.

30 EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

3 Peachtown Native American Cultural Festival. Wells College Campus, Aurora, NY. 10am-7pm. Dancers, craft demonstrations, vendors, traditional foods, campfire stories & music. 315-364-5606. Also on Sunday. Food Not Bombs serving food at Everson Museum. 3-5pm. Open Hand Theater presents "Chasing Picasso". 8pm. See 10/2 for info.

10 Westcott Partnership Performing Arts Series presents singer/songwriter Jamie Anderson. Westcott Community Center. 8pm. 478-8634. EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time Warner Cable, channel 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

17 Teen AIDS Education Day at Westcott Community Center, sponsored by NAMES Project. AIDS Memorial Quilt panels on display, panel making, educational materials & a production by the Media Unit, "Not Your Typical Case." 3-9pm. 478-8634.

24 Irish Northern Aid meeting. Call Patrick Smith for time & place. 469-8948.

31 Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Retreat, "The Wakefulness: the Inner Treasure of Self-Liberation." Teachings, meditation instruction, discussion. Thornfield Conference Center, 4688 W. Lake Rd, Cazenovia. 638-6462 to register.

# Stop the Killing!

## Protest the Unjust Sanctions against Iraq



Since 1991, **over 1.5 million Iraqi people** have died because of the US government's economic sanctions. **Over 700,000 are children.** A **generation** is growing up suffering the effects of *malnutrition* and *immeasurable hardship and grieving*. Parents are helpless to provide for their families because there are simply not enough food, clean water, medicine and other basic necessities to go around. **We must act to stop the genocidal policies of our government.**

## Join us for a Demonstration ..

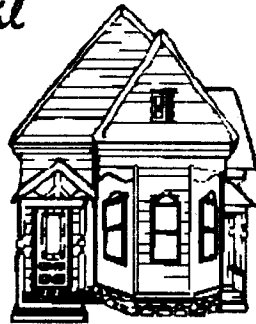
- of our solidarity with the Iraqi people
- of our opposition to our government's merciless profiteering
- of our desire for peace & cooperation among the world's peoples

## Friday, October 9th • 2:15-4:30pm

## Hanley Federal Building • 100 S. Clinton St., Syracuse

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# Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice November 1998 PNL 673



Published Monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council - Founded in 1936

**Inside:**

The Roots of the SOA, Day Without the Pentagon, Women in the Zapatista Struggle and Zapatista Struggle in the North, Centerfold — The Legacy of Indigenous Survival, Let Iraq Live!, Protest on the Hill, Sierra Blanca Saved! (Maybe ...)

# 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  
Beth Mosley

**SPC Press**  
Paul Pearce

### Bookkeeper

Duane Hardy

### SPC Council:

Paul Frazier, Rae Kramer,  
Carl Mellor, Andy Molloy,  
Marge Rusk, Ann Tiffany

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

## The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets most Wednesdays at 5:30 PM at the Peace Council. Call SPC to confirm the time.

**Editorial & Production:** Beth Berila, Paul Frazier, Karen Hall, Bill Hamler, Tim Judson, Mike Kernahan, Rae Kramer, Joy Meeker, Andy Molloy, Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce, David Schechter

**Graphics Coordinator:** Anita Welych  
**Cover Coordinator:** Karen Kerney

## SPC Projects: 472-5478

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

## Other Volunteers

Sonali Sathaye, Chuck Durand, Mardea Warner, Amy Bartell, Vanessa Johnson, Ed Kinane, Aggie Lane, Joan Goldberg, Ruth Putter, Margaret Birdleough, Kathy Barry, Brian Caufield, Fredrick Noyes, Jolie Rickman, Bill Mazza, Lance Hogan, Bill Hamler, Sylvia Burgess, Daniel Bowers, Carol Baum, Chris Spies-Rusk, Susan Adair, Nick Orth, Michael DeSalvo

## 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

<b>Abolish the Blocade of Cuba</b>		<b>Peace Action of CNY</b>	
Doug Igelsrud	471-5749	Diane Swords	478-7442
<b>ACLU-CNY Chapter</b>		<b>Peace Brigades International</b>	
Barrie Gewanter	471-2821	Ed Kinane	478-4571
<b>Alliance-Psychiatric System Survivors</b>		<b>P.E.A.C.E., Inc.</b>	
George Ebert	475-4120	Louis Clark	470-3300
<b>Alternatives to Violence Project</b>		<b>People Against the Death Penalty</b>	
Jay Liestee	499-0845		637-3344
<b>American Friends Service Committee</b>		<b>People for Animal Rights</b>	
Animal Defense League	475-4822		488-PURR (7877)
ARISE	472-3171	<b>Physicians for Social Responsibility</b>	488-2140
<b>Atlantic States Legal Foundation</b>		<b>Planned Parenthood</b>	475-5525
	475-1170	<b>PWHIV/ AIDS Support Hotline</b>	
<b>Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition</b>		Sandra	471-5911
Shirley Novak	446-6099	<b>ReConsider</b>	
<b>Citizens Against Radioactive Dumping</b>	(607) 753-6271	Nick or Alex Eyle	422-6231
<b>Citizen Review Board</b>		<b>Religion: Other</b>	
Felicia Davis	448-8750	Phoenix or Kat	474-8801
<b>CNY Center for Occupational Health and Safety</b>	471-6187	<b>Rose Center</b>	
<b>CNY Environment</b>		Teri Cameron	422-3426
Lee Gechas	446-5319	<b>Sarah House</b>	475-1747
<b>CNY N.O.W.</b>	487-3188	<b>Save the County</b>	637-6066
<b>Community Media Action Group</b>		<b>SEEDS</b>	(607) 749-2818
	423-4783	<b>Service Employees International</b>	
<b>CUSLAR</b>	(607) 255-7293	Robert Tompkins	424-1750
<b>Dunbar Center</b>		<b>Sierra Club</b>	
Merriete Pollard	476-4269	Sue Carlson	445-1663
<b>EON/Transgender Community</b>		<b>Small Claims Court Action Center</b>	443-1401
Melissa	423-4099	<b>S.O.A. Watch/ CNY</b>	
<b>Fair Housing Council of CNY</b>		Ed Kinane	478-4571
Merrilee Witherell	471-0518	<b>Social Workers for Peace</b>	
<b>Fair Trial for Mumia Committee</b>		Dick Mundy	445-0797
	472-5478	<b>Socialist Party</b>	
<b>Fightback! of CNY</b>	422-0555	Ron Ehrenreich	478-0793
<b>Food Bank of CNY</b>	437-1899	<b>Spanish Action League</b>	475-6153
<b>Food Not Bombs</b>		<b>SU African-American Society</b>	
Jamie or Marika	479-9429		443-4633
<b>Friends of the Filipino People</b>		<b>Student Environmental Action Coalition</b>	
John Brulé	445-0698	Michelle Baumfleck	423-8000
<b>Gay/Lesbian Alliance</b>	422-5732	<b>Syr. Alternative Media Network</b>	
<b>Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Assoc. (SU)</b>	443-3599	Tim Brachocki	425-8806
<b>Haiti Solidarity</b>		<b>Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society</b>	
Ann Tiffany	478-4571	<b>SAVES/Joe Connolly</b>	437-2163
<b>Hemlock Society</b>		<b>Syracuse Community Choir</b>	
Betty Bentley	463-0782	Karen Mihalyi	428-8724
<b>Hotel Employees 150</b>	437-0373	<b>Syracuse Community Radio</b>	
<b>Irish Northern Aid</b>		Frederic Noyes	234-2000
Patrick Smith	469-8948	<b>Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union</b>	471-1116
<b>Jail Ministry</b>	424-1877	<b>Syracuse Cultural Workers</b>	
<b>Kenlark Center for Creative Spirituality</b>	685-5414	Dik Cool	474-1132
<b>Lesbian/Gay Youth NAACP</b>	443-3599	<b>Syracuse N.O.W.</b>	472-3294
Van Robinson	422-6933	<b>Syr. Real Food Coop</b>	472-1385
<b>Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.</b>		<b>Syr. Social Movement Initiative</b>	
Ammie Chickering	365-2299	John Burdick	443-3822
<b>New Environment Association</b>		<b>Syracuse United Neighbors</b>	
Harry Schwarzlander	446-8009	Rich Puchalski	476-7475
<b>NYPIRG</b>	476-8381	<b>S.U. for Animal Rights</b>	443-4199
<b>Onondaga Audobon</b>	457-7731	<b>Urban League</b>	
<b>Onon. Women's Political Caucus</b>		Eloise Dowdell Curry	472-6955
Peggy Murray	475-7671	<b>Utica Community Action</b>	
<b>Open Hand Theatre</b>		John Furman	797-7020
Geoff Navias	476-0466	<b>Witness for Peace Delegations</b>	
<b>Pax Christi</b>		Nancy Gwin	422-4689
Frank Woolever	446-1693	<b>Women's Center (SU)</b>	443-4268
		<b>Women's Health Outreach</b>	
			425-3653
		<b>Women's INFO Center</b>	478-4636

(If you want your group listed, please call)

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

## In This Issue:

The *PNL* Editorial Collective and the SPC Staff and Council don't want you to get the wrong idea from this issue of the *PNL*. In the interest of honesty, we're coming clean. Most of the things you'll read about this month *did* happen. It's just that they're all blown out of proportion. You see, we kind of get carried away with ourselves sometimes, trying to put this little rag out each month. You gotta stretch for real news here in Syracuse! For instance, the SOA thing. Really, *not a big deal*. A lot of folks from Syracuse go all the way to *Florida* this time of year. These so-called SOA Abolitionists aren't even gonna *make* it that far south. Most people in the country aren't even concerned. None of it is very important, in the grand scheme of things. Syracuse. A pretty boring place to be, really. *Really*. — TJ

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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### November *PNL* Editorial Meetings

Planning	Oct 28
Production	Nov 11

### December Issue Deadlines

Articles	Nov 11
Ads	Nov 13
Calendar Items	Nov 13

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PNL 673

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## Head down to Georgia — Help Close the SOA

Join with other Central New Yorkers

Vigil at Ft. Benning, Georgia  
Saturday, Nov. 21 and Sunday, Nov. 22

Call John Fitzsimmons (255-4362) or Joan Goldberg (673-1083)  
for travel and lodging info

## About the cover: *Going to the Roots* by Karen Kerney

Ed Kinan talked about hitch-hiking down to Columbus, Georgia a few years ago to participate in a protest at a place called Ft. Benning. Did Ed see himself following in the steps of Harriet Tubman and other abolitionists? Not surprisingly, the local group calling for the close of the SOA is the CNY/SOA Abolitionist Affinity Group.

Of the twenty-five prisoners of conscience recently released from federal prisons for protesting at Ft. Benning, six were from Central New York. Ed and Kathleen Rumpf are two of five from across the nation now serving federal time for nonviolent civil disobedience at the place where torture is taught. What's going on here? Is it, as someone asked Nick Cardell in a letter while he was in prison, the water?

The road to Columbus is as simple as a turn south. Following in the steps of Tubman, and the civil rights activists of the 1940's and 50's, (the Hal Garmans and Rose Mannaras and Duane Hardys), and the anti-war protesters of the 60's who went south to Washington, Central New Yorkers will keep the weeds off the path. Join them.

Perhaps it is not the water, but the thirst, the thirst for justice that keeps the path weed free.

Sometimes the moment is the right moment. The more we "stand with" our brothers and sisters who have suffered at the hands of SOA "students," the clearer we are the time is now and the path is easy. Join us.

— Paul Frazier



# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

## The Power of Synergy

Since the inception of the *Peace Newsletter* (PNL) 673 issues ago (!), the Peace Council has used the PNL to communicate its commitment to educate, organize, and agitate for a better world. In speaking about the issues of the day, the PNL has sought to connect its readers not only to news and opinion, but also to each other. In a world where the rich get richer... we have learned that we must use our scarce resources as efficiently as possible by building on what is working well while minimizing wasteful duplication of effort.

One of the ways to do this is through affiliation and coalition. Without compromising the specific purposes that engage us in different organizations and groups, we have always increased the impact of our presence through coming together. We do this because it works and because we know that the forces of both oppression and liberation are complex and multi-factored. There can be no racism without economic exploitation. There can only be limited education without health and shelter.

What then is the role of the PNL in promoting affiliation and coalition?

At a basic "calendar" level, some time ago the PNL initiated a "Community Update" section, providing information about upcoming local activities and programs. In the more recent past, we also decided to dedicate space on a regular basis to the work of CLAC (the Caribbean Latin American Coalition) and Alternative Efforts (a local organization that provides and advocates for the housing and social service needs of people who have AIDS or are HIV positive).

Elsewhere in this issue is a report on the newly established New York Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty, the latest in a series of similar but unsuccessful attempts to address this issue. While the lack of success of those earlier efforts is not completely understood, part of what happened was a chronic shortage of resources. Seeking to learn from the past, the new Coalition is trying to maximize its limited resources through active affiliation and coalition. In addition to working with selected

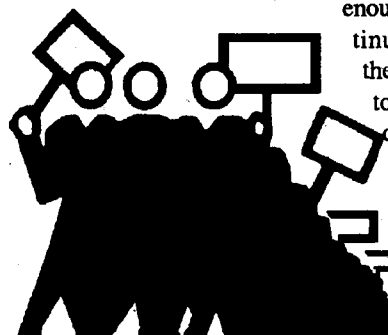
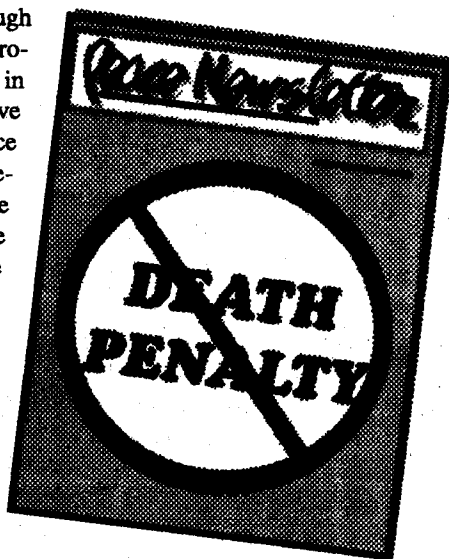
tion provides information for publication about an important issue for PNL readers. The PNL provides an already established structure and readership from which may come additional support for the death penalty repeal work. Coalition members receive information about their specific area of interest but also benefit by learning about related issues. The PNL increases its readership with little "marketing" cost, and the Coalition carries out a critical organizing role - communication - with minimal expenditure on mailings since the PNL will carry its messages as part of regular publication.

This PNL/Coalition arrangement is an attempt at a more focused, cost conscious relationship. The annual subscription price of \$12 is minimal for subscribers, but still enough for us to continue distributing the newsletter free to prisoners, students, and others as needed.

We invite other organizations and groups to consider whether a similar

arrangement would be of interest. Please contact us at (315) 472-5478 if the idea intrigues you. We hope to hear from you.

— Rae Kramer



N Y S legislators, the NYCLU, and various labor, religious, and academic organizations and groups, the Coalition has decided to use the PNL as its major means of communication with its members and interested others.

This is the power of synergy. The Coali-

## Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voice for Peace and Social Justice

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 Please contact me about volunteering.  My address has changed

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Clint Shenandoah



Congratulations to Kanik nutlahtaza, Oneida Turtle Clan (Tonya Cornelius) and Ho:has, Onondaga Snipe Clan (Clint Shenandoah) who were married in a traditional Haudenosaunee ceremony on Saturday October 24. Their commitment to each other and their traditions is a source of great joy.

(see pages 12,13)

# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

## HAMMERING SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES Craftsfair

### Yes, Tiny Tim, it's almost time for Plowshares

Come celebrate with us at the 28th annual Plowshares Winter Holiday Peace Festival and Craftsair. As always, you can find wonderful crafts (old favorites or those appearing for the first time), yummy healthy food, and diverse entertainment.

Not your usual holiday arts or crafts mart, Plowshares provides an opportunity to shop at a non-chain store located most definitely outside the mall. We feel very much at home at the Southwest Community Center, and are excited about returning there for the 8th (!) year. Our ties to the urban community are becoming stronger every year as Plowshares

has become part of Southwest's regular calendar of events. While we know that some people still miss the "old digs" at Plymouth Congregational, the Southwest location provides full wheelchair accessibility, more free parking, and more space overall for crafters and community groups.

Your connection to the spirit of Plowshares can be enhanced in many ways beyond shopping. Keeping in mind that Plowshares is one of the Peace Council's most important annual fund-raisers, this year you may wish to:

- bring a friend (or two or three) who's never been
- donate a prize for the raffle (almost any item or service will make us happy)
- sell the raffle tickets you receive in the mail or call us to send you some
- volunteer for one of many needed tasks (arrange around your shopping schedule)



Please call the SPC office at 472-5478 if you can help in any way.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

— Rae Kramer

## 7 Minutes: Blood & Light

A red liquid steadily dripped from a water clock suspended high above the floor of the BeVard theatre, marking time for the seven segments of a powerful production by former Syracusean Christa Cocciolo, and Andreas Knoth in collaboration with Liron Shoham and Juergen Scheer (known to PNL readers as Mole). The production took place just after the curfew was lifted from the Labor Day storm.

The artists have all been involved with the Mladi Most International Cultural Center in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina and bring their experiences of that war-torn area into this

production. The war provides a backdrop but not a focus, for examining the universal issues of personal/cultural identity and control.

Enveloped by a rich environment created with projected video by Liron, projected photographs by Andreas and Juergen, and the electronically



JuergenScheer (mole)

processed violin of Andreas, Christa used dance, words and gesture to provoke the audience with rich and powerful imagery. Their intention was to raise questions rather than making statements.

An international production in itself, Christa- USA, Ardreas, Juergen- Germany and Liron- Israel, the troupe has returned to Berlin and

hope to perform there and in Paris. The Peace Council is proud to be the sponsor of their premier performance. —PP

## SPC Political Action

Forming a political action committee is a little bit like forming a jello — the ingredients and the timing have to be in sync, or else you just end up with a gooey formless mess. The October 8 meeting at SPC brought concerned activists together and the timing is right for consolidating our energies. Designing the SPC Political Action committee brought out these desired features of what such a committee might do and how it might operate:

- to be a consistent and visible presence in the Central New York community, edu-

cating through agitating

- to initiate political action and to give support to community activists and community actions that are consistent with the SPC
- to engage in nonviolent action creatively and effectively

What this means is that the SPC Council is looking for a small collective to initiate regular nonviolent actions, working with the staff of the SPC and other community organizations.

A related aspect of the work of the political action committee will be to orchestrate a February gathering of peace and justice organizations in Central New York. This gathering would be for the specific purpose of sharing calendar events groups have scheduled for the year. As we begin to better coordinate our collective community events calendars, we might also begin to develop ways of working more cooperatively.

We welcome your call and show of interest in these activities. 472-5478.

# Sierra Blanca Saved (Maybe ...)

## An Uncertain Victory for People of West Texas and Mexico

Tim Judson

**A** chapter in the struggle against the nuclear waste dump proposed for Sierra Blanca, TX, came to an unexpected conclusion on October 22. After Clinton signed the Maine/Texas/Vermont Nuclear Waste Compact into law on September 2, it seemed all but certain that the three states would be moving their low-level nuclear waste to West Texas. However, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) voted 3-0 to deny the construction permit for the dump. The stated reason was high geologic activity in the area, which hadn't been sufficiently accounted for in the plans and studies.

Sierra Blanca lies in southeast Texas, about 16 miles from the Rio Grande and 90 miles from El Paso. It is an 80% Mexican-

American community, and in the poorest county in Texas. Although Reuters news service stated in its report that most Sierra Blancans were in favor of the dump because it would bring jobs and big money, local business-owners and politicians have been virtually the only supporters. The vast majority of people in the town have opposed the dump, and there has been a strong grassroots movement against it for several years. Several Sierra Blanca activists brought their message to Vermont last summer, siting racism against Mexicans; low English-speaking, literacy, and voting rates; and high poverty, as the reasons for siting the dump there.

Some of the biggest money in the state is behind the dump, not to mention the entire nuclear industry. Although the bill in Congress was specifically a compact between Texas, Maine and Vermont, an important amendment was removed before it passed that would have limited the dump to accepting

waste from only those three states. Immediately following the decision, representatives of Texas utilities said they would likely ask for a rehearing by the commission within 45 days. If that fails, they can take the case to court. Another option is for the state legislature to change the law that makes Sierra Blanca the only legal place to build the dump; the town of Andrews 200 miles north is a possibility since one of Governor Bush's major financial backers owns half of the waste disposal company there and local leaders have, to quote one Sierra Blanca activist, "been begging for the dump."

If the dump is sited elsewhere, the next community will likely be hamstrung politically. In making their decision the TNRCC ruled that the area of socioeconomic impact as allowed by the hearing judges was too broad. That sets the stage for keeping all nearby cities out of the next fight.

Tim is a staffperson at SPC and nukebuster.

## LETTERS

### Be Careful with the Labels

Do my eyes deceive me or was there an approving nod to Bill Bennett's on-going crusade against our rights to free expression ("Peaces" 10/98) in the pages of last month's PNL? Bennett is an arch conservative who feels it is his business to dictate what the public should and should not see and hear. Bennett along with his sidekicks Delores Tucker and Charleton Heston think they know what is good for us whether or not we agree. As for "extremist rocker Marilyn Manson," whether or not his music and image is your personal preference, let's not forget that Elvis was considered too vulgar to show his hips on television, the Beatles with their "long" hair and comments about Jesus represented indecency to many in the 1960's, David Bowie was an outrageous gender bender, and Ozzy Osbourne was in league with the devil. As activists who are routinely marginalized as "extremists" we should be careful who we label with such statements. While I applaud the effort to keep us informed about the evil doings of unregulated corporations, I do not feel that the promotion of rock music or Jerry Springer will soon top my list of highly contemptible behavior by the corporate sector.

— Frederic Noyes, would be rocker

*Frederic, I think you're reading more into that "Peace" than was intended. Nothing in the piece suggests that anyone be censored, and, although the characterization is Mutinational Monitors' and not mine, I'm pretty sure the vast majority of people, including Marilyn Manson, would be fairly comfortable with describing Manson as "extreme."*

*I included this story because it seemed to me sharply illustrative of the hypocrisy of the compartmentalized corporate mentality. I have little doubt that the shareholders and members of the board of Seagrams are predominantly good Republican church-attending pillars of their communities who regularly bemoan the sorry moral state of the country and cheer when conservatives beat up on Hollywood. — Mike Kernahan, PNL Committee*

### Seeking Creative Submissions from Children of GLBT parents

Are you the child of a gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender parent or parents? When did you discover this and how did you feel? What types of problems or challenges has it caused?

There are an estimated one million children with gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender

parents. But, surprisingly, there is very little written on the subject and few ways for children and adult children of gays and lesbians to connect and find support.

This book is being created to help fill this void — to help these children and adult children feel supported and connected as they tell their stories and share their struggles. Many of us are still "in the closet" about our parents and need a safe community in which to "come out" about our families.

This book will be a compilation of creative expressions by children and adult children with gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, or transgender parents as they go through their journeys. Poems, paintings, essays, short stories, drawings, songs, journal entries, photographs, and collages reflecting this experience are all acceptable forms of submission. Artwork must be camera-ready.

Please send submissions or inquiries with your name (you can request that only your first name be published), age, state, and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Nicole Moss, English Department, 401 Hall of Languages, Syracuse University, Syracuse, 13244-1170, <nsmoss@syr.edu>.

# Getting to the Roots

## SOA Abolitionists on the SOA and Reasons to Cross the Line, November 22

History tells me that for nigh unto a century US "Big Stick" policies have continued increasingly to wreak havoc on the lives of the poor majority. So monstrous has been the suffering, there can be no quick solutions or "success." And in no way can we be in solidarity with the oppressed without sharing in their suffering, personally experiencing their pain, their long years of struggle. Life in the beloved community can only be costly. The comfort of life in this country must be discomforted.

If filling our prisons over and over again must be part of that discomfort, I am ready to return again and again.

— Sr. Megan Rice

As a Central American solidarity activist I have worked to "put a face" on US economic and military policies. Trips to Central America and the Caribbean have helped me do this. I bring back photographs, stories, and personal experience that help to make the issues real. And I return with the often-heard request...

"Don't forget us. Tell the people of the US of our suffering. Ask them to change their country's policies."

I have just spent six months in another country, The Federal Bureau of Prisons. ... I took this trip with the oppressed. I was without a passport and citizen rights. I felt demeaned, confused, frightened, disempowered. Rules were numerous and arbitrary, verbal abuse was a given. ... We were constantly told that "You are prisoners and you will do as you are told. You do not have jobs, you just work when, where, and how we tell you to." ...

In the midst of this I experienced a caring community of women. I saw hospitality, courage, kindness, and concern for fellow inmates. And when I left prison the message was the same as in Central America and the Caribbean...

"Don't forget us. Tell the people what it is like here. WE need to work for a fair justice system." I will not forget the faces of the countries I have visited.

— Ann Tiffany

*Ed.: Ann, Dan, Doris, Megan, and Nick were among the 25 people imprisoned for six months for crossing the line at Ft. Benning last year. Rita is a long-time Syracusan preparing to cross time this year. For info on how to participate in this year's Anti-SOA action, see page 3. They prepared statements (excerpted below) to express what the SOA represents and why it is important to risk arrest and imprisonment to close it.*

### Then and Now

CONTEMPLATING MY RETURN to Fort Benning, Georgia to protest the School of the Americas for a third time, the possibility of crossing for a second time and risking jail has deep meaning for me. At age 75, I am a first generation American. My parents were born in Germany. I was in Germany visiting my grandparents in 1939 when the war broke out. Having lived through World War II and the aftermath as the horrors of the holocaust were revealed, I know the cost and the shame of silence.

We vowed to never forget the holocaust. Remembering the holocaust means never letting it happen again. Why are we not reacting when we see the same horrors being repeated throughout Latin America by graduates of the School of Americas which we support with our tax dollars? We are free to speak out, protected by the First amendment. Even that bears careful witnessing considering the six month sentences handed down by Federal Judge Elliott for a peaceful civil initiative at Fort Benning last year.

I believe most progress in promoting democracy in Latin America has been made by the efforts of religious leaders, peace workers, and individuals of conscience, who have gone into the villages and the cities to work directly with the people. They have no personal agenda. They derive no profits from their labors. When they come back with stories and pictures that substantiate the horror, they are as real to me as the stories the G.I.'s brought home from Germany. I believe them. They certainly are more reliable than the claim that the School of the Americas promotes democratic values and that all that has been exposed is past history, even as it has been reported that SOA graduates were recently involved in massacres in Chiapas.

It seems to me that it all has to do with cheap labor. The cheap labor that is drawing business and jobs out of the country. This alone should challenge us to petition our government to rise above the big buck lobbyists whose balance sheets list human beings along with nuts and bolts, buying all at the cheapest cost.

Closing the School of the Americas is a good place to start. — Rita Gabaccia

continued on page 8

### Looking Back across the Line

I stumbled into prison, one step at a time....After retiring, I accompanied Shirley Novak on one of her trips to carry in aid to the communities of La Estancia.

My experience in these mountain communities, my friendship with these people and witnessing their courageous struggle made me an activist. I returned to vigil in Washington, and to visit our representatives in congress. Then, I went to Ft. Benning to express my beliefs.

After my second arrest, it became

clear to me that my issue was our first amendment rights. Four days after our arraignment, my husband and I traveled to Guatemala and El Salvador where we learned that our government's fiscal policies, multi-national business concerns and military-industrial interests are still causing pain, suffering and death to the people there.

This trip confirmed that crossing the line was the right thing for me to do. I couldn't climb those mountains in El Salvador anymore, but I could sit in jail and perhaps that would make a difference. — Doris Sage

### The First Step Toward Trust

Our government's early response to critics of the School of the Americas (SOA) was to deny that the SOA had any responsibility for or connection with rapes, murders, and assassinations in Latin American countries. When evidence of SOA graduates' involvement in these atrocities accumulated, government defenders argued that these were a few bad apples. As evidence mounted and the existence of torture manuals in the School's curricula became known in 1996, the government position gradually changed. The school that had previously been defended as an institution teaching Latin American military personnel democratic principles and civil rights is now touted as having been completely reformed. Let us suppose that it has been reformed, though there are many reasons to doubt it. The reputation that the SOA has earned in its more than 50-year existence is so tainted that its legacy as the "School of Assassins" will continue to be one of intimidation sponsored and engendered by our government. As long as it remains open, the Latin American people can never learn to trust us. — Nick Cardell

### Not So Far from Home

... From studying the SOA, I learned that the concept of "low intensity conflict" as our military uses it at the SOA, is quite remarkable. ... It is a principle for counter-insurgency by which the military powers only have to "disappear" or kill a few individuals and threaten the family members of others, to control dissent on the part of large numbers. ... The mushrooming prison population in the US for all kinds of non-violent offenses is a reflection of some of the same philosophy we see in counter-insurgency training our government provides for foreign military leaders — the suppression of dissent. — Dan Sage

### "GUATEMALAWEAR PARTY"

Friday, November 6  
home of Rae Kramer



DECIDEDLY DELICIOUS DESSERTS  
HANDMADE GUATEMALAN CRAFTS

Sale from crafts will fund closing the SOA.  
Call Rae 445-2840 to save a place at the table.



### Anti-SOA Prisoner Update

CENTRAL NEW YORKERS Ed Kinane and Kathleen Rumpf continue their protest to close the SOA from federal prisons. Ed began a sixteen-month sentence at Allenwood Federal Prison, taking up residence a few weeks after Dan Sage and Rev. Nick Cardell left there. Ed inherited Nick's job: tool inventory for the grounds crews. In a letter to Ann Tiffany, Ed writes, "The buzz today in the grounds garage is that Nick and I, "the terrorists," are probably the only two real criminals in the camp. I hasten to add this is asserted good-naturedly." Ann tells us Ed is of good energy and spirits. Ed had his initial team meeting, which took a total of 4 minutes. He learned his projected release date: 12/1/99.

Kathleen has moved, courtesy of the federal prison shuffle, from one county jail in Columbus, to another county jail, twenty miles to the north. She then reported in from Brooklyn, NY, en route to Danbury, where she currently resides. Kathleen is not at the camp "up the hill" where Sr. Megan, Doris Sage, and Ann Tiffany served six months, but "down the hill." Kathleen wrote to say she contemplated saving orange peels for a potpourri for her underwear drawer, but since she had neither underwear nor an underwear drawer, the peels would go elsewhere. (When transferred, most belongings stay behind.) She experienced difficulties with receiving medical care, and expects to be transferred to Texas, to a prison better able to meet her needs. Kathleen began her twelve-month sentence in late July.

— Paul Frazier



# More Vision Than People-Power

## A Day Without the Pentagon

Andy Mager

Few could argue that our nation is addicted to militarism. Despite the end of the Cold War, levels of military spending have decreased only slightly. The US military budget exceeds that of the next eight largest such spenders combined. Our "way of life" requires this massive military force to prevent those on the short end of the world's economic order from demanding a more just distribution of resources.

This travesty led the War Resisters League (WRL) to develop a multi-year campaign called "A Day Without the Pentagon." Since WRL's true goal is the complete elimination of the Pentagon, the program borrowed from Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-step programs which call on people to start eliminating their addiction "one day at a time."

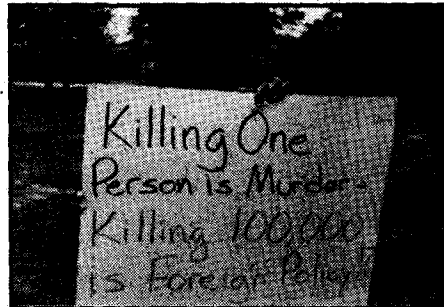
Fifty actions and events in 23 states (including an action protesting the University-Pentagon connection at Syracuse University) marked the first Day Without the Pentagon in 1997. This year people were asked to come to Washington DC on October 19 to bring our anti-militarist message to the center of global war-making: The Pentagon.

WRL planned the action in conjunction with the secular pacifist organization's 75th anniversary conference, held the preceding weekend. Given WRL's historic commitment to resisting military service and war taxes, and to organizing nonviolent direct action, the organization couldn't simply celebrate, but also felt compelled to take action for peace.

The conference was a marvelous gathering of over 200 pacifist activists—from Marj Swann who has been a WRL member for 60 or 61 years (she can't quite recall, though her radical politics remain keen), to teenage activists who were attracted by WRL's Youth Peace program. The conference provided inspiration, time for strategizing, the chance to con-

nect with friends, old and new, and renew our commitment to radical nonviolence.

On Sunday afternoon most conference participants headed into DC to prepare for Monday's Pentagon protest. At the community center, where last-minute nonviolence training and strategy meetings were scheduled, the scene was chaotic as the crowd of over 100 people seeking training overwhelmed the organizers. Unfortunately, neither the facility nor the planning could easily accommodate such numbers. As a result, some young people who came with an interest in participating in civil disobedience chose not to risk arrest.



Photos by Andy Mager

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ety to march on the Pentagon. It quickly became clear that the numbers would be far less than some of us had hoped, though no one was expecting tens of thousands on a Monday morning in peacetime. The spirited march ended on the River Side of the Pentagon where large numbers of police were amassed to protect that bastion of military force.

The civil disobedience plan provided a great deal of flexibility for individual affinity groups to act. With that in mind, the 339 group (WRL's office is at 339 Lafayette St. in New York City), had arisen before dawn and blocked the escalators leading from the Metro platform into the Pentagon. Twenty-one activists were arrested soon after they taped up the pathways with yellow "Caution" tape, held banners with slogans such as "RePentagon" and sat in the path of Pentagon workers.

A second group, DC Catholic Worker folks, poured blood and blocked employees at the South entrance. As has often been the case at the Pentagon, the police pushed them out of the way but didn't arrest them. Later in the

The following morning, activists gathered near Arlington Cem-



afternoon at the River entrance, where the rally was staged, a similar situation ensued, leading former Pentagon employee Daniel Ellsberg to ask, "What does it take to get arrested around here?" A total of 36 activists were arrested, though only 21 were actually charged with an offense.

A strong point of the rally was its diverse group of speakers and musicians—including such stand-bys as Dick Gregory, Daniel Ellsberg, Odetta and Dave Dellinger; as well as folks not so often seen at peace rallies: African-American activist Pam Africa, Puerto Rican Independence activist Luis Nieves-Falcon and a representative of the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee.

The demonstration was broadcast live on C-SPAN for the entire four hours and was replayed later. During the first hour of the demonstration the phones in WRL's office rang continuously, and the organization has received many inquiries via the internet in the ensuing days.

Reflecting on the demonstration, long-time WRL staffer David McReynolds wrote, "Any genuine coalition that will carry the struggle against militarism to a successful conclusion will have to include a range of folks

from those openly pacifist, openly socialist, to those who are 'openly liberal.' I think Monday, October 19th was a good beginning." McReynolds also pointed out the lack of labor representation as a significant shortcoming.

It is indeed sad that at a time when there is less justification than ever for a massive military budget that so few came to DC. The situation in Syracuse, where the Peace Council's efforts to organize a group for the action proved fruitless, were apparently repeated elsewhere.

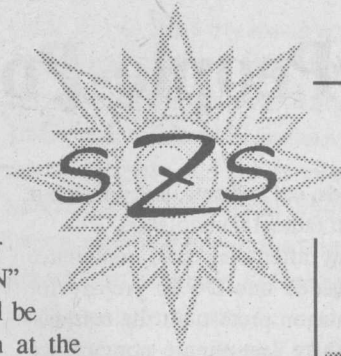
Journalist Allen Nairn, who had spoken last year at the Syracuse action, reminded those at the Pentagon that "the people at the other end of the M-16's in East Timor, in Haiti and elsewhere can't demonstrate in the streets of the US," thus it is left to us.

Andy Mager is a long-time activist, WRL member and former PNL editor who recently returned to Syracuse.





## Cafe Zapatista Women in the EZLN



Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity presents a series of discussions on resistance and revolution in Chiapas, Mexico. Our first topical discussion "Women in the EZLN" (Zapatista National Liberation Army) will be held Thursday, November 12 at 7:30pm at the Westcott Community Center, corner of Euclid and Wetcott Streets. We will discuss the role of women in the Zapatista struggle, and in movements for social change more generally, including here in Central New York. Admission is \$2-5 sliding scale.

Additionally, SZS has published a 56 page primer on the situation in Chiapas, called *Cafe Zapatista Reader* which we are selling as a fundraiser for our organizing efforts. If you would like a copy, send \$4 (includes \$1 postage) to **PO Box 7037**, Syracuse, 13210, or call **423-4783** and arrange to pick up a copy, meet someone from SZS, and save a buck. — *Adrienne Allen*



## Zapatista Revolutionary Women's Law

*Ed.: The following document was first circulated in 1994, after the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) uprising began in Chiapas, Mexico. It was drafted sometime before, after agitation by Zapatista women movement for revolutionary change within the culture and the struggle.*

In the just fight for the liberation of our people, the EZLN incorporates women into the revolutionary struggle, regardless of their race, creed, color or political affiliation, requiring only that they share the demands of the exploited people and that they commit to the laws and regulations of the revolution. In addition, taking into account the situation of the woman worker in Mexico, the revolution supports their just demands for equality and justice in the following Women's Revolutionary Law:

**First:** Women, regardless of their race, creed, color or political affiliation, have the right to participate in the revolutionary struggle in a way determined by their desire and capacity.

**Second:** Women have the right to work and receive a just salary.

**Third:** Women have the right to decide the number of children they will have and care for.



**Fourth:** Women have the right to participate in the affairs of the community and hold positions of authority if they are freely and democratically elected.

**Fifth:** Women and their children have the right to primary attention in matters of health and nutrition.

**Sixth:** Women have the right to an education.

**Seventh:** Women have the right to choose their partner, and are not to be forced into marriage.

**Eighth:** Women shall not be beaten or physically mistreated by their family members or by strangers. Rape and attempted rape will be severely punished.

**Ninth:** Women will be able to occupy positions of leadership in the organization and hold military ranks in the revolutionary armed forces.

**Tenth:** Women will have all the rights and obligations elaborated in the Revolutionary Laws and Regulations.



# Zapatismo in the North

## Lessons in Struggle from Chiapas

Brian Dominick

A decade before the New Year's Day, 1994 uprising of the Zapatistas, the man now known as Subcomandante Marcos and a handful of comrades traveled to Chiapas, Mexico offering the Maya people there a strategic ideology for liberation. The story goes that the Mayas told him they have no use for such a thing since their culture itself is revolutionary. In turn, Marcos and his comrades learned from them a worldview which none of the schools in the North could have taught them. And today, the Zapatistas make that offer to the rest of us. They have learned what they need from their heritage, their religion, their culture, their very existence — and to some extent they have learned from Western liberation ideologies. Moreover, they have learned from revolutionary history what they should not do. Now, if we are willing to learn, they offer those lessons to us. We may send them food and medicine and even technology from the relatively privileged North, which they will graciously accept and put to use for their day-to-day survival. But this aid will not put them fundamentally closer to any of their stated goals, which include liberty, justice, democracy, self-determination and dignity. That is not to say there is nothing or even little we can do to greatly support the Zapatistas.

The development and activation of the Zapatista movement may well mark another turning point in the history of revolution-making. Here in the North we are finally coming to learn the hard lessons of failed liberation movements. We see that participatory, democratic social change organizing, at the grassroots level, is more effective and enduring than elitist, centralized approaches.

Three elements of what Mexicans call "zapatismo," the way of the Zapatistas, render it exceptional among liberation ideologies. I wish to share, as I have learned them, these three pieces of wisdom which, together, make

up a very promising and refreshing vision of the struggle we all share.

### Solidarity

The first major lesson of the Zapatistas is a very simple one — "Nuestra lucha es tuya," our struggle is yours. Traditionally, calls for solidarity from national liberation movements in "Latin America" have been answered with aid from Northern activists as well as anti-imperialist agitation on their behalf. Zapatismo teaches us that we have to learn with them what it means to struggle, and we have to struggle for ourselves as well as for them. Constantly looking to some other group of more severely oppressed people will not further their cause,

nor ours in the North or around the earth. This means moving forward as a global people's movement instead of as a disunified conglomeration of single-issue movements or on the shirrtails of indians in the South of Mexico.

### Cultures of Resistance

Despite economic disadvantage, the Zapatistas, living in one of the most impoverished regions of the world, have a decided political advantage over us in the relatively wealthy North. The Maya culture has maintained democratic values and practices, involving common people in the governance of the land and community. While their options are limited by economic deficiency, in reality their potential is infinite because "political" direction for them is carried out by the people, a people increasingly skilled at movement and community decision-making.

Conversely, our money-rich culture does not value popular political wealth, which can also be called "democracy." Indeed, it is often among the impoverished here that we find the most community activity. Having to make do with little generates a social instinct. Knowing one's neighbors becomes a necessity, and culture develops and is maintained by that kind of regular contact.

For most of us here, that isn't an obvious fact of life. We remain alienated from each other as common people by more subtle sys-

tems of repression. We become alienated from the very fact that our relative prosperity is born(e) of the labor of very poor folks in the Third World, including the growing version here at home.

We have to practice an understanding of democracy which seeps deeper into North American culture than what has been sold to us by the state and capitalists, by whiteness and patriarchy. And while our political and other social activist projects require real effort and solid organizing, we nevertheless can't expect them to grow until our movements begin to expand their scope. How can we expect this to be done without spreading a culture of democratic resistance, of popular empowerment?

What kinds of things agitate for a more vibrant resistance culture? A major component is for us to learn about diverse cultures of resistance, most notably those of indigenous people, the oldest and strongest countercultures in the hemisphere. We should also learn about the more contemporary countercultures, especially those being spawned by youth today. We should hold more broad-based cultural events with food, music, artwork, even spirituality, ethnicity, and diverse languages. We should be celebrating ourselves, in other words, our lives and aspirations, while staying focused on the politics. It's sad that even our most open and accessible community events of this nature are still often only attended — or

cont. on page 14



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# TRADITION

EVERY DAY  
THE MORNING LIGHT  
SHINES ON THE REALITIES  
GIVEN TO US, AT THIS TIME  
THE BEAUTY OF THE  
NATURAL WORLD  
AND THE DISTORTION  
OF ITS IMBALANCE -  
REMINDING US OF  
THE GENERATIONS  
BEFORE US, THAT  
HAVE INSURED OUR  
CREATORS LEGACY -  
ALLOWING EACH OF US  
A CHANCE TO FIND A WAY,  
FOR THOSE WHO ARE,  
YET TO COME...



MUCH HAPPINESS!

TO Ho:has

AND

Kanik nutlahtaza



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## Zapatismo del Norte Cont. from page 11

not attended as the case may be — by certain sectors of the activist community, or the CNY population as a whole. We need to get out more, to instill in ourselves more deeply-seeded values of dignity and popular power.

It is, after all, such values, such an understanding of and respect for cultural life that has denied the folks who are now Zapatistas, and their ancestors, the willingness to be assimilated. The task for us is to become unassimilated, to create a culture to hold dear and to be influenced by.

### Exercising Power

Another relatively unique element of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN), which strays drastically from the norm for self-defined "national liberation" forces, is its insistence on popular power, the democratic self-management of "civil society," in contrast to state authority. The Zapatistas have denounced any notions of seizing control of the Mexican government, and have instead created autonomous zones in Chiapas, where democracy is practiced on a more direct, human scale.

As Marcos himself once put it, "We wish not to seize power, but to exercise it." With this he recognized that all power is in the hands of the people. The question is who controls that power. The Zapatistas are talking about maintaining managerial control over their power as workers, as citizens, as families and cultures. They have said "Enough!" to those who would usurp this popular power for their own elitist ends. The Zapatistas are not a vanguard. They do not wish to manage or centralize the revolution in Mexico. They encourage decentralized, grassroots resistance and institution-building throughout the country, and the world.

The form this has taken in the villages and municipalities of Zapatista territory — the liberated zones — is remarkable. Despite extreme poverty, the culture of empowerment has fueled a drive to build institutions to serve the needs of the local indians and campesinos. With help from the Church and foreign activists and educators, the Zapatistas and their sympathizers have begun construction of a new society in the shell of the old regime. That

is, they are developing a dual power existence, shirking the authority of the state which claims Chiapas as its own, and operating according to their own politics, economies and cultures. These new institutions include democratic municipal governments, schools, medical facilities, cooperatives, communal land projects, and so forth, in addition to maintaining old and new forms of cultural and kinship relations.

These are the same projects of which we are in dire need today in our community. We may go about forming them differently. We have certain obvious advantages, monetarily, but we have disadvantages too. Most obvious are our lack of community solidarity, democratic culture and even self-definition of what our community is.

We need to be able to fulfill our needs in a grassroots, democratic manner. Cooperative businesses, alternative municipal

assemblies and political forums, and so forth are invaluable, to us and the Zapatistas alike. And initiatives of this sort can be spawned in cultural forums.

It should be noted that North America is not without its cultures of resistance and dual power situations. Here as in Chiapas, many indigenous nations have maintained fundamental autonomy in the face of centuries-old repression and relocation. They have maintained internal democracy in the face of all manner of cultural and political conflicts. The lessons of the traditional dissidents among the Oneida people and the traditional, sovereign government of the Onondaga Nation are equally as important as those of the Zapatistas.

Raised as they have been in a culture of resistance, the Maya people often do not understand why we fail to make the same demands as the Zapatistas. As I see it, we have but two options. The short answer is we can explain to them the enforced apathy of the North, noting the many obstacles we face because we are unpracticed with regard to democratic action at the grassroots level, because our communities are not well-defined, and so on. The long answer is to learn the lessons the Zapatistas and others are teaching, and to get to work.

### The Situation in Chiapas

What I have written so far may actually portray a rather rosy picture of life in Chiapas. Nothing could be further from the truth. Chiapas remains a warzone. The size of the government force there is estimated between 75-100 thousand troops, with shipments of everything from rifles and bullets to helicopters and rockets making their way from the US, Israel and Canada to Mexico in support of the extermination campaign against the Zapatistas and their supporters. Meanwhile, the jungle-based forces of the rebel army are significantly smaller, poorly armed and equipped; for years now, they have been living a harsh, underground existence. Recently, nine Zapatistas were publicly executed, and there are countless cases of intimidation, abduction, torture, and "disappearance."

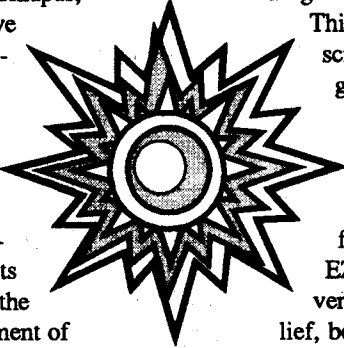
Adding to these social causes of strife in Chiapas is an even more damaging, yet less obvious one. Last spring, the Mexican government set fires throughout Chiapas, in an attempt to force the EZLN out of hiding. The government then blamed them on the slash-and-burn procedures of peasants. The resulting defoliation has led to incredible flooding, from which 2000 are expected to be dead; entire villages have been ruined, and life has come to a standstill in many areas from which villagers have fled to the highlands.

This horror can be done no descriptive justice in a single paragraph.

While, the Zedillo administration maintains a full troop presence in Chiapas, and a swelling military budget to fund the escalating war, the EZLN has announced it will divert half of its funds to flood relief, benefitting all within Zapatista territory regardless of ideological allegiance.

Next month I will discuss strategy and tactics we can employ here, in Central New York, to more directly support the Zapatistas and bring the war in Chiapas to a halt.

Brian is an author and community organizer, member of Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity and co-administrator of the NorthEast Zapatista Solidarity Network. This essay is adapted from a talk given in Syracuse, 10/11/98. To learn more about SZS or NEZSN, call 423-4783, visit <<http://zapnet.rootmedia.org>> or write <[zap-syr@rootmedia.org](mailto:zap-syr@rootmedia.org)>.





# "Let Iraq Live!"

## October 2 Protest Knocks Down Government Lies about Iraq and Sanctions

**F**riday, October 2 SPC joined the Islamic Society of Central New York and Peace Action-CNY to protest the US government's sanctions against the people of Iraq. About 50 attended the two-hour vigil, bringing the message that, while US aggression has subsided from the mainstream view, our government's assault against Iraq has not ended. The following document from the International Action Center, a national anti-militarist organization, dispels many myths about this particularly cruel act of war. — Tim Judson

### 5 US Government Lies About Iraq with Responses

SARA FLOUNDERS, coordinator and spokesperson for the International Action Center, has debated pro-government pundits on Iraqi policy. Flounders answers the five most oft-repeated government lies about its Iraq policy.

**Government Lie 1:** *The people of the United States overwhelmingly support the administration's policy toward Iraq.*

**Flounder's response:** The students at Ohio State University put that lie to rest on February 18, 1998. ... The people know the top politicians lie, and not only about their private lives. They lie about war, from ... Viet Nam's alleged Gulf of Tonkin attack to today's charge of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

**Government Lie 2:** *US strategy aims at forcing Saddam Hussein to abide by United Nations resolutions and allow UNSCOM agents "unfettered access" to sites where Iraq can manufacture chemical and biological weapons.*

**Response:** Iraq is said to have the "capacity" or the "ability" to make weapons. The weapons are "suspected." Or it's said that Iraq has materials that could have a "dual use." They use the charge that such weapons can't be found against Iraq, rather than concluding the obvious, that no such weapons exist. Former UNSCOM inspector Raymond Zalinskis admitted to National Public Radio that UN in-

spectors had already seen all reasonable weapons sites and had destroyed whatever potential existed. Only by killing all the Iraqi scientists, he said, could the US do more. So, it's all a ruse used to cloak Washington's real aims in the Persian/Arabian Gulf.

**Government Lie 3:** *Iraq poses a danger to the world. It possesses, plans to build, and is ready to use weapons of mass destruction.*

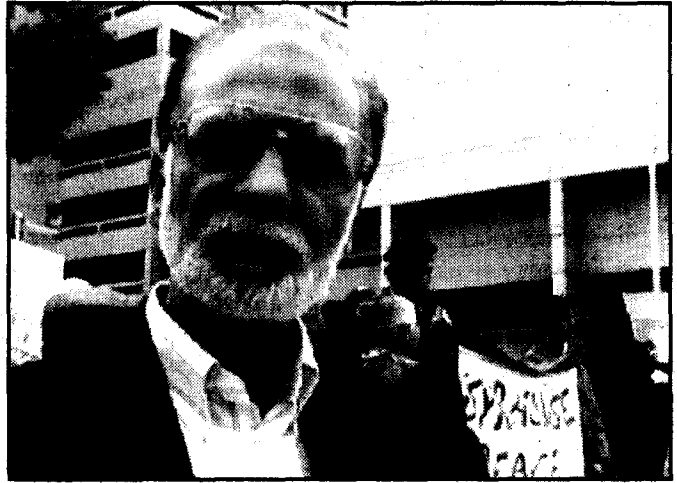
**Response:** The US military has more weapons of mass destruction than the rest of the world combined. ... In the 1991 war against Iraq, the US flew 110,000 aerial sorties and dropped 88,000 tons of explosives in 42 days. This and the ground war killed at least 100,000 Iraqi soldiers and tens of thousands of civilians. Iraq responded with 58 Scud missile attacks and the US lost 148 personnel, one-third from "friendly" fire.

Today, Iraq's army is much weaker than it was seven years ago. Can anyone seriously believe that the Pentagon considers Iraq a threat?

### Statement of the Islamic Society of Central New York

We are distressed at the human disaster the sanctions on Iraq have produced. In the past eight years 1.5 million people have been killed by the sanctions of whom 700,000 were children. Iraqi people, including children, who are the most vulnerable, are being denied clean water, food, medicine, and even books and pencils. Simply put, Iraqis are being denied the God-given right to live. This is genocide.

The Al-Hakam chemicals laboratory, along with tons of chemicals and the missiles that Iraq purchased from Russia, were destroyed by U.N. inspectors a long time ago. For eight long years the United States supported inspections to destroy weapons of mass destruction. There is no end in sight. They are trying to find weapons that are just not there. This witch hunt must stop.



Islamic Society member Tan Haq at the October 2 demo.

**Government Lie 4:** *The US government cares about the welfare of the Iraqi people.*

**Response:** This is probably the most absurd lie of them all.

Let me explain how the US government "takes care" of Iraqi welfare. Since 1990, Washington has been the leading world force imposing war and sanctions on the country. In the 1991 war, US air strikes destroyed the electric grid and power plants, water refineries, the sewage system, pharmaceutical and food production plants.

Since then sanctions have murdered 1.5 million Iraqis, including 700,000 children.

continued on page 16



# Remembrance and Resistance

## Activists Respond on the SU Hill

Tim Judson & Keith Kaminski

After several years of limited student activism at Syracuse University, things have begun to heat up. Students, faculty and staff began this school year with a bang with the service workers strike. The labor struggle, which began the day that classes started, and the series of veiled and not-so-veiled threats of retaliation from the administration gave new impetus to student and faculty groups to organize. As ties formed between university and community activists through organizing support for the strikers, those categories have, happily, blurred slightly.

This month in the PNL we spotlight two recent events at SU that show the broadening base of activism there this year.

### SU Vigil Mourns Death of Matthew Shepard

On Wednesday, October 14, members of the Syracuse University community gathered on the front steps of SU's Hendricks Chapel for an anti-hate crimes rally and candlelight vigil in remembrance of Matthew Shepard, an openly gay student at the University of Wyoming brutally murdered on October 12.

Approximately 150 students, faculty, and other members of the Syracuse-area community united to remember Matthew and the countless other victims of hate crimes nationwide each year. Several speakers from various campus organizations and departments shared stories of other hate-motivated crimes, calling for an alliance among activist groups in the face of the ever-rising number of hate crimes. Speakers also urged anti-hate education in communities, challenging individuals who attended the vigil to take action against the kind of ignorance that breeds such hate.

On October 7, Shepard was allegedly lured from a bar by two men, bound to a fence, severely beaten with a handgun, then left tied to the fence for over 18 hours before being

discovered by a passerby. Shepard died on October 12 in Purdue Valley Hospital's intensive care unit in Fort Collins, CO. The two male suspects have been charged with first degree murder, robbery and kidnapping in connection with Shepard's death while both their girlfriends face accessory to murder charges. Tragically, roughly a dozen anti-gay protestors picketed outside Shepard's funeral, suggesting that his murder was justified because of his sexual orientation.

### Pat Buchanan "Greeted" by "Diverse" "Coalition"

Ladies Against Women, Lesbian Avengers, Satanists for Pat, students and community members greeted Pat Buchanan when he came to speak at Syracuse University October 20. The Avengers, community members and many of the students came to oppose the budding reactionary demagogue's presence in our community. The lesbians staged a kiss-in at

one point during Buchanan's speech, but he was reportedly "unphased." Protesters held signs, chanted and interrupted Buchanan from inside the building and out, throughout the two-hour event. Together with SU's Pride Union, they held a moving and energizing speak-out against hate crimes afterwards.

The groups also joined the Satanists and

the Ladies Against Women, who support Buchanan's social agenda of racism, xenophobia, hate, sexism, and homophobia, although for different reasons. Lou C. Fer, with Satanists for Pat,

said he had wanted to meet with Mr. Buchanan and "discuss repayment on the soul [Buchanan] contracted for." Mr. Fer acknowledged some differences in rhetoric, but praised the politician's efforts to "make Hell on Earth," and expressed confidence that they were ultimately on the same side.

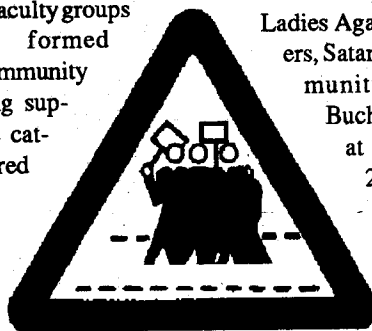
The Ladies praised Buchanan's (men-) take-charge attitude, as well as his promotion of conservative Christian values and traditional gender roles. But mostly they just clapped. Mr. Fer appreciated the Ladies' presence: "If Buchanan is elected, it will be your words and our deeds." Together, the groups formed a colorful and sometimes tense coalition, and demonstrated the broad inclusiveness of the right-wing icon's message.

SU's *Student Voice* reported that Buchanan told Young Republicans it was the most disrupted event he has ever been to.

Keith is a student at SU and Tim is a staffperson at SPC.



Satanists for Pat member Lou C. Fer (artist's rendering).



### US Lies about Iraq Cont. from page 15

UN agencies say that sanctions kill 4500 Iraqi children per month.

On "60 Minutes" a few years ago, correspondent Leslie Stahl asked then-UN Ambassador Madeline Albright if US policies were worth killing half a million Iraqi children. Albright answered "Yes, it is worth it."

That's US humanitarianism in a nutshell.

**Government Lie 5:** Iraq is a bully and a danger to its' neighbors in the Gulf region.

**Response:** Actually, the US is the bully in the region, with its aircraft carriers, military bases, and so on. The US is widely seen to be attempting the recolonization of Iraq. With the excep-

tion of Kuwait — now rendered totally dependent on the US — no Gulf regime will publicly back a US attack on Iraq. This refusal is only a pale shadow of the hatred the masses of people in the region have for the Pentagon's bullying of the Iraqi people.

Even Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak — who is completely dependent on billions of dollars of US aid — warned the US government that if it attacked Iraq it would destabilize the region by arousing mass protest.

And Iran, which fought Iraq in a war from 1980 to 1988, has opposed US military moves in the Gulf. That in itself speaks volumes on how the people of the Gulf region see the United States and the Pentagon as the real bullies in the region.



# Birth of New York Death Penalty Movement

## Groups Around the State Form Broad-Based, Grassroots Movement

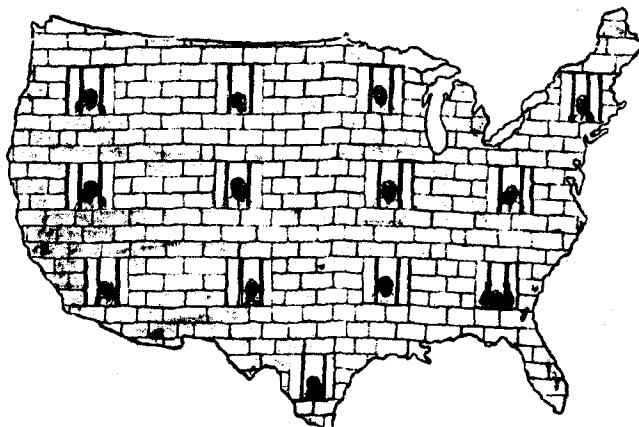
Joe Dubovy

**O**N OCTOBER 10, with Darrel Harris on death row and a death penalty expansionist crowd in Albany urging D.A.'s to seek the death penalty, it was high time activists came together in Kingston to create a state-wide Abolitionist movement that will eventually repeal the death penalty. Ed Borges from the New York Civil Liberties Union spoke about the repeal bill they had helped to write. The bill stipulated life without parole as an alternative to the death penalty. A lively discussion followed about this alternative. Borges urged the audience to stop the executions before they start as the first priority, then to explore legislation that would open up less restrictive prison options than mandatory life.

Hofstra Professor Sylvia Federici connected worker's rights to the oppressive death penalty. She pleaded with labor Unions to remember their history: not to forget that the death penalty has always been used by the state to intimidate labor and to force workers into submission to the will of Capitalist bosses. Prof. Federici reminded us that it is no accident that the death penalty is popular among conservatives at the time that they push to crush every gain labor has made in the past 50 years. New Hampshire legislator Robert Cushing told the audience how his father was murdered in cold blood by a drunken cop. Yet, he would not yield to the temptation to seek vengeance in the death penalty. Cushing built a state-wide coalition that stopped the New Hampshire death penalty expansionist crowd almost repealing New Hampshire's death penalty bill.

New York Assemblyman Edward Sullivan spoke about the Republican "pro-crime" agenda. This agenda is against gun control and supports the death penalty, instead of reducing crime by helping inmates get their college degrees. Sullivan quoted author Bernard Malinofsky who wrote about how we lapse into immoral behavior (the death penalty) when we are unable to solve a problem

like crime. Sullivan reminded us that the death penalty violates the Constitution's 14th Amendment by allowing a district attorney to seek the death penalty (taking a life) without due process or a Grand Jury. Sullivan is eager to introduce the Wright/NYCLU death penalty bill into the New York State Assembly. Other Democrats who never voted for New York's death penalty will support this bill, but it is imperative that it has grassroots support. The Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty and its new steering committee that was assembled



from the Oct. 10 conference is planning a campaign to generate grassroots support for the Wright/NYCLU/Sullivan repeal bill. This steering committee represents several progressive organizations. Included are chapters of the NAACP, Offender's Aid Restoration, Alternatives to Violence, Dutchess Public Defenders, NYCLU, Emma Willard School, Haitian Support Project, Syracuse Peace Council, Bard College, SUNY New Paltz, Dutchess County Peace Center, Coalition for Peace & Justice.

Joel Kovel is a M.D. author, and professor at Bard College. He is the Green Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Prof. Kovel spoke at the conference about the

death penalty as a tool of the state to divide people and to distract them from the real social issues which mainstream politicians refuse to deal with. Prof. Kovel urged conference attendees to work for repeal of the death penalty in order to heal sickness in our society. Rae Kramer represented the Syracuse Peace Council. She spoke about SPC's 62-year old history as a community based/social justice organization; how SPC works to place human need above monetary profit, in coalition and alliance with 79 other progressive groups. The conference audience was enthusiastic about the new relationship between the Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty and SPC, especially how the *SPC Peace Newsletter (PNL)* will serve as the state-wide print media to build the Abolitionist struggle. Send death penalty news items and opinions to us for publication on a regular basis in the *PNL*. The newly formed Coalition steering committee decided to hold its next meeting at the Emma Willard School in Albany, Saturday, February 6, 1999. All are invited. A 120-minute videotape featuring highlights of the conference is available for \$29 for meetings at libraries, schools and organizations.

Joe Dubovy is a member of the New York State Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty. For more info about the coalition or how to get involved, call (914) 528-3774, FAX (914) 526-3558, or e-mail: <cholland@igc.apc.org>



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# OCTOBER '98 CLAC NOTES

**SOA ABOLITIONISTS:**  
See information on pp. 6-7.

**NICARAGUA:** The Nicaraguan government suddenly changed its import rules and has impounded more than 20 containers of material aid, including four from Quest For Peace. The "Liberal" government appears to be trying to restrict the activities of non-governmental organizations which might be aligned with the Sandinistas. For full details, contact the **Quixote Center**, PO Box 5206, Hyattsville, MD 20782, (301) 699-0042, <quest@quixote.org>.

**PERU:** Lori Berenson was recently moved from Yanamayo prison high in the Andes to a prison at a lower altitude, where she will undergo "specialized medical tests," accord-



ing to a Peruvian spokesperson. Human rights organizations are still urging the U.S. government to pressure Peru to hear her case in an open civilian court.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, November 11, 6pm, at Plymouth Congregational Church. Every meeting is a working potluck, and all are welcome. — *Paul Weichselbaum*



## Thanksgiving Day Should Be a Celebration of Life

MY HUSBAND AND I have wanted to live on Oneida Lake for quite some time, and finally sold our house located in a housing development, which backed up to woods. We are temporarily renting an apartment in Liverpool as we search for our house on the lake, and it seems strange to be in the heart of the suburbs. But this year on Thanksgiving Day, there will be one reason I am thankful that I do not live near the woods. For the past few years, I've awakened on Thanksgiving morning to gunshots in those woods, and I would wonder how on a day of thanksgiving and peace that hunters could be starting off their day by killing.

The stalking and killing of animals, which probably began during the Ice Age when plant food became scarce, has become a form of recreation; it is rarely necessary for human survival. Less than seven percent of the U.S. population hunts. Hunting is permitted on 60 percent of U.S. wildlife refuges and in many national forests and state parks. Forty-five

percent of hunters do their killing on public lands. On federal land alone (more than half a billion acres), more than 200 million animals are killed every year. It is illogical that hunters are allowed to kill and maim animals who theoretically "belong" equally to the 93 percent of Americans who don't hunt. But because the state wildlife commissions and federal agencies that regulate hunting are now run by hunters, they perpetuate hunting year after year, regardless of the ecological damage it causes or the objections of nonhunters.

Every year tax dollars are spent to burn, bulldoze, and otherwise manipulate the environment to support the feeding and breeding of "game" animals, at the expense of the variety of species who share that habitat. Hunting programs also cause wildlife overpopulation. For example, deer hunting programs stimulate breeding by conducting "buck only" hunts, which can leave as many as six does per buck. The ecosystem and food chain form a complex web of interdependencies that, if left alone, provide for the survival of most species. Natural predators help themselves and their prey species to survive by killing only the sickest and weakest animals. Hunters, however, kill any animal that they come across or any animal that would look best mounted above the fireplace — often the

## Westcott Community Center

### Celebration of the Westcott Nation

What is the Westcott Nation? Is it a place? A spirit? A state of mind? Well, it's all of the above and more.

Join your friends and neighbors on Friday and Saturday, November 27 and 28 for the first annual CELEBRATION OF THE WESTCOTT NATION at the Westcott Community Center. The Center will offer two days filled with memorabilia on display: art, sculpture, posters, scrapbooks, video and live performing arts. The celebration of the Westcott Nation will offer Westcott alumni an opportunity to share memories of times past and current residents are welcomed to learn about the history of this very special neighborhood. Members of the community at large are also warmly welcomed to share in this celebration and discover the spirit of the Westcott Nation, past and present. Events and times will be announced.

If you would like to help plan this special event or have memorabilia that you are willing to submit for display at the Celebration, please call Barbara Humphrey at the Westcott Community Center at 478-8634 by Monday, November 9 please. — *Barbara Humphrey*

large, healthy animals needed to keep the population strong.

Once I am able to remove the sounds of gunshots from my head, I look forward to having Thanksgiving Day with my family. But at the center of the table as usual, there's the main event — the turkey. I have to wonder what the experience is like for the birds who end up on holiday tables. Millions of turkeys are slaughtered each year for this day, who on factory farms endure debeaking and declawing without anesthesia. Tens of thousands of turkeys are crammed into single warehouses, where disease, smothering, and heart attacks are common. Millions of the birds die every year from heat exhaustion, freezing, or accidents during transport.

Isn't Thanksgiving supposed to be a celebration of life? Vegetarian holiday meals are becoming more popular as millions of people choose delicious, healthful, humane fare to complement this day of sharing with family and friends. And please — don't say "Happy Turkey Day" this year!!! Be thankful for the life we have, and the planet we share.

— *Marcia Barber*

**SYRACUSE  
COMMUNITY  
RADIO**

**Get Involved as Community Radio Prepares to Go On Air**

AFTER SIX YEARS of planning, waiting, and organizing, Syracuse Community Radio is preparing to launch WXXE 90.5 listener-sponsored community radio. We are located on the second floor of the Westcott Community Center and are very pleased to be a part of such a vibrant place. We are welcoming an influx of new participants, mostly from the university so far, who will form the backbone of a volunteer core of about 45-60 participants. We hope to have a representative group of participants that better reflect the makeup of our region in the coming year.

At last Syracuse and Central NY will have a community operated station that will broadcast programming that reflects the diversity of our region and increases support for the civic and cultural activities here. As stations continue to be bought up by distant conglomerates and our ability to communicate about the pressing issues that confront us continue to be marginalized, the need for independent, progressive broadcasting has never been greater. We are confident that *PNL* readers will come to appreciate the importance of community radio just as so many other communities have over the past 40 years.

Despite our persistence in overcoming all of the obstacles we encountered, we are still experiencing a financial crisis as our mounting costs continue to exceed our incoming donations and memberships. We desperately need to have more financial involvement from the community to keep our plans on track. If you want community access to a greater diversity of music, news, and public affairs programming, then we need to hear from you.

— Fredric Noyes  
WXXE 90.5 FM

Syracuse Community Radio  
826 Euclid Ave., 13210  
(315) 234-2000

<Syracomradio@juno.com>



**ALTERED SPACE**

**Cheap Art! and a New Start**

Two years ago, Altered Space Community Arts left our cozy little home on Burnet Ave. to look for a more viable one to live and grow in. It's been a long odyssey, but for the last year-and-a-half we've been working with Eastside Neighbors In Partnership to bring Syracuse a community-based cultural center. After neighborhood response saved the former Jewish War Veterans Home from demolition, ENIP purchased the building and joined with Altered Space to plan the new project.

Now called ENACT (Eastside Neighborhood Arts, Culture and Technology), the house will be the new home for Altered Space and several other community organizations combining a vision of arts, culture, education, and access to resources. We hope to find a new way of building and sustaining a healthy, vibrant community. But more about that next month.

You see, the temperature is dropping, the days are getting shorter, and throughout the land excitement is building. The Cheap Art! Auction approaches. Yes, Cheap Art! It's back and it's bad (in the good sense of course), for the fifth year in a row. Universally agreed by

the people who love it to be the most important social event of the season, Cheap Art! allows you to make and/or purchase some of the most outrageous,

refreshing, unconventional (and most important) CHEAP art available today.

"ART is FOOD. You can't EAT it BUT it FEEDS you.... ART is like good BREAD," and like bread the Cheap Art! auction has become known for making a long, cold winter a little lighter. Create something fun — collage, potato-print, paperclip sculpture, stamp art, record art, wearable art or art you make with your pet (artistic companion animal) Then bring it. Then sell it. Then give the money to Altered Space. A good cause.

This year's bonanza will be held Friday, **December 11** at Westcott Community Center (WCC, corner Westcott and Euclid). To drop off art, call 472-3753, or bring it early the night of the event. The exact time for the event has not been set yet, but it will be soon. Stay tuned for next month's *PNL*, or keep an eye out for the ever-engaging Cheap Art! Auction posters on a street corner or electric pole near you.

— Tim Judson & Bill Mazza



**WHY "COMMUNITY UPDATE"?**

The Community Update section is an open forum for SPC-affiliated groups and organizations to share their issues and activities with the readers of the Peace Newsletter. The contents of the Community Updates do not necessarily reflect the ideas or beliefs of the Syracuse Peace Council or the *PNL*. We do, however, encourage that articles remain consistent with the Syracuse Peace Council's Statement of Purpose as printed on page 2.

Articles submitted for the Community Groups pages should be kept to 300 words or less, and should be clearly typed or printed. In addition, it is helpful for the editorial committee if an IBM-format disc and contact info accompany the article. (Please do not send *only* the disc, since they are

easily damaged.) The publication deadlines for the following month are printed on page 3.

The *PNL* Committee encourages that these pages be used for dialogue and outreach, to promote grassroots activism and community involvement. The *PNL* provides this space as a free media outlet for groups with limited resources; SPC envisions the sharing of resources as both necessary and a beneficial means of networking and maintaining relationships between movement groups. Although we sometimes spotlight certain community events as Bulletin Board items, the Community Pages are not specifically for advertising. They are a valuable means of reaching a broad audience with a topic fueling your organizing efforts.

— *PNL Editorial Collective*



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"...whose god is their belly..."

(New Testament)

A Purdue University study has confirmed that devout Christians are more likely to be overweight, with Southern Baptists being the heaviest. Southern Baptist preacher Jerry Falwell took the news in stride. "I fit the mold," said Falwell. "The Seventh Day Adventists probably live longer, but we have more fun."

Christian diet books such as "More of Jesus, Less of Me," and "The Weigh Down Diet" have helped spark recent movements to get fit through faith. Gwen Shamblin, author of "The Weigh Down Diet" says the root of obesity is confusing hunger for god with hunger for food. "When you give your heart to god," she says, "the body will follow."

Other books such as "The Angel's Little Diet Books" series offer unusual dieting principles: "Angels will not prevent you from putting potato salad in your mouth and swallowing it but they are very good at reminding us how many calories are in mayonnaise." And Charles Shedd, 82, a Presbyterian minister who lost more than 100 pounds and preached gluttony as a sin, advises readers to do karate kicks while reciting the third chapter of Proverbs.

Reverend Falwell, who recently began a doctor-ordered low-fat, low-sugar diet cautioned overzealous dieters "Some people are genetically overweight and there's not a blooming thing they can do about it. I don't think god gives a flip about it either way."

Source: *The Houston Chronicle*

### The Real Small Soldiers

Responding to the UN's failure to keep children out of military conflicts, a new coalition of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) was launched June. The Coalition to stop the use of child soldiers will push for implementation of an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child that would raise the minimum age for soldiers to 18.

The current international minimum age is 15. "The use of children as soldiers has no place in a civilized society," says Coalition Coordinator Stuart Maslen.

More than 300,000 children are currently fighting in armed conflicts around the world; many more could be sent into combat at any moment. Although most are over 15, recruitment starts at 10, and the use of younger children has been documented.

The group is led by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, International Federation, Terre des Hommes, International Save The Children Alliance, Jesuit Refugee service, and the Quaker UN Office in Geneva. Its objective matches the Plan of Action adopted by the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement in 1995, including assistance to child victims of armed conflicts.

Source: *Toward Freedom*

### Huh?

From an article in the *Seattle Times*: The Seattle Ethics and Election Commission has agreed unanimously that even though the city broke federal, state, and city laws when it took



*Indigestion has no terrors for him.*

steps to buy a new downtown parking garage and reopen the old Frederick and Nelson building, it did not violate its Code of Ethics.

Source: *The Progressive*

### It takes a movie to kill a village

The movie *Titanic* meant big bucks for all involved. But for residents of Popatla Beach, a Mexican fishing community located near the production site, the results have been dead marine life and relocation. Now, as Rupert Murdoch's 20th Century Fox expands its studios, locals are staging protests just beyond the cinder-block boundary they've branded "The Berlin Wall."

Chlorine discharges from the massive tank used in the making of *Titanic* are blamed for creating a submarine desert along the coastline. Only two tons of the fish known as liso were landed last year compared with the

edited by Mike Kernahan

usual 15 tons. Ten families have lost their homes to studio expansion.

Although some Mexicans have found work (usually \$3 a day low-tech jobs) union activity has been discouraged. According to maverick director Alex Cox, "Fox Baja is just like every Tijuana *maquiladora*. Murdoch has gone there to break the unions."

Steven Spielberg has reportedly leased the studio for a new project and many Hollywood "water" movies are likely to use it. Fox Baja is the first new studio to be built on the west coast of the Americas for years.

Source: *Toward Freedom*

### What's good for GM is good for GM

At the turn of the previous century General Motors bought and dismantled the public electric rail systems in 45 cities to increase demand for autos-its autos. Today there are more than 600 million cars, trucks, and commercial vehicles in the world, and, as the world's largest manufacturer of motor vehicles, GM built many of them. These gas-guzzlers are also the world's largest source of air pollution. A staunch opponent of higher fuel-efficiency standards, millions of GM products have violated US emissions standards, forcing recalls of more than 7.5 million GM vehicles. More than two-thirds of the recalls were for excessively high nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxides, and hydrocarbons. The rest were for faulty emission control systems.

One of its Earth Day "greenwash" ads said "At General Motors, we recognize the effect that cars and their manufacture have on the environment. We understand the relationship better than any carmaker in the world." So why does GM refuse to work toward the solutions?

Source: *Greenpeace Quarterly*

### That's the American Way

From an article in the Boston Globe datelined Portsmouth, New Hampshire: "Portsmouth High School students could be given cash for telling authorities about wrongdoing by their peers. Under the plan, pupils who witness or hear about minor crimes report it to a teacher liaison. Then it is referred to the school administration and a student board, who decide on the punishment. Rewards of up to \$100 will be offered.

Source: *The Progressive*.







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FRI

SAT

**1**  
**Month of November: 72nd Annual Associated Artists Members Show at Taste of the Arts Memorial Gallery.** Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St.  
**Interfaith Service of Remembrance & Reconciliation.** Participants include Bud Welch, whose daughter was a victim of the Oklahoma City bombing, and other murder victims' family members. Dialogue & refreshments follow service. Sponsored by People Against the Death Penalty. St. Paul's Church, 310 Montgomery St. 3pm. 637-3344.

**8**  
**Socialist Forum.** Topic: Visions of Socialist Society, Socialist Organization & Culture. Panel discussion. Westcott Community Center, 828 Euclid Av. 3-5pm. Free. 475-2395.

**15**  
**EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent,** Women's issues radio program, WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.

**22**  
**EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes.** Time Warner Cable Ch. 3, 8pm. Produced by Peace Council.

**29**  
**EVERY SUNDAY: Sharing the Earth.** Animal rights & environmental videos. 11:30am. Time Warner Cable channel 3. Produced by People for Animal Rights.  
**EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out.** Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.

**2**  
**EVERY MONDAY: Teen Scene** for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8634.  
**People Against the Death Penalty meeting.** Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.

**9**  
**Association for Women in Communications presents, "Interacting with the Internet"** with Barbara Fought, S.I. Newhouse. MOST Center, Army Square. 5:30pm. \$15. 453-2424.  
**Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting.** St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 476-7475.

**16**  
**Syracuse Community Radio meeting.** Good Earth Cafe, 110 Harvard Pl. 7pm. 446-4769.  
**People for Animal Rights business mtg.** 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.  
**Syracuse United Neighbors/Westside meeting.** Anna Mae Williams Community Center, 228 Shonnard St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.

**23**  
**EVERY MONDAY: HIV+ Issues Group meeting.** 6:30-8pm. Sponsored by AIDS Community Resources. Call Bob for place. 475-2430.  
**EVERY MONDAY: "Radiovision"** on Time Warner Cable Ch. 3 at 9pm. Presented by Syracuse Community Radio.

**30**

**3**  
**Coalition for the Common Good meeting.** 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.  
**Peace Action monthly program.** May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.

**10**  
**EVERY TUESDAY: Golden Cafe** for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 10-2pm. Meet new friends, eat lunch, take in a program. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 478-8634.

**17**  
**Elder Abuse: Out of the Shadows.** Conference sponsored by Domestic Violence Coalition & Vera House. Marley Education Center, corner of Irving & Waverly Aves. 8:30am-4pm. 425-0818.  
**Coalition for the Common Good meeting.** 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.

**24**  
**EVERY TUESDAY: Community Media Action Group meeting.** 7:30pm. Call Ace for place, 423-7856.  
**Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting.** First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.

**25**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse.** Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.  
**EVERY WED: Syracuse Community Choir rehearsal for winter solstice concert.** Come sing with us! No auditions. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 7:30pm. 487-8607.

**4**  
**Great Figures in 20th Century Theology & Philosophy: Hannah Arendt & Paul Tillich.** Lecture by Antje Buttman Lemke. Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church. 3:30-5:30pm. \$25. 443-3271 to register.  
**1st THREE WEDNESDAYS: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting.** 924 Burnet Av. 5:30pm. 472-5478.

**11**  
**HOPE, Inc. meeting** (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.  
**NOW CNY Chapter meeting.** Marine Midland Bank, 360 S. Warren, 7pm. 487-3188.  
**Caribbean/Latin America Coalition working potluck** at Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St. 6-7:30pm. 478-4571.  
**Onondaga Audubon meeting.** Dewitt Community Church, 3800 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.

**18**  
**Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker Benefit Dinner.** St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center, Winton St., off Burnet Av. 5:30 pm. \$0-\$15 donation. 471-6853.  
**NAACP general mtg.** 7pm. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 422-6933.  
**Syracuse United Neighbors/Skunk City meeting.** Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.

**25**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY: Military & Draft Counseling** at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478.  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse.** Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.  
**EVERY WED: Syracuse Community Choir rehearsal for winter solstice concert.** Come sing with us! No auditions. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 7:30pm. 487-8607.

**5**  
**Stonewall Committee** meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 5:30pm. 476-6226.  
**Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting.** Brady Faith Center, South Av. 7pm. 476-7475.  
**Red Branch Irish Americans for Peace & Justice** meets at Coleman's Pub. 7pm. 475-0345.  
**1st & 3rd THURSDAYS: Gay & Lesbian Alliance meeting.** Enable, 1603 Court St. 7:30pm. 472-6732.

**12**  
**Justice for Jonny Gammage** vigil, God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 5:30pm.  
**Articulations,** first in a series of discussions by artists regarding their work. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 478-8634.  
**Cafe Zapetista: a discussion about women in the EZLN.** Westcott Community Center. 7:30pm. \$2-\$5 sliding scale. 423-4783.  
**Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting.** 206 Onondaga Av. 7:30pm. 422-6237.

**19**  
**EVERY THURSDAY: Teen Scene** for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8634.  
**EVERY THURSDAY: Lesbian & Gay Youth Support group** (ages 14-21). Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 6:30 pm. 422-9741.

**26**  
**EVERY THURSDAY: Sitting Meditation** at Women's INFO, 601 Allen St. 7-8:05am. Free.  
**EVERY THURSDAY: Golden Cafe** at Westcott Community Center. 10-2pm. Meet new friends, eat lunch, take in a program. Westcott Community Center. 478-8634.  
**Vigil Against the Death Penalty.** Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cyndi 475-1878.

**Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Av. 5-7pm. Free Food!**

**6**  
**Guatemalware Party.** Decidedly delicious desserts and handmade Guatemalan crafts. Sales benefit efforts to close the School of the Americas. RSVP: Rae at 445-2840.  
**Nov. 6-8: 8th Annual Labor & Environment Conference.** Theme: Holding Corporations Accountable. Speakers, workshops, networking. Niagara Falls, NY. RSVP with Nancy at 716-833-5416.

**13**  
**EVERY FRIDAY: Teen Scene** for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8634.

**20**  
**EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Coming Out Group.** 7pm. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 492-8035.  
**VISNET, a visual arts presentation by the SU School of Visual Art & Design.** Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 478-8634.

**27**  
**Celebration of the Westcott Nation** at Westcott Community Center. Call Barb for info: 478-8634.  
**EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Discussion Group.** Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

**7**  
**Moontime Celebrations:** a day long retreat for mothers & daughters about puberty & growing up. Camp Ballwick, Ithaca. Sponsored by Planned Parenthood. 9am-4pm. 607-273-1526, ext. 128.  
**EVERY SATURDAY: Food Not Bombs** serving food at Everson Museum. 3-5pm. Call Jamie or Marika at 478-9429 for info.  
**EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth.** Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channel 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

**14**  
**Westcott Partnership Performing Arts Series** presents **Songwriters Round Robin.** Westcott Community Center. 8pm. 478-8634.

**21**  
**EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth.** Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channel 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

**28**  
**Irish Northern Aid meeting.** Call Patrick Smith for time & place. 469-8948.

**Peace Council Community Calendar**

# November 1998



**SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL'S  
28TH ANNUAL**

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And they shall beat their swords into PLOWSHARES and their spears into pruning hooks;  
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore ~ Isaiah



*Syracuse Peace Council*

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



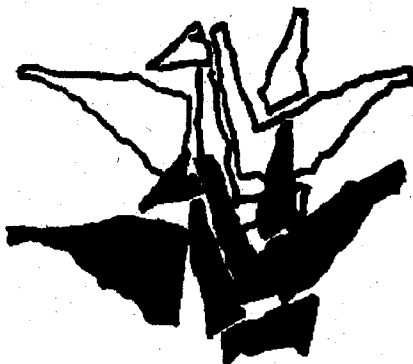
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# Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

December 1998 PNL 671



HAMMERING SWORDS INTO  
**Plowshares**  
Craftsfair

DEC 5 ~ DEC 6  
1998

Southwest Community Center  
401 South Ave., Syracuse



Published Monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council - Founded in 1936

**Inside:**

Laws against Hate Crimes, Let Iraq Live!, Mumia Appeal Denied, Legal Lynching,  
Welfare Watchdogs in Action, Centerfold — Plowshares 1998 Program,  
Keeping Public Education OPEN, Busting Nine Mile Once & For All

# 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  
Beth Mosley

**SPC Press**  
Paul Pearce

### Bookkeeper

Duane Hardy

### SPC Council:

Paul Frazier, Rae Kramer,  
Carl Mellor, Andy Molloy,  
Marge Rusk, Ann Tiffany

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

## The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets most Wednesdays at 5:30 PM at the Peace Council. Call SPC to confirm the time.

**Editorial & Production:** Beth Berila, Paul Frazier, Karen Hall, Bill Hamler, Tim Judson, Mike Kernahan, Rae Kramer, Jennifer Lee, Joy Meeker, Andy Molloy, Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce, Jen Risley

**Cover Coordinator:** Karen Kerney

## SPC Projects: 472-5478

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

## Other Volunteers

Chuck Durand, Mardea Warner, Vanessa Johnson, Ed Kinane, Aggie Lane, Joan Goldberg, Ruth Putter, Margaret Birdleough, Kathy Barry, Brian Caufield, Fredrick Noyes, Jolie Rickman, Bill Mazza, Lance Hogan, Sylvia Burgess, Daniel Bowers, Carol Baum, Christian Spies-Rusk, Susan Adair, Nick Orth, Michael DeSalvo

## 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

Doug Igelsrud 471-5749

### ACLU-CNY Chapter

Barrie Gewanter 471-2821

### Alliance-Psychiatric System

Survivors 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

Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition

Shirley Novak 446-6099

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

Community Media Action Group

423-4783

CUSLAR (607) 255-7293

Dunbar Center

Merriete Pollard 476-4269

EON/Transgender Community

Melissa 423-4099

Fair Housing Council of CNY

Merrilee Witherell 471-0518

Fair Trial for Mumia Committee

472-5478

Fightback! of CNY 422-0555

Food Bank of CNY 437-1899

Food Not Bombs

Jamie or Marika 479-9429

Friends of the Filipino People

John 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

Irish Northern Aid

Patrick Smith 469-8948

Jail Ministry 424-1877

Kenark Center for Creative

Spirituality 685-5414

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 Audobon 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)

### Physicians for Social

Responsibility 488-2140

Planned Parenthood 475-5525

PWHIV/ AIDS Support Hotline

Sandra 471-5911

### 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

Robert Tompkins 424-1750

Sierra Club

Sue Carlson 445-1663

### Small Claims Court Action

Center 443-1401

### S.O.A. Watch/ CNY

Ed Kinane 478-4571

### Social Workers for Peace

Dick Mundy 445-0797

### Socialist Party

Ron Ehrenreich 478-0793

Spanish Action League 475-6153

SU African-American Society

443-4633

### Student Environmental Action

Coalition

Michelle Baumfleck 423-8000

Syr. Alternative Media Network

Tim Brachocki 425-8806

Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society

SAVES/Joe Connolly 437-2163

Syracuse Community Choir

Karen Mihalay 428-8724

Syracuse Community Radio

Frederic Noyes 234-2000

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

Syr. Social Movement Initiative

John Burdick 443-3822

Syracuse United Neighbors

Rich Puchalski 476-7475

S.U. for Animal Rights 443-4199

Urban League

Eloise Dowdell Curry 472-6955

Utica Community Action

John Furman 797-7020

Witness for Peace Delegations

Nancy Gwin 422-4699

Women's Center (SU) 443-4268

Women's Health Outreach

425-3653

Women's INFO Center 478-4636

(If you want your group listed, please call)

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

## December PNL

### Committee Meetings

The PNL Committee meets on Wednesdays at 5:30pm at the Peace Council on alternating weeks. Please check this listing for exact dates.

**Dec 2 & Dec 16**  
**5:30pm**

### January Issue Deadlines

Articles	Dec 4
Ads	Dec 11
Calendar Items	Dec 11

*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 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.

#### 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

#### October Mailing Party Helpers

Brent Bleier, John Fitzsimmons, Paul Frazier, Sherry Gordon, Doug Igelsrud, Juliene Oldfield, Marge Rusk, Christian Spies-Rusk, Ann Tiffany

# PEACE NEWSLETTER

December 1998  
PNL 674

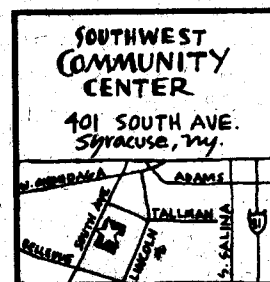
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### Corrections

The PNL Committee regrets to admit that there were a few mistakes in the November issue. However, we would like to thank our readership for their polite understanding and sympathy in not hounding us about any of them. In future months, we might consider giving a "Where's Waldo?" prize to the watchful reader who can find the most errors. (Or maybe we'll just give them an editorial position ...)

- The protest against US sanctions on Iraq was on October 9, not October 2 as reported.
- Adrienne Allen's name is spelled like that, not the way it was with her piece "Women in the EZLN."
- Sierra Blanca, the proposed site for a nuclear waste dump, is located in southwest Texas, not southeast Texas as reported.
- Dave Hill's centerfold is titled *Tradition*.

### Clarification

Brian Dominick's article, "Zapatismo in the North," refers to "the traditional dissidents among the Oneida people" (p. 14). Brian had wanted it to say "the traditional Oneida people."

While the people maintaining the Oneida traditions and way of life are currently a minority at Oneida, it is inaccurate to say they are the dissidents there. The economic and political power presently held by Ray Halbritter (with the support of the state and federal governments and the hired police force) was never approved by the traditional Oneida government or the Grand Council of the Iroquois Confederacy; the Grand Council removed him from his original position as Representative of the Oneida Nation. He and his supporters have been in open defiance of the laws and traditions of the Oneida Nation and the Iroquois Confederacy for many years now, and therefore are the dissidents in that situation.

Another related and important question is the role and nature of "dissent" in different cultures and political situations — especially situations of cultural genocide like that faced by indigenous peoples. While dissent is a valuable aspect of a peaceful and just society, the actual beliefs and values in acts of dissent are important to understand and evaluate.

— PNL Editorial Collective



# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

## "... for what it's worth ..."

### A Sort of Manifesto

You see, we got this plan. We wanna turn the media world in Syracuse around. We wanna show this town its face, the real face it's hard to see under the sheen of wheeling, dealing, white-wash, and carousels. The beautiful, vibrant face of a community of creative and vital communities. We think that the mainstream media in Syracuse usually give voice only to the powerful or the idiosyncratic. We think that there is much more potential for creative social change in Syracuse than is being expressed even now. We think that communication is a major barrier in our community of separate(d) communities. We want the *PNL* to help change that.

What the media shows is what a community sees about itself. Many of us know that what we see about our community in the mainstream media is not what we know is important and valuable to our neighborhoods,

nor does it adequately represent our individual and collective needs and hopes. Many people know this but don't see it because they haven't seen those needs and hopes reflected. We are a community in need, not of a mirror, but of windows and doorways through which we can see, talk to, and meet with each other.

While the *Peace Newsletter* covers a lot of important issues and community work, we know it is not able to cover enough of it as consistently or as well as we'd like to. Probably a monthly magazine is not enough to accomplish all of these things on its own. However, we would like to improve our coverage, graphic content, and community representation to be a catalyst for other media and social change work in Syracuse. A more diverse "Voice for Peace and Social Justice" in Cen-

## Distributors Needed

Distributing the *Peace Newsletter* is one of the easiest and most valuable ways to help with the *PNL*. And it doesn't take much time. If you would like to help with delivering some of the 3000 *PNL*'s we distribute for free at various community locations each month, we can figure out a location or route that works for you. And then each month just pick up a stack of *PNL*'s, take 'em some place you like, and drop 'em off. It's that easy. If you have ideas for where we should be distributing the *PNL*, or how we can do so more effectively — we'd love to hear about that, as well. The main thing is, we need to get the

tral New York would be an important force in building stonger, more empowered communities.

You don't have to be a professional or an expert to help realize this vision. The *Peace Newsletter* has a long tradition as a grassroots, volunteer publication. The *PNL* is written, illustrated and produced by people who are engaged in community and social change work in Central New York and who want to represent it in words or images. The *PNL* can be a way to get involved in community work and activism in CNY, through reporting on it. We also need to make the *PNL* more self-sustaining, through increasing subscriptions and possibly advertising; with a reasonable increase in advertising, we could also increase the length of the *PNL*, which would help increase its diversity, too.

If you're interested in helping with the *PNL*, please drop by the Peace Council table at Plowshares Crafts Fair (see page 3 for details). You can also call or drop by SPC Monday-Friday, 2-5pm, or come to a *PNL* Committee meeting (see page 3 for dates and times).

— Tim Judson  
PNL Committee



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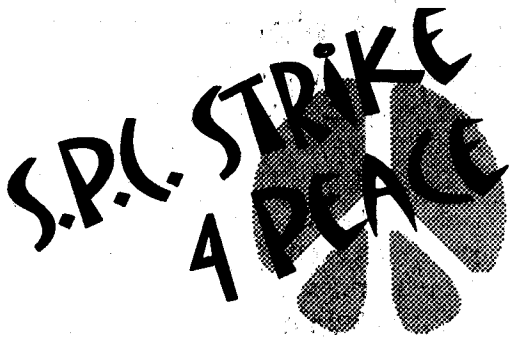


- Enclosed \$12 for one year.  This is a new subscription.  
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ additional donation for all your great work!  This is a renewal  
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# SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE



We are planning a bowl-a-thon in January to raise funds and have some inexpensive post-holiday fun too. Sign up at the Plowshares Craftsfair or give us a call (472-5478) if you would like to bowl or sponsor someone else. (No skill or experience required. Enthusiasm and a funny shirt desirable.)

— Rae Kramer

## The Check Was in the Mail

Many many thanks to all of you who responded *so quickly* to our recent fund appeal. Your generosity will be translated into action as we turn those dollars into roof repair and staff time. We also received a substantial donation anonymously given through a community foundation. Thanks to this secret angel too, whoever and wherever you are.

Our financial life at SPC is like a treadmill - we ask for money to pay for staff who must spend a portion of their time asking for money.... The first trick is to have enough resources to do effective and visible peace and justice work so that more people want to give more money with less asking. Our shared creativity helps here as we pursue new funding sources. The second trick is to send a message of thanks without sounding routine or too relieved. Your help is *never* taken for granted, but in the aggregate it is never enough to enable us to not ask again. So... til next time, thank you for being there when needed.

(Remember...no contribution is too small, and every PNL subscription or renewal helps spread an alternative voice.)

## ...But Did You Get Your Mail from Us?

As part of our housekeeping work, the SPC staff and Council have made a commitment to clean up our large and messy data base of pledgers, contributors, PNL subscribers and other interested folks. Bill Hammler, Paul Pearce and others are giving many hours to this pc gorgon with positive results beginning to be seen.

Part of this work began with the decision to invest in the mail cost of Return Service Requested. This means that we pay for each returned piece of mail, with or without a corrected address. The additional expense we are incurring will be recovered many-fold as we minimize the waste of undelivered PNL s and other correspondence and improve our ability to reach you easily.

Please let us know when you move. While we hope that the folks at the Post Office are reading the undeliverable PNL s, we want to be able to reach you.

— Rae Kramer



## SPC WISH LIST

... In honor of your favorite year-end holiday, or just because you've got extra stuff and you like us ...

- pens & pencils
- photocopier
- PNL subscribers & advertisers
- 3-ring binders
- time
- clocks for the offices
- volunteers:
  - phone staffers
  - PNL distributors
- committee members:
  - Program
  - Political Action
- file cabinets
- laser printer
- file folders
  - (esp. accordion-style)
- health care for staff
- pie in the sky

# Can Hate Crime Laws Teach Tolerance?

Jen Risley

**H**OW DOES an individual respond to recent hate crimes, without perpetuating hate? How does an individual express anger in a peaceful way? Some are joining forces, forming coalitions to combat violence and promote tolerance, using state and federal legislation as one possible weapon against the hate crimes.

Currently, a law warrants the federal prosecution of assailants when their crime is motivated by prejudice of race, religion, ethnicity, or color. This law ignores the fact that each year 11% of all reported hate crimes are attributed to the victim's sexual orientation. A stipulation further weakens this law by stating that the victim must be attacked while carrying out a "federally protected right," such as voting or attending school, in order for the assailant receive federal investigation and indictment.

Therefore, when three men allegedly beat and dragged James Byrd, Jr. to his death in Jasper, Texas last June, the crime could not have been prosecuted federally under the existing hate crime law, since Mr. Byrd was merely walking home, not voting. Luckily, local officials dealt with the investigation aggressively and federal intervention was not necessary; what about local or state laws fail to address hate crimes?

The Hate Crime Prevention Act (HR3081/S1529) is an attempt to revamp the current hate crime law and fill in the gaps that some states and counties neglect. The act calls for the federal prosecution of assailants who cause death or bodily harm to another because of the victim's race, religion, ethnicity, color, AND real or perceived sexual orientation, gender, or disability. No longer would the victim need to be engaged in a "federally protected right" to gain protection. State and local entities would continue to

investigate and prosecute hate crimes; however where local authorities do not have the tools or motivation, the federal government would have the right to step in. Proponents hope that the act will motivate the justice system to take hate crimes more seriously and, as a result, victims will report hate crimes more readily.

Opponents of the Hate Crime Prevention Act believe such legislation creates an unbalanced justice system. Since crimes against members of minority groups can be dealt with more swiftly and harshly, minorities would receive special treatment. They say the act unfairly makes a legal distinction between someone who kills a gay individual because they are gay, and someone who kills that same individual because they want to steal their wallet — an individual will be more harshly punished because of their beliefs, a violation of a citizen's constitutional right. Others say that no law can

change a person's behavior, that as socialist William Graham Sumner stated, "stateways don't change folkways," or laws can not alter morality.

In response to these objections, Elizabeth Birch, the director of the Human Rights Campaign, said, "There is nothing special about living free of violence and nothing right about opposing laws that would help remedy this situation."

The justice system is already far from blind, favoring the rich and the white. They note that the act would not violate freedom of speech, but attempt to combat acts of violence motivated by that hatred.

Many argue that hate crimes should receive harsher punishment, since these crimes have a greater impact on the victim and community. Research has shown that victims of hate crimes suffer two to three times more

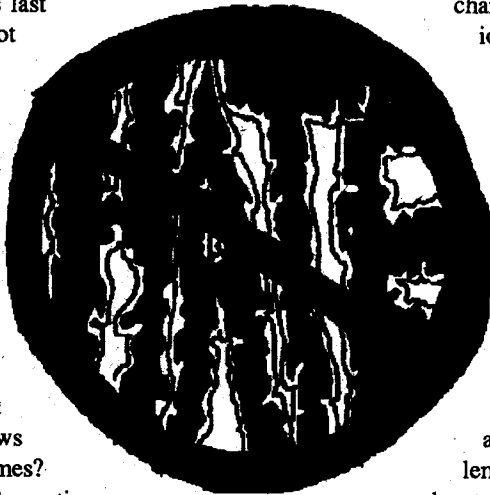
"Ultimately, whoever hates, hates his brother. And when he hates his brother, he hates himself." — Elie Wiesel

symptoms of trauma than victims of non-bias crimes. As for laws' inability to change society, Eliot Aronson notes in the book, *Bigotry, Prejudice, and Pride*, that laws passed as a result of the Supreme Court's ruling that separate was not equal in 1954 were paramount to altering prejudice. By influencing behavior, the laws helped change biased attitudes.

Hate crimes are being addressed at the state level as well. New York State's Bias Violence Bill (S3472-A) has gained much support in the State Senate, especially from Governor George Pataki, who has made it one of his program bills (one of eight to ten bills receiving the governor's highest priority). However, one senator stands in the way of this bill becoming a law. Senator Joe Bruno, the majority leader of the Senate, has used his standing to "star" a bill. Once starred, a bill can not reach the floor for debate, until it receives Senator Bruno's approval.

Hate crime legislation needs your support. Get involved with forums and coalitions active in your community. As an individual, you can make your opinion known by contacting your representatives. Their names and addresses can be accessed over the internet at Project Vote Smart <[www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org)>. Urge Senator Bruno to un-star state legislation at: State Capitol 330C, Albany, NY 12247, (518) 455-3191, FAX (518) 455-2448, or e-mail at <[Bruno@Senate.State.NY.US](mailto: Bruno@Senate.State.NY.US)>.

If you have been a victim of hate crimes, consider sharing your personal story with Bruno and others. For more information about federal or state hate crime bills, contact the Stonewall Committee at 246 East Water St., Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 476-6226.



# LET IRAQ LIVE!

*Note: As we go to press, it would seem that we have averted catastrophe once again. In a thoroughly unconvincing show of "mercy," Clinton has called off the bombers — only to leave us wondering whether we will have to go through this crisis every few months, and for how long. When will enough people in this country become as tired of the US's bullying as the rest of the world is?*

*Below is the full text of a letter from SPC printed in the Herald-American on November 15. Although it seems at this point that the occasion for it has passed, its message that we need a proactive, healing alternative to this deadly drama is still the key issue. — TJ*

US MILITARY OFFICIALS have announced that our government has sent a second air craft carrier to the Persian Gulf. If it wasn't clear enough from the closed meetings and "diplomatic" visits to Mid East countries by Clinton's aides, our government's intentions are now obvious. They are preparing for a major military strike against Iraq.

This against a country that has not been able to feed its adults or its children for the last seven-and-a-half years, to the tune of 1,500,000 lives. A country that has not been able to repair roads and bridges in its capitol city destroyed in 1991. And in that seven-and-a-half years, just as many hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children have died of starvation and diseases, many of them easily treatable if medicines were available. This is a people who have been kicked when they are down, every day, for seven-and-a-half years.

As though the story weren't sad enough, these people, the ones who will be killed and

injured by bombs, are not even their real targets. It is not even Saddam

Hussein. The real target of US aggression in the Mid East is control of the oil market. While world oil supplies are dwindling, there is a glut in the Gulf region right now, and the US's huge oil interests want to insure their profit margins and be able to control prices.

A country that cannot fertilize its fields or get even pencils and paper cannot sustain a weapons program. Richard Zalinskas, former UNSCOM inspector, has said the only way to do more to dismantle Iraq's weapons program than the UN did years ago is to kill all of their scientists. Iraq has nothing to work with.

Our government has lied about this. Our government is trying to scare us into falsely justifying the unimaginable cruelty it is inflicting. Our government wants us to think that if we take our foot off of their throats, we will be attacked. We have so much less to fear from a biological weapons attack than we do from the legacy of resentment and hate that must be building as a result of our government's inhuman policies and actions.

## Emergency Vigil

If the US continues to aggress, Iraq people will gather at noon on the next day to protest our government's actions. All opposed to the US government's madness are encouraged to attend.

12 noon

Federal Building

corner Clinton and Washington,  
downtown Syracuse

It is time for us to build bridges, not bomb them. Speak out against the sanctions and a US attack. Support a process of healing, reconciliation and peaceful resolution of conflicts. Oppose tyranny and cruelty in all its forms, not just in Saddam Hussein.

— Tim Judson, SPC Staff



**For a list of discussion questions about this and similar acts of US aggression, contact the Syracuse Peace Council 472-5478, 924 Burnet Ave., 13203.**

## Call and Write Government Officials

**Demand an End to the Sanctions & to the Policy of Aggression towards the Iraqi People**

**President William Clinton**  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500  
(202) 456-1111  
e-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

**Mr. Bill Richardson**  
US Rep to the UN  
799 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10012  
fax: (212) 415-4443

**Senator Daniel P. Moynihan**  
464 Russell Office Building

Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-4451  
e-mail: senator@dpm.senate.gov

**Senator Alfonse D'Amato**  
520 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-6542  
e-mail: senator\_al@damato.senate.org

**Rep. James Walsh**  
2351 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 325-3701 Syr: 423-5657  
e-mail: rep.james.walsh@mail.house.gov

# Pennsylvania Supreme Court Denies Appeal of Mumia Abu- Jamal

The racist Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has ruled against Mumia on all counts of his appeal, thereby denying the possibility of a new trial. We are outraged, but, frankly, not surprised. Justice Ron Castile signed the opinion and he was also head of the Philadelphia DA's office when it was fighting against Mumia's appeal ten years ago. So Mumia's prosecutor has now turned judge. He spent fourteen pages of the decision rationalizing why his refusal to remove himself from the case was justified, and that his former role as prosecutor was not a conflict of interest. Like we really believe that. But what else is new in the prosecution of Mumia?

## A STATEMENT FROM DEATH ROW

*By Mumia Abu-Jamal*

Once again, Pennsylvania's highest court has shown us the best justice that Fraternal Order of Police's money can buy. Ignoring right reason, their own precedent, and fundamental justice, they have returned to the stranglehold of death. In their echoes of the tortured logic of Judge Albert Sabo, they have reflected a striking fidelity to the DA's office. If it is fair to have a tribunal who are in part admittedly paid by the FOP, and at least one judge who can double as a DA one day and judge the next in the same case, then fairness is just as empty a word as justice. To paraphrase Judge Sabo, it is "just an emotional feeling."

In recent months the Pennsylvania Su-

preme Court has upheld death sentences in cases where an impartial reading of transcripts or pleadings would make an honest affirmation all but impossible. They have ignored all evidence of innocence, overlooked clear instances of jury taint, and cast a dead eye on defense attorney's ineffectiveness. What they have done in my case is par for the course. This is a political decision, paid for by the FOP on the eve of the election. It is a Mischief Night gift from a court with a talent for the macabre.

I am sorry that this court did not rule on the right side of history. But I am not surprised. Every time our nation has come to a fork in the road with regard to race, it has chosen to take the path of compromise and betrayal. On October 29th, 1998, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court committed a collective crime: it damned due process, strangled the fair trial, and raped justice.



Even after this legal legerdemain I remain innocent. A court cannot make an innocent man guilty. Any ruling founded on injustice is not justice. The righteous fight for life, liberty and justice can only continue.

**Contact the government officials listed below and demand a new trial for Mumia.**

**Governor Thomas Ridge**  
Main Capitol Building, Room 225  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
(717)787-2500 (phone)  
(717)772-8284 (fax)  
(717)783-3369 (fax)

**District Attorney Lynn Abraham**  
1421 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215)686-8700 (phone)  
(215)686-8024 (fax)

**Attorney General Janet Reno**  
Main Justice Building  
10th and Constitution Avenues  
Washington, D.C. 20053  
(202)514-2000 (phone)  
(202)514-4371 (fax)

## Organize Now to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

### Emergency Response Network We are in a state of emergency!

*Governor Ridge has promised to sign another death warrant on Mumia. We need everyone to set up emergency response networks. What to do when Ridge signs another death warrant.*

#### *The day after...*

When Ridge signs the warrant, there will be a demonstration in Philadelphia and other major cities THE DAY AFTER! We must act immediately and be at City Hall the next day.

#### *The Saturday after...*

We need massive numbers not only the day after but the Saturday after also. If the warrant is signed on a Monday through Thursday, go to Philadelphia that Saturday. If the warrant is signed on a Friday, go to Philadelphia on the following Saturday. Converge on the State Office Building at Broad and Spring Garden Streets.

For further information contact:

International Concerned Family and Friends  
of Mumia Abu-Jamal  
Box 19709  
Philadelphia, PA 19143  
Tel: (215)476-8812  
Fax: (215)476-7551  
email: mumia@aol.com

# Legal Lynching

Joe Dubovy

**A**t our October 10 death penalty conference in Kingston, Assemblyman Ed Sullivan promised us he would pursue a death penalty repeal bill in the New York State Legislature. This would give the Abolitionist movement in New York the shot in the arm it so desperately needs. It needs a focus to direct its energies toward publicizing legal lynching by the state. I hear lots of talk about how difficult it is to repeal the death penalty in New York. Yet the last election would indicate otherwise.

In November, Vox populi reacted to the death of Matthew Shepard and Doctor Slepian. Voters threw out candidates associated with ideologies like gay-bashing and abortion abolition that have led to violence against those who are scapegoated as opposing those ideologies. The election was a victory against violence wherever it could be found. On the surface, violence perpetrated by the state was not an issue. But if you listened carefully to the candidates, you did not hear a single word supporting the death penalty by bloodthirsty candidates who usually beat the drum for using lethal injection to keep our streets safe. Candidates who supported sane and well reasoned solutions were the winners in the last election.

To update Assemblyman Sullivan's promise at our October 10 conference, the death penalty repeal bill has now been written. Its' first paragraph reads:

*Section 1: The death penalty is incompatible with respect for human life. It condones murder. It is cruel and unusual punishment that violates the U.S. constitution and the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights; it is arbitrary and*

*discriminatory; it is not a deterrent to crime and distracts society from seeking effective ways to combat serious crime. The death penalty is irrevocable.*

When the Assembly reconvenes in January this bill will go to the Codes Committee for approval. This committee has a Democratic majority. On October 10 Ed Sullivan told us "Democrats in the state Assembly were snookered when Pataki's people railroaded the death penalty through. It won't happen again." Democrats need the courage to stand up for the repeal bill. That's our job.



The next issue of the Peace Newsletter will list all members of the Codes Committee and the districts they represent. If each reader would get ten others to write them, then the bill would go to the floor where Ed Sullivan would be its passionate champion. Remember, Ed also chairs the Committee on Higher Education, which is the most powerful committee in the Assembly. He has the clout to defeat the pro-crime Re-

publicans who oppose both gun control and public education.



Repeal of the death penalty in New York State would arouse Abolitionist movements in other states from their despair. People of good conscience would be forced to admit they do not wish to send their children the message that the state, acting in our name, is the grand executioner.

*Note: The PNL is the official means of communication of the NY State death penalty movement. Only here will you find out what's going on. This will be the last issue mailed to NYSCRDP members for free. Please subscribe to find out what's happening.*

*Joe Dubovy is a member of the NYS Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty, and has recently become a frequent contributor to the Peace Newsletter.*



## Peace Newsletter

initial New York voice for peace and social justice

Subscribe to the PNL ~ Still only \$12 a year for 12 issues!

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

- Enclosed \$12 for one year.
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ additional donation for all your great work!
- Please contact me about volunteering.
- This is a new subscription.
- This is a renewal
- My address has changed

the Syracuse Peace Council • 924 Burnet Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203





# Watchdogs Urge Welfare Recipients to Speak Out

## How to Get What You Need From Welfare

Jennifer Y. Lee

**O**N THURSDAY, October 29, local anti-poverty group Welfare Watchdogs held a workshop at South Presbyterian Church located on S. Salina. With an audience of sixty-five people, largely made up of welfare recipients and local activists, the presenters sought to address many of the welfare concerns in the local community.

The presentation was titled, "The Squeaky Wheel Gets the Grease," signifying that the only way for welfare recipients to have their needs met is to be as "squeaky", or as vocal as possible. The first hour was dedicated to presentations by the following speakers: Francis Fox Pixon, a professor at CUNY and a long-time welfare activist, Rev Millicent Collins, a minister at the Presbyterian Church, and Ron Nelbons a long-time, local welfare activist. The history of

organizing welfare activity and the current welfare reforms were discussed, as well as the need for continuing local action.

The second portion of the forum was devoted to a question-and-answer period and a role play exercise among members of the audience who were broken down into groups of six to ten members each. The objective here was to engage welfare recipients with prac-

is not possible to contact the welfare office. How does one proceed? One member of the group could then role play as the customer while another acted as the store clerk. Members of the groups were encouraged to role play and interact to find solutions to these types of conflict situations.

Jane Greiner, a graduate student in the School of Education at Syracuse University who helped organize the event, felt that the level of interaction and the overall response was positive. Not only did this event encourage welfare recipients to speak out, but it focused on the importance of a civic community, where the roles of academia, the church, friends, neighbors and local action groups can all act together as a means of support. One can ride along a bumpy wheel on four wheels, but only when one wheel squeaks can welfare recipients receive the proper attention and support they need.

Jennifer is an intern at the Syracuse Peace Council and a student at Syracuse University.

**We need a civic community, a network in which academia, the church, friends, neighbors and local action groups all act together as a means of support.**

tices that would enable them to express their needs in a focused manner. A problem was presented to each group which they would have to resolve. One case scenario given was an example where a welfare recipient was denied the use of her benefits card at a grocery store. The card is denied, it is Saturday and it

**Open Hand Theater**  
*presents*  
**AMAHIL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS**  
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*musical director Joseph Downing*  
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*with larger than life puppetry and pageantry*  
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**Admission: \$10 for Adults**  
**\$8 for Children**  
**at Plymouth Church**  
**232 E. Onondaga Street**  
**in downtown Syracuse**  
**Open Hand Theater at**  
**476-0466**

# 1998 PLOWSHARES CRAFTSFAIR PROGRAM

## 28TH ANNUAL

# PLOWSHARES CRAFTSFAIR

**W**elcome to the Syracuse Peace Council's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Plowshares Craftsfair.

Our Central New York tradition is a collective effort of many peace workers to provide you, the public, a pleasant shopping atmosphere during the holiday season.

We try to bring you a crafts fair that is as free of commercialism as possible. All of our various craftspeople make their crafts by hand, and by their own design. We are proud to say that Plowshares is one of the favorite craftshows for the craftspeople, having one of the most enjoyable family atmospheres in the area.

For 20 years the crafts fair was held at Plymouth Congregational Church in downtown Syracuse. This is our 8th year at the Southwest Community Center. Please take advantage of your visit here to find out more about what the Southwest Community Center offers south and west side residents.

### Great Food

Food this year will be provided by Nick Orth and friends. They have worked hard to bring you a tasty and inexpensive menu. Delicious items include:

- lasagna
- burritos
- cheese pizza
- pesto pizza
- soups
- garden salad & bread
- fresh baked muffins & cookies

Both vegan and non-vegan dishes will be available. Drinks include fruit spritzers, coffee, tea, and cider. Breakfast specials will be available both days. Tables are provided for eating. Seek it out! A portion of the proceeds from food sales goes to the Peace Council.

### Be sure not to miss:

- Peace Council Table — find out about the work of the Peace Council and pick up literature. Here you will find an assortment of crafts for sale that were donated by the craftspeople. All money goes to support the Peace Council.

- Peace Council Raffle — over 25 great prizes!! At only \$1 per chance or 6 for \$5, these raffle tickets are a great buy. Buy your tickets at the raffle table or from one of our roving ticket sellers (wearing outlandish hats). The raffle drawing is held on Sunday afternoon and you need not be present to win.

- The Front Room Bookstore — bookstore of the Syracuse Peace Council. Find a range of books, T-shirts, tapes, buttons, bumper stickers, and calendars on peace, social justice and environmental topics.



### Inside:

- ⌘ Crafts fair map
- ⌘ List of participating craftspeople
- ⌘ Entertainment schedule
- ⌘ List of community groups
- ⌘ Information about Southwest Community Center

BRING THIS PROGRAM WITH YOU TO THE CRAFTSFAIR!

# 1998 PLOWSHARES CRAFTSFAIR PROGRAM

## Performance Schedule (schedule is subject to change)

☞ Saturday Dec. 5 ☞

- 12 p.m. Grace Martial Arts Academy
- 1 p.m. Gypsy Fire - folkloric women's dance group
- 2 p.m. Jolie Christine Rickman - singer/songwriter
- 3 p.m. John Rossbach - acoustic guitar
- 4 p.m. Andrea Moore - jazz

### Wandering musicians:

- 2-4 p.m. The Music Boys - Henry Jankiewicz and Harvey Nusbaum
- Dan Duggan - hammered dulcimer



☞ Sunday Dec. 6 ☞

- 2 p.m. Gabrielle Barry-Caufield - singer/songwriter

### Various times:

- Kucheza - African dance

### Wandering musicians:

- Lisa Davis and Deb Mazurek - flute and violin duo
- Dan Duggan - hammered dulcimer

## Syracuse Peace Council

The Syracuse Peace Council was founded in 1936 as an anti-war organization. The Peace Council's vision of a world where war, violence, and exploitation in any form will no longer exist has been a mainstay for most of our 61 years.

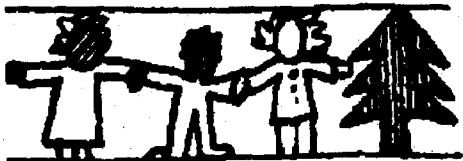
The Peace Council has changed, though, over the years from a group with a few members working out of peoples' homes, to a larger organization with many active volunteers and paid staff working out of our own building.

It is the Peace Council's belief that present social injustices cannot be understood in isolation from each other nor can they be overcome without recognizing their economic and violent roots. Essential for peace and justice is an economic system that places human needs above monetary profit. The Peace Council seeks to make these connections clear.

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 that responds to the needs of all.

Peace and social justice struggles have reached unprecedented proportions around the globe, and constant organizing is taking place around these struggles. We are all part of the global fight for change and it is up to us to realize that one voice can always make a difference.

For more information about the Syracuse Peace Council, stop by the SPC table at the crafts fair.



## Community Groups

The following groups will be present with information, petitions, crafts and representatives willing to discuss today's issues.

- Beyond Boundaries
- Caribbean & Latin America Coalition / SOA Watch
- House of Prayer
- The Living Room
- New Environment Assoc.
- Onondaga Nation Crafts Cooperative
- Peace Action
- Shoestring Productions
- Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union
- Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus

## The Peace Newsletter

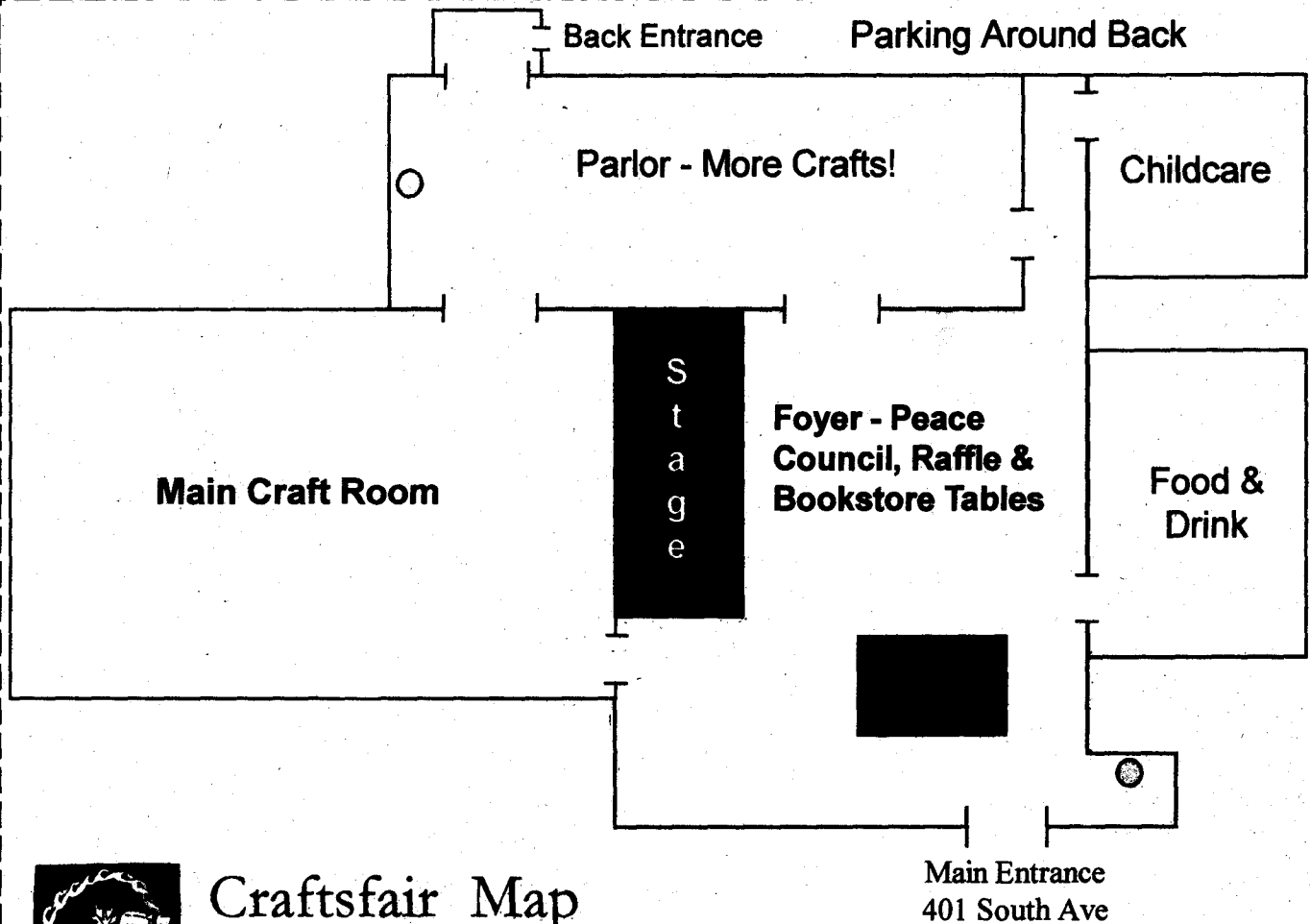
The *Peace Newsletter (PNL)* is the main educational project of the Syracuse Peace Council. Published 12 times per year, the *PNL* serves a dual purpose: as an internal newsletter, it keeps Peace Council members informed about meetings, events, and decisions. The *PNL* is also a full-fledged magazine, providing readers with alternative news and critical analyses of local, national and international issues.

By covering both local and national events the *PNL* informs and encourages people to think globally, but act locally. Our analytical articles have been reprinted in magazines around the country. Our monthly calendar of events gives a listing of progressive events in the region, providing an essential service to the community.

Your support is very, very much needed. Since publishing criticism of the powers that be isn't the best way to raise money, we rely on you to help make ends meet.

So, please support Central New York's alternative voice for peace and social justice. A subscription form is located elsewhere in this issue of the *PNL*. Still only \$12/yr!

# 1998 PLOWSHARES CRAFTSFAIR PROGRAM



## Craftsfair Map

(If you can't find something, ask—  
people will be glad to help you!)

● Bathrooms &  
Water Fountains

## The Front Room Bookstore

As a project of the Syracuse Peace Council, located in the front of the Peace Council's office at 924 Burnet Avenue, the bookstore has supplied the progressive community with hard-to-find literature on peace and social justice topics for almost 20 years. However, due to lack of energy and people-power, the bookstore no longer operates as a "store". The Bookstore will again offer merchandise at the craftsfair, and occasionally travels to different community events to offer relevant political books and items. If you want to help the bookstore continue (in whatever form), please talk to a volunteer at the bookstore tables.

Topics carried by The Front Room include Peace Work, Parenting & Families, Black Liberation, Africa, U.S. Foreign Policy, Central America, History, Labor, Gay & Lesbian Issues, Women and a wide selection of children's

## Southwest Community Center

The Southwest Community Center was built by the City of Syracuse in 1975 with a Model Cities Block Grant. The programs and activities that go on under this one roof are too numerous to fully mention here. Be sure and look around while browsing the crafts. Youth activities include youth groups, parks and recreation activities, pre-K, Bishop Foery Foundation, and a branch of the county library. Senior groups such as the Golden Corner and Senior Day Treatment Program meet. Family counseling, AIDS education, a Parenting Center, indoor pool, and a summer Caribbean Festival are just a few of the many things going on at SWCC.

books. The store also sells T-shirts, tapes, buttons, bumper stickers, posters, and calendars. A great place for holiday shopping!

# 1998 List of Participating Crafters

- **Aduke Kuumba Creations** Afro-centric angels, outfits, jewelry  
*Syracuse, 315-423-4603*
- **David Alessi** rubber stamps  
*South Wales, 716-655-2159*
- **Bonni Backe & Lois Hansen** angels, scarves, fleece, dolls, candles  
*Syracuse, 315-426-8055*
- **Merri Baldwin** woven rag rugs, Ukrainian eggs  
*Homer, 607-749-3354*
- **Barbara Barker** weavings, dolls, ornaments, jewelry  
*Oneida, 315-363-8704*
- **Kathy Barry, Babouska** handcrafted hats & clothing  
*Syracuse, 315-425-7257*
- **Amy Bartell** cards, prints, candlesticks, t-shirts  
*Syracuse, 315-422-4406*
- **Margaret Birdlebough** recycled & wildcrafted items  
*Syracuse, 315-422-4201*
- **Judy Bjorkman** brass & multi-metal jewelry  
*Syracuse, 315-492-9042*
- **Judi Bulmer** dog-themed crafts  
*Syracuse, 315-437-7971*
- **Robin Butler** crocheted/hooked rag rugs  
*Syracuse, 315-455-7741*
- **Gail Calloway** ornaments, lace & paper angels  
*Jordan, 315-689-9975*
- **Denise Cole & Megan White** wearable art, dyed clothing  
*Syracuse, 315-474-5374*
- **Common Place Land Trust** wreathes, candles, soap, gourds  
*Truxton, 607-842-6799*
- **Liz Cool & Melinda Makell** baby quilts, pottery  
*Syracuse, 315-472-9386*
- **Debaura Dahl** earth dolls, wands, coloring book  
*South Otselic, 315-653-7707*
- **Schaelon & Matthew Davis** artwork, cards, shirts  
*Syracuse, 315-476-7953*
- **Joaquin DiDomenico & Jack Boyd** silver, stone, brass jewelry  
*Ithaca, 607-277-6090*
- **Dan Duggan** hammered dulcimer tapes & CDs  
*Red Creek, 315-754-8946*
- **Caroline Dunn** photo mattes, cards, paper, magnets  
*Oswego, 315-343-3944*
- **Barbara Floch** jewelry  
*Cortland, 607-753-6213*
- **Teresa Florack & Gayle Thorley** vegan cookies, furniture  
*Syracuse, 315-471-1269*
- **Linda Handville** earthenware pottery  
*Syracuse, 315-478-5536*
- **Lillie Harris** pies, cakes, baked goods  
*Syracuse, 315-445-2459*
- **Katherine Hughes** pottery  
*Syracuse*
- **Mary Lou Karrat** hand knitted items, folk painted crafts  
*Syracuse, 315-487-5944*
- **Karen Kerney** turtle puppets, assorted crafts  
*Jamesville, 315-469-0403*
- **Monika Kriebel** fabric gift bags  
*Syracuse, 315-446-2963*
- **Mathew LeBlanc** leather goods, clay jewelry  
*Canastota, 315-684-9134*
- **Judy Lieblein** ceramic, beaded, glass jewelry  
*Syracuse, 315-469-8445*
- **Linda Malik** paper mache bowls, candles, mirrors  
*Syracuse, 315-474-1796*
- **Susan Masters & Michele Brown** body art, tattoos, paintings  
*Syracuse, 315-426-9987*
- **Joelle McAndrew** fabric dolls, stuffed animals  
*Syracuse, 315-422-9692*
- **Valerie McNickol, Mindy Gerken, Susan Utter** dye & painted shirts, embossed paper, frames  
*Camillus, 315-468-0447*
- **Ralph Minnifield** leather goods  
*Syracuse, NY*
- **Eva Monostory** stone, macrame & silver jewelry  
*Fayetteville, 315-637-6735*
- **Mosi Village: Vanessa Johnson, Mardea Warner** bracelets, pins, dolls, rings, gourds, fiber vessels, cards  
*Syracuse, 315-479-5757*
- **Kelly Nye** beaded, sterling, gemstone jewelry  
*Jamesville, 315-492-1932*
- **Brenda Ocampo** stone, silver, gold jewelry  
*Syracuse, 315-476-1807*
- **Felice Osband** hand-blown glass  
*Rochester, 716-482-6145*
- **Jabari Penda** incense & oils  
*Syracuse, 315-428-9428*
- **Ben Rausch** rustic wood & stone furniture  
*DeRuyter, 315-852-9623*
- **Lisa & Kevin Renaud, Hands On Healing** massages  
*Syracuse, 315-475-5609*
- **Jolie Christine Rickman** compact discs  
*Syracuse, 315-472-3753*
- **Marge Rusk** wreaths, sachets, catnip toys, herbs  
*Syracuse, 315-476-7635*
- **Cindy Schmidt, Helen Carter, Karen Hall** signs, clocks, cloth bags, rubber-stamped envelopes  
*Mexico, 315-963-1494*
- **Terry & Robert Shenfeld** wheel thrown, handbuilt ceramics  
*Syracuse, 315-492-0702*
- **Linda Sherman** pottery, stone & cloisonne jewelry  
*DeRuyter, 315-852-9623*
- **Beth Sturley** suncatchers, nature crafts  
*Kirkville, 315-656-7076*
- **Syracuse Cultural Workers** posters, prints, calendars  
*Syracuse, 315-474-1132*
- **Diana Trifoso** batiked clothing, face-painting  
*Paia, HI, 808-243-0577*
- **Tunura's Homemade Specialties** African hats, soaps, pies, cakes  
*Syracuse, 315-446-7330*
- **Eva Williams** accessories made from African textiles  
*Syracuse, 315-471-7659*
- **Jen Winders** soaps, oils, facial scrubs, herbal first aid kits  
*Albany, 518-456-1417*

This list was complete as we went to press. Additional crafters will be listed at the event.

# Free Education and the Keys to Democracy

## Statewide Group Organizes to Save Public Education in NYS

**A** RISING WAVE of attacks on public schools and state-supported higher education has caused citizens in New York's Mid-Hudson area to form a new organization. It is called OPEN, Organizing for Public Education Now.

"We are concerned by the direct and covert threats to public education that are being led by groups such as CHANGE-NY," says a statement issued by members of OPEN. The new organization of OPEN is committed to the belief that publicly-supported education is the bulwark of a democratic society.

### What is CHANGE-NY?

CHANGE-NY is a right-wing organization, financed by wealthy supporters of Governor Pataki. It lobbies for and promotes ultraconservative public policies, including tax cuts for the well-to-do and cutbacks in education. Although the acronym CHANGE stands for Citizens Helping Achieve New Growth and Employment in New York, one of its chief goals has been the undermining of public support for the schools and community and state colleges of the people of New York.

By contrast, OPEN affirms that the way to achieve a healthy democracy, and economic growth and full employment, is to ensure that high quality schools and advanced education are available and affordable for all residents of New York State. OPEN opposes efforts by CHANGE-NY and similar organizations to reduce education funding, curtail access, and set limits on relevant curricula, free speech, and academic freedom.

### Undermining Public Schools

One of the ways in which CHANGE-NY threatens the viability of public schools is its promotion of so-called voucher schemes and charter schools. As Alan B. Lubin, a teachers union official, says, "Our democracy has depended on our children going to public schools, where they've learned to work and play to-

gether and get used to their differences. Now, when the ties that bind us are especially fragile, we should be working together to strengthen this ideal instead of abandoning it."

The voucher plan diverts public resources away from education, dilutes the quality of public schools, and has the effect of pitting the rich and powerful against those who are struggling to realize the American dream.

OPEN points out that many of the people who call for vouchers are the same ones who are against state support for smaller class size,

nation or curtailment of opportunity programs which are designed to make college accessible for qualified low income students. CHANGE spokespersons scorn flexible academic curricula and affirmative action programs.

By demanding an "academically responsible" curriculum, based on the "canons" of Western civilization, CHANGE in fact helps to legitimize the traditional privileges of class, race, gender and sexual orientation.

Spokespersons for CHANGE-NY and its allies have attacked and undermined college faculty members who are responsible for conducting diversity programs on women, African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and gays and lesbians. By publicly condemning those who do not agree with their narrow-minded ideology, CHANGE-NY has created a climate of intimidation that is destructive of the academic goals of learning, experimentation and discovery.

**"CHANGE-NY spokespersons have created a climate of intimidation by publicly condemning those who do not agree with their narrow-minded ideology."**  
*— from OPEN's statement of purpose*

early childhood programs, and school construction and renovation.

### Attacks on SUNY and CUNY

At the State University and City University, CHANGE-NY has advocated the elimi-

### Influencing public policy

The agenda of CHANGE-NY achieved a wider influence as a result of the election of Governor George Pataki. Twelve of the 15 members of the SUNY Board of Trustees are

In the tradition of Bread & Puppet.

**Altered Space** invites you

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 Call Sam's at (515) 478-5178 or mail your CHEAP ART to 205 Bassett St., Syracuse, NY 15210

a fun-raiser for outside neighborhood arts, culture & technology



## OPEN Education Cont. from page 15

Pataki appointees, all of them Republicans. According to the Middletown Times Herald Record (July 28, 1998, page 6) "Critics, including faculty, campus administrators, a host of lawmakers and even some trustees themselves, say the Pataki appointees meddle too much, despite a stated desire to not micromanage the system. They say the new board members have forced employees out, including a chancellor and other top SUNY-central administration."

Among the results — higher tuition, fewer fulltime faculty, decreased enrollment, and a per capita expenditure for higher education that is among the lowest in the nation.

One of the Pataki trustees is Candace de Russey, a member of CHANGE-NY and other conservative organizations. De Russey openly attacked the SUNY College of New Paltz, in connection with a Women's Studies Conference on the topic of women's sexuality. She demanded the resignation of the New Paltz College president and went to the CBS program "Sixty Minutes" to express her indignation.

### Building grassroots support for public education

OPEN sees the work of CHANGE-NY and its spokespersons as part of a broad political attack on the well-being of the vast majority of New Yorkers. Allied with the resurgent religious right and other ultra-conservative

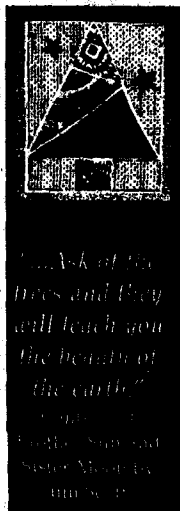


forces at the national level, CHANGE-NY is bent on rolling back the democratic gains that have been achieved in New York state, often after great effort. The real nature of CHANGE-NY must be revealed and challenged.

You are invited to join OPEN and help build grassroots support in New York State for our schools and colleges. You may send your name, address, phone number and a contribution to P.O. Box 1175, New Paltz, NY 12561, or call Beth Capen, coordinator, at (914) 339-8077. OPEN's e-mail address is <OPENNYS@aol.com>.

"Our democracy has depended on our children going to public schools, where they've learned to work and play together and get used to their differences. Now, when the ties that bind us are especially fragile, we should be working together to strengthen this ideal instead of abandoning it."

— Alan B. Lubin, a teachers union official



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with The Syracuse Community Choir

7:30 pm SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1998  
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Interpreted for the hearing impaired by Jim Skvorak.

Info: 478-8634; CHILDCARE; RECEPTION;

This concert is made possible, in part, with the public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts as part of its Decentralization Program, administered by the Cultural Resources Council.

# The Cracks Start in the Bureaucracy

## Grassroots Groups Respond to Regulatory Bias in Core Shroud Decision

Tim Judson

**M**ONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced its decision on the inspection of Niagara Mohawk's Nine Mile One nuclear plant (NM1): the inspection will be postponed until the plant is refueled next spring. The NRC press release said the decision was based on a "lengthy and detailed safety evaluation" and a study of metal samples from the plant's core shroud.

However, the evaluation was evidently not nearly as thorough as it could have been. The decision was announced one day after two NRC representatives, one of them the project manager for NM1, reported that they didn't know when it would be made, and possibly not for more than a week. The example illustrates how the NRC bureaucracy puts even concerned citizens in a reactive and uncertain position.

The decision itself was not a surprise, though, largely because the process leading up to it demonstrated severe problems of regulatory incompetence, bias, and lack of accountability (see also box on p. 21).

### Lack of Public Accountability

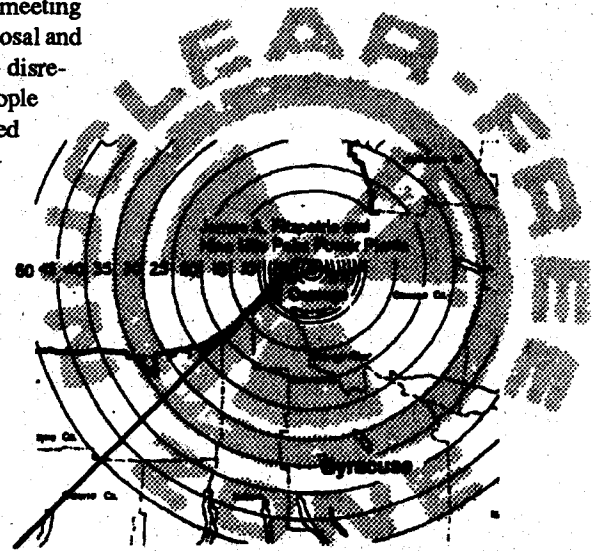
Those issues all came to a head on September 24, when the NRC held a meeting in Oswego to hear public comment. The meeting lasted three hours longer than scheduled because of the extent of concern expressed by the crowd over the risks associated with the core shroud and the attitudes of the NRC reps.

None of the public present spoke in favor of NiMo's proposal to postpone inspection.

However, at several points in the meeting NRC reps spoke favorably of the proposal and the study it was based on. They also disregarded the fears and concerns of people living in the shadow of the embrittled reactor and responded with patronizing comments about their own concerns for public safety and mutual interest in avoiding a meltdown of the reactor. Only one of the NRC reps present lives in CNY (the other ten or so are based in the DC area, where NRC's headquarters are) — he only made a few brief comments in the five-hour meeting.

NRC representatives and decision-makers, most of whom are scientists and engineers, are known for suffering the ideological effects of pressures from social networks and connections between industry, educational and regulatory institutions, as well as the material pressures of maintaining job and career. They are in the business of regulating nuclear business, not questioning whether it should be in business or under what terms. As human beings, they believe in their own humanity and integrity, but tend not to accept the inhumane effects of their jobs on those living near nuclear reactors and dump sites. Barriers of race, class and anti-ruralism further block regulators from relating to local residents.

As at the September meeting, they often respond with defensiveness and disrespect toward those who raise such questions. Of course, NRC reps are sometimes treated similarly, but by people who are confronted with scientific and corporate elitism, intimidation



and lack of power over decisions that affect them. Although the root problems are structural, it is hard not to be angry at people who disregard others' concerns for the lives of their families, communities and environment.

### Petition to Shut Down NM1

Because of Niagara Mohawk's disregard for the increasing risk of a meltdown at the plant, Paul Gunter of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service has spurred a move to petition the NRC to revoke the utility's license to operate the plant. SPC, Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort, Citizens Awareness Network (CAN) and several local activists have decided to back the petition.

The petition 2.206 is a legal request to have a nuclear plant operator's license revoked. It is the only procedure citizens have to file grievances against a utility under the guidelines of the NRC. The system affords no formal opportunity for citizens to enforce accountability shy of asking that the keys to the plant be taken away from the owner. Of course, the entire regime of private property is against such action, and out of 400 petitions filed, less than a handful have gone anywhere.

However, filing of a petition 2.206 ended with the closure of the reactor in Rowe, MA. The action led by CAN and supported by Union of Concerned Scientists ended with the first citizen-initiated reactor closing in the country. Since then, CAN has used 2.206's as

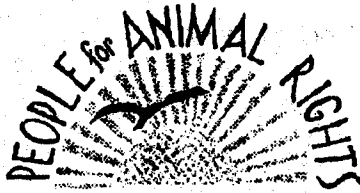
continued on page 21

**The "Meltdown of Democracy"**

A... in an accelerating pace. Industrial... and their scientists... citizen's confidence in their ability to understand the effects of technology. The results: alienation, powerlessness, and diminished involvement by citizens in protecting their environment. Many have withdrawn from the process. The present state of public participation is a state of... outside of democratic safeguards.

Ordinary citizens can educate themselves to understand the issues, however complex. Citizens in the continuation path way of polluters need to educate and empower their communities to protect themselves and the environment from exposure to toxins, and to develop strategies for the regulation and elimination of pollution.

Citizens Awareness Network (CAN)



## A New Family Member, or a Throw-away Toy?

THERE'S NO GIFT that can put a smile on a child's face faster than that of a puppy or kitten. Taking a companion animal into your home can be rewarding for both the child and the animal. However, there are some things you should think about if you are considering a pet as a possible gift idea this holiday season.

First, you need to consider if the recipient of the gift (usually a child) is old enough and responsible enough to properly take care of the animal's needs. Kittens and puppies, especially, need a great deal of love and attention. Remember, you are not simply selecting a toy that your child can discard when he/she no longer finds it interesting, but rather, you are selecting a member of your family!

Second, consider your own limitations. Is your dwelling large enough to accommodate the animal after he/she is full grown? Do you travel frequently or work long hours? These are some serious factors to consider before making your decision.

Third, you must consider the source of your potential new family member. According to the Humane Society of the US, 90% of the more than half million puppies sold every year in pet shops come from about 5,000 puppy mills. The conditions at most of them, the Society charges, are so hideous that only one out of two dogs bred in the mills survives to make it to market. According to the Society's chief investigator, Robert Baker, many of the survivors suffer from parovirus, parasites, respiratory infections, not to mention genetic and emotional ailments.

If you do decide that a companion animal is the appropriate gift, then perhaps the best advice of all is to visit our local SPCA and Humane Society. These two shelters take in a wide variety of animals ranging from kittens to full grown cats, and from mutt to purebred. Every year there are literally millions of puppies and kittens who come into this world — many without homes. By going this route you not only save money — you save a life!

— Vikki Gudgel

## WHY "COMMUNITY UPDATE"?

The Community Update section is an open forum for SPC-affiliated groups and organizations to share their issues and activities with the readers of the Peace Newsletter. The contents of the Community Updates do not necessarily reflect the ideas or beliefs of the Syracuse Peace Council or the PNL. We do, however, encourage that articles remain consistent with the Syracuse Peace Council's Statement of Purpose as printed on page 2.

Articles submitted for the Community Groups pages should be kept to 300 words or less, and should be clearly typed or printed. In addition, it is helpful for the editorial committee if an IBM-format disc and contact info accompany the article. (Please do not send *only* the disc, since they are

easily damaged.) The publication deadlines for the next issue are printed on page 3.

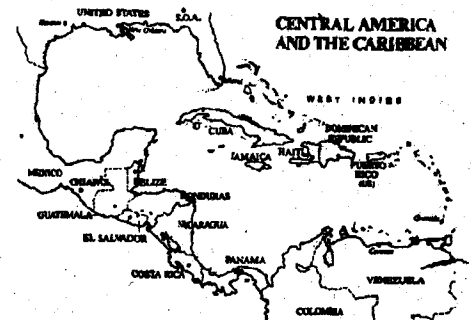
The PNL Committee encourages that these pages be used for dialogue and outreach, to promote grassroots activism and community involvement. The PNL provides this space as a free media outlet for groups with limited resources; SPC envisions the sharing of resources as both necessary and a beneficial means of networking and maintaining relationships between movement groups. Although we sometimes spotlight certain community events as Bulletin Board items, the Community Pages are not specifically for advertising. They are a valuable means of reaching a broad audience with a topic fueling your organizing efforts.

— PNL Editorial Collective

## Caribbean Latin America Coalition

MOST OF THE November CLAC meeting was taken up with preparations for the School of the Americas vigil, November 23 at Ft. Benning, GA. Over 50 Syracuse-area residents planned to attend the action. For a report on the event, see next month's Peace Newsletter.

In other business, the Syracuse Sister Community Project is planning a week-long



trip to La Estancia, El Salvador, in February. The dates are flexible, but we may settle on the school vacation week. If you have any interest in joining the delegation, or would like to support the Sister Community of La Estancia in any other way, please call Shirley Novak at 446-6099. — Paul Weichselbaum

## APARTMENT FOR RENT

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edited by Mike Kernahan

## Don't You DARE Fight Drugs Effectively

ON JULY 1, the new Department of Education "Principles of Effectiveness" for drug prevention programs went into effect, which will require Safe and Drug-Free School Program grants "to support research-based drug and violence prevention programs for youth," according to the June 1 Federal Register.

Although the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program has consistently failed to show long-term reductions in drug abuse among adolescents, the program will still be eligible for funding, according to Bill Modzeleski, director of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program at the Department of Education.

According to Modzeleski, DARE continues to qualify because the "Principles of Effectiveness" only require programs to demonstrate a "promise of effectiveness." However, the Federal Register states that the "promise of effectiveness" clause was included so new or locally-based programs that were untested could still qualify for federal funding, a criterion which does not apply to DARE.

Speaking for the nonprofit Drug Policy Foundation, H. Alexander Robinson said, "Science should dictate our nation's drug policies and how we spend our limited prevention resources. If the scientific community says that DARE doesn't work, then its federal subsidy should have ended on July 1."

Source: *The Drug Policy Letter*

## The Cops Cash In

TWO NEW REPORTS, one from the FBI and the other from the General Accounting Office (GAO), found that drug-related corruption among law enforcement has substantially increased since the early 1990s.

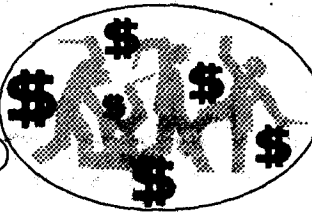
The FBI report, "Misconduct to Corruption," found that the number of federal, state, and local officials in federal prisons has increased fivefold in four years, from 107 in 1994 to 548 so far in 1998.

In the 37 cities that responded to the researchers' survey, 187 felony and 265 misdemeanor arrests were recorded, including the case of Rene de la Cova, a former Drug Enforcement Administration supervisor. De la Cova, one of the officers who took Manuel Noriega into custody in 1989, pleaded guilty five years later to stealing \$750,000 in laun-

dered drug money. He was sentenced to two years in prison.

Hoover Institution research fellow and Drug Policy Foundation board member Joseph MacNamara told the *Los Angeles Times*: "Every week we read of another police scandal related to the drug war — corruption, brutality, and even armed robbery by cops in uniform."

The GAO's May 1998 report, "Information on Drug-related Police Corruption," was requested by Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-NY). The report found that information on the extent of drug-related corruption was limited because it mostly occurs at the local level, but FBI



statistics were available on federal corruption cases. The number of drug-related cases that were opened increased from 61 in 1993 to 92 in 1997, and the number of officers convicted as a result of an FBI-led corruption investigation increased from 59 to 79 in the same years. Between 1993 and 1997 over 50% of convicted officers were involved

in drug-related corruption.

The GAO also found that drug-related corruption was more likely to involve serious criminal activity, such as conducting unconstitutional searches and seizures, stealing and selling drugs, and stealing money from drug dealers. The GAO report noted that drug-related corruption typically involved groups of officers, as opposed to other forms of corruption that only involved individual officers.

Source: *Drug Policy Letter*

## Bio-Serfdom and the New Feudalism

IN THE LATEST European attack on the use of biotechnology in agriculture, 120 French

farmers broke into a storage facility of the agribusiness multinational Novartis and destroyed 30 tons of transgenic corn seed. The attack, following the French government's much protested decision earlier this year to allow farmers to plant genetically modified corn, found popular support throughout France and much of Europe, where there is widespread resistance to the spread of genetic engineering in food.

Unlike their counterparts in the United States, Europeans have demonstrated strong skepticism of the biotechnology industry's claims that there are no adverse health effects associated with consuming bioengineered food. Europeans are also wary of the unintentional and deleterious introduction of genes and substances into the environment.

The strongest cry against biotechnology in European agriculture has come from farmers who associate bioengineered seeds with a shift of power from farmers to agribusiness corporations. The Confederation Paysanne, an organization composed of small farmers throughout Europe, called the French decision "a grave error, a giant step toward more and more dangerous agriculture at the whims of the large agrochemical groups."

Genetically modified seed varieties often carry traits which necessitate the use of one or more agrochemicals. In this way, an agribusiness company, often the producer both of the seed and of the agrochemicals, can integrate the sale of several of its products and command substantial control over the farming process. In addition to the seed, the farmer must purchase the fertilizer, pesticide, herbicide and other inputs, without which the seed does not function optimally.

Source: *Worldwatch*

## Give It the Boot

THE IMAGE of adult criminals undergoing the indignities, humiliations, and punishing physical regimen of boot camp resonates strongly with the US public. Nearly every state has one. Several have expanded the concept to include juveniles, though the rationale for creating boot camps has been found to be without merit. They were supposed to reduce

continued on page 21

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## Nuclear Bureau-cracks Cont. from page 17

part of successful efforts to close three other reactors in New England. Also, the Rowe case resulted in a directive from the NRC to more closely inspect the safety of aging reactors, which led to the discovery of horizontal cracks in the NM1 core shroud. The shroud had never been inspected for cracks before 1995, and vertical welds were not inspected for cracks until 1997.

### Regulatory Inconsistency & Grounds for the Petition

Over that time, the NRC has changed its representation of the problem dramatically and inconsistently. In a 1995 report, the commission stressed the increased risk of a meltdown and the unexpectedness of the cracking. They also said the growth of the cracks was unpredictable because of numerous factors weakening the metal, including intense radiation from the nuclear reaction; stress to the metal from welding, heating and cooling, and water pressure; length of operation and aging of the plant; the metal the core shroud is made of; and chemicals in the coolant water. But in the recent study and NRC analysis, only the water chemistry is given any weight as a significant factor.

Curiously, aside from shutting the reactor down, it is the only factor that NiMo has any control over — and what's even curiousest, NiMo officials admitted on WRVO's "Talk of the Region" to having done virtually nothing to change the water chemistry since the cracks were discovered (Sept. 24).

## Peaces Cont. from page 19

incarceration costs and recidivism rates but have done neither.

Results of a recent federal study of juvenile boot camps by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) mirrored those of a 1994 federal National Institute of Justice (NIJ) study of adult boot camps — no improvement in recidivism rates and insignificant cost savings. Costs per boot camp prisoner (either adult or juvenile) vary from state to state but are always higher than for those in traditional incarceration. Since boot camp programs are much shorter (ranging from 60 days to six months or so compared

## What Does "NRC" Mean? — Not Regulatory Competence

A letter to the NRC from local activist and scientist Steve Penn points out numerous basic mistakes in the NRC's evaluation of NiMo's study. Penn begins by raising serious questions of bias in NiMo's study, which was performed by General Electric. GE manufactures nuclear fuel rod assemblies, and is the designer of all three reactors at Nine Mile Point and dozens of others around the country. Also, Penn points out that GE has been known to falsify or otherwise be guilty of bias in scientific and engineering matters where their profits are concerned. NRC nevertheless approved GE to perform the study.

However, there is also evidence of in-

What's more, former Atomic Energy Commission engineer Peter Atherton points out that the problems of cracking were never taken into account in the design of the reactor and its safety devices because it was never predicted to happen in the first place.

He believes the core shroud and all other deteriorating parts need to be replaced, rather than risk a meltdown. The option of replacement has not been considered at NM1, even though two plants of the same design in Fukushima, Japan opted for replacement rather than attempt repairs or run the reactor in a damaged condition. However, replacement would likely run many millions of dollars, and at its cheapest might be more than NiMo is willing to pay to continue operating the plant. So whether for safety or financial reasons, the only option is to close the reactor.

A modicum of consistency by the NRC would be one way to put that point in the

competence in the NRC's evaluation of the study. Penn notes that the NRC report ignores calculations for error that are standard for scientific publications, and sometimes uses methods that are scientifically invalid. Ignoring those calculations may have failed to identify mistakes in NiMo's analysis and misrepresent how accurately NiMo understands what is happening to the core shroud and how quickly the cracks are growing. Add to this basic mathematical errors in the report, and the technical incompetence and lack of rigor demonstrated by the NRC indicates a failure in their primary mission to provide for the public safety. — TJ

forefront, and the petition 2.206 is a way of putting pressure on the NRC to at least be thorough in dealing with the core shroud problem. The grounds for the petition could not be more clear, especially given NiMo's long and colorful history of systemic mismanagement and reckless endangerment of public health and safety.

However, the petition is not likely to stick without strong public support and awareness of the issues of nuclear power in CNY. In fact, grassroots support is likely to be the only way of stopping these two meltdowns — the meltdown of democracy we're faced with in our communities, and the nuclear meltdown creeping along the edges of cracks deep in the heart of Nine Mile One.

*Tim is more inspired by the cracks in the sidewalk than the ones in nuclear reactors.*

to years of penal confinement), significant savings were promised based on diverting substantial numbers of convicts from prisons to boot camps. This has not occurred anywhere in the country.

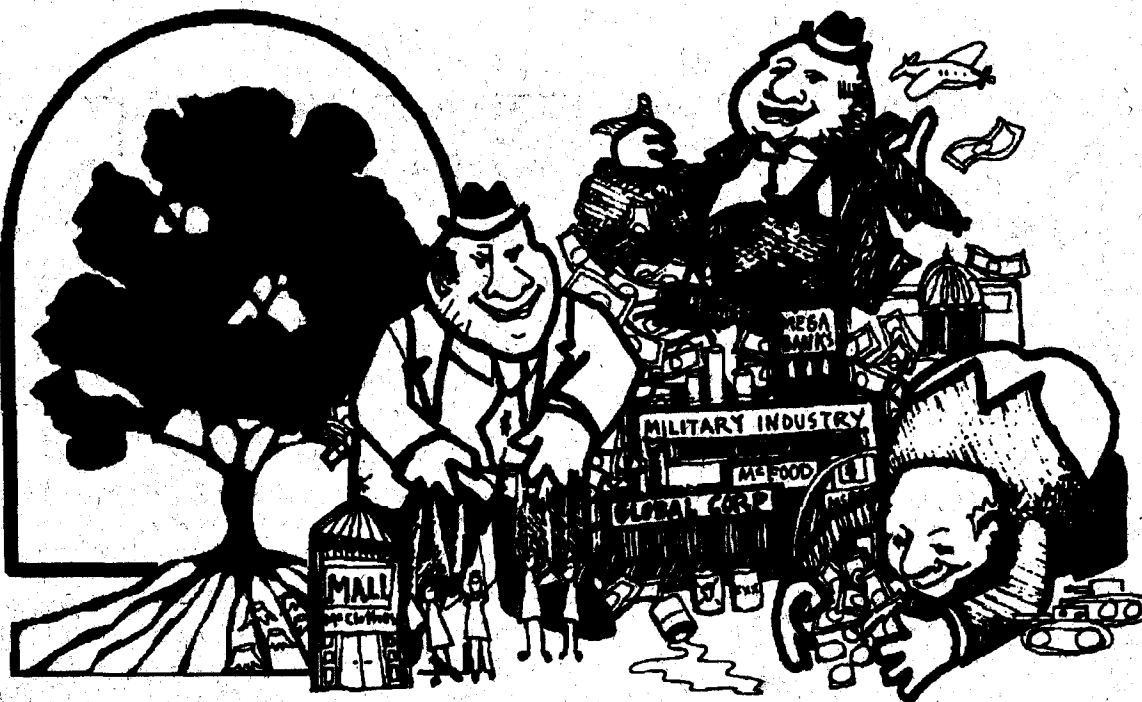
The OJJDP five year study found recidivism rates were generally worse for boot camp graduates than for control groups of similar kids in juvenile prisons or probation. This was primarily attributed to lackluster post-release care. "None of the programs," stated the OJJDP report, "was prepared for the difficulties of reintegrating juvenile offenders back into families, neighborhoods, and schools after release." On the other hand, an intensive probation program for serious juvenile criminals in San

Francisco, according to a study commissioned by the city, dramatically reduced their recidivism for three years after completing the program. These results are particularly striking because the program took high-risk kids, instead of the low-risk youths usually selected for boot camps.

"A lot of programs claim success but they take the cream of the crop," said Dr. Randall Shelden, a criminal justice professor at the University of Nevada. "This is different. They took kids that by every prediction scale should have gotten into further trouble."

*Source: The Angolite—the prison news magazine of Angola (Louisiana) state prison.*





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**6** Open Hand's Amahl & the Night Visitors. 4pm. See 12/4 for info.



**13** Silver Tea Holiday Party sponsored by Pride Community Center & NAMES Project. At the home of Mr. Ted Puncta, 328 Genesee Park Dr., Syracuse. \$1-\$10 sliding scale. 3-6pm. 428-1650 or 488-4840.

**14** Syracuse United Neighbors/ Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 478-7475.

**15** EVERY TUESDAY: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 10-2pm. Meet new friends, eat lunch, take in a program. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 478-8634.

**16** NAACP general mtg. 7pm. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Saline St. 422-6833.

**17** Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 624 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Free Food!

**18** EVERY FRIDAY: Teen Scene for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8634.

**19** EVERY SATURDAY: Food Not Bombs serving food at Everson Museum. 3-5pm. Call Jamie or Merika at 478-8428 for info.

**20** EVERY SUNDAY: 81 Percent, Women's issues radio program, WRVO FM 90. 6-8:30pm.

**21** Syracuse United Neighbors/ Westside meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddies & Delaware, 7:30pm. 478-7475.

**22** Commemoration of the 1-17 anniversary of the Atrial massacre in Chile. Organized by Syracuse Zapata Solidarity, Call Brian or Bob for info. 423-4783.

**23** EVERY WEDNESDAY: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478.

**24** EVERY THURSDAY: Shing Meditation at Women's INFO, 801 Allen St. 7-8:05am. Free.

**25** EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

**26** EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time Warner Cable channel 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

**27** EVERY SUNDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 11:30am. Time Warner Cable channel 3. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

**28** EVERY MONDAY: "Radiovision" on Time Warner Cable Ch. 3 at 8pm. Presented by Syracuse Community Radio.

**29** EVERY TUESDAY: Community Media Action Group meeting. 7:30pm. Call Ace for place, 423-7856.

**30** EVERY WEDNESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.

**31** EVERY THURSDAY: Golden Cafe at Westcott Community Center. 10-2pm. Meet new friends, eat lunch, take in a program. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 478-8634.

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**1** World AIDS Day Morning Services. Le Moyne College Chapel. 7:30am. Sponsored by AIDS Community Resources. 475-2430.

**2** 1st THREE WEDNESDAYS: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Av. 6:30pm. 472-5478.

**3** Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 5:30pm. 478-8228.

**4** Open Hand Theater presents Amahl & the Night Visitors, with puppetry & music. Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St. 8pm. 478-0468. Also on Dec. 5-6, 10-12.

**5** Dec. 5 & 6: Plowshares Crafts Fair at the Southwest Community Center, 401 South Ave. See you there!

**6** Open Hand's Amahl & the Night Visitors. 4pm. See 12/4 for info.

**7** EVERY MONDAY: Teen Scene for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8634.

**8** HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 328 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.

**9** NOW CNY Chapter meeting. Marine Midland Bank, 360 S Warren, 7pm. 487-3188.

**10** EVERY THURSDAY: Teen Scene for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8634.

**11** Cheap Art Auction. Westcott Community Center. Fundraiser for ENACT. 6:30pm viewing, 7:30pm auction. Sam, 478-3178.

**12** Open Hand's Amahl & the Night Visitors. 4pm. See 12/4 for info.

**13** Justice for Jonny Gammage Vigil. God's Way Church, 1800 S. Saline St. 5:30pm.

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**21** Syracuse United Neighbors/ Westside meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddies & Delaware, 7:30pm. 478-7475.

**22** Commemoration of the 1-17 anniversary of the Atrial massacre in Chile. Organized by Syracuse Zapata Solidarity, Call Brian or Bob for info. 423-4783.

**23** EVERY WEDNESDAY: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478.

**24** EVERY THURSDAY: Shing Meditation at Women's INFO, 801 Allen St. 7-8:05am. Free.

**25** EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

**26** EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time Warner Cable channel 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

**27** EVERY SUNDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 11:30am. Time Warner Cable channel 3. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

**28** EVERY MONDAY: "Radiovision" on Time Warner Cable Ch. 3 at 8pm. Presented by Syracuse Community Radio.

**29** EVERY TUESDAY: Community Media Action Group meeting. 7:30pm. Call Ace for place, 423-7856.

**30** EVERY WEDNESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.

**31** EVERY THURSDAY: Golden Cafe at Westcott Community Center. 10-2pm. Meet new friends, eat lunch, take in a program. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Av. 478-8634.

**32** EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

**33** EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time Warner Cable channel 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

**34** EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.

**35** EVERY MONDAY: Teen Scene for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8634.

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Plowshares Crafts Fair & Winter Peace Festival  
**December 1998**

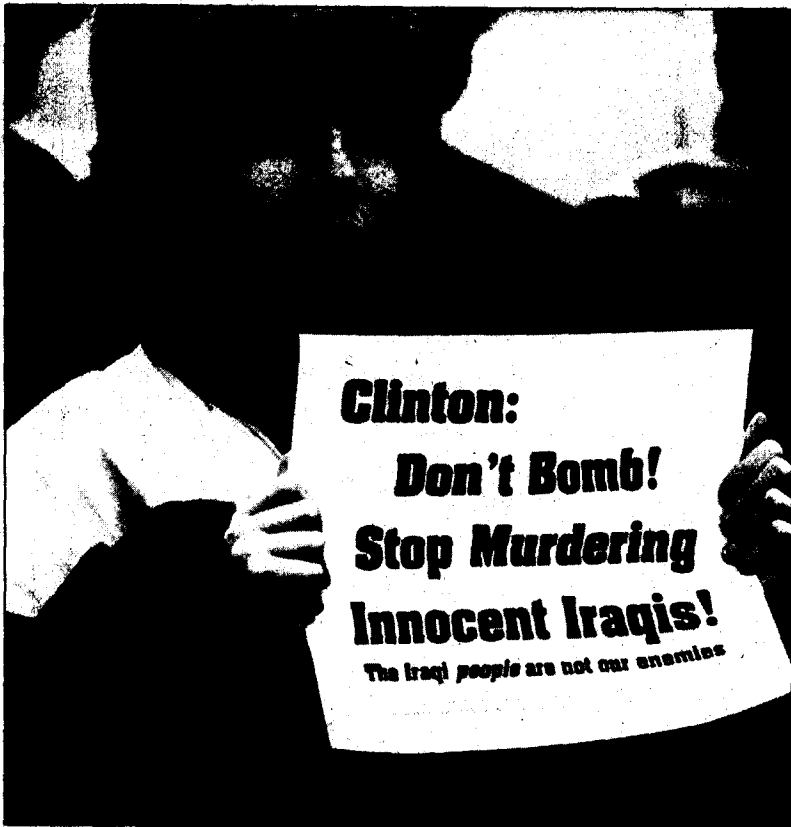


Photo by Jamie McCallum

Protester Mara Mosley-Hogan at the February 1998 action, the federal building, downtown Syracuse.

# Disarm the sanctions!

Over 1,500,000 Iraqi people have died in the 8 years of UN sanctions. UNESCO reports that 7,000 people are dying each month right now.

*Sanctions are a weapon of  
Mass Destruction!*  
stop US hypocrisy!

# LET IRAQ LIVE!

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