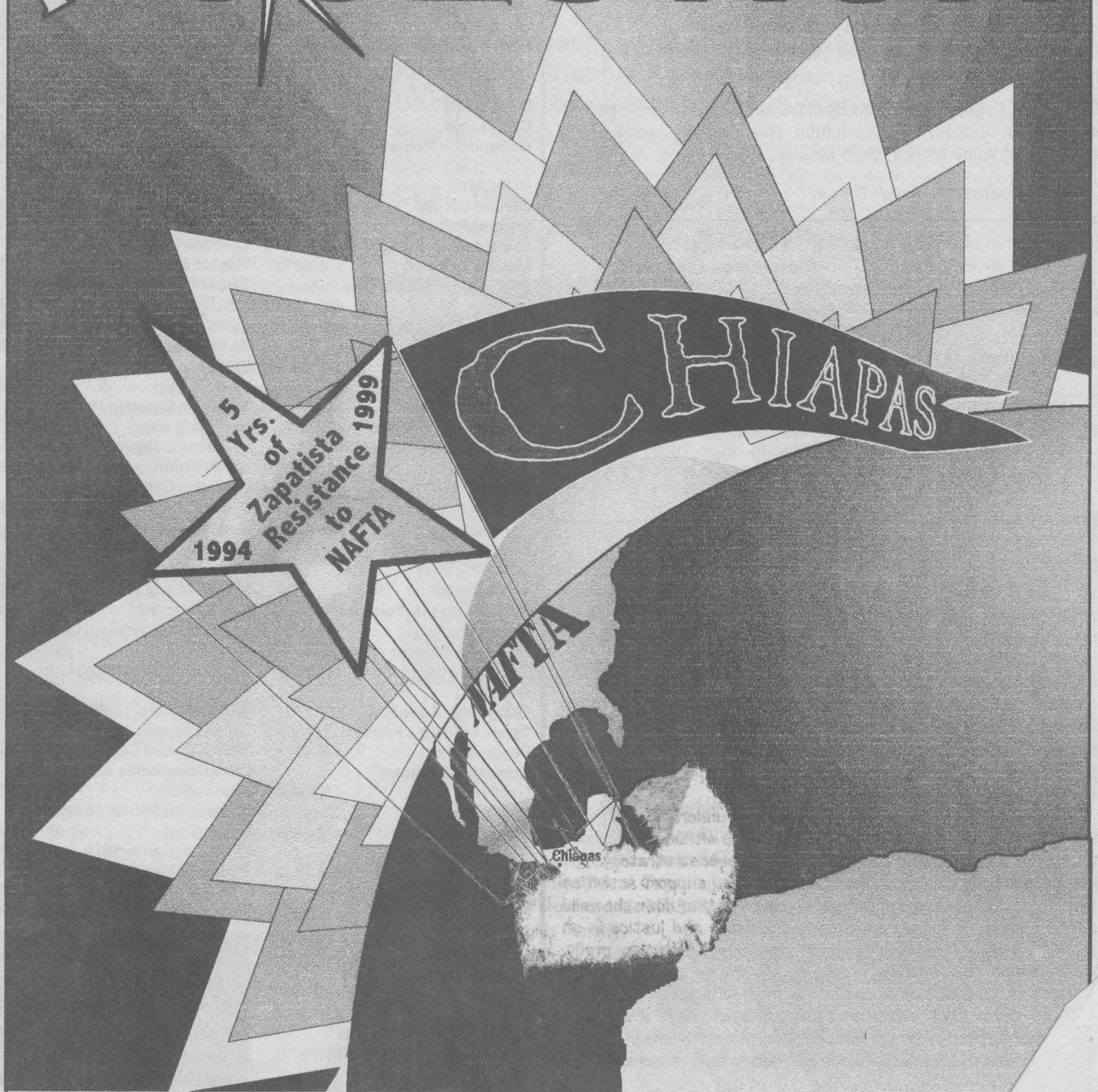


Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice January 1999 PNL 675

RESOLUTION



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 Blockade of Cuba		Responsibility	488-2140
Doug Igelrud	471-5749	Planned Parenthood	475-5525
ACLU-CNY Chapter		PWHIV/AIDS Support Hotline	
Barrie Gewanter	471-2821	Sandra	471-5911
Alliance-Psychiatric System		ReConsider	
Survivors		Nick or Alex Eyle	422-6231
George Ebert	475-4120	Religion: Other	
American Friends Service		Phoenix or Kat	474-8801
Committee	475-4822	Rose Center	
Animal Defense League	479-9105	Teri Cameron	422-3426
ARISE	472-3171	Sarah House	475-1747
Atlantic States Legal Foundation		Save the County	637-6066
	475-1170	SEEDS	(607) 749-2818
Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition		Service Employees International	
Paul Weichselbaum	446-6099	Robert Tompkins	424-1750
Citizens Against Radioactive		Sierra Club	
Dumping	(607) 753-6271	Sue Carlson	445-1663
Citizen Review Board		Small Claims Court Action	
Felicia Davis	448-8750	Center	443-1401
CNY Center for Occupational		S.O.A. Watch/ CNY	
Health and Safety	471-6187	Ed Kinane	478-4571
CNY Environment		Social Workers for Peace	
Lee Gechas	446-5319	Dick Mundy	445-0797
CNY N.O.W.	487-3188	Socialist Party	
Community Media Action Group	423-4783	Ron Ehrenreich	478-0793
	(607) 255-7293	Spanish Action League	475-6153
CUSLAR		SU African-American Society	
Dunbar Center			443-4633
Merriete Pollard	476-4269	Student Environmental Action	
Fair Housing Council of CNY		Coalition	
Merrilee Witherell	471-0518	Michelle Baumfleck	423-8000
Fair Trial for Mumia Committee		Syr. Alternative Media Network	
	472-5478	Tim Brachocki	425-8806
Food Bank of CNY	437-1899	Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society	
Food Not Bombs		SAVES/Joe Connolly	437-2163
Jamie or Marika	479-9429	Syracuse Community Choir	
Hemlock Society		Karen Mihalayi	428-8724
Betty Bentley	463-0782	Syracuse Community Radio	
Hotel Employees 150	437-0373	Frederic Noyes	234-2000
Irish Northern Aid		Syracuse Cooperative Federal	
Patrick Smith	469-8948	Credit Union	471-1116
Jail Ministry	424-1877	Syracuse Cultural Workers	
Kenark Center for Creative		Dik Cool	474-1132
Spirituality	685-5414	Syracuse-EI Salvador Sister	
Lesbian/Gay Youth	443-3599	Community	
NAACP		Shirley Novak	446-6099
Van Robinson	422-8933	Syracuse N.O.W.	472-3294
Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.		Syr. Real Food Coop	472-1385
Ammie Chickering	365-2299	Syr. Social Movement Initiative	
New Environment Association		John Burdick	443-3822
Harry Schwarzlander	446-8009	Syracuse United Neighbors	
NYPIRG	476-8381	Rich Puchalski	476-7475
Onondaga Audobon	457-7731	S.U. for Animal Rights	443-4199
Onon. Women's Political Caucus		Urban League	
Peggy Murray	475-7671	Eloise Dowdell Curry	472-6955
Open Hand Theatre		Utica Community Action	
Geoff Navias	476-0466	John Furman	797-7020
Pax Christi		Witness for Peace Delegations	
Frank Woolever	446-1693	Nancy Gwin	422-4689
Peace Action of CNY		Women's Center (SU)	443-4268
Diane Swords	478-7442	Women's Health Outreach	
Peace Brigades International			425-3653
Ed Kinane	478-4571	Women's INFO Center	478-4636
P.E.A.C.I.E., Inc.			
Louis Clark	470-3300		
People Against the Death			
Penalty	637-3344		
People for Animal Rights			
	488-PURR(7877)		
Physicians for Social			

(If you want your group listed, please call)

We are currently updating this page and could use your help. If you see anything that needs to be added or corrected, please contact us.

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

About the cover:

"5 Years of Zapatista Rev(s)olution"

by Adrienne Allen, Tim Judson & Bill Mazza

This month's cover commemorates five years of Zapatista revolution. The current wave of indigenous resistance in Chiapas is a direct response to NAFTA, and the new world order it proposes. NAFTA's erasure of national boundaries in favor of multinational corporate interests does not bring the world's peoples together. The "Global Village" is a neo-liberal myth, an alibi for dead bodies, stolen land, and exploitation. The Zapatistas' resistance signifies the hope and power of grassroots, community movements to preserve human dignity and realize a society that values people over profit. — *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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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

THANKS TO THE DECEMBER PNL MAILING PARTY-ERS, WHO CAME AND HELPED DESPITE THE CHANGE IN SCHEDULE

January PNL meetings
January 6 & 20, 5:30pm
February Issue Deadlines

Articles	Jan 15
Ads	Jan 22
Calendar Items	Jan 22

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FEAZE
 v. to disturb, unravel or untwist
 n. the grandest of events;
featuring:
 special word entries from Tomoko Dougherty, Patricia Lawler, Shereen Pillai and many by Gary Berry, Louisa, Gypsy and Colleen Kattau, Eugene Lopez, Free Radical, Ned Olin, ...
 adj. unforgettable, joyous, political, accessible, feminist, proactive
 hopeful

The Westville Community Council
 a benefit for the Syracuse Peace Council
 selling seats \$1 - \$10
 call SPC for details.

Corrections

We regret the omission of Sally Luther's name with her article "Free Education and the Keys to Democracy" (12/98 PNL, page 15). Sally is a teacher and member of Organizing for Public Education Now and the NYS Coalition against the Death Penalty.

Jennifer Lee's article, "Watchdogs Urge Welfare Recipients to Speak Out" (12/98 PNL, page 10), neglected to mention that the October 29 forum at South Presbyterian Church was a People's Roundtable event, co-spon-

sored by Welfare Watchdogs and the Syracuse Social Movements Initiative. There was, unfortunately, no mention of the People's Roundtable in the article. We apologize to the People's Roundtable organizers and participants for that omission. The People's Roundtable has been sponsoring programs of interest and impact for grassroots community people for 18 months now. SPC supports the PR's mission to provide a valuable venue for creative programming from diverse sources.

— PNL Committee

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

Plowshares Craftsfair— No Bah Humbug Here

Plowshares — our annual winter festival and craftsfair - was a wonderful time for crafters, visitors, and organizers alike. In a strange turn of events, the only negative was the spring-like weather on Sunday, December 6th, which resulted in a somewhat lower attendance than hoped for. (Imagine that — whining about 70 degrees and sunshine in December.) Plowshares is the Peace Council's largest single fund-raising activity each year and we are pleased that the financial outcome approximated that of last year. This means that about 1500 people came together over two days to share their work, buy gifts, visit with friends, eat, make music, and enjoy themselves while supporting the creative work of local crafters and artists.

The two-day festival is the culmination of many, many hours of work and cooperative problem-solving. The staff and members of the SPC Council want to thank the people whose participation contributed to this weekend of fellowship and fun. Plowshares continues to be a time for family and friends to gather and be part of the holiday scene away from the stress and commercialization of mainstream mall and media.

Thanks, then to:

- **the Plowshares Committee** who put the do together (Beth, Barbara, Margaret, Paul P., Andy, Mardea, Lanny, Karen, Rae)
- **Southwest Community Center** who provide the space and came through with some last-minute essential help (Jesse, Sam, Red)
- **the food group** who continue to wow everyone with their delicious, healthy meals and snacks (Nick, Bill, and others)
- **the volunteer regulars** who staff the Peace Council tables, serve as greeters, help with childcare and the Front Room Bookstore (lots and lots of names - a complete listing not available now but coming)
- **the donors of the raffle prizes** whose generosity makes winning a prize real for 40 lucky ticket holders (Hudson & Mowins Auto Repair, Design Lines, Margaret Birdleough, Barb DeFranqueville, Chimneys Video, J. Michael Shoes, Artifice Gallery, 7 Rays Bookstore, the Syracuse Real Food Coop, the Front Room Bookstore, the Syracuse Cooperative Credit Union, Samirs, William Knodel, Howard Walsdorf, Karen

Kerney, the Syracuse Cultural Workers, the Jerk-Hut, RazzBerry's, Culture Shock, Bersani's Jewelers, the Gay and Lesbian Chorus, Eureka Gallery, Bicycle Alley, Boom Babies, the SOA Abolitionists Affinity Group, Alessandro's Pizza, Judy Fancher, Hairanoia, Kathy Berry, My Sisters' Words, Andre Williams, the donor of the special hoe, and last but not least Lanny Freshman for building and donating the wooden trea-

sure chest, our grand prize.)

- **the crafters, entertainers, and visitors** who with the rest make Plowshares the place to be the first weekend in December. (Mark your calendar now for next year so you won't miss it. Ed and Kathleen, our local cherished felons, will have completed their extended stay in federal prison and perhaps we'll see them behind a Peace Council table instead of behind bars.)

Okinawan Peace Delegation: White Ship of Peace fulfills mission at Onondaga Nation

THE SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL was honored to be invited to a Longhouse gathering welcoming the people of the "White Ship of Peace" to the Onondaga Nation. A delegation of 130 people left Okinawa in October, and traveled throughout the US sharing music and their message of peace: "*Lay down your weapons — Take up musical instruments.*" The journey was organized and led by Shoukichi Kina, one of his country's most popular musicians. Before arriving at Onondaga, they delivered their message of peace at the UN on the 50th Anniversary of the World Proclamation of Human Rights

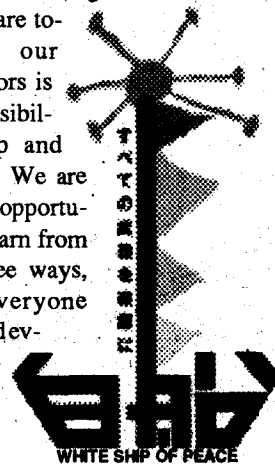
The delegation represented indigenous people of Okinawa, Hokkaido's Ainu, and mainland Japanese who chose to complete their travels with the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy) because of the unity they feel with their perspective on peace and a desire to learn from their history. Speakers expressed great admiration for the Haudenosaunee people. In the program used for their performances they write: "Peacemaker, the legendary founder of the Iroquois Confederacy, preached the spirit of peace and conflict resolution through orderly council about a thousand years ago. He collected all weapons and buried them under a great tree."

A festive gathering was held at the Longhouse of the Onondaga Nation on December 10. Traditional Chiefs and Clan Mothers representing all Six Nations were present, and the Longhouse was filled with members of the Onondaga community, visitors, and the White Ship of Peace Delegation. Prayers of welcome and safety were spoken in Iroquois

languages, then patiently translated through English into Japanese. Many Native Americans spoke to their guests, sharing their thoughts and feeling as is the tradition of the Longhouse. After this, the visiting delegation returned prayers and words by various representatives, spoken in Japanese and translated into English. A strong intention was affirmed to use this connection to continue to build a worldwide movement for peace.

Finally the celebration began with a performance of music, dance and drumming by the visitors. Following this the Haudenosaunee shared *their* drumming and dancing. Everyone joined in and danced long into the night. At the end of the evening the members of the visiting delegation were asked to stand, while first the Chiefs, then the Clan Mothers, followed by all of the other men and then all of the other women shook the hand of every person and spoke to them. One thing we are reminded of every time we are together with our Onondaga neighbors is the power and possibility of leadership and people being one. We are thankful for every opportunity we have to learn from the Haudenosaunee ways, where truly everyone dances together and every person is important.

—Carole Resnick



SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

Going to Fort Benning Inspires a Song

Many words have and will be written describing the recent demonstration at Fort Benning, Georgia to close the School of the Americas. These words will record the actions taken and the feelings of solidarity, sadness, and inspiration experienced. Most of these words will be quite serious, in recognition of the importance of the work and the commitment of the people who participated. There can be power too, however, with words that are lighter, albeit somewhat bittersweet.

I traveled to Fort Benning last November 19th as part of a three-car caravan from Syracuse. Somehow we got involved in singing for each other at some of our rest stops. The following song was written by Barb DeFranqueville, Nick and Cathy Cardell, and myself as we rode together. It is sung to the tune of Frere Jacques and can be sung as a round. Feel free to sing this song whenever the spirit moves you.

Colonel Weidner, Colonel Weidner,
Go away, go away.
We've come to say good-bye sir (2x)
And close the SOA (2x)

6,000 will be coming (2x)

Lucas did say (2x) *

Coming to Columbus, Coming to Columbus
To close the SOA (2x)

Pack your bags dear Colonel (2x)

Update your resume (2x)

Benning will not need you (2x)

When we close the SOA (2x)

We hear there's work in Salvador (2x)

For 50 cents a day (2x)

Protecting corporate profits (2x)

Thanks to the SOA (2x)

So adios dear Colonel (2x)

You'll soon be on your way (2x)

You're welcome to come join us (2x)

To close the SOA (2x)

— Rae Kramer

* this refers to a quote from Sara Lucas, local SOA Abolitionist Affinity Group member, who was interviewed by the Syracuse newspapers before her departure for Fort Benning.

I Wuz Robbed!

Ah - the cry of the frustrated bowler as the 10-pin stays glued to the alley. You, too, can be part of the action.

Join us on **January 24, 1999**, from **1:00 to 4:00 pm** when the Peace Council hosts the **SPC Strike for Peace** bowling gala.

Here is your chance to bowl away the post-holiday, mid-winter, gray skies blues. Gather with friends, family, and closet activist/bowlers to have a fun afternoon and help raise some money for the Peace Council.

We have reserved the entire Erie Boulevard Bowling Center and are looking to fill 20 lanes with from 80 to 120 bowlers and an uncounted number of supporters and kibitzers. Each lane will have 4-6 bowlers depending on the number of folks who sign up. Several lanes are equipped with bumpers for children (or really hesitant grown-ups). The cost is \$10 per bowler (\$5.50 for three games and shoes, and \$4.50 donation). Bowlers will also be asked to sign up pledgers for some amount per pin (e.g. 2 cents, 3 cents, etc.) or a fixed amount (e.g. \$5, 10, ?). These pledges can also be used to cover the \$10 fee. The snack bar will be open, with a special price for

Syracuse Peace Council

STRIKE FOR PEACE

soft drinks. You are welcome to bring your own food if burgers, wings, and pizza are not your thing.

In the spirit of the Peace Council, we will be alternatively competitive; e.g. lane with the best outfits, lane that provides the best entertainment (planned or spontaneous), other criteria we haven't figured out yet. Special recognition will be given to the first people who signed up: Bill Mazza, Jolie Rickman, Helen Carter, and Michael Burton. We understand from local grapevine intelligence that the following are planning to participate: Syracuse Cultural Workers (who may fill up two lanes), the Ladies against Women (who will *take off their white gloves to bowl*), and Karen Hall (who will be bowling with state champ, Teri Vigars).

Call **472-5478** soon to sign up. See you there with your bowling shoes on. (Do the Ladies wear bowling shoes?)

— Rae Kramer

Community Calendar Coordination

A recent radio broadcast interviewed members of a small, local music ensemble. The spokesperson mentioned the group's music offerings to the community: performances in late fall, 1999 and a spring 2000 event. The lightbulb of embarrassment, gleefully energized by NiMo, went off.

Can we be serious about winning peace and freedom through nonviolent direct action if, here in late December, 1998, we have not cleared the calendar for this coming spring's fund-raiser? If we haven't had conversation with the local war tax resisters (March), CNY/SOA activists (May), the Juneteenth organizers (June), and Gay Pride parade committee members (June)?

The Peace Council has committed to a February Community Calendar Coordinating moment. During January, 1999, we will make contact with the many peace and justice organizations known to the Peace Council. We will invite representatives to a community calendar coordinating meeting, to do nothing more—and nothing less than—share information about definite and proposed calendar

events, March through August, perhaps until the end of the year.

We are convinced all of us can benefit from this bare-bones coordination. A twice a year calendar sharing time may be sufficient.

The expectation builds that organizations will begin to not only share this line: "We have an event planned for June 15," but will also offer this radical suggestion: "How might we work together on a project of common interest, and when might that take place?"

If we can put onto one large piece of paper the upcoming peace and justice events of the next several months, and bring together planners from a number of community organizations, the initial gathering of the Community Calendar Coordination Committee will have been more than worthwhile.

We invite representatives of community organizations to call the Peace Council and indicate your interest in this calendar-coordinating moment. — Paul Frazier

pfrazier@ican.net

PNL Manifesto is Unfair to Mainstream Media

"For what it's worth..." A Sort of Manifesto is a good example of thinking of the left regarding the mainstream media.

As a long term activist dating back to civil rights work in Mississippi and an active member of the Peace Council during the Vietnam War days I feel compelled to address the statement that the "mainstream media in Syracuse gives [sic] voice only to the powerful or the idiosyncratic." It is a slap in the face to the numerous reporters, editors, talk show hosts and columnists who have reported on a variety of social justice issues over the twenty-five years I have lived in Syracuse.

It is easy to criticize the mass media and almost everyone does from the left to the right of the political spectrum. Yet, I know very few progressive activists who are willing to take the time to learn how to work with the media,

form relationships with reporters and do the work which can be extremely frustrating at times.

The "manifesto" in the Peace Council newsletter is the type of "complaining" which

is very common in progressive publications. It is not only a simplistic analysis of a complex institution but also is counter productive as it provides progressive activists with a built in justification for not spending the time it takes to learn the skills necessary to do press work and deal with the

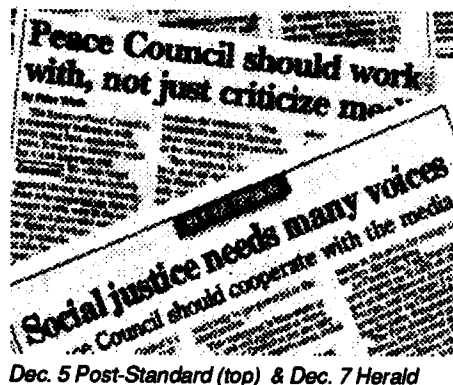
frustrations of working in a very competitive market.

As I write this I am hearing a news report on WAER on the protest at the School of the Americas in Georgia and last night I watched a news report on channel 9 regarding the same demonstration. Without even seeing the *Post Standard* I would bet money that there is or

will be a news story in the paper in the next few days. Could the news reports be longer more thorough or forceful etc.? Probably! But, the news media in Syracuse is reporting on the event.

The Peace Council is a legitimate voice in the community and has much to offer. It would be way ahead of the game if instead of just criticizing the media it took the time and made a commitment to get their message before the general public. Sincerely yours,

Peter Wirth



Dec. 5 *Post-Standard* (top) & Dec. 7 *Herald*

Response to Peter Wirth's Comments in *Post-Standard* & *Herald Journal*

A version of Peter Wirth's letter was published in the *Syracuse Newspapers* (P-S, December 5; H-J, Dec. 7). Upon pointing out to the editors the factual errors in Wirth's letter, Tim Judson was invited to write a response. The following letter was submitted Thursday, Dec 10.

Peter Wirth recently published a criticism of the Syracuse Peace Council in the *Syracuse Newspapers*. He criticized an article I wrote for the *Peace Newsletter* (entitled "... for what it's worth ..."), but unfortunately his criticism is based on a misquotation. Although he also praises the Peace Council for being an important voice for peace and social justice, some of his claims about SPC are unsubstantiated and he misrepresents SPC's work with the media. His error is unfortunate because it started what ought to be a valuable community dialogue on the wrong foot.

Wirth criticizes SPC for not working with the mass media and claims that we use complaints as excuses for not working with the

media. However, his points rest on a single sentence from my article, which he misquotes. He quotes: "The mainstream media in Syracuse gives voice only to the powerful or the idiosyncratic." If I had made such an unqualified statement about the Syracuse media — and omitted examples such as the ample coverage Anti-School of the Americas work has received — my statements would have been "inaccurate at best, and self-righteous at worst," as Wirth claims.

The actual statement was much more qualified: "We think that the mainstream media in Syracuse usually give voice only to the powerful or the idiosyncratic" (emphasis added). The intended point was that, while the mainstream media do cover some peace and social justice issues from a sympathetic perspective, there is much more that is not, or goes unreported at all.

Wirth ignores the numerous ways local activists have worked with the media, including all of SPC's current campaigns — School of the Americas, Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort, and Let Iraq Live! (to end the genocidal

SPC and the PNL want to know what people think about the issues raised on this page. In February we will air people's responses and find ways to continue this important dialogue. Please submit responses by January 20th, 1999.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If you missed last month's issue and would like a copy of "for what it's worth...": A Sort of Manifesto, contact SPC or drop by 2-5pm Monday through Friday.

sanctions on Iraq). While SPC has always promoted grassroots, alternative media through publishing the *Peace Newsletter* since 1936, it has always realized the importance of the mass media in reaching a broad spectrum of people at once. Also, he ignores the importance of existing alternative media in Syracuse (such as *The Pride*, *CNY Environment*, *The Pink Paper*, *Syracuse Community Radio*, <rootmedia.org>, and cable access television, to name but a few).

It is a shame that Mr. Wirth, himself a public relations and media consultant, could not see the point of my article, and instead misrepresented it and the work of SPC. The point of "... for what it's worth ..." was to start dialogue on a vision of how we can make our community-based media stronger and more diverse — a media that not only reflects the diversity of voices in CNY, but is generated by those diverse voices and enables people to speak for themselves. Hopefully that discussion can move forward again in a positive direction.

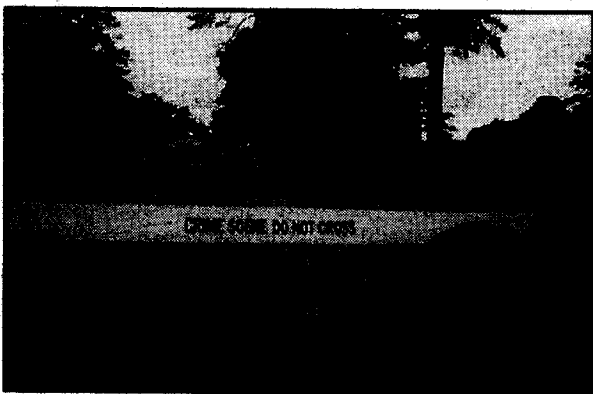
— Tim Judson
Coordinator, Peace Newsletter

7000 Protest at the School of the Assassins

A Report from the scene of the crime

Colleen Kattau

To get to Fort Benning, follow the strip joints, pawn shops, bars, and motels lining the main drag in that part of Columbus, and then turn left onto Fort Benning Boulevard. Separating the road into and out of the



base is a small triangular patch of grass with junipers that eventually widens once you've passed the now (in)famous "Welcome to Fort Benning" sign. A lovely tree-lined road, somewhat like the entrance to a national park, stretches on ahead for at least a mile or so, and eventually leads to the base's buildings. Crossing the line and risking arrest means going deeper into the base, to the part that you cannot see...

The stage for the vigil organized by SOA Watch was set up a few feet from the entrance sign. I got to the stage just in time to see an officer stretch bright yellow police tape across the road to further demarcate the protest area from the base. Interestingly enough, the tape was appropriately marked to read continuously "Do not cross-crime scene," which provided a great photo op since it was perfectly juxtaposed to the "Welcome to Fort Benning" sign just beyond it.

But the fact of the matter is that we were not really welcome there. Every hour or so, one hapless military officer would read a prewritten statement over a loudspeaker telling us that it was unlawful to have partisan gatherings (sic) in or around the base. He did not have an attentive audience since the 7000-

strong crowd easily tuned him out. Thanks to the relentless Roy Bourgeois whose house sits immediately to the left of the entrance (naturally), there was just enough room for us all.

The protesters were an incredible cross section of age, place, and culture. Every generation from newborns to ninety-year-olds were represented. If young people didn't dominate, they sure yelped the loudest. Nearly every part of America was represented as well, from Maine to Alaska, Florida to Oregon, and from Vancouver to Chile (better representation than the SOA's name suggests). Amidst all that difference there was an incredible sense of community and connection. That diversity was also reflected in the activists who addressed the crowd during the two-day vigil.

Early on, Reverend Tim McDonald reminded us that Fort Benning is "the people's property...the people's base," yet instead of being able to use it to articulate our own needs and de-

sires, we just get, in his words, "fe, fi, fo, fum all over the place." He likened us to grasshoppers whose strength lies in numbers, not in individual efforts alone.

Cecilia Rodriguez, representing the Zapatista liberation struggle, gave a powerful presentation as well. She reminded us of the

different realities we face here in the States, but how a clear heart and a clear movement has the capacity to change reality and overcome barriers of hate and injustice. She emphasized how crucial it is to work on both sides of the border. Her words came out like poetry as she movingly asserted that we have a responsibility to our hearts and our spirits, and to let our knowledge be nurtured by our blood.

When Guatemalan activist and survivor Adriana Bartow spoke, a distinct silence fell over the crowd. She spoke in very personal terms of how she worked her way through the racism of her culture and the sexism of her husband and community to educate herself for the sake of her children. As she became more and more aware and able to name the oppression she and others like her were experiencing, she found herself in greater danger. Yet, she could not stand back and be an accomplice to the terrible injuries she witnessed. She lost many members of her family to the repression and witnessed many atrocities, miraculously surviving herself by literally crawling her way into the country, where she received sanctuary in a Jewish synagogue. She ended her speech by demanding answers, and by asserting that what makes a country great is respect for the basic rights of its land and of its people.

One of the most powerful presences at the protest were the representatives of the Lakota

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CNY Joins the Chorus: Shut It Down!

Paul Frazier

The November 21-22 protest at Ft. Benning Georgia bound together the US Army School of the Americas (SOA) and the campaign calling for its close. No longer a connection based on accusations and denials, the future of the school has been wedded to SOA Watch, the small, but incredibly dynamic grassroots organization committed to closing the SOA. The bond between this \$18 million torture-training school and the people from across the country who say "Close it down!" has been woven from threads of activism, protest, and civil disobedience. Nonviolent discipline and creative energy have strengthened these threads. The names of victims of the graduates of the school add to the strength of the cloth of resistance.

Strands of these threads continue to be woven in upstate New York. The Central New York SOA Abolitionists, a combination affinity group and organizing effort, played and will continue to play a significant role in that bond between a school that honors graduates who torture and a group schooled in principles of nonviolence.

The events of November 21 and 22, in Columbus, Georgia, carried an upstate flavor as unmistakable as the "o" sound when a Central New Yorker says "orange."

Consider: the nation's oldest peace and justice organization, the SPC, and its publication, the PNL. Consistently, for over two years, the *Newsletter* has brought its readership up-

to-date information about the campaign when, quite literally, few knew what SOA stood for. Remember: the Sanctuary Movement in Syracuse, in its essence a personal commitment

and coordinated nonviolent direct action on behalf of victims of the school. Enumerate: the Central New Yorkers who traveled to Central and Latin America in the '80's and 90's. Count: the delegations. Recall: the development of a Sister Cities Project. Know: many, many dollars have been contributed to help close the SOA. Weave into that tapestry Plowshares actions, a strong Peace Brigades International project, trip after trip to Rome AFB, civil disobedience actions at Immigration offices, and a growing number of Central New Yorkers who made a commitment to travel to Columbus, Georgia.

No surprise, then, that eighteen Central New Yorkers crossed the line at Ft. Benning, November 22, 1998. Two women, Nancy Gwin and Rita Gabaccia, recrossed that "Dare you" strip on innocent looking tarmac at the gate of the base, risking six months in federal prison.

Reports from the action of November 22 at Columbus suggest "the army blinked" in the face of 2,319 citizens crossing the line onto the base. If the army blinked, it came out of a long stare at thousands who decided they would not be moved. And for a Central New Yorker, what a thrill to see familiar faces and hear upstate "o's" in all over Columbus, behind the scenes and up on the speaker platform.

A few glimpses of the North in the South:

Back in early spring, at May Memorial, Margaret Birdleough announced she was going South to help establish a presence in Columbus. And what a presence she and Charlie

Litkey— WWII Congressional Medal of Honor recipient and ardent activist—created! A rented apartment, tucked into an innocent-looking side street two miles from the gate of

Ft. Benning, became home for literally hundreds during the weekend of the vigil. In



addition to constantly vigiling at the gate during the summer fall, the resident presence-creators turned the extensive back yard into a hauntingly beautiful campground for a dozen or more sites, campsites that filled up with travelers from all over the country the weekend of the protest.

A kitchen as big as a closet was used to prepare dinner for well over a hundred protesters Saturday night. The living room seldom held no less than thirty at a time, a constant gentle flow of people, stopping for a dinner, listening to Jolie Rickman and Colleen Kattausing, catching a snippet of a conversation with Roy Bourgeois, helping Nick and Cathy Cardell put finishing touches on coffins, helping Sara and Rich Lucas with the thousands of errands and details, going with Rae Kramer to the vigil site for the midnight to two a.m. shift to keep an eye on the speakers and pre-protest set-up equipment. Hearing stories about the mayor of Columbus stopping by the vigil site at midnight, making sure all was O.K. Listening to the story of the police who cruised the neighborhood, ostensibly because of complaint of noise—there was an assortment of a dozen or more out-of-state cars at any moment lining the street at the vigil house—the officer told Margaret that the police were aware and very supportive of the activities that rose from what was by now known as the "vigil house."

Central New Yorker voices were heard throughout the day of vigiling, Saturday the 21st. What a treat to go to a local church for nonviolence training and see over two hundred activists, waiting in line to attend the next

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Recycling Risks on the High-Stakes Highway

Weapons Plutonium May Come to Syracuse as Early as Spring 1999

Tim Judson

Syracuse has been chosen for an historic role in yet another chapter of the nuclear oddyssey. The exciting part about this one is that it involves some of the industry's action superstars: the Departments of Defense and Energy, who brought you arms proliferation, deterrence, and Cold War psychosis; Russia (the former Soviet Union, co-star with the US in Nuclear Madness); and Canada, long-time box office underdog, about to put itself in the big lights with a breakthrough performance.

To top it off, there will be lots of thrills and suspense, with police escorts and gratuitous quantities of loaded guns and sublimated erotic tension. And best of all, all of it is riding on risky highway scenes with tractor trailers and precious cargo "every one" (thinks "everyone") wants. A in most of these epic dramas, though most of the bland provincials will be expected to stand aside or sit sti while the stunt drivers turn the tow upside down like dust and turn bleweeds in their wake.

Recycled Waste: the Alchemy Myth

For decades the US government rejected nuclear reprocessing. The term refers to the practices of either reusing radioactive materials for different purposes, or trying to "recycle" the waste from one use into material for the same use.

Unlike genuine recycling, which seeks to reduce waste and minimize the impact of human activities in the environment, the governing principle in nuclear reprocessing is turning garbage and poisons into big business. Invariably, though, it does not reduce the amount of toxic waste in the world, and usually produces a great deal more and spreads it around through transporting it and unsafe storage. (A good overview of reprocessing is Simon Morrin's June '97 PNL article.)

MOX & the Plutonium Economy

Reprocessing could be coming to Central New York as early as this Spring, due to the Dept.

of Energy's mixed oxide (MOX) fuel program. The DoE is responsible for handling the stockpile of weapons-grade plutonium (Pu-239) recovered from dismantled nuclear warheads. Within four years, the US will have 50 metric tons of it (and Russia a similar amount) to be cared for.

The MOX proposal would convert that stockpile into fuel for nuclear power plants. It would be turned into oxide form (as when iron rusts, to make iron oxide), then mixed with uranium oxide in reactor fuel rods. Under the program, utilities would receive subsidies for using MOX and for refitting their plants to accommodate the "hotter" fuel. Thus, the nuclear industry stands to benefit financially by taking weapons materials off the DoE's hands. Nuclear weapons and nuclear power are becoming wedded in a plutonium economy.

(Incidentally, Niagara Mohawk has applied for both MOX program and the Dept. of

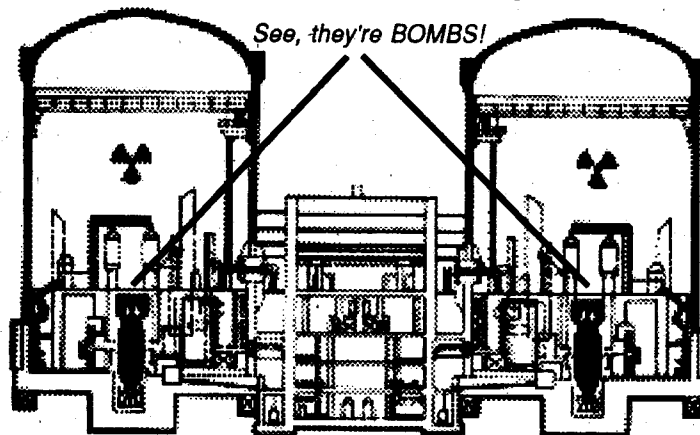
NIX X MOX

contamination of the environment to a nuclear chain reaction (ie, a meltdown).

- *Unpredictability during reactor operation.* Because it is "hotter" than normal fuel, MOX poses unknown problems for reactor safety systems. Contributing to this further, MOX is expected to cause core components to "age" or degrade more quickly.

- *Reprocessing.* As with transport, any tampering with plutonium causes increased chance of an accident. Handling creates larger opportunities for problems. In addition, reprocessing produces yet more toxic waste.

- *Waste.* MOX does not "burn" Pu-239, or even decrease the amount of it significantly. The "spent" fuel waste will be no less radioactive and long-lived than normal fuel. The paradox of the nuclear age is that, while we can produce this toxic waste to no end, there is no safe way of disposing of it. Also, as far as humans are concerned, nuclear waste is dangerous forever.



See, they're BOMBS!

Defense's tritium program at its Nine Mile 2 plant. Tritium is a radioactive form of hydrogen predominately used in warheads.)

Dangers of MOX

Mixed oxide fuel poses many different dangers, including:

- *Pu-239 itself,* possibly the most toxic substance known to humankind. Ingesting even a microscopic amount is likely to lead to fatal cancer.

- *Transport.* Moving Pu-239 poses significant risks, from traffic accidents to terrorist attack, theft, or sabotage. Risk from even a minor traffic accident is compounded by the possibility of an accident during clean-up or transfer to another vehicle. Release of radioactive materials could range from spillage and

Canada CANDU MOX

The first reactors to try out the DoE's MOX fuel will be in Canada's CANDU reactors. In fact, both the US and Russia plan to send MOX to Canada, possibly making Canada the world's nuclear waste dump. Russia and the US would absolve themselves of individual and mutual responsibilities for their weapons stockpiles, and Canada would inherit both the security risks and the waste problems of both superpowers.

Shipments of experimental amounts of MOX for use in Ontario's Chalk River plant could begin this spring. In order for this plan to work, though, the DoE has to get MOX from Los Alamos, NM to the US/Canadian border. Three routes were originally proposed (one via Wisconsin was nixed because of objec-

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Tragedy May be a Question of Degree

Before, During & After "Mitch" the Struggle Continues in Honduras

Michael Marsh

We've all heard the numbers. Seven thousand dead. Eleven thousand wounded. Over five thousand missing. Seven hundred thousand left homeless. While the numbers sound like the result of the latest U.S. attack on Iraq, this time the damage was caused not by bombs, but by nature. The primary victims: poor people living in Honduras and to a lesser extent Nicaragua and the other Central American countries.

At its peak in late October, Hurricane "Mitch", officially classified as the fourth strongest hurricane ever recorded, dumped up to two feet of rain a day on the Honduran coast. Its winds gusted up to 185mph, and its faltering and erratic path led it across the entire country of Honduras and into neighboring Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. At the time of this writing, now "Tropical Depression Mitch", is dropping rains with heavy winds in Florida.

The comparison of "Mitch" with war is not an unfair one. Only once in my life have I seen a city as ravaged as Tegucigalpa, Honduras' capital. That city was Beirut; the year was 1982. Where to begin?

The Education Ministry sits along the shores of the Choluteca River. Water, a week later, still engulfs its entire first floor and part of its second. The entire river-facing side of the block-long building has collapsed, as if some suicide bomber had decided to end his

life there. Documents float in the water and get hung up in the wires at the tops of telephone poles, which now stand only inches above the level of the water. Traffic, even in the roads that are not completely submerged, is at a standstill. Almost all of Tegucigalpa's major bridges have been washed away. Nationally, Honduras has lost 93 bridges — spanning a total of four miles!

Worse still is the devastation in Tegucigalpa's poorest neighborhoods. Many communities simply no longer exist—Barrio El Chile, Nueva Esperanza, the Soto, and Las Brisas, just to name a few. In one community where I work, the 14th of February, over 80% of the homes are now piled up at the foot of the hill where they once stood. I'm told that the landslide happened slowly, though the families were powerless to stop the three hour march of mud which piled their homes on top of one another. Families, and this is true of those affected throughout Honduras and probably the other Central American countries, that earn sixty dollars or less a month, have lost their homes and all of their possessions: beds, clothing, food, furniture and documents like diplomas and birth certificates (which they will need to apply for assistance.) The families with the least to lose, have lost the most.

The city of Tegucigalpa, and much of the urban coastline, is still without water. Ten days have passed. We flush our toilets once a day — last night I used the water which I cooked the spaghetti in, and we walk the streets in search of water to drink. It's so odd-looking seeing everyone carrying buckets wherever they go, like when Walkman's

were first made and everyone started carrying them. Water, fortunately, is to be found, usually from tanker trucks that roam the streets carrying banners thanking the United Nations. But like all things nowadays, Hondurans form long lines to get their water. We also form lines for rice and beans in the stores,

for gasoline in the gas stations, and even to cross one of the few remaining bridges.

Honduran cities suffer the injuries of looters. Our local police station, about eight blocks away, now holds 700 people suspected of looting. Since 94% of Honduras' prison population has never been tried and sentenced, who knows what will become of them? The most shocking aspect of the looting has been how accepted it is. As long as one doesn't actually enter a store through a broken window (and all the windows are broken), everything else is up for grabs. Even reputable poor families, who would never harbor a thief, fawn over the goods that their children have "found" in the market. In the last several days, this activity has slowed considerably, though it is hard to say whether this is so because there is nothing left to steal or because we now live under a 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew (and a "dry law"). At least the gunshots that I heard every thirty minutes or so at the beginning of the crisis are no longer heard.

Has Anything Changed?

As difficult and horrendous as "Mitch" has been on Honduras, has life here changed substantially? Yes and no. Yes, huge numbers of people died or are missing. Yes, up to 60% of Honduras' infrastructure is now gone, washed away. Yes, poor families are suffering without food, water and medical assistance. But aren't these the same problems that Hondurans, as residents of this hemisphere's second poorest country, have always suffered? Before Hurricane Mitch's victims become "Sally Strutherfied", let's look at Honduras before the storm. Most Hondurans have always been poor. While Tegucigalpa, with its population of one million people, is home to one-sixth of the nation's people, Honduras is still primarily an agricultural country. Its government, even after nearly twenty-years of elected presidents, was cited by three international institutions this year as the second most corrupt in Latin America. Most Hondurans have no legal title to land, many are only able to send their kids through four or five years of elementary school, and access to water, food, electricity and medical care are daily struggles. Hundreds died and nearly two hundred are still missing (the "disappeared") following U.S. sponsorship of state terror here in the 1980's.

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Stopping the War in Chiapas

Targets, Strategy and Tactics for Action

Brian Dominick

Most radicals involved in the Zapatista solidarity movement in North America seem to have reached some consensus that what we should be seeking, as per the suggestions of the Zapatistas themselves, are two distinct but interwoven goals. First is the notion of bringing the lessons of "zapatismo" home to our communities, organizing for the exercise of popular power, developing vibrant cultures of resistance, and approaching solidarity by practicing principles similar to those of the Zapatistas themselves. This is the approach I described in my last contribution called "Zapatismo in the North" (*Peace Newsletter* 673, November, 1998).

The second tier of our movement should be dealing with actually organizing to stop the ongoing war in Chiapas, the violence of which is at present almost purely one-sided, against the indigenous communities and campesinos of Southern Mexico. Make no mistake about it, this is a real war, as tangible as any in the Persian Gulf. At this stage, there are dramatic and alarming parallels between the situation in Chiapas and that in Vietnam in the early 1960s. Further escalation of the war is almost guaranteed at this point, and while it is not yet clear that an actual invasion involving US military is in the works, if the Zapatista resistance

builds significant strength, the likelihood of more direct US involvement will increase.

The basic strategic formula a popular movement uses to successfully stop a war — any war — is simple: Raise the costs to those waging the war until they exceed the perceived benefits of continued war-making. In other words, we need to make the war cost-prohibitive, in economic and political terms, so that it is no longer in anyone's interest to perpetuate the war.

So the first step is to identify those in whose interests the war in Chiapas actually

functions. The Mexican government and essentially all Mexican corporations are in favor of the war for obvious reasons. US corporations with interests in Chiapas, or Mexico more generally, are also against the Zapatistas because their resource markets are threatened by the spectre of Maya sovereignty which will surely exclude foreign investment and economic presence. US Corporations which sell military weapons, equipment, vehicles, aircraft, and so forth, are also gaining substantially from the war, since they are the chief suppliers of the Mexican military (primarily in the name of drug interdiction efforts, though it is well known that military "aid" is being largely diverted to Chiapas). The "low intensity conflict" raging in Southern Mexico is also in the interests of the US military/intelligence establishment itself, because it is deeply involved in training, supplying and otherwise aiding its Mexican counterpart, and receives funding for self-expansion with that in mind.

Finally, we must understand that the Zapatistas are considered enemies of all multinational corporations (and capitalism more broadly) as well as all governments because their very existence, and that of the cause they represent, is a serious threat to the status quo, not just

in Mexico but throughout the world. The "threat of a good example," as it has been termed, is recognized as very real.

Obviously the targets are too many to detail, and if we are going to build a movement aimed at stopping the war, we will have to focus on prioritized adversaries. Even though the Mexican government and Mexican financial interests are clearly those most directly tied to the war, they are far less accessible or accountable to us than their counterparts in the United States. While many groups in the US and Canada are holding demonstrations at

Mexican consulates, and surely news of such activity makes its way to President Zedillo in some form, that kind of activity is hardly a threat. Zedillo does not answer to us, he answers to his financial backers, and to some much lesser extent the population of Mexico which can vote his party out of power. But he doesn't answer to us directly. Why should he? It's even harder to reach Mexican corporations because even though their products may be marketed in the US, free trade has rendered the relationships between companies and countries nearly impossible to discern effectively

from a strategic standpoint.

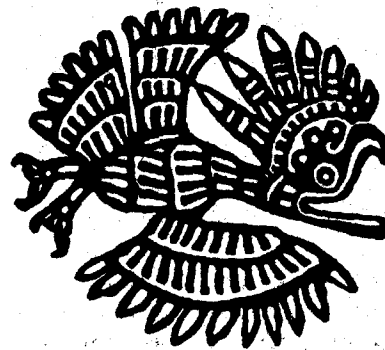
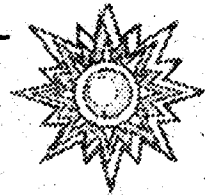
So we are essentially left with being able to raise costs to US corporations, the American government, and the army that protects their interests. Which is plenty to take on.

First let's look at the corporations, those with investments in Chiapas and those selling weapons to Mexico. These should be our primary targets, because they are what is really fueling the war. For this reason, several activists in the US are getting down to the nitty-gritty of researching these ties.

From that point, the issue of raising costs means directly attacking the specific companies involved. We will have to build momentum toward more and more militant strikes, ranging from pickets and other tactics intended to raise awareness, to civil disobedience and direct action meant to demonstrate our strength and resolve.

When we turn our eyes toward the US federal government, our goal should be to support legislation which will, in the interim, restrict the training and supplying of Mexican troops from US bases or firms, and will ostensibly prevent training south of the border as well. We know from the Iran/Contra/cocaine ordeal of the mid-'80s that such legislation cannot actually stop covert operations, and aid will continue through underground means. But this *does* raise costs to those waging the war. We cannot look at this kind of legislation

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The Zapatistas, and the cause they represent, are a serious threat to the status quo, not just in Mexico but throughout the world.

Five of Five Hundred and Six Years A Revolution Led

by Prophecies

“Since 1994, the Zapatista Liberation Army, in all their communiques, have said that the movement in Chiapas is not a movement to gain power, but to change the political, social and economical situation of indigenous people; to also ask the Mexican people to take on that struggle. And they go beyond that to ask the international community, wherever they are, to take on the way that they are doing this movement, and transform it in their own communities. We want to be able to reach beyond. It's not with arms. We use arms only to call attention to our situation. But since 1994, the Zapatista Liberation Army has not shot out a single bullet. To the contrary, the Mexican army has been terrorizing ... the communities in resistance.”



“Based in the traditional context of Mayan culture, the National Zapatista Liberation Army is following

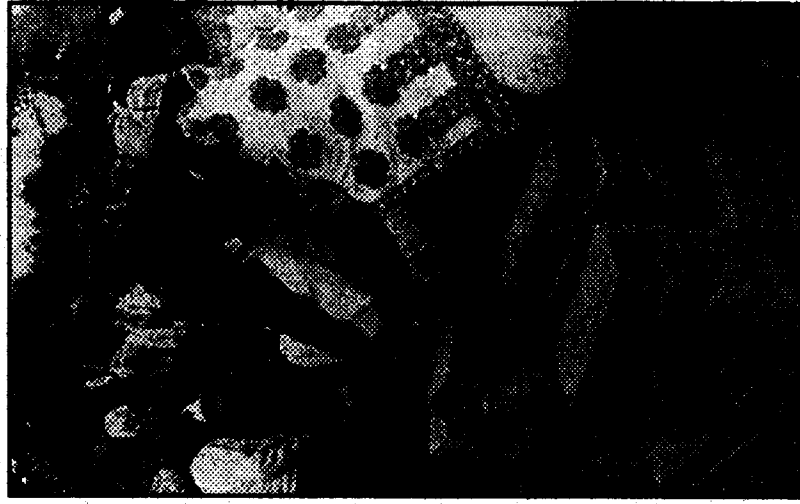
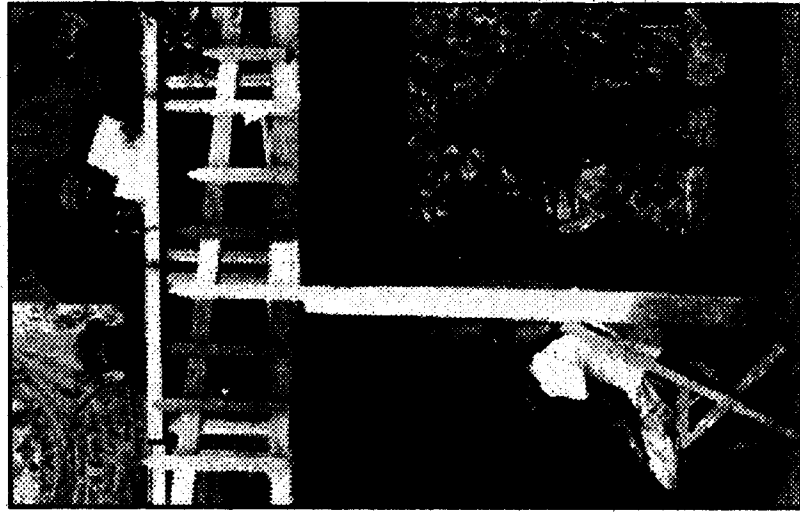




“With the Sixth Sun Prophecy, then, we step into the light, into the new beginning, the transformation.... The prophecies are coming to be fulfilled at this time by a movement that is ... transforming the thinking of the people involved in solidarity and support of the Mayan movement.”

Resistance, Culture, Rebuilding. This is “zapatismo.” The above words are those of Fernando Hernandez Perez, a Tzotzil Maya from Chiapas, presently carrying on the Zapatista struggle in Toronto. The pictures tell a part of the Zapatista story, which is intrinsically the Maya story. A traditional Maya contrasts himself with corporate and state colonialism (Scott Sady), a beggar returns the harassment of a soldier (Sady), an el-

of traditional government.... The elders are providing the vision of this movement.... We are saying that this ... is a revolution led by prophecies.... We have the Prophecy of the Sixth Sun. It will be a moment, it will be a time, when Mayan people will rise up from the mountains, like corn. And that was in 1994, January first.



der participates in traditional ritual (Sady), a Catholic disappears, massive resistance to troop occupations, and so forth. One year after the Ateal massacre which left 45 dead at the hands of paramilitaries during a religious ceremony, and five years since the uprising began, it is important to note that life goes on among the Maya people of Chiapas—their livelihood is as significant, and as important to hood has been repressed but not extinguished. — Brian Dominick

Chiapas Cont. from page 11

as some panacea enveloping all of our ideals and strategies. The system which created the conflict by its very existence will not solve the conflict in favor of its opponent. And, indeed, pressure will have to be maintained primarily on corporations — not Congress — because after all it is they who will eventually relent and allow the government to restrict its own and their activity. But only if popular pressure is overwhelming.

Where the military is concerned, an array of targets and tactics are at our disposal. Again we must build momentum in opposition to the Army's training of Mexican soldiers (and certainly its own direct involvement). We are in the midst of a two year period during which some 3000 Mexican soldiers are being trained at 17 US Army bases — on US soil! The US Army School of the Americas trained 300 Mexican troops in 1998 alone, but obviously the problem goes well beyond the SOA. The program which houses SOA and these other training projects is called International Military Education and Training (IMET). It also trains thousands of soldiers from outside Latin America each year here in the US. We have to take on IMET as a whole, not just SOA.

As if that were not disturbing enough, there have been reports from Chiapas that US military personnel are on the ground there, training some of the 72,000-100,000 troops presently stationed around Zapatista strongholds. These troops are most assuredly US Special Forces, better known as "Green Berets," the political wing of the American Army, which is tasked with establishing command and education posts inside territory prior to or in lieu of a full-scale US invasion. The Green Berets engage in highly specified forms of training, most notably torture, which they have been known to practice on real, live victims.

Taking on the US military is an enormous task, as the history of civil disobedience shows. We have to be nonviolent; the sheer might of our opposition allows us no option. But we have to be persistent, and direct action should be a norm for which we strive. Shipments of Arms to Mexico are often delivered by road and rail for reasons of cost-effectiveness. We can therefore force the military to resort to air transport by literally blocking trains and convoys. A strong movement will eventually have the ability to do just that.

In the end, an array of tactics are at our disposal. Each activist and organizer will have to choose those most suited to her or his area of interest and willingness to take risks. There is already some discussion of the possibility of organizing blockades on both sides of the US/Canadian border at key points of commercial traffic. This has been done before, and it makes a significant statement as well as substantially increasing costs. It would also be very symbolic in the light of the North American Free Trade Agreement's virtual evaporation of political borders where major economic transactions and transportation are concerned.

Another valuable tactic which has been in use since the uprising of January, 1994, is known as protective accompaniment. When Americans or other foreign observers are stationed in a village which

is under threat of invasion, it becomes very complicated for Mexican troops to move in. So the mere presence of Americans in villages, especially for committed periods of a month or more, is invaluable to the people of

Chiapas. We should make every effort to support programs which send activists into occupied territory as protectors.

These possibilities raise an ugly question. Where is our movement at today? Even

Pressure will have to be maintained primarily on corporations — not Congress — because after all it is they who will eventually relent and allow the government to restrict its own and their activity. But only if popular pressure is overwhelming.

though 1998 has been the strongest vis-a-vis US/Canadian activism in the 5 year history of the Zapatistas as an above-ground liberation movement, we still have neither the quantitative nor qualitative strength to take major action. It ap-

pears that only a few activists in each of several dozen cities are steadfastly committed to serious work on the issue; and Syracuse is no exception. For some reason, the severity of the situation has seemingly not elicited a massive, powerful response from North American activists. This obviously has to change. People have to come to meetings and show up at demonstrations, or organizers will never feel supported enough to develop further actions. Yes, this is a blatant plea for people to either get involved with Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity, or to organize separate groups. Without organization we cannot build a movement of any kind.

At this stage, it seems our most important efforts are those which will raise awareness of the issue. Either this hasn't been done sufficiently, or there is some other variable in people's lives preventing them from getting more involved. But we should not confuse raised awareness with an actual threat to those interested in maintaining this war. As far as US corporations and the government are concerned, it wouldn't matter if every common person in the US were fully aware of and opposed to official policies regarding Mexico and Chiapas. If those aware are not also active, and if the strength of their movement is not increasing steadily, there is no threat to the status quo. Activism is the key, it always has been.

Brian is a local activist, writer and member of Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity. To learn more and get involved with implementing the ideas presented here, contact Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity at 423-4783 or <zap-syr@rootmedia.org>



"Understand the Differences & Act on the Commonalities"

DC-based Group Helps People Cultivate Common Ground

Jen Risley

"When you listen to somebody else, whether you like it or not, what they say becomes a part of you... The community pool is created where people begin suspending their own opinions and begin listening to other people. At some point, people begin realizing that this common pool is more important than their separate pools." — David Buhrm

It would be logical to predict that the death of Dr. Barnett Slepian on October 23 would widen the division between pro-choice and pro-life activists. However, it did not fuel the war between all of those on opposite sides of the abortion issue.

Two individuals from Central New York, pro-life activist Christina Finch and pro-choice Reverend Elizabeth Strong, came together in response to Dr. Slepian's death. Although on opposite ends of the abortion spectrum, together they work towards common goals. The possibility of converting the other to the 'right' side is not their motivation, but to seek understanding is. The organization responsible for this union is the Common Ground Network for Life & Choice (NLC), a project of the

Washington, DC non-profit organization, Search for Common Ground (SCG). When asked why SCG took on the abortion issue, since most of its projects are run internationally in war torn areas, John Marks, the head of SRG replied that he, "...doesn't like the national debate (on abortion), the violence and the adversarial behavior, the way conflict has become entertainment."

The NLC conference not only brought Finch and Strong together, but also one hundred other pro-life and pro-choice individuals hoping to participate in dialogue based on trust and understanding, instead of debate and rhetoric. NLC's hope was that participants, some of whom were 'professional enemies', could, as Strong put it, "...take some of the energy that is focused on our ideological differences to solve collective problems." Throughout the conference, understanding was reached and common concerns (such as teenage pregnancy, the economic status of women, portrayal of women and children in the media, and child abuse) were identified and possible solutions discussed.

In the months proceeding the conference, Finch and Strong decided to strengthen their

bonds with ongoing dialogue. When they received news of Dr. Slepian's murder, they felt called to act. On November 22, they began their efforts to deter violence over the abortion issue by offering a forum at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society. Together they modeled the approach to dialogue promoted at the Common Ground conference. They showed

that by truly listening to one another they were able to identify commonalities, parallelisms that helped them overcome their differences. Their next workshop will take place at University Hospital on February 10 from noon to 1:00 pm.

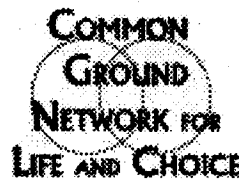
Medical students, doctors, clergy members, social workers, and any other interested community members are invited to attend. On February 27, they are planning a six-hour seminar. Where and when the workshop will take place is still being determined.

If you are interested in learning more, call or write:

Common Ground Network for Life & Choice, 1601 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009, (202) 265-4300.

<<http://www.searchforcommonground.org>>

Jen is a member of the PNL Committee. She recently moved to Syracuse.



Honduras

Continued from Page 10

"Mitch" didn't create Honduras' problems, it exacerbated problems started by the U.S. government, the I.M.F. and Honduras' own government long ago.

This year large numbers of Hondurans have protested to demand their rights to food, land and liberty, the same rights denied to them by "Mitch." The May Day march brought together all four major Honduran labor federations for the first time in years. Twenty-five thousand marchers protested U.S. mistreatment of Honduran sovereignty--the massive deportations of undocumented Hondurans, the execution of Honduran Roberto Villafuerte (who was denied his rights under the Geneva Convention) in the State of Arizona, rising debt-payments due the I.M.F. and other international banks at a time when the Honduran currency is falling and inflation is rising, and economic sanctions for alleged "intellectual piracy".

Yes, life has changed. Many Hondurans are worse off now than ever. But many of their current sufferings are only aggravations of problems that they have always faced: lack of land, lack of adequate housing, lack of food and employment, lack of security, lack of medical care, etc.

However, you, too, can help. Honduras needs your financial help, yes. But Honduras needs your help in other ways, too. Honduras, more than any other single thing, needs debt relief. Like most Latin American countries, Honduras is suffocating under its debt. One 25-year-old debt on a \$20 million loan was paid off last year, after Honduras had paid \$40 million in interest! The U.S. government and other international lending organizations should be pressed to forgive the Honduran national debt and that of other Latin American countries.

Second, the U.S. government should be pressed to provide a comprehensive aid package that does not contribute to the debt and

which does not include contributions to the Honduran military.

Third, U.S. citizens should stop purchasing land in Honduras, regardless of whether the Honduran congress manages to change the constitution. The price competition literally leaves Hondurans out in the cold.

Fourth, the U.S. government must be urged to stop the massive deportations of Hondurans, who were denied residency under last year's misnamed "Victims of Communism" law which benefitted Salvadorans, Guatemalans and Nicaraguans.

Michael Marsh is a longtime activist for peace and justice who works with the Honduran Peace Action Committee (COHAPAZ) in Tegucigalpa. Over 300 families in areas where COHAPAZ works lost their homes to Hurricane Mitch. Please help. Via email contact:

miguel@scf.snhon.org.hn and/or send a donation payable to "Paul Marsh/COHAPAZ" to: Paul Marsh
6837 Lanewood Court
San Diego, CA 92111

Surviving the Totalitarian Spirit in Peru

Reports on Political Prisoner Lori Berenson, Imprisoned January 11, 1996

reprinted from the *Committee to Free Lori Berenson Newsletter*

Lori Berenson, an American citizen, was convicted of treason on January 11, 1996 while working as a journalist in Peru. Denied a fair trial, Lori was sentenced to life in Peru's prison without parole, despite her plea of innocence. In 1998, Amnesty International proclaimed Lori a political prisoner. The following information is taken from the "Committee To Free Lori Berenson" Fall Newsletter.

Transfer to New Prison

On Wednesday, October 7 Lori was transported by helicopter, handcuffed and blindfolded, from Yanamayo Prison in Puno to Socabaya Prison in Arequipa. The Peruvian government claimed they moved her so she could have medical tests (Lori is suffering from a multitude of health problems, most of which were brought on by the high altitude and severe cold temperatures at Yanamayo Prison). This move was made one day before Lori's case was heard at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States. Note that the International Red Cross urged the Peruvian government to give Lori these medical tests in June. Pending the results of the medical tests, Lori may be kept at Socabaya prison, returned to Yanamayo or moved to a different prison. As of this writing (mid-November) no decision has been made and she is still at Socabaya.

General Prison Conditions

Lori spends 23 hours each day in a dimly lit concrete cell without heat or running water and is permitted one hour of yard time. There is no hot water. Buckets of cold water are provided for washing herself, her clothes, and her environment - just as in Yanamayo prison. Lori is not permitted to use a telephone, watch TV, listen to radio or music, or read newspapers or current magazines.

Solitary Confinement

Socabaya is in a warmer climate and at a lower altitude (7,600 feet above sea level

rather than 12,700 feet above sea level in Yanamayo), which should, in the long run help Lori physically. However, this is a minimum security criminal prison and Lori is a maximum security political prisoner. In order to separate her from the other prisoners, upon her arrival Lori was placed in solitary confinement. As of this writing she remains in 'solitary.' Lori must endure each day, as she herself has stated: "totally and absolutely isolated from the outside world." She is not permitted to look at or speak to other prisoners and they are not permitted to look at or speak to her. In her cell, she sings out loud in order to hear a human voice. She can speak only to the prison guards when they bring her food and water. Her one hour out in the yard is spent alone and, as in Yanamayo, she has no view of anything but the sky. During the first nine days at Socabaya, she was transported to and from the health clinic with a sheet over her head.

OAS Case Continues

As we described in earlier updates, Lori's lawyers have 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, seeking her immediate release. On October 8 her lawyers made an oral presentation before this commission pointing out the total lack of due process in the military tribunal system that sentenced Lori. It was at this presentation that representatives of the Peruvian government, rather than argue the merits of the case, chose to announce that Lori had

been moved the previous day for medical tests.

In Peru

In June, Peru's Prime Minister, Javier Valle Riestra, stated it was wrong to charge Lori with treason and that Peru should 'expel' her. Mr. Riestra resigned in August after failing to win President Fujimori's support for Lori's freedom. In an interview with the BBC, Riestra said, "I am a democrat and here there is a totalitarian spirit."



Keep Those Letters Going to Washington

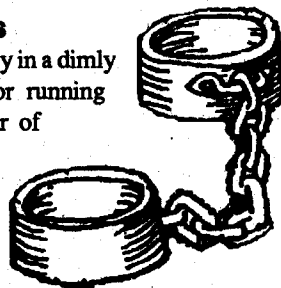
Thank you all for the many letters you have already sent to President Clinton and your Congressional

Representatives and Senators. It is important that the White House and Congress be continually reminded of Lori's situation. If you have a newly elected Congressional Representative or Senator let him or her know about Lori. Also, write to President William Clinton at: The White House; 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue; Washington, DC 20500. Tell him to secure Lori's release now.

Demo/Protest in Washington, DC

January 11, 1999 will mark three years since Lori was sentenced to life in prison. On January 11 there will be a protest demonstration in Washington, DC, demanding action by the US government to secure Lori's release. If you are interested in attending and want more information, please contact The Committee to Free Lori Berenson; 320 E. 25th St. #2AA; New York, NY 10010.

More information on Lori can be accessed at these two web sites: <<http://www.freelori.org/>> & <<http://www.geocities.com/capitolhill/9968/>>



Ignoring the Constitution

The "Rule" of Law is Awfully Flexible When the State Seeks Vengeance

Joe Dubovy

WHILE THE CONSTITUTION may be considered a racist document it remains the basis of our legal system. To pass laws violating the strictures of the Constitution make it imperative that such laws be repealed to preserve our civil society. A glaring example of a law ignoring the Constitution is the death penalty.

The Constitution mandates equal treatment under the law for ALL persons. Yet, being a Black defendant in a civil death penalty case is an "aggravating factor." There are six aggravating factors: murder with torture, grave risk of death to others, causing great harm and fear of pain, murder with multiple stab wounds, and murder with another felony. Of those, being Black ranks about the last three factors in determining the likelihood of the DA seeking the death penalty.

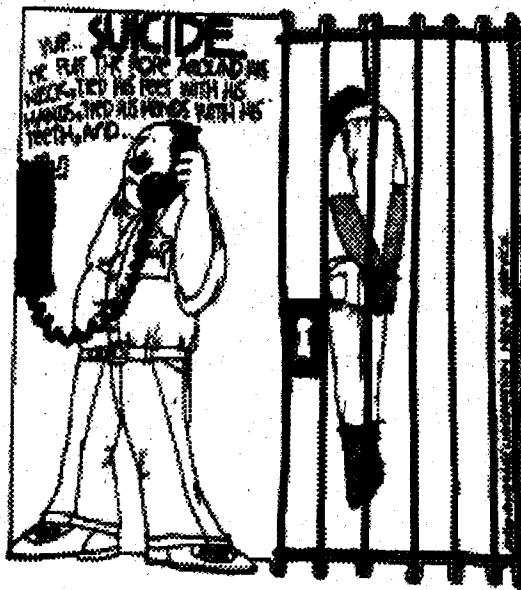
The 8th Amendment to the Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment. It has been common for inmates on death rows to be sequestered in a 6' by 8' cell isolated from other prisoners, often in solitary confinement for five, ten, or even 20 years awaiting their execution. How much more cruel can that form of punishment be?

The 5th Amendment to the Constitution specified that no person can be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. Yet, the death penalty is imposed by a District Attorney based on the political climate, his/her political ambition at the moment, or his/her political clout in state politics. Bronx DA Robert Johnson refused to seek the death penalty against Robert Diaz based on his personal convictions.

Attorney General Vacco intervened, substituting Gov. Pataki's death penalty policy for the law passed by the legislature which gave district attorneys discretion on whether or not to seek the death penalty. DA Johnson did not have a clout in the political machine and was removed from the Diaz case by state Supreme Court Judge Howard Silver who

acted in Vacco's favor. S. Gillers, a professor of legal ethics at NYU Law School, said Silver's ruling would aid the defendant as he could appeal on the grounds that the Governor's conduct and attendant publicity tainted the trial. What was the state to do in such a situation? Conveniently, Diaz "committed suicide" in his cell. Some time later, Manhattan DA Morgenthau repeated Johnson's defiant stand refusing to seek the death penalty in another case. Only this time, AG Vacco backed down and would not challenge Morgenthau. The Manhattan DA had far more clout in the state political apparatus than DA Johnson.

In New York, the death penalty has plea-bargaining provisions that are highly unconstitutional. They coerce defendants into pleading guilty rather than risking a death sentence.



In arguments before the State Court of Appeals it was stated that our death penalty law was flawed because it required defendants who pleaded guilty to capital murder to receive a maximum sentence of life in prison. By guaranteeing that someone can avoid execution by pleading guilty, the law penalizes a defendant who exercises his constitutional right to a jury trial and thus risks execution if found guilty.

In all 38 states with the death penalty, someone accused of capital murder can plead guilty and still receive a death penalty, al-

though defendants in criminal cases tend to reach plea agreements when allowed to plead guilty.

The debate before the Court of Appeals involved two murder cases. Michael Hale and Angel Mateo. The second case is now an active death penalty case in Rochester. In August '97, Justice Connell of State Supreme Court in Rochester declared the plea provisions in Mateo's case unconstitutional because they encouraged a defendant to forego his right to trial. Then why is Mateo now on trial for his life? It is not connected to his crime. It is only because in June '98, state appeals court (with a political bias) overturned Judge Connell's decision.

In 1968 the US Supreme Court found a North Carolina death penalty law unconstitutional because it required a life sentence for defendants who pleaded guilty in capital murder cases. The penalty structure was categorical and did not pass constitutional muster.

Not only is the New York State death penalty flawed, but it violates the US Constitution in its very existence. Polls now show that given an alternative that makes people feel safe, the majority oppose the death penalty. Then why is it still law? For the same reason that the draconian Rockefeller Drug Laws are law, even though 70% of the public favor drug treatment programs over stiff, mandatory drug sentences.

Our state's politicians are out of touch with the will of the people. Education and organizing are necessary to challenge politicians who refuse to represent their constituency. The Wright/Sullivan death penalty repeal bill NYS Coalition against the Death Penalty are responsible for

promoting in the state Assembly is a start in the struggle to repeal the death penalty.

The Aubry bill introduced in the last session of the state Assembly to repeal the Rockefeller Drug Laws should be supported by all Abolitionists. Send a message to the state Legislature that the death penalty and imprisoning disadvantaged youth is not a solution to crime or to inequality of class and race.

Joe Dubovy is an activist with the New York Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty



It's a free country

Poor Borders Bookstores. For some reason, they've been bothered by pesky union activity lately. In order to help Borders' managers face this insidious threat, someone named Annie Kubek, apparently of their Human Resources Department, compiled a document entitled "Union Awareness Training for Borders Managers." It's fascinating reading, especially the part about "Recognizing the Early Signs of Union Activity." So interesting in fact that some public spirited soul put it out on the internet. A few samples:

"2. Employees gather in small groups of twos and threes and immediately halt their conversations when managers approach.

3. Employees start gathering to talk in areas that are off the beaten path.

4. Employees start spending more than their normal or allotted time on break and are often late getting back to work.

5. Employees who are not normally seen talking to one another begin associating more regularly. Strange alliances begin to form.

6. Employees start having regular meetings or bar nights without inviting managers, back office employees, trainers, or lead clerks.

8. Managers start getting an inordinate amount of critical and probing questions concerning policies and/or benefits.

9. The tone of discussion becomes more and more argumentative with frequent references to "the Company."

10. Group complaints start to surface. Employees approach management in groups or via petitions.

11. A new leader emerges from the staff. "

Source: <<http://www.netaxs.com/~alexis/>>

The logic is familiar

In Rwanda last year 22 Hutu soldiers convicted of practicing genocide against their Tutsi countrymen were ordered executed despite the intervention of Pope John Paul on their behalf. Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastase Gasana rebuffed the papal entreaties with a stunning argument that no doubt makes perfect sense to, for example, the sniper who assassinated Dr. Barnet Slepian in Buffalo last year. "It (the executions) will teach people that no one has the right to exterminate other people with impunity and that human life is sacred."

Source: Reuters

Sorry Mr. Starr, your report didn't make it The Modern Library's list of the 100 greatest English-language novels of the twentieth cen-

ture bears out what we've always known. When it comes to reading, the censors don't discriminate. Close to half of the books on the list have been the target of censors, including seven of the first ten: *Ulysses*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Lolita*, *Brave New World*, *Catch 22*, *Sons and Lovers*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*. Source: *The National Coalition Against Censorship Newsletter*

Oops

The Titan Rocket explosion in August was covered primarily as a source of dramatic footage and secondarily as a huge financial loss to the government: a "\$1 billion fireworks display," according to the *New York Times* (8/16/98). A disturbing fact unreported in the mainstream news is that the exploded rocket, a Titan 4A, is identical to the one that was used to launch the 72 pounds of plutonium in the Cassini mission payload in October 1997. In the August 13 *New York Times*, Titan 4A's record of one explosion per twelve launches was said by an expert to be "pretty good." But are those odds really "pretty good" if you're toting the most toxic substance known to humanity? One hopes the explosion will prompt journalists to start asking questions about NASA's plans for future radioactive payloads.

Source: *Extra Update*, the newsletter of FAIR

America's Competitive Spirit

Propagandists, politicians, and historians are quick to tout the US' competitive spirit and generous sense of fairness. A shining example of this can be found in Boulder, Colorado, which has a yearly "Bolder Boulder Marathon." Unfortunately, corporate sponsors of the event had a big problem with the results of the 1997 race. Six of the top eight finishers were from Kenya. What to do? Well, if you can't win fair and square, cheat. To ensure that more US citizens finished among the leaders, race officials passed a new rule limiting the number of runners from Kenya, or any other country, (the US exempted) to three. In a crass example of Orwellian doublespeak, race director Bill Reef said, "We hope to level the playing field." In a fine example of competitive spirit and an overriding sense of fairness, the sponsors promised to double the prize money for athletes finishing in the top five...but only for US athletes.

Source: *Censorship News*

Didn't Clarence Thomas work at Ford?

Six women who work at Ford Motor

edited by Mike Kernahan

Company's assembly and stamping facilities in Chicago sued the company last August alleging that it condoned and perpetuated "sexually harassing work environments." In the lawsuit, filed in federal district court in Chicago, the women describe a workplace permeated with offensive references to women, including pornographic posters, calendars, and sexually explicit graffiti.

They also allege that they were subjected to factory walls and lockers plastered with explicit posters and "pinup calendars," pornographic magazines strewn about in public areas, drawings of nude women and their genitalia on factory and bathroom walls, and sexual graffiti.

The women allege that they were subjected to a daily barrage of hooting, cat calls, propositions, and sexist insults, as well as leers, licking of the lips, and whistles directed their way from male co-workers and supervisors. New women employees were referred to as "fresh meat," called by a vulgar term for the female genitalia rather than by name, and comments were made that women were only good for two things "cooking in the kitchen and laying in the bed." Supervisors responded to the women's complaints of sexual harassment on the assembly line with, "That's why I don't let my wife work here."

"This behavior is reprehensible," says Daniel L. Berger, a lawyer for the women. "We have decisions by the courts unequivocally banning sexual harassment in the workplace. Ford ought to have known better."

The complaint also alleges that despite a federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission finding in January, 1996, which found that women had been subjected to a sexually harassing work environment fostered by both nonmanagement and management employees, and despite repeated media coverage by radio and television, Ford did virtually nothing to remedy the work environment at the plants.

The women claim that at least two of the limited number of employee meetings designed to educate employees on sexual harassment issues degenerated to the point where male employees were laughing and mocking the problem of sexual harassment. None of the men were reprimanded for their behavior at the meetings. The complaint alleges that women who complained about the sexual harassment were subject to retaliation.

Source: *Multinational Monitor*





Greyhounds — Running for Their Lives

The excitement of cheering crowds, money changing hands, and the spectacle of delicate-looking dogs running as fast as 45 miles per hour hides a dark side of greyhound racing that most people will never know.

Greyhounds were originally bred to be a "canine aristocracy," farsighted and fleetfooted hunting dogs whose origins may date back as far as 5,000 BC. "Open coursing," a similar blood "sport," is still practiced in some areas, in which the dogs pursue rabbits or other small animals for "entertainment."

U.S. greyhound track racing has become

a multi-billion-dollar industry in which the real attraction is the gambling. The racers are not seen as "pets," but moneymakers — as long as they keep winning. Dogs who place in the top 3 spots survive by bringing in money to their owners and trainers as well as to the betting public. Winners may also be "retired" to breed future income-producers.

But dogs who do not continue to win — those who "only run 44 miles per hour, not 45"—usually go straight to the pound, where they are killed. Overbreeding of winning dogs produces large numbers of puppies whose potential as income-earners is assessed at 7 weeks of age. Living and dead "bait animals," including rabbits and guinea pigs, are used as well as artificial lures, to train the puppies. Young dogs who don't measure up may be killed by clubbing, shooting, starving, etc.; the

dogs' tattooed ears are commonly cut off to prevent tracing them back to their owners. An estimated 30,000 to 100,000 greyhounds are killed or sold to laboratories like Colorado State University's for "terminal teaching labs" each year — nobody knows the true number.

A small percentage — 7,000 to 13,000 each year — are saved by being fostered and then offered for adoption by groups like Greyhounds of Central New York (GCNY). Retired racers are highly intelligent, gentle and affectionate, and wonderful companions for a loving family. Many greyhounds are suitable for households with other animals or children.

Contact GCNY (315) 457-7989, or by mail at 305 Third Street, Liverpool, NY 13088.

— R. Xochitl Rick, *1 Geo Explorer*;
GCNY; and PeTA

December CLAC Notes

Hurricane Relief Coalition: A meeting with representatives of five organizations in Central New York met December 7 for the purpose of forming a coalition to address relief needs for Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Organizations at this meeting included Spanish Mosaic, Spanish Action League, Caribbean/Latin American Coalition, Church World Service/Crop Walk, the Episcopal Diocese, and St. Andrews.

The intent is to address long term relief needs. It is estimated it will take years of ongoing fundraising for relief and support in order to rebuild these areas, hit by Hurricanes Mitch and Georges. At this time, until structures can be set up to get the supplies to where they are needed, enough non-bulk material aid has been collected. Engineers will be needed to rebuild roads so supplies can be brought in; medical people are needed right now. Some groups, such as Doctors for Global Health, are becoming involved. Now the greatest need is for money for bulk foodstuffs and for transportation and other logistical needs.

Central New Yorkers can become involved by doing the foot work such as planning fundraising events, putting up posters, making phone calls, and helping with public announcements. The next meeting of the Hurricane Relief Coalition is 6:30pm January 9 at the Spanish Action League, 700 Oswego St.

El Salvador: Shirley Novak shared articles from the *Catholic Sun*, covering the

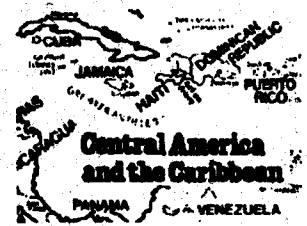
recent visits from our La Estancia community of Ramiro Cortez and Abraham Martinez. They reported a successful trip as they were able to speak to several groups in Central New York.

The Sister Community Project's next trip to La Estancia is planned for February 12-20. If you are interested in being a part of this delegation, call Shirley at 446-6099. Donations are now being accepted to further the development of Estancia's five caserios. Checks should be made out and sent to: South Presbyterian Church/El Salvador, W. Colvin corner S. Salina, Syracuse, 13205.

Cuba: Doug Igelsrud noted that the Mexican government was distressed by Fidel Castro's criticism of the Mexican participation in NAFTA. Doug suggested the film *Tropicola*, might be useful for a program in the future. Other suggestions were made about a possible Latin American film festival, as our last venture into the "movie business" was very successful.

Chiapas: Marge Rusk reported that plans were being made for the March delegation to Chiapas, sponsored by Witness for Peace and SIPAZ. Their first, but by no means the last, fund-raiser was the sale of home-made fudge at Plowshares. Please look for notices, possibly including a January 1 event similar to the

Caribbean
Latin
America
Coalition



one held last January to raise funds for the SOA prisoners of conscience.

Delegation members will report back about information gained on this trip and by their presence, provide direct accompaniment. Shirley Novak has obtained a copy of the Chiapas video, *Bad Harvest*, which might be part of an eventual Film Festival.

SOA Abolitionists: The group has established six teams to focus on various tasks as we pursue the objective of closing the School of the Americas. Teams include fund-raising, communications, financial management, outreach, publicity, and short-term planning for the demonstration and series of events in early May in Washington, DC. Each of these teams already has or will have a designated leader(s). Individuals may work on more than one team, but will hopefully focus on one. The next SOA Abolitionists meeting will be January 10, 4 PM at Brady Faith Center, 404 South Ave.

The next Caribbean/Latin America Coalition meeting will be Wednesday, January 13 starting with a potluck at 6pm, at Plymouth Church on E. Onondaga St. — Doris Sage



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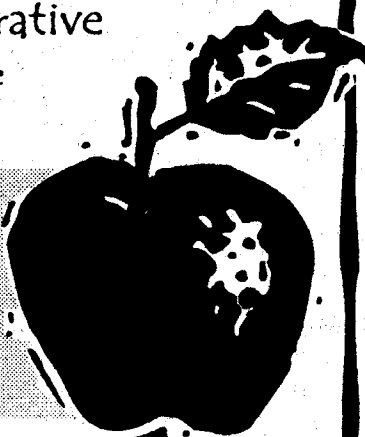
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"Crime"

Continued from page 7

Nation. They led several drum circles and the cleansing sage they burned frequently filled the air. Interestingly, while they were performing, the sage smoke had an uncanny way of drifting behind the stage toward the base, indicating that the base needed a lot more cleansing than we did. One of the young members of the nation closed the vigil with one of their memorial songs which said "Where are you, your loved ones are looking for you." He also hushed the crowd when he challenged

us to continue the struggle to close the SOA, to be the same people tomorrow as we had been during those two days.

As fifteen of us from the Central New York area huddled back into our alleged "fifteen person" van (like something out of a Marx Brothers skit) to head back north, it was clear that we could rise to the challenge he proposed. The commitment of those at the vigil, and of the 2,319 folks who crossed the line (while Bourgeois and the rest of us danced with joy), will see us through until we finally close the school.

Colleen is a local activist, folksinger, parent and teacher, and Sings It Down! with Jolie Rickman, and Ann Tiffany. To schedule a Sing It Down! night of songs, video and discussion about the SOA, contact Jolie at 472-3753.



"Chorus"

Cont. from page 8

scheduled nonviolence training—and recognizing familiar faces. From Ithaca. From Rochester. From Cortland. From Auburn. From St. Francis Farm. From Unity Acres (I thought of Fr. McVey and his arrest in 1969 for decorating a tank at the NYS Fairgrounds). From LeMoyne College. From Nazareth College. Sisters. The Pax Christi boys: Bob Belge, Dick Keough, Frank Woolever, John Murray. Berrigans, Jerry and his nephew, Jerry. Cynitha Banas, ever with petitions. Mike Pasquale from International House. Ministers, among them Len Bjorkman. Peace Council activists. The Columbus "regulars," those who have made many trips to Columbus for demonstrations, trials, and sentencings: Rich and Sara, Kathy and Nick, Joan Goldberg, John Fitzsimmons, Rita, Nancy, Barb de Francqueville, Angus McDonald (who at age 86 was third oldest at the vigil) Margaret, Slyvia Gamberoni....

On the stage Nick Cardell, Sr. Megan Rice, Dan and Doris Sage, and Ann Tiffany joined other prisoners of conscience. They participated in a long session for people considering crossing the line a second time—and facing

severe prison possibilities. Their prison experiences, shared, seemed to strengthen commitments: over seventy-five crossed the line a second time the next day!

The familiar songs we've heard at May Memorial, LeMoyne, Syracuse University, and SOA fund-raising events boomed over those protected speakers: Colleen and Jolie singing it down!

The Central New York presence became visibly clearer as two hundred CNY/SOA T-shirts sold out. Peace Action's banner hung across the barricades, facing the familiar Syracuse Peace Council banner.

SOA Watch has already set the date for May actions in Washington, DC. One hour after the Plowshares Craft fair ended, twenty-five met in Syracuse to extend local efforts to close the SOA. You will read about this next

Risky (un)Recycling

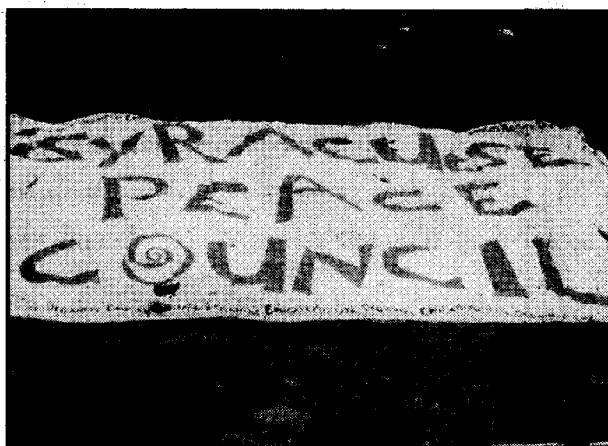
Continued from page 9

tions from House Rep. from Michigan), one of which is to come via I-90 East to 81 North.

This is where Syracuse comes in. Although ours is seemingly a bit part in this high drama, don't be fooled by our meek stature—CNY could easily catapult into the limelight. The likelihood of an accident in Central New York is greater because the truck will change highways in Liverpool. However, some communities have passed resolutions that block the transport of MOX or other toxic materials through their borders.

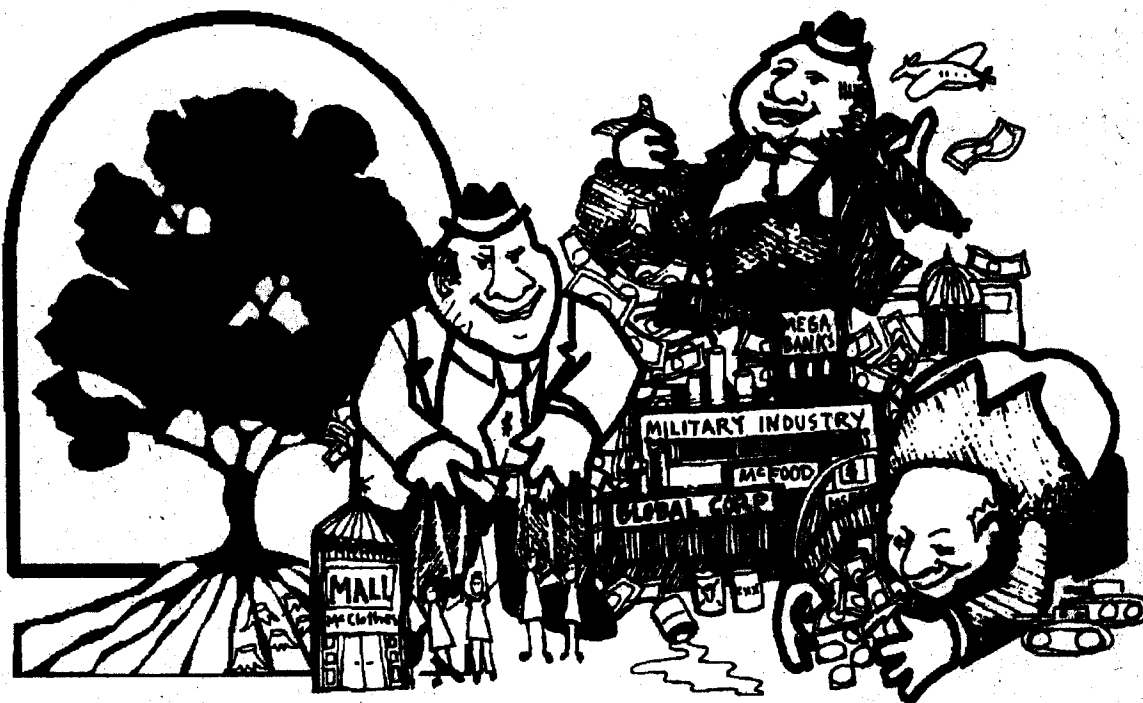
Since Niagara Mohawk has also applied for the MOX and tritium programs, we have a vested interest in acting now. Once precedent for accepting MOX is set, it will be harder to overturn. If you would like to find out more about this issue, or if you would like to help SPC and the Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort work on it, contact SPC (472-5478). And stay tuned to the PNL for updates.

Tim tries hard to recycle and compost and reduce consumption, but occasionally buys take-out and sometimes forgets to put the blue bin out on Tuesdays. He's still lower impact than nukes, though.



phase of the campaign, letters may arrive, and your phone may ring. Help, in whatever way you can, to close the SOA. The cloth of nonviolent resistance comes from many fine strands.

Paul is an SOA Abolitionist and member of the SPC Council.



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WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar

January 1999

To have your group's event advertised, please send the info to the Peace Council at 423-7866. For more info, call Marge at 472-5478.

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

1st THREE WEDNESDAYS: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Av. 5:30pm. 472-5478.

3

EVERY SUNDAY: "Common Threads," acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-6pm.

EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.

4

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, 3048 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.

5

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.

6

13
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 puluck 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.

7

Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 476-8226.

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.

8

14
ReconSIDer: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 206 Onondaga Av. 7:30pm. 422-6237.

EVERY THURSDAY: Sitting Meditation at Women's NFO, 601 Allen St. 7-8:05am. Free.

9

EVERY SATURDAY: Food Not Bombs serving free food at Everson Museum. 3-5pm. Call Jamie or Marika at 479-9429 for info.

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

10

EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable Ch. 3. 8pm. Produced by Peace Council.

11

Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Calvin St. 7pm. 478-7475.

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

12

Justice for Jonny Gammage vigil. God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 5:30pm.

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.

13

19
Syracuse United Neighbors/ Westside meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddes & Delaware. 7:30pm. 476-7475.

People for Animal Rights business mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.

14

20
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. 478-7475.

15

21
EVERY THURSDAY: Teen Scene for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8634.

22
EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

16

23
Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration featuring Andrew Young on "Passing the King Heritage to the Next Millennium." Carrier Dome, Syracuse University. Dinner 5:30pm (\$), speaker to follow (free)

Syracuse Community Radio "Station Celebration" at Westcott Community Center. 7pm. Music & fun. WXXE 90.5 FM is on the air! 234-1999.

January 23-24: 2nd annual National Conference on Civil Disobedience. American University, Washington, DC. For info, email Nisha Anand, Conference Coordinator, at nisha@gc.org.

17

EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.

EVERY SUNDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 11:30pm. Time Warner Cable channel 3. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

18

24
Strike for Peace Bowls -athon fundraiser for Syracuse Peace Council. Erie Blvd. Bowling Center. 1-4pm. Call 472-5478 for pledge sheets. Room for only 20 teams!

19

25
Syracuse United Neighbors/ Westside meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddes & Delaware. 7:30pm. 476-7475.

People for Animal Rights business mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.

20

26
EVERY TUESDAY: Syracuse Community Radio weekly meeting. Westcott Community Center, 828 Euclid Ave. Call 234-1999 for time.

Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbian & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.

21

27
EVERY WEDNESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.

22

28
Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Free Food!

Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse Noon-12:30pm. Cyndi 475-1878.

23

29
EVERY THURSDAY: Teen Scene for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8634.

EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

24

31
EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.

25

30
Irish Northern Aid meeting. Call Patrick. Smith. See-line & place. 468-8948.

26

31
EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.

27

31
EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.

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30

31
EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.

Syracuse Peace Council



STRIKE FOR PEACE

Erie Blvd. Bowling Center
1-4 p.m. Sunday, January 24, 1999

Join us for an afternoon of great fun!
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to sponsor your favorite bowler.

Look for details on page 5.

A fun, fund-raiser for the *Syracuse Peace Council*.
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Jolie Christine, Rickman and more

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hopeful

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Educate, Agitate, Organize

Peace News Letter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice February 1999 PNL 676

Donna Reese Takes on NAACP Chapter Presidency

Paul Frazier

DONNA REESE's personal involvement with matters of justice have evolved into assuming a leadership position in one of Central New York's better known civil rights organizations. Part of her story is here.

"I started my involvement in the NAACP in 1994, after the death of my nephew, Tony Porch. Tony, age 28, had been missing for six months and was found murdered in South Carolina. He was like a brother to me. Seeing the apathy in Syracuse regarding his death, I started paying more attention to what was going on around me.

"I saw an ad: the NAACP was looking for volunteers, someone to answer phones two days a week. I got involved. I sat in on the membership committee. Van Robinson was very persuasive, and I began to co-chair the Political Action Committee with Wayne Dunham. I worked with the Community Affairs Committee, trying to form united efforts in our work. I have been the Community Affairs Director since 1995, and I was elected to the position of President of the Syracuse/Onondaga County Chapter of the NAACP, replacing Van Robinson who was President

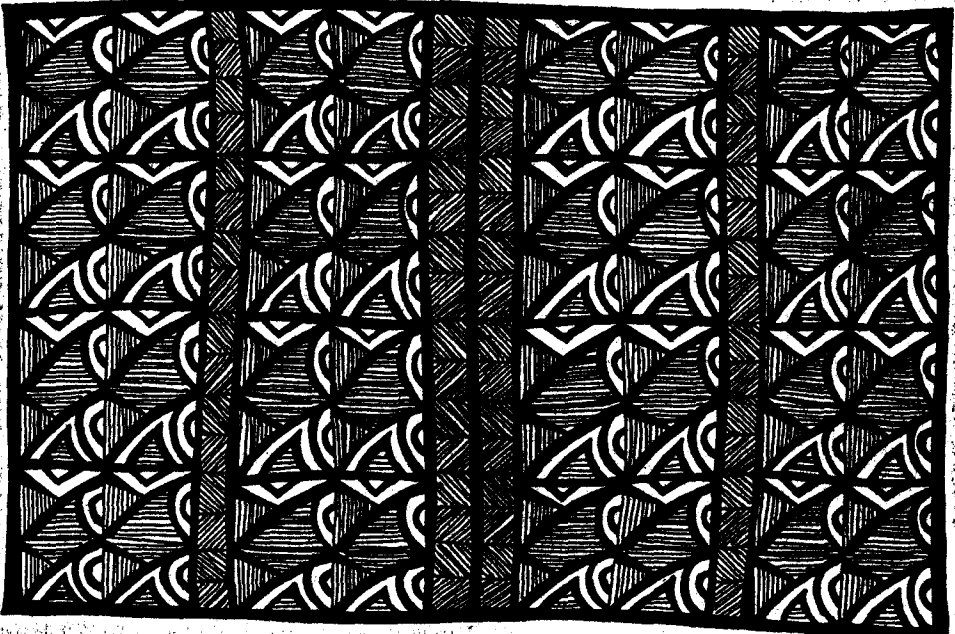
for twelve years. It's a volunteer position, yet I'm to be available twenty-four hours a day.

"My hope is to stay involved in the political action of the community, always focusing on civil rights. I'm looking more and more at the political process, particularly at increasing the number of registered voters in the area. A massive 'Get out the Vote' drive. More knowledge about the issues: education; making the streets safer. I want to work with the youth chapter, training new leaders."

Asked about her take on the slogan, "No justice, no peace," Donna Reese had this to say: "We should not stand idly by. Fighting for civil rights is not a spectator sport. We need to protest. Power, we know, as Frederick Douglass said, concedes nothing without a demand. We used to think, 'Nothing is going to change.' Now we know better. We are very powerful, and that power starts in the ballot box."

What about the overlap between the agendas of the SPC and the NAACP? Donna: "I'm not familiar with all that the Peace Council does and plan to rectify that. We can always work together, particularly in making more information available about what elected officials do."

To become involved in the work of the NAACP, call Donna Reese 422-6933.



Inside:

- SPC Action Updates,
- Pinochet
- Pinochet's Puppeteer,
- New York's Other Dirty Power Plants,
- Racializing Community, Identity & Revolution — an interview with political prisoner Khalilani X. Khalilun,
- (lots of) Community Updates,
- Peace

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

- 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: Adrienne Allen, Beth Berila, Paul Frazier, Karen Hall, Bill Hamler, Tim Judson, Mike Kernahan, Rae Kramer, Joy Meeker, Andy Molloy, Simon Morrin, Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce, Jen Risley

Cover Coordinator: Karen Kerney

SPC Projects: 472-5478

- SPC-TV — Paul Pearce
- Plowshares Craftsfair
- 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 Caulfield, 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	Planned Parenthood 475-5525
Doug Igelsrud 471-5749	PWHV/ AIDS Support Hotline
ACLU-CNY Chapter	Sandra 471-5911
Barrie Gewanter 471-2821	ReConsider
Alliance-Psychiatric System	Nick or Alex Eyle 422-6231
Survivors	Religion: Other
George Ebert 475-4120	Phoenix or Kat 474-8801
American Friends Service	Rose Center
Committee 475-4822	Teri Cameron 422-3426
Animal Defense League 479-9105	Sarah House 475-1747
ARISE 472-3171	Save the County 637-6066
Atlantic States Legal Foundation	SEEDS (607) 749-2818
475-1170	Service Employees International
Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition	Robert Tompkins 424-1750
Paul Weichselbaum 446-6099	Sierra Club
Citizens Against Radioactive	Sue Carlson 445-1663
Dumping (607) 753-6271	Small Claims Court Action
Citizen Review Board	Center 443-1401
Felicia Davis 448-8750	S.O.A. Watch/ CNY
CNY Center for Occupational	Ed Kinane 478-4571
Health and Safety 471-6187	Social Workers for Peace
CNY Environment	Dick Mundy 445-0797
Lee Gechas 446-5319	Socialist Party
CNY N.O.W. 487-3188	Ron Ehrenreich 478-0793
Community Media Action Group	Spanish Action League 475-6153
423-4783	SU African-American Society
CUSLAR (607) 255-7293	443-4633
Dunbar Center	Student Environmental Action
Merrilee Pollard 476-4269	Coalition
Fair Housing Council of CNY	Michelle Baumfleck 423-8000
Merrilee Witherell 471-0518	Syr. Alternative Media Network
Fair Trial for Mumia Committee	Tim Brachocki 425-8806
472-5478	Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society
Food Bank of CNY 437-1899	SAVES/Joe Connolly 437-2163
Food Not Bombs	Syracuse Community Choir
Jamie or Marika 479-9429	Karen Mihalyi 428-8724
Hemlock Society	Syracuse Community Radio
Betty Bentley 463-0782	Frederic Noyes 234-2000
Hotel Employees 150 437-0373	Syracuse Cooperative Federal
Irish Northern Aid	Credit Union 471-1116
Patrick Smith 469-8948	Syracuse Cultural Workers
Jail Ministry 424-1877	Dik Cool 474-1132
Kenark Center for Creative	Syracuse-EI Salvador Sister
Spirituality 685-5414	Community
Lesbian/Gay Youth 443-3599	Shirley Novak 446-6099
NAACP	Syracuse N.O.W. 472-3294
Van Robinson 422-6933	Syr. Real Food Coop 472-1385
Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.	Syr. Social Movement Initiative
Ammie Chickering 365-2299	John Burdick 443-3822
New Environment Association	Syracuse United Neighbors
Harry Schwarzlander 446-8009	Rich Puchalski 476-7475
NYPIRG 476-8381	S.U. for Animal Rights 443-4199
Onondaga Audobon 457-7731	Urban League
Onon. Women's Political Caucus	Eloise Dowdell Curry 472-6955
Peggy Murray 475-7671	Utica Community Action
Open Hand Theatre	John Furman 797-7020
Geoff Navias 476-0466	Witness for Peace Delegations
Pax Christi	Nancy Gwin 422-4689
Frank Woolever 446-1693	Women's Center (SU) 443-4268
Peace Action of CNY	Women's Health Outreach
Diane Swords 478-7442	425-3653
Peace Brigades International	Women's INFO Center 478-4636
Ed Kinane 478-4571	
P.E.A.C.E., Inc.	
Louise Clark 470-3300	
People Against the Death	
Penalty 637-3344	
People for Animal Rights	
488-PURR (7877)	
Physicians for Social	
Responsibility 488-2140	

We are currently updating this page and could use your help. If you see anything that needs to be added or corrected please contact us.

(If you want your group listed, please call)

- In This Issue:

FEBRUARY'S ISSUE is a bit shorter than usual. So to make up for the reduction in content, we crammed as much material in as possible. Which means we had to cut some corners on graphics. For which we are duly and truly sorry. It will all work out fine for the text lovers among us, but for those who prefer more room for their eyes to breathe, maybe not so much ...

We used to say this happened because we needed more artists and graphic-oriented people on staff. Now, that's still true. However, the problem this month is that we need *more editors and writers*. You see, we had to put out a special issue of the *PNL* because open war broke out (see page 4). And with our newsletter staff thin as it is, that only left enough resources to do a short February issue. You see, it's all connected. Any way people can get involved helps out. — *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

January Special Issue Mailing Party Helpers
Ace Allen, Angie Allen, Mike Kernahan, Rae Kramer, Carl Mellor, Marge Rusk

February PNL Meetings

February 3 & 17, 5:30pm

March Issue Deadlines

Articles	Feb 12
Ads	Feb 19
Calendar Items	Feb 19

PEACE NEWSLETTER

February 1999
PNL 676

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Community Calendar by Andy Molloy	15

About the cover:

THE PLOWSHARES CRAFTSFAIR is but once a year. Its festival/marketplace offers a rare concentration of our local economy and culture.

In celebration of the work of our hands, we will be using the cover of the *PNL* to display the work of community artists. Anyone interested in doing a cover can call Karen Kerney at Syracuse Cultural Workers, 474-1132 x101. If you own locally made artwork and want to share it, call too. (The gap between

producers and consumers is called ECONOMY).

This month's cover art is by Mardea Warner, a regular Plowshares crafter and committee member. Mardea's pen and ink drawings reclaim patterns. Her work is available at the Beech St. Gallery, an artist co-op at the corner of Beech and Westcott streets. Visit the gallery open house Friday, February 12, 6-8pm.
— *Karen Kerney*

February Stonewall Committee Films

the Stonewall Committee announces its annual film series

Thursdays, 7pm

First Unitarian Universalist Society

250 Waring Rd., Syracuse

(Waring at Nottingham)

all are free & open to the public

February 11

Out of the Past

The story of Gay/Lesbian students' struggles with the state of Utah, through the experience of one of the student organizers.

February 18

Licensed to Kill

by Arthur Dong

A provocative exploration of the motivations behind hate crimes and violence.

February 25

The Female Closet

by Barbara Hammer

Investigates three lesbian artists, and how the "closet" functioned in their lives and work.

Peace Newsletter

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SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

Collaboration in Crisis SPC and CMAG Join to Publish Special "Let Iraq Live!" PNL

IT WAS SLIGHTLY more subtle than the explosions of bombs and cruise missiles and the crash of roofs, walls, and broken glass. Nevertheless, the media bias towards the US government's four days of bombing was clear from the first news reports on December 16.

The human crisis of the US's 8-year war on Iraq finally returned home that night. But the lack of perspective — on the sanctions, the reality of bombing, the resistance — contributed to yet another human crisis, this one in our own country: ignorance.

To address the need for critical information and perspectives in a grassroots way, SPC and the Community Media Action Group (CMAG) got together to produce a special issue of the *Peace Newsletter*. The



eight-page issue #675.1 includes two articles, reports on resistance here and around the globe, poetry, a reproducible flier, and an anonymously-produced poster entitled "The Double-Standard."

SPC thanks CMAG for their energy, creativity and solidarity. The collaboration is rewarding and empowering. It was only possible through working together. To find out more on CMAG's work, see their update on page 9. We'd also like to thank all the writers and contributors, including poets Karen Hall and Shreerexha Pillai. We were only able to afford an initial print run of 2,000, enough for our mailing list but not enough for our full monthly distribution. The new Let Iraq Live! Action Coalition (LILAC) plans to use the issue as educational material for its continuing campaign (see Action Updates, page 9). If you would like a copy yourself, call or come by SPC.

— Tim Judson

Busting Business Booming for CNY Anti-Nukers

THE NUCLEAR EXCITEMENT just never seems to stop lately in CNY. With several irons in the proverbial fire and a potentially disastrous accident at the FitzPatrick plant, citizen involvement is becoming more hopeful and more crucial at the same time.

On December 14, activists from the coalition to Close Nine Mile One! announced that we had filed a petition 2.206 with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Initiated by Paul Gunter of DC-based Nuclear Information & Resource Service, the 2.206 is a formal request to have a nuclear operator's license revoked. The NRC's regulatory incompetence and NiMo's faulty science and broken promises around the core shroud demonstrate a lack of concern for public health and safety and are a breach of the public trust (see 12/98 PNL).

In January, Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort initiated a proposal that Onondaga County



pass a resolution against transport of mixed oxide fuel (MOX) through its borders. Other communities along the proposed transport routes have passed such resolutions, including the Buffalo City Council at the end of December. Not only does MOX transport pose multiple dangers to transport, reactor, and waste communities alike, it represents a dangerous economy between nuclear weapons and nuclear power producers (see 1/99 PNL).

And on January 20, SPC, SANE, and the new Alliance for a Nuclear-Free New York joined proceedings initiated by the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) to determine the fate of nuclear power under the deregulated utility market. The proceedings have been called a "collaborative process" and are being facilitated by a judge trained in alternative dispute resolution. The year-long process is styled along the lines of consensus decision-making. However, the self-selection process for joining the proceeding has re-

FEAZE v. to disturb, unravel or untwist n. the grandest of events; feaze Splits the Seams

BETWEEN MANAGING the office and newsletter, answering phones, and going to meetings, peace work can get to feeling like seamless stretches of greyness. A lot like the Syracuse skies. January 16's *feaze* event was an inspiring reminder of the vibrance and vitality of social change work. Not so much a celebration as an occasion for hope and possibility.

The SPC Staff and Council extend a huge thanks to the 100+ attendees, and the artists and performers who made *feaze* such a success: Gabe Barry-Caufield, Sean Thomas Dougherty, Free Radicals, Gypsy Red, Colleen Kattau, Eugene Koveos, Patrick Lawler, Nick Orth, Shreerexha Pillai, Jolie Christine Rickman, and Lee Williams. Additional thanks to Sean Kelly of Free Radicals for setting up the sound system, and to Jolie Christine Rickman for organizing the event, doing the outreach and press work, and grazing the dictionary.

— SPC Staff & Council

sulted in a total lack of diversity, and it has yet to be seen whether real world politics will be dealt with to ensure justice and inclusive decision-making.

Among the issues that have not been accounted for within the process are nuclear safety, environmental impact, and effects on public health and safety. This is especially troubling in the shadow of a January 14 accident at the FitzPatrick nuke at Nine Mile Point (NMP). A fire burned out of control for about an hour in a hydrogen tank storage area, reportedly located near a battery of transformers that supply power to the reactor core. Eventually the fire was brought under control; however, for the two or three hours of the emergency, the uncertainty of a major accident was frightening. While Nine Mile One is likely the most dangerous reactor at NMP, all nuclear reactors pose too large of a threat to live with.

SANE and SPC can use your help. It won't make you rich, but busting nukes and reclaiming our communities can be empowering and fun for people of all stripes. To plug in, call SPC at 472-5478.

— Tim Judson



Pinocchio's Puppeteer

Recognizing the US role in Producing Pinochet and Other Torturers

Alicia Swords

IN EARLY DECEMBER, I took a trip to Chile. My visit coincided with an important time in the case of former dictator Augusto Pinochet. December 9, the British House of Lords voted to extradite Pinochet for crimes of genocide, torture and human rights abuses during his rule from 1973 to 1989. The Chilean government has appealed the decision citing conflict of interest by one of the judges. Since January 18, the case is being retried.

I would like to share some insights from my conversations with Chileans and my observations of the Chilean and US media depiction of the case in the light of the history of US-Chilean relations.

The political Right and Center argue that by processing Pinochet, Britain and Spain challenge Chile's national sovereignty to judge its own criminals. They contend that powerful countries must not unilaterally determine what is justice for weaker countries.

Young democracies should be encouraged to exercise their own institutions, therefore the self-named Senator-for-Life should be returned home to Chile for judgment, they claim. The Right, still complicit with Pinochet, hopes to convince the public to join their calls to bring him home.

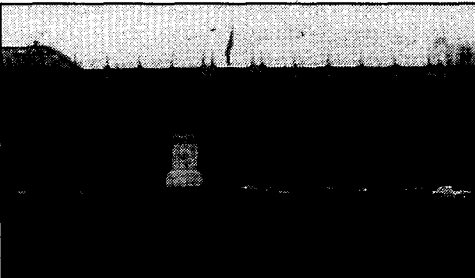
The irony of the sovereignty argument is not lost on the Chilean public. Pinochet left in place a constitution which ensures immunity for all human rights violators after 1973. The Right knows that the public lacks the political strength to repeal Pinochet's amnesty law. If Pinochet were sent to Chile to be tried, his own amnesty law would ensure that there would never be a trial.

The Right has, in fact, benefited from past US interventions into Chilean internal affairs. Some Chileans ask why Chile and the international community are suddenly concerned about national sovereignty. They know that since the 1960's the CIA meddled actively to prevent a socialist government from coming to power. Military officers, including Pinochet, received foreign training in anti-insurgency and torture techniques at academies including the US Army's School of the Americas. One

of every seven Chilean intelligence officers is an SOA graduate (SOA Watch, <http://www.soaw.org>). When Allende was elected, Nixon's administration worked to crush Chile's economy and ruin the socialist experiment. The CIA financed the anti-government press, strikes and opposition. To Pinochet, sovereignty was never a concern. In fact, his chance to govern came as a result of long-term US political, economic and military interventions.

In light of this history, I was shocked to see "Our martyr, Pinochet!" painted on bridges in Santiago. The news media of the Right play on the antiquated myth of Pinochet slaying the communist monster, justifying his atrocities because he kept socialism at bay. But what really died in the 1973 coup was the young Chilean democracy and self-determination.

Today, Chile's free-market, export-based economy, designed by Chicago University-educated economists, is praised internation-



La Moneda, the Presidential Palace in Santiago de Chile, where Salvador Allende was killed in 1973. Later reconstructed after being bombed, it is still a site of demonstrations today — for and against Pinochet.

ally as Latin America's "jaguar." However, Pinochet's dictatorship has created no economic miracle: growth has not translated into benefits for all Chileans. In Chile, the top 10% earn more than half the wealth, making Chile seventh globally in unequal income distribution. Today, 25% live in absolute poverty and salaries are 18% lower than before the dictatorship.

Pinochet's critics call him Pinocchio, a puppet dictator who oppressed his own people to provide cheap labor, captive markets, and natural resources to his puppeteer, the United States. Pinochet's nose grew as he "disappeared" political opponents, appropriated public goods for his cronies, dismantled welfare and community organizations, and made the poor poorer.

President Frei creates another myth by proposing "reconciliation." However, recon-

ciliation is one-sided. The military has never atoned for or apologized for its crimes. The media lull the poor to surrender to the American Dream: buy more, buy on credit, take low paying jobs, do not complain, and forget the past.

Even with international attention to the truth of Pinochet's terror, it is not in the interest of those in power to pursue justice.

Former military commanders are the biggest bloc in the Senate. The Parliament is dominated by those who benefit from the widening gap in wealth. Clearly, the country does not possess the political will to repeal the amnesty law and judge Pinochet.

Pinochet's extradition is no affront to Chilean national sovereignty. In fact, his judgment should help draw attention to the ways that the US has kept nations from exercising their own democracy. International condemnation of Pinochet's abuses is appropriate and long over-due. Genocide and torture are not public policy.

Nor should we forget that the history of Pinochet in Chile is not unique. Pinochet is only one of the many puppets the US has created around the world to torture people and suppress "threats" to US economic interests. Let us also condemn US institutions and leaders that use political, economic and military interventions as foreign policy.

In official statements about Pinochet, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and the State Department have walked a careful line, attempting not to alienate human rights advocates or the Chilean right since Chile is a hopeful partner in an expanded NAFTA.

According to the British newspaper, *The Guardian*, the Clinton administration is making "behind-the-scenes" moves to block the extradition "for fear of what might emerge about the US role in the coup that brought him to power."

Clearly, we are far from eliminating torture as sanctioned policy. Court cases are only a first step. Concerned citizens should write the State Department to urge support for Pinochet's extradition and declassification of evidence, including evidence of the US role.

We must also eliminate the institutions that promote torture. US tax dollars pay for Latin American military officers to learn torture techniques at the School of the Americas

continued on page 6

New York's Dirty Secret

The Power Plant Pollution Loophole

Cori Fay Traub

MANY HAVE BLAMED the bulk of New York's air-pollution problems on utilities in Midwestern states. Although a great deal of New York State's air pollution comes from the Midwest, thanks to the prevailing winds, our own dirty plants make this problem even worse. New York's dirty power plants may collectively generate fewer tons of air pollution than are generated by plants to our west, but pollution from New York's plants is of special concern because these plants are right here at home. We can still blame Midwestern power plants for our pollution problems. They deserve the blame. But New York won't get much sympathy as a victim so long as we are also a perpetrator.

In November, more than 50 environmental and public health groups called on the Governor Pataki to require all fossil-fueled power plants to meet the same emission standards that must be met by newly constructed coal plants. Coal, which is generally dirtier than oil and natural gas, is the fuel of choice for many Midwestern plants. If the Governor follows this advice, he would be in a position to lead the battle in Washington to get Congress to enact these standards. New York's credibility to demand the clean-up of power plants in the Midwest will be greatly enhanced if it is ready, willing and able to clean up its own act.

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New York must reassert its leadership position in the fight for clean air.

Most fossil-fueled power plants in New York, including the ones located outside of Syracuse, are taking advantage of a loophole that allows them to avoid meeting current air-pollution standards. When the federal Clean Air Act was passed in 1970 and amended in 1977, the nation's older plants were exempted from the new federal air-emission regulations. Unfortunately, most of these plants were not replaced with cleaner sources. These plants are allowed to pollute four to 10 times more than newer plants.

The plants surrounding Syracuse include Niagara Mohawk's Oswego plant, New York State Electric and Gas's Milliken and Greenidge plants and Rochester Gas & Electric's Russell plant. If these four power plants had to meet new plant standards, annual sulfur dioxide emissions would be reduced by over 28,000 tons and nitrogen oxide emissions by over 5,600 tons.

This summer there were more than 150 violations of federal ozone smog standards in New York State. That means that New York residents breathed unhealthy levels of smog that cause increased lung inflammation, coughing, asthma attacks, emergency room visits and hospitalizations due to respiratory distress. Meanwhile, another byproduct of air pollution, acid rain, continues to threaten fish and wildlife in many Adirondack lakes and streams.

Nationwide, power plants are responsible for 66 percent of the sulfur dioxide that causes harmful soot and acid rain and 30 percent of the nitrogen oxides that contribute to smog and acid rain. In 1997 alone, New York's 21 dirtiest power plants spewed out 250,000 tons of sulfur dioxide and nearly 70,000 tons of nitrogen into the air. The 21 dirtiest power plants in New York are responsible for half of both sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide from all the state's industrial sources.

If New York's dirtiest plants were made to comply with the contemporary pollution standards set for new coal plants their sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide pollution would be cut by 73 percent and 52 percent, respectively. The state would reduce its emissions of sulfur dioxide by more than 180,000 tons and nitrogen oxides by more than 30,000 tons each year. This is the air quality equivalent of

removing over 1.8 million cars from New York State roads.

If Gov. Pataki wants to be an environmental leader with national stature, there's no better way to prove himself than to clean up his own backyard. But he needs to hear from concerned constituents that know New York's power plants can be a lot cleaner. Write to the Governor and let him know that there is no reason to tolerate a single ton of excess pollution when the technology exists to control it. Recently, Massachusetts Governor Paul Cellucci took the first step by endorsing a similar grass roots campaign to clean up the "Filthy Five Power Plants" in that state. Gov Pataki has the authority to simply direct the State Department of Environmental Conservation to require all power plants, regardless of when they were built to meet the same standards of a new coal plant.

Secondly, State representatives need to know that people in New York want power plants cleaned up. Write to your State representatives and them to introduce legislation this session that would mandate power plant clean up.

To find out about other local citizens concerned about this issue or to receive a regular fax update on energy issues, related legislative initiatives, and the power plant clean up campaign, contact Kyle Rabin at Environmental Advocates, (518) 462-5526.

Cori is the Air & Energy Project Director for Environmental Advocates, based in Albany.

Pinocchio's Puppeteer Continued from page 5

and other military academies. Under false pretenses of the "War on Drugs," US tax dollars buy attack helicopters and arms that have been used to fight popular uprisings in Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Peru. This dirty game in the name of US military and corporate self-interest is a game of blood and death in Latin America. Pinochet cannot wash the blood off of his hands. Neither can we.

Alicia Swords is helping organize a delegation to Chiapas this Spring. When she's not acting globally, she resides and works locally in Syracuse.

Ed. Note: A version of this article, originally written for the PNL, was published as an op-ed in the Syracuse Post-Standard, Monday, Jan. 17.

Reclaiming Community, Identity, & Revolution

An Interview with Political Prisoner Khalfani X. Khaldun

Interview by Corey Wade

Ed. Note: We recently received a copy of an interview of Khalfani X. Khaldun, a political prisoner and PNL subscriber. We regret we are unable to print the entire interview because of space limitations. However, we chose the following excerpts because of their topicality during this month commemorating the history of Black liberation struggle in the Americas.

Khalfani X. Khaldun is a 29-year-old New Afrikan (Black) political prisoner who has been in prison since the age of 17. Since being accused and charged with the wrongful death of an Indiana prison guard, Khalfani has been engaged in a consistent battle to obtain his freedom. We feel that Khalfani's acts of heroism in the fight to raise consciousness on the inside made him an easy target for this trumped-up charge. A trial has been scheduled for December 7, 1998. In the court of Laporte County, IN. This interview is our contribution and show of solidarity to and for Khalfani's freedom. Here is a revolutionary voice that must be heard.

Corey: Brother Khalfani, why are you in prison?

K: Well, comrade, just as many other youth, i became a perpetrator of the street culture of Gary, Indiana. Influenced by peer pressure and wanting acceptance, i got involved with criminal activity: robbery, burglary, and selling drugs. This lifestyle, as my mother warned on many occasions, would catch up with me. When we are surrounded by this element anything can occur. i was always arrested for what someone else did, the guilt by association thing, but never for what i was in fact guilty of. i was no angel but i feel i shouldn't have ever been sent to prison for 25 years to have to do 12 ½ years confined to a prison cell.

C: What are some of the experiences that led you to change?

K: When i entered prison i was still very reactionary, miseducated, and still influenced by a criminal mentality. A lot of my actions in prison were still very misguided. So i did in

fact create some enemies. Men much older than me who were active and organizing inside prison walls were responsible for my political exposure to advanced education. After some experiences i was compelled to want to learn about my history, culture, Afrikan achievements, and the slave experience. Slowly i began to transform myself. i first became aware that certain things existed. Then i developed a consciousness that ultimately motivated me into action. The action i speak about is not violence, but organizing, educating, and exposing violations, because this was primary. We will never change unless the need for change can be visualized.

C: You have been accused of the murder of a prison guard. Why?

K: Being a political prisoner on the inside or outside does not come without a special price. i have been active and involved in many struggles to bring out education on the inside. Some of these struggles entail exposing what this racist system has done and continues to be responsible for. Once prisoners are aware and become conscious, and their actions reflect such, a lot of us start to express solidarity. The system labels us gang members when we unify ourselves. Because i have a certain level of educational influence over some prisoners, i'm always singled out. On December 13, 1994 after the cop was killed, they came after me saying i was the only one capable of orchestrating such an act. i've continued to proclaim my innocence. i am very innocent.

C: What is your vision for future realities?

K: We currently live under a system that has a direct hand in manipulating education, economics, human relations, and basically every walk of our lives. i, of course, see myself restrained by incarceration. But i see all oppressed and below-the-poverty-level nationalities educating themselves and becoming aware of the commonness they share against this system of uncompromising institutional racism. This commonness allows each op-

pressed community to become responsible for forging struggle in their communities. It will be the ex-prisoner and the politically conscious person's role to join all progressive communities with all progressive revolutionary struggles so that growth of consciousness continues. Once unified, we collectively work to challenge our collective/ individual rights as a people to be independent, self-governing, and self-determined. Plus, i hope that in societies people start working more with prisoners.

Corey: What kind of advice and message do you have for young people?

Khalfani: Young people, when i was a free man i never anticipated i would come to prison. So it's safe to say i was not prepared for it either. Education is an essential part of our development. It enables us to learn to confront and deal with the realities this world offers us. i was once a teenager myself, influenced by my peer group. These same influences led me to a prison cell, but none of them ever followed me. Please focus in on learning your identity and educate yourself on your family/cultural history. This is empowerment and it builds confidence, self-esteem, as well as an identity. Learn of ways to better your families by initiating programs of family unity and encourage your friends to do the exact same things. We

When people hear the term revolution, or revolutionary, or politics, they envision something negative. The politics they equate to a politician. But i am no politician. Change through a series of transitional stages is what i envision in my practice of revolutionary politics.

must begin to rebuild that strong sense of family we seem to be currently losing. Young people, you are the representatives and keys to our emancipation and struggles for change. Get yourself involved in activism. You have the energy to forge change in America through organizing an oppressed youth movement. Educate, liberate, organize! Power to the youth!

C: Many of our youth are involved in drug use. What is your stand on drugs?

K: i was born and raised in Gary, Indiana, an urban ghetto colony. Suffering, lack of employment, Black on Black violence, and homelessness are all prevalent. Drug use and

continued on page 8

Khalfani X. Khaldun **Continued from page 7**

drug sales are a common reality for New Afrikan (Black) people who are trying to compete, survive, and feed children, or are trying to escape the reality of oppression by being high all the time. Drugs have played a role in this American culture historically for some time now, from the 60's on up until now. Its impact has been overwhelming. Today our children are, out of economic necessity, selling crack cocaine in their pursuit of obtaining various material things, not fully understanding the tragedies this drug culture presents for them. Drugs are tools of enslavement and control. A drug-addicted person cannot see the need for change or understand how they are being oppressed. So i am against drugs now and forever. i will not promote its use or condone the selling of this poison. Our bodies are our temples and change first begins with ourselves and our bodies. To poison our bodies is to stagnate our growth and development.

C: Why are children joining street organizations at an alarming rate?

K: First off i would like to say that society calls or terms youth groups "gangs." i don't subscribe to this term. These groups are social institutions that vary in nature, culture, ideals, and beliefs. Such groups are born out of various concrete realities existing throughout urban and oppressed colonies here in Indiana and nationally. These youth are compelled more and more to link up and get involved in these institutions due to lack of individual identities. They are also, as many other youth, forced to join up due to the social breakdown in the structure of the human family. These institutions, through their acceptance of our youth, take on the character of a surrogate family. To blame our youth for criminal behavior, i.e. violence, would be a misrepresentation of the truth. Economic inequalities force most criminal activity. Repression waged upon Black/Latino communities breeds resistance, and resistance accompanies many forms of social violence. i myself am a product of these experiences and i can say with an unburdened heart that most street groups were not created

to harm people or violate anyone's rights of privacy. They all evolved from a grassroots level to protect and secure our communities. A breakdown of the structures and lapse of real principled governing bodies has led to this current reactionary phase they find themselves in. It's not our job to discredit them, but to educate them and decolonize their mindsets. These youth elements tend to play a role of mass proportions as potential revolutionaries. Don't condemn them, educate them.

C: What do you think of the hip hop culture?

K: Hip hop today is creative expression. It has been in a state of transition for some time now. Socially, hip hop has an enormous impact on our youth population. Most New Afrikan (Black) rappers who were raised in the ghetto colonies of Black America use rap as their release of such disparities. But this release is sometimes two-fold. On one hand rappers may have internalized a lot of self-hate and it's expressed when they use terms such as *nigga* or *bitch* when they are referring to an Afrikan (Black) male or female. This same dynamic is exploited by producers just wanting to make a dollar. The other side of the equation is the socially aware or politically conscious rappers like Queen Latifah, Tupac, and Public Enemy, who express the realities of a people being a constant victim of racism, oppression, harassment, etc. This is the type of music i enjoy: political rap. The hip hop gear is again creative expression in transition. Even though most hip hop gear is predominantly New Afrikan (Black), White and Hispanic express themselves by wearing the gear also.

C: Why do you believe in revolutionary politics so strongly?

K: When people hear the term revolution, or revolutionary, or politics, they envision something negative. The politics they equate to a politician. But i am no politician. Change through a series of transitional stages is what i envision in my practice of revolutionary politics. The new man is the revolutionary educated in politics with a view of the social and economic conditions waged upon the oppressed people of this world who works to

resolve these existing conditions for a greater equality for oppressed people. Revolutionary politics is what helped me become the man i am today. These politics will be responsible for creating our national independence. These politics will be responsible for creating universal unity among European White People, New Afrikan (Black) people and other oppressed people. This is paramount.

C: Describe for me what prison conditions are like?

K: The entire social construct of penal colonies is overtly oppressive and covertly psychological. Prisons are constantly being built to further the incarceration of a nation and its youth population. Repressive conditions are becoming harsher by the years. After spending nearly 13 years in state prisons throughout Indiana, i am convinced that prisons, on the myth of rehabilitation, are trying to destroy us mentally, spiritually, and physically. Indiana's prisons are operated on a basis of institutional racist priorities. Repression breeds resistance. So the current struggles taking place on the inside were born out of Department of Corrections violations, corruption, and repression. It is these conditions which motivated us to reeducate ourselves for a struggle on the inside and to see the need of trying to transform the prison community.

... Prisoners are being forced to rehabilitate themselves. None of this is a contribution from prison authorities. Prisoners who work prison jobs are simply underpaid wage slaves. Slavery never ended. It just modernized itself from the southern plantation to the prison plantation. In prison, regardless of what the crime is, men and women are faced with the same problems. This commonness, reflective of prison violations, prison racism, or repression existing on the inside is the impetus for collective struggle across racial lines on the inside.

Corey Wade is a Khalfani supporter and UNITE! President. To find out more about Khalfani's case, write to Mark Thiel, one of his principle support people, at: Mark Thiel, c/o RMDf, PO Box 8306, South Bend, IN 46660-8306, or via e-mail address <mathie1@michiana.org>. Khalfani urges people who support his cause to write letters to newspapers and elected officials, help pass petitions, and/or to write letters to him at: Khalfani, s/n L. McQuay #874304, Indiana Department of Corrections, Pendleton Correctional Facility, PO Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064.



Save the Dates for SOA Now!

Back in the days when all was well in the kingdom, a happy family would pack up for a springtime trip to the nation's capitol to see the cherry blossoms. Whether or not the cherry trees will be in bloom the first weekend of May, 1999, consider packing up and making the trip to Washington, DC to protest the US Army School of the Americas (SOA), Saturday-Monday, May 1-3.

The momentum generated by the witness of 2,319 crossing the line onto Ft. Benning, Columbus, Georgia this past November has carried into springtime at the capitol. We expect strong Central New York representation at this important event. Plan now to attend. Contact CNY/SOA Abolitionists at 487-4571 and let us know you are interested in witnessing more than the unfolding of the cherry blossoms.

If you can contribute a little bit of time and energy between now and May Day, so much the better. Call us at 478-4571. We know Ed Kinane and Kathleen Rumpf will be there in spirit, and for those of us free of prison, let's join together to protest this icon of international oppression. — Paul Frazier

Let Iraq Live! Action Coalition

Since the US's four-day bombing campaign in December, the tentatively named Let Iraq Live! Action Coalition (LILAC) has been meeting to strategize and respond proactively to the US's genocidal war against the Iraqi people. Members of SPC, the Islamic Society of Central New York, Peace Action, Pax Christi, and other community members are working on several education and action projects, focusing on both military strikes and sanctions as US acts of war. To get involved, contact SPC.

— Tim Judson

Catholic Worker Activists Join March against Sanctions

According to CJ Carter, it happened like this: We were setting up a political action resource room here at St. Francis Farm, and I wanted to gather information about Voices in the Wilderness. I knew they had been involved in sending medical supplies to Iraq, where over 4,500 children die each month — deaths directly related to the sanctions against Iraq.

When I called, they told me they were looking for someone to lead the march they had planned at a meeting the day before—a march from the Pentagon, in Washington, DC to the United Nations, in New York City. The march was to call for the end of the sanctions.

Voices in the Wilderness, a grassroots organization, has led nineteen delegations to Iraq, most recently arriving in Baghdad on December 19, 1998, during the recent U.S. bombings. Warned in 1996 by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) to "refrain from engaging in any unauthorized transactions related to the exportation of medical supplies and travel to Iraq," Voices in the Wilderness has chosen to publicly challenge the morality and legality of the economic embargo against the civilian population of Iraq.

In a letter dated December 30, 1998 to R. Richard Newcomb, Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Voices in the Wilderness posed this question:

"We ask what kind of nation have we become, when the government of the most powerful country on Earth prosecutes its citizens for the simple act of providing humanitarian aid to our brothers and sisters in Iraq. We simply reject the government's contention that we cannot carry medicine to the sick, and assert it is a greater evil to let the children die."

Decisions were made at the Farm. CJ, Tom McNamara, John Doughty, Christy Harrison, and new St. Francis Farm member Phil Giordano, took on the responsibility for a 250 plus mile walk. The walk began on Friday, January 15, arriving at Maryhouse, a Catholic Worker house in New York City on the lower east side, on January 31. They will then spend February 2 at the United Nations, meeting those who will listen to the plight of the children of Iraq.

As the thermometer pushed toward three degrees on Thursday morning, January 13, 1999, about twenty-five friends and support people met in the sacristy of the Catholic Church's Cathedral, Columbus Circle. Fr Ted Sizing had invited Bishop Moynihan to meet with and bless the walkers. He blessed the walkers and called the sanctions immoral.

Many copies of the recent special publication of the PNL, *Let Iraq Live!*, went into the Chevy wagon, already loaded with gear, peanut butter, trail mix, and heavy clothing. Those soon to start walking went south to the Pentagon.

Some Central New Yorkers will meet up with the walkers along their way; others will join at Maryhouse or at the United Nations. For up-to-date information, call Bob Belge, 474-6254.

— Paul Frazier

<pfrazier@ican.net>



Community Media Action Group

CMAG Grows Roots to Take Action

WELL INTO ITS SECOND YEAR of operation, the Community Media Action Group (CMAG) is stepping up our activity and increasing our presence and services for 1999. Now that we've been around and know we are committed to organizing in Syracuse, CMAG is applying for NY State incorporation and 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. We have established an interim office at 205 Bassett St. from which to carry out our various programming until, if all goes as hoped, we move into the upcoming Eastside Neighborhood Arts Culture and Technology center (ENACT) later this year.

With ENACT, we hope to open a community media center. The center will provide free access to digital, internet, and other media resources for the Eastside community. There will also be classes and workshops on anything from word processing and basic computer use to web page design to building and repairing computers.

Our internet project <<http://www.rootmedia.org>> is now a fully-functional server, offering free and low-cost services such as web site design and hosting, email, listservs, and other options to groups and activists based in Central New York. We have plenty of time and space to help others develop a presence online as well.

The free-school project which hosted sporadic events in 1998 will be taking off full swing later this winter, offering lectures, courses and workshops on a range of topics from community gardening and cooking to leadership and basic activism skills, from health care to understanding current events. One exciting event is the upcoming talk by microradio activist "Pete Tridish" on Feb. 11 (see calendar for time and location).

With the establishment of our new office space comes the potential to provide a number of new services and maintain some important projects, including print and electronic media training, the hosting of a community activism and events hotline and email listserv, a press release service, and more.

If you would like to get involved with CMAG, or if you or your organization might benefit from our various services, please contact us at 423-4783 or email <cmag@rootmedia.org>.

Animal Laboratory

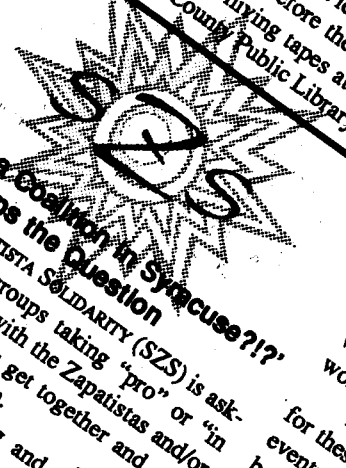
141 chimpanzees to The Coulston Laboratory based in New Mexico. The remaining 30 were awarded to Primarily Primates, Inc., a sanctuary in Texas. Various organizations and individuals immediately voiced their outrage at the award to TCF. The chimpanzees are the survivors and descendants of America's space program.

The Center for Captive Chimpanzees (CCCC) submitted a comprehensive bid to retire the chimps, the bid was awarded the Air Force with one of the 32-year his- tory records in the Air Force to court an illegal award. Undaunted, members of Con- gress acted im- mediately to re- volve the Air Force to court an illegal award. Undaunted, members of Con- gress acted im- mediately to re- volve the Air Force to court an illegal award.

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Animal Laboratory
The Coulston Laboratory
Primarily Primates, Inc., a
sanctuary in Texas.
The chimpanzees are the
survivors and descendants of
America's space program.



'Zapatista Coalition in Syracuse?!?' — SZS Pops the Question

SYRACUSE ZAPATISTA SOLIDARITY (SZS) is asking that all the groups taking "pro" or "in solidarity" stances with the Zapatistas and/or the people of Chiapas get together and consider forming a coalition.

- I have been thinking and talking and working on all these local Zapatista ideas lately and for the past year and I would like to see responsible and dedicated people come together and make things happen.
- It amazes me to see so many Syracuse groups and individuals supporting indigenous and peasant struggles in Mexico. Yet, it has been incredibly frustrating for me (and I'm not the only one) try week after week to bring the lessons of the Zapatistas to community and live them. Forming a Peace Action this past year here in Syracuse is a much needed step up (expanding) to Peace Action and other military groups in Chiapas. The coalition added months ago and at their meeting...

- pooling, listing of resources (sp, eos, contacts, phone/ mailing lists)
- ideas on how to foster better communication between groups
- how can we do better outreach to community(ies)
- cross involvement on campaigns
- sponsoring of events
- Local targets: Research, education against local corporations, hattan, Lockheed players who have the war in...

for these events/...
been poor...
You can se...
wishes to bridge...
We are aiming...
the next few weeks. We...
Westcott Community Center...
Our proposed agenda item...
• pooling, listing of resources (sp, eos, contacts, phone/ mailing lists)- ideas on how to foster better communication between groups
- how can we do better outreach to community(ies)
- cross involvement on campaigns
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- Local targets: Research, education against local corporations, hattan, Lockheed players who have the war in...

Westcott Community Center (cont.)

can History month with a special program on Saturday, February 27.

March 13, Ithaca singer/songwriter Tom Knight comes to the WCC for two performances. At 3pm, he will entertain children and their parents using puppets and live and recorded music for a sliding scale donation of \$2-\$5. At 8pm, he will offer a coffee house-style show with bass player Jim Lawrence, playing a variety of contemporary, original material featuring elements of swing, pop, rockabilly and folk for a sliding scale admission of \$3-\$10. Telling Our Stories: Celebrating Women's History invites performing artists to an open

mic dedicated to the performance of songs poems, and stories written by women on Saturday, March 27. Performances begin at 8pm and artists are invited to register to perform beginning at 7:30pm. Telling Our Stories will be hosted by neighborhood singer/songwriter Jolie Christine Rickman. A sliding scale admission of \$2-\$5 will benefit the center. Refreshments for purchase are available at all events. Persons interested in volunteering during regular programming or special events are welcomed. Please call 478-8634 for more info about the Westcott Community Center.

— Barbara Humphry

**SYRACUSE
COMMUNITY
RADIO**

**Community Radio Goes on
the Air!!!**

WXXE COMMUNITY RADIO, operated by Syracuse Community Radio, Inc. (SCR), is proud to announce that it is officially on the air! WXXE first began broadcasting on Monday, December 21 at 90.5 FM from its tower, located in Madison County, New York. The signal can now be heard in much of Madison County, as well as portions of Onondaga, Oneida, and Oswego Counties. Initial reception reports indicate that the station is heard, especially from car radios, in areas east and north of Syracuse and as far west as Onondaga Hill.

Volunteers have been organizing the non-commercial radio station since 1992. SCR is now beginning the broadcast phase and the community operated station is planned to reach all of Central New York within two years. The organization has numerous FCC applications to expand into other areas and has applied for a power increase for 90.5 FM. There have been numerous delays in building transmission facilities that will reach Syracuse due to petitions from WRVO in Oswego attempting to deny SCR's applications. WRVO has been claiming for over seven years that they are building a station at 90.3 FM to compensate for preventable interference from the S.U. stations.

WXXE programming includes a variety of musical styles as well as public affairs programming and experimental programs. The music programming includes everything from folk to punk rock. "Our goal is to provide

programming not heard on the airwaves in Central New York", states Danny Danhauser, WXXE Program Director, "including prominent showcasing of local and national independent artists". Local and regional artists will be heard daily on most music programs. Two hours of local music will be heard every Wednesday-night. Public affairs programming will include a mix of regionally and nationally produced programs including Counterspin, Alternative Radio, Radio Nation, Making Contact, and other respected shows. Local programming will feature panel discussions and participatory call-in shows.

SCR continues the work begun with the critically acclaimed Radiovision Project broadcast in 1991-92 with an eclectic mix of music and public affairs programming. Radiovision was heard on AM radio in the Westcott/University neighborhood and on Syracuse city cable television. "We knew the effort was worth sustaining," says WXXE General Manager and SCR President Frederic Noyes, "People loved what we were doing with Radiovision and we have worked a long time to reach the community on the FM dial." WXXE offices and studios are located in the Westcott-Community Center.

On Saturday, January 23 WXXE celebrated the official beginning of its broadcast phase with a Station Celebration at the Westcott Community Center. Ashley Cox, Jolie Christine Rickman and Space Peanut performed.

WXXE seeks participants to take part in all aspects of station development as well as donations to increase their signal area. Those interested should contact WXXE at: (315) 234-1999 or email <scradio@aznet.com>, <http://www.serve.com/syracomradio>, <http://www.rootmedia.org/~syracomradio> — Frederic Noyes

**beyond
boundaries**

BB Stresses Cultural Awareness through its local events and trips

BEYOND BOUNDARIES focuses on three non dominant cultures that are part of the fabric of our diverse Central New York community. We believe it is important to understand, respect and publicly acknowledge Indian, African and Puerto Rican cultures. We struggle against marginalization in ourselves and our community.

This year we have scheduled two cultural dinners, a multicultural art auction and two slide presentations. Through these local events, we hope to foster a sensitive and interacting Central New York community. Through our trips to the Lakota Nation, South Dakota; Boigatanga, Ghana and Loiza, Puerto Rico we build our awareness of Indian, African, Puerto Rican cultures and histories.

The dinners and art auction are:

"KARAMU: AN AFRICAN FEAST"
Sat. Feb. 13, 6 - 9 p.m.
at May Memorial Unitarian Society

UNA FIESTA PUERTORRIQUENA
Sat. Mar 13, 6 - 9 p.m.
at South Presbyterian Church

6th ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL ART AUCTION
Sun. May 2, 3 - 5 p.m.
at Westcott Community Center

Slide Presentations are:
Puerto Rico — A Look at its Spanish, African and Indian Roots (in Spanish)
Tue. Jan. 16, 2 & 4 p.m.
at OCC
Beyond Boundaries: A Visual Overview and Discussion
Sun. Feb. 14, 9:15 am
at May Memorial Unitarian Society

Anyone who lives in Central New York is welcome to join Beyond Boundaries. To become a member, join one of the three groups and participate in their meetings, cultural events and trip. If you are interested in Beyond Boundaries or wish to schedule a slide presentation, call Aggie Lane at 478-4571 or Mardea Warner at 479-5757.

— Aggie Lane



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Brand-Name Hurricanes

What if we named tropical storms and hurricanes after polluting corporations like GM, Exxon, and Ford? That's what members of the Green Party proposed to the World Meteorological Institute at a recent meeting of the European Parliament. After all, they reasoned, not only are these corporations the biggest emitters of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, they deny that fossil fuel emissions contribute to global warming and other climate changes. Just imagine the newspaper headlines: "Exxon Kills 20 in Miami." Parliament rejected the proposal.

Source: *The Planet-Sierra Club Activist Resource*

Porsches on Main Street

In a story on consumer reactions to the stock market plunge, *USA Today* reported that "signs of some fallout have begun to appear." What signs? The indicators cited by *USA Today* were sales of Manhattan real estate, San Francisco yachts, Beverly Hills mansions, and St. Louis Mercedes, BMWs, Lexuses, Cadillacs and Porsches.

Quite a cross section of the country.

Since a popular media justification for its fixation with the Dow is that "Wall Street is now Main Street," maybe next time they'll look at the effects on people who don't drive their Porsches to the yacht club.

Source: *EXTRA! Update*

BS is our business and business is very good

The Better Business Bureau said a Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) advertising campaign, which touts nuclear energy as "environmentally clean," is inaccurate and it recommended that the industry trade group refrain from making such claims. The ruling comes on a complaint filed by a coalition of groups, including Public Citizen, which challenged the truthfulness and accuracy of the industry's print advertising. "This decision, while non-binding, sets an important precedent," said Public Citizen President Joan Claybrook. "It means that 'greenwashing' by electric utilities and the nuclear industry won't be tolerated. Claybrook said that if the NEI does not pull the deceptive ads, or modify them to remove the misleading claims, then Public Citizen will file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, which has the authority to order removal of the ads. The NEI's advertisements, which have been published in the *New York Times*, the

Washington Post and other major newspapers and magazines, make the claim that "Nuclear energy generates electricity without polluting the air and water" and that it is "environmentally clean."

Source: *Public Citizen*

US Hypocrisy takes center stage (again)

For the first time, Amnesty International is targeting the US for a year-long campaign, accusing it of double standards, and of creating a climate "in which human rights violations thrive.

"While successive US governments have used international human rights standards as a yardstick by which to judge other countries," the report notes, "they have not consistently applied those same standards at home. Across the USA people have been beaten, kicked, punched, choked and shot by police officers even when they posed no threat." Authorities pay millions in damages rather than seriously tackling the problem. AI also accuses the US of refusing to recognize the primacy of international law, reserving the right to use the death penalty against juveniles, not paying UN dues (over a billion dollars is currently owed), and being one of only two countries which hasn't ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Source: *Amnesty International*

Green Names, Dirty Games

There are dozens of organizations these days that give a false impression that they are devoted to environmental protection. It's a tangible, though disconcerting, sign of progress. Here's a quiz. Which of the following are environmental advocacy groups and which are coalitions of corporate polluters?

- National Wetlands Coalition
- Clean Water Action Network
- Foundation for Clean Air Progress
- Global Climate Coalition
- Communities for a Better Environment

Answer: b and e are genuine citizen environmental groups; a is a front for developers; c is a phony "grassroots" front for the Air Quality Standards Coalition, the industry coalition that opposed the Environmental Protection Agency clean air standards in 1997; and d is an oil and auto industry coalition fighting

agreements like the Kyoto global warming treaty.

Source: *The Planet-Sierra Club Activist Resource*

Job Security in the New Millennium

Exxon Corporation announced its plans to acquire Mobil Oil last year in a historic reversal of a 70 year old government anti-trust decision. The company said it hoped to reduce costs in an era of falling oil prices. No mention was made of job cuts but "cutting costs" is generally understood corporate-speak for dumping workers. If any Exxon or Mobil employees are unclear about their status at the hands of the merger managers, they may get a clue from the unusually frank comments of Jeffrey Skilling, president of another energy corporation, Enron, which has grown substantially over the past few years largely through the acquisition of other energy companies.

Addressing an industry conference in Arizona, Skilling counseled his cronies on the proper strategy for making mergers work. "You must cut costs ruthlessly by 50 per cent or 60 per cent" (post merger). "Depopulate. Get rid of people. They gum up the works."

Source: *The Journal of Commerce*

Petulant Plutocrat of the Month: "Chainsaw Al" Dunlop

This self-absorbed business executive (is that redundant?) first gained fame as the man who brought the world the plastic catsup bottle. In the 1980's he repackaged himself as "Chainsaw Al," the ruthless CEO who loved slashing corporate "fat" and jacking up corporate profits.

At Scott Paper, Dunlop cut the workforce by more than a third, then walked away, after just 20 months on the job, with \$100 million in his pocket. A few months later, in 1997, Dunlop became CEO at Sunbeam, the small appliance maker. He promptly announced plans to fire 6,000 workers, probably figuring that if he could make \$100 million by firing a third of a company's workers, why not try firing half?

But Al had finally overreached. Sunbeam sank into red ink and the board fired him this past June, amid charges that the chainsaw man had cooked the books. Dunlop may not be having fun but he's better off than the Sunbeam workers he axed. Sunbeam's former CEO will be collecting \$2 million a year in severance through 2001.

Source: *Too Much*, the newsletter of the Council on International and Public Affairs



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1 EVERY MONDAY: Teen Scene for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center, 2-5:50pm. 478-8834.

Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort meeting. Good Earth Cafe, 110 Harvard Pl. 6:30pm.

People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.

2 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.

Peace Action program "The State of the UN: Human Rights & Disarmament After 50 Years." May Memorial, 3600 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.

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

1st THREE WEDNESDAYS: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Ave. 5:30pm. 472-5478.

4 Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Venue, 731 James St. 8pm. 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.

EVERY THURSDAY: Stilling Meditation at Women's INFO, 601 Allen St. 7:30-9:30am. Free.

5 EVERY SATURDAY: Food Not Bombs serving free food at Everson Museum. 3-5pm. Call Jamie or Marika at 478-9428 for info.

EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

6 "Karamu: An African Feast" a cultural dinner sponsored by Beyond Boundaries. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 6-8pm. 478-4571 for info.

Song Circle at Westcott Community Center. All ages welcome. Bring a song to share, if you wish. 7:30pm.

7 Socialist Forum featuring "War on the Homeless: How Law & Ideology Are Used Against Them" by Don Mitchell of the SU Geography Dept. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave. 3pm. Free. 475-2385.

EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent. Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.

8 Eastside Neighborhood Arts, Cultural & Technology Center meeting. ENIP office, 204 Cherry St. 8pm. Joe, 471-7911 ext. 210.

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

9 HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 328 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3816.

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.

10 Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.

NAACP general mtg. 7pm. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 422-8933.

Syracuse United Neighbors/ Skunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 478-7475.

Syracuse Zapata Solidarity meeting. 7:30pm. Call Adrienne for time & place. 423-4783.

11 Series: Out of the Past. See p. 3 for description. First Unitarian Universalist Society, 250 Waring Rd. 7pm. Free.

Free Radio presentation & discussion with activist Pete Tridish on the history & relevance of microradio in social movement organizing. Sponsored by Syracuse Community Radio & Community Media Action Group. Brian, 423-4783 for time & place.

Reconciliation: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 208 Onondaga Av. 7:30pm. 422-6237.

12 EVERY FRIDAY: Teen Scene for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8834.

Justice for Jonny Gammage Vigil. God's Way Church, 1800 S. Salina St. 5:30pm.

13 "Women's Coffeehouse." Women & the Creative Process. Local artists speak about their creative process. Women's INFO Center, 601 Allen St. 7:30-9:30pm. Free. 472-5711.

EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

14 Beyond Boundaries: A Visual Overview & Discussion. A slide show about Beyond Boundaries. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 9-10:15am. Call 479-5757 for info.

EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable Ch. 3. 8pm. Produced by Peace Council.

15 Syracuse United Neighbors/ Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 476-7475.

Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort meeting. Good Earth Cafe, 110 Harvard Pl. 6:30pm.

16 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.

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. 478-8834.

17 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. 448-5940.

18 EVERY THURSDAY: Golden Cafe at Westcott Community Center. 10-2pm. See Tuesday for info.

EVERY THURSDAY: Teen Scene for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8834.

Stonewall Committee Film Series: Love is Love. See p. 3 for description. See Feb. 11 for time & place.

19 Women's Coffeehouse. "Women & the Creative Process." Local artists speak about their creative process. Women's INFO Center, 601 Allen St. 7:30-9:30pm. Free. 472-5711.

EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

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

"The People Could Fly: an African American Folk Tale" featuring music, drama, dance & puppetry. Henninger High School, 600 Robinson St. 8pm. Tickets \$9/\$12. Call Valerie at 468-6178. Also on Feb. 27 and 28.

21 EVERY SUNDAY: "Common Threads," acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-6pm.

EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.

22 Eastside Neighborhood Arts, Cultural & Technology Center meeting. ENIP office, 204 Cherry St. 8pm. Joe, 471-7911 ext. 210.

People for Animal Rights bus-ness mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.

Syracuse United Neighbors/ Westside meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddes & Delaware. 7:30pm. 478-7475.

23 EVERY TUESDAY: Syracuse Community Radio weekly meeting. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave. Call 234-1999 for time.

24 EVERY WEDNESDAY: Open Mic. Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.

25 Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cymd 475-1878.

Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Free Food!

Stonewall Committee Film Series: The Female Closet. See p. 3 for description. See Feb. 11 for time & place.

First Zapata/Chiapas Solidarity Coalition meeting. Sharing resources improving communication. Sponsored by Syracuse Zapata Solidarity. Westcott Community Center. 7-10pm. Adrienne, 423-4783.

26 "The People Could Fly: an African American Folk Tale" featuring music, drama, dance & puppetry. Henninger High School, 600 Robinson St. 8pm. Tickets \$9/\$12. Call Valerie at 468-6178. Also on Feb. 27 and 28.

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

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28 "The People Could Fly: an African American Folk Tale" featuring music, drama, dance & puppetry. 3pm. See Feb. 26 for info.

28 More February Events

February 4: Cafe Zapata shows film "The Hunger in Chiapas" with discussion to follow. Westcott Community Center. 7-9pm. \$0-\$5 sliding scale. Sponsored by Syracuse Zapata Solidarity. Call Adrienne for info at 423-4783.

28 "The People Could Fly: an African American Folk Tale" featuring music, drama, dance & puppetry. 3pm. See Feb. 26 for info.

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Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar February 1999

Actual web page from MSNBC, January 25, 1999 ~See special insert for our response.

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News

Attack on Iraq

Iraq: Civilians dead in missile attacks

Strikes more aggressive; U.S. sources say missile might have gone astray




F-18 Hornets are among the U.S. and British aircraft that have been taking part in the incidents over Iraq.

Quick News
News
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Syracuse Peace Council

STRIKE FOR PEACE



Sunday
Jan. 24, 1999

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See next PNL for details.



Ladies discuss the proper etiquette of ball handling.

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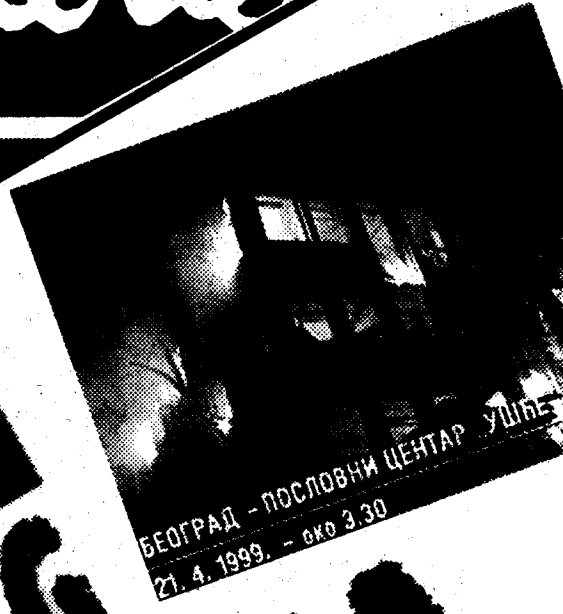


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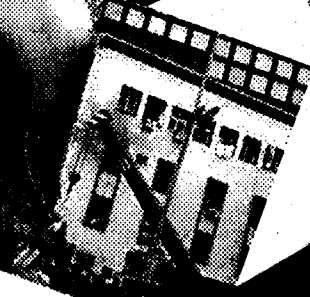
Educate, Agitate, Organize

Peace News Letter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice



**STOP
BOMBING
YUGOSLAVIA**



Published Monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council - Founded in 1936

Inside:

1999 Summer Vacation Guide, US/NATO's War on Yugoslavia, Community Discussion on Littleton & Kosovo, Onondaga Nation & SPC Celebration, Nuke Waste & the Wars of Contamination, Report on Millions for Mumia demo Testimony on Women in the (In) Justice System

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:

Rae Kramer, Carl Mellor,
Andy Molloy, Marge Rusk

- 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: Gina Barletta, Paul Frazier, Karen Hall, Bill Hamler, Tim Judson, Mike Kernahan, Rae Kramer, Joy Meeker, Andy Molloy, Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce, Jen Risley

Cover Coordinator: Karen Kerney

Graphics Coordinator: Simon Morrin

SPC Projects: 472-5478

- SPC-TV — Paul Pearce
- Plowshares Craftfair
- Fair Trial for Mumia Committee Sam Alcoff, Sarrah Weston

Other Volunteers

Chuck Durand, Mardea Warner, Vanessa Johnson, Ed Kinane, Aggie Lane, Joan Goldberg, Ruth Putter, Margaret Birdlebough, 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	People Against the Death Penalty 637-3344
Doug Igelsrud 471-5749	People for Animal Rights 488-PUPP(7877)
ACLU-CNY Chapter	
Barrie Gewanter 471-2821	Physicians for Social Responsibility 488-2140
AIDS Community Resources 475-2430	Planned Parenthood 475-5525
Alliance-Psychiatric System	PWHIV/AIDS Support Hotline
Survivors	Sandra 471-5911
George Ebert 475-4120	ReConsider
American Friends Service Committee 475-4822	Nick or Alex Eyle 422-6231
Animal Defense League 479-9105	Religion: Other
ARISE 472-3171	Phoenix or Kat 474-8801
Atlantic States Legal Foundation 475-1170	Rose Center
Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition	Teri Cameron 422-3426
Paul Weichselbaum 446-6099	Sarah House 475-1747
Citizen Review Board	Save the County 637-6066
Felicia Davis 448-8750	SEEDS (607) 749-2818
CNY Center for Occupational Health and Safety 471-6187	Service Employees International
CNY Environment	Robert Tompkins 424-1750
Lee Gechas 446-5319	Sierra Club
CNNQW. 437-3188	Sue Carlson 445-1663
Coal of NY Against the Death Penalty	Small Claims Court Action Center 443-1401
Joe Dubov (914) 528-3774	S.O.A. Watch/CNY
Community Media Action Group 423-4783	Paul Frazier 478-4571
CUSLAR (607) 255-7293	Social Workers for Peace
Dunbar Center	Dick Mundy 445-0797
Merriete Pollard 476-4269	Socialist Party
ENIP	Ron Ehrenreich 478-0793
Jim Dessauer 471-7911	Spanish Action League 475-6153
Fair Housing Council of CNY	SU African-American Society 443-4633
Merrilee Witherell 471-0518	Stonewall Committee
Fair Trial for Mumia Committee	Bonnie Strunk 422-0144
Sam Alcoff 425-9345	Student Environmental Action Coalition
Food Bank of CNY 437-1899	Michelle Baumfleck 423-8000
Foot Not Bombs	Syr. Alternative Media Network
Daniel Bowers 479-8599	Tim Brachocki 425-8806
Greater Syr. Tenant Network	Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society
Sharon Sherman 475-8092	SAVES/Joe Connolly 437-2163
Hemlock Society	Syracuse Community Choir
Betty Bentley 463-0782	Mara Sapon-Shevin 443-5179
Hotel Employees 150 437-0373	Syracuse Community Radio
Irish Northern Aid	Frederic Noyes 234-2000
Patrick Smith 469-8948	Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union 471-1116
Jail Ministry 424-1877	Syracuse Cultural Workers
Kenark Center for Creative Spirituality 685-5414	Dik Cool 474-1132
Lesbian/Gay Youth	Syracuse-El Salvador Sister Community
Mary Doody 475-2430x601	Shirley Novak 446-6099
NAACP	Syracuse N.O.W. 472-3294
Dorcas Pease 422-6933	Syr. Real Food Coop 472-1385
Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.	Syr. Social Movement Initiative
Ammie Chickering 365-2299	John Burdick 443-3822
New Environment Association	Syracuse United Neighbors
Harry Schwarlander 446-8009	Rich Puchalski 476-7475
NYPIRG 476-8381	S.U. for Animal Rights 443-4199
Onondaga Audobon 457-7731	Urban League
Onon. Women's Political Caucus	Eloise Dowdell Curry 472-6955
Susan Markel 422-3585	Utica Community Action
Open Hand Theatre	John Furman 797-7020
Geoff Navias 476-0466	Witness for Peace Delegations
Pax Christi	Nancy Gwin 422-4689
Frank Woolever 446-1693	Women's Center (SU) 443-4268
Peace Action of CNY	Women's Health Outreach 425-3653
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We are continually updating this page and could use your help. If you see anything that needs to be added or corrected, please contact us.

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

In This Issue:

MANY READERS of the *PNL* wait for the SPC Summer Vacation Guide to begin their travel planning. Some have not waited for the Summer Guide—and began their travels early. Rae Kramer went to Washington with scores of Central New Yorkers—and got arrested protesting the SOA. Tim Judson went south, not to Lauderdale, but with an anti-nuke caravan to the waste site dumps. Sam Alcott went as far as Philly—to cry out for justice for Mumia. John Doughty of St. Francis went to Europe, to Iraq. Others have already made plans to travel to DC on June 5th to try and stop the hideous bombing of Kosovo. And others will travel close and gather closer to home, to Columbus Circle on June 12 and speak out against violence. Look inside for more on where folks have gone and where you can go.

— Paul Frazier

THANKS TO OUR MAY MAILING PARTY HELPERS

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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Ads	Jun 12
Calendar Items	Jun 19

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About the Cover: Karen Kerney assembled this month's cover from elements taken from the War Resisters League's June 5 demo flier and photos from the Free Serbia website. For more on June 5, see page 8.

Gay Pride March

ON SATURDAY, JUNE 19 the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender (or GLBT) organization of Syracuse will be holding its annual Pride Parade and first ever Festival. The theme this year is the GBLT Sandwich: Celebrating a New Queer Menu. Kickoff will approximately begin at 12 noon, at the Trolley Parking lot at the corner of Clinton and Gifford Street in downtown Syracuse. The parade will end around 1pm with a gathering outdoors at the Everson Museum where the festival will take place until 6pm.

The purpose of the parade is to have a celebration of pride in the GBLT community. Yvonne Keller, a member of the pride parade committee says, “We need to celebrate our own uniqueness.” With uniqueness comes the feelings of difference yet this diversity, as Keller states, “moves societies to do greater good.”

The parade will be grand marshaled by activists Penelope Williams, Mary Ellen Kavanaugh, and Eugene Koveos. There will also be approximately 15 groups in the gay community present, including the Syracuse Transmenace, PFLAG, and several church organizations.

This year a festival will be held immediately following the parade at which the grandmarshalls will speak. There will also be various forms of entertainment such as musical performances from Syracuse- and Rochester-

based bands as well as bagpipers from the Long Island area. Many vendors will be providing food, drink, and crafts to set an enjoyable atmosphere. Groups participating in the parade will have information tables set up which contain literature to educate the public on the purposes of their organizations.

All people are welcome to participate, observe, and enjoy all the sights and sounds to make it a pleasant event. Last year downtown Syracuse was graced with a purple stripe down the middle of the street as a symbol of Gay pride. Parade watchers were then treated to an array of costumes, banners, and floats that all are various ways to celebrate and express the pride in one's sexuality. Support from the community, as was shown last year, is the first step in making this parade a success. However, as Keller noted, “Besides Parks and Recreation there is no support by the city government. Our mayor won't even acknowledge us.” Therefore to continue this joyous occasion, Syracuse must band together for the legacy of pride to remain an event year after year.

The parade is a joyous occasion in which people are allowed to take pride in themselves. It is a worthwhile and exciting affair for all those willing to come out and show their support.

— Crissy Spivey

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

Nunca Mas! Never Again! A Celebration of Hope - 3 days in DC

MAY DAY WEEKEND saw the first of two major gatherings in 1999 planned by School of the Americas Watch (SOAW) to accelerate national support for closing the School. Known by many as the School of Assassins, the US Army School of the Americas (SOA) is the showpiece of US Army training programs created ostensibly to increase technical skills for Latin American military and paramilitary attendees. In fact, however, despite repeated assertions of reform, the school continues to produce graduates who are later implicated in acts of terrorism and brutality against people in their home countries. Victims include church and health care workers, union organizers, and indigenous people whose only "crime" is struggling to overcome the poverty and oppression common to the powerless of Latin America.

More than 3,000 people joined together in Lafayette Park on May 1, 1999 to call for the closing of the SOA. Approximately 75 people from CNY joined in a day of singing, standing vigil, and sharing of personal and internationally documented stories of atrocities committed by SOA graduates. Representing the Syracuse Peace Council, the local SOA Abolitionist Affinity Group, and Ithaca-area peace activists, Central New Yorkers continued their on-going witness against teaching terrorism "in our name and with our dollars." Celebrating our freedom to gather and dissent in the nation's capitol, there was a stark contrast between the solidarity experienced on a beautiful spring afternoon and the stories of intimidation, terror, and brutality we heard from victims and survivors of SOA trained soldiers.

Day two of the weekend consisted of workshops and training sessions for those who planned to participate in the action at the Pentagon the next day. In accord with the commitment to nonviolence, peace keepers were identified and trained, and all attendees agreed to abide by a statement of "nonviolent discipline." We also saw a new SOAW video,

Crossing the Line, which was an inspiring account of the action last November at Fort Benning, Georgia, where the SOA is located.

Day three began at 6:40 am outside the Pentagon. Approximately 2000 people gathered to walk in solemn procession around the Pentagon until we reached the action site. There was a series of carefully orchestrated steps designed to symbolize the destruction of the SOA war machine. Using handfuls of soil brought from around the country, we "buried" the dismantled destroyer and laid new earth to

begin the growth of healing and peace. As evidence of our presence, about 70 people lay down to symbolize SOA victims, and others drew lines of red paint around the bodies. Sixty "painters" were arrested for what was subsequently called "pouring" or "throwing" materials on persons or things. The 60 came from all across the US and included one American priest living in Managua. Those arrested were treated decently and after long hours

of inefficient processing were released with "violation" notices to appear in court in July.

The second major event planned by SOA Watch for 1999 is a gathering and action November 19-21 outside Fort Benning. This is the tenth anniversary of the assassination of six Jesuit priests, their co-worker and her daughter in San Salvador. (Of the 26 Salvadoran officers cited by the UN Truth Commission, 19 were trained at US taxpayer expense at the SOA.) SOAW is calling for 10,000 people to stand vigil, 5,000 to "cross the line", and 100 to risk prison. There is growing hope that this gathering will not be needed as work continues in Congress to close the School. Following the House lead, a bill has finally been introduced in the Senate. For on-going information on the status of the bills and other SOAW work: SOA Watch, PO Box 4566, Washington, DC 20017, (202) 234-3440, www.soaw.org. The PNL will also continue to report on this issue.

—Rae Kramer ("painter")



Dab Kenn

SPC Auction Postponed

Over the past eight weeks the time and energy of SPC staff and volunteers has been directed to responding to the wrenching activities in Europe, Latin America, and Colorado. Because of insufficient time to make the auction a big success, we have decided to postpone it until the summer. Your donations of items and services are still needed! Please think of us as you clear away the winter blahs and enjoy the springtime sun.

—Rae Kramer



Staff Change at SPC

Tim Judson will be stepping down from his position as Newsletter Coordinator as of August 1. Tim has worked at the Peace Council for more than two years. He expects to remain in Syracuse. We on the Council and Staff will be planning for this transition. Two things you want to know are how we will fill the position and in what form. Stay tuned by the Peace Council Page in the coming months for more information.



Attention, attention peace and justice organizations!

If you have plans for activities—fund-raising, organizing, educational—that are penciled in during the months of July to December, 1999, you will want to attend the SPC Calendar Meeting, June 14, 1999 here at the SPC, starting at 6 pm.

The Calendar Meeting is one way Central New York Peace and Justice organizations can begin to better coordinate their yearly planning. We are few. The work ahead of us is great. We can easily check in with each other and share upcoming plans.

If you can email (pnl-spc@juno.com) or regular mail (SPC, 924 Burnet Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203) your July - December events ahead of the meeting, so much the better. We will print up the July - December calendar.

Suggestions, ideas, comments? Please give us a call at 472-5478. Leave your message with Paul Frazier, and we'll hope to see you on June 14 (flag that date and head on over to 924 Burnet).

—Paul Frazier

Peace & Honor among Peoples

SPC and Onondaga Nation celebrate relationship at 63rd Birthday dinner

Carole Resnick

We would like to thank our guests from the Onondaga Nation who shared the Peace Council's birthday celebration, and contributed so much by speaking:

Cheech Honyoust, Yvonne Henhawk, Freida Jacques, Audrey Shenandoah, Clint Shenandoah, Jeanne Shenandoah, Wendy Gonyea, Dorothy Webster, and Joe Heath who is not Onondaga and provides legal support for the Onondaga Nation.

The Peace Council was graced to share our 63rd birthday dinner with neighbors from the Onondaga Nation. Eight people joined us for dinner, and most of them spoke afterward, sharing information and insights about their culture and community in relation to ours. By listening we had the opportunity to learn about the extensive nature of the traditional practices which maintain the structure and meaning of the spiritual, cultural, and political life of the Onondaga people. Living in "two worlds", the Onondagas spend a tremendous amount of time and attention meeting the requirements of traditional life, while also working and re-



Clint Shenandoah presents a Hopi prophecy. His illustration is held by Margaret Birdlebough.

creating in the outside world. But the message was clear; traditional life is not only about work, it is about joy and thanksgiving for the gifts of the natural world. We were invited to visit the Onondaga Nation and experience the rich Native American culture offered at their crafts festivals, and the annual summer music and cultural festival.

Of course there once were many "old cultures" all over the globe which held human values in balance with nature and each other. But the history of capitalist economic development over the centuries has brought us to a place where almost all memory and practice of traditions which place people before profit have been lost. The traditional Onondagas are people who remind us that this does not have to be the case, and who inspire us to call on



Photos by Ruth Putter

Audrey Shenandoah speaking, Cheech Honyoust, Wendy Gonyea, Clint Shenandoah, Jeanne Shenandoah and Dorothy Webster seated.

our own resources to recreate a world that our children and grandchildren will be able to live in peacefully, joyously, and respectfully.

Traditional practices pass on, the memory of histories that include deeply rooted values of cooperation and respect for all of life. When I have the opportunity to listen to people speak about the Onondaga ways, what I hear is a description of a community that is structured as a true democracy, deeply committed to peace and nonviolence, whose leaders are not separate from the rest of the people, and which holds a vision of unity between spiritual, political, and family life. Politics is not separated from everyday life.

We heard about a Hopi prophecy which told of the good path that was provided for us to follow, but which also foretold the diversions that might turn us away from that path. The prophecy spoke of a chance for healing and return to the good path of peace, harmony and balance.

"Old ways" are a direct challenge to the efforts of an out of control economic system which disempowers our resistance through deep layers of human disconnection. It is an incredible gift and inspiration to live next door to one of the few groups of people who have survived with their traditions intact. But Native American societies have only barely survived the ravages of US genocide and cultural genocide. The lure of profit has created devastating losses of culture and community for the Onondagas as well as for us. It is a strong, but very small center of traditional life, which remains.

We heard about "Keeping the Good Mind." This is the discipline and practice which the Onondagas use to maintain their capacity to feel joy and appreciation in harmony with the earth and its creatures, in spite of living in a state of constant siege. Keeping the Good Mind is about not dwelling in anger and resentment. Instead the mind is focused on what there is to be thankful for.

I cannot take in my experience of relationship and sharing with friends from the Onondaga Nation without reflecting on the contrast with our own society. Here we sit in nearly the 21st century, drowning in the floodwaters of global capitalism. We build nuclear power plants and bombs which support economic "growth" industries but threaten all life on our planet. We allow profit making to build a culture of "throw away" consumption which poisons and pollutes Mother Earth, on a path toward environmental suicide. We are dulled by overwork to make ends meet, disconnected from each other by "techno-relationships" (from answering machines to computers), and

Continued on page 7

When Joe Heath spoke, he suggested that the Peace Council prepare to support the Onondaga Nation as the issues related to the filing of their land claim continue to develop. The legal action taken by the Onondaga Nation against the gravel mine in Tully is an example of their mission to protect the environment, an integral part of the land claim they intend to file. The Onondaga Nation land claim will not threaten personal property. For information, or to let us know that you are interested in working on this issue, call the SPC office at 472-5478.

*See "The Veins of Mother Earth" March 1999 PNL 677

"Who Is to Blame?"

Report on a Community Discussion of Littleton and Kosovo

Gabrielle Barry-Caufield

ON MAY 11, about 25 people gathered at the Westcott Community Center to discuss violence. A lot of this discussion was about the Colorado school shootings and the war in Kosovo. We also discussed many of the other school shootings, the violence we see every day, the violence on TV and in the schools. Some community members were asked to be conversation starters, including Eugene Koveos, Joy Meeker, Gabrielle Barry-Caufield, Bill Coop and Kathy Barry. There was also a wide variety of ages, ranging from about 12-70.

Violence in schools was discussed quite a bit. After the Colorado shootings, the school systems were afraid of it happening here and tightened up on school security. They say Colorado could never come here, but they still took precautions. Eugene spoke of unnecessary rules being made, such as "no long coats allowed."

Many people asked, "Who is to blame?" Some said the NRA. Others said the media and violent TV shows. Gabrielle mentioned that if there weren't so much media coverage of things like the school shootings, there wouldn't be as many copy cat shootings. Some people said that teens today are just too hateful.

The idea that all guns should be banned was brought up. Some say they need guns for protection. If no one had a gun, no one would need one for his or her safety. Also, people said that if the public had no guns, the government would be the only ones with firearms. That would leave people open for all sorts of attacks.

Some of the elders in the group talked about the way kids are brought up today. They talked about all the hate and disrespect they see, when they walk down the street, kids screaming, yelling and taking up the side walk. They spoke of days when they were children and how they respected their elders, and how much more strict it was. Some suggested this is a cause for the violence.

The government is not going to stop all the violence. It is up to us, the community members, to stop it. And it's not going to stop

by sitting on your butt complaining. Do whatever you can to stop it. Lift up your head when you walk down the street. Smile at the kid all alone.

Everyone at the discussion thought it would be great to continue the discussion. We all would really like to get together soon. There was so much more to say. We hope to see everyone at the next discussion.

Gabrielle is 12 years old, a singer-songwriter, and student at Levy Middle School.



Drawings by Kosovar Albanian children, recently shown at an exhibition in Albania, document their experience of violence. The two images shown here focus on murders by Serbian troops.

Link up for Nonviolence — June 13

HYPOCRISY AND SHALLOW ANALYSIS dominate discussions of violence in our country. This unfortunate reality has rarely been demonstrated as clearly as when President Clinton spoke after the school massacre in Littleton, Colorado. He solemnly told young people that they need to learn to deal with their problems without using guns or bombs. This is the same president who has ordered bombings of Yugoslavia, Iraq, Sudan and Afghanistan all within several months.

While many of us in the peace movement understand the link between militarism and the violence which plagues our communities, we have not effectively communicated that to others. While con-

conflict resolution programs, youth anti-violence efforts, domestic violence and sexual assault work proliferate, these programs rarely draw the obvious links with militarism and social injustice.

The Littleton shootings, the public discussion which has followed in its wake, and the lukewarm public support for the war in Kosovo, provide us with opportunities to help others understand these connections.

With that in mind, a diverse group of local activists have planned a demonstration against

violence in all its manifestations—from school violence to domestic violence to police brutality to the NATO bombing campaign. We hope to bring together a broad spectrum of Central New Yorkers with the message that we can't stop one form of violence if we don't understand the ways that it is connected with others. We want to call for consistent policies for peace from government, and for action for

peace among all people.

Please join us on Sunday, June 13 at 2:00pm at Columbus Circle. At press time, confirmed speakers include poet Jackie Warren-Moore, social worker and community activist Ednita Wright and nonviolent activist Andy

Mager. Other speakers, music and theater will be featured along with a youth speakout. The rally will be followed by refreshments and dialogue groups at Plymouth Church.

The organizers plan for this event to set in motion coalition efforts which will work towards creating true peace in our community and world. It's certainly a tall order, but there is no time like the present to take it on. For further information or to lend assistance, contact me at 476-0161, email <magcap@gte.net>.

— Andy Mager

**Littleton, Kosovo, Jasper,
Livingston, Jenny Gannage, Jill
Cobelli, Monica**

Can we hear the cries?

**Sunday, June 13
2:00 pm at Columbus Circle
Youth Speakout, Speakers, Music and
Theater**

While the Balkans Burn...

Where Else Does Uncle Sam Have His "Humanitarian" Hands?

Brian Dominick

KEEP YOUR EYE on the Balkans. That's what the media, kowtowing to their corporate and government keepers, would like us to do. Of course, they train our eyes even more specifically on the victims of their choosing: Kosovar Albanian refugees, driven from their homeland at the hands of Slobodan Milosevic. NATO and the Western world are vindicated. Unfortunately, ethnic Albanians, or even Yugoslavians in general, are not the only people suffering because of US military might.

You wouldn't know it from reading the papers, but the almost daily assaults on Iraq have continued at an alarmingly increasing rate since January. While our attention is diverted to the feel-good bombing of the year, and the media ignore Iraq, US and British planes have flown hundreds of air strikes against military targets and civilian infrastructure. Specifically targeted on at least two occasions has been Iraq's oil industry. While publicly touting its own generosity in putting up with the Oil for Food program which has

been Iraq's sole, insufficient means of import, the US has sought to hinder Iraq's ability to produce the petroleum it now relies on for its people's food supply. These are the actions of a "humanitarian" government.

Perhaps more troubling is the frequency with which *collateral damage* is being suffered. When US/British bombs and missiles fall off target and strike civilians or other unintended targets, this euphemism for *war crimes* is invoked. Most likely because the media simply aren't reporting, or are misreporting, cases in which Iraqi civilians have been killed, military planners have no perceivable reason to avert human catastrophes. Notably, casualty figures are disproportionately high in Iraq compared to Yugoslavia. On February 25, a stray missile was blamed

when 17 civilians were killed during an air raid which was said to be a response to Iraqi violations of the illegally-imposed "no-fly zones." These zones, patrolled constantly by US/British warplanes, have become Washington's number one excuse for continuing its bombing campaign, and amount to little more than US occupation of a sovereign country's air space (see my "No-Truth Zones..." May PNL).

Worst of all, and severely compounded by the continual bombing, the Iraqi people are being starved and deprived of medicine and other life necessities by the US/United Nations' sanctions regime in place since 1990. In April, the International Red Cross issued a report on conditions in Iraq, highlighting the devastated conditions of hospitals. The unavailability of medical supplies has reached unspeakable levels — basic pain-killers are scarce, simple diagnoses are becoming increasingly difficult. And while reliable numbers are still impossible to come by, low-end estimates of the number of deaths directly attributable to the sanctions are around one million.



Q: Yugo or Iraq? A: Yugo, but it's hard to tell the difference ...

And while reliable numbers are still impossible to come by, low-end estimates of the number of deaths directly attributable to the sanctions are around one million.

In the Pacific, Indonesia's continued occupation of East Timor has flared up once again. On April 17th, more than 1000 armed pro-Indonesian paramilitary members attacked Timorese civilians; shoot-

ing into buildings, ransacking and burning homes. Scores of civilians have been killed as terror at the hands of the paramilitaries skyrocketed in recent months in preparation for the August 8 referendum on East Timor. Indonesia has promised the Timorese people the option of separating from the imperialist country which annexed their homeland shortly after the Timorese freed themselves from Portuguese colonial rule in 1975. But in the style of US clients in Central America, wholesale terrorism is the preferred counterbalance to democracy.

Meanwhile, low-intensity conflicts continue throughout US spheres of influence in hot spots such as Colombia, Turkey and Chiapas, Mexico, where American-backed militaries are carrying out slow extermination

of dissidents, especially ethnic minorities. US humanitarianism, it seems, has the same two faces everywhere.

These obvious increases in the level, frequency and intensity of US-backed violence are indicative of a growing problem. While the Pentagon plays its war games in multiple, aptly termed "theaters" of operation, rendering the public confused spectators, the US Left is divided accordingly, resistance diluted. A resurgent focus on antiwar activism is desperately needed. The policies of war can be brought to an end, but only through the development of a coherent, strategic movement.

Brian is a member of the newly-formed On the Ground direct action group, which is publishing a paper on the US/NATO war on Yugoslavia. He regularly writes on US foreign policy, resistance and other issues for ZNet / Z Magazine <www.zmag.org> and the PNL.

Peace and Honor Continued from page 5

"treated" with drugs when we just can't handle the "stress". We are chronically exhausted. We are out of touch with the earth and the seasons.

One thing that our Onondaga friends seem to notice is that some of us do try to resist and fight back against the tide of this system. Speaker after speaker thanked us for our support of their community, and welcomed us deeply as friends. Appreciation was expressed for inviting members of the Onondaga Nation to write in the Peace Newsletter as a valuable way of providing information to a broader community, and also for our help with their newsletter, Gai'hwa na ge'.

What a contradiction it is at this juncture to look at the Onondaga way of considering a problem with respect to effects on the "seven generations" to come, in contrast with our culture of immediate gratification. Economic theorists have said that capitalism has to continue to expand in order to survive, and that it will eventually self-destruct. The traditional Onondagas hold on outside of this process, but spare the planet that is being sacrificed to profit making.

My thanks to Paul Pearce for his thoughtful assistance in writing this article. C.R.

Carole Resnick is a long time member of the Peace Council and of S.O.S. (Support Onondaga Sovereignty).

"Humanitarian" Killing — Made in USA

WRL's David McReynolds Puts War in Perspective

Carl Mellor

EARLY IN HIS MAY 4 presentation at the Westcott Community Center, David McReynolds shifted from the situation in Kosova, his primary topic, to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, referring to erroneous reports that Iraqi soldiers stole incubators from a hospital and left babies to die. Those reports turned out to be propaganda and while McReynolds, a long-time anti-war activist and participant in the War Resisters League and War Resisters International, said he believes Iraqi troops committed atrocities, NATO continues to enact verifiable atrocities. "What did happen was a NATO attack that left a Belgrade hospital without power. The staff had to do a Caesarean by candlelight and had to try to save children's lives when equipment wasn't functioning. NATO has targeted babies in incubators, and it is done in our name."

From there, McReynolds moved on to several themes, one being the amount of damage inflicted by the bombing campaign. "We

have exceeded the Nazi record in destroying the Serbian nation," he said. "This is done to a people who were our allies during World War II, during a time when nearly a million Serbs were exterminated. And yet they have been demonized by much of the media."

At the same time, McReynolds noted, the bombing has done nothing to stabilize the situation in the Balkans region, to restrain Serbian paramilitary forces in Kosova or to stem the flow of refugees from that province. "Within 48 hours, the bombing campaign was a failure," he said. "It hasn't protected the Albanians. It is a prime example of Bill Clinton's ineptitude."

In discussing Clinton's rationale for the bombing, McReynolds first focused on mistreatment of Albanian Kosovars by Serbian forces. "Terrible things have happened in Kosova," he said. "People have lost everything — their homes, possessions and gardens. Have massacres occurred? Yes, I think they did occur. This is a region in which there have been massacres during past conflicts like this."

However, McReynolds both rejected the notion of NATO being the right body to resolve the conflict and the strategy of a bombing campaign. He said sidestepping the United Nations was an initial blunder and the bombing a further disaster. And he noted that some leftists and liberals, such as Congressmen Barney Frank and Bernie Sanders, have supported bombing because of concerns over Serbian abuses, conditions in refugee camps, and the notion that it's better to do something than nothing.

"The bombing has failed and will continue to fail," he said. "It is one thing we can control, and it must stop. We must press our government to end the bombing. Then the Russians must be involved in the process of negotiations. We must turn to the United Nations. The Clinton administration's marginalization of the UN has been a tragedy."

A settlement of the Kosova conflict would mean contacts with Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader, and McReynolds said it's necessary to get beyond the portrayal of Milosevic as Hitler. "Am I fond of Milosevic," he asked. "Obviously not. But we need to keep in mind that he is not Hitler. We also need to remember that if he's assassinated, he will not



Patients in a bombed hospital in Belgrade.

be replaced by a moderate. We must remember the events leading up to this crisis. The Rambouillet accords were a dictate imposed by NATO; there's no way they could have been accepted by Milosevic or the leader of any sovereign state in the world. And there's no way they could have been accepted by the Kosovars."

McReynolds said perceptions of Milosevic and the overall conflict have been shaped by mainstream media coverage that seldom challenges fundamental assumptions of NATO and Clinton administration policies. "I'm getting information from the BBC, the Internet and E-mail," he said. "What I've realized is that we are so isolated in this country. Around the world we are viewed as a rogue state. We have violated UN accords. There are demonstrations in Italy and Greece, Greek soldiers facing court martials. Beyond disagreements with our government's policies, there's a belief that our leaders don't know what they're doing."

Finally, he rejected the idea that the Clinton administration is intervening in Yugoslavia on humanitarian grounds. "People like Clinton and Madelyn Albright shouldn't use those terms," McReynolds said. "They have continued to employ sanctions against Iraq, resulting in the death of thousands of Iraqi children. They have authorized random air attacks on Iraq. These are the last people who should be talking about humanitarianism."

McReynolds' Syracuse appearance was sponsored by the Socialist Forum, the Syracuse Peace Council, Peace Action of CNY and the Syracuse Greens. At the end of the evening, local activist Andy Mager presented two posters to McReynolds and thanked him for his many years of service with the War Resisters League office in New York City.

Carl is a member of the SPC Council.

**STOP
BOMBING
YUGOSLAVIA**

June 5 • Washington, DC

THE PEACE COUNCIL joins local and national organizations in the first large demonstration against the US/NATO war in Yugoslavia. The June 5 Rally in Washington, DC includes a march to the Pentagon.

The action was initiated by the International Action Center (IAC). Concerned about their support for the Yugoslavian government, national organizations — War Resisters League, AFSC, Peace Action, Pax Christi — developed a three point platform, agreeable to all groups:

- STOP the BOMBING
- NO NATO OCCUPATION
- FUNDS FOR EDUCATION, NOT FOR WAR

Call SPC, 472-5478, or Peace Action, 478-7442, if you need a ride or can drive.



The Wars of Contamination

Caravan of Conscience Raises Awareness of Nuke Waste

Tim Judson

ON APRIL 23, a band of 11 nukebusters loaded up their vans, 1972 Winnebago, and a 20-foot mock nuclear waste cask and began a nine-day tour down the east coast. The Caravan of Conscience tour, Citizens Awareness Network's (CAN) third since 1994, was organized to alert communities along the Intercoastal Waterway of nuclear waste shipments from Connecticut to South Carolina.

As an SPC staffperson and CAN board member, I joined the Caravan to learn first-hand about the struggles of waste transport and dump communities and to represent CNY anti-nuclear activists' concerns with the unethical practices of nuclear dumping.

We worked with local activists in each community along the way, holding rallies and press conferences each day. We learned about the particular struggles people are facing on the local level, and saw first-hand the risks impending waste shipments will pose to the towns they will travel through. As the floodgates of waste open and shipments of the most radioactive components of the defunct Connecticut Yankee plant begin this fall, the need for coordinated action and solidarity between local communities is on the rise. Unfortunately, it is not just individual corporations and the federal bureaucracy we have to fight — local politics also play a big part. Witnessing the diversity of grassroots struggles was one of the most encouraging and eye-opening experiences of the Caravan.

In Between Wars ... and Worlds

At the same time, it was an odd moment in history to be on the road, traveling from town to town and talking to people about issues of which there is little public awareness

yet. While we were driving from the tiny town of Haddam, CT, and vigiling in the cold, damp drizzle in Peekskill, NY, thousands of people were protesting against the bombing of Yugoslavia on NATO's 50th anniversary. While we were stuck in NYC traffic and driving the turnpike to Salem, NJ, we listened to live broadcast of the Millions for Mumia rally on WBAI, where we could hear up to 20,000 of our friends and comrades demonstrating against the State of Pennsylvania's intent to murder Mumia Abu-Jamal (see article page 15).

The Caravan's first event in Washington, DC had to be cancelled because much of the



The Cask — CAN's mock high-level waste cask sparks discussion about the dangers of waste and transport. Stay tuned for a CNY appearance sometime soon.

city was shut down for fear of terrorist attacks in response to NATO bombing. And on the last day of the trip, we joined thousands more people in DC for the rally kicking off four days of action to close the SOA.

For the most part, local news reports about the Caravan were but a side note to the NATO bombing and the Columbine High massacre; our days in the cars were filled with exhaustive news and commentaries documenting our nation's struggle to reconcile its "humanitarian war" and the violence exhibited by its children.

Surfacing

Although it sometimes felt lonely flowing south comparatively unseen — as though we were traveling the cracks and fissures between these large events and actions — it became clear along the way that we were filling in some of those unspoken regions. When we finally surfaced again at the SOA rally, it was a sort of homecoming. We found that the role of the Caravan was to begin waking people up to a seldom listened-to chapter in the story of our society that is perpetually at war. It is the story of long-term environmental degradation and marginalized communities that have fallen through the cracks, communities that are quietly being sacrificed to an invisible death to serve the

needs of a dirty industry. CAN calls this chapter the Wars of Contamination.

The second part of this article next month will report on the specifics of what we saw and experienced on the Caravan.

When Tim isn't nukebusting, staffing SPC, or On the Ground, he is spending time with his chile plants. The little sprouts are still quite small, but soon they will be big and strong. He also can't wait for the Northeast Nuclear Action Camp, August 20-28 (see Summer Vacation Guide, pp. 11-14).

Close Nine Mile One!

THE CAMPAIGN TO CLOSE NINE MILE ONE is at another crucial stage as the PNL goes to press. SPC and other groups have filed another petition 2.206 with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for suspension of Niagara Mohawk's operating license until there has been a full public review of the reactor's safety.

On May 10, NiMo announced to a hand-picked audience of local press that they had designed and installed a repair for the two worst cracks in NM1's core shroud. On April 11, the reactor shut down for refueling and the core shroud inspection postponed from last fall. That postponement was approved by NRC with the promise that the full inspection and review would be made during this spring's refueling outage. The decision prompted the first petition to revoke NiMo's license, which was later denied by the NRC because it requested a public meeting on the matter.

Preliminary news from the inspection indicates that cracking in the core shroud has worsened, yet NRC will not even see the actual data from the inspection until after the plant is scheduled to start up. In addition, cap screws, installed as part of a modified repair to the core shroud two years ago, were also found to have cracked because they were made of an inferior metal; one of the screws broke completely. The adequacy of the weld repair, approved by NRC before this inspection without public review, is highly questionable.

NiMo claims a public meeting would place an "undue regulatory burden" on them and compromise safety. NRC has accepted this claim and plans to let the plant restart the first week in June. In addition to the petition, we are planning a postcard campaign to the NRC, as well as a demo on June 2. Call Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort at SPC for details and postcards 472-5478.

Action Update

Let Iraq Live!

LILAC Material Aid Campaign Kicks Off with Potluck Dinner — June 15

Civil Disobedience Mailing to Iraq Planned (via Voices in the Wilderness) — June 23

AS THE WAR IN YUGOSLAVIA has been increasing and getting more attention from activists, the Let Iraq Live! Action Coalition (LILAC) and others have still been fighting to stop the bombing and sanctions against Iraq. We haven't met much as the entire coalition, but the Material Aid Campaign has big plans for June!

This month we kicked off our Material Aid Campaign by mailing out letters to doctors, religious groups and leaders, and community organizations about how the campaign is gathering up badly needed medical supplies for the people of Iraq, everything from vitamins and aspirin to leukemia drugs and IV bags.

Our main expense is postage; for the mailing and to get the material aid to its destination. So, for Part Two of the Campaign we are having a potluck-get-together-fundraiser on **Tuesday, June 15** at the Westcott Community Center. Sounds pretty self explanatory, right?! At **6:00pm** please bring a dish to pass, any donations, and your chipper, cheerful sense of building community through dialogue and working together. We will have speakers and updates on the campaign.

By now you are probably scratching your head and saying, "Wait, you can't mail these kinds of items to Iraq?!" You are right, that is where Part Three comes in: a Post Office Mail-In Demonstration! On **Wednesday, June 23**, meet us downtown at Columbus Circle at **Noon** (on your lunch break) for a march to the Post Office where we will attempt to mail all the items we have collected. We are going to be turned down, but we will be carrying signs, clearly marked boxes of items, and informational flyers about why we can't mail humanitarian aid to people in Iraq to make a statement and raise the issue with the people we meet. Hopefully the press will be there, too, so that we might possibly reach folks watching the evening news. After we are turned down, we will re-address the boxes for Voices in the Wilderness. They go to Iraq quite often and are planning on taking it with them in the future.

We have already begun to receive donations. For a pamphlet about the Material Aid

Campaign or to make a donation, drop off items, get in touch, or better still, to get involved, contact Diane Swords at Peace Action, 478-7442, 658 W. Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13204. Yep, yep!

— *Adrienne Allen*

CNY Voices Delegates Share Witness of Sanctions

John Doughty lives at St. Francis Farm, a Catholic Worker community, 136 Wart Rd. Lacona, NY 13083 — or call (315) 298-2844. He welcomes any opportunity to speak with groups large and small about his recent Voices in the Wilderness delegation to Iraq. John travelled with Central New Yorkers Jim Clune, Leslie Schultz, Neal Golder, and Clare Grady in April of this year.

— Voices in the Wilderness report —

WE HAVE JUST RETURNED from Iraq, which we visited from April 14 - 23 as a Voices in the Wilderness delegation. We 15 people from upstate New York and Kansas City deliberately, openly, and publicly violated the sanctions against the import of materials to Iraq by taking medical supplies and textbooks to hospitals. We were the twenty-third such delegation since early 1996. (Two Nobel Peace Prize winners went on a delegation in March.) So far our particular group has not been targeted for fines or prosecution by our government, but that could change.

We committed this act of civil disobedience in order to put a human face on the suffering of the Iraqi people and because the sanctions constitute an unjust law which, in conscience, must be broken. The UN-imposed economic sanctions have had a devastating effect upon Iraqi society. (The military sanctions are a separate issue and should be continued.) Our best estimates are that over a million and a half people have died in the past ten years because of the sanctions. UNICEF figures indicate that 5,000 children die per month because of them. Dennis Halliday, who recently resigned as head of the Oil for Food Program (Security Council Resolution 986) for reasons of conscience, has been using the figure of 6,000 deaths per month.

While in Iraq, we visited hospitals, schools, orphanages, churches, a mosque, family homes, sewage treatment plants, religious leaders, UN officials, and an Iraqi government research center, not to mention riding the streets and roads. Between us we visited Baghdad, Basra, Falugia, Nagev, and Karbela. We saw and talked to many people who greeted us very graciously, always making the distinction between American citizens and our government. There were times when we were challenged, but in

my experience it was always polite but nevertheless impassioned. They asked, "Why do you bomb us? Why do you keep these sanctions? How does our suffering benefit you?" One tenth grade girl, whose classroom we visited, said in perfect English, "It is time to end this inhuman embargo....The American people should realize they are having the right to live more than us."

In the four hospitals I visited in Baghdad, Basra, and Amara I saw a lot of children sick from gastrointestinal diseases, acute myeloblastic leukemia (which has jumped sevenfold in the past ten years), and varying stages of malnutrition. The water and sewer systems were bombed and/or unrepaired because of the inability to get spare parts. The cancer rate is attributable to US use of depleted uranium shells, which turn to powder upon impact, and get into the food chain. Doctors told me most of Iraq's children are malnourished, UN figures say 25 percent are chronically malnourished, and we saw some children in the hospital in Amara at the point of death. None of this needs to happen.

One evening we visited a mosque. Our entire visit with the Imam became a process of breaking down barriers in what could be called a service of repentance and reconciliation. No one left dry-eyed.

The Iraqi people are a good, gracious, friendly, and rightly proud people who deserve better from us. Innocent people die while government leaders posture. What is needed is not more humanitarian aid, but a lifting of the economic embargo so that Iraq can purchase and produce what is needed to heal their nation. It is time to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction held by either side, including the weapon of economic sanctions.

— *Jim Clune*



SUMMER VACATION GUIDE

compiled by Andy Molloy

artwork by Karen Kerney

Our alternative vacation guide lists almost 70 events, located mostly in the United States. Events are grouped under one of four categories—Politics, Festivals, Schools or Tours. It is our hope that this guide gives some testament to the diversity of the social change movement—a movement that is waiting for you to participate, wherever your travels may take you.



POLITICS

Nato-US Out Of The Balkans Coalition Teach-In

DATE: June 2
PLACE: Albany, NY
COMMENT: at the Friend's (Quaker) Meeting House, 727 Madison; teach-in on the war in Yugoslavia

Emergency Mobilization to Stop the War in Yugoslavia - National March on the Pentagon

DATE: June 5
PLACE: Washington, DC
CONTACT: Syracuse Peace Council for local ride info; (315) 472-5478; www.iacenter.org
COMMENT: march from the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial to the steps of the Pentagon

Radical Walking Tours of New York City

DATE: June 5, 26; July 4, 17
PLACE: New York, NY
CONTACT: (718) 492-0069; www.he.net/~radtours
COMMENT: learn about the social history of the city

Land Conservation: Aims and Methods

DATE: June 7-8
PLACE: Burlington, VT
CONTACT: (802) 656-4055
COMMENT: two-day course will examine a variety of techniques employed by land trusts, government agencies, and other organizations to protect critical land-based resources; property law, nonprofit organization, conservation easements, land stewardship and historic preservation will be discussed through class lectures, guest speakers and field experience

Community Sense of Place

DATE: June 7-8
PLACE: Burlington, VT
CONTACT: (802) 656-4055
COMMENT: interactive two-day workshop is designed for students and professionals interested in land conservation, planning and community enhancement

10th Annual Protecting Mother Earth Conference

DATE: June 10-13
PLACE: west of Albuquerque, NM
CONTACT: Charlotte Caldwell, Indigenous Environmental Network, PO Box 485, Bemidji, MN 56619; (218) 751-4967; www.alphacdc.com/ien
COMMENT: focus will be on uranium issues affecting Indigenous Peoples and their Tribes

20th Annual National Women's Studies Conference

DATE: June 17-20
PLACE: Albuquerque, NM
CONTACT: NWSA, University of Maryland, 7100 Baltimore Blvd., Ste. 500, College Park, MD 20740; (301) 403-0525; www.nwsa.org
COMMENT: includes keynote "Feminism Without Frontiers"

Global Protest Against Capitalism

DATE: June 18
PLACE: your community!
CONTACT: www.gn.apc.org/june18/
COMMENT: a day of protest, action, and carnival in financial centres across the globe

Fire & Grit: Working for Nature in Community Conference

DATE: June 21-24
PLACE: Shepherstown, West Virginia
CONTACT: The Orion Society, 195 Main St, Great Barrington, MA 01230; (413) 528-4422
COMMENT: speakers include Terry Tempest Williams, Stephanie Mills, Barry Lopez, Wendell Berry

25th Anniversary International Indian Treaty Conference

DATE: June 23-26
PLACE: Lakota Nation Territory near Rapid City, SD
CONTACT: (612) 359-0200; iitc@igc.apc.org
COMMENT: opportunity for Indigenous Peoples from many countries and Nations to share information, discuss developments from community to international levels, and build joint strategies in response to critical issues facing our Peoples and lands

Leonard Peltier Organizing Conference

DATE: June 25-27
PLACE: Lawrence, KS
CONTACT: Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, PO Box 583, Lawrence, KS 66044; (785) 842-5774; members.xoom.com/freepeltier/index.html
COMMENT: become better prepared to organize for Peltier's freedom with a feeling of renewed dedication and unity

San Francisco Pride Parade

DATE: June 26-27
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
COMMENT: food booths, arts and crafts, dancing and entertainment

Science and Social Responsibility in the New Millennium

DATE: June 28-July 4
PLACE: San Diego, CA
CONTACT: Student Pugwash, 815 15th St NW, Suite 814, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 393-6555; conference@spusa.org
COMMENT: Student Pugwash 20th anniversary conference

Environmental Law Center Summer Session

DATE: June-August
PLACE: Vermont Law School, So. Royalton, VT
CONTACT: (800) 227-1395 or (802) 763-8303

VACATION GUIDE

COMMENT: biotechnology, animal rights law, law of toxic and hazardous substances, biodiversity protection, agricultural resources law, ecology and more

Aryan Nations Parade Counter-Demonstration

DATE: July 10-15

PLACE: Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

CONTACT: Anti-Racist Action, Moscow; United Front Against Fascism, Seattle; (208) 882-9755
COMMENT: the Aryan Nation is a Christian Identity hate group and wants to establish northern Idaho as the new white homeland; they are particularly dangerous because of their history of violent crimes, outreach programs in schools and police departments and influence over a vulnerable, extraction oriented, white population of the inland northwest influence over a vulnerable, extraction-oriented, white population of the inland northwest

A Future of Nonviolence: Shaping the 21st Century

DATE: July 15-19

PLACE: Milford, IN

CONTACT: Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960; (914) 358-4601; forpti@igc.org
COMMENT: Fellowship of Reconciliation national conference; plenary sessions, networking caucuses, entertainment, meditation, workshops

Southern Girl's Convention

DATE: July 30-August 1

PLACE: Memphis, TN

CONTACT: (978) 355-2853; www.nofavt.org
COMMENT: sponsored by Southern Girl Crew and Women's Action Coalition; fosters a sense of empowerment through dialog, knowledge, dance, music and action

Beyond the Bomb: Peace Action Annual Congress

DATE: August 6-9

PLACE: Albuquerque, NM

CONTACT: Peace Action, 1819 H St NW #425, Washington, DC 20006; (202) 862-9740; www.peace-action.org/beyond.html

COMMENT: speakers, workshops, entertainment; nonviolent demonstration and civil disobedience at Los Alamos National Laboratory - birthplace of the Atomic Bomb and future site of US nuclear bomb production

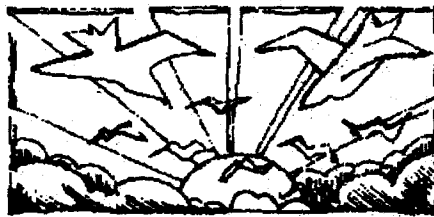
Northeast Action Camp

DATE: August 20-28

PLACE: Brattleboro, VT

CONTACT: Syracuse Peace Council or Citizens Awareness Network, Box 83, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

COMMENT: join activists and organizers from across the region and US for a week of learning, mobilizing and activity to help make the Northeast the nation's first nuclear free region



FESTIVALS

11th Anniversary New York Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

DATE: June 3-13

PLACE: New York, NY

CONTACT: The New Festival, 47 Great Jones St, 6th Fl, New York, NY 10010; (212) 254-7228;

www.newfestival.org

COMMENT: 199 films hosted in four venues

20th Annual Otsiningo Pow Wow

DATE: June 4-6

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

COMMENT: this year features a special anniversary program of Indian dances with the Allegany River Indian Dancers, Zuni Rainbow Dancers, Comanche Dancers, Western Navajo Dancers; also Indian Craft Fair, lectures, exhibitions, food, campfire storytelling, art

Sistah Summerfest

DATE: June 11-13

PLACE: Maryland

CONTACT: Amethyst & Indigo, PO Box 1051, College Park, MD 20741; www.erols.com/sistah

COMMENT: music-spirit festival by and for womyn of color; poetry, music, workshops and exhibits

Solar 99 Annual Conference & Maine Solar Blast

DATE: June 12-16

PLACE: Portland, ME

CONTACT: Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, 50 Miles St, Greenfield, MA 01301; (413) 774-6051; www.nesea.org/mainesolarblast/

COMMENT: includes workshops, solar home tours, electric vehicle rides and more

25th Annual National Women's Music Festival

DATE: June 17-20

PLACE: Muncie, IN

CONTACT: NWMF, POB 1427, Indianapolis, IN 46206; (317) 927-9355; www.a1.com/wia/nwmf

COMMENT: oldest women's festival in the US; all concerts, workshops, intensives, crafts fair held indoors

Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival

DATE: June 19-20

PLACE: Croton Point Park, Croton-on Hudson, NY
CONTACT: Clearwater Revival, 112 Market St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601; www.clearwater.org

COMMENT: 7 music stages of folk, blues, gospel, Irish, Cajun, World, Swing; Children's theater, crafts, storytelling, ethnic foods

19th Annual Old Songs Festival

DATE: June 25-27

PLACE: Altamont Fairgrounds, Altamont, NY

CONTACT: Old Songs, Inc., POB 399, Guilderland, NY 12084; (518) 765-2815; www.oldsongs.org

COMMENT: traditional music & dance, children's activities, crafts; feature Cajun, harp, banjo, fiddling, Contra dances, Flamenco music and more

Strawberry Festival

DATE: June 26

PLACE: Common Place Land Trust, Truxton, NY

CONTACT: (607) 842-6039

COMMENT: strawberry shortcake, hiking, outdoor fun

10th Annual Dyke Art Retreat Encampment

DATE: June 27-July 4

PLACE: Oregon

CONTACT: DARE, 2000 King Mountain Trail, Sunny Valley, OR 97497

COMMENT: week of focussed group and individual self-initiated art projects in a supportive environment

Vegetarian Summerfest

DATE: July 7-11

PLACE: Johnstown, PA

CONTACT: North American Vegetarian Society, POB 72, Dolgeville, NY 13329; (518) 568-7970;

www.cyberveg.org/navs/fest99

COMMENT: health, nutrition, exercise, animal rights and the environment

17th Annual Winterhawk Bluegrass Festival

DATE: July 15-18

PLACE: Rothvoss Farm, Ancramdale, NY

CONTACT: Winterhawk, POB 161, Tremont City, OH 45372; (888) 946-8495;

www.winterhawkbluegrass.com/index2.cfm

COMMENT: all kinds of performances, workshops, contests, dancing, camping

Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival of Music & Dance

DATE: July 22-25

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 and 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

Falcon Ridge Folk Festival

DATE: July 23-25
PLACE: Long Hill Farm, Hillsdale, NY
CONTACT: FRFF, 74 Modley Rd, Sharon, CT 06069; (860) 350-7472; www.FalconRidgeFolk.com
COMMENT: several stages, dancing, camping, crafts, workshops, song swaps, comedy, family stage, spoken word

4th Annual Herb Festival

DATE: July 24-25
PLACE: Ontario, Canada
CONTACT: Herb Festival, 3918 Third Concession, RR#2, Harrow, Ontario, Canada NOR 1G0; (519) 738-4372

Women's Motorcycle Festival: An Adventure in the Catskills

DATE: July 25-30
PLACE: Kingston, NY
CONTACT: Women for Safe Riding, PO Box 146, West Shokan, NY 12494; (914) 657-6227
COMMENT: brings together women motorcycle enthusiasts from all walks of life, to share a week of learning, riding and fun

Radical Feminist Lesbian Festival

DATE: July 30-August 1
PLACE: Vermont
CONTACT: T. Rowe, 4 Hayes Ave, So. Burlington, VT 05403; (802) 865-3098

24th Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

DATE: August 10-15
PLACE: Walhalla, MI
CONTACT: WWTMC, PO Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458; (616) 757-4766; www.michfest.com
COMMENT: 40 performances, 300 workshops, film festival, crafts fair

Old Lesbian Gathering

DATE: August 12-15
PLACE: Texas
CONTACT: Old Lesbians Organizing For Change, PO Box 980422, Houston, TX 77098
COMMENT: old means over 60 at this gathering to look at our lives, critique our culture, and meet and greet each other from far and near

Summer Gathering at Common Place

DATE: August 21
PLACE: Common Place Land Trust, Truxton, NY
CONTACT: (607) 842-6039
COMMENT: hiking, swimming, food and fun



Training for Social Action Trainers

DATE: June 4-6
PLACE: Philadelphia, PA
CONTACT: George Lakey, 4719 Springfield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19143; (215) 729-7458; peaceleam@igc.org
COMMENT: learn how to train others for social action and create designs which empower those being trained to see for themselves what to do next

6th Annual Forest Activist Training Week

DATE: June 5-12
PLACE: Green Mountains of VT
CONTACT: Native Forest Network, POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402; (802) 863-0571; nfnena@sover.net; www.nativeforest.org/press_releases/action_camp.html
COMMENT: hands-on learning around a wide variety of topics related to forest activism including tree climbing, banner hanging and blockade techniques

Creative Conflict Resolution Courses

DATE: June 6-July 23
PLACE: Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
CONTACT: PARC, SU, 410 Maxwell Hall, Syracuse, NY 13244; (315) 443-3741; parc@maxwell.syr.edu
COMMENT: for those who want to improve communication skills and become better able to handle interpersonal and group conflicts

Community Action School

DATE: June 10-13
PLACE: College Park, MD
CONTACT: Burns Academy of Leadership, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; (301) 405-6100; academy.umd.edu/Training/CAS/
COMMENT: national training for community leaders, activists, candidates for public office, campaign workers, organizers, union activists and members of grassroots organizations

Minority Activist Apprenticeship Program

DATE: June 17-August 2
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 and community organizing

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

AFL/CIO Organizing Institute

DATE: June 23-25, July 16-19
PLACE: New York City, NY
CONTACT: Daisy Rooks; (800) 848-3021; arooks@hotmail.com

Public Interest Training & Career Fair

DATE: June 24-27
PLACE: Georgetown University, Washington, DC
CONTACT: Center for Public Interest, 218 D St, SE, Washington, DC, 20003; (202) 546-9707; www.pirg.org/student
COMMENT: sponsored by top public interest and environmental organizations for recent college graduates interested in public interest organizing and advocacy; weekend events include skills workshops, guest speakers, public interest career fair

Democracy Summer

DATE: mid-June through mid-August
PLACE: Brooklyn, NY
CONTACT: Democracy Summer, 88 3rd Ave, Suite 313, Brooklyn, NY 11217; (888) 818-9098; www.nmef.org
COMMENT: 8-week program designed to bring young people into the progressive movement and train them in the basic tools of civic activism

Community Organizers

DATE: June-August
PLACE: New York City
CONTACT: Training Institute for Careers in Organizing, 103 E. 196th St, Bronx, NY 10468; (718) 584-0515; www.tico1.org
COMMENT: work at one of three grassroots community organizations: NY Acorn, Mothers on the Move, or the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition

Open Hand Theater's Circus Camp

DATE: July 6-16, 19-30
PLACE: Lafayette and Syracuse, NY
CONTACT: Open Hand Theater, 232 E. Onondaga St, Syracuse, NY 13202; 476-0466
COMMENT: classes include Comedy and Mime, Movement and Dance, Magic and Juggling, Mask Making and Art; ages 8 and up

21st Century Youth Leadership Movement

DATE: July 9-18
PLACE: Suttle, Alabama
CONTACT: 21st Century, PO Box 2516, Selma, Alabama 36702; (334) 874-0065; youth421c@aol.com
COMMENT: camp that helps young people develop a community focus which will also compel them to influence their peers to work toward social change in a multi-cultural society

Reconciliation Work Camp in Bosnia

DATE: July 11-30
PLACE: Bosnia
CONTACT: Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960; (914) 358-4601; forpti@igc.org
COMMENT: visit communities on both sides of war while helping to repair the physical damage of the war

Pax Christi Youth Summer Retreat

DATE: July 12-14
PLACE: Los Angeles, CA
CONTACT: Pax Christi USA, 532 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16502; (814) 453-4955; info@paxchristiusa.org
COMMENT: for ages 18-30; national gathering of faith-based young people who seek to pursue the gospel of peace and justice through prayer, study and action

Community Action Training

DATE: August 13-15, 20-22
PLACE: Denver, CO and Oakland, CA
CONTACT: Center for Third World Organizing, 1218 E 21st St, Oakland, CA 94606; (510) 533-7583; www.ctwo.org
COMMENT: intensive weekend-long introduction to community organizing, including an actual in-the-field outreach experience; the curriculum consists of skills and political training, including approaches to social change, building a social justice movement, doorknocking, direct action, and fundraising

Human Rights Action Seminar: Abolition Now!

DATE: August 13-21
PLACE: Chevy Chase, MD
CONTACT: Amnesty International, AIUSA-National Field Program, 1118 22nd St, NW, Washington, DC 20003; (202) 775-5161; lsoc@aiusa.org
COMMENT: share challenges, common strategies and build organizing skills while learning about the human rights framework and how it can be used effectively to stop state-sponsored killings

Skills For Change

DATE: August
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 and social justice, and strategies for creating positive social change; part of FOR's Peacemaker Training Institute

Omega Institute Workshops

DATE: all summer
PLACE: Rhinebeck, NY
CONTACT: Omega Institute, 260 Lake Dr, Rhinebeck, NY 12572; (800) 944-1001; www.omega-inst.org
COMMENT: over 250 workshops, trainings, retreats in personal health and development, gender, relationships and family, the arts, nature and society, spiritualism

Institute for Solar Living Workshops

DATE: all summer
PLACE: Hopland and Ukiah, CA
CONTACT: Institute for Solar Living c/o Real Goods, 555 Leslie St, Ukiah, CA 95482; (800) 762-7325; isk@realgoods.com
COMMENT: various workshops focusing on renewable energy, alternative construction techniques and 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: Herbal Medicine Chest, Herbs For Women

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, 7th 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

1999 Primate Freedom Tour

DATE: June-August
PLACE: throughout US
CONTACT: Coalition to End Primate Experimenta-

tion, PO Box 34293, Washington, DC 20043; (888) 391-8948; www.envirolink.org/orgs/cepe
COMMENT: stops at 21 cities throughout the US; calls for end to harmful experimentation on nonhuman primates

Stonewalk: Summer Pilgrimage to Honor Millions Killed in Wars

DATE: July 4-August 6
PLACE: 76 towns along state routes from MA to Washington, DC
CONTACT: Stonewalk, (508) 652-1994; Lranda3757@aol.com
COMMENT: the Memorial Stone will be pushed and pulled by human power alone to pay tribute to the innocent men, women, children and animals killed through the terrible tragedy of war

Bike Across the US to Protest the Iraq Sanctions

DATE: July 4-August
PLACE: start in San Francisco, CA
CONTACT: Patrick Carkin, RR #1 Box 98, Richmond, ME 04357; info@proactivist.com
COMMENT: volunteer or join to help a former defense analyst protest the sanctions

Mexico/US: Nonviolent Action for Social Change

DATE: July 24-August 7
PLACE: Chiapas & Tabasco, Mexico
CONTACT: Fellowship of Reconciliation, 995 Market St, #1414, San Francisco, CA 94103; (415) 495-6334; forlatam@igc.org
COMMENT: meet and share with communities and grassroots organizations actively involved in promoting reconciliation and nonviolent alternatives to militarization

Tours to Cuba

DATE: July & August
PLACE: Havana, Santiago, Guantanamo
CONTACT: Center for Cuban Studies, 124 W 23rd St, New York, NY 10011; (212) 242-0559; cubanctr@igc.apc.org
COMMENT: topics include Jewish History in Cuba, Art and Artists, African Roots of Cuban Culture and Society, Cuban Legal System and more

The Cost of Colonialism: War and Puerto Rico's People & Lands

DATE: August 21-28
PLACE: Puerto Rico
CONTACT: Fellowship of Reconciliation, 995 Market St, #1414, San Francisco, CA 94103; (415) 495-6334; forlatam@igc.org
COMMENT: an international delegation to Puerto Rico; explore the impact of militarism and colonialism on Puerto Rican society and environment, through meetings with community, governmental, and nongovernmental groups; the delegation will also express support for grassroots, environmental and peace movements seeking an end to military occupation



An Impatient Day in Philly

Millions for Mumia Demo Kicks Off Summer of Action against Brutality

Samus Alcott

IT WAS A NICE DAY in Philly. A busload from Central New York and I headed down for the Millions For Mumia march not knowing really what to expect. Nervous about cop reactions to us defending a (wrongly) "convicted copkiller", curious about the plan for the day as it had been kept secret until the last minute, and excited because this day had been planned for almost the prior year. It was Mumia Abu-Jamal's forty-fifth birthday and we were there to celebrate his life and fight off his death.

Mumia Abu-Jamal was a journalist in Philadelphia who was known as the "Voice of the Voiceless" because he reported on what mainstream media chose to ignore and hide, topics such as police brutality (which was particularly vicious in Philly at that time), the poor, the homeless, and the disenfranchised. In 1981, Police officer Daniel Faulkner was killed and Mumia was charged with his murder. What followed was one of the worst cases of American Injustice in this country's history, including among many problems: police coercion of witnesses, a prosecution-allied judge, constitutional flaws and errors, and a defense attorney unable and unwilling to defend his client. In the last seventeen years a large international movement has sprung up over Mumia's unjust conviction, and the inherent dangers in the system it represents. Mumia had seven days left to live in 1995 when a rally of ten-thousand resulted, out-of-the-blue, in an indefinite stay of execution. As the signing of the death warrant is approaching, we were hoping to pull a repeat and demand a new trial.

On the bus from Syracuse (organized mainly by youth at SU), many of the passengers were students, with a delegation of high school students and a handful of community members. The bus left late, at 5am, so most awoke to the announcement: "Welcome to Philly, don't get lost, be careful, have a nice day". After taking a colorful ride to City Hall, we met up with all sorts of people from everywhere. Green Punk rockers from NY, a stately older gent from Michigan, and a housewife-

activist from Yonkers were the people we sat near on the subway heading in, and the interesting mix there spoke well for the rest of the day, no group dominated the scene. Black Power Activists, Hippies with drums, Older people, Little Kids, Liberals, Poor People, Rich People, Anarchists, and lots of middle class people who were just fed up with the mountains of evidence that show that Mumia didn't receive a fair trial. But no one group represented the diversity of the crowd — what did was that all these different groups could get together over one powerful cause.

It was just after 10am, and reading the schedule that we had received earlier, my gang headed over to the Youth Stage, on the side of the building. We saw a poet from Toronto with hipster shades; an angry, frustrated young spoken word artist whose performance ended as her voice did, with the crowd cheering her on through the last rasps; and MOVE children, whose parents had been bombed, beaten and shot by the police, talking about what needed to be done. There was some initial chanting, and we shouted, to the chagrin of the ever-present police watchers.

We left the youth stage a bit early to head over to the main stage to secure a good spot. It was warm out, and everyone was in a really good, if nervous, mood. People shared food, water, and answered neighbors' questions about the day and "so where are you from?". The police presence was constant, groups of them huddled near the outskirts, and around the corners of nearby streets you could catch a waiting police wagon.

Then the speakers finally began, three hours of them. Some were good and rousing, others sad and frustrated. None, however, were ready to throw in the towel. Political prisoners of CoIntelPro spoke of being in prison for years only to be freed when the government finally admitted they had no part in the crime and had known all along. Mumia's son was so moved he threw away his pre-written speech and gave an inspirational one off the top of his head, breaking out into tears as he started. More MOVE members talked of watching their family get killed and bombed by the police.

The repeated mantra of the speakers was that the era for patience and waiting was over, that the time for action had arrived, that we needed to move the struggle for Mumia (and

others) up to the next level. For too long has there been calm in the face of extreme hardship, permissiveness in return for brutality, that the mentality has to shift from "allowing" to "stopping." Recently in NYC, after the police murdered Amadou Diallo, daily civil disobedience resulted in an investigation of the cops who murdered Diallo. Speakers brought this example forward as what must happen in Mumia's case. With this in mind, murmurs passed through of civil disobedience, but unfortunately none took place.

So the march itself began, which is hard to describe. I could talk of the marchers that had made a large boat, at least fifty feet long, made of cloth and people who chanted: "we're all in the same boat, keep the boat afloat!". Or there was the huge fifteen feet tall puppets that marchers had attached to their backs, the constant chant of: "brick by brick, wall by wall, we're gonna' free Mumia Abu-Jamal!" We marched all over, watched by kids high up in hotel suites with large handwritten notes saying "Free Mumia" pressed against the windows, seen by lots of Philly yuppies, and under the constant surveillance of helicopters and police. But the overall feeling was that a lot of people knew what this case means, what this case stands for, know what is going on and came out from everywhere to show their support.

Eventually, the march headed back to the City Hall, and we spent time listening to some speakers, wandering through the crowds, meeting new people, and making friends. Everything began to wind down until the appointed moment, and then the police swooped in with twenty cop cars and at least that many pigs on bikes firmly told everyone to get off our street and on to the sidewalk. Unfortunately, after all the rhetoric of taking back the streets and demanding justice instead of politely complying with the murder of Mumia that is being thrown in our face, people let themselves be herded off the street. But stay tuned for news of other actions coming up: a CD action at the Liberty Bell in Philly July 3; the Philly Freedom Summer, June 28-July 11, with a focus on youth activists; and more in the fall. For more info, call me (425-9345).

We'll be honest with you, Sam Alcott eats soup daily. For years, he has been an activist and agitator for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Now he is also a member of the newly formed On the Ground affinity group.



No Alternatives, No Justice

A Testimony from the "Women in Prison — Children in Crisis" Speak Out

Dolores Anderson-Gilbert

On Friday, May 7, two days before Mother's Day, thirty Central New Yorkers walked in a procession from Jail Ministry to the Justice Center, part of the national campaign "Women in Prison — Children in Crisis."

Carol Perry introduced several energetic and moving speakers and singers, women mostly, who called out for alternatives to incarceration for women, particularly those with children.

Speaking on behalf of the more than 130,000 women in jail and prison (out of a total prison population of over 1.7 million!), the rally noted that upwards of 80% of the incarcerated are implicated in drug and alcohol abuse and addiction.

One speaker, Dolores Anderson-Gilbert, shares her story with the readers of the PNL:

ON MAY 9, 1997, I was arrested at my home on the following charges:
*Grand Larceny 3 PL 15535 FEL
File Fls Inst-1 PL Class E
Assistance/Care SW 01450 Class A
Assistance/Care SW 01470 Class A*

The morning that I was arrested I was due for emergency surgery, so I was arraigned, fingerprinted, photographed, assigned a court-appointed attorney and released on my own recognizance, pending my return appearance to answer to these charges.

I was employed by the City of Syracuse in a temporary, civil-service data-entry position. I later transferred to a permanent position with the City.

At work I would see the two arresting officers every morning as they passed through the garage to pick up their vehicle. Feeling very intimidated by this I decided to confide in my immediate supervisors. I explained to them the way these charges came about: that due to the fact that I literally fled with the clothes on my back and a four year-old son from a ten year abusive marriage (to a preacher's son), I had to end up applying for Public Assistance & Food Stamps for myself and my son. We

temporarily stayed with church members until I could find a two-bedroom apartment.

We had no furnishings—not even a table to eat meals from—so I applied through Social Services for a voucher that allows you to go to a thrift shop (St. Vincent DePaul) and get used furnishings. However I was told that I had to be coming out of prison or a drug rehabilitation center to be considered eligible for this voucher, and since I didn't fit into any of these scenarios, I was therefore denied.

The next thing I did was to apply through a temporary agency for employment, which I found and began to work, but now I was terrified because I knew that Public Assistance was going to end and we still had no furniture or clothing and I was only receiving \$5 in cash each month for things like toilet paper, soap, deodorant and diapers (these were things that you cannot buy with food stamps).

I decided that I would work for a little while and not report my income to social services just long enough to get money for a kitchen table and chairs, a bed and some clothing. Then I would report the fact that I was working to social services. This was a desperate decision and in retrospect, of course, I wish that I would have done things a little differently.

My lawyer's advice had been to sign some type of waiver and plead guilty to these felony charges. He said I would probably have to make full restitution (\$18,000—I had worked for nearly a year) and five years of probation.

I told my immediate supervisor about this as well. He informed me that I would not be allowed to keep my job as a civil-service employee with the City of Syracuse with any kind of pending felonies against me. My supervisors went to their bosses and tried to help me by talking with the district attorney's office about letting me plead guilty to a misdemeanor so that I could keep my job and make full restitution. However the district attorney rejected this suggestion altogether. Again, on my behalf, my immediate supervisors tried to tell the district attorney that I would lose the very job that would allow me to make full restitution if something could not be done with the charges. Again the district attorney would not and did not even seem willing to consider any such arrangement. Therefore, the City's personnel department had no other option other than terminate my employment (understanding that

I still had a very young son to take care of, they did give me two weeks of severance pay).

I had already been to court and requested a new lawyer, believing he was not actively working on my behalf. The judge appointed another lawyer who was at best irresponsible and unprofessional. Again I asked for another lawyer, and judge appointed a new lawyer who currently is assigned to my case.

I interviewed with the US Postal Service, successfully passing their exam that I had taken for three years. During the interview the human resources person asked me about a question on the initial application that I answered truthfully. The question was two-fold. The first question asked: Have you ever been convicted of a felony? I answered "no" because at this point I had not pled guilty to nor had I been found guilty of these pending charges.

The second part of this question asked: Do you have any charges currently pending against you? If so, explain. So I did explain in writing on the application and in person verbally to the human resources person conducting the interview what the current charges were.

Her response to me was this: You seem to be a good person and that sometimes bad things happen to good people. She was going to take a chance and offer me the position anyway. Needless to say I was so happy that I had finally passed the exam and had been offered the opportunity to once again work (at \$10.69 per hour), starting with four weeks of intensive training and that pending training I would have a job that was going to allow me to once again provide for my son and myself as well as be able to make full restitution that I owed the state.

I started my training and received a certified letter dated October 31, 1998 from the Post Office, stating that they needed in writing further information regarding the answers on my employment application regarding the pending charges. They stated that they needed proof that these charges had either been reduced, dropped, sealed or otherwise. My assigned counsel at this time had never returned any of my phone calls, and I reported her to the Bar Association for her negligence in my case. Needless to say I responded to the Postal Service immediately and stated that the allegations against me were just that—only allegations—since I had not been found guilty of any

continued on next page

Thousands *Presente!* to Close the SOA

Images from the May 1-4 Days of Action in Washington, DC

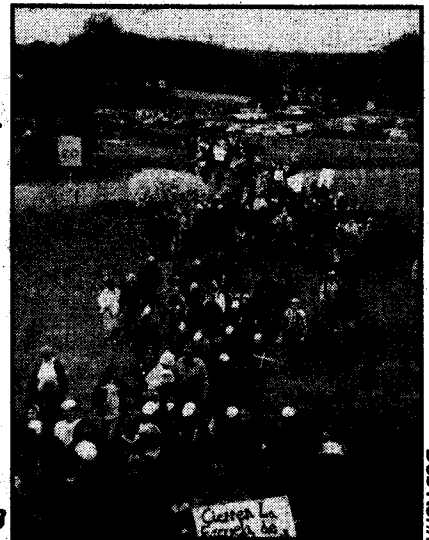


Carol Baum

"Try to picture the prayerful peace march around the huge Pentagon building which employs 23,000 in the works of war, and covers vast acreage. Circling it, a near-endless line of 2,000, four abreast, wearing white mime masks, carrying white crosses with the name of a martyr on each, we grieved as we sang in response to each invocation. *'Presente,'* meaning: 'You are present and not forgotten.'" — Ted Sizing, Syracuse



Carol Baum



Deb Kern



Tim Judson

Captions

- 1) Protesters carry the giant School of Assassins skull, replete with mortarboard, to the Pentagon.
- 2) The crowd of 2,000-3,000 at the Pentagon.
- 3) The procession ringing the Pentagon.
- 4) Pete Seeger on stage at the May 1 rally, where there were over 3,000 people.

of the pending charges against me, and that in the event these charges could be proven against me in a court of law, I would probably be allowed to plead guilty to a misdemeanor with full restitution to the state.

I was assigned new counsel by the judge. I immediately informed my new attorney of the latest crisis regarding my employment with the post office. He immediately responded with a letter to the Postal Services Human Resources department stating that he was the newly assigned counsel for this case and that he was doing all that he could to get the charges reduced to misdemeanors so that I could plead and be able through my employment with them to make full restitution to the state.

My lawyer's many attempts to attain this arrangement through the district attorney failed. He refused and was unwilling to allow this kind of plea to take place, such that I could keep my job, support my son and myself without the assistance of the public or food stamps, and make full restitution to the state.

After talking to my pastor and some of the members of my church family, they spoke on my behalf with the district attorney who finally on May 5, 1999 agreed to make me an offer: probation with full restitution and a plea to a misdemeanor, providing I could provide to the district attorney's office a letter from the Postal Service's human resources department stating that I would be able to make full restitution through my employment with them.

However, on May 6, 1999 when I took the letter from my lawyer's office to the US Postal Service, I was informed that due to the fact that they haven't hired anyone since they had trained me — due to a reduction in productivity — I would not be able to keep my job.

As of May 11, 1999, since the postal service could not give me employment, the offer was withdrawn by the district attorney. I was told by the judge that I had to plead guilty to a felony on that day May 11, 1999 in order to be guaranteed a sentence of full restitution with five years probation because this case had been open too long, and that, according to the judge, I had been in front of him 21 times and no attempt, on my part, to make restitution had yet occurred.

I was given the opportunity to speak to the judge. I informed him that I felt that this entire case has been a travesty of justice at best, and that the district attorney had been unwilling this entire time to allow me the opportunity to make restitution; the only other time the district attorney made an offer was when he agreed to \$2,000 cash and a plea to a misdemeanor with three years probation, but the district attorney knew that if I have been unemployed from the post office since November 18, 1998 there was no possible way I could come up with \$2,000 cash in two days.

Needless to say, the judge did not like what I had to say, and on May 11, 1999 he rejected my plea of guilty. My case is now

being sent back to the grand jury for indictment.

All this ridiculous madness continues for myself and my seven year old son. All this could have been put to rest a long time ago if the district attorney would have allowed the plea to a misdemeanor with full restitution and five years probation.

Either of those two jobs would have allowed me to make full restitution, which is what the district attorney claims he wanted from the beginning.

I stand fully convinced that there is no such thing as justice in the United States of America, much less serious consideration of alternatives to jail.

By the way, I Delores Anderson-Gilbert, born on May 14, 1962 in Yonkers, New York, went into the foster care system at the age of two years, after my natural father killed/murdered my natural mother with a blow to the head with a hammer. I have no natural family to rely upon; it's just me and my seven year-old son. I receive no alimony and just this year started occasionally receiving \$75 per month in child support payments from my then abusive/violent ex-husband.

Thank you.

Delores heard about the "Mothers in Prison - Children in Crisis" rally and offered to speak. She readily agreed to have her story printed in the PNL.



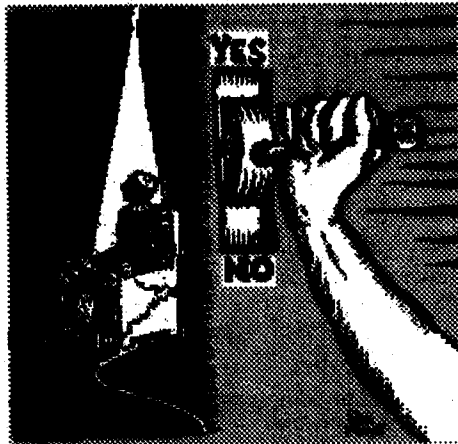
You can help stop state-sponsored killing

NYS Coalition Against the Death Penalty Update

Joe Dubovy

Although there is now a bill (Wright/Marchi) in the New York state legislature calling for repeal of the death penalty, plans call for the pace of executions to continue and accelerate. Recently, the state's Appellate Court reduced fees for legal defense in capital cases by 25% to 40%, effectively tipping the scales further against defendants by making it more difficult for them to receive adequate representation while prosecutors remain relatively well-funded.

Upstate district attorneys view a capital trial as a golden career opportunity toward an Appellate Court judgeship. Since the reinstatement of the death penalty in New York, nine out of 141, just 7%, of first degree murder cases prosecuted in the New York City metropolitan area have become capital



cases. But upstate, only 34 first degree murder cases have produced 24 capital cases. An upstate defendant is 10 times more likely to get the death penalty than a New York City area defendant. There is one Hispanic (Angel Mateo) and one African-American (Darrel Harris) defendant on death row in New York, with more to come.

While the world shouts about the profanity of killing, New York has 215 rules and procedures designed to take the life of the defendant. These acts of violence eloquently contradict our noble protestations against religious intolerance and violence.

Committed New Yorkers came together on April 17 in Binghamton to stop the killing. They created the Coalition of New Yorkers against the Death Penalty. They also formed

Resource, Steering, and Conference Planning committees.

The Resource Committee will provide the public with educational materials, such as the Syracuse Peace Newsletter, The Vigil, The New Abolitionist, and Justicia. The Steering Committee will divide New York into eight regions, each covering about five counties. Each region will eventually have its own Steering Committee to plan how best to influence local legislators and district attorneys. The Conference Planning Committee is preparing for a statewide Abolitionist Conference for spring 2000.

What better way to celebrate the millennium? The Old Testament refers to the millennium as a time of forgiveness. Revelations depicts the millennium as a time "during which holiness will reign on earth: a period of happiness and human perfection." Where is the perfection in a state that resorts to murdering its citizens?

New York is a key state in the US political arena. Defeat of the death penalty here

would set a precedent for its defeat nationally. Your help can make the difference.

The next meeting of CNYADP will be at noon on Saturday June 12 at the First Congregational Church, 30 Main Street in Binghamton. Please contact Margaret Stinson at (315)472-5478 who will coordinate carpooling from the Syracuse area. CNYADP may be contacted via email at <cnyadp@aol.com>.



Fair Trial for Mumia

The CNYADP is the only organization in the country that has the capability to mobilize a large number of attorneys to provide legal representation for the defendant. They are looking for new and old members to help work on the case. If you are interested, contact Margaret Stinson at (315)472-5478 or email at <cnyadp@aol.com>.

NAACP Celebrates 90 Years Nationally — 20 Years Locally

JUST OVER A CENTURY AGO the Supreme Court legalized "separate but equal" in Plessy v. Ferguson. With that backdrop, a race riot in Springfield, Illinois, during the summer of 1908, left scores of Blacks killed or wounded. Organizing didn't stop. Harvard intellectual W.E.B. DuBois, a leader in the Niagara Movement, an established organization of influential Black thinkers, had met in 1905, in Niagara Falls, Canada, because housing for the integrated group could not be found on the U.S. side. A deeply concerned Mary White Ovington and William English Walling met and convened a bi-racial conference to address "the Negro Question." Out of this conference the NAACP was born. DuBois brought the Niagara Movement into the new NAACP. And the work continues until this day.

Locally, the Syracuse/Onondaga Chapter lists these accomplishments and activities: First Place in the National ACT-SO Winners; enrollment over one hundred local youth in the ACTSO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) Program; discrimination and investigation (the all-volunteer office receives upwards of 60 calls a week, with approximately one-third resulting in follow up by a volunteer investigator); calls come in directly from the Justice Center; the office has been in the forefront of the "Justice for Jonny Gammage" effort. Leadership in the development of the Pan-African Village at the New York State Fair; on-going voter registration.

On Friday, June 18, at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool, the NAACP holds its annual Freedom Awards Banquet, their major fund-raising event of the year. Special guest speaker Hilary Shelton, Director of the Washington Bureau of the National NAACP, will share the evening with The Media Unit, the well-known, local, national award-winning teen performance group.

Tickets for the dinner include a basic membership in the NAACP, one great organization where "The Struggle Continues." For more information, please call 422-6933.

Thanks to Donna Reese, Betty DuBose, and Lionel Logan for information and literature that went into this article. — Paul Frazier



Jewish Peace Group Invites New Members

SYRACUSE AREA JEWS concerned with the outbreaks of violence at home and abroad have formed a local chapter of the Jewish Peace Fellowship to add a Jewish voice to the public dialogues about violence and nonviolence. Members have felt a need for progressive voices in the Jewish community and Jewish voices in the progressive community on such issues as NATO bombings in the Balkans and US bombings and sanctions in Iraq. One goal of the group is to stimulate dialogue in the Jewish community about how these events affect us as Jews today. We aspire to dialogue with other Jews so that Jewish public stands on such issues reflect Jewish traditional ethics that place a high value on life and community.

Hillel said, "Be of the disciples of Aaron, loving peace and pursuing peace, loving people and drawing them to the Torah." The Jewish Peace Fellowship (JPF) began as a national organization in 1941 to establish the right of Jews to be recognized as conscientious objectors to war and provided counseling for objectors, especially in regard to Jewish religious training and belief against war. JPF members feel the rising tensions in the world today which can lead to the nuclear destruction of the planet. We are distressed by the increasing military presence and spending—and the decreasing commitment to human needs. We are

committed to nonviolent social activism and Jewish teachings.

Besides working against the draft, JPF has worked for ending capital punishment, for prison reform, opposed all use of nuclear power, fought the encroachment of the military into our lives, and supported religious, political and social equality for women. JPF has worked to help end the Vietnam War, for the freedom of Jews in the Soviet Union, in Syria, Argentina and Iraq, for the rights of Falashas and conscientious objectors in Israel, for a political solution and peaceful reconciliation in the Middle East. We work for peace in a threatened world.

The local chapter is currently engaging in dialogue with the Islamic Society of Central New York to collaborate in opposing violence and sanctions against the people of Iraq. We are also searching for alternatives to violence in Kosovo. Our JPF group would also like to serve as a spark for various progressive Jewish activities, including commemorating Jewish holidays. Join us. For further information call Robin Smith at 449-4215. Visit JPF's national home page at <http://www.nonviolence.org/jpf/#> for more information and their *Shalom Newsletter*.

— Andy Mager



WCC Honors Community Builders in June

On Sunday, June 6, the Westcott Community Center honors Syracuse Community Development Commissioner Vito Sciscioli and Westcott resident Grace Flusche at our first annual Building Community Awards brunch. The brunch begins at 11:30 and tickets are available at \$25. each. Rod MacDonald comes to the WCC for a concert on Saturday, June 12 beginning at 8:00 PM.

Planning for the 1999 Westcott Street Cultural Fair is underway. The organizing committee welcomes new members to select new and ongoing fair attractions, reach out to crafters, artists, performers and community agencies, meet new friends and neighbors and have a good time.

An exciting new program is coming to the WCC beginning this fall. The University Neighbors Lecture Series, featuring six articulate and interesting Westcott neighbors, such as Bruce Coville, Rosemary Pooler, and Mary Karr, will offer thoughtful, stimulating, and provocative topics in the areas of politics, architecture, literature, art, and music. Pro-

ceeds from ticket sales will benefit the WCC and further our goal of making the center accessible to all members of the community.

The WCC's Golden Cafe now offers lunch and much more for seniors on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at noon. With grant funds from the UpDowntowners, Golden Cafe participants will be traveling downtown for special events and festivals, and maybe even a trip to Party In The Plaza. Westcott teens will celebrate the end of the school year and their time together at a family barbecue on June 25, while we spend the summer planning for another year of exciting afterschool activities. The Eastside Teen Video (ESTV) project continues to look for motivated teens interested in learning the art and craft of video production, as well as subjects and events to capture and chronicle. Classes and programs in yoga, tai chi, figure drawing, belly dancing, Morris dancing, and more will continue throughout the summer. To stay connected, become a WCC member. Call 478-8634 for details.

— Barbara Humphrey



Farm Sanctuary — a Fun Place to Visit!

Farm Sanctuary in Watkins Glen, N.Y. welcomes visitors to see the pigs, sheep, goats, birds and other animals, all of whom will live out their full, natural life in a beautiful home. In addition to school field trips and vegan bed and breakfast opportunities, Farm Sanctuary has special events, such as a summer country hoedown. Below is a story about one of their rescued pigs, taken from the Farm Sanctuary newsletter; the story is told by Kelsey Leonard:

My family and I went to the Durham County Fair. While going through the swine tent, we noticed a baby pig who was considerably smaller than the other piglets. The farmer who owned the pigs told us that the piglet was very sick and they expected him to die soon. He agreed to let us take the sick pig and try to save him. He could barely walk and he wouldn't eat very much. ...

All night long my friend and I took care of the pig and I named him Oliver. ... The next day Oliver was looking much stronger and he was able to walk better. ... Soon he was running around with our two dogs and playing as if he was one of them. Some of Oliver's favorite games were tossing around a paper bag, and pushing objects such as boxes around. He would give anything for fruit snacks, then he would smack his lips noisily as he ate them. Oliver had become a member of the family.

When we found out about the Farm Sanctuary, we were all relieved that Oliver would have a safe place to go. I was very sad that Oliver would be leaving so soon, but I knew he had to go. I will always miss his playfulness and the way he loved to run and jump around. When he slept he always had to be on the top of the pile whether it was his stuffed bunny, his pillow, or me. This was what I'll miss the most, the way he would lay across my neck or curl up on my chest and nibble my nose. Oliver has left a permanent impression on me and my family. I no longer eat meat, so in a sense Oliver has saved the lives of some fellow pigs. ...

More info on Farm Sanctuary, call (607)583-2225. For info on People for Animal Rights, Syracuse, call 488-PURR(7877) between 9am and 10:45pm.

— Linda DeStefano



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— P E A C E S — PEACES — P E A C E S —

Edited by Mike Kernahan

Quote of the Month: "...we must do more to reach out to our children and teach them to express their anger and to resolve their conflicts with words, not weapons."

Bill Clinton, Commander-in-Chief of forces presently attacking Yugoslavia and Iraq, responding to the school massacre in Littleton, Colorado.

Quote from the past: "There are times and countries when the only place for an honest (person) is in jail." *Thomas Mann*

Jail the MBA's?

Convicted felons show just as much integrity as business students, and sometimes more, when faced with difficult business dilemmas, according to a recent study reported on in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* in February.

The study, conducted by marketing professors James Stearns of Miami University and Shaheen Borna of Ball State University, surveyed felons imprisoned in medium-security prisons and taking college classes. The felon's responses were compared with those from MBA students.

"The perception is that convicted felons are unemployable because they adhere to a different set of values," Stearns told the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. "This research shows their values are not that much different. And, in some cases, their values are more laudable."

Source: *Multinational Monitor* For Whom the Bell Tolls

During 1997, 74 persons in 17 States were executed, 37 in Texas; 9 in Virginia; 6 in Missouri; 4 in Arkansas; 3 in Alabama; 2 each in Arizona, Illinois, and South Carolina; and 1 each in Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Oregon. Sixty-eight of the executions were carried out by lethal injection and 6 by electrocution. Thirty-eight states had capital punishment statutes. At year-end 1997, 34 states and the federal prison system held 3,335 prisoners under sentence of death, 3% more than at year end 1996. All had committed murder. Of persons under sentence of death, 1,876 were white, 1,406 were black, 28 were Native American, 17 were Asian, 8 were classified as "other race." Forty-four women were under a sentence of death. At year end, the youngest inmate under sentence of death was 18; the oldest was 81.

Source: *US Bureau of Justice Statistics* Music hath charms...

A Czech pianist played a sonata from Beethoven's "The Storm" Tuesday, (April 27, 1999) in the first such recital in the heavily

fortified frontier zone dividing South and North Korea.

Czech pianist Hana Dvorakova also played selections from Antonin Dvorak, Bedrich Smetana and Sylvie Bodorova in a concert organized by the Swedish, Swiss and Polish Delegations to the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) and the Czech Embassy. North Korean soldiers stood watch just outside the glass-walled Freedom House, which lies in the neutral zone of the UN truce village of Panmunjom.

Other North Korean guards peered at the scene through binoculars from a nearby military observation tower.

"We believe bringing culture to this place of confrontation and tension is a way of confidence building," said Swedish Major General Sven Julin of the NNSC. "We hope this (concert) may contribute to gradually change the frosty atmosphere still prevailing here."

Tuesday's recital was the first to be staged in the Joint Security Area patrolled by both North Korean and UN soldiers. The two Koreas remain in a state of war because their 1950-53 conflict, pitting U.S.-led United Nations forces against Chinese-backed North Korea, ended in a fraying truce.

More than a million soldiers confront each other across a border strewn with millions of landmines supported by heavy artillery in the last Cold War.

Source: *Reuters*

PBS's Flexible Rules

PBS refused to air the documentary *Out At Work*, an expose of homophobic discrimination in the workplace, because labor unions and a lesbian rights organization had contributed to its funding. (The program ended up on HBO, answering the question posed by PBS' ads: "If PBS won't do it, who will?") But PBS allowed the special *John Glenn, American Hero* to air with Boeing as its sole corporate sponsor, despite the fact that the show ends with a celebration of the International Space Station—a project that Boeing has a \$5.6 billion contract from NASA to help build. When it comes to corporate funders at PBS, it's increasingly clear that the rules do not apply.

Source: *Extra! Update, the newsletter of FAIR* Whose Counts?

Republicans have won the first round in the Census 2000 game of political football. Late last year a three-judge panel ended the Clinton administration's bid to use statistical sampling to correct the chronic undercounting of people of color. Although no legitimate statis-

tician would dispute the accuracy of the sampling method—which counts 90% of the population by traditional means and then uses that information to project who was missed—the battle is racially and politically motivated. Census numbers translate into money and political power: congressional and state legislative boundaries are redrawn, and shares of federal funds for housing, Head Start, and numerous other programs are based on the count. Among poor people, immigrants who don't speak English, and communities where suspicion of authorities runs high, sampling is considered more accurate than the traditional "nose count." Last time around, the Census Bureau admitted that, nationwide, it undercounted Latinos by 5.2%, African-Americans by 4.8%, Asian and Pacific Islanders by 3.1%, and Native Americans by 5%. People of color in large cities lose out big-time due to the undercount. And, as most of the undercounted are Democrats, Republicans fear they will lose elected officials in a more correct count.

Source: *Colorlines*

Capitalism Fills a Need

Syracuse school officials are asking parents and merchants to help them ban the Bomb Bag, an unnerving 25-cent toy that explodes. Police charged two 14-year-old Shea Middle School boys in May with second-degree criminal nuisance for setting off Bomb Bags in school. The Bomb Bag seems harmless but makes a loud bang when exploded in an enclosed space, such as a bus or classroom, which happened last month in several Syracuse schools. They have been exploded at Shea, Nottingham, and Frazier schools and on a bus filled with Delaware Elementary School pupils on the road near Avery Avenue and Ulster Street.

"Everybody is just a little uptight," said school district spokesman Neil Driscoll.

The Bomb Bag is a small, rectangular packet that contains a mix of several chemicals. Its instructions say to squeeze it and throw it away within five seconds. There is also a Stink Bomb version. The label says the "toy" is suitable for outdoor use by children over 6 years of age. It is adorned with a picture of armed, scowling soldiers flanking a tank while bombers lurk above.

The Bomb Bag is reportedly available in convenience stores for about a quarter. School authorities are asking merchants to withhold sale of the item until the end of the school year.

Source: *Syracuse Post-Standard*





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SAT

1st Annual Building Community Awards brunch honoring Vito Scatoli & Grace Flueche. Westcott Community Center. 11:30am-3:30pm. \$25 per person. 478-8634.

Syracuse Community Radio training session. Westcott Community Center. Noon-3pm. 234-1899.

7th Annual AIDS Walk & Run. 10K Fundraising Walk/Run for AIDS Community Resources. Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville. 475-2430.

EVERY SUNDAY: "Common Threads" acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm.

EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent. Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.

20 NOSOTROS Father's Day Fund-raising dinner dance. Sponsored by Spanish Action League. For time & place call Fanny Villarreal de Caravan or Alicia Swords at 475-8153.

New Environment Association Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. 6pm. 448-8008.

Syracuse Community Choir Summer Solstice Concert. Highland Forest. 7:30-9:30pm. 487-8607.

27 Clay Group IV presents its 11th Annual Garden Party. See June 26 for info.

EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.

EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable. Ch. 12. 8pm. Produced by Peace Council. Tune in, tape it, share it!

1 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 668 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.

Peace Action monthly program. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.

8 EVERY TUESDAY: Community Media Action Group meeting. 7:30pm. Call Ace for place. 423-7856.

EVERY TUESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.

15 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 668 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.

Let Iraq Live Coalition potluck fundraiser. Bring a dish to pass. Speakers & updates. Westcott Community Center. 6pm. (See update elsewhere in this issue.)

22 EVERY TUESDAY: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 10-2pm. New friends, lunch, programs. Westcott Community Center. 828 Euclid Ave. 478-8634.

Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. 1st Unitarian Universalist Society, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.

29 EVERY TUESDAY: Syracuse Community Radio meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 478-4789.

EVERY TUESDAY: Middle Eastern Dance with Zoe Artemis. Westcott Community Center. 5:15-6:15pm. Fee. 474-7084.

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

Southeast University Neighborhood Association meeting. Erwin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm.

Syracuse Zapataista Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 7:30pm. Ace, 423-4783.

9 HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3618.

NOW CNY Chapter meeting. Marine Midland Bank, 360 S Warren, 7pm. 487-3188.

Celebrate Pride Event! Showing investigative report Transgender Revolution & outtakes from Out of the Closet. Also talk by producer Kate Davis, who speaking on her experiences in producing these documentaries. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7pm. Free. 476-8228.

16 NAACP meeting. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-8933.

Syracuse Zapataista Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 7:30pm. Ace, 423-4783.

Syracuse United Neighborhood/Strunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 478-7475.

23 Let Iraq Live Coalition Post Office Health Demonstration. Columbus Circle. Noon. March to downtown post office to attempt to mail humanitarian aid to Iraq people. 472-7442.

1st THREE WEDNESDAYS: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Ave. 5:30pm. 472-5478. See p. 3.

30 Dunbar Center annual dinner. 476-4269 for details.

EVERY WED: Syracuse Community Choir rehearsal. Come sing with us! No auditions. Westcott Community Center. 7:30pm. 487-8607.

3 Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Vu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 478-8226.

Community Supported Agriculture of Central New York Potluck Supper for members. Tentatively at South Presbyterian Church. 6-8pm. Phyllis Bundell, 673-1881.

Syracuse United Neighborhood/Southwest meeting. Bibby Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 478-7475.

10 EVERY THURSDAY: Teen Scene for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8634.

Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 205 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-8237.

17 EVERY THURSDAY: Saving Mediation at Women's Info, 801 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY: Golden Cafe at Westcott Community Center. 10-2pm. See Tuesday for info.

EVERY THURSDAY: Women's Voices radio program. WAER, FM 88.3. 6-7pm. Pat, 446-7259.

24 Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cyndi 475-1878.

Peace Newsletter Meeting Party at SFC, 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Free Food!

Thomden Park Association meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carole Simsom for location. 475-2607.

More June Events Sat. June 12: Rainbow Connection, an International Pride Concert by the Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus. Plymouth Church, 232 East Onondaga St. 8pm. \$10. 476-4329.

Sat. June 18: Volunteer Center's Rosemond Gifford Human Race. P & C Stadium. 8K Run, 5K Walk. 474-7014.

Sat. June 19: Annual Pride Parade & Festival. Noon-6pm. See back cover for more info.

4 EVERY FRIDAY: Teen Scene for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8634.

June 3-4: A World of Masala, the International Mask and Puppet Museum Performance. 8pm. 476-0466 for place. Also on June 5 at 4pm.

11 Euclid Recreation Club Community Dance. Westcott Community Center. 7-9pm. 478-8634.

12 Performance Series featuring singer Rod Macdonald. Westcott Community Center. 7:30-10:30pm. \$8. 478-8634.

EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

19 June 19th Celebration. Southwest Community Center, 481 South Ave. All day. Entertainment & food. 474-8223.

"A Nile of Shocks" by Synergy: Women at Play Theater. Westcott Community Center. 8pm. Admission. RSVP 424-0841.

EVERY SATURDAY: Food Not Bombs serving free food at Westcott Community Center. 12-2pm. Denzel, 478-8559.

26 Pax Christi meeting. Slocum House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woolever, 446-1683.

June 26-27: Clay Group IV presents its 11th Annual Garden Party. Functional & decorative artwork. 10am-5pm. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee. Tony, 462-0702.

Strawberry Festival at the Common Pleas Land Trust, Tuxton, NY. Free! All day.

Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar June 1999

Remembrance, Celebration & Pride

1 day, 2 events
... why choose?
Go to both!



JUNETEENTH 1999 CELEBRATION

REMEMBER WHEN...

"... End of the Century Celebration"

Friday evening, June 18th — Ancestral Ceremony
Hiawatha Lake, Onondaga Park
storytelling, drumming, prayer, & homage to ancestors

Saturday, June 19th — Juneteenth
Freedom Family Celebration (all day)
Southwest Community Center (401 South Ave.)
food, vendors, community, entertainment

for info, contact Southwest Community Center • 474-6823

"8899 Sandwich"
Pride March and Festival

June 19th • noon-6pm
noon-1pm

March thru downtown Syracuse
Gather in Trolley Parking lot, Gifford & Clinton streets
and march to ...

1pm-6pm
Festival at Everson Museum Plaza
rally, food, music, entertainment, etc.

Other GLBT Pride Month events:

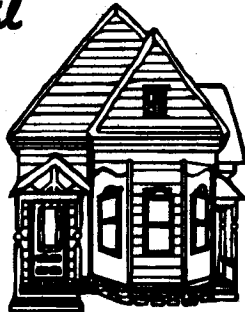
Wednesday, June 9th • 7pm
May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St.
Filmmaker Kate Davis and showing
of *Out of the Closet*.

Friday, June 25th
Landmark Theater
showing of *The Edge of
Seventeen*, a coming out film

contact Stonewall Committee • 476-6226

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Peace News Letter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice July 1999 PNL 681



Northeast Nuclear Action Camp
August 20-28...More Inside

Inside:

How NATO "Won" by Losing, Clinton Violates War Powers Act, POETRYIII, New-clear Waste Ethics, Mobile Chernobyl Alert, Healing in Guatemala, Local Iraq Activists Go to Trial, Updates on Nine Mile 1, SOA, East Timor, Plowshares Action

CELEBRATE FREEDOM
Break the chains of Nuclear Dependence

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

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:

Rae Kramer, Carl Mellor,
Andy Molloy, Marge Rusk

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

The Peace Newsletter

The PNL Collective meets most Thursdays at 6:00 PM at the Peace Council. Call SPC to confirm the time.

Editorial & Production: Gina Barletta, Paul Frazier, Karen Hall, Bill Hamler, Tim Judson, Mike Kernahan, Rae Kramer, Joy Meeker, Andy Molloy, Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce, Crissy Spivey
Cover Coordinator: Karen Kerney
Graphics Coordinator: Simon Morrin

SPC Projects: 472-5478

- SPC-TV — Paul Pearce
- Plowshares Craftfair
- Fair Trial for Mumia Committee Sam Alcott, Sarrah Weston

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		People Against the Death Penalty	637-3344
Doug Igeisrud	471-5749	People for Animal Rights	488-PURR(7877)
ACLU-CNY Chapter		Physicians for Social Responsibility	488-2140
Barrie Gewanter	471-2821	Planned Parenthood	475-5525
AIDS Community Resources	475-2430	PWHIV/ AIDS Support Hotline	
Alliance-Psychiatric System		Sandra	471-5911
Survivors		ReConsider	
George Ebert	475-4120	Nick or Alex Eyle	422-6231
American Friends Service Committee	475-4822	Religion: Other	
Animal Defense League	479-9105	Phoenix or Kat	474-8801
ARISE	472-3171	Rose Center	
Atlantic States Legal Foundation	475-1170	Teri Cameron	422-3426
Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition		Sarah House	475-1747
Paul Weichselbaum	446-6099	Save the County	637-6066
Citizen Review Board		SEEDS	(607) 749-2818
Felicia Davis	448-8750	Service Employees International	
CNY Center for Occupational Health and Safety	471-6187	Robert Tompkins	424-1750
CNY Environment		Sierra Club	
Lee Gechas	446-5319	Sue Carlson	445-1663
QNYNOW	487-3188	Small Claims Court Action Center	443-1401
Coal. of NY Against the Death Penalty		S.O.A. Watch/ CNY	
Joe Duboy	(914) 528-3774	Paul Frazier	478-4571
Community Media Action Group	423-4783	Social Workers for Peace	
CUSLAR	(607) 255-7293	Dick Mundy	445-0797
Dunbar Center		Socialist Party	
Merriete Pollard	476-4269	Ron Ehrenreich	478-0793
ENIP		Spanish Action League	475-6153
Jim Dessauer	471-7911	SU African-American Society	443-4633
Fair Housing Council of CNY		Stonewall Committee	
Merrilee Witherell	471-0518	Bonnie Strunk	422-0144
Fair Trial for Mumia Committee		Student Environmental Action Coalition	
Sam Alcott	425-9345	Michelle Baumfleck	423-8000
Food Bank of CNY	437-1899	Syr. Alternative Media Network	
Food Not Bombs		Tim Brachocki	425-8806
Daniel Bowers	479-8559	Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society	
Greater Syr. Tenant Network		SAVES/ Joe Connolly	437-2163
Sharon Sherman	475-8092	Syracuse Community Choir	
Hemlock Society		Mara Sapon-Shevin	443-5179
Betty Bentley	463-0782	Syracuse Community Radio	
Hotel Employees 150	437-0373	Frederic Noyes	234-2000
Irish Northern Aid		Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union	471-1116
Patrick Smith	469-8948	Syracuse Cultural Workers	
Jail Ministry	424-1877	Dik Cool	474-1132
Kenark Center for Creative Spirituality	685-5414	Syracuse-EI Salvador Sister Community	
Lesbian/Gay Youth		Shirley Novak	446-6099
Mary Doody	475-2430x601	Syracuse N.O.W.	472-3294
NAACP		Syr. Real Food Coop	472-1385
Dorrie Pease	422-6833	Syr. Social Movement Initiative	
Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.		John Burdick	443-3822
Ammie Chickering	365-2299	Syracuse United Neighbors	
New Environment Association		Rich Puchalski	476-7475
Harry Schwarziander	446-8009	S.U. for Animal Rights	443-4199
NYPiRG	476-8381	Urban League	
Onondaga Audobon	457-7731	Eloise Dowdell Curry	472-6955
Onon. Women's Political Caucus		Utica Community Action	
Susan Markel	422-3585	John Furman	797-7020
Open Hand Theatre		Witness for Peace Delegations	
Geoff Navias	476-0466	Nancy Gwin	422-4689
Pax Christi		Women's Center (SU)	443-4268
Frank Woolever	446-1693	Women's Health Outreach	425-3653
Peace Action of CNY			
Diane Swords	478-7442		
Peace Brigades International			
Ann Tiffany	478-4571		
P.E.A.C.E., Inc.			
Louis Clark	470-3300		

We are continually updating this page and could use your help. If you see anything that needs to be added or corrected please contact us.

In This Issue: As we go to press, Clinton has transferred the "tough love" domestic policy of the early '90s into international relations — refusing reconstruction aid to Yugoslavia until the Serbian pull themselves up by their bootstraps and oust Hussein — I mean Milosevic. Memory's a funny thing. Sometimes there's so much to remember you just can't keep it all straight, like which country/s the US is attacking or helping attack this month, and what the rhetorical reason is this time, and why the people there should be thanking us. They're such pesky little things, details are. I mean, why keep them straight? Let the bombs — I mean chips — fall where they may! Let the "losers" clean 'em up. That's how you tell losers, you know — sticklers for details. Always wanting to know who shot who and why, and where's their lost cousin, and what'd you do with that smoking gun. Tell ya, with a memory it's hard to get any dirty work done ... — 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

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!)

Daniel Bowers, Elinor Cramer, Chuck Durand, John Fitzsimmons, Bill Hamler, Duane Hardy, Pat Hoffman, Andy Molloy, Frederic Noyes, Marge Rusk, Rich Zalewski

Thanks to our June mailing party helpers!

July PNL Committee Meetings
Thursdays, 6pm @ the Peace Council
August Issue Deadlines

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Ads	July 17
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PEACE NEWSLETTER

July 1999
PNL 681

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About the cover: "Action Camp 1998 — Demonstration at Vermont Yankee," photo by Susan Alzner

This pleasant scene on the Connecticut River just south of Brattleboro, VT is from last year's Northeast Nuclear Action Camp. The camp concluded on August 27 with a nonviolent demonstration at the Vermont Yankee reactor (VY, the large building behind the sailboat).

The concerned public took the reactor by land and water that day. Prior to the rally and civil disobedience action at the front gates of VY, some activists protested from their sailboat on the other side. The 20'-tall sail reads "SHUT IT DOWN! STOP DUMPING/NUCLEAR FREE NEW ENGLAND".

At the front of the reactor, 100-150 people gathered for 1-1/2 hours for a rally and conducted a citizens arrest of the reactor. Warrants were served for reckless endangerment of the public health and safety and releasing deadly radioactive pollution into the air and water. 22 people were arrested for sitting down and blocking the gates and driveway to the reactor. The District Attorney's office later acquitted all 22 rather than create more publicity and community debate on the issues.

The action followed 6 days of workshops, training, organizing, and recreation at

come to Action Camp '99!
August 20-28
Dummerston, VT

the Northeast Action Camp in Dummerston, VT. The camp was initiated by Citizens Awareness Network and Nuclear Information & Resource Service as the kickoff event for the Nuclear Free New England Campaign. Over 300 people of all ages and levels of experience — nearly double the number expected — returned to their communities better able to educate and mobilize to stop nuclear power.

Because of the success of the camp, we're doing it again this year. We expect more people, even better workshops, amazing veg/vegan food (again!), and another powerful action at VY. Because of the strong presence of New Yorkers last year, the campaign has been broadened to make the whole Northeast Nuclear Free. Join other CNYers for some or all of the camp — call SPC for a flier & details 472-5478.

— Tim Judson

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

Belated Birthday Dinner Thank-you's

It is very gratifying to hear how meaningful the birthday dinner was to the many people who have let us know. It also affirms the work of understanding how we can connect, as individuals, as families, as communities. In the "rush to print" last month we were not able to acknowledge those of you who did the quiet behind the scenes work that makes such a dinner possible. Belatedly, but still heartfelt thanks to:

- Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce, Margaret Birdleough, Carol Resnick, Andy Molloy, Carl Mellor, Rae Kramer — for planning, arranging, coordinating, and the rest of the "ings" that got done so well
- Nick Orth and the Orth "kitchen elves" who turn the fruits of the earth into meals and CAKE ! that made us greedy for seconds
- Our table hosts who provided hospitality and beauty as well as plates and cups
- The usually invisible set-up and clean-up crews, who in recent years have steadfastly included Lance, Sarah, Amanda, and Mara Hogan, and Lanny Freshman
- Rev. Bill Coop and South Presbyterian Church for their lovely hospitality.

— SPC Council

All Kinds of Help Needed

Many people share in the work of the Peace Council including staff, the writers, editors and graphic designers who work on the PNL, and the folks who participate in demonstrations about Kosovo, Iraq, and other issues needing our presence. We celebrate these contributions and those made by others within the SPC community.

Thank you to PNL distributors, to those who share the spirit (and good eats) at the birthday dinner, and to the invisible crew who help out with repairs at 924 Burnet Ave. We do not speak of contributions large or small; for us, every contribution of time, energy, or money is significant.

And yet, our organization needs fresh infusions of labor and talent, involvement of people willing to serve on the SPC Council, to answer the phone one morning (or afternoon) a week, or to help organize a demonstration or fund-raising event. We can always benefit from help with the PNL. This is especially true now. Tim Judson, the staff member who has put so much time into the newsletter and other SPC work for the past two years, will be leaving the staff on August 1st. We are into "re-organize" mode once again, evaluating and clarifying the structure and responsibilities of the staff and Council.

If you are interested in helping with the

Hiroshima Day 1999

Friday, August 6

Parade and Vigil

with
Fire in the Belly Theater

gather at 11:30am on Madison St. by Plymouth Church,
downtown Syracuse

Peace Council's work, call us at 472-5478. We need volunteer help, on a more or less regular basis as fits your schedule and interests. We are also looking to employ new staff and will provide more information about this in future PNL's. Hoping very much to hear from you....
— Carl Mellor

Sunday, Aug. 8 • 7-10pm



STRIKE FOR PEACE

No, Not your Dancing Shoes, your Bowling Shoes

Yes folks. Brought back by popular demand - it's time to BOWL for PEACE again. Are you getting tired of all these lovely, sun-filled, blue-sky, fresh-air days? Do you need to breathe cool, air-conditioned air and have your ears caressed by the slam of the old bowling ball into the pins waiting to be knocked down? If so...mark your calendar, start those get-into-shape bowling warm-ups, and make a list of all your friends and relatives eager to be your sponsors.

Sunday, August 8, 7-10 pm. Erie Blvd. Bowling Center. \$10 entry fee for two games, shoes, and soft drinks. Outrageous and/or politically stimulating attire desired. Will the transgender menace outbowl the Ladies? The best way to find out is to be there. Call SPC at 472-5478 for more info or to sign up. Gotta run, it's my turn to bowl. — Rae Kramer



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- Please contact me about volunteering. My address has changed

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Victors and/or Losers

How NATO "Won" by Losing in Yugoslavia

Brian Dominick

After ten weeks of nightly bombardment by the most powerful military alliance ever assembled, against a smaller, beleaguered nation, both NATO and Yugoslavia have claimed "victory" in the latest round of warfare in the Balkans. The Western press has simply regurgitated NATO's declaration that, finally, the stubborn Milosevic government has finally "capitulated" and signed NATO's unyielding, "nonnegotiable" list of demands. Actually, what happened was that NATO finally signed a heavily moderated agreement, very similar to one which Serbia had offered to sign — indeed, which Serbia had itself proposed! — before the bombing campaign began.

In reality, each side and nearly every party involved has actually lost, at least by some standards. The only discernible winners are Western corporations. The defense industry has profited substantially from the building of war machinery, from the replacement of munitions, fuel and aircraft expended. Media companies have profited from increased audiences and ad rates inevitably brought on by the spectacle of war. And now, potentially, multinational contractors will get richer from the reconstruction of a demolished nation (in capitalism, economic "growth" is attributable to the cleaning up of pollution and the rebuilding of devastated lands).

Everyone else has lost. NATO spent 79 days dropping "smart" bombs, cluster bombs, gravity bombs and ridiculous propaganda leaflets; firing cruise missiles, depleted uranium antitank rounds and doublespeak-ridden accusations; "stepping up" its air strikes some 50 different times, especially on occasions when it had "mistakenly" killed ethnic Serb or Albanian civilians or "friendly" Kosovar rebels and needed to express resolve — all to obtain objectives which changed drastically during the very first week of the campaign.

Most of NATO's original goals, articulated in February at Rambouillet, France, have been quietly scrapped. No longer is NATO concerned with merely protecting Kosovar Albanians — the focus has switched to return-

ing them to their homes after a mass "exodus" and extermination brought about by the bombing itself, both directly from the sky and indirectly at the hands of vengeful Serb forces. Forgotten are NATO's promises of "substantial autonomy" and an eventual "referendum on Kosovar independence" — once a pivotal point of NATO demands, now ignored by NATO and its corporate media lapdogs. NATO control of refugee repatriation, at one point a proud insistence of the Western alliance, has been handed to the UN Refugees Commission.

The NATO-controlled occupation of Serbia, at one time a hidden but insistent objective of the Western alliance, has been yielded to occupation of Kosovo only, under United Nations auspices. Without admitting to capitulation on this point, which the Western press never reported in the first place, Clinton admitted on June 14 that without access to Serbia, Milosevic's apprehension on a war-crimes indictment handed down in the last days of the campaign, may never be carried out by NATO troops whose movement is restricted by the Kosovo border. The indictment itself may have been a pivotal element in NATO's decision to concede such a major demand as unfettered access to Serbian territory — who could expect Milosevic, freshly indicted for past human rights violations, to sign a deal giving Western armies the ability to extradite him for trial?

NATO probably never stood a chance of achieving its objectives through a bombing campaign. Such a strategy would have had to force a total surrender on the part of the Serb-dominated Yugoslav government. To relinquish sovereignty in Kosovo, the "cradle of Serbian heritage," and allow the occupation of Serbia, would have been an extreme capitulation indeed. Therefore, it wasn't an option for the proud people and government of Serbia. If someone was going to give in, it was going to be NATO. So, whatever we're being told by politicians and reporters, that's precisely what happened. In the end, after night upon night of seemingly relentless bombing, NATO signed largely the same deal offered by Serbia on March 23, the day before Western aggression manifested itself as all-out warfare.

There is no telling whether the bombing actually forced major concessions on the part of Serbia from March 24 onward. We will never know, because US diplomats like Richard Holbrooke, possibly the next ambassador to the United Nations, refused to debate the matter with Serbia, their bosses favoring aggression over discussion.

Several realities sadden conscious observers at this point:

- ethnic cleansing by Serb military and Kosovo rebel forces
- massive NATO bombing which caused more than 6,500 deaths (with more to come as a

continued on page 21



WHY WAR WAS NECESSARY

Clinton Escapes Under Media Blindfold

New York Times Ignores Violation of the War Powers Act

release by Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting (FAIR)

AS OF MAY 28, 1999, the indictment of Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes is the story of the day — the *New York Times* ran two front page pieces on it on the day the announcement was made (5/27/99). And Milosevic's indictment is an important story for the American media to cover. But isn't it at least as important for the press to cover accusations that the US president is conducting an illegal war? That story has gotten virtually no mention in the *Times*.

According to the War Powers Act of 1973, the president must "terminate any use of United States Armed Forces" within 60 days of the declaration of military action, unless he receives Congressional authorization to do otherwise. This period expired on May 25. Three days into what seems to be a clear violation of the law, the *New York Times*, considered to be "the paper of record," has not said a word about the expiration of the War Powers Act's deadline.

Prior to the expiration of the 60 days, the *Times*' coverage of the issue was skimpy. One piece (4/29/99) obliquely touched on the issue, reporting that though Clinton promised to seek Congressional support for sending in ground troops, he would not seek Congressional approval, since, as his spokesman, Joe Lockhart, said, "such a step would raise a host of constitutional questions." Another article, titled "NATO Says New Bombing Is the Strongest Effort Yet," mentions in passing the suit filed by Tom Campbell and 16 other representatives against Bill Clinton for violating the War Powers Act (5/1/99).

The only serious attention the *Times* gave to the issue was in a piece by Alison Mitchell called "Only Congress Can Declare War. Really. It's True," which ran in the "Week In Review" section (5/2/99). This article described the House's voting down of a resolution in support of the air war, by a 213-213 vote, as "a philosophical muddle devoid of practical effect." In fact, the losing vote is an important element in Campbell's lawsuit, proof that Clinton does not have congressional approval for his military actions.

But since the 60-day deadline expired, the *Times* has not so much as mentioned the War Powers Act.

In notable contrast to the *Times*' silence, *USA Today* ran an editorial headlined "Again, Public Gets Bypassed" (5/25/99), which examined the history of the Act and concluded that the Clinton administration's refusal to abide by it is "an exceedingly risky policy that ignores both the ugly lesson of Vietnam and the Founders' warnings about the ease with which unconstrained kings spend lives."

The War Powers Act, as *USA Today* noted, is designed to guarantee a fundamental democratic safeguard — that the people have a say, through their elected representatives, over whether or not the country goes to war. Clinton is the first president ever to violate the time limit provisions of the Act by keeping troops in combat without congressional authorization. Why isn't this news "fit to print?"

— FAIR Fairness Accuracy In Reporting
130 W. 25th Street New York, NY 10001

"Checks and Balances, What Checks and Balances?"

May 25, 1999 — Clinton Violates Letter, and Spirit, of US Constitution

FROM ALL INDICATIONS, today [May 25] will mark the first time since enactment of the 1973 War Powers Resolution that a President has openly violated the termination requirements of that law.

Air strikes against Yugoslavia began on March 24. The House of Representatives refused to give approval for the air war in a stunning tie vote of 213 to 213 on April 28. Today marks 60 days since President Clinton gave Congress official notice. Under the War Powers Resolution law, if the President does not have explicit authorization, he has 60 days to "terminate any use" of forces.

Legal scholars Michael Ratner and Jules Lobel — who litigated *Dellums v. Bush*, the case that forced President Bush to obtain con-

Clinton's Violations

US Constitution: Article I, Section 8

"The Congress shall have power to... declare war..."

The War Powers Resolution:

"Within sixty calendar days after a report is submitted... the President shall terminate any use of United States Armed Forces... unless the Congress

- (1) has declared war or has enacted a specific authorization for such use of United States Armed Forces,
- (2) has extended by law such sixty-day period, or
- (3) is physically unable to meet as a result of an armed attack upon the United States.

Such sixty-day period shall be extended for not more than an additional thirty days if the President determines and certifies to Congress in writing that unavoidable military necessity respecting the safety of United States Armed Forces requires the continued use of such armed forces in the course of bringing about a prompt removal of such forces."

— research courtesy Institute for Public Accuracy

gressional authority for the Gulf War in 1991 — are currently representing Rep. Tom Campbell (R.-Ca.) in *Campbell v. Clinton*, pending in Federal District Court for the District of Columbia. A hearing is likely next week.

In a joint statement released today, Ratner and Lobel said: "The President was violating the Constitution on the first day of the war; now amazingly enough he becomes the first President ever to violate the termination provision of the War Powers Resolution. Bombings and killings are being carried out in our names, but without the consent of the American people through their representatives. It's a very sad day. The imperial Presidency has reappeared with a vengeance."

For more information, contact the Institute for Public Accuracy: Sam Hussein, (202) 347-0020; David Zupan (541) 484-9167

— Institute for Public Accuracy

Thousands Protest US Militarism

Twenty-five CNY peace activists join National March on the Pentagon June 5.

John Fitzsimmons

TWENTY-FIVE PEACE ACTIVISTS from upstate New York drove to Washington, DC on June 5 to join 5,000 to 10,000 others for a National March on the Pentagon to protest the bombing of Yugoslavia and, more broadly, the practice of the United States government of too readily resorting to violence to settle international disagreements. The Washington, DC demonstration coincided with similar events in San Francisco and around the world.

The call for the June 5 anti-war protest was issued by the New York based International Action Center (IAC). There was concern expressed locally about participating in the event since the IAC is a creature of the Worker's World Party (WWP), whose philosophy is Marxist-Leninist and whose orientation concerning Yugoslavia is pro-Milosevic. After some discussion it was generally agreed that the most important thing was to take part in the demonstration to show our opposition to the war, especially since the event was being supported by other groups and individuals, including Peace Action, Pastors for Peace, Ramsey Clark, and Women in Black.

There were two hours of speeches in the park by the Lincoln Memorial, a march to the Pentagon, followed by two-and-a-half hours of speeches at the Pentagon.

The "people power" of e-mail was demonstrated when, three days before the event, the organizers were told that their permit to march on the Virginia highway to the Pentagon was revoked. They immediately e-mailed their network asking that everyone protest the decision to the authorities. Thousands of protests via telephones and e-mail resulted in gaining the perm!

There were many good speeches, all highly critical of the US and NATO, which was fine. However, I was bothered by the very little that was said about the ethnic cleansing of the Kosovars and their brutal treatment by

the Serbs. Nothing was mentioned about returning the Kosovo refugees to their homes. There were several references to the "heroic" resistance of the Serbs to US/NATO.

Here are excerpts from some of the most interesting speeches:

Sara Flounders, Co-director of the IAC and member of the WWP.

"NATO is on the march against Yugoslavia, Russia, and China.

All people of peace owe a debt to the people of Yugoslavia

for their heroic resistance to NATO. Expansion of the free market system means exploitation, slavery, and more wars against the people of the world."

Reverend Lucius Walker, IFCO/Pastors for Peace

"US aggression against Cuba is similar to US/NATO aggression in the Balkans. The US has an obsession with the use of military force. The United States is not concerned with ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. The US objective is to counter the effect of the USSR's installation of socialism in Eastern Europe and establish US hegemony in the area."

Gordon Clark, Executive Director of Peace Action

"I will tell you why we are here today. We are here today because we are the people who support the rule of law over the rule of force. We are here to day because we are the people who support human rights, and support human life. We are here because we are the people who work day and night to build a world in the 21st century that is not only safe for our children, but worthy of them."

AND WE ARE NOT GOING AWAY!

We are not going away until this war on the people of Yugoslavia stops and that includes rebuilding what we have destroyed. We are not going away until the war on the people

of Iraq stops. We are not going away until our government stops, forever and ever, to wage war against civilian populations, and to use cluster bombs and cruise missiles as idle playthings, tossed capriciously at innocent men, women and chil-

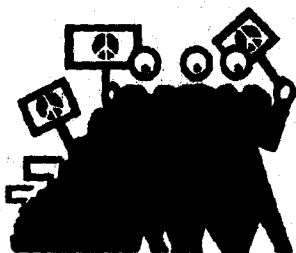
dren by a military superpower which is bereft of meaning, direction, and morality.

That is why we are here to day. And we are not going away."

John lives in Auburn. He is active with the CNY-SOA Abolitionists, and participated in the Witness for Peace Delegation to Chiapas in March.

"We are not going away until our government stops, forever and ever, to wage war against civilian populations."

— Gordon Clark, Peace Action



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Words against War & Imperialism



Conscientious Objector

Edna St. Vincent Millay

I shall die, but that is all that I shall do for
Death.

I hear him leading his horse out of the
stall; I hear the clatter on the barn
floor.

He is in haste; he has business in Cuba,
business in the Balkans, many calls to
make this morning.

But I will not hold the bridle while he
cinches the girth.

And he may mount by himself: I will not
give him a leg up.

Though he flick my shoulders with his
whip, I will not tell him which way
the fox ran.

With his hoof on my breast, I will not tell
him where the black man hides in the
swamp.

I shall die, but that is all that I shall do for
Death; I am not on his pay-roll.

I will not tell him the whereabouts of my
friends nor of my enemies either.

Though he promise me much, I will not
map him the route to any man's door.

Am I a spy in the land of the living, that
I should deliver men to Death?

Brother, the password and the plans of
our city are safe with me; never
through me

Shall you be overcome.

Wine from These Grapes
Copyright 1940 Harper & Row, NY

What does justice mean below the equator?

Eris Mar

translated by Valerie Singer

In Latin America
there existed peoples of great wisdom
that the European colonizers
felt was their right to destroy.

In Africa existed tribes
that feasted on liberty
until the whites in their ignorance
bond them, threw them in ships
and enslaved them in the New World.

Today we live on the winds of luck
they tell us the earth we walk upon is
our own.

Yet they have used our ground
as an older child would
use an infant's toy,

step on it
throw it against the wall
steal the best parts
destroying
and still demand a price
to return the remains of our toy
continuing to enslave us.

And now, my sister
where will we hide?
Our forests of Brazil trees
have been transformed into sofas —
padded comfortable sofas
used to rest their conscience.

And now, my sister
you come to tell me
that one minute of rest
after completing a day's duties
is unjust for those who have no trees
on which to hang their hammocks.

And now, my sister
I want to know
in this sea of injustice
What is justice
below the equator's line?

Eris "Bobby" Mar is a poet and activist from Bahia, Brazil. He works and lives with "IPETERRA", a grassroots collective fighting for student rights, environmental education, and sustainable permaculture practices in Brazil's drought stricken sertao. For more info on IPETERRA, write <valling@gd.com.br> Val is a former SPC staffperson studying the work of people like Eris in Brazil.

International Law Allows Jury to Acquit Eight Who Blocked Entrance to Nuclear Submarine Base

ON JUNE 10, a Kitsap County, Washington jury found eight activists who peacefully blocked traffic into Bangor Nuclear Submarine Base on August 9, 1998, not guilty. After hearing two days of testimony by defendants Marie Bernard, Mary Gleysteen, Anne Hall, MacKnight Johnson, Bernard Meyer, Glen Milner, George Rodkey, and Brian Watson, the jury returned with their acquittal in less than four hours.

In an unusual instruction, District Court Judge James Riehl told the jury to consider in their deliberations the fact that International Treaties supercede local, state, and federal laws. Defense attorney Kenneth Kagan in his closing statement noted that the verdict of the jury might be a referendum of how deeply committed Kitsap County remains to providing a haven for nuclear weapons. Defendant Bernard Meyer, who represented himself, made the case for following a moral obligation to

intervene when faced with weapons of mass destruction.

The trial was both deeply intellectual and emotional. Defendant Brian Watson of Bremerton presented excerpts from the Hague Convention of 1907, the Nuremberg Principles, and the 1996 World Court ruling on the illegality of nuclear weapons. Defendant Anne Hall of Seattle referenced former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark in saying that "sometimes the only way people can be heard is to step across the line." The presiding juror of the jury was visibly emotional after the verdict was delivered, stating that she was "proud to sit with these people."

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, a local group supporting the eight activists, will continue its public opposition to nuclear weapons.

— Sue Ablao, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action

Not In Anyone's Backyard!

Caravan of Conscience Exposes the Contamination Gap

IN PART 1 OF THIS ARTICLE last month ("The Wars of Contamination"), I wrote about participating in a caravan on nuclear waste issues, the Caravan of Conscience. From April 23-May 1, in the midst of the Columbine High murders and national demonstrations against NATO, the School of the Americas and the execution of Mumia Abu Jamal, a dozen activists traveled down the east coast from Connecticut to Georgia, and back north to Washington, DC.

Our overwhelming sense was one of profound heaviness: a small band of people taking on an issue that the rest of the country — and the rest of our comrades in DC, Philly, New York and elsewhere — were hardly paying attention to. At the end of the Caravan, as we distributed fliers at the SOA Watch rally in Lafayette Park (across from the White House) wearing radiation suits and gas masks, our second skins on the Caravan. That feeling of distance was still thick. Although we were ready for the Caravan to be over, the feeling of lightness at the rally didn't correspond to the experience of struggle we had seen on the road for nine days.

It wasn't that the rally wasn't equally "serious" — many of the speakers and performers there spoke directly to the kind of injustice we had been dealing with on the Caravan. The lightness was rather that of the injustice having been fully pulled out into the light of day, and its burden released through having been shared by so many united in struggle to end it. The Caravan was by no means only heavy, but as well as the empowerment and the fun, we had to grapple with the reality that our nation has only just begun to deal with one of the most ethically complicated and deadly problems we face.

Decommissioning and CT Yankee

Our trip began in Haddam, CT on April 23, with a rally on the Haddam Green, a small park in the center of the tiny town on the Connecticut River. The town is the site of the Haddam Neck reactor, also known as Connecticut Yankee (or CY). CY shut down permanently in 1996, in the midst of a flurry of six reactor

closings in New England — four of which have closed permanently. As with Yankee Rowe (or Rowe, shut in 1994) and Maine Yankee, the expressed reason for CY's closure was economic, but the real reason was the utility could not afford to perform maintenance and improve management abuses to bring the plant back within approved safety margins. Sort of like quitting a job just before you're fired. Of course, the "other" real reason was pressure from the reactor community — local people demanding the NRC uphold its standards and not let the utility off the hook at the expense of health and safety. Now CY is decommissioning, the process of dismantling the reactor and cleaning up the site.

While decommissioning should be a relief to the community and spell the end of decades of threats to health and safety, sadly this is not the experience of Haddam or of Rowe, MA (site of

two of the first reactor decommissionings in the US. Prior to the Rowe experience (1994), decom was mandated a major federal action under Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) rules. Therefore it was highly regulated by the NRC, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

However, with the first decommissioning of a reactor that served most of its life expectancy, NRC threw out its own rules and allowed Yankee Rowe to "strip and ship" without an approved plan and without public hearings. This allowed Yankee to ship and bury 95% of the radioactive inventory (140,000 curies worth) to be buried in a shallow grave in the Barnwell dump in South Carolina. Originally Rowe committed to use SAFSTOR, a decommissioning process in which the reactor is left intact for 30-50 years before dismantlement. If Yankee Rowe had waited 30 years, as they promised, the radioactivity would have decayed from 140,000 to 14,000 curies, drastically reducing what workers would have been exposed to and what will leak into the ground at Barnwell.

Citizens Awareness Network (CAN),

Button from 1978 national conference on reprocessing in Barnwell.



with Greenpeace and MASS ALERT, organized the first Caravan ("The Paul Revere Alert") in 1994 to protest the shipment of Rowe's steam generators. The news that waste that had been contaminating their community for 30 years was just going to be dumped in another poor community — one that is also 46% African-American — was unacceptable to CAN. They saw their community being entangled in an unconscionable case of environmental racism that only benefited the corporation.

The Floodgates of Waste

Rowe was a tiny reactor by comparison to most others in the country. It operated for 31 years and had an 80 megawatt (MW) capacity, whereas more modern plants like CY, Nine Mile 2, or Millstone 3 range between 500MW-1,200MW. The same large, irradiated components from CY that were shipped from



McChernobyl — Over 50 million to be served. (See page 11). One of the Caravan's stranger pitstops.

Rowe contain over 10 times the radioactivity and weigh many times more. They will be loaded on a barge and shipped down the coastal waterways from the North and Southeast to Savannah, GA, where they will be lifted onto a train with a crane for the final leg to Barnwell.

CAN has watched the (d)evolution of NRC's policies and precedents for decommissioning from the ground floor. When they took NRC to court over the Rowe dismantlement, judges found NRC's practices:

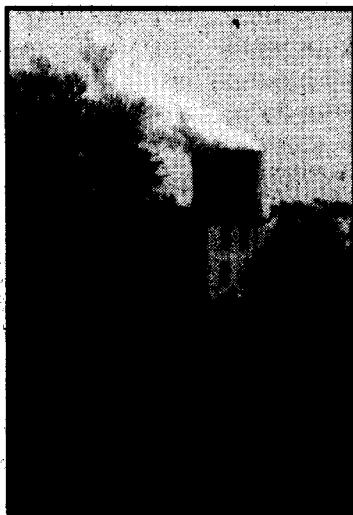
- "to put it mildly, disquieting" (Federal District Court Judge Ponser);
- its "bureaucratic efforts to thwart citizens to be heard" comparable to Charles Dickens' fictional Office of Circumlocution in Bleak House" (Ponser);
- "arbitrary, capricious, and utterly irrational" (1st Circuit, US Court of Appeals);
- and in violation of the Atomic Energy Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Administrative Procedures Act (1st Circuit., US Court of Appeals).

NRC eventually got around these ringing indictments by changing its rules on decommis-

continued on next page

sioning, eliminating the need for detailed plans and adjudicatory hearings in the reactor community, and relaxing standards for cleanup, inspections and regulatory oversight. The Rowe precedent set the stage for the Floodgates of Waste to open in a continual white-wash of contamination from the four corners of the US to waste communities like Barnwell.

However, it isn't just the reactor and dump communities at stake, although those were our primary concerns when we began the Caravan. We also visited transport communities like Wilmington, NC, and Savannah, GA and witnessed the hazards they will face from the movement of such precarious, dangerous cargo. In Wilmington, the barge will pass through the backyards of the rich as well as the poor. It is scheduled to pass under a draw bridge where boats often have to wait for over an hour for the traffic to subside. While parked there, the radioactive waste will be just offshore of a fancy country club. Just on the other side of the bridge is a recreational marina, with lots of little sailboats, motorboats and jet skis.



Salem, New Jersey. Home of Salem 1 & 2 and Hope Creek reactors.

And soon after that it will float by a new condo development and pass between the pylons of a large freeway overpass where signs along the shore clearly warn people not to swim because of the strong currents.

The first shipment from CY is also scheduled for September, which coincidentally is hurricane season in the South. And these were only some of the hazards we saw in only one transport community. Were the barge to be stuck or even lose its cargo in the waterway, at best the waste would sit in the water for days or weeks, contaminating the water and recreational and residential areas with large amounts of radiation while contractors try to engineer a way to remove it.

Stirring Up the Waters

It is ethically and environmentally important to stop the spread of waste through decommissioning. The purpose of this spring's Caravan was to alert communities along the east coast about the impending shipments and to generate more awareness and activism. Specifically, we wanted to generate some press and raise the issues in each of the communities, gain experience and familiarity organizing with local groups, formalize networks for ac-

tion, and get activists to attend the Northeast Action Camp this summer (see page 3). As CAN member Deb Katz said, "Our intention is to bring organizers from the South together with Northern reactor community organizers to stop the cycle of contamination and sacrifice."

The organizing is difficult because of the deep, often suppressed, divisions over the trade-offs between jobs-and-taxes and health-and-safety — as well as utility-sponsored intimidation, misinformation and ignorance. Organizing between communities, and between regions, is also complicated because of differing cultural and political landscapes, and first-hand experience is often helpful for learning how to work together. Through the Caravan, we got detailed glimpses of the situation of each community. The overall picture was one of the war being waged on the very fabric of community at all levels of government and the economy.

For instance, in Peekskill, NY (home to the three Indian Point reactors), we were videotaped and hassled by police during our brief vigil downtown, for which we had a permit. Later, we learned of the broiling controversy in town over the City Council's installation of 24-hour surveillance cameras downtown and in poor, largely African-American neighborhoods — and the arrest of two community members who tried to speak about it at a Council meeting. Their comments would have been allowed at any other time in Peekskill's history — except that the Council changed the rules on public comment at the same meeting they voted to install the video cameras.

After a small panel discussion that night, several people came up to us on the street and said they saw us being hassled and expressed strong support for the Caravan and for closing the plants. We discussed the intimidation they are experiencing — which isn't just about the nukes, but is intended to suppress and intimidate the unrest that is brewing on a whole range of issues relating to poverty, race, and distribution of community resources.

The Silence at Barnwell

I did not actually visit the Barnwell Low-Level Nuclear Waste Facility. While the rest

of the Caravan drove there for a vigil at the dump's gates, two of us continued on to Columbia, SC to set up for a rally later that day. The vigil was done, as Deb Katz put it, "to acknowledge the dead." The dead of the reactor communities, and the deaths of those who will continue to be murdered by the poisons being dumped in the ground. The only audience was the overblown and unnecessary police force making sure no one stormed the fences. Caravan members spoke of intense sadness, fear and anger at the vigil. Most cried. Many left totems scattered in the dirt near the fence. Some scattered flower seeds and pressed them into the ground with their feet so the police wouldn't see.

Barnwell is the only remaining low-level dump for commercial nuclear waste in the US. The failure to locate a dump at Sierra Blanca, TX, last year, the all but doomed plans for a high-level waste site at Yucca Mountain, NV, and the stated intention of SC's new governor to close Barnwell has the nuclear industry in a vice grip about where to put its waste. The illegality and unsoundness of the recently opened Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) in New Mexico is only deferring the matter slightly.

The news that contamination from the dump is leaching to the single-source aquifer for the area makes matters all the more pressing. In 1995, the SC Dept. of Health did a study which found a 50-acre plume of tritium (radioactive hydrogen, linked especially to infant mortality and genetic disease) leaking from the dump toward the aquifer. When the study was repeated in 1998, the plume had already grown to 100 acres in size. So long as the dump remains open, clean-up will be fruitless because the amount of contamination is only going to increase — and the state of the art in nuclear waste disposal is still simply to dump it in the ground.

However, there is no local group in Barnwell. There is no organized local resistance — something which, on the surface, might be a remarkable fact considering how clear the issues are. The politics of the situation only puts more extreme pressure on the communities bordering Barnwell (notably, the towns of Barnwell and Snelling). Those communities are already seriously marginalized, being poor, rural, and largely African-American. They also host the nuclear industry's only waste dump, and the fact that the dump is but a small lot on the back corner of the huge Savannah River Nuclear Processing Facility — where Westinghouse makes and repro-

continued on page 12



Mobile Chernobyl — Like It or Not

Congressional Act Would Remove Communities' Ability to Say No to Shipments

Kyle Rabin

AFTER SEVERAL FAILED ATTEMPTS in previous years, the nuclear industry still continues to push for the passage of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA), legislation that environmental and public health advocates have dubbed "Mobile Chernobyl." The NWPA may be before the House of Representatives and Senate for a full vote within the next few weeks. The 1999 House and Senate versions of the act would require that highly radioactive waste currently stored on-site at nuclear plants across the country be shipped to a temporary storage site in Nevada.

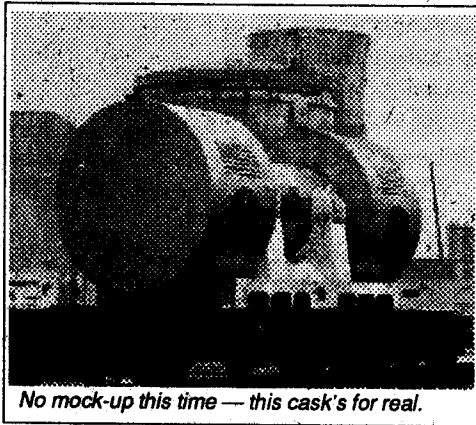
The nuclear power industry has a public relations problem and is pretending that moving the waste solves it. Industry lobbyists have poured \$15.5 million into campaign coffers to persuade Congress that transporting dangerous radioactive waste to Yucca Mountain, Nevada, which sits on an earthquake faultline and over an aquifer, makes sense. The industry's main argument is that storing nuclear waste at one site in one state is preferable to leaving it where it is now: at 80 sites in 41 states. However, a closer look at the industry's rationale reveals several flaws.

Although the NWPA would require moving the radioactive waste from 24 utilities in its first year of implementation, nuclear waste — in the form of spent fuel rods — would still remain at every reactor site for decades. Because of the immense levels of radiation and heat, no spent fuel rods can be removed from any reactor location until they have remained in the on-site spent fuel pools for at least 5 to 10 years. Therefore, no nuclear utility could rid its site of all its nuclear waste for at least 5 years after a reactor permanently shuts down. As long as reactors continue to operate, there

will always be up to 80 high-level nuclear waste sites scattered around the country.

Although the nuclear industry claims that transportation is safe, the reality is that shipping highly irradiated waste through 43 states, within a half-mile of 50 million Americans, is a dangerous undertaking. The industry claims that the small number of shipments that have been transported safely proves that large scale wastetransportation is feasible. Yet, the NWPA will require, over 100,000 shipments in the next 30 years — a 4,350% increase in the number of shipments to date.

Using the Department of Energy's (DOE) projections and considering the total miles nuclear waste will be transported, these shipments could lead to an astonishing 210 to 354 accidents. A 1986 DOE study describes the consequence in an analysis of the repercussions of a rural transportation accident. The study warns that a scenario involving a high-speed impact, long duration fire, and



No mock-up this time — this cask's for real.

fuel oxidation would contaminate a 42-square-mile area. Cleanup of such an accident would take about 15 months and cost \$620 million. If the NWPA becomes law, radioactive waste shipments would travel through the Capital Region along Con Rail routes.

Because accidents are inevitable, a public debate is necessary to determine if the benefits outweigh the risks. There is still time to employ a sound decision-making process, including public participation, to find a more credible option. However, in a brazen attempt to stifle public discussion and participation, the NWPA would override the ability of states and localities to protect their citizens against a nuclear waste shipment accident. Knowing that communities across the country will not tolerate the waste passing through, the industry simply wants Congress to nullify local laws so that no community could pass stricter standards. This would leave local communities vulnerable to nuclear waste accidents.

Not only does the NWPA prevent state and local governments from protecting their

residents, but it would also void Environmental Protection Agency standards for developing a permanent waste repository, also at Yucca Mountain. Studies show that it's likely to leak dangerous radiation into the surrounding environment. The rapid water travel times from the proposed dump to the nearest wells supplying drinking water require that Yucca Mountain be disqualified as a site to dump high-level nuclear waste. Several other reasons for disqualifying Yucca Mountain include seismic activity, volcanic activity, and geothermal up-welling.

Congress should not allow the nuclear industry to short-circuit important environmental and public health protections. With the risks of transporting highly irradiated nuclear waste so high, there must be compelling reasons to ship it out. Unfortunately, the real reason for moving the waste is to bail out the industry, which invested billions in nuclear facilities, but failed to deliver on its promise of "electric power too cheap to meter." Now, with the deregulation of the electric power industry, utilities find they are stuck with huge, money-losing generating plants. The Nevada dump site is just one more way taxpayers are being stuck with the industry's bill. For the sake of the 50 million Americans who would be exposed to the risk of transportation, we ask our Senators and Representatives to oppose the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1999.

Kyle Rabin is Air & Energy Program Associate at Environmental Advocates, a non-profit public interest group based in Albany. For more info about this and other energy issues, you can reach Kyle at 353 Hamilton Street, Albany, 12210, fax (518) 427-0381 or web <<http://www.envadvocates.org>>. Call Kyle at (518) 462-5526 ext. 238 or email <krabin@envadvocates.org>

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Cracking Worse than Expected — Nine Mile 1 Restarts Anyway
NRC Rejects Pleas for Caution and Signs of Widespread Embrittlement

NRC's REJECTION of the public's pleas for a safety review of Nine Mile One set the stage for restart the first week of June. However, restart was postponed over a week because a prestart inspection indicated leaks in the reactor vessel. When workers inspected a coolant drainage tube at the bottom of the reactor vessel they found a large, through-wall crack, as well as leaks in two tubes which assist insertion of control rods.

While the latter leak is not thought to compromise safety, the drain tube crack was significantly more dangerous. Together, though, the two cases are a sign that cracking in the core shroud is not an isolated problem in the aging reactor. While much has been made of the risk of the core shroud failing, the greater danger is that any number of other parts may be cracking as well.

In a response to Dr. Steve

Penn's letters last month, NRC cited a probability of 1 in 100,000 that the core shroud could be broken by an earthquake; they cited an additional 1 in 10 chance that safety systems would fail and that would lead to a meltdown. However, the 1 in 10 chance counts on the safety systems being in good shape. There are several things that are dismaying about these problems:

- 1) extremely dangerous — a break in the drain tube would send primary coolant water at high pressure (~1,000psi) and temperature (>500F) out of the reactor vessel onto the floor of the secondary containment building. It could cause a loss of coolant and would require the entire building to be flooded with the radioactive water in order to keep the fuel covered so it wouldn't catch fire or melt. Also, workers would not be able to enter the area to work on the problem because of the high temperature and pressure.
- 2) NiMo not required to inspect other tubes — NRC rules only require that pipes more than 4"-wide be inspected. Tubes under 4"-wide are not required to

be inspected, allowing NiMo to restart the reactor without bothering to check other safety systems..

- 3) not caught under leak-before-break — NRC and NiMo assume that before a pipe breaks there will be a noticeable leak that will bring it to the operator's attention. However, they only caught these cracks because of a manual inspection; the leaks were not new, NiMo hadn't done the right test yet. NRC's theory is not fully reliable.
- 4) ignoring the connections — NiMo and NRC are dealing with each problem in piecemeal fashion, as though all problems are isolated. The big picture is important in assessing safety — *and the big picture has cracks all over it.*

The bottom line at this point is that no one — not NiMo, not the NRC, not the public —

knows what the actual safety of Nine Mile One is at this point. That the people who have the authority to shut the plant have not done so is an unconscionable endangerment of Central New York and the entire region.

In other news ...

As the PNL goes to press, we are awaiting news that NiMo has cut a deal with AmerGen — a multinational conglomerate — to sell NM1 and 2. Although we should all be glad to be rid of NiMo as a nuclear operator, AmerGen's record is no better.

FitzPatrick (run by New York Power Authority, it is the quiet cousin of NM1 and 2) is a pilot plant in NRC's new performance review process. The process has been roundly criticized by everyone from Union of Concerned Scientists to the US General Accounting Office as full of holes — holes which reflect and compound NRC's own weaknesses as a regulator. NRC is holding a meeting on June 30 to hear public comment on Fitzy's first review. ... More on both these items next month. — Tim Judson



cesses bombs for the DoE — and you get a picture of how utterly expendable the people there are in the eyes of industry, government and military. The level of intimidation the Yankees of CAN experience in calling attention to the problems is certainly nothing compared to the pressure on local people to sit back and do nothing.

Coming Home

New Yorkers are partly to blame for Barnwell's being the only low-level dump. Years ago, the Don't Waste New York campaign was hugely successful in stopping a dump from being sited in CNY, and the US's promotion of nuclear fuel reprocessing was shut down partly because Western NY activists shut a facility south of Buffalo.

One popular slogan of such movements has been "Not in My Backyard," but the main lesson of the Caravan is it is not enough just to refuse a dump here in NY. Our state's nuclear waste problem is a long ways from being resolved. NYS was one of the top five states contributing waste to Barnwell in 1998. We are still producing it every day — it just doesn't get buried here in our communities.

The most sobering realization from the Caravan was seeing how our economy is being sustained by disparity of contamination, as well as disparity of income. It is hard for me to think about "CNY" anymore, without first thinking of how fragmented it is between areas that are relatively prosperous and clean, and the areas like the South Side and Oswego which are poor and contaminated — the former by the incinerator and sewage in Onondaga Creek, the latter by nuclear, coal, and cogeneration plants.

We should take seriously the image of Carousel Center, sitting on the shores of Onondaga Lake, as a sign that we can no longer afford the illusion that industrial decadence and extended credit are not active forces in the erosion of our community. Instead of a commons we have a pre-fab shrine of materialism and shabby commercialization; instead of a beautiful, healthy lake and historic birthplace of the Iroquois Confederacy and the Great Peace, we have a dead pool of mercuric sludge and sewage. We need an ethic now, not a slogan — "Not in Anyone's Backyard!"

As we go to press, Tim's chiles are doing well, although they are a bit miffed that he has not transplanted them yet.

On the Wrong Track

Pataki greases the skids under capital defendants (again)

Frances Sandiford

THE ISSUE OF THE DEATH PENALTY is still very much in the headlines, although now with a somewhat different slant. In January, visiting Pope John Paul II was able to convince Governor Mel Carnahan of Missouri to commute the death sentence of convicted murderer Darrell Mease to life without parole. Later, Illinois exonerated Ronald Jones, already on death row, when DNA tests finally proved that he could not have committed the crimes for which he was convicted eight years ago. Since 1997 when the death penalty was reinstated, Illinois has exonerated twelve men who were able to prove their innocence, often within days of their scheduled execution.

Incidents such as these have prompted at least ten states plus Illinois to support bills that call for a moratorium on the death penalty until it can be determined that it is being fairly administered. Four more states,

Michigan, Maine, Massachusetts, and Iowa soundly defeated bills that would have established capital punishment.

Can the death penalty ever be fairly administered? Should it be administered at all?

Governor George Pataki certainly thinks it should. Although there has yet to be an execution under the latest capital punishment statute in the Empire State, Governor Pataki, on his own initiative, is trying to ensure there will be by expanding the number of capital offenses. In a recent editorial, *The New York Times* denounced these actions and declared that the state is "on the wrong track." Whatever it may be worth, it's gratifying to have *The Times* on our side.

Pataki has proposed a number of changes to the death penalty rules in this state. First, a person charged with a capital crime could no longer plead guilty in order to avoid trial and risk of the death penalty. Under present law the guilty plea is an accepted escape hatch.

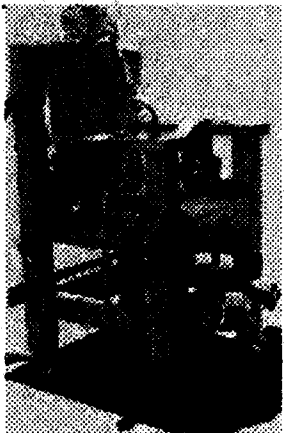
Next, crimes subject to capital punishment would be expanded to include "thrill killing," killing with torture, killing by gang members, killing in order to obtain an inheritance, and even being an accomplice to a capital crime. Also, if a jury deadlocks during the penalty phase of a capital trial, the judge will be given discretion to cast the deciding vote and impose the death penalty.

Finally, prosecutors would be given the opportunity to call witnesses unconnected with the crime, specifically, families of the victims. The emotional and psychological impact of these appearances would be devastating to the defense case. All of these changes would increase the likelihood of wrongful convictions, especially in the all too common case of a less than competent defense.

According to the *New York Times* article, Chief Judge Judith Kaye, apparently bowing to pressure from Pataki, recently reduced fees payable to defense attorneys in capital cases. Prisoners' Legal Services, which defends most death row inmates, will disappear completely without further funding. And there you have it, more death penalty prosecutions and fewer resources to oppose them. More innocent people are likely to be prosecuted.

There is one bright spot, though. Anti-death penalty literature is still being published. As the librarian of a correctional facility, I review books on prisons and prison issues for professional journals. In the past three months, I have reviewed three such books. The most recent, and probably the best of the lot, is *Finding Life on Death Row*, edited by Katya Lezin. Due for publication in September, the book profiles six death row inmates. Despite the fact that such books receive little publicity, they continue to come out. Vive la literature!

The Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty in New York met on June 12 in Binghamton and plans a large conference in the spring of 2000. The group's next meeting will be at 12:00 on Saturday, July 31 at the First Congregational Church at the corner of Broadway and Front Streets in Binghamton. For information please contact Frances Sandiford at (914) 876-4626.



ACTION UPDATE

Close The SOA!

Kathleen Rumpf's Release Coming Soon!

Yes, it is almost one year since Kathleen Rumpf began her 12-month sentence for "changing" the sign outside Fort Benning. After having made an involuntary tour of a number of jails and prisons, Kathleen is completing her sentence at Carswell Federal Penitentiary in Fort Worth, Texas and will be released on July 19. As befits her, Kathleen has arranged for several speaking engagements with local faith and social justice organizations to share her observations and experiences with the federal prison system.

Margaret Birdleough and Rae Kramer, representing the Syracuse Peace Council and the local CNY/SOA Abolitionists, will be going to Texas to escort Kathleen home, via Louisiana where Kathleen has family. Knowing Kathleen and Margaret, this has the makings of an interesting road trip.

A "WELCOME HOME KATHLEEN" celebration has been planned for Friday, August 27, at beautiful Camp Brockway, located at Pratts Falls Park, just south of Jamesville. From 1 pm until dark we will celebrate with Kathleen in this first-of-its-kind "Welcome Back to Civil Society Shower." We will have the afternoon to hang out with Kathleen and enjoy the park, light charcoal around 5pm, picnic and share with Kathleen those shower gifts one may need to readjust to civil society. Call Paul Frazier or Deb Kenn 487-2739 for details and offers of help.

May 3 Pentagon Action Charges Dismissed

Without explanation, the government has dismissed the charges against the 53 given violation tickets for the SOA protest/civil disobedience action outside the Pentagon on May 3, 1999. One can guess that they were dissuaded by the thought of 53 people taking advantage of the opportunity to address the court. Can it be that the threat of speaking truth to power was enough? See you next time.

— Rae Kramer



Anti-SOA Movement Springs into Action

Campaign Brings Thousands to Washington, DC for May Day Weekend Actions

Dan Sage

IT WAS A GREAT WEEKEND in Washington. Even the weather was above average.

On Saturday afternoon Lafayette Park, just behind (or in front of) the White House, was filled with activists from all over the country, bearing signs and lifting their voices for the closure of the School of the Americas. Who knows how to count crowds? Estimates ranged from 2000 to 3000. From the platform with its microphones and loudspeakers, Father Roy Bourgeois and Carol Richardson, co-directors of SOA Watch welcomed the arrivals, and musical offerings were interspersed with messages of hope and commitment from a wide variety of interest groups.

A ceremonial Mayan blessing, recognition of the SOA prisoners of conscience, an overview by author Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, were followed by addresses on the theme of "Nunca Mas!" from survivors and other representatives of Haiti (Dr. Marie Racine), Mexico (Eduardo Diaz Reguera and Teresa Ortiz Johnson), Honduras (Mario Saigado), Colombia (Cecilia Zarate Laun), Guatemala (Jennifer Harbury and Adriana Bartow), and Chile (Roberto Leni), as well as a group of Native American Indians.

Musical offerings included Grupo Morazan from El Salvador, John Fromer, singer, songwriter, and labor activist, Pete Seeger, and many others. Also evident on the platform was the "Death Machine," a skull

wearing a mortarboard, constructed of heavy paper over a light wood frame measuring about six feet in all three dimensions and symbolizing the SOA.

This afternoon and the days that followed were an opportunity to greet old friends from previous gatherings at Fort Benning, members of the SOA 25 prisoners, and Washington (Capitol steps and Pentagon) vigils. Enough newcomers were present to assure

that CNY/SOA Abolitionist T-shirts and head scarves would sell like tortillas. In fact, we sold out early in the weekend. Saturday evening's concert with Pete Seeger, Odetta, Jon Fromer, Iris Dement, and the Grupo Morazan filled the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church to capacity.

With the long day Saturday and somewhat improvised sleeping accommodations for many of the participants, it was good that Sunday's activities did not start until noon. Planning and orientation for the next day's action at the Pentagon, including training for those new to nonviolent civil disobedience, called for a major block of time and space. Facilities at American University were well chosen for the task.

With the large numbers attending, it was necessary to repeat training sessions and related workshops on local media work, lobbying on the SOA, issues in Guatemala, Chiapas, and Colombia until 7pm.

Monday's action required that most participants catch the first (5:30am) metro to be sure to get to the Pentagon in time to form up for procession that started on time at 7am at the

South Entrance. Leading the procession were the four spokespersons, Jeff Winder, Sr. Dorothy Pagosa, Reverend Ken Kennon, and Ann Tiffany, whose assignment was to negotiate with the authorities as circumstances required, and

to "present the evidence" calling for closing the SOA while requesting a meeting with Secretary of Defense William Cohen. The rest of the procession consisted of those carrying large crosses with the names of countries affected by the SOA, soil bearers, evidence bearers, "presente!" singers and drummers, bearers of the "SOA Death Machine" and hundreds of small cross bearers wearing white death masks.

The Pentagon authorities did not obstruct the procession's progress, but escorted us with police cars in our way around three sides of the building to the parade grounds in front of the "River Entrance" used by only the "top brass." Upon arrival at the parade grounds we were

allowed to proceed with the ceremony of presenting the evidence regarding the role of the SOA in human rights violations throughout Latin America. There was a symbolic dismantling of the "Death Machine" and covering it with "sacred spilt" brought for the occasion from our homes all over the United States, and covering it all with a black cloth adorned with a red carnation symbolizing Central American rebirth.

The accumulated "evidence," piled on a 4 x 8 sheet

of plywood, was carried to the front of the parade grounds where the police guarding the Pentagon building were stationed. The spoketeam's request for a meeting with William Cohen was ignored, then finally refused. At this point a number of participants began to lie down on the broad sidewalks so that others could use previously concealed bottles of water soluble red paint to draw outlines of the "bodies" in "blood" on the sidewalk. This action finally brought forth the arresting officers, who confiscated the paint bottles and put plastic handcuffs behind the backs of those wielding the paint. Those arrested were led to a waiting bus and eventually transported to a processing building some distance away from the Pentagon. Approximately 60 were apprehended, but a few were released (apparently randomly) for lack of evidence. The processing took all afternoon and a reported 55 were charged with civil disobedience and given court appearance dates in July. Only one Central New Yorker, Rae Kramer, was among the arrested.

All other participants in the procession were escorted the remaining distance around the building, back to the Metro entrance, from whence they made their way to the Capitol steps for a vigil and lobbying Congressional offices. The Washington Post reported that

continued on next page



Scene from the Pentagon — the dealers in death repent. Tim Judson photo.



Disobedient protesters and the river of red at the Pentagon Mall Entrance. Lee Siu Hin photo.



Guatemala's Untold Story of Healing

Truth Commission Just One Part of Nation's Healing Process

Megan Rice

SISTER MEGAN RICE arrived at the SOA protest in Washington, DC on May 1, 1999 by way of Guatemala, wearing an orange cap with the name GERARDI printed on the front. While serving six months in Danbury Federal Prison with Ann Tiffany and Doris Sage for protesting the SOA (as Nick Cardell and Dan Sage served similar sentences in Allenwood, and as Kathleen Rumpf and Ed Kinane waited sentencing), Megan heard of the April 25, 1998 assassination of Bishop Juan Gerardi of Guatemala. An advocate of the poor, the bishop had worked for three years on the RHEMI Report. The Report not only validated the UN Truth Commission Report about the 200,000 deaths during the Guatemalan Civil War, but also helped bring his countrypeople to the place where telling their stories of oppression has become the first step in a scary and sometimes dangerous healing process. The bishop was assassinated two days after the report became public.

Megan accepted an invitation to attend the first anniversary of the bishop's assassination. Her report, a strong twelve-page document of witness, is available through the Syracuse Peace Council.

We learn through Megan and Guatemalan front page newspaper accounts that over 100,000 gathered in Guatemala City, at no small cost, to celebrate the bishop's life and to collectively shout "NUNCA MAS!"

An excerpt of her journal from Guatemala City follows:

Near us, standing bravely among us is Senora Carmen Gerardi, his sister, and a few other relatives. We are close enough to extend our sympathies personally, an unexpected intimacy. Also to bring greetings from our people (including W. Africa) to the Archbishop

and to Bishop Rios, successor and long time friend to Gerardi. There was a large crowd filling the Cathedral plaza with the iron fence between the 12 pillars marked with the names of the victims carved on the marble slabs. Banners hung on the high fences and on the walls of the cathedral; posters with pictures of the Bishop.

There were many speeches, poems, songs and so much love, courage mixed with the obvious sense of hope that new life can and is emerging in this country which has so suffered from the repression. Significantly, there was no obvious military presence although the military high command center is within sight. The President is conveniently in France.

Megan continues: We go to the Archdiocesan Office of the Human Rights Commission to speak with Roberto Cabrera, current Director of the REMHI project. He tells us:

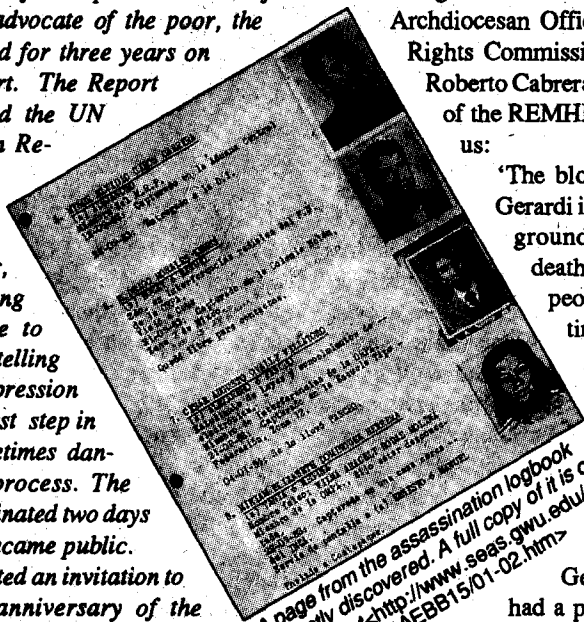
'The blood of Monsignor Gerardi is like a seed in the ground. How can this death bring life? Our people say this takes time. Seeds need to grow. Let's be patient. We are now in a co-conoon process to get into peoples' hearts.

Gerardi's death has had a paradoxical effect: Fear, yes, and yet awareness of why the bishop was killed. So we keep on trying to ask for truth, to demand justice.'

'Now in the last three months we have seen change. People have less fear. People may have been distracted and misinformed, but now are really aware that his death is linked with truth and justice. Before there was no opening space for people to speak, to learn why things are as they are. Now after all that effort, we are preparing a popular version of the Report, and preparing manuals to help animators use the Report. We need to work with the perpetrators. We are having suicides from people who are unable to accept their guilt. Now there are processes of conflict

resolution, mental health support, and education for peace. A team of forensic anthropologists is being trained to help people deal with their history, not just to oppose the perpetrators.'"

Not only does news of this extraordinary gathering not easily reach us in the United States, but also we miss out on understanding what it means for a nation to go through the incredibly difficult process of healing, of overcoming fears and deep, deep scars. We have much to learn from the people of Guatemala. We thank Megan for bringing these reflections back to us.



A page from the assassination logbook recently discovered. A full copy of it is on the web at <http://www.seas.gwu.edu/nsarchive/NSAEBB15/01-02.htm>

Anti-SOA Action Continued from page 13

Pentagon officials estimated the crowd at the demonstration at 350 to 400, but participants who were assigned "Peacekeeper" roles and therefore walked beside the columns of four-abreast marchers assert that the number was closer to 1000.

During the remainder of Monday and Tuesday, Central New York participants visited the offices of Senators Schumer and Moynihan and Congressman Walsh.

All were given a cordial welcome and adequate time for discussion of the two bills calling for closing the SOA. Mr. Walsh has signed on as a co-sponsor of Moakley's HR 732 and his aid assured the visiting delegation that the House bill would make it to a vote this session. He predicted a very close vote which could go either way, but assured us of Walsh's continued support, and suggested that we should devote major efforts to the Senate. Our delegation to the Senators' offices were also warmly received. Schumer was an early co-sponsor of Senator Durbin's S.873, and his staff indicated that they were working closely with Moynihan's staff, indicating that a degree of optimism is not unreasonable on that possibility. In summary, it appears that we should bring our efforts to bear on Moynihan's office and do what we can to help fellow New Yorkers bring along the members of the House who are not yet "educated."

All in all, it was a weekend to cherish. Dan is a CNY/SOA Abolitionist and former prisoner of conscience in the struggle to close the School of Assassins.



Violence Escalates in East Timor

Indonesian military's anti-independence campaign moves into high gear

Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick

THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR have experienced this year a level of violence not seen since the 1970s when Indonesian forces invaded and annexed that territory. Rampaging groups of armed militias have committed numerous atrocities upon mostly unarmed, pro-independence communities and individuals. While there are factions among the Timorese as well as an armed pro-independence guerrilla movement, the vast majority of the violence has been committed by paramilitary bands linked to the Indonesian security forces.

On April 6, dozens of people were shot and hacked to death at the Catholic church in LiquiŪa, a massacre Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo of Dili has likened to that at the Santa Cruz Cemetery in 1991. Just days later, more than a dozen people who had taken refuge in the home of a leading pro-independence figure and brother of the former Indonesian appointed governor were killed by roving militias. In these and other instances, reports indicate that Indonesian police either stood by or directly participated in the attacks.

Throughout the territory, armed members of the dozen or so local militias that have sprung up in the months after B.J. Habibie became president of Indonesia a year ago have waged a relentless campaign of intimidation and violence directed at those thought to favor independence. Estimates of people killed in recent months range from well over 300 to as many as 1,000.

Over 40,000 East Timorese have fled their homes and farms, raising again the spectre of hunger that devastated much of the island in the late 1970s. Many are without any help and need the protection and relief that could be provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross, if allowed to enter in sufficient numbers.

Since President Habibie announced in late January that the people of East Timor were to be given a choice between autonomy and independence, army elements have fomented a campaign of anti-independence violence that has swept the island. From all

accounts, the vast majority of the violence has been committed by the pro-Indonesian militias. In many instances Indonesian military have been reported as either doing nothing to stop the mayhem or as encouraging and actually participating in it. It is beyond question that the Indonesian government has failed in its responsibility to maintain order and provide security for the people.

In early May, the Indonesian and Portuguese foreign ministers signed an accord at the United Nations calling for a popular consultation in East Timor. Scheduled initially for Sunday, August 8 of this year, the people are to be given the choice of voting for autonomy or independence. The UN has begun deploying its personnel who will prepare for and monitor the vote; but the violence has continued. Unless it is brought under control and the militias disbanded, the conditions essential for a fair and free vote will be seriously lacking. At this time, a postponement seems likely. A delay, however, of more than a few months could result in the entire consultation plan coming undone if forces opposed to the plan come to power as a result of recent elections in Indonesia. If that were to happen, the prospect of even greater civil strife enveloping all of East Timor cannot be ruled out.

What can be done? The Church in East Timor is urgently directing its efforts toward achieving trust and mutual acceptance among those engaged in conflict. Nevertheless, even such unstinting efforts have had limited impact under circumstances ruled by outside forces bent on promoting violence and strife. The two bishops in this majority Catholic and intensely religious country have long combined their fearless denunciation of the violence with an insistent call for dialogue and reconciliation among contending parties. They have formed a Peace and Reconciliation Initiative to promote dialogue and conflict resolution among the main Timorese groups and with representatives of the police and government.

On May 13, Ascension Thursday, the

bishops with their clergy and religious leaders led a huge, peaceful march through the streets of Dili calling for an end to the violence. The previous day, the bishops had joined with Protestant, Muslim and Hindu leaders in joint prayers for peace. "We know our land was once peaceful," said Bishop Belo, "but now it has a history of war, death, imprisonment, weeping and suffering." He prayed that East Timorese would be kept from killing each other, and days later, speaking of the August vote, he insisted that "after the choice is made, no group must feel it has won or lost."

In the short term, however, decisive action by parts of the international community seems more essential than ever and could spell the difference between a peaceful outcome and continued bloodshed. As the numbers of the United Nations Assistance Mission to East Timor (UNAMET) increase, they will be able more effectively to monitor and report on the conditions that either favor or impede a successful consultation. While their present mandate does not allow them to offer any direct protection to persons under attack, nor are they allowed to carry sidearms, the particular circumstances of East Timor suggest a review of that policy. Bishop Belo has just recently stated that for a successful consultation to be held, a far larger and armed United Nations presence will be necessary.

More importantly, the Indonesian military that is widely cited as organizing, arming and inciting many of the paramilitary mobs must end such activity and resume their proper function of protecting the citizenry and maintaining order. For this to happen, far greater diplomatic pressure must be applied by other governments, and it must be done immediately. The window of opportunity for effective diplomatic action here is narrow. We urge that our government act decisively to take the necessary steps, including consideration of maintaining a resident diplomatic presence in the territory throughout this period.

We join with the bishops of East Timor, Carlos Ximenes Belo and Basilio Do Nascimento, and all the Church and people of that troubled land, in praying that this year will mark the true beginning of a lasting peace, in which the rights and dignity of all will be respected.

Archbishop McCarrick is the chairman of the US Catholic Conference Committee on International Policy



Local Activists Go to Trial for December Civil Disobedience Action

ON DECEMBER 16, 1998 over fifty people gathered at the Federal Building, downtown Syracuse, responding to the imminent bombing of Iraq announced earlier that day. Three men, Jerry Berrigan, Peter DeMott, and Dick Keough were arrested and face one felony and two misdemeanors, charged with spray painting on the building. They await a court date. Two women, Audrey Looma and Lisa Guido, were arrested the next day in Syracuse City court on three misdemeanor charges from the actions of the night before. A photograph of Audrey in the morning paper came to the attention of an officer who called her out of the courtroom where she was in support of the three men. Audrey and Lisa requested a jury trial and defended themselves. Here is their report to the community about their June 1 and 2 days in court. —ed. note

THE TRIAL STARTED promptly at 9a.m with the judge denying our request to instruct the jury about the justification defense and barring international law expert Donna Arzt from testifying. We then moved into jury selection, which took about an hour. Lisa took the first round and did, according to one lawyer, the best job he had ever seen in 26 years of practicing law. We ended up with a jury of six women, one who opposed the bombing of Iraq. We noted later that the prosecutor seemed



to have an understanding of gender flexibility: she addressed the jury each time as "Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury." She didn't however seem able to understand the difference between improving a wall with paint and bombing infants and mothers in a maternity hospital. In questioning Lisa, she compared our "property damage" with the "property damage" in Iraq as if they were the same things.

Khalid with his mother, Al Mansur Hospital, Baghdad, Dec. 1996. Neuroblastoma. Died, August 1997.

The prosecutor gave her opening statement, and we gave ours just before lunch break on Tuesday. Amazingly, the judge overruled three of her objections during our opening. The rest of Tuesday was spent on witnesses for the prosecution.

We started again on Wednesday at 9am with the last police witness. Joy Meeker testified next as an eyewitness. She was able to speak about her work in conflict resolution and peace studies, including her knowledge of the history of nonviolent resistance in this country. She also spoke about our demeanor during the action. Joy also did an excellent job creatively answering the prosecutors badgering questions. Joy was asked one question 10 times, and each time the prosecutor objected to her answer.

Neil Golder, our next witness, spoke about his trip to Iraq and our demeanor during the action. Lisa and I testified last, each speaking about our reasons for being at the Federal Building, our intent in doing the action, our knowledge of the situation in Iraq, and other legal means we had used to affect U.S. policy towards Iraq.

We then gave our closing arguments, and the prosecution gave hers: "It was a peaceful protest that turned CRIMINAL, They went too far." Lisa gave most of our closing statement, speaking about the Nuremburg principles, the conditions in Iraq, and our obligation to speak out on behalf of the Iraqi people.

After about an hour of deliberating, the jury found us guilty on all counts: criminal mischief, making graffiti, and possession of graffiti instruments. The jury did, however, seem moved by what they learned about the situation in Iraq. We are ordered to report August 18th for sentencing.

— Audrey Looma

Voices in the Wilderness Members challenge US Attorney — "Bring us to court or bring Ms. Albright to court"

VOICES IN THE WILDERNESS MEMBERS, who call for an immediate lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq, brought their protest to the Federal Building in Chicago on June 17. During their demonstration outside the building, the group sent a delegation to the US Attorney's office requesting that he transmit a message to US Attorney General Janet Reno. They want Ms. Reno to choose either to bring Voices in the Wilderness to court for the alleged crime of bringing medicine to Iraq or to bring Secretary of State Ms. Albright to court for crimes against humanity.



"I recently returned from Iraq," said Voices in the Wilderness member Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, of Detroit, who joined the group. "I can testify that the sanctions are a lethal weapon afflicting nearly every family I met. Lifting the sanctions is a matter of utmost

urgency and it should be brought before courts of law. Ms. Albright's advocacy of these sanctions has been a criminal violation of the laws of human decency and of international law." Gumbleton spoke at the rally about a new British-Dutch proposal to the UN which suggests lifting the sanctions against Iraqi exports.

Referring to Northwestern University's earlier decision to award an honorary degree of law to Ms. Albright, Gumbleton said that,

Muhammad, Al Mansur Hospital, Baghdad, Dec., 1996. Leukemia. Died March 1997

far from receiving an honorary law degree, Ms. Albright should face the US Attorney General to answer for her part in helping start four military violations of international law in the past year. Gumbleton, who has traveled to Iraq three times, has witnessed the effects of the Clinton administration's policy toward Iraq. "The administration says, 'We will continue to kill Iraqi children until their government complies with our demands,'" said Gumbleton. "That's the very definition of terrorism."

Members of the group expressed relief that, due to her schedule, Ms. Albright will not attend the Northwestern commencement.

— Voices in the Wilderness

Edited by Mike Kernahan

Don't worry, the government checks these things out

Medical officers at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) say that the FDA is giving the green light to dangerous new drugs. Promising anonymity, Public Citizen's Health Research Group surveyed FDA medical officers, physicians responsible for the primary reviews of New Drug Applications for drugs, to determine their opinions about recent changes in the drug approval process.

Nineteen medical officers identified 27 new drugs that they reviewed in the past three years and thought should not be approved but were approved anyway. Seventeen medical officers described the current standards of FDA review for safety and efficacy as "lower" or "much lower" compared with those in existence prior to 1995.

One medical officer told Public Citizen that a high-ranking FDA official had told him, "Everything is approvable. We can use the label creatively to lower the problems."

The study also found that 12 of the medical officers identified 25 different new drugs that they reviewed in the past three years which in their opinion had been approved too quickly. Nineteen medical officers stated that the pressure on them to approve a greater proportion of new drugs was "somewhat greater" or "much greater" compared with the period prior to 1995. The sources of this pressure were identified as the Officer Director, the Center Office, the pharmaceutical industry, Congress, and the medical officers' own division directors.

Source: *Multinational Monitor*

Nobody told us to say that

NBC made some last minute improvements to its suspense movie "Atomic Train". The movie was originally about a train going out of control while carrying a nuclear bomb and nuclear waste. After heavily promoting the movie's factual basis, NBC suddenly changed its mind with "no input" from its parent company, GE, a big investor in nuclear power. Alerted to the "fact" that nuclear wastes are not transported by trains, they added a disclaimer emphasizing the movie's fictional character which they showed at every commercial break. Then they overdubbed every mention of nuclear waste with the phrase "hazardous waste", thereby achieving the look of a dubbed Japanese horror film. Meanwhile there is a bill before

Congress to allow the shipping by rail of 77,000 tons of nuclear waste (make that "hazardous waste") through 43 states.

Source: *American Newspeak*

You get what you pay for

As the National Gambling Impact Study Commission prepared to deliver on June 18 its final report — which included a recommendation for modest restrictions on state but not federal gambling industry campaign contributions — Public Citizen announced the release of a report based on a four-month investigation of Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott's (R-Miss.) performance on casino gambling issues.

The Public Citizen report reveals for the

Quote of the Month

"We don't practice propoganda in this country..." — *Maj. Joe LaMarca, spokesman for the US Central Command, referring to US bombing attacks on Iraq*

Quote from the past:

"You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake." — *Jeannette Rankin (1880-1973)*

first time strong links between Senator Lott's Republican Party "soft money" fundraising from casino interests from 1995 to 1998 and his little-known legislative actions that protected the casino industry from rigorous federal inquiry, advanced industry-favored tax breaks and loosened federal environmental restrictions on casino development in Mississippi.

"Senator Lott's sustained and energetic activity on behalf of the casino gambling industry's political objectives is clearly related to his official party role in collecting industry soft money," said Public Citizen President Joan Claybrook. "The financial incentives for his actions are clear, and they undermine public confidence in our democracy." The 30-page report, *Betting on Trent Lott: The Casino Industry's Campaign Contributions Pay Off in Congress*, is based on new, detailed analyses — by company and date — of Republican Party soft money contributions and new interviews with congressional aides, federal officials and lobbyists about Lott's legislative performance.

Source: *Public Citizen*

NAFTA strikes again

An employers' group, the Labor Policy Association, is trying to use the North American Free Trade Agreement to revive the TEAM Act. Heavy union pressure led to President Clinton's 1996 veto of that bill, which would have allowed non-union employers to set up so-called worker-management = teams. Such teams are considered illegal company unions under the National Labor Relations Act. The LPA has filed a complaint under provisions of NAFTA's labor side agreement, arguing that the Act conflicts with the NAFTA's intention of promoting greater employee participation in the workplace. The LPA says its goal is to get Congress to amend the NLRA.

Source: *Labor Notes*

The Right's Attack on Working Families

Which Groups Are Leading...The Assault On Working Families...and What Is On Their Agenda?, published by the Public Policy Department at the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), is an excellent primer on the right's political agenda particularly as it relates to the issues of work-

ing families: "Many of the things important to AFSCME members are being threatened by groups with benign, neutral-sounding names like The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), Citizens for a Sound Economy, and The Mackinac Center. Some of the issues promoted by these national and state-based 'think tanks' include privatizing government services, repealing the minimum wage and overtime laws, repealing collective bargaining laws, and eliminating the guarantee of pension benefits." With a sophisticated arsenal of weapons, the right has found a way to spin their message and hawk their legislation to state legislators, or to take their agenda directly to the voters through the ballot initiative process. ALEC, for example, since its founding in 1973, has grown into a clearinghouse of information for nearly 3,000 officeholders across the country. AFSCME urges a monitoring of right-wing activities, sharing information, and working in coalition with progressive groups. (Contact AFSCME, 1625 L St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, phone: [202] 429-1155

Source: *Culture Watch*



July Program Highlights Hague Conference for Peace

IN MAY Phil Rose and Beth Broadway attended the International Peace Conference in The Netherlands. Over 8,000 peacemakers were present, each with a story to tell. Beth and Phil heard many stories, and will present some highlights of the conference at our upcoming July 6 meeting, at 7:30pm at May Memorial Unitarian Society, 3800 E. Genesee Street. Focusing not only on the absence of violent conflict between and within states, the Hague Appeal for Peace calls upon the world community to address the economic and social injustices that are at the root of war. Conference sessions were organized around four primary themes:

1. Eliminating the root causes of war and establishing a culture of peace
2. Advancing humanitarian and human rights law and institutions
3. Preventing, resolving, and transforming violent conflict
4. Creating a human security agenda and advancing disarmament strategies

Karina Wood, the US Outreach Coordinator for The Hague Appeal for Peace, said, "I can't think of another civil society organized event which has drawn the participation of so many and where we all sat at the table together as equals: Nobel laureates and high school students, a Queen and a novelist, musicians and foreign ministers, parliamentarians and peace marchers, city mayors and mine victims. We set a new model, all together, no separatism."

"We will present the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century," says Beth, "which outlines the main actions and strategies that are necessary for a world without war." Beth and Phil will also offer their observations on the state of the peace movement worldwide, including where it is thriving and where it needs a hand. There will be a slide show, copies of the final Agenda, and time for discussion as part of the program.

"We can create a world without war," says Beth, "and we can all be part of that creation."

Please join us for an inspiring, hopeful, and realistic presentation of what it will take!

— Diane Swords



Snacking with Wolves

If you like wolves, howling and tasty snacks, you probably would have enjoyed "Snacking with wolves," the May 23 event co-sponsored by People for Animal Rights (PAR) and the Iroquois Group of the Sierra Club.

Pam Brown, "Wolf Teacher," showed us a beautiful video (enhanced by a soundtrack of Paul Winter Consort music) of Shaman, a playful black wolf who accompanied Pam on visits to schools. She also showed us (briefly) the sad truth of wolf persecution. She shared her respect and love for these animals and led us in a rousing howl-in.

PAR members made brief presentations; Rob made the connection between a person choosing a vegetarian diet and how that can help wolves and other wild animals because less habitat is destroyed by vegetarian diets compared to meat diets. Vic told how wolves and other animals suffer and die in killer traps and urged the audience to write to their state government to pass laws which would prohibit or severely restrict these instruments of pain.

We sampled vegetarian "chicken wings" and vegan turnovers filled with lentils or spinach or fruit. Yum!

Martha from the Sierra Club urged the audience to complain about the large plastic bags which contain tiny samples delivered, unasked for, in our mailboxes. These plastic bags are not recycled locally so the advertizer is adding to our trash and wasting natural resources and energy.

Pam hopes to return to Syracuse in September, and even bring two wolves with her!

HOT WEATHER WARNING: Please don't leave your dog in a parked car as the temperature can quickly become dangerously hot, even with windows cracked. Dogs cannot lose heat as well as we can and can go into shock and die. If you want cards to put on windshields of people who leave their dog in this situation, contact PAR, PO Box 15358, Syracuse, NY 13215-0358, <linpar@juno.com> or 488-7877.

— Linda DeStefano

(un)Classified

Good 3-bedroom flat for rent — 1 block from the wonders of Westcott St. (and near SU); former house of eminent SPC staffperson (name on request). Available for 2 people for \$250 each; 3 people for \$200 each. Plus utilities. Some furniture if you want it. 478-8521.

Community Credit Union Staff Opening

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723 Westcott St., Syracuse NY 13210

HELP WANTED

Nonviolence Education and Training Coordinator with Fellowship of Reconciliation

Since 1915, the Fellowship of Reconciliation in the United States has carried on programs and educational projects concerned with domestic and international peace and justice, nonviolent alternatives to conflict, and the rights of conscience. An interfaith, tax-exempt organization, the FOR promotes nonviolence and has members from many religious and ethnic traditions. It is part of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation which has affiliates in over forty countries.

FOR is seeking a "Nonviolence Education and Training Coordinator" to organize and lead nonviolence education and training programs. The application deadline is October 1, 1999. Send resumes to and contact Yvonne Royster for an application form at the address below.

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"Peace Agreement" Cont. from page 5

result of unexploded ordnance and environmental effects of the "air war," now a war against the air and ground water of the Balkans)

- upwards of a million refugees of all ethnicities among the people of Yugoslavia
- Western-dominated occupation of Kosovo, with power granted to the antidemocratic Kosova Liberation Army and revoked from the elected government of Kosovo
- the very ugly fact that this all might have been avoided if Western leaders had been willing to negotiate before bombing, the way they negotiated in the final days of the bombing, or even less rigidly
- The notion that a victory has been achieved by "the civilized nations" is perhaps more ludicrous than Serbia's triumphant claims. Consider the imbalance of power, compared to the final outcome wherein NATO has capitulated several vital (though not all laudable) objectives. Is it really difficult to see how war-weary Serbia might perceive withstanding such a tremendous onslaught while giving relatively little ground, literally or figuratively, as a success?

Of course, reputedly "objective" mainstream media here refuse to acknowledge that NATO has surrendered a single principle. Instead, they spent early June in a frenzy of praise, noting how much worse for Serbia the final peace deal is, as opposed to the Rambouillet agreement Serbs could and "should" have signed back in March. The amount of ignorance required for such an assessment is staggering: One has to not only ignore the Serb offer of March 23, which included allowing a UN-guided peacekeeping force into Kosovo along with a Serb retreat; but one's imagination also has to rewrite key points of the Rambouillet text which clearly demanded far more of Serbia than the current military agreement and UN resolution do.

The media have gone further still, acknowledging the faultiness of their frequent arguments that a strategy of bombing alone would never force Milosevic to surrender. Rather than point out that NATO has achieved very little it had not already accomplished before the war — besides, of course, the near-total annihilation of Yugoslav civil society — editorial writers have conceded and stopped questioning Clinton and NATO altogether.

All of the agreements and UN Security

Council resolution aside, the real future of Kosovo will be determined by NATO countries and enforced by so-called "peacekeepers" on location. Kosovo has been transformed into a game board, with six nations (US, UK, Italy, France, Germany, Russia) scattering their over-armed pawns about the cities and countryside, vying for political leverage, using real-estate and refugees as bargaining chips.

KFOR (Kosovo Force) has rolled into Kosovo on the heels of retreating Serb troops. It's noteworthy that the Pentagon opted to send in a US Marines invasion unit, perhaps the least-capable forces when the task at hand is "peacekeeping." The Russian Army, justifiably feeling shortchanged by NATO which refused to offer them a significant role in the peacekeeping phase, humiliated elite British "special expeditionary" troops by heading into Kosovo a day before KFOR was scheduled to "retake" the province. Nearly every single Western media outlet is referring to NATO troops in Kosovo as "peacekeepers," and the Russian contingent as "troops" or "soldiers." In truth, nearly every NATO and Russian outfit in Kosovo at present is either regular military or special fighting units — not peacekeepers. Evidently, for reporters, the Cold War prejudices of good guys v. bad guys still apply.

Humorously, NATO's KFOR commander, British General Michael Jackson, is insistent that the Pristina airport, occupied by 200 Russian troops, is not essential to NATO's mission. Trying to save face for Western victors, the same people who called civilian infrastructure in Serbia "strategic, military targets," have somehow deemed the only working airport in all of Kosovo nonessential. Go figure.

The "peacekeepers" have by now uncovered an estimated 10,000 bodies from mass graves. The toll of Serbian aggression in Kosovo is coming to light and is being used to rationalize the "successful" bombing campaign. Forgotten is the fact that the air war itself, by removing international observers and creating a state of havoc throughout the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, set the stage for Serbian aggression against Kosovar Albanians. There should be no doubt that were it not for NATO's actions, including a refusal to negotiate before the bombing, the likelihood of such widespread crimes taking place would have been far lower. Yugoslavia had promised massive retribution against the people of Kosovo in the event of attack, a "bluff" which NATO carelessly and unforgivably called.

It's hard not to be pessimistic in the face of these revelations. Everything told, carnage inside Yugoslav borders may be as high as 20,000 killed by all sides, the lion's share of tragedy as usual borne by the people, and not those who make the decision to exchange human lives for "geopolitical objectives" (power) and "credibility" (bragging rights). Bolstered by the war, NATO and Serbian leaders alike maintain integrity in the eyes of deceived constituents. Tens of thousands maimed and killed, crippled resistance movements in Serbia and Kosovo alike — these are but a few of the horrendous outcomes of what can only be termed a war against the rule of reason and international conventions; a war against all humanity.

The same media which referred to Serbia's signing of the peace accords as the result of a contentious parliamentary decision, are now reporting without qualification President Clinton's claim that Serbia is ruled by an "undemocratic regime." Pouring salt on a fresh wound, Clinton has insisted that no such regime can be rebuilt with US funds. Kosovo, meanwhile, to be ostensibly ruled by a fundamentalist army (the KLA), will be reconstructed imminently. The demand on Serbia now is not merely the removal from power of Slobodan Milosevic, but also the restructuring of the Yugoslav republic so that it is democratic by Western standards. Beyond the euphemisms, democracy here refers to willingness to follow US orders, not governmental structure. This is evidenced by the countless US-friendly dictatorships around the world which the State Department refers to as fledgling democracies.

Could most of this mess have been avoided if the US wasn't out to assert its dominance of Europe through a NATO alliance, out to reestablish itself as having a legitimate function (that of international cop) in the post-Cold War order? We will never know, negotiation wasn't tried.

Might a popular movement of active resistance to the institutions and policies of war, expanding toward a more general alternation of social relations in our society, be able to alter the face of international relations and bring us closer to a peaceful world? We will never know unless we try.

Brian is a member of *On the Ground*, a local collective committed to antiwar information and materials for activists throughout the country <<http://kosovo.rootmedia.org/otg>>. He also writes for *Z Magazine* <<http://zmag.org>>.





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Syracuse Peace Council
Community Calendar

July 1999

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to the Peace Council, 472-5478. August dead line: July 23.
Accommodations, an online calendar, a list of sponsors, dates and more at: www.peacecouncil.org/calendar.htm

<p>4</p> <p>"Liberty and Justice for Mumia" march in Philadelphia, PA. Start at Liberty Bell. 9am. 215-476-8812.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort meeting. 6:30pm. Call 472-5478 for location.</p> <p>EVERY MONDAY: HIV+ Issues Group meeting. 6:30-8pm. Sponsored by AIDS Community Resources. Call Bob for place. 475-2430.</p> <p>People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p> <p>Peace Action monthly program. Report by Beth Broadway & Phil Rose on the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference. May Memorial. 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.</p> <p>EVERY TUESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Southeast University Neighborhood Association meeting. Erwin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm.</p> <p>Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 7:30pm. Acc. 423-4783.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 476-6226.</p> <p>EVERY THURSDAY: Teen Scene for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8634.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 476-7475.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>EVERY FRIDAY: Teen Scene for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5:50pm. 478-8634.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Non-violent direct action and accompanying vigils for Mumia Abu-Jamal at the Liberty Bell, Philadelphia, PA. Noon. 215-476-8812.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>SAGE picnic. Call 478-1923 for info.</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY: "Common Threads," acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm.</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent. Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-8:30pm.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Eastside Neighborhood Arts, Cultural & Technology Center meeting. ENIP office, 204 Cherry St. 6pm. Joe. 471-7911 ext. 210.</p> <p>Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WENA) meeting. Pettit Library, Concord Pl. 7-9pm. 479-7301.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & CoVn St. 7pm. 476-7475.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>EVERY TUESDAY: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 10-2pm. Newfittens, lunch, programs. Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave. 478-8634.</p> <p>EVERY TUESDAY: Community Media Action Group meeting. Call Acc for place. 423-7856.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.</p> <p>NOW CNY Chapter meeting. Maine Midland Bank, 360 S Warren, 7pm. 487-3188.</p> <p>Caribbean/Latin America Coalition working potluck at Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St. 6-7:30pm. 478-4571.</p> <p>Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>EVERY THURSDAY: Sinking Medi- tation at Women's IFC, 601 Allen St. 7:30-8:30pm. Free.</p> <p>EVERY THURSDAY: Golden Cafe at Westcott Community Center. 10-2pm. See Tuesday for info.</p> <p>EVERY THURSDAY: Women's Voices radio program. WAER, FM 88.3. 6-7pm. Pat. 448-7259.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5361.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Voter Registration Party. Sponsored by Spanish Action League. For info contact Fanny Vilamede Caravena or Alicia Swords at 475-8153.</p> <p>EVERY SATURDAY: Food Not Bombs serving free food at Westcott Community Center. 12-2pm. Danell. 478-9559.</p>
<p>18</p> <p>New Environment Association potluck & meeting. Friends Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. 6pm. 446-8009.</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort meeting. 6:30pm. Call 472-5478 for location.</p> <p>People for Animal Rights bus-ness mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/ Westside meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddes & Delaware. 7:30pm. 476-7475.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p> <p>EVERY TUESDAY: Middle East-ern Dance with Zoe Artemis. Westcott Community Center. 5:15-6:15pm. Fee. 474-7084.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>NAACP meeting. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-6933.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Skunk City meeting. Murdy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.</p> <p>Sierra Club monthly meeting. 5 Hick Hall, SUNY ESF. 7:30pm Martha. 492-4745.</p> <p>Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 7:30pm. Acc. 423-4783.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>EVERY THURSDAY: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Ave. 6pm. 472-5478.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>July 23-25: Weekend Writing Intensives for Women lead by Rachel Guido de Vries. For beginners & advanced writers of poetry, fiction, personal narrative/autobiography, & journal writers. Fee for weekend \$150. Workshops will be held in Cazenovia. To register or for more info call 655-8020.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>EVERY SATURDAY: Kids for the Arts with Agnes Johnson. Westcott Community Center. 12-1pm. Free. 478-8634.</p>
<p>25</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable. Ch. 12. 8pm. Produced by Peace Council. Tune in, tape it, share it!</p>	<p>26</p> <p>EVERY MONDAY: Teen Scene for neighborhood teens ages 10-14. Westcott Community Center. 2-5pm. 478-8634.</p> <p>Eastside Neighborhood Arts, Cultural & Technology Center (TEC) ENIP office, 204 Cherry St. 6pm. Joe. 471-7911 ext. 210.</p> <p>EVERY MONDAY: Morris Danc- ing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>EVERY TUESDAY: Syracuse Community Radio meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 476-4769.</p> <p>Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. 1st Unitarian Universalist Society, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 448-5940.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>EVERY WED: Syracuse Commu- nity Choir rehearsal. Come sing without auditions. Westcott Com-munity Center. 7:30pm. 487-8607.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cyndi 475-1878.</p> <p>Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Free Food!</p> <p>Thornden Park Association meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carole Simson for location. 475-2807.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Lucy Kaplanski performs with special guest Stephen Fearing, presented by Showcase Productions. May Memorial. 3800 E. Genesee St. 6pm. Tickets \$12 in advance, \$15 at door.</p> <p>Pax Christi meeting. Slocum House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woolever. 446-1693.</p>

Syracuse Peace Council

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STRIKE FOR PEACE

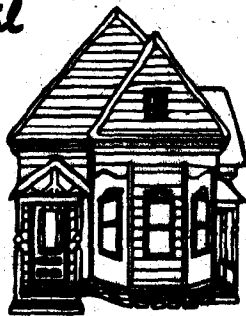
Sunday, August 8 • 7-10pm

Erie Blvd. Bowling Center

Details? See page 4 Inside or call SPC 472-5478

Syracuse Peace Council

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Syracuse, NY 13203
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Educate, Agitate, Organize

Peace News Letter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice September 1999 PNL 683



PEACE MAKING

Peacemakers Rally for Nonviolence

Andy Mager

"I've never been to a rally before," Ryan Clifford, a 10th grade student at Jordan-Elbridge High School, told the diverse crowd gathered at Columbus Circle on June 13. Clifford, who came as a member of his school's theater group, admitted to "watching other kids fight" without intervening "just to fit in." He left the gathering with a new commitment to stand up for his own beliefs.

Since that day a variety of rallies, vigils and marches have been held to mark violence within our community. Johntiers Taylor, Duriel Ryans, Aida Sands and James R. Cunningham, Jr. are some of those who have been killed or seriously injured this summer.

Continued on back cover

Peace Cranes in the Classroom

Gina Barletta

For three fifth-grade classes at Phoenix's Elm Street Elementary, pieces of paper have provided lessons in tragedy, hope and the ancient Japanese art of origami.

As an end-of-the-year project, 67 students folded more than 1,000 paper cranes to send to the Hiroshima Peace Park in Hiroshima, Japan after reading *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, by Eleanor Coerr.

The book tells the true story of Sadako Sasaki, who lived in Hiroshima from 1943 to 1955. When she fell ill with leukemia as a result of the atomic bomb, a friend suggested that she fold a thousand paper cranes to appeal to the gods for her health. She was able to complete only 644 before she died.

Continued on page 12

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
Beth Mosley

SPC Press
Paul Pearce

Bookkeeper
Duane Hardy

SPC Council:

Rae Kramer, Carl Mellor,
Andy Molloy, Marge Rusk

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

The Peace Newsletter

The *PNL Editorial Committee* will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of September at 5 pm at the Peace Council.

Editorial & Production: Gina Barletta, Daniel Bowers, John Fitzsimmons, Paul Frazier, Dale Gowin, Karen Hall, Bill Hamler, Mike Kernahan, Rae Kramer, Joy Meeker, Andy Mager, Andy Molloy, Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce

Cover & Graphics: Karen Kerney, Simon Morrin

SPC Projects: 472-5478

- SPC-TV — Paul Pearce
- Plowshares Craftsair
- Fair Trial for Mumia Committee Sam Alcoff, Sarrah Weston

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 Blockade of Cuba	P.E.A.C.E., Inc.
Doug Igelsrud 471-5749	Louis Clark 470-3300
ACLU-CNY Chapter	People Against the Death Penalty
471-2821	637-3344
AIDS Community Resources	People for Animal Rights
475-2430	488-PURR (7877)
Alliance-Psychiatric System	Physicians for Social
Survivors	Responsibility
George Ebert 475-4120	488-2140
American Friends Service	Planned Parenthood
Committee	475-5525
Animal Defense League	PWHIV/ AIDS Support Hotline
479-9105	Sandra 471-5911
ARISE	ReConsider
472-3171	Nick or Alex Eyle 422-6231
Atlantic States Legal Foundation	Religion: Other
475-1170	Phoenix or Kat 474-8801
Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition	Rose Center
Paul Weichselbaum 446-6099	Teri Cameron 422-3426
Citizens Awareness Network	Sarah House
Tim Judson 475-1203	475-1747
Citizen Review Board	Save the County
Felicia Davis 448-8750	637-6066
CNY Center for Occupational	SEEDS
Health and Safety	(607) 749-2818
471-6187	Service Employees International
CNY Environment	Robert Tompkins 424-1750
Lee Gechas 446-5319	Sierra Club
CNY N.O.W.	Sue Carlson 445-1663
487-3188	Small Claims Court Action
Coal. of NY Against the Death	Center
Penalty	443-1401
Joe Dubovy (914) 528-3774	S.O.A. Watch—CNY
Community Media Action Group	Paul Frazier 478-4571
423-4783	Social Workers for Peace
CUSLAR	Dick Mundy 445-0797
(607) 255-7293	Socialist Party
Dunbar Center	Ron Ehrenreich 478-0793
Merriete Pollard 476-4269	Spanish Action League
ENIP	475-6153
Jim Dessauer 471-7911	SU African-American Society
Fair Housing Council of CNY	443-4633
Merrilee Withereil 471-0518	Stonewall Committee
Fair Trial for Mumia Committee	Bonnie Strunk 422-0144
Sam Alcoff 425-9345	Student Environmental Action
Food Bank of CNY	Coalition
437-1899	Michelle Baumfleck 423-8000
Food Not Bombs	Syr. Alternative Media Network
Daniel Bowers 682-6887	Tim Brachocki 425-8906
Greater Syr. Tenant Network	Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society
Sharon Sherman 475-8092	SAVES/ Joe Connolly 437-2163
Hemlock Society	Syracuse Community Choir
Betty Bentley 463-0782	Mara Sapon-Shevin 443-5179
Hotel Employees 150	Syracuse Community Radio
437-0373	234-2000
Irish Northern Aid	Syracuse Cooperative Federal
Patrick Smith 469-8948	Credit Union
Jail Ministry	471-1116
424-1877	Syracuse Cultural Workers
Kenark Center for Creative	Dik Cool 474-1132
Spirituality	Syracuse-EI Salvador Sister
685-5414	Community
Lesbian/Gay Youth	Shirley Novak 446-6099
Mary Doody 475-2430x601	Syracuse N.O.W.
NAACP	472-3294
Donna Reese 422-6933	Syr. Real Food Coop
Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.	472-1365
Ammie Chickering 365-2299	Syr. Social Movement Initiative
New Environment Association	John Burdick 443-3822
Harry Schwarlander 446-8009	Syracuse United Neighbors
NYPIRG	Rich Puchalski 476-7475
476-8381	S.U. for Animal Rights
Onondaga Audobon	443-4199
457-7731	Urban League
Onon. Women's Political Caucus	Eloise Dowdell Curry 472-6955
Susan Markel 422-3585	Utica Community Action
Open Hand Theatre	John Furman 797-7020
Geoff Navias 476-0466	Witness for Peace Delegations
Pax Christi	Nancy Gwin 422-4689
Frank Woolever 446-1693	Women's Center (SU)
Peace Action of CNY	443-4268
Diane Swords 478-7442	Women's Health Outreach
Peace Brigades International	425-3653
Ann Tiffany 478-4571	Women's INFO Center
	478-4636

In This Issue:

You'll notice that this month's PNL is lighter than usual. This is a sign of changing times again at the Peace Council. Tim Judson, who coordinated the PNL for almost two years, has left staff and the PNL is currently an all-volunteer effort. There's lots of room for your contributions in whatever form.

This month we've got our hands full reporting on nonviolent struggles locally, nationally and internationally.

Your feedback and assistance is welcomed.

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!)

Daniel Bowers, Elinor Cramer, Chuck Durand, John Fitzsimmons, Bill Hamler, Duane Hardy, Pat Hoffman, Andy Molloy, Frederic Noyes, Marge Rusk, Rich Zalewski

Thanks to our August mailing party helpers!

September PNL Meetings

1st & 3rd Wed. 5 pm at the Peace Council

October Issue Deadlines

Articles	Sept. 3
Ads	Sept. 17
Calendar Items	Sept. 24

PEACE NEWSLETTER

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PNL 683

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About the cover:

This month's cover art may look familiar. This ironic look at the un-spoken and denied connection between militarism and violence in our communities was run previously in the *Peace Newsletter*. The first reader who correctly identifies the date it was previously printed will win two free passes to the Plowshares Craftsair.

Wanted: Commitment, Competence, Humor...

We are looking for this and more: flexibility, belief in SPC's mission, and an interest in being part of a hard-working team. Just as the three keys to success in the real estate biz are location, location, location; in the world of organizing for the Peace Council, the three keys are communication, communication, communication.

SPC is recruiting for a staff person whose major (but not sole) responsibility is coordination of the *Peace Newsletter*. Desired skills include editing, lay-out, organization, and ability to manage the component pieces of production and distribution. The position (of approximately 20-30 hours/week) also in-

volves shared management of the SPC office and coordinating a variety of educational, political action, and fund-raising activities.

To express interest, please send a resume to Beth Mosely, SPC, 924 Burnet Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203. SPC is in a period of transition, and while we are hoping to fill the position soon, we are most concerned about finding a good fit with our aspirations and needs.

Don't miss this chance to be part of the long and respected history of the Syracuse Peace Council.

—Rae Kramer

Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voice for Peace and Social Justice

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Death Penalty

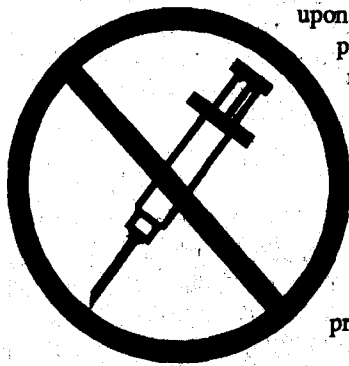
knocking on our door

Carl Mellor

In the Syracuse community, the death penalty is no longer an abstract issue. With the recent conviction and death sentence of James Cahill for first-degree murder, capital punishment is being discussed in our daily newspapers and on the steps of the county courthouse where people opposed to executions have gathered to endorse non-violence and to bear public witness. For them, the Cahill trial generates a variety of perspectives.

For starters, the trial led many more people to think about capital punishment in an intense manner. "It's no longer on the backburner," noted Margaret Stinson, a member of People Against The Death Penalty, Central New York. "Our community have been forced to confront the issue."

And the horrific nature of the violence committed against Jill Cahill has predictably inspired letters stating that anyone who committed such violence has no right to live. Ted Sizing, another of the people who gathered on the courthouse steps, asserts that the community has to both consider James Cahill's actions and the consequences of an execution. "We have to stop and think," he said. "One person has died. Do we now have the right to take a life? No, we don't."



In addition, there are other matters to focus upon. One of them is the notion that capital punishment is the only way for the community to express its disapproval. Indeed, Stinson asks the following questions: "Are we so lacking in creativity that this is the only way to express our disapproval? Have we come to the point where James Cahill is considered so worthless that the only option is to condemn him to premeditated murder by the state?"

She also asserts that the trial needs to be viewed more in the light of its impact upon two families, families affected by a particularly brutal tragedy. What are the possibilities for healing and for the community to support and nurture the families? What will be the impact of another death?

Finally, the local trial can not be seen as an isolated event. It's just one of several trials that will be taking place around New York State as various district attorneys seek the death penalty in other cases. It's very possible that within a few years, executions will be taking place in our state on an ongoing basis, and that prospect has Stinson totally dismayed. "We tell kids not to be violent," she said. "Yet we reserve the right for the state to kill people? What kind of an *example* are we setting?"

If you are among those troubled by such state-sponsored murder, contact People Against the Death Penalty to get involved, 637-3344.



Commitment, Consensus and Community

Joan and Doug are Wed

Joan Goldberg and Douglas Igelsrud were married on Thursday evening, July 29, 1999 at the home of Shirley and Larry Novak. Nick Cardell, Minister Emeritus of May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society, officiated at the ceremony. He was assisted by Susie Weiss. Gloria Castillo de Zamora was the matron of honor. Edward Igelsrud was his father's best man. The couple will be residing in Syracuse.

Joan and Doug met during their involvement in the Central America sanctuary movement in the late 1980's. At that time the Castillo Zamora family was in sanctuary in Syracuse. Among the 40 guests were many Syracuse human rights activists. Joan and Doug have been stalwart activists for human rights in Latin America, with particular interests in Cuba, Guatemala and Peru, as well as El Salvador, homeland to the Castillo Zamora family. Joan has also been visible and vocal in supporting a just peace in Israel and Palestine.

Much affection and connection were in evidence at Joan and Doug's wedding. In the process of joining their lives in a formal, yet very personalized, manner, they brought together their heterogenous friends and relations. Some of the guests see each other frequently in various spheres, including participation in the accompaniment of struggling peoples throughout the world. Some guests had not seen each other in years, because their interests and activities are so diverse, but all of those present felt the power of a faithful community.

—Paul Weichselbaum

Fr. Roy Bourgeois Coming to Syracuse

Campaign to Close the School of the Americas Founder Will Visit on Oct. 3-6

Ann Tiffany
with John Fitzsimmons

FR. ROY BOURGEOIS, Maryknoll priest and founder of SOA Watch, will visit Syracuse and CNY on October 3 through October 6, 1999. Because of his unique history Fr. Roy is well qualified to speak on the need to close the SOA and the related issues of American foreign and military policy. The CNY/SOA Abolitionist group has scheduled him for speaking engagements throughout CNY. He will be the keynote speaker at the annual award dinner of Peace Action of CNY on October 3.

In 1990 Fr. Roy Bourgeois rented an apartment literally at the main gate of Ft. Benning, Georgia, the largest army infantry base in the US and the location of the School of the Americas (SOA). Calling his home the office of SOA Watch, he birthed a movement. From a handful of people at a fast and vigil at Ft. Benning in 1991 to 7,000 people in 1998, SOA Watch has grown to a national nonviolent action and lobbying group.

In 1999 Fr. Roy received international attention. The *Washington Post* did an in-depth article about him and his cause. He was invited to Spain to testify during the ongoing investigation into the Pinochet case. He has received religious and civil awards for his efforts to close the School of the Americas.

Who is this man? What leadership qualities does he have that make the yearly vigil at Ft. Benning a major nonviolent event? Central New Yorkers will have an opportunity to learn for themselves when Fr. Roy visits us in early October, a month before the call for 10,000 to gather at the base in November, 1999.

There is Fr. Roy the Navy communications officer who received the purple heart during the Vietnam conflict and then returned it as a way of atoning for his part in the war. While in Vietnam he confronted poverty and suffering as a volunteer at an orphanage run by a Catholic missionary. This experience, together with the violence around him, led him to break his engagement with his high school sweetheart and become a Maryknoll priest.

Still Fr. Roy was not the activist we know today. Raised in a close-knit, comfortable, Catholic family in Louisiana's "Cajun country" Roy was politically conservative. As his friend Steve DeMott, director of Maryknoll's social communications department puts it, "He was still a hawk with a few dove feathers

oppressor of the Bolivian people, had been named to the SOA's Hall of Fame.

We next find Fr. Roy traveling in Central and South America in his job as an instructor on Latin American issues for Maryknoll in Chicago. His distress and then outrage grew, particularly by his increased awareness of the death squad activities in El Salvador. He knew Archbishop Romero and two of the four murdered church women were close friends.

At this point the focus in his life moved to Ft. Benning when he learned in 1983 that 500 Salvadoran soldiers had arrived for training in counterinsurgency tactics. With two friends Fr. Roy entered Ft. Benning dressed as an army officer. Armed with a boom box and a tape of Archbishop Romero's last homily, the three climbed a pine tree next to the barracks housing the soldiers. In the middle of the night the Salvadorans heard the voice of the assassinated Arch-

bishop pleading with them to lay down their weapons and stop the repression of their people.

After 18 months in prison for this action, Fr. Roy returned to civilian life and spent five months in a Trappist Monastery seriously considering a contemplative vocation. Obviously he did not choose this path, but his life has consistently shown his belief in the need to balance action with prayer and contemplation.

Hearing the results of a Congressional

continued on page 8



sticking out" when he entered the Maryknoll Seminary in Illinois.

It was Fr. Bourgeois' first Maryknoll assignment in an impoverished barrio in La Paz, Bolivia that led him to identify with the poor and live in a \$12 per month apartment without running water. That experience moved him to ever increasing activism, his arrest by the Bolivian government and the warning "that his safety could not be guaranteed". He left Bolivia, but the lessons stayed with him. Later he learned that Hugo Banzer, dictator and

SUNDAY, October 3

9:30 am — Mass at St. Lucy's Church, 423 Gifford St., Syracuse, followed by a discussion.
Contact: Mike Pasquale 445-4611.

Sunday evening — Fr. Roy is the keynote speaker at Peace Action of CNY's annual award dinner at LeMoyné Manor, Liverpool. Dinner is \$35-\$75/person. A donation is requested of those only attending Fr. Roy's talk.
Contact: Peace Action of CNY 478-7442

MONDAY, October 4

7:00am — Interreligious Council Breakfast at St. Patrick's Church, Binghamton.
Contact: Jack Gilroy (607) 748-8105

3:00pm: Talk at SUNY, Binghamton.

Contact: Jack Gilroy (607) 748-8105

Evening: Talk at Cornell University.

Contact: Hannah Wittman (607) 255-7293

TUESDAY, October 5

Daytime — Classes at LeMoyné College

4:00pm — Talk at Syracuse University.

Contact: John Burdick 423-8722

7:00pm — Talk at LeMoyné College.

Contact: Mike Pasquale 445-4611

WEDNESDAY, October 6

Morning — Meetings with the Press.

7:30pm — Talk at Colgate College.

Contact: Nigel Young & Chris Fritz 228-7806

NOTE: All information is subject to change. Please contact people listed above or Ann Tiffany 478-4571 to confirm times & locations.

The Myth of Liberty and Justice Exposed

Liberty Bell Shut Down During "Independence Day" Weekend!

Lisa Guido & Audrey Stewart

More than 400 people shut down the "Lack of Liberty Bell" in Philadelphia for the afternoon Saturday, July 3 to bring attention to the case of Mumia Abu Jamal and accompanying issues of racism, the death penalty, and police brutality surrounding his case. Activists nonviolently blocked entrances, made announcements inside the Liberty Bell Pavilion, chained shut the doors, rang tiny bells and hung banners from the roof to expose the injustice surrounding Mumia's case and the myth about Liberty and Justice for all here in Amerika.

Leonard Weinglass, the attorney working with Mumia, has assembled a long list of reasons why his trial was unfair. (The International Action Center and the Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia websites have excellent information about Mumia's case.) He spoke at the March on City Hall in Philly, where thousands gathered for Mumia on April 24, naming off just a few of the problems with the trial: witnesses for the prosecution later confessed to lying under oath because of police pressure and coercion; police never tested Mumia's hands to see if any evidence of firing a gun could be found; he was stripped of his right to defend himself; he tried to fire his court-appointed lawyer but was denied; police witnesses changed their testimony about where bodies were found, etc. The list goes on.

Star-spangled tourists were treated to an afternoon of spirited chants and songs about the truth behind the government, media lies, and the lack of freedom and justice in this country. The police arrested 93 people who attempted to educate tourists about the lack of liberty in Philadelphia and in Amerika. The Philly papers incorrectly reported the crowd to be mostly teen-agers, but there were at least three grandmothers in my cell and definitely a spectrum of ages throughout the cells we filled that afternoon and evening.

Reactions varied from encouragement to fury over not being able to see the precious bell. We wanted to remind such liberty-minded people to remember that civil disobedience is an essential part of history and not to be forgotten: just like the Boston Tea Party, civil rights sit-ins, and jail-breaks organized by black and white people united

to violate the unjust Fugitive Slave Act. One man who was angry at the protesters said to the police, "Kill them all. I fought for freedom in this country and I want you to kill them all."

Demonstrators participated in nonviolence training sessions, offered beforehand in Philadelphia, New York and Newark. People formed affinity groups prior to the action, and endorsements came from around the world. Refuse and Resist, ACT UP, Rainbow Flags for Mumia (a lesbian, gay, bi, trans affinity group), Kairos/Plowshares, Resistance in Brooklyn (RnB),

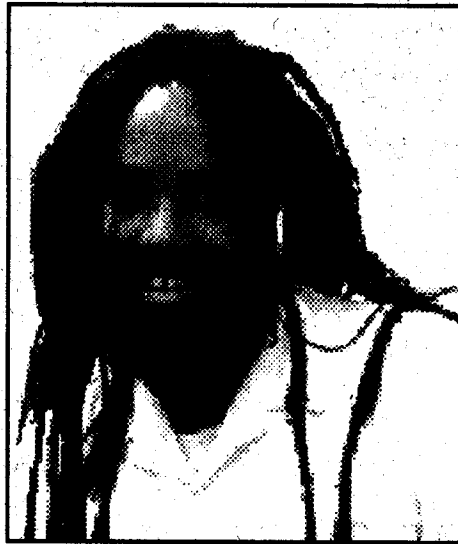


Photo by Jennifer Beach

Student Liberation Action Movement, Rev. Lucius Walker with Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), the Green Party Red Balloon Collective, the Visitors Group (people who regularly visit Mumia), the Pennsylvania Abolitionists and the War Resisters League were some of the affinity groups arrested. South African poet and former political prisoner Dennis Brutus was arrested as well as members of Academics for Mumia, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, and countless other groups. Those arrested were held from approximately noon through 10 p.m. and given the "choice" of a \$250 fine or a trial. We were all brought before a magistrate, handcuffed behind our backs, charged and told to "go in peace." One person, who then told the judge to go in peace, was detained longer than anyone else. All other attempts to speak were denied. We will be

notified by mail as to our court date. The demonstration was the lead story on all four major area TV newscasts.

The next day began with speakers, chants and music for Mumia on one side of the liberty bell and appearances by Bill Clinton, Madeline Albright, Death Penalty supporter Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania and the mayor of Philly on a blindingly red, white, and blue stage on the other. People lined the street with colorful banners. The crowd included groups from the previous day and supporters from Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia, MOVE, supporters of Leonard Peltier and the American Indian Movement (AIM), the Puerto Rican Independence Movement, IAC, the Revolutionary Worker, the Catholic Worker and others. Some MOVE members wore shirts with a picture of the Philadelphia police helicopter bombing the MOVE house in May 1985, which killed six adults and five children and destroyed 61 houses in the predominantly Black neighborhood. The one adult survivor from the MOVE House, Ramona Africa, gave an impassioned talk at the rally. After serving seven years in prison, she speaks around the country for justice for Mumia, for the MOVE 9 imprisoned since 1978, and to expose the truth about the prison system as slavery. The microphone was open to everyone. Spirits were high and either Clinton's or Ridge's speech was drowned out at one point from the voices raised together at the rally. Police attempted to seize the sound system but were unable to reach it as people immediately surrounded the system to create a human barrier.

This is a crucial time for Mumia's case. His health is deteriorating. His friend Pam Africa recently visited him and saw that his left leg and foot are severely swollen; as is usually the case, prison officials refuse to provide adequate medical attention. He could be suffering from diabetes, gangrene, or a heart problem. Mumia's second appeal was denied in October 1998. The governor may sign a death warrant in the coming months.

There is a call for "100 cities for Mumia" for the week of Sept. 19-25 with mass actions on the 25th. People are encouraged to organize events in their own cities or towns to educate the public about this case. The last "political prisoners" to be executed in this country were the Rosenbergs.

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Staying Grounded

An Appeal for Continued Anti-War Efforts

Brian Dominick

Did I just see what I think I saw? Has a growing anti-war movement suddenly become dormant, for the umpteenth time in the past few decades — in this case before the war at hand was even over? Has the US Left once again turned its back, or at least its side, to an ongoing crisis brought about or conflated by the US itself? That's certainly what appears to have happened in the case of the current NATO war on the people of Yugoslavia.

But of course these crises don't end when a peace agreement is signed. The strife in Kosovo and Serbia is still very real. Out of sight, out of mind doesn't apply so well in such cases.

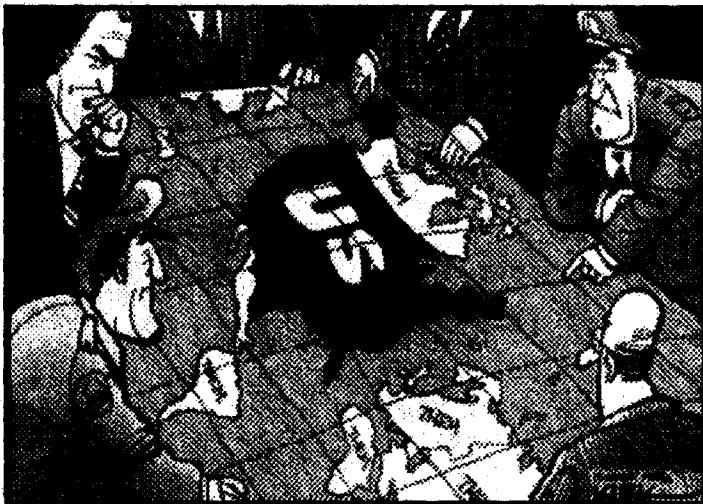
The reality we're facing here at home is an endless host of issues with which activists must be concerned, each distracting attention from the others. We aren't even close to a unified movement with a holistic approach

to social change and resistance. Instead, we have a fractured array of struggles, each vying for the attention and allegiance of concerned people everywhere, seldom acknowledging connections between causes, never mind combining forces to act on broader issues with common roots. So while this or that crisis may attract extraordinary attention for a time, eventually we return to our cause of choice and devote most of our energy to it.

Wars come and go, as do upsurges in anti-war activity. The problem with this ebb and flow, so to speak, is that while we're retreating to take on various other causes, the Pentagon and State Department get a head start at building toward the next war. Then we play a game of catch-up, over and over again. The problem is that there is no significant Left infrastructure capable of struggling against war during times of relative peace.

Locally, here in Syracuse, we have seen a

good example of just this phenomenon. There was for a brief period good reason to believe Central New York was developing some kind of anti-war infrastructure, however informally. Folks who had been working against the sanctions and continued bombing of Iraq added anti-interventionist work on the Kosovo crisis to their agenda. A promising demonstration was held in April, amidst educational events and public statements against the US/NATO campaign. A collective was spawned to produce and distribute nationally a newspaper arguing at length against US intervention in the



ACCIDENTAL NATO CIVILIAN BOMBING DEATHS ARE TRACED TO U.S. RELIANCE ON AN OUTDATED MAP

Balkans, explaining sides of the story the mainstream media ignore as a policy. A contingent of CNY activists headed to Washington, DC on June 5 to join thousands from around the country in a protest at the Pentagon. But within days, a settlement was signed and with it the anti-war movement deflated. Almost no one has made a peep since.

Did we ever become a threat? Some have suggested that the June 5 demo was a major incentive for the US to concede certain demands on Serbia, to which NATO had been holding fast, and rush forward the peace agreement. It would be wonderful to think that we had an effect on US policy, but I hardly think five or six thousand demonstrating on each coast had White House officials exactly shaking in their shoes. Our movement never truly got past the pathetic phase — not locally, not nationally. We were never a threat to the status quo; we never actually raised the costs of

waging war on the essentially defenseless people of Yugoslavia. We never even managed to convince the population here that the West's intentions were anything other than misguided but noble.

With alarming consistency, we see a few activists vigilant enough to work on unpopular struggles for international peace, only supported in their endeavors when the issue at hand is on the front pages of mainstream dailies. In other words, the Left itself is allowing the corporate media to choose our agenda. After the late 1997 massacre at Acteal, in Chiapas, Mexico, there was an upsurge in activity supporting the Maya people of Southern Mexico who are directly and extremely exploited by US neoliberal policies toward our neighbors to the South. But then, when fewer and smaller massacres were being reported, widespread activity and even awareness declined. Almost exactly a year later, when the US resumed a full-scale bombing campaign against Iraq for alleged noncompliance with UN weapons inspectors, there was a flurry of activity. Those who had been organizing long-term against the despicable sanctions which are killing thousands of Iraqis each month overnight became leaders of a temporarily expanded movement. But since the bombing has slowed down (it's still going on, by the

way, sporadically but without halting), so too have our efforts to end or reverse current US policy toward Iraq.

Now that a (preposterous) deal has been signed with Serb leaders, and fully-armed NATO troops calling themselves K-FOR have moved into Kosovo to protect Kosovars from themselves, we are taking that long-awaited deep breath. I'll admit, I was extremely relieved when the bombing stopped. I got around to seeing my family, and finally slept more than 4 hours in a single night. But when I breathed in again, looking to engage in a new phase of awareness-raising and resistance, I found nearly everyone, including members of my own anti-war collective, had moved on or returned to other pursuits.

I can't argue with anyone that anti-war work is more important than anything else. Working against police brutality, sexualized

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Staying Grounded Continued from page 7

violence, the threat of nuclear catastrophe, and an endless laundry list of oppressions is vital: no doubt about it. But since nearly everyone on the Left, locally and throughout the country, seems to rally against war when one "comes around," it seems to make sense that we start preventing wars instead of periodically scrambling to stop them. The protracted movements against proposed US interventions in Central America during the 1980s were largely successful, by most reasonable standards. They didn't reflect the glory attributed to movements which helped put an end to the Vietnam war, but that's because they helped prevent invasions rather than curtail them.

In February of 1998, a hastily-organized campaign against impending assaults on Iraq was responsible for knocking that option off the Pentagon planning table. At that time, Washington allowed CNN to broadcast a national "town hall" meeting with State Depart-

ment notables, which radical anti-war activists crashed and spoiled while the whole world looked on. That forced the government to act more swiftly, with little deliberation, when it moved to crush Iraq that December, perhaps hurrying and thus crippling the effort somewhat. To the degree we are prepared — and preparation requires constant vigilance and organizing efforts which transcend periods between outright warfare — we can make it that much more difficult for our leaders to bring us to war. This means more time to devote to other issues of domestic or international importance.

But what, really, are our options when a so-called humanitarian crisis like the Yugoslavia turmoil presents itself? First we should be asking which other struggles are presently looming. The primary goal should be not to get caught by surprise, ever again. And to remain consistent in our efforts to expose flash points wherever they are heating up. We need to be keeping our eyes on US actions in Mexico, Iraq, Colombia, East Timor, Indonesia, Iran,

Korea, Sudan, Turkey, and a number of other crisis areas around the globe.

We also have to remain solution-oriented, from the beginning. Looking at a given crisis, we have to come up with means by which it can be resolved without resorting to invasion forces. Many have seriously suggested the use of "nonviolent armies." This refers to large numbers of activists trained in nonviolent tactics, medicine, conflict resolution, counseling, observation and investigation, and so forth. The activists work together internationally to become (1) a physical and political barrier between oppressors and victims, or two warring sides; and (2) aid in the rebuilding of a society and the establishment of peace and tolerance. This may well be the only alternative to exacerbation, or the dreaded "doing nothing" which our leaders only advocate when the "humanitarian crisis" is one they don't care about, like most of those in Africa, for instance.

Finally, we need to start developing national coalitions and local organizations which can carry on the important work of raising awareness and maintaining contact with organizers on the ground in every city, every neighborhood. Most of the national organizations are either strongly religious or ideological in their bases for unification, which is reflected in their preferred strategies, tactics and overall approaches. No one organization will meet the concerns and interests of all activists, to be sure. But the important thing for now is to keep people involved, to maintain connections between those doing anti-war work, to support those doing intellectual work that will help us stay in touch with various crises, and to support those doing grassroots outreach and organizing. These are all key roles of consistent anti-war organizing efforts — each needs to be, and can be, carried out by many more people.

If you came out to the march against the war last spring, are you presently doing anything to prevent yourself from having to come out again next spring, next month, next time? Lots of causes deserve our attention right now. Lots of local people deserve our support as they struggle tirelessly to deescalate and prevent conflicts on every continent. Let's get involved now so we don't have to get involved later.

Brian is a member of the On the Ground collective, as well as a writer and web developer for Z Magazine (<http://www.zmag.org>).

Roy Bourgeois Continued from page 5

hearing into the 1989 murder of six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter, which exposed the murderers as graduates of the SOA. Fr. Roy moved into action. He moved to Columbus, Georgia and began the arduous task of unveiling the truth about the SOA.

The Freedom of Information Act and the UN Truth Commission Report after the civil war in El Salvador were SOA Watch's main tools in the beginning. Fr. Roy held a 35-day fast at the gates of Ft. Benning in the early '90s in November to commemorate the assassination of the Jesuit priests. The story of Fr. Roy's courageous nonviolent action at Ft. Benning in 1983, for which he spent 18 months in prison, has been widely shared among Central American Solidarity folks in the '80s and '90s. Activists have responded to his call each year to be present

at Ft. Benning in November and Washington, DC in the Spring.

From Vietnam to Ft. Benning, Georgia... from a gathering of ten to a gathering of 7,000 in 1998.... from three arrests to 2,318 people risking arrest.... from secrecy about the SOA to House and Senate bills calling for its closure is a fascinating story. The voice of Fr. Roy Bourgeois has been heard.

I urge everyone to take the opportunity to meet Fr. Roy Bourgeois when he is in the Syracuse area the first week of October. Feel his compassion for the people of Central America, learn of his faith and commitment through his words, laugh with him as he shares his sense of humor, and experience his energizing presence.

Ann is an SOA Abolitionist and former prisoner of conscience.



Non-Violence Training Prior to November Ft. Benning Action

The SOA U.S. Action Committee will host two non-violence training sessions in the Syracuse area in November. The first will be on November 14th at the Syracuse Convention Center. The second will be on November 15th at the Syracuse Convention Center. Both sessions will be held from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The cost of the training is \$10.00. For more information, contact Ann at ann@soaaction.org or call her at 315-435-1234. The training will be held at the Syracuse Convention Center, 100 North State Street, Syracuse, NY 13202. For more information, contact Ann at ann@soaaction.org or call her at 315-435-1234.

A Celebration for All People

Juneteenth Commemoration a Big Success in Syracuse

Daniel Bowers

Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom and a symbol of hope for us all. In April 1865 the civil war had ended and the devastated American South was forced to accept defeat. Efforts were made to reunite the nation. Plantations would have new systems of operations and slavery would finally end. However, it took a long time to spread the word that the war was over.

Two months after the end of the war, slave masters in the western States, particularly Texas, kept the news a secret. They refused to tell their slaves until the crops had been cleaned, and all the work was finished. It was "business as usual," but as free slaves and abolitionists made their way across the country there was no way of keeping the secret. By June 19, 1865 all the remaining slaves in the United States of America were finally set free as the last of the crops had been cleaned. Thus the creation of the Juneteenth holiday, and throughout its history *it has* been a day of celebration and remembrance.

This year's celebration on Saturday, June 19 at the Southwest Community Center was no exception! I could already feel the excitement. The kids (I am a tutor for the Refrigerator Door Club, an educational program started by Carol Perry to give kids from the South Side skills to make it to college) and I had read about the Juneteenth celebration. One book talked about how it was a time for the whole African-American community to come together for singing dancing, eating and storytelling. Sure enough, there was all of that and much more too. This year's festival was truly for the children, who easily outnumbered adults five to one. There were at least thirty gaming tables (many, if not all, guaranteed prizes for everyone), food and drink and two main stages with a continuous display of music, dancing and story telling. We became part of a gathering of thousands.

Local poet Jackie Warren-Moore, recited a rousing speech inciting the crowd to chant with her "We are free, we are free." We listened and chanted over and over as

Moore encouraged us to chant even louder and clearer. I wanted the whole world to hear our voices and feel the power.

I watched the children's faces as they chanted and listened. It was truly breathtaking. The children have never experienced Jim Crow laws or slavery, and were so proud, even elated. Chanting "we are free" was as easy to them as saying their names. Some even had a hard time understanding the concept of slavery. If only their ancestors could see them now.

My only hope is for the kids to be able



to hold onto that freedom, and for no one to take it away. I'd like to see them take this freedom to heart to help create a better world for us all, and I think they can. Ms. Warren-Moore spoke of our African American ancestors building this nation and likened them to seeds. She encouraged all of us to work for peace and freedom in our daily lives so that we all may continue to enjoy our lives and prosper without the fear and pain of racial prejudice. She asked her audience to make the slaves' strength our strength.

It was a reaffirming vow of equality for all. As I watched her speak a smiling African American man walked by in his dress fireman's uniform and a woman stopped him to take his picture. He was so proud and walked away with a bigger smile. It would be nice to see this pride everyday, I think that this is an important

aspect of the Juneteenth celebration. It is not merely a time to condemn racists of the past, present, or future. Juneteenth is an accentuation of positive living and community spirit. It is a time to honor ancestors, neighbors, friends, family and self, to celebrate African American accomplishments, and for our diverse culture to reward itself for making a commitment to ending discrimination. Juneteenth is a dedication to maintain freedom and unity. It is a day to feel great about each other.

As Ms. Warren-Moore left the stage, dancers and drummers took their places. With drums pounding and feet stomping we cheered as they made their way through the crowd. We danced as the music flowed through the air, smiles were contagious. An intense spirituality nourished us with art and participation. This kind of entertainment is meaningful. Its significance cannot be found on a television screen. The community interaction is what made this event priceless.

During this year's celebration I witnessed many amazing events I will never forget. While at the Southwest Community Center, we decided to visit the plaque awarded to Ms. Vera Perry, a woman who helped our community in many ways during her lifetime, and passed this value on to her children. One of my tutoring students, a bright young man named Paris Perry, is her grandson. We looked at her picture and together we read the inscription honoring her contributions. Then I looked down at Paris. He had the largest smile his face could produce and exclaimed, "That's my Grandmother!"

We reveled in the knowledge that peace is *made* by people who help others and spread love. In this moment, Paris realized that his grandmother was an extraordinary person who touched many lives, not just his own family. It helped him to understand the nature of community.

Just like the analogy that one must see a forest for the trees, I realized that without people like the Perry family there is no community. This family has raised each generation with love for all so that community spirit can be passed on from one generation to the next.

Another very important aspect of Juneteenth is that it is not just for African-Americans. There is an open invitation for all to participate. It is a celebration for all people (and an opportunity to

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Edited by Mike Kernahan

Quote of the Month:

"I've lived in two communist countries, China and Vietnam. And I've never seen anything worse than this. I never knew a law like this could exist in America." — Chan Hoang

Out of the Frying Pan ... and Right Back In

Thirty-two year old Chan Hoang came to the United States from a refugee camp in Hong Kong in 1980. He was convicted of selling drugs to an undercover policeman and spent five years in prison. Upon his release, a new law championed by Texas Republican Congressman Lamar Smith, dictated that Hoang be remanded to the custody of the Immigration and Naturalization Service since the U.S. does not have full diplomatic relations with his native country of Vietnam. He shares an eight by eight foot cell with another detainee. No end to his incarceration is in sight.

Quote from the past:

"When people speak to you about a preventive war, you tell them to go and fight it. After my experience, I have come to hate war. War settles nothing." — Dwight D. Eisenhower

The Ticking Debt Bomb

For the last few years the economic news in the United States has been glowing. The U.S. economy has grown at a healthy 4% average rate since 1997, with "virtually" full employment and negligible inflation, thus returning to macroeconomic conditions not experienced since the early 1960s. Two-and-a-half years after Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan warned of "irrational exuberance" on Wall Street, the New York stock market continues to climb to unparalleled heights. Meanwhile, more and more observers claim that we are now in a "new economy" that is immune to forces that caused previous inflation and recessions.

Yet in the midst of this celebratory environment, some indicators regularly cast a pall. Month after month, year after year, the U.S. trade deficit sets new records. And as the U.S. borrows to cover the excess of its imports over its exports, the U.S. position as the world's largest debtor grows by leaps and bounds. Closely related to both of these trends is the drop in the U.S. private saving rate, which forces the country to continue borrowing from abroad in spite of the shift from a deficit to a surplus in the federal budget balance.

In fact, the U.S. economy's current prosperity rests on the fragile foundations of a

consumer spending boom based on a domestic stock market bubble, combined with foreign bankrolling of the U.S. trade deficit. If present trends continue, the growth in U.S. international debt will not be sustainable. No country can continue to borrow so much from abroad without eventually triggering a depreciation of its currency and a contraction of its economy. The rising trade deficit and mushrooming foreign debt are thus warning signals of underlying problems that—if not corrected—could bring the U.S. economic boom crashing to a halt in the not-too-distant future.

Source: *Economic Policy Institute*

Biotech Crops a Mixed Blessing

Farmers are having mixed success planting crops that are genetically modified to kill insect pests, according to an industry study released recently. While the altered seeds produce better yields, farmers can lose money on the crops when commodity prices and infestations are low, the study found.

Corn growers made an extra \$72 million by using genetically modified seeds in 1997, but planted three times as much acreage to the crop last year and lost \$26 million when grain prices plummeted and infestation levels dropped, according to the report by the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy, a Washington-based research policy group. The so-called Bt-corn contains genes from bacteria known as *Bacillus thuringiensis*. It's resistant to the corn borer but costs more than conventional seed. "A farmer must incur the costs of the technology before knowing the levels of pest infestation during the growing year or the price that will be received for the crop at the end of the year," the study said. "Thus, it is to be expected that wide variations in actual returns will occur." Cotton farmers fared better, saving \$92 million last year on their Bt crops. Potato growers have largely declined to plant Bt crops because they prefer to use an insecticide that will kill more pests, the study said.

Source: *API/Rudy Leon*

Return To Sender

Four thousand tons of ash from a U.S. garbage incinerator are sitting in a beach town in Haiti right now. A ship carrying this ash from the city of Philadelphia dumped it there 10 years ago, claiming it was fertilizer. The heavy metals and other toxins in the ash are blowing in the tropical wind and being carried into the sea by heavy rains. Cadmium and lead, two

metals present in the ash, contribute to neurological damage, lung and bone disorders, birth defects and other health problems. Samples of adjacent soil show the toxins have migrated into the environment. In ten years, not even a fence or warning sign has been erected to protect the community. Haitian and U.S. environmentalists have been working for years to persuade the Philadelphia and U.S. authorities to repatriate the ash without success.

Source: *Essential Action*

The Ever-Present Yet Nonexistent Poor

As a poverty specialist for the conservative Heritage Foundation, Robert Rector is one of the right-wing media machine's most prolific pundits. In 1996, the year of the welfare reform debate, he was cited in media outlets an average of more than 15 times a month (Nexis). Rector also feeds a vast network of right-wing talkshow hosts and syndicated columnists who pick up and broadcast his findings. Yet for all his influence, Rector's work is a mess of misleading statistics and specious arguments all contrived to accomplish a single goal: to cut spending on the poor.

In 1995, Rector testified before Congress that "since the onset of the War on Poverty, the U.S. has spent over \$5.3 trillion on welfare. But during the same period, the official poverty rate has remained virtually unchanged." Rector's figure—which he soon updated to \$5.4 trillion—is grossly misleading: It includes huge amounts of spending not directed towards families on welfare.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities calculated that approximately 70 percent of the federal spending that Rector classified as "welfare" went to households that did not receive Aid to Families With Dependent Children, the core welfare program in recent decades. Instead, most of the money went to non-AFDC households with elderly, disabled or "medically needy" individuals, as well as students and low-income workers—not groups most people would associate with "welfare." Even if Rector's \$5.4 trillion figure were accurate, it would need to be put in perspective. Spending on "national defense" since 1964 overshadows even Rector's inflated "welfare" number, exceeding \$8 trillion at the time of Rector's testimony—and that figure does not include spending on intelligence, foreign military aid and other military-related items. Despite its flimsiness, Rector's charge echoed through the media.

Source: *FAIR*

A Climate of Fear

Rockefeller Laws Still Use Poor as Political Stepping Stones

Joe Dubovy

In 1973, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller dearly wanted to move into the White House. To prove he was tough on crime, he rammed through the New York legislature a series of bills bearing his name. They remain the law of the state. Of 71,000 prisoners in NY prisons, more than 22,000 are drug offenders, of whom over 94% are people of color. The state Supreme Court is so concerned they are considering reforms to these drug laws.

The judicial system is hamstrung because a judge is denied the discretion to impose a sentence she/he may consider appropriate to the case but must impose that mandated by the drug laws. For example, possession of 2 ounces of marijuana under certain conditions will get you five years. A mule (a person wittingly or unwittingly employed to transport drugs) can get up to 15 years. Even usually-nasty conservative legislators are upset about the mule aspect of the drug laws. That's because they are being deluged with letters by domestic violence groups. A mule is often a woman in an abusive, dysfunctional relationship with a man who threatens to beat her if she will not carry packages of illicit substances. She may be lucky for the first few deliveries but eventually she is arrested and sentenced under draconian drug laws.

In June, Gen. William McCaffrey, Bill Clinton's czar in the war on drugs (read "war on the poor") came to Albany to scold NY State politicians about the widespread damage these laws are causing the families of the incarcerated. McCaffrey claimed that 500,000 family members and relatives are impacted by these drug laws. Many such family members raised in a broken home with an incarcerated family member turn to crime themselves and soon join the prison population. The drug czar said that prisons were schools for crime. The degradation in prison, the loss of self-esteem, did not help re-integration into the community when an inmate is discharged. Returning offenders directly to the community without any transitional assistance most often means that they simply return to the activity that got them in trouble in the first place and they are soon recycled to prison.

New York Governor George Pataki is requesting \$900 million dollars to build 6 more prisons. Slashing money for social programs, prison programs, prison education and re-integration programs virtually guarantees an ever-expanding prison population. We may like to call them prisons but in reality they act as concentration camps for the poor and disenfranchised. The not-so-hidden agenda is that, rather than spend money to help the poor, politicians prefer to pack them away in prisons. This provides politically valuable upstate employment in areas suffering from military cutbacks and industrial flight to the south, west, and overseas. Republicans boast of solving economic and social problems, and hope to win more votes in coming elections.

Before I pick on Republicans too much, Democratic Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver is staunchly opposed to reform of Rockefeller drug laws for essentially the same reason Rockefeller created them in the first place: he wants Democrats to appear tough on crime. Democrats consider this essential to the effort to hang on to their Assembly majority in the next election. So, for once we have bipartisan agreement: that the only thing the poor are good for is to serve as stepping stones to political advantage.

Like Rockefeller before him, Pataki has Washington aspirations. Over 26 years later, he is still following the same well-worn though discredited path as his predecessor. More prisons, more cruelty, and most importantly more fear to justify it all. The death penalty plays a major role in perpetuating that climate of fear. Pataki is pushing for a bill that will allow a prosecutor to seek the death penalty when a murder occurs for the "experience of murdering." A skillful D.A. can make that apply to any homicide.

The sickness here is that the climate of fear takes us further and further away from a society where people can realize their talents and intrinsic worth and further into a morass where vengeance and hatred suck up our life force and poison our hearts. Join the struggle for peace and justice. A state conference in Binghamton will take place in the spring and criminal justice discussion groups are forming in all local areas. For information, contact the New York State Alliance Against the Death Penalty (914) 528-3774, fax: (914) 526-3558.

Joe is a regular contributor to the PNL.



Juneteenth Continued from page 9

connect with a culture that has a tremendous heritage). As a young white male, I felt welcomed. I was encouraged to participate. I will treasure my experiences and return again and again with friends and family. Next year, bring your loved ones for a wonderful opportunity to take part in the Juneteenth celebration! Better yet, get involved and help plan it. Happy Juneteenth! Uhuru!

Contact Venita at 415-2321 for more information about how to get involved in planning next year's celebration.

Daniel is a PNL distributor who recently joined the Editorial Committee.



Mumia Protest Continued from page 6

We believe all prisoners to be political, but it is important to remember that Mumia was targeted for a frame-up from the FBI's COINTELPRO because of his political activities. He joined the Black Panthers at age 15 and became known as the "Voice for the Voiceless" in Philadelphia, covering police brutality and repression against Black people in Philly. As president of the Black Journalists Association in Philadelphia, Mumia was able to get the word out about the oppression in this country to thousands of people. He was especially disliked by the police because of his excellent coverage of the MOVE trials in the late 1970s.

Since his imprisonment Mumia has written extensively about his own case and about the racism of the prison system (and the entire country) as well as about issues such as anti-gay violence, the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, the bombing of Iraq, school violence, and the Puerto Rican Independence movement. His two books, *Live from Death Row* and *Death Blossoms*, explain his case as well as expose the brutality of the prison/slavery system. The text from his June 1999 taped graduation speech to Evergreen State University in Oregon can be found on the IAC website (<http://www.iacenter.org>) as well as on the ICFFM website. Mumia is also currently on the cover of *Covert Action Quarterly*, with an analysis of the incredible distortions put out by ABC's "20/20" show about him.

Lisa Guido and Audrey Stewart of CNY were arrested July 3 at the Liberty Bell Civil Disobedience for Mumia and attended the Un-liberty Day Rally on July 4.



Hiroshima Continued from Cover

Sasaki's classmates completed the number and put them in the Hiroshima Peace Park as a tribute to her; a statue of Sasaki currently stands in the park, and there are usually many thousands of paper cranes at its base. Since that time, people young and old from all over the world have folded paper cranes as an expression of a hope for peace.

Learning to fold paper into the form of a crane required some additional research. Michael Bissell, a fifth-grade teacher, decided to take on the project at the urging of his students. Connie Duval, a reading teacher,

found several Internet sites related to the book and the Hiroshima Peace Park.

After Duvall and Bissell showed the sites to the students and explained to them about the park and the crane's symbolism, the students decided they would like to make and string as many paper cranes as they could and send them to Hiroshima.

With directions downloaded from the internet, the students taught themselves about origami and how to fold the paper into cranes. At that point, two additional language arts classes, taught by Amy Quina and James Cassella, decided to join in. In all, the project took about two weeks, with students making anywhere from 75 to 200 cranes a day.

Bissell noted that the book remains timely, and was a good choice for the class. "Its histori-

cal significance and its ability to draw on the concerns about modern social problems, such as war, made the students more aware of the need for peace and conflict-free resolutions to problems," he said.

After we read this book, we chose to make the cranes to make people aware of the need for peace," said J.C. VonHoltz, a student. "We made a thousand paper cranes because we thought we would show we care about the people who died from the atomic bomb," Alice Wikoff, a student, said. "We also thought it would be fun."

Gina Barletta is a new member of the PNL editorial committee. This article originally appeared in the Phoenix Register, Phoenix, New York.

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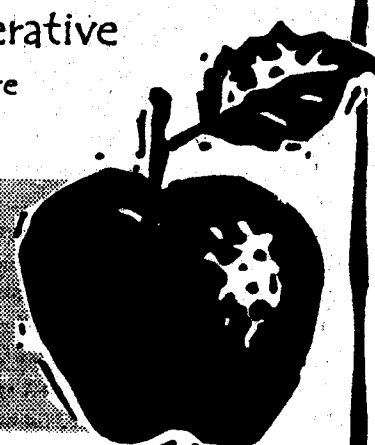
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Beth Broadway to Receive 1999 Peace Award

Beth Broadway will receive the 1999 peace award at the annual Peace Action Award Dinner. The dinner will take place on Sunday October 3 at 5pm at Le Moyne Manor, 629 Old Liverpool Rd. in Liverpool. Beth has worked long and effectively both nationally and locally on complex issues such as nuclear abolition and inspires others to follow her example. She has led both the local and national boards of Peace Action, and is highly skilled as an organizer. She was a presenter at the recent international peace conference in The Hague.

Working as a private consultant in neighborhood grassroots leadership development, Beth has a keen awareness of the global implications of local work, and the need to live out locally the vision we have for the world. She has played a major role in developing both TNT (Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today), the visioning process which reaches out to hear the voices of all members of the community in designing our future; and the Community Wide Dialogues on Race. She is the "Godmother" of the "change team" designed to increase ethnic and racial diversity of the entire Peace Action network.

Fr. Roy Bourgeois will honor Beth as keynote speaker at the dinner. Fr. Bourgeois is best known as founder and director of School Of the Americas Watch, a grassroots movement headquartered in Columbus, Georgia, which monitors and publicizes human rights abuses of graduates of the US Army School of the Americas. Less well known is his role in making the Academy Award nominee film "Gods of Metal" about our nuclear addiction. His keynote will connect his SOA work with nuclear disarmament efforts.

Reservations for the dinner and program, at \$35-\$75 sliding scale, must be received by September 23. Please call Peace Action at 478-7442.

— Diane Swords



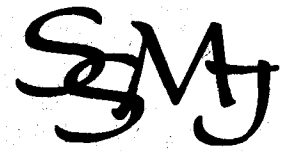
Visit Tierra Farm and Help PAR

Nearly 200 people celebrated the opening of Tierra Farm's bakery and cafe on June 27. We toured the farm where vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers are grown organically. Tierra Farm's 23 acres are located on Glen Haven Road at the Southwest end of Skaneateles Lake in the village of New Hope.

One of the things that excites me about Tierra Farm is that Gunther Fishgold (owner, farmer, baker, publicist, trainer, etc.) is working toward making the farm sustainable without the use of animals or animal products. Many organic farmers consider animals an essential element of their system because animals provide manure and eat insect pests. The problem for me is that the animals are considered expendable. For example, some organic farmers keep turkeys during the vegetable growing season when they can be housed easily and provide the service of eating insects. But it is cheaper for the farmer to then slaughter the turkeys and sell them for Thanksgiving meals than to house and feed them over the winter. This is not the only way to go! There are those who farm organically and sustainably without exploiting animals. Gunther Fishgold will talk briefly about this during a fundraiser for People for Animal Rights (PAR) on Sunday, September 19 at 2 pm at the cafe at Tierra Farm.

An organic, vegan lunch will be served consisting of pizza, vegetable salad, fruit salad, lemonade and dessert. A farm tour is part of the event. Vegan food contains no animal flesh (whether fish, fowl or mammal) and no animal products (dairy or eggs). The cost for the talk, lunch and tour is \$10 to \$25 per person; each person is asked to choose the amount they can afford, keeping in mind that this event is meant to help PAR carry on its work for animals and the environment. Reservations and payment are necessary prior to the event. Please make checks payable to People for Animal Rights, Inc. and mail to PAR, PO Box 15358, Syracuse, NY 13215-0358. Your contribution, minus \$5 (the value of the lunch) is tax-deductible.

— Linda DeStefano



Social Movement Initiative Hosts Conference

The Syracuse Social Movements Initiative (SSMI) will be hosting the Northeast Network on Participatory Action Research's annual conference this year, from Thursday, September 30th, to Sunday, October 3rd, in the Public Events Room of Eggers Hall, and at the Wescott Community Center on Euclid Avenue.

In previous years the Network's conferences have taken place at the University of Toronto and Cornell University. The theme of this year's conference is "Activist Research: Exploring Multiple Models." In addition to hearing presentations from activist researchers and engaging in collective dialogue, the conference will lead several on-site visits to local social change organizations that have recently hosted SSMI's collaborative action research projects. The conference is open to all members of the Syracuse community. A registration fee of \$45 includes meals for three days; the fee can be reduced or waived according to need.

SSMI is a project of the Program on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflicts at the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. For more information on the conference, please call John Burdick 443-3822.

— John Burdick

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Exploring Multiple Models**

**Thursday-Sunday
Sept. 30-Oct. 3**

**registration \$45 (incl. meals)
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hosted by

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— Linda DeStefano



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There are four groups that are currently publishing a community calendar. The Peace Council Community Calendar is the only one that is published monthly and is available to all.

As a member of the Peace Council, you are invited to contribute to the calendar. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact the Peace Council at 478-8634.

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

Southeast University Neighborhood Association meeting. Erwin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm.

Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 7:30pm. Acc. 423-4783.

5 EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable. Ch. 12. 8pm. Produced by Peace Council. Tune in, tape it, share it!

EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.

6 EVERY MONDAY - FRIDAY: Westcott Teen Program. Westcott Community Center. 2-5pm. 478-8634.

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

People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center. 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.

7 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 659 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.

Peace Action monthly program. May Memorial. 3600 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.

EVERY TUESDAY: Open Mic Night at Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.

12 EVERY SUNDAY: "Common Threads," acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm.

EVERY SUNDAY: 61 Percent. Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.

19 People for Animal Rights fundraiser. Farm tour, organic, vegan lunch, and brief talk by owners of Terra Farm about organic farming & how it can be done without exploiting animals. New Hope, NY. 2pm. Sliding scale \$10-\$25 in advance. For directions & to register call 488-7877.

13 Eastside Neighborhood Arts, Cultural & Tech. Center mtg. ENIP office. 204 Cherry St. 6pm. Joe. 471-7911 ext. 210.

Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WENHA) meeting. Pett Library, Concord Pl. 7-9pm. 479-7301.

Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 476-7475.

20 EVERY MONDAY: Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.

People for Animal Rights busines mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.

Syracuse United Neighbors/Moralis meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddes & Delaware. 7:30pm. 476-7475.

21 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 659 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.

EVERY TUESDAY: Middle Eastern Dance with Zoe Artemis. Westcott Community Center. 5:15-6:15pm. Fee. 474-7084.

22 Media Action Group meeting. 7:30pm. Call Ace for place. 423-7856.

23 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 659 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.

26 Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society brunch. Westcott Community Center. 11am-1pm.

Westcott Street Cultural Fair. Noon to 6pm.

Local author & professor Marge Vauff signing copies of her new book at My Sisters' Words bookstore. 314 N. McBride St. 1-3pm. 428-0227.

27 EVERY MON, TUES, THURS: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 12pm. New friends, lunch, programs. Westcott Community Center. 828 Euclid Ave. 478-8634.

Eastside Neighborhood Arts, Cultural & Technology Center meeting. ENIP office. 204 Cherry St. 6pm. Joe. 471-7911 ext. 210.

28 EVERY TUESDAY: Syracuse Community Radio meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 476-4769.

Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.

8 HOPE, Inc. meeting (grassroots AIDS group). Living Room. 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.

NOW CNY Chapter meeting. Marine Midland Bank, 360 S. Wilmers. 7pm. 487-3188.

Caribbean/Latin America Coalition working potluck at Plymouth Church. 222 E. Onondaga St. 6:30pm. 478-4571.

Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.

9 Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 206 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-6237.

Syracuse Community Radio general information meeting. 8pm. Westcott Community Center. Call 234-1989 to confirm time and location.

Sept. 9 & 10: Teen Program Open House at Westcott Community Center. 2-5pm.

10 Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 206 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-6237.

Syracuse Community Radio general information meeting. 8pm. Westcott Community Center. Call 234-1989 to confirm time and location.

11 EVERY SATURDAY: Kids for the Arts with Agnes Johnson. Westcott Community Center. 12-1pm. Free. 478-8634.

EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

15 NAACP meeting. NAACP Office. 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-8603.

Syracuse United Neighbors/Skunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.

Sierra Club monthly meeting. 5th Fl. 492-4745.

Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 7:30pm. Ace. 423-4783.

16 Socialist Forum. Topic: Police Brutality. Westcott Community Center. 7-9pm. Free. 475-2386.

Spanish Action League Dinner/Dance Gala Event. Fundraiser for Spanish Action League and Latino Scholarship Endowment. Call for time & place: Fanny Vilamoral Caravan or Alicia Swords at 475-6153.

17 EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center. 801 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

18 Beyond Bows and Arrows: A Six Nation Perspective. Past, Present and Future. First of 3 seminars designed to give a North American Indian perspective on individual and overall cultural development in and among the people of the Incoque Confederacy. Includes media, film, slide, video, guest speakers, discussion and debate. \$25 Registration Fee. Sainte Marie Among the Incoques Living History Museum. 453-6767.

Annual NYS Beach Cleanup. Call Barbara Cohen to volunteer in your area. 718-634-8467.

20 EVERY MONDAY: Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.

People for Animal Rights busines mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.

Syracuse United Neighbors/Moralis meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddes & Delaware. 7:30pm. 476-7475.

23 EVERY THURSDAY: Sitting Meditation at Women's INFO. 801 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Ave. 6pm. 472-5478.

24 Annual NYS Beach Cleanup. Call Barbara Cohen to volunteer in your area. 718-634-8467.

25 Pax Christi meeting. Slocum House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woolever. 446-1693.

Showcase Productions presents tekkinger Jans lan playing at May Memorial. 3600 E. Genesee St. 8pm. Tickets \$18 in advance. \$20 at door. 382-2222.

Fair Eve Party with music, poetry & refreshments. Westcott Community Center. 8-10pm. Admission charged.

Month of September: Exhibit: "desire", contemporary photography from the Visual AIDS Archive Project. Menechel Gallery, Schine Center. S.U. 443-1300.

29 In Celebration of Children, the Mental Health Association's annual dinner. Wyndham Syracuse (former Marriott). 5:30-8:30pm. \$35. 445-5606.

EVERY WED: Syracuse Community Choir rehearsal. Come sing without No auditions. Westcott Community Center. 7:30pm. 487-9807.

30 Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. Cynrd 475-1878.

Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC. 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Free Food!

Thomden Park Association meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carole Simson for location. 475-2807.

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Peacemakers Continued from the cover

Clifford was one of some 120 people who turned out to join their voices in a call for nonviolence in our community and peace on the international level. Featuring speakers, music, poetry and theater, the program wove together the voices of young people and adults.

As one of the moving forces behind the June 13 event, I can't provide a truly objective analysis, but can look at it with an organizer's critical eye. We wanted this demonstration to be different from typical peace rallies, to really reach out to people concerned with violence on a local level and to draw the links between community violence and the violence of war.

We were motivated by "the hypocrisy of President Clinton's call for young people to stop trying to solve conflicts with guns and bombs in the aftermath of the Columbine school shootings, while he was leading the NATO bombing campaign against Yugoslavia," rally emcee Mary Ann Zeppetello noted.

During the Youth Speakout portion of the event, a dozen young people voiced their concerns, hopes and dreams regarding issues

of violence. They came from different cultural backgrounds, but shared a concern about the lack of peace in their lives.

Dr. Bruce Hare, Professor of African American Studies at Syracuse University, described an understanding of youth violence which is at odds with most media presentations. "These young people feel disrespected (disrespected), and rightfully so," Hare asserted. He went on to describe the violence fostered by adults, and the unjust world which young people face, concluding, "we've tried to buy them off rather than hug them in."

Julius Edwards of the Syracuse Partnership to Reduce Juvenile Gun Violence described the challenges facing inner city young people with whom he works: "It's hard to think that there isn't much of a future for some of our children." Edwards challenged those in attendance to get out and work with young people to help them develop skills and to restore hope to their lives.

Professor of Social Work and community activist Ednita Wright spoke about the roots of violence often being in words. "Did you compliment someone today?" she asked, imploring concerned citizens to recognize that many of us foster divisiveness and conflict through language which is hurtful to others.

Jackie Warren Moore inspired the crowd with the powerful imagery of her poetry addressing issues of poverty, domestic violence and racism. Singer/songwriter Colleen Kattau sang about some of the highly publicized acts of violence in recent months including the murders of Matthew Shepard, a victim of gay bashing, and Jill Cahill, a victim of domestic violence. The Jordan-Elbridge Players and the Media Unit provided dramatic representations of the ways that violence interrupts the lives of young people today.

The rally was successful on several levels — it drew young people who were new to activism, it brought together activists who don't normally work together, and it began to make important links between issues which are normally not connected by the general public.

However, any single event has only limited value. Those of us who believe that these connections are important must continue to find ways to bring together work for peace at all levels. Unless we do so, our efforts to create the unified movement necessary to create real change will continue to fall short.

Andy Mager is a former PNL editorial coordinator who is currently lending a hand on the editorial committee.

Syracuse Peace Council

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(315) 472-5478



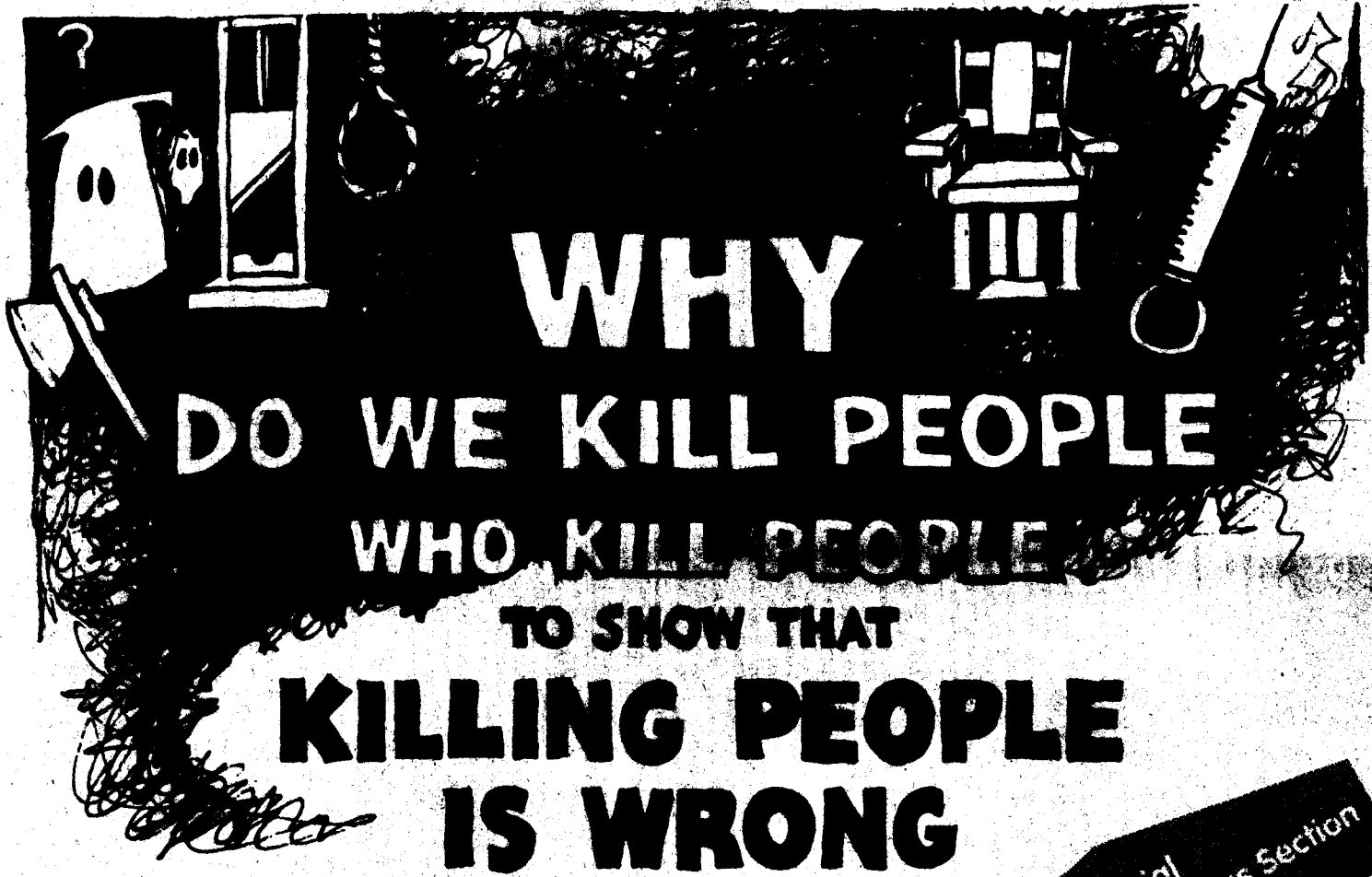
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October 1999 PNL 684



**WHY
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WHO KILL PEOPLE
TO SHOW THAT
KILLING PEOPLE
IS WRONG**

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School of the Americas Section
in the center

A Rumble of Uncertainty:

Reflections on the Death Sentence of Jeff Cahill

Rev. Dr. G. Douglas Eddy

So the Jeff Cahill trial is over. It all seems so simple. His acts were depraved and cowardly. His purpose beyond any justification. His intentions clear as the plans he so carefully made to destroy another human. There can be no doubt that he beat his wife, Jill, with a baseball bat as she lay helpless before him, then, just as she was beginning a

slow, painful, partial recovery, he snuck into her hospital room and filled her with cyanide. He has been found guilty and will die for a coward's crime. So why am I troubled?

Perhaps it is because I am a part of a highly dedicated group, the Syracuse Area Domestic Violence Coalition, which has included many of the key people who partici-

pated directly and indirectly in this trial. We all have a passionate, urgent commitment to end domestic violence. We want to make our community safe for people in relationships. I am also very active in community efforts to end youth violence. There too, people are

Continued on back cover

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Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar

October 1999

For more information, contact the Peace Council at 488-2283 or visit our website at www.syracusepeacecouncil.org

Calendar information is subject to change without notice. For the most current information, please check the calendar on our website.

<p>3 SOA Abolitionist potluck at the Sage's house, 208 Breakpear Rd., Camillus, 1pm.</p> <p>4 EVERY MON-FRI.: Westcott Teen Program, Westcott Community Center, 2-5pm. 478-8634.</p> <p>Eastside Neighborhood Arts, Cultural & Tech. Center mtg. ENIP office, 204 Cherry St. 6pm. Joe, 471-7911 ext. 210.</p> <p>EVERY MON.: HIV+ Issues Group meets, 6:30-8pm. Sponsored by AIDS Community Resources, Call for places, 475-2430.</p> <p>People Against the Death Penalty meeting, Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.</p>	<p>5 Coalition for the Common Good meeting, 688 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p> <p>Peace Action monthly program, May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.</p> <p>Fr. Roy Bourgeois of SOA Watch speaking at Panassi Chapel, Le Moyne College, 7:30pm. Also at Bird Library, Room 1916, SU, 4pm.</p>	<p>6 EVERY WEDNESDAY: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council, Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478.</p> <p>Unequal Partners: Addressing Power & Consent in Adult-Teen Relationships, Holiday Inn, Ithaca, 8am-4pm. Presented by Planned Parenthood, (607) 273-8232.</p> <p>Southwest University Neighborhood Association meeting, Erwin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm.</p> <p>Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity meeting, 205 Bassett St. 7:30pm. 472-7873.</p> <p>13 HOPE, Inc. meeting (grassroots AIDS group), Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 476-3616.</p> <p>NOW CNY Chapter meeting, Marine Midland Bank, 360 S. Wackerline, 7pm. 487-3188.</p> <p>Caribbean/Latin America Coalition working potluck at Syracuse Peace Council, 6-7:30pm. 478-4571.</p> <p>Onondaga Audubon meeting, Dewitt Community Church, 3900 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.</p> <p>1st & 3rd WED.: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting, 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. 472-5478.</p> <p>20 NAACP meeting, NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-8933.</p> <p>YWCA Women's Luncheon: Violence Against Women, Drumline, Noon-1:30pm. 424-0040.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Stunk City meeting, Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 478-7475.</p> <p>Sherra Club monthly meeting, 5 Hick Hall, SUNY ESF, 7:30pm. 472-4745.</p> <p>10th Annual Report to the Community on Domestic Violence, Downtown Library, Noon-1:15pm. Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity meeting, 205 Bassett St. 7:30pm. 423-4783.</p> <p>27 Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker Benefit Dinner, St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center, Winton St., off Burnet Ave. 5:30pm. \$0-\$15 donation. 471-8853.</p> <p>EVERY WED: Syracuse Community Choir rehearsal. Come sing without auditions. Westcott Community Center, 7:30pm. 487-8807.</p>	<p>7 Rape Crisis Center 26th anniversary celebration luncheon, Hotel Syracuse, Noon-1:30pm. Kate, 422-7273.</p> <p>Shorewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 476-8226.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting, Brady Falk Center, South Ave. 7pm. 476-7475.</p> <p>14 Native Americans Day - Columbus doesn't deserve our celebration.</p> <p>"Domestic Violence and the Civil & Criminal Justice System," Room 400, Onondaga County Courthouse, 12:15-3:15pm. Free. 425-0818.</p> <p>Dinner benefit for Dorothy Day House of Catholic Charities, Hotel Syracuse, 6pm. \$40. 424-1800.</p> <p>Reconciliation: Forum on Drug Policy meeting, 208 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-6237.</p> <p>21 EVERY THURSDAY: Stilling Meditation at Women's NFO, 801 Allen St. 7:30-8:30pm. Free.</p> <p>Nonviolence training in preparation for November SOA Vigil at Fort Benning, GA. 6-9pm. Franciscan Center, Grant Blvd.</p> <p>28 Vigil Against the Death Penalty, Columbus Circle, Syracuse, Noon-12:30pm. 475-1878.</p> <p>Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Free Food!</p> <p>Ronnie Dugger, founder of All-ance for Democracy, will be present at the People's Roundtable, South Presbyterian Church, 7-9pm. Thorraden Park Association meeting, 7:30pm. Call Carole Strison for location. 475-2807.</p>	<p>8 "Sweetshops in the 21st Century: Eyewitness Report from the Maquiladoras in Mexico" with Maria Ojeda & Manuel Montenegro, activists from Mexico. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. Sponsored by Labor Religion Coalition, UAW Local 624 & CLAC.</p> <p>15 Oct. 15-17: National Organizing Conference on Ineq. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Dena, (202) 543-8176.</p> <p>EVERY FRIDAY: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.</p> <p>22 Oct. 22-23: "Conference For Peace: Reality, Retreat, Re-orientation." Pax Christi annual retreat. Speakers blend political & prophetic. Friday, 7pm, Panassi Chapel, Le Moyne College; Saturday, 9am-5pm, Averno Heights, Fayetteville, Ted, 475-0081.</p> <p>29</p>	<p>9 Celebrate Coming Out Day with singer-songwriter Jamie Anderson in concert, Westcott Community Center, 8pm. \$7. Refreshments, Childcare.</p> <p>EVERY SATURDAY: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.</p> <p>16 "The Anatomy of Believement: Healing Life's Losses" with Dr. Patrick DeZoppo. StateMattersRetreatCenter, 9:30am-4pm. \$60 fee.</p> <p>Beyond Bowls and Arrows: A Situation Perspective. Past, Present and Future. 2nd of 3 seminars designed to give a North American Indian perspective on individual and overall cultural development in and among the people of the Iroquois Confederacy. Includes media, film, slide, video, guest speakers, discussion and debate. \$25 registration fee. Sarin Marie Among the Iroquois Living History Museum. 453-6787.</p> <p>23 EVERY SATURDAY: Food Not Bombs serving free food at Westcott Community Center. 12-2pm. Daniel, 478-8659.</p> <p>30 Pax Christi meeting, Siocum House, 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woolver, 448-1683.</p> <p>"Gay & Smiling: Tales From Our 50 Years of Gay Activism" featuring Barbara Glings, a pioneer of the early gay & lesbian movement. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7pm. Community dinner at 5pm. Sponsored by the St. Vincent Catholic Charities. Benefit for a book drive to get supportive books into every high school library in Onondaga County. 422-0144.</p>	<p>10 Syracuse Area Vegetarian Education Society (SAVES) event, Call 478-8634 for more info.</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY: 51 Percent, Women's issues radio program, WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY: This Way Out, Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.</p> <p>17 EVERY SUNDAY: "Common Threads," acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm.</p> <p>University Neighbors Lecture Series, Laurence Thomas, author of "Vessels of Evil: American Slavery & the Holocaust" and "Living Morality." Westcott Community Center, 3pm. \$10.</p> <p>CROP walk to help stamp out hunger. Starts at Columbus Circle, 2pm. 472-2205.</p> <p>New Environment Association potluck & meeting, Friends Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. 6pm. 448-8009.</p> <p>24 / 31 EVERY SUNDAY: People's 60 Minutes, Time Warner Cable, Ch. 12, 8pm. Produced by Peace Council. Tune in, tape it, share it!</p>
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SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE



He's back! Arms open for a hug...pen (or keyboard) in hand...reconnected in a flash to the people and the work in Central New York. We are glad that he is home with our other jailbirds Kathleen, Ann T., Dan, Doris, Ann H, and Megan joining us again on this side of the prison walls. Listen for Ed's voice, look for his words, as the struggle continues to close the School of the Americas. *Rae*

East Timor the disaster continues

Carl Mellor

In the weeks just before a historic August 30 referendum in East Timor, leaders of anti-independence (Indonesian backed) militias promised that blood would run in the streets if the East Timorese people voted for independence from Indonesia. After 78 percent of the voters chose self-determination, the militias launched a campaign of murder and looting. The shooting of several Roman Catholic nuns and priests, the killing of 35 students on a ferry that had sailed from Dili, East Timor's capital, and the murder of the 82-year-old father of Jose Alexandre Gusmao, a leader in the struggle for East Timor's freedom, are just three examples of widespread violence. The net result was an estimated 7,000 deaths and over 200,000 refugees fleeing into the forests and mountains.

By the weekend of September 18-19, Indonesia's ruling elite had at last yielded to diplomatic pressure and permitted an international military force to enter East Timor. In addition, food-relief efforts began to stave off mass starvation in the hills where refugees are subsisting on twigs and leaves.

In assessing what happened in East Timor, it's important to first note that the killings were in no way unexpected. *Eastafeta*, a publication of the East Timor Action Network, had reported extensively on an April 6 militia massacre by militia forces in Liquicia and on a July 6 militia attack on a humanitarian team in the same town. Because of such incidents, over 30,000 fled their homes months before the September wave of violence. By mid-August, the Carter Center, the International Federation for East Timor Observer Project and Amnesty International had reported on the potential for violence, citing

open collusion between militia leaders and the Indonesian military.

In spite of the warnings, the election was held under conditions dictated by the Indonesian government which refused to permit a peacekeeping force to enter the country. The government's promise to preserve order took on savage irony in view of the burning of most buildings in downtown Dili, and a militia attack on a United Nations compound which housed UN staff and refugees.

Even as the PNL went to press, efforts were underway to assess responsibility for the September rampage. Carlos Ximenes Belo, a Roman Catholic bishop in East Timor, called for the creation of a war-crimes tribunal to investigate charges of genocide by both militia leaders and Indonesian military commanders. Mary Robinson, the UN's High Commissioner For Human Rights, has vigorously added her support to convene of such a tribunal.



1981 Poster by Syracuse based East Timor Human Rights Committee

In the US Congress, discussion has begun on permanently severing the long-term relationship between Indonesia's military and that of the United States. Over the past 34 years, the Pentagon has provided intelligence reports, arms, training and other support to Indonesia's armed forces. Senator Tom Harkin, a Democrat from Iowa, is among those arguing that the U.S. military has no business affiliating with military elites who have demonstrated total contempt for human rights. This discussion in Congress is pivotal for East Timor's future because it is essential that Indonesia's state-security apparatus be deprived of one of its biggest supporters, the U.S. military.

See Nov PNL for more on East Timor

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL

Staff position:

Publication Coordinator

Primary responsibility-
monthly newsletter (PNL)
20-30 hours a week
Movement wages

Required skills:

Commitment to nonviolence/peace
and social justice issues
Computer literacy
Desktop publishing
Excellent verbal and written
communication skills

Send resume and writing sample to:
SPC-Staff search
924 Burnet Ave
Syracuse, NY 13203



Saturday Dec.4 - 10-5
Sunday Dec 5 - Noon-5

Syracuse Peace Council's
HAMMERING SWORDS INTO
PLOWSHARES
Craftstair

Southwest Community Center
401 South Ave. Syracuse, NY





Syracuse Activist Arrested at Los Alamos Nuclear Lab

Caroline Blakely, a member of Peace Action of CNY, was arrested for "crossing the line" at the Los Alamos Nuclear Lab in New Mexico on August 9, the 54th anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki. Over 400 anti nuclear activists, including 14 from the Syracuse area, rallied, then marched on the Lab, 75 of whom committed civil disobedience. The Lab is the focal point of a \$4.5 billion-a-year program to maintain and upgrade the US nuclear arsenal. Peace activists denounce this program as violating the spirit of a global test ban as well as contributing to the spread of nuclear weapons. Also being protested was the planned new production of plutonium pits which are used to ignite modern nuclear weapons.

At the rally Dr. Helen Caldicott, founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility, said "Lets not mince words—this place is about unmitigated evil... This place must be shut down!" Martin Sheen said "It's astonishing that we have been so stupid as to invest so much of our time, money, and talent in these weapons."

Preceding the action at Los Alamos was the annual national conference of Peace Action in Albuquerque. Three hundred delegates and members attended, discussed and voted on priorities for attention during the year 2000. The priorities decided upon were:

- Nuclear weapons abolition
- Stop Star Wars
- Support the International Code of Conduct on weapons sales
- Human rights
- End Iraq sanctions
- Non-military strategies for international conflict prevention and resolution
- Public scrutiny of the weapons industry
- Peace Voter 2000 (to educate voters on political candidates' positions on issues of importance to Peace Action).

—John Fitzsimmons



NAACP Disarmament Effort

In July, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume announced the initiation of a class action lawsuit against the gun manufacturing industry. The suit seeks to force the industry to adopt responsible distribution practices, such as not supplying to dealers with histories of selling to illegal users, limiting the number of guns sold to an individual within a certain time period, and not supplying guns for sale at gun shows where background checks are not conducted.

Recognizing that the brutal effects of unchecked firearm use are disproportionately borne by African-American communities, the NAACP has consistently supported gun control. The recent spate of tragic shootings throughout the country has only reinforced the already obvious need for such measures. Yet the National Rifle Association has succeeded in blocking any effective gun control legislation from passing the 106th Congress, and has caused several state legislatures to pass measures prohibiting lawsuits against the gun industry. The public's need for protection from gun violence has been disregarded by our public representatives, and so the NAACP has resorted to the judicial system to effect a remedy.

A key part of the lawsuit is the provision of statistical data regarding the number of NAACP members injured by firearms. Members who have been affected by firearm violence are urged to contact the local NAACP chapter at 422-6933.

International Speakers on Resistance to Globalization

International leaders of grassroots movements organizing resistance to the impoverishment, violence, and oppression of US-backed corporate globalization in Haiti and Chiapas, Mexico, will speak in Syracuse on October 11. They will speak at Room 100, SU College of Law from 3:00 - 5:00 pm, followed by a community dinner at 6:30 pm at St. Lucy's Church gymnasium. Everyone is welcome to both events.

Camille Chalmers is the Executive Director of Platform for an Alternative Development for Haiti and has held several posts at the State University of Haiti. While teaching there in 1991, he was imprisoned and tortured by the Haitian military. From 1993 to 1994 Mr. Chalmers was Chief of Staff for President Jean Bertrand Aristide's government-in-exile.

Gustavo Castro Soto is an International Policy Analyst with Economic and Political Research Center for Community Action and a former member of Bishop Samuel Ruiz's National Mediation Commission support team. Mr. Castro worked with Guatemalan refugees in the state of Campeche, Mexico from 1992 through 1995. He returned his own region of Chiapas in 1996, initially working with the Coordination of Non-Government Organizations for Peace and then joining the National Mediation Commission in 1997. In 1998, Mr. Castro was one of the founders of CIEPAC which works with indigenous communities in their struggle against the forces of globalization.

The tour is organized by Witness for Peace, with funding for the Syracuse visit by the College of Law with help from the Maxwell School's Social Movement Initiative. For more information, contact Deb Kenn, 487-2739; dkenn@law.syr.edu or Nancy Gwin, 422-4689; ngwin@ksrinc.com.

—Deb Kenn

Pax Christi Conference for Peace; Reality, Retreat, Resurrection

Friday, October 22 Panasci Chapel LeMoyn College, Syracuse, NY

7 pm Reality: "The North American War-Making Empire: Political, economic, and ideological threads?" Dr. Anna Brown and Art Laffin, Plowshares activists

Saturday, October 23 Alverna Heights, Fayetteville, NY

9 am Retreat "Moving from conviction to committed action"

1:30 Resurrection "In the midst of persecution and warfare, how can people resist and resurrect themselves?"

4 pm Closing Liturgy

Call Ted Sizing for further information 475-0091.

CNY/ SOA ABOLITIONISTS

Working together to help close the US Army School of the Americas

FALL 1999

CNY/SOA Abolitionists : www.tao.ca-cny_soa_abolitionists (315) 478-4571
SOA Watch: www.soaw.org (202) 234-3440

AN INVITATION.....

The CNY/SOA Abolitionists are concerned citizens angry that our government trains Latin American military personnel at the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA), in Fort Benning, Georgia. SOA students have been taught intimidation, kidnapping, torture, and assassination, and how to use those barbaric tactics against their own people. We invite you, fellow Central New Yorkers, to learn about and participate in a nonviolent campaign of vigiling, lobbying, and civil disobedience, to close the SOA.

We are angry that US taxpayer monies have for years gone to maintain this training ground of oppression and violence. We have read the training manuals, and we have gone over Congressional testimony that clearly documents the actions of the "graduates" of this so-called school. We have petitioned our congressional representatives, and are glad that our CNY representatives have voted to stop funding for the SOA.

Calls to close the SOA have come from local editorials, from labor unions, civic organizations, and religious organizations. Few who learn about the SOA find it anything less than a "school of assassins." "Graduates" of the SOA have participated in some of the worst atrocities of the western hemisphere over the past fifty years. Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated by graduates of the SOA. SOA-trained personnel participated in the massacre of over 800 villagers in the community of El Mozote, El Salvador. Six Jesuits and their two co-workers, a woman and her daughter, were brutally assassinated in San Salvador, El Salvador, killed because they were a threat to the corrupt military dictatorship.

What began as a small, one person effort to bring attention to the SOA ten years ago has grown into a major national nonviolent campaign. Last year, on the anniversary of the slaughter of the Jesuits, over 2,300 citizens "crossed the line" at Fort Benning, committing the largest act of civil disobedience since the Vietnam War in an effort to close the SOA.

Eight Central New Yorkers have served time in federal prison for repeatedly "crossing the line" at Fort Benning. We believe nonviolence wins out over violence. We believe this school of assassins (so-called by The Post-Standard and many others) has to close. We know much is at stake: the will of nonviolence against the will of those in power. Read about this campaign, look at the literature and web sites and ask questions. We invite you, we ask you, to join us in closing this institution that has no right to exist.

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This issue of *CNY/SOA Abolitionists* is edited by Mike Pasquale & Paul Frazier and is published by the Syracuse Peace Council.

Thanks to the following for their contributions to this issue:
Cynthia Banas, Nick Cardell,
Ed Kinane and Ann Tiffany

This newsletter originally appeared as an insert in the October 1999 Peace Newsletter

WHY CLOSE THE SOA?

A National Policy Perspective

by Ann Tiffany

"I strongly believe that the School of the Americas is a valuable tool for assuring access to the military in Latin America, which remains an important political force in the post-cold war era." Former U.S. Ambassador Edwin Corr¹

Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer in his book School of Assassins demonstrates how the U.S. Army's School of the Americas is "an implement of foreign policy." He details the development and rationale behind military alliances with our neighbors to the South and the U.S. efforts to mold them into national security states.² News stories this past summer revealed how this role was played out and how important it might be in the future.

In August The New York Times published an article about Operation Condor, "a secret plan among security forces in six countries to crush left-wing political dissent" (NYT 8/11/99, Archives Unearthed in Paraguay Expose U.S. Allies' Abuses by Diana Jean Schemo). Initiated by Chile in November 1975, police and military forces from Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Bolivia formalized a plan of cooperation. This classic old boy network "allow[s] security officials to take part in joint interrogations, to pursue people across borders and to order surveillance on citizens who sought asylum in other nations." According to the article, the generals were trained at the School of the Americas (then located in Panama). The military regimes "used the club of anti-Communism to snuff out any calls for democracy or labor rights."

During this period the U.S. supported the countries of Operation Condor. In documents declassified in July the FBI was mentioned as providing the regime of Chilean strongman Augusto Pinochet with information about the leaders in a leftist movement in Chile. It also was reported that a U.S. military official, Col. Robert Thierry, "apparently helped draw up the apparatus of the

(Continued on page 3)



HAITI: AN SOA CASE STUDY by Cynthia Banas

In 1989 six Jesuits and two staff members at the Central American University in San Salvador, El Salvador, were slaughtered by soldiers, some of them graduates of the U.S. Army School of the Americas. This event sparked the concentrated, ongoing movement to close the SOA.

The Jesuits were targeted as were teachers, health care workers, church workers; those who believed in the philosophy of Liberation Theology which holds that all people are worthy of human dignity and have the right to humane living and working conditions. Jesuit Jon Sabrino (who spoke at Hamilton College some years ago on this subject) was not killed along with his brother Jesuits only because he was in London at the time.

Attention of SOA crimes has been focused on those atrocities against their own country men, women, and children by Central and Latin American SOA graduates. However SOA graduates also include Haitians. Upon returning to Haiti from the SOA, located at Fort Benning, Georgia, some of these soldiers have been cited for crimes against their own people.

Among the infamous Haitian graduates is Colonel Franck Romain, SOA Class of 1959. Romain served with the elite Palace Guard of "President-for-Life" Francois Duvalier. The Palace Guard were Duvalier's personal bodyguard troops. Francois Duvalier and his son, Jean Claude Duvalier (known as Papa Doc and Baby Doc), ruled Haiti with terror from 1957 - 1987. "On September 11, 1988, armed men broke into the St. Jean Bosco Church while Father Jean Bertrand Aristide was saying Mass and killed 12 parishioners and wounded at least 77. They doused the church in gasoline and set it on fire. Witnesses identified at least two of the gang members as deputies of Colonel Romain, who was then Mayor of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. Colonel Romain later publicly justified the massacre as legitimate." (See The More Things Change: Human Rights in Haiti)

Colonel Gambetta Hyppolite, also a 1959 SOA graduate, ordered his soldiers to fire against the Provincial Electoral Bureau in the city of Gonaives during the 1987 elections as part of a larger army campaign to "stop the democratic elections" (ibid).

Among other Haitian SOA graduates are Major Serge Justafor and Captain Jean Jacques. Captain Jacques was the warden at the Port-au-Prince Penitentiary when U.S. Army Captain Lawrence Rockwood in 1994 tried to investigate human rights abuse there. Rockwood was court-martialed for his attempt. Three months later American troops finally inspected the prison to find prisoners with rotting feet up to their ankles in human excrement (see The Immaculate Invasion).

It is imperative that the efforts to close the SOA include research on all SOA graduates and especially the CIA connections as it has been in Guatemala by Jennifer Harbury's work. And as it has been in Honduras by the fine reporting of the Baltimore Sun. And as it has been by the excellent reportage of Allan Nairn in The Nation. We need to ask why Colonel Franck Romain was given safe passage to the Dominican Republic and who arranged it. Who gave Haitian strongman General Cedras safe passage to Honduras? By whom was the notorious Port-au-Prince police chief and alleged drug kingpin, Michel Francois,

given safe passage to the Dominican Republic?

We need to know why and by whose orders the CIA attempted a character assassination of Jean Bertrand Aristide, the first democratically elected president of Haiti.

In Guatemala and El Salvador the citizens have had the benefit of Truth Commissions in which SOA atrocities have been clearly and publicly documented. A Truth Commission, although without the legal jurisdiction to prosecute those alleged to have committed crimes, does have the responsibility of finding who was responsible for which crimes against the people of their countries. Truth Commissions are a step toward reconciliation.

It is way past time that the United States has a Truth Commission to acknowledge our nation's complicity in so many crimes against our brothers and sisters worldwide and accept responsibility for the SOA's wrongs. But in our country the creation of a Truth Commission will have to come from a grass roots uprising for our country is not one that easily acknowledges its crimes. If so, we would also have museum in Washington, D.C., devoted to our Holocaust against Indigenous People of our continent, highlighting the SOA and its graduates. So it will be a big struggle to obtain a United States Truth Commission, but it is a vital part of our overall struggle for peace and justice and would serve to honor the SOA's many victims.

Cynthia was a member of the Peace Brigades International (PBI) January 1993 delegation to Guatemala, which accompanied Mayan Guatemalans returning to their homeland after a ten-year exile in Chiapas, Mexico. She also served from October to December 1993 with "Cry for Justice" as a human rights observer in Haiti.

**"Rocks in the water don't know
the misery of rocks in the sun."**

"We see from where we stand."

HAITIAN PROVERBS

("Why Close the SOA?" continued from page 1)

police state as he trained police officers for the Technical Section" in Paraguay after General Stroessner seized power in 1954.

A second news story told of a meeting in June of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Guatemala. The agenda was "to discuss future plans to preserve and consolidate democracy in Latin America" (Interconnect, "With a 'Group of Friends' Who Needs Enemies?" by Benita Barhmbhatt, p.3). The U.S. made a proposal, titled "Group of Friends," for a multi-national military force to "protect democracy" throughout the Americas. Ms. Barhmbhatt reports that Ambassador Peter F. Romero, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, asserted that the current OAS system is not equipped to confront new forms of transnational conflict that threaten "democracy and peace, such as drug trafficking, economic dislocations, criminal activity, and massive migrations." The Group of Friends would "offer countries concerned the assistance of the OAS...to prevent a problem from becoming a crisis." This multi-national NATO-like structure was not approved by the OAS members. However, the proposal is sure to be made again. One has only to look at NATO's brutal air war in Kosovo and its contempt for diplomacy and international law (see Noam Chomsky, The New Military Humanism: Lessons from Kosovo, Common Courage, 1999) to know that a "Group of Friends" must be vigorously opposed.

And how does this relate to the SOA? For several years opponents of the SOA have been aware of U.S. and SOA graduates' involvement in the strife in Chiapas, Mexico. That strife began as soon as NAFTA went into effect, undermining the economy of the people of Chiapas. By odd coincidence, in the late 90's Mexico is the country with the most students at the SOA. There's little question that the SOA, through its graduates' network, military hardware training, and counterinsurgency doctrine, will continue to play a role in enforcing and containing fallout from NAFTA and future Latin American trade agreements. These agreements cannot be imposed without guns, and a "Group of Friends" could provide the weapons and the person power to use them. And what a boon the "Group of Friends" would be to the "War on Drugs" -- i.e. the war on the poor -- another area that provides the rationale for increased U.S. military training, weapons, and money. Mexico and Colombia are both recipients of U.S. largess supposedly to end drug trafficking.

Facts and figures about this "war" point to its futility. Yet it continues, and leads in both countries to horrific human rights abuse. The "War on Drugs" is really about protecting access to natural resources and making the countries safe for U.S. investments and for cheap labor. Closing the School of the Americas must continue to be a top priority on the activist's agenda. The Pentagon has demonstrated how vital the SOA is through its vigorous lobbying efforts. In April President Clinton wrote a letter to Congress expressing his pride in the SOA. But as we focus on this critical issue we must be aware that the SOA is only one of many U.S. military training programs in this hemisphere; it's just one chunk of the iceberg.

Ann is currently on tour with ISing It Down!, Central New York's musical assault on the SOA. Ann spent six months in prison for civil disobedience at Fort Benning in 1996 & 1997.

¹From "School of the Americas and U.S. Foreign Policy Attainment in Latin America," an 'information paper' by Joseph C. Leuer, January 1996, p.1, as quoted in School of Assassins.

²A "National Security State" is a regime, sometimes posing as a constitutional democracy, that is in fact dedicated to maintaining a power structure in which popular dissent and initiative are rigorously contained or extirpated so that cheap labor and resources are reserved for domestic and international - especially US - capitalist interests.

PROFESSIONAL "DISCIPLINE" by Paul Frazier

Central New York SOA activist Ann Tiffany, a retired registered nurse, received a letter from the New York State Office of Professional Discipline in

February of this year. The Professional Conduct Officer had determined sufficient evidence existed of professional misconduct to warrant a disciplinary hearing.

The evidence? Ann had been found guilty of a misdemeanor in Columbus, Georgia, protesting at the US Army School of the Americas. A settlement was offered: a \$500 fine and a letter of censure and reprimand. Ann had served six months in federal prison and paid a \$1,500 fine for

"crossing the line" at Ft. Benning after receiving a ban and bar letter the previous year.

Ann: "I was discouraged. I went through this in 1986 after my first civil disobedience action. I went to a hearing then and thought we had made a difference. I fought this then and again in 1999, on principle. To think that my profession would deem to punish me in any way for an act of civil disobedience, particularly in light of my nursing career. I am committed to preventing suffering and death in any way. Closing the SOA would do that. My anger was increased when I was told that it was "routine" to fine and censure. Bob Gottlieb, a Long Island lawyer who was part of a team that represented the SOA 25 in Georgia, agreed to take on the case pro bono. When the state learned a lawyer was involved, they offered to reduce the penalty to 50 hours of community service. That angered me even more. At least I wasn't alone. Bill Griffin, Aggie Lane, and Cynthia Banas came to my support. I was humbled by letters of support from Deb Kenn, Fr. Ted Sizing, Rev. John Backe, Dr. Karl Newton, and Mary Zimmer."



Ann Tiffany speaks to those gathered at Fort Benning in November 1998

HOTELS IN COLUMBUS GA.

**Inquire about SOA Group rate*

*Howard Johnson Inn	706-322-6641	\$64.00
*Best Western	706-568-3300	\$54.00
*Holiday Inn - North	706-324-0231	\$69.00
*Holiday Inn -Ctr.City	706-322-2522	\$55.00
*La Quinta Inn	706-568-1740	\$59.00
*Days Inn -Victory Dr.	706-689-6181	\$50.00
*Days Inn - Exit 4	706-561-4400	\$56.00
*Baymont Inn & Suites	706-323-4344	\$64.95
*Super 8 Hotel	706-322-6580	\$49.95
*Hampton Inn	706-576-5303	\$65.00
*Hilton Columbus	706-324-1800	\$79.00
*Sheraton Inn	706-327-6868	\$69.00
Comfort Suites	706-322-6666	\$79.00
Efficiency Hotels	706-563-7010	\$51.00
Villager Motel, Veteran Pkwy	706-324-3694	\$40.00
Edgewood Motel, Exit 4	706-561-2170	\$38.00
Marriott	706-323-2323	\$75.00
Econo Lodge	706-682-3803	\$43.00
Motel 6	706-687-7214	\$35.99
Extended Stay America	706-653-0131	\$49.00

*Hotels across the state line in Phoenix City,
Alabama (7 miles from the vigil site)*

Days Inn	334-298-1005	\$45.00
Best Western	334-298-8000	\$55.00
Sunset Lodge	334-298-5255	\$31.95
Colonial Inn	334-298-9361	\$31.00
	(Suite w/4 beds)	\$50.00
Ramada Inn	334-448-2030	\$58.00

CAMPING INFORMATION

(November nights in Georgia can drop into the high 30s)

Lake Pines Campground (30 min. north of Columbus)
6404 Garrett Rd., Columbus, GA 31820
No reservation required.

Recorded information: (706) 563-5909 To speak to staff: (706) 561-9675

Roosevelt State Pk. (1 hr. north of Columbus)
Winterized, furnished, 1 & 2 bedroom cabins, as well as camping.
Reservations & non-refundable deposit required (800) 864-7275

TRAVEL TO COLUMBUS, GA

BY CAR

Columbus, Georgia is 100 miles southwest of Atlanta. Take I-85 south from Atlanta then I-185 to Columbus. To get to Ft. Benning get off at Exit 1N (Victory Dr.). Turn left at the second light onto Ft. Benning Rd. to "Welcome to Fort Benning" sign. Parking is very limited at the vigil site. Call your hotel to get specific directions to and from your hotel.

BY AIR

Columbus has an airport serviced by several major airlines. The airport is about six miles from the vigil site. The Groome Shuttle van runs regularly from the Atlanta Airport to Columbus (90 minutes, \$45 round trip). Groome provides service to your hotel. The last shuttle leaves Atlanta at 10:30 pm. Call for details 800-584-6735.

Delta Airlines will give a 10% discount with at least 60 days advance purchase or 5% with less than 60 days advance purchase. Call 800-241-6760 and specify School of Americas Watch code #1310219A.

BY BUS

Columbus has a downtown Greyhound/Trailways bus station, six miles from the vigil site.

NOTE: Columbus DOES NOT have an Amtrak Station.

ATTENTION! CHILDREN & YOUTH

The young people at last year's vigil started a beautiful tradition: folding paper Peace Cranes. Peace Cranes symbolize prayers and efforts to eliminate violence and war. In preparation for this year's vigil SOA Watch is inviting children and youth to fold Peace Cranes and string them in rows of 20-30. Send them with someone traveling to Fort Benning or bring them yourself! Directions for folding Peace Cranes appear in books on Origami (Japanese paper folding) available in public libraries.



CENTRAL N.Y. YORKERS SAY
WILL BE
TIME TO CLOSE THE SOA
CLOSE

Some of the Central New Yorkers attending the 1998 SOA Vigil at Fort Benning



Over 7,000 people participated in the 1998 Vigil at Fort Benning

WHY CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE?

by Nick Cardell

In 1962 psychologist Paul Goodman, author of Growing Up Absurd, published a very small book titled On Drawing the Line. In a chapter called "The Ineffectuality of Some Intelligent People" he wrote, "I am again and again baffled how persons of intellect, of good intention, of strong conviction, reason in a way that must logically lead to an action, and yet do not act. This seems to me to be profoundly pathological, yet how to cure it?" Goodman suggested that the answer lay in a defect of our virtues in that we are "decent and observe the rules of the game, even when the rules are manipulated against us." In other words we are law-abiding citizens. Henry David Thoreau addressed that defect when he wrote, in Civil Disobedience, "It is not desirable to cultivate a respect for the law, so much as for the right."

In downtown Syracuse there is a sculpture in Clinton Square celebrating the rescue of a fugitive slave William Henry (known as Jerry) on Oct. 1, 1851. A group of Syracuse citizens said "NO!" to the federal government, broke Jerry out of jail and refused to allow his return to slavery and possible death.

There are issues, causes so vital that when letters to editors and to Congress, when personal lobbying of our legislators fails to inform the public and fails to move the Congress, then responsible civil disobedience (CD) becomes a means of last resort. Too many of us buy into the cliché, "You can't fight city hall," i.e., government authority. That attitude leads to abuse of power by government and a diminution of true democracy. It is imperative that government power be challenged, especially on life and death issues. CD and its occasional success keep our

(Continued on page 7)

*The Jesuit Community at Le Moyne College and
the Le Moyne College Campus Ministry Office
invite you to attend a*

SERVICE OF PRAYER

Remembering the Martyrs of the
Jesuit University, El Salvador on the
10th Anniversary of their sacrifice

November 16, 1999 - 7:30 P.M.
Panasci Family Chapel,
Le Moyne College,

Those traveling to this year's Vigil at Fort
Benning will be prayed over in God's name and be
sent forth as witnesses at this service

For more information call 445-4110

NONVIOLENCE TRAINING TO BE HELD IN PREPARATION FOR THE NOVEMBER VIGIL

SOA Watch has asked that everyone planning to participate in the November Vigil (even those not planning to cross the line) attend a nonviolence training in their local community. Responding to this request, the CNY/ SOA Abolitionists is hosting a nonviolence trainings in Syracuse. At the training we'll go over the following topics: the logistics of getting to Fort Benning, legal concerns, vigil schedule, the scenario of the CD action and the practice & feelings grounding nonviolent action. Facilitators will be Andy Major, Ann Tiffany, John Fitzsimmons, Ed Kinane and Margaret Birdleough. The training is free of charge and open to the public.

The training will take place on Thursday October 21 from 6pm - 9pm at the Franciscan Center, on Grant Blvd. in Syracuse. For more information on the training or the logistics of getting to Fort Benning, call Ann Tiffany at (315) 478-4571.

DIRECTIONS TO THE FRANCISCAN CENTER:

On the north side of Syracuse, go to the intersection of Court St. & Grant Blvd. (Court Street runs perpendicular to Salina Street. Grant Blvd. is parallel to Salina St., about 6 blocks east of Salina Street.) Go south on Grant Blvd. and turn left into the first driveway. Signs for the meeting will be on the building adjacent to the parking lot.

NUNCA MAS! NEVER AGAIN!

10th Anniversary Commemoration to
honor the Jesuits, the women and
the thousands of others killed by SOA graduates

Vigil and Civil Disobedience to Close the SOA

November 19-21, 1999
Main Entrance,
Fort Benning, Georgia

NEEDED:

10,000 People to Stand Vigil
5,000 People to Cross the Line
100 People to Risk Prison

Fri. 11/19/99: Civil Disobedience Training for those who will cross the line
Sat 11/20/99: Vigil at Main Entrance and nonviolence training for those planning to cross the line & those planning to risk prison
Sun. 11/21/99: Vigil and Civil Disobedience

Help represent CNY at this historic event.



Actor Martin Sheen leads 2300 people "across the line" at Fort Benning in 1998

SENTENCES REVERSED FOR SOA PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

At 2:30 pm, September 13, 1999 Ed Kinane, of Syracuse walked out of Allenwood Federal Prison Camp a free man. He had already served over eleven months of his sixteen month sentence for two separate 1997 protests at Fort Benning, Georgia against the School of the Americas. The sixteen month sentence was composed of two consecutive sentences: six months for a misdemeanor and ten months for a felony.

On September 2, the Eleventh Circuit United States Court of Appeals reversed Judge J. Robert Elliott declaring that Kinane and three other co-defendants should serve the sentences concurrently, not consecutively. The prosecution agreed not to petition the Court of Appeals for a rehearing of its decision. Such a petition would have delayed Kinane's release. Kinane and three co-defendants (Fr. Bill Bichsel SJ, Sr. Marge Eilerman OSF, and Mary Trotochaud) are being released on personal recognizance bonds subject to a re-sentencing hearing.

Kinane, 55, says "I'm very pleased to be home. I'm eager to get back to working to close the SOA. I didn't like being sidelined this past year, but having SOA prisoners of conscience receiving such harsh sentences has really helped to publicize the issue. Our inconvenience was nothing compared to what the people of Latin America have suffered thanks to the SOA." The appeals court decision also is leading to the early release of Kinane's three co-defendants. A fourth co-defendant, Kathleen Rumpf of Syracuse, completed her sentence in July and was released at that time.

("Professional 'Discipline'" continued from page 3)

With strong supporting testimony from Syracuse witnesses Shirley Novak and Deb Kenn; Ann gave testimony on July 21 in New York City. She was given time to speak at length about her motivation for committing civil disobedience and to tell the truth about the SOA. Ann presented the overwhelming evidence that the SOA has trained military personnel in torture and assassination. While Ann waits to hear the final recommendation of the hearing on Professional Conduct, the "jury" has already spoken: There is no need to knock when the house is on fire and the children are burning. And this: Professionals, as well as nonprofessionals, need to act courageously in times of trouble.

Paul is a long time activist and member of the PNL Editorial Board.

POSTSCRIPT: On September 24 Ann received the Report of the Regents Review Committee. The committee recommended to the Board of Regents that Ann be censured and reprimanded by a vote of two to one. The one dissenter felt that, under the circumstances, any penalty could have a "chilling" effect on free speech.

!SING IT DOWN! Songs to Close the SOA

!Sing it Down! is a concert/show consisting of 45 minutes of topical folk music about Latin America and closing the SOA. A 20 minute video follows with a Q & A session facilitated by Ann Tiffany and Ed Kinane, Syracuse SOA activists who have spent time in prison protesting the SOA. The show is a great way to get people involved in the issue as well as to have tons of fun. Its very informative, very political, and very affordable. All proceeds from the CD sales go to the SOA Watch! Call today to order a complementary press packet with CD. For booking information contact:

Jamie McCallum, 5516 12th Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98105
Singitdown@aol.com (315) 478-4571

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On September 22, 1999 the US House of Representatives Foreign Operations Appropriations conference committee voted 8-7 to reject funding cuts to the SOA. This move effectively nullifies the July 29, 1999 vote in which the House voted 230-197 in favor of Rep. Moakley's amendment to the Foreign Appropriations Bill to cut about \$2 million from the SOA training funds. Unfortunately, this also means that the Senate conferees will not take up the issue of the SOA this year.

This setback does not affect HR732 and S873, the House and Senate bills that call for the outright closing of the SOA. We have another year in this Congressional session to gather enough co-sponsors to bring these bills to a vote. **Area Representatives Walsh, Hinchey, and Boehlert are all co-sponsors of HR 732 and also all voted in favor of Rep. Moakley's amendment. Senator Schumer is a co-sponsor of S873. Please call them say "thanks" for their vote and for their support! Senator Moynihan has not yet signed on as a co-sponsor and should be urged to do so. A list of current co-sponsors and the text of the legislation can be found at www.soaw.org.**

It is also important to thank those conferees who voted to close the SOA, and to chastise those who voted in essence to nullify the House vote. **Please thank: Obey (WI), Pelosi (CA), Lowey (NY), Jackson (IL), Kilpatrick (MI), Sabo (MN), and Porter (IL).** A special thanks should go to Rep. Lowey for requesting a recorded vote, and to Rep. Porter for being the only Republican to vote to retain the Moakley Amendment. We should also especially thank Rep. Moakley (MA) who introduced the original amendment and worked hard to defend it. Please express displeasure to: Young (FL), Callahan (AL), Wolf (VA), Packard (CA), Knollenberg (MI), Kingston (GA), Lewis (CA), Blunt (MO).

**Call the Capitol Switchboard:
(202) 224-3121**

Write:

The Hon. (name)	The Hon. (name)
US Senate	US House of Reps.
Washington DC 20510	Washington DC 20515

"The choice today is no longer between violence and nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

("Why Civil Disobedience?" continued from page 5)

democratic government from becoming what it is in so many Latin American countries—a form without substance (Indonesia is a tragic example of such).

Such countries have democratic forms and the name of democracy, but are actually not governments "of, by and for the people...." They are all-powerful institutions supported and controlled by military and paramilitary forces. They govern by intimidation: disappearance, torture, assassination and mass murder. The US military aids and abets such atrocities by providing them with specialized training. Governments become all powerful when there are no institutions or groups strong enough to challenge them.

When Ralph Waldo Emerson discovered Thoreau in jail and asked, "Henry, what are you doing in there?" Henry responded, "Waldo, what are you doing out there?" Emerson had a useful answer; he paid Thoreau's fine and got him out of jail.

CD is not for everyone; lobbying, letter writing and support are. Risking prison is not something everyone can consider; vigils at Ft. Benning are. Join us in November. Help us close the SOA, the School of Assassins.

Nick is Minister Emeritus of May Memorial Unitarian Society in Syracuse and spent six months in prison for civil disobedience at Fort Benning in 1996 & 1997.



Nick Cardell (R) is arrested at an SOA protest at the Pentagon in 1997

FOR SALE SOA/ABOLITIONIST T-SHIRTS AND BANDANAS

The CNY / SOA Abolitionists have designed the MOST POPULAR & BEST SELLING SOA Movement T-shirts to date. Each shirt reads "You can jail the resisters but you can't jail the resistance." Matching bandanas have also been brisk sellers. Not only do they look great, but they're great educational tools! TO PURCHASE T-SHIRTS OR BANDANAS CALL JULIENNE OLDFIELD AT (315) 475-6251 COST: T-SHIRTS, \$10 AND BANDANAS \$3



*Sr. Megan
Rice
and John
Fitzsimmons
model
CNY/SOA
Abolitionist
T-Shirts*

NONVIOLENT DISCIPLINE

*(This statement is read by all participants at
SOA Watch Vigils, Rallies & CD actions)*

*As participants today, we will reflect upon and
abide by these commitments:*

- ◆ *At all times, we will use our anger at injustice as a positive nonviolent force for change.*
- ◆ *We will refuse to return the assaults — verbal or physical — of those who oppose or disagree with us.*
- ◆ *We will refrain from insults or swearing*
- ◆ *We will protect those who oppose us from insults or attack.*
- ◆ *If arrested, we will behave in an exemplary manner. We will not evade the legal consequences of our actions.*
- ◆ *As members of a nonviolent demonstration, we will follow the directions of the designated coordinators. In the event of a serious disagreement, we will remove ourselves from the action.*
- ◆ *Our attitude as conveyed through words, symbols and actions will be one of openness, friendliness and respect toward all people we encounter, including military personnel, police officers and members of the larger community.*
- ◆ *We will not damage property.*
- ◆ *We will not bring or use any drugs or alcohol.*
- ◆ *We will not run or use threatening motions.*
- ◆ *We will carry no weapons.*

*(Modified from the Nevada Desert Experience's Hiroshima/
Nagasaki Interfaith Peace Witness Nonviolent Direct Action
Strategy Workshop August 1987)*

RESOURCES TO BUILD THE MOVEMENT

School of Assassins

An 18 min. video narrated by Susan Sarandon, \$17.95. Maryknoll (800) 227-8523 and a paperback by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer \$15. Orbis Books (800) 258-5838

An Insider Speaks Out

Video, \$18. Former SOA instructor, Maj. Joseph Blair gives compelling reasons to close the SOA. SOA Watch, PO Box 4566, Washington DC 20017

Crossing the Line

16 min. video narrated by Susan Sarandon, \$13. Captures the hope and commitment of last year's Vigil. SOA Watch, PO Box 4566, Washington DC 20017

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP CLOSE THE SOA?

- Come to the Vigil at Fort Benning the weekend of November 19-21.
- Take part in nonviolence training before going to Fort Benning. Call (315) 478-4571.
- Take part in an Ecumenical Prayer Service Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Martyrdom of the six Jesuits and two women in El Salvador on November 16 at 7:30 pm at Le Moyne College.
- Call congresspeople about the need to cut off funding for the SOA.
- Arrange a !Sing it Down! event for your organization, school, congregation or group.
- Buy CNY/SOA T-shirts and bandanas - and wear them all the time!
- Get a resolution passed by your school, group or congregation calling for the closure the SOA. Call (315) 478-4571 for samples.
- Contact the CNY/SOA Abolitionists to take part in any number of organizing activities. (315) 478-4571.
- Know that the efforts going on NOW to close this school of assassins are having and will have international impact. Know that the school has brought death and destruction into the lives of thousands in poor nations and that this school must be closed. Know and act accordingly.

CNY / SOA Abolitionists Need Your Financial Support

The CNY/SOA Abolitionists need your continued support to keep this campaign thriving. Mailings and flyers... phone calls... organizing a major events with Roy Bourgeois in Central New York — all cost this all-volunteer effort.

We are proud of the influence Central New Yorkers have had in the campaign to close the *School of Assassins*—from hundreds traveling to Ft. Benning, to witnessing and lobbying and vigiling in Washington, DC, to six month and one year and sixteen month prison sentences.

Help us close the SOA! Contribute what you can. Checks can be made out to CNY Witness for Peace and sent to Mike Pasquale, Le Moyne College, 1419 Salt Springs Rd., Syracuse, NY 13214.

Peace Newsletter

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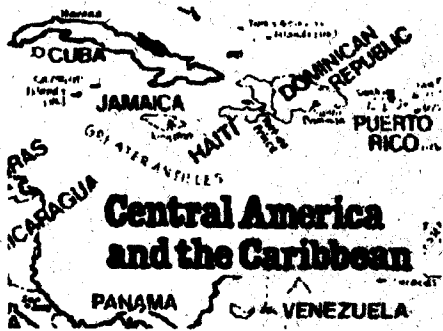
\$_____ additional donation for all your great work!

This is a renewal

Please contact me about volunteering.

My address has changed

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



Central America and the Caribbean

Caribbean/Latin America Coalition Notes

The next trip to La Estancia in El Salvador will occur in February 2000. Please call Shirley Novak (446-6099) for information.

The Labor Religion Coalition, UAW Local 624, and CLAC are cosponsoring a talk by Marta Ojeda and Manuel Mondragon, organizer-activists from Mexico. They will speak at May Memorial Friday Oct. 8 at 7:30 PM, on "Sweatshops in the 21st Century: Eyewitness Report from the Maquiladoras in Mexico."

Over the past five months, attendance at CLAC's monthly meeting has declined. It is time for an examination of CLAC's purpose. We need the thoughts of those who have participated in Latin America solidarity movements or may become involved in the future. Please join us at our regular meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 13 at 6 PM at the Syracuse Peace Council. We will decide the future of CLAC. In light of some members' concerns about the lack of Colombia activism, it is possible that Colombia organizing could provide a new focus. Bring a vegetarian dish to pass, and we'll have a productive discussion.

—Paul Weichselbaum

Ronnie Dugger at the People's RoundTable

The People's Roundtable, in cooperation with Rochester's Alliance for Democracy chapter, will bring Ronnie Dugger all the way from Texas to our first forum of the Fall. Mr. Dugger will speak on Thursday, October 28 at 7 PM at South Presbyterian Church (corner of W. Colvin and S. Salina Streets) about "Alternative Politics in the United States and in Your Hometown." Local political activists, including representatives of Working Families Party, the Greens, and the Socialist Party, are being invited to join in an open-ended discussion after Mr. Dugger's presentation.

We may also see some "mainstream" candidates, seeking votes on the Thursday before election day. But the night will be dedicated to addressing the following goals as outlined by The Alliance for Democracy: True democracy that emphasizes the voice and will of the people, pursuit of social and economic justice and the development of alternative democratic, human-sized economic systems that empower communities and minimize harm to the environment.

The People's RoundTable is an open forum, dedicated to addressing topics of interest and relevance to Syracuse's South and West Side neighborhoods. Our goal is to present programs monthly, except during July and August. We are in need of additional community involvement for this event and future efforts. For further information, contact Paul Weichselbaum at 446-6099, e-mail: pweichs@juno.com.

—Paul Weichselbaum

50 Years of Gay/Lesbian Activism

The Stonewall Committee will host a program on Saturday October 30 featuring Barbara Gittings, pioneer of the early gay and lesbian movement, who will make a presentation entitled "Gay and Smiling: Tales From Our Fifty Years of Gay Activism." The free program begins at 7 PM at May Memorial Society, 3800 East Genesee Street in Syracuse.

The presentation will focus on the historical, social and political birth of the modern gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) movement by providing insights into the activism excluded from the history taught in our schools. Since the 1960's, Gittings' activism has included writing, editing, organizing and

education which has been instrumental in helping to bring about fundamental changes in the way many people view homosexuality, particularly within the psychiatric profession.

Gittings will also attend a community dinner preceding her presentation. The dinner will generate funds to purchase books for GLBT students in local high schools, helping them know that they are not alone and that there is a community for them. The dinner is at 5 PM. A donation on a sliding scale of \$0-\$20 is suggested.

For further information, call 422-0144.

—Bonnie Strunk



Coming Out Day

Celebrate Coming Out Day at the Westcott Community Center as national touring singer-songwriter Jamie Anderson performs on Saturday, October 9 at 8 pm.

Jamie is well known in the gay and lesbian communities and uses a variety of tools to get her audience to think. According to the *Tucson Weekly*, "Anderson's sense of humor and lack of pretense ease you into what is a potential political and social war zone without inflicting any serious wounds." Syracuse-based singer-songwriter April Love opens for Jamie.

Admission to this event, the first of a 10-part Second Saturday Series at the Westcott Community Center, is \$7 (\$6 to center members). Tickets are available in advance at the Center, 826 Euclid Avenue and at My Sisters' Words, 304 North McBride Street. Refreshments and performers' CDs will be available for purchase on the night of the event. Child care will be available.

For more information, contact the Westcott Community Center at (315) 478-8634 or e-mail: behumphrey@aol.com.

—Barb Humphrey

GLBT Film Fest Next Month

The 5th Annual Syracuse Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Film Festival is tentatively scheduled for the first three Thursdays in November: 4th, 11th and 18th. The festival will benefit the Stonewall Committee. At PNL press time, details are not confirmed, but expect to see feature films as well as short films and videos produced by independent film makers. Keep an eye out for details, or contact Showcase Productions at 382-2222, email: showcase_productions@juno.com.

—Susie Weiss



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The Peace Newsletter

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 groups give credits and send us a copy flagging the reprint. For-profit groups, please inquire.

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.

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Cris Williamson & Tret Fure in Concert, Friday, November 5, 8:00 pm at H.W. Smith School, 1130 Salt Springs Rd. Tickets \$16 in advance, \$18 at the door. Call Showcase Productions at 382-2222 for information.

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Cahill & Death Penalty Continued from the cover

working to make the community safe from forces of destruction and hate.

Violence has a corrosive effect on the people and environment of a community. Even when we ourselves are not experiencing violence, its presence floats over our sense of security and well being like a dense fog. So should we not regard the successful prosecution of such a vicious crime coupled with the removal of the murderer from the human race as a major act for safety and justice?

I cannot. Instead I have a feeling of uncleanness. I want to wash my hands clean but, like Lady Macbeth, that will not happen. The stain is not physical. It is moral and spiritual. Taking this man's life does not resolve the problem. Rather, it deepens it. For Jeff Cahill is no longer a threat to our community. He has killed the only person to whom he was a threat.

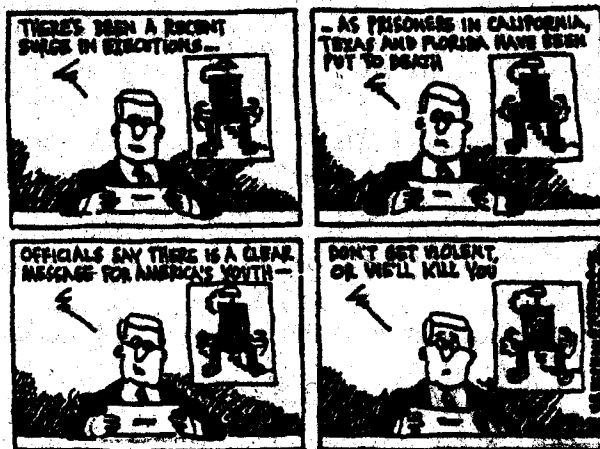
There are other ways to punish him, achieve justice and assure the community's safety.

Capital punishment in this case may satisfy genuine moral and emotional outrage at his action, but it will not bring justice to this community. Rather, it shows us acting with the same disregard for human life as did he. Here is the serious logical inconsistency.

Let me first be clear: I do NOT oppose capital punishment in all cases. I believe capital punishment is a viable alternative when, even though he or she be confined, the person convicted represents a serious and ongoing threat to the population at large, as for example the ability of an Adolph Hitler to continue to influence people to acts of violence and cru-

Rev. Dr. G. Douglas Eddy is the pastor of The First United Church of East Syracuse and chair of the Religious Task Force of the Syracuse Area Domestic Violence Coalition.

elty. I oppose capital punishment that does not serve the purpose of protection of the state or security of the populace, which is to say capital punishment is an appropriate sentence in only the rarest of cases. On that criterion, I find neither justification nor justice in this sentence.



There can be no moral satisfaction when we replace a life taken by taking another life. That flies in the face of the basic principles of peacemaking. Jeff Cahill's death will in no way redeem or bring moral satisfaction to the community and family, who are in agony as a result of his acts. Some may feel revenged or satisfied that he no longer will breathe the same air as the rest of us, but that is not a moral answer: it carries the anger of revenge. I would hope our institutions would call us to a higher moral position.

There can be no spiritual satisfaction in the taking of Jeff Cahill's life. As a Christian I live in the belief in God's grace which can and does break into our lives at any moment. The founder of my religious tradition was himself a victim of state sanctioned capital punishment. The Apostle Paul was, by our traditions, a murderer of Christians who was found redeemable by God. Life is sacred and

a constant promise of redemption lies behind every minute of it. From my perspective, the taking of Jeff Cahill's life demonstrates a failure to trust in the redeeming work of God. Not that there are no consequences to his actions, but rather that we do not give up on God's work. Like it or not, he is created as we, and though he treated life with cold indifference, we are not made better by doing the same. In the eyes of God, we all, I suspect, look pretty sad, for this sentence is a failure of spiritual will.

As one who has worked long and hard to make this a safe community, who has proudly partnered with (and will continue to proudly partner with) members of the prosecution team in this effort, I find no satisfaction in this sentence. It simply affirms that violence is an acceptable act even if there are responsible alternatives. It is not a goal toward which I have been working, for it runs contrary to the basic principles I hold regarding human dignity, life's sanctity and a morally responsible community. I want to feel satisfied that now Jeff Cahill has been convicted, justice has been done, and a message has been sent to our society that we do value the most vulnerable and will punish willful violence. But deep inside of me there is dissatisfaction, a restless uneasiness that we have responded to violence with violence. The cycle continues, our efforts are but masks of the same mindset.

My hope is that the unity forged to overcome violence in our cooperative efforts will bring a new sharing of perspective that will lead to re-examination of justice and sentence. But for now, there is sadness: not because a horrible crime has resulted in conviction and sentence, but that even in his guilt, Jeff Cahill has forced us to mimic his violence. That is not very satisfying. The trial is over, but the horror continues.

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Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

November 1999 PNL 685



Late August 1999, Dili, East Timor. Photo: John Miller/ETAN

East Timor—Free At Last?

John Fitzsimmons

On August 30, 1999, the citizens of East Timor voted overwhelmingly (78.5 percent) for independence from Indonesia. Since January 1999, when President Habibie of Indonesia announced the plan for a referendum, the militia groups in East Timor have engaged in a campaign of terror in an attempt to frighten the East Timorese into voting against independence. That campaign escalated dramatically on September 5, the day after the result of the vote was made public. The capital city of Dili was burned and looted. Hundreds of thousands of civilians fled to the mountains to escape the militias. Two hundred-fifty thousand civilians were forcibly transported to camps in West Timor where they were kept hostage. The militia groups operated under direct control of the Indonesian army. By

September 8 it was clear that the army could not or would not stop the militia groups. On September 13 President Habibie bowed to international pressure, allowing a UN force entrance into East Timor.

The UN force, Interfet, began arriving September 20, and the Indonesian army has since returned to Indonesia. By late October many of the militia fighters had crossed the border into West Timor; others stayed in East Timor. There have been several armed conflicts between the militias and Interfet. Interfet officers fear that elements of the militias are planning on guerrilla warfare.

On October 19 the Indonesian parliament endorsed independence for East Timor based on the results of the August 30 vote.

The UN, which is scheduled to receive a formal transfer of power from Indonesia by December 31, is in the process of creating a

transitional authority to govern East Timor. The UN has not decided if representatives of the militia groups will be included in the authority. Xanana Gusmao, leader of the Timorese resistance, said he will not serve in that body alongside militia members. For two or three years the country will be a UN protectorate, after which elections are planned.

THE HISTORY

Portugal colonized East Timor in the 16th century. Their rule was brutal, with slave labor administered by whip, existing until the 1940s. As late as 1970 the illiteracy rate was 90 percent. Dili was still without electricity, paved roads, or a water supply in 1970. In 1975 the Portuguese left abruptly, in large part due to the fierce, unrelenting resistance of the Timorese

Continued on page 4

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call for send the info to the Peace Council at 472-5478. Deadline: 10 days before the event.

See maintains an online version of this calendar with updates and more at www.peace.org/calendar.htm

7 Socialist Forum. Topic: Radical Perspectives on Corporate Globalization: the Situation in Mexico's Chiapas & Michoacán Regions. Westcott Community Center. 3pm. Free. 475-2395.
Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus chicken & biscuit dinner. Tu Tu Venue Restaurant, 731 James St. 4-7pm. \$10 advance, \$12 at door. 476-4329.

14 Clean-up day at Westcott Community Center. 10am-2pm. 476-8634.
SAGE/Upstate "Fitness, Fun & Food" and annual Thanksgiving dinner. First Presbyterian Church, 620 W. Genesee St. 4:30pm.
EVERY SUN: 51 Percent, Women's Issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.

21 New Environment Association potluck & meeting. Friends Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. 6pm. 446-8009.
EVERY SUN: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.
Demonstrate to close the School of Benning. GA. Call 472-5478 for carpool info.

28 EVERY SUN: "Common Threads," acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm.

60 Minutes. People's Cable. Ch. 12, 8pm.
Produced by Peace Council. Tune in, tape it, share it!

1 Nov. 1-Dec. 22: "Looking at Cuba Today," photographs by Steve Cagan. Light Work Gallery, Watson Complex, 316 Waverly Ave. 10am-10pm. Reception Dec. 10, 6-8pm. 443-2450.
People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center. 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.
Queer As Folk, episodes 5-8. "The Best Gay TV Show you may never see." Sponsored by Stonewall Community & Open Doors. Clifford Auditorium. HBC, SU quad. 7pm. \$6 general, \$3 students.

8 Nov. 8-9: NYS Labor-Religion Conference. "Organizing for a Just Economy: the Nuts & Bolts of Ethics & Economics." Schuyler Inn, Albany. (518) 459-5400 x6294.
Syracuse United Neighborhood Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 476-7475.
Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WENA) meeting. Peit Library, Concord Pl. 7-9pm. 479-7301.
Eastside Neighborhood Arts, Cultural & Tech. Center mtg. ENIP office, 204 Cherry St. 6pm. 476-7475.
People for Animal Rights bus-tress mtg. 7pm. Call 468-7877 for location.
Syracuse United Neighborhoods/ Westside meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddes & Delaware. 7:30pm. 476-7475.

15 EVERY MON.: HIV+ Issues Group meets. 6:30-9pm. Sponsored by AIDS Community Resources. Call for place, 475-2430.
22 EVERY MON.: Middle Eastern Dance with Zoe Artemis. Westcott Community Center. 5:15-6:15pm. Fee. 474-7084.

23 Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. 1st Unitarian Universalist Society, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.
EVERY TUE: Middle Eastern Dance with Zoe Artemis. Westcott Community Center. 5:15-6:15pm. Fee. 474-7084.

29 EVERY MON.-FRI.: Westcott Teen Program. Westcott Community Center. 2-5pm. 478-8634.
EVERY MON: Committee on Women & Art meeting to help plan the annual Matilineage Symposium. 132C Schaffer Art Building, SU. 7:30pm.
EVERY MON: Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.

2 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.
Peace Action monthly program. "Glitches & Gremilins: Y2K & Global Security." May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.
Nov. 1-Dec. 17: "In the Field of Black Belts: Kaporov Photographs in Albania & Italy," photographs by Ernie Watson. Light Work Gallery, Watson Complex, 316 Waverly Ave. 10am-10pm. Reception Nov. 6, 5-7pm. 443-2450.

9 Nov. 9-10: NYS Labor-Religion Conference. "Organizing for a Just Economy: the Nuts & Bolts of Ethics & Economics." Schuyler Inn, Albany. (518) 459-5400 x6294.
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Syracuse United Neighborhoods/ Westside meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddes & Delaware. 7:30pm. 476-7475.

16 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.
Proud Voices, an open mic for female performing artists. Men are welcomed as audience members to support the performers. 7pm sign up. 7:30pm start. \$2-5.
EVERY TUE: Open Mic Night. Happy Endings: Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.
23 Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. 1st Unitarian Universalist Society, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.

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EVERY MON: Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.

30 EVERY TUE: Syracuse Community Radio meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 478-4769.
EVERY MON, TUES, THURS: Golden Gate for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 12pm. New friends, lunch, programs. 478-8634.

3 EVERY WED: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-6226.
Southeast University Neighborhood Association meeting. Evvin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm.
Latin American Film Series: "Sweet Power," Brazil (1986). Uris Hall, Cornell Univ., 8pm. Free.

10 HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.
NOW GNY Chapter meeting. Marine Midland Bank, 360 S. Warren. 7pm. 487-3188.
Caribbean/Latin America Coalition working potluck at Syracuse Peace Council. 6-7:30pm. 478-4571.
Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.

17 NAACP meeting. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-8533.
Syracuse United Neighborhoods/ Skunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.
Sierra Club monthly meeting. 5 Hick Hall, SUNY ESF. 7:30pm. Martha, 492-4745.
Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker. Benefit Dinner. St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center, Winton St. off Burnet Ave. 5:30pm. \$3-\$15 donation. 471-8853.
Latin American Film Series: "Rio Negro," Venezuela (1980). Uris Hall, Cornell Univ., 8pm. Free.

24 Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SFC, 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Call to check date.
EVERY WED: Syracuse Community Choir rehearsal. Come sing without auditions. Westcott Community Center. 7:30pm. 487-8607.

24 EVERY TUE: Syracuse Community Radio meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 478-4769.
EVERY MON, TUES, THURS: Golden Gate for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 12pm. New friends, lunch, programs. 478-8634.

4 Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 476-8226.
EVERY THU: Women's Voices radio program. WAER, FM 88.3. 6-7pm. Pat. 446-7259.
Syracuse United Neighborhoods Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 476-7475.

11 EVERY THU: Syracuse Zapateista Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 6:30pm. Aca. 423-4783.
GLBT Film Festival: "Bedrooms & Hallways" (1999). Benefit for Stonewall Committee. Westcott Center. 7pm. 635-6732.

18 GLBT Film Festival: "Batter Them Chocolate" (1999). Benefit for Stonewall Committee. Best Feature Film Audience Award at Toronto Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. Westcott Cinema. 7pm. 635-6732.
University Neighbors Lecture. Mary Karr, author of "The Liars Club" & winner of the Pushcart Prize. Westcott Community Center. 7:30pm. 478-8634.
Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 208 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-6237.

25 Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. 475-1878.
Thornden Park Association meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carole Sims on for location. 475-2807.
EVERY THU: Sitting Meditation at Women's INFO, 601 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free.

26 Nov. 26-Dec. 3: International Youth Peace Week. Contact War Resisters League for info: (212) 228-0450.

5 Taste of the Arts show opening & reception "On the Surface" featuring works of Roger Morris, Coleette Copeland & Roxanne Ranz. Plymouth Church. 5-7:30pm. Show runs until Dec. 10.
Showcase Productions presents Chris Williamson & Traci Fure in concert. Smith School, 1130 Salt Springs Rd. 8pm. \$16 advance, \$18 at door. 382-2222.
Nov. 5, 6, 7: Showsting Productions & Theatre Unbound present "Sketches From a Black Girl's Diary." Poetry, short stories & music-examining issues of racism, sex, gender, love & acceptance. Salt City Playhouse, 601 South Crouse Ave. 8pm (9pm Sunday). Tickets \$15, students/seniors \$10. 479-0914.

12 Nov. 12-14: 14th Annual Regional Gathering of War Tax Resisters. "Strengthening the Movement." Voluntown, CT. (413) 572-4644.
Nov. 12-14: "Rebuilding Bridges: The New Connection Between Students & Labor" Conference at Cornell Univ., Ithaca.

19 EVERY FRI: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

26 Nov. 26-Dec. 3: International Youth Peace Week. Contact War Resisters League for info: (212) 228-0450.

6 21st Annual Unsung Heroine Awards Dinner. Sponsored by CNY NOW. Holiday Inn, Carrier Circle. 6:30pm. \$30. 492-2222 for reservations.
Nov. 5-6: Obsequio Harvest Festival. Harvest dinner & workshops on Lakota beading, high painting, Navajo silverworking, snow shoe making. Unishan Church, 183 Riverside Dr., Binghamton. (607) 729-0016.

13 Westcott Jug Suckers playing at Westcott Community Center. 6pm.
Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus. Holiday Potluck. Pride Community Center, 745 N. Salina St. 12-4pm. \$10 for 2 doses & negatives. 428-1650.

20 EVERY SAT: KOs for the Westcott Community Center. 12-1pm. Free. 478-8634.
Beyond Bowls and Arrows: A Six Nations Perspective. Past, Present and Future. 3rd of 3 seminars designed to give a North American Indian perspective on individual and overall cultural development. \$25 registration fee. Santa Maria Among the Iroquois. 453-6767.
EVERY SAT: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

27 Pax Christi meeting. Stocum House, 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woolver, 446-1683.
EVERY SAT: Food Not Bombs serving free food at Westcott Community Center. 12-2pm. Daniel, 479-8659.

Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar
November 1999
Mark Your Calendar:
December 4-5
Plowshares Craftsfair & Winter Peace Festival
Southwest Community Center

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

Peacetime Economy? The Cold War is Over?

The mission of the Syracuse Peace Council continues to be working for peace and social justice. The times may be a changing — our challenges haven't. Instead of "Duck and Cover" drills to protect them from Soviet missiles, children now have metal detectors and body searches to protect them from themselves. The threat of ballistic missiles is replaced by deadly ozone holes ...

Though we would like to believe otherwise, we know that we are not at peace. While the face of violence and exploitation keeps changing, our mission is still relevant and our work is still needed. The Peace Council, like its counterparts around the world, makes sure that a voice against war and violence is present in our community.

We recently included this message in an outreach letter to our subscribers which also contained a farewell letter from staff person Tim Judson. Tim concluded with this important plea for support...

"It's going to take more than a dozen committed people on a shoestring budget to mobilize and build our movement. It's not belief, nor hope, nor probably even fear that gets the chick to break out of the eggshell. It just does it. Survival isn't about the status quo, it's about change. And we all need to be part of it. Please think about how you can help this happen at SPC. Whether it's by volunteering, sharing your skills, getting involved on a committee, getting a friend involved, becoming a pledger or increasing your donation level. It's all part of the solution."

To keep informed with special communications and newsletter stuffers, subscribe to the PNL. For a complete copy of Tim's farewell letter, contact us.

Pen vs Sword - If the pen is mightier than the sword, then the Peace Newsletter's (PNL) need for writers, editors, graphics and layout people will be readily met. We like pens over swords. We prefer words over assault. We believe the work of educating, agitating, and organizing is well served by a creative, good-looking, and well-written PNL.

Call the SPC—472-5478—and leave your name, phone number, or email address. We invite new writers and artists to join the work of producing the PNL., a critical voice in Central New York nonviolent politics.

HAMMERING SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES Craftsfair

Come celebrate with us at the 29th annual Plowshares Winter Holiday Peace Festival and Craftsfair. 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 and crafts mart, Plowshares provides an opportunity to shop at a non-chain store located most definitely outside the mall. This will be our 9th year at the Southwest Community Center. Our ties to the urban community are becoming stronger every year as Plowshares has become part of Southwest's regular calendar of events. The Southwest location provides full wheelchair accessibility, free parking, and plenty of space 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 newcomer friend (or two or three)
- 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 (arranged 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

Still Accepting Applications

Syracuse Peace Council Staff position:

Publication Coordinator

Primary responsibility—
monthly newsletter (PNL)
20-30 hours a week
Movement wages

Required skills:

Commitment to nonviolence/peace and
social justice issues
Computer literacy
Desktop publishing
Excellent verbal and written
communication skills

Send resume and writing sample to:

SPC-Staff search
924 Burnet Ave
Syracuse, NY 13203



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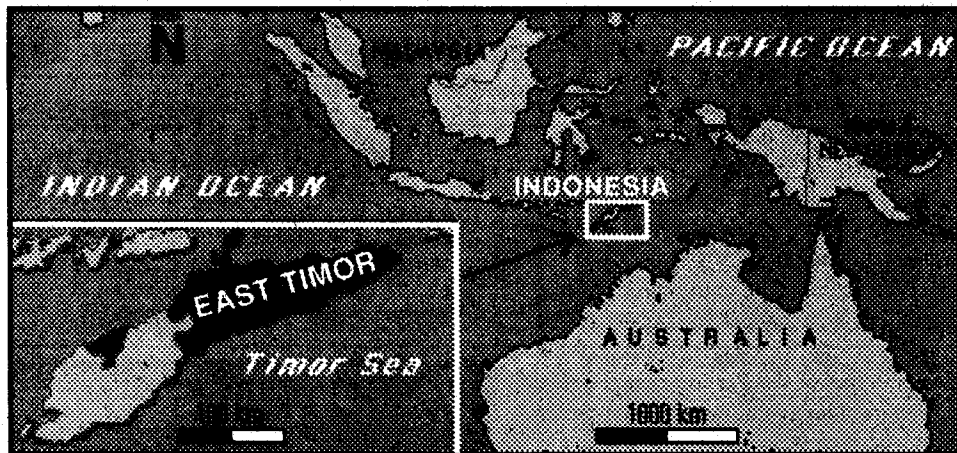


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East Timor Continued from cover

people. They made no provision for self-governance of the newly-freed nation. Ten days after the Portuguese left, Indonesia invaded. During the first five years of the occupation 200,000 East Timorese were killed in the military terror, or died from the resulting starvation and disease.

Habibie took over after the dictator Suharto was forced from office in May, 1997. The new government considered the problem of East Timor too great a burden, considering the effective resistance of the Timorese people and the enormous economic problems facing Indonesia. This led to the surprise announcement on January 27, 1999, of the August 30 referendum.



The army was also surprised—they had not been consulted, and opposed the plan. They gave official approval but behind the scenes plotted to prevent a vote for independence. Working closely with, and controlling, militia groups, the army initiated a campaign of terror to intimidate the Timorese into voting against independence.

The Habibie government and the Indonesian people were not aware of the magnitude of the army's insubordination. On May 5 the Indonesian government and the UN signed an agreement stating that the army would guarantee security during the run-up to August 30 and after the vote was made public. The army, in direct violation of the agreement, directed the militias to increase their campaign of intimidation. The Indonesian army's plan, in case the vote was for independence, was to challenge and disrupt the implementation of the result of the vote by all means possible, and that is what happened.

THE US CONNECTION

The US has considered its foreign policy and military relationship with Indonesia a high priority since gaining independence from the Dutch. In 1965, when the Indonesian army killed 500,000 communists and anyone who was suspected of being a troublemaker, the CIA supplied them with thousands of names of "suspicious" citizens. The US has supplied Indonesia with a billion dollars worth of weapons. We have trained thousands of their military, even after Congress, aware of the oppression by the Indonesian army of its own people, cut off authorization for training.

In the wake of the recent crisis in East Timor, Daniel Schorr of National Public Radio recounted the 1975 invasion. At the time Portugal gave East Timor its independence, President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger

were visiting Suharto. They were told Indonesia was planning to invade East Timor, and Suharto solicited their opinion. Ford and Kissinger said they had no objection, and the next day Indonesia invaded. Upon his return to Washington, Kissinger received a memo stating the use of US weapons was illegal. Kissinger told his aide to be very sure the memo was not leaked.

The fate of the people of East Timor was of no concern to Kissinger compared to the value of Indonesia as a staunch anti-communist ally and future economic power. It doesn't help the cause of the East Timorese that oil is located in the ocean between East Timor and Australia: Australia would rather negotiate with the Indonesian government than the East Timorese concerning development of the oil reserves.

Progressive journalist Allan Nairn was banned from East Timor in 1991 after witnessing and reporting on the massacre of 200 peaceful demonstrators by the Indonesian

army. In spite of the ban he returned in 1999 and reported on the situation from Dili until he was arrested and deported. The most revealing part of his report is the description of the April talks between Admiral Blair, commander of all US military forces in the Pacific and General Wiranto, commander-in-chief of the Indonesian military forces. Twice Admiral Blair was ordered by Washington to tell Wiranto he must rein in the militias, and twice Blair talked to Wiranto but did not tell him what he must do. Admiral Blair, however, did tell Wiranto that more US military aid was forthcoming.

Soon after these talks the attacks by the militias increased and Indonesia received more US military aid. It seems clear that both the Indonesian and US military forces frequently operate independent of their civilian superiors. For example, two weeks ago the "News Hour with Jim Lehrer" presented a debate on closing the School of the Americas. The Secretary of the Army said that if Congress deleted funding for the school, the Army would continue the training at another location.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The people of East Timor see a glimmer of hope for self determination after generations of brutal foreign occupation. Please help them achieve it.

- Call President Clinton and Congress to demand massive aid for East Timor to help rebuild their country.
- Urge Clinton and Congress to support a UN tribunal to investigate allegations of crimes against humanity by the Indonesian army and the militias.
- Urge President Clinton to make permanent his temporary ban on weapons deliveries to Indonesia.
- Call upon your congressperson to co-sponsor HR 1063; the International Military Training Transparency and Accountability Act, which bans all future US military training to Indonesia.

For more information contact the East Timor Action Network, (202) 544-6911, web: <http://www.etan.org/>, e-mail: etanko@igc.org.

John is a member of the Syracuse Peace Council, Peace Action, and the School of the Americas/CNY Abolitionists.



Thousands Prepare To Invade Fort Benning

On the weekend of November 20-21 at least five thousand demonstrators from all over the country are expected to "cross the line" into Fort Benning, Georgia. We will be demanding closure of the US Army's School of the Americas. This somber yet empowering event marks the tenth anniversary of the massacre of two working women and six Jesuit priests in El Salvador by SOA graduates. At last year's commemoration over 2,300 crossed that line, the largest civil disobedience action in the US since the Viet Nam War. Dozens of Central New Yorkers will be making the two-day drive south. Supporters as well as "crossers" are most welcome. Drivers with extra passenger space are needed. For more info, please call the CNY SOA Abolitionists at (315) 478-4571.

On September 21 there was a lengthy report on the SOA on the Jim Lehrer News Hour. In it the Secretary of the Army, Louis Caldera, quoted the commander of the US Army's Southern Command to the effect that, "If they [i.e. Congress] close the School of the Americas one day, we will open it up the next day elsewhere." This threat makes it clear that the Pentagon only pays lip service to the time-honored principle of civilian control of the military. Caldera's bland response makes clear that the civilian "controllers" accept that reality. The subversive doctrines which the SOA — a.k.a. the school of coups — teaches Latin American soldiers have come home to roost. The SOA's contempt for democracy in Latin America is brightly mirrored by its contempt for democracy at home.

If that concerns you, please join us at Benning.

-Ed Kinane

Help Stop a Killing

The September issue of the *Peace Newsletter* carried an article about the capital murder trial of Syracuse resident James Cahill. There has not yet been an execution under the latest incarnation of New York's death penalty law, but given the tough-on-crime stance of the Pataki administration, that may soon change. Cahill could be our first victim.



In the past few years several groups opposed to the death penalty have formed in New York. So far, their activities have been largely limited to disseminating information on the subject. But how do we go about getting rid of the death penalty altogether? The death penalty law proceeded from a defined legal process and a certain terrible logic. Reversing that process will require enormous effort and strength of will from all over this state. If you are interested in becoming a part of that effort, please contact the Coalition To Repeal The Death Penalty In New York by calling Frances Sandiford at (914) 876-4625, Regi Teasley at (607) 273-4086, or Nancy Hammond at (914) 271-3290.

-Frances Sandiford

Student-Labor Teach In

The Cornell Organization for Labor Action (COLA) and Cornell Students Against Sweatshops (SAS) are pleased to welcome you to Rebuilding Bridges: The New Connection between Students and Labor, a weekend long teach-in during the weekend of November 12-14 at Cornell University. The teach-in will bring together student labor activists from different schools and colleges around the country, labor leaders and academics, and rank-and-file workers, in order to explore new ways in which students and labor can foster a strong connection.

To register, please go to the following web site:
<http://www.people.cornell.edu/pages/bf15/>



From performance art to music and food and everything in between, the Westcott Community Center is the place to be this month. A few highlights:

PROUD VOICES, an open mic for women and girls, comes to the WCC on November 16, 7:30-9:30 pm. Men are welcome as audience members, too.

HOT FOOD AND COOL MUSIC, Saturday, November 13 with the Westcott Jug Suckers, 5-8 pm; music at 6. Admission: \$10 for meal and music; \$5 for music only; (20% discount on ticket prices for WCC members).

COMMUNITY DANCE: Saturday, November 6: Euclid Recreation Club Community Dance at the WCC with The Goode Brothers, 7-9 pm, admission \$2.

CELEBRATION OF THE WESTCOTT NATION Friday, November 26 and Sunday, November 28: Call for schedule of events and admissions.

MAINTENANCE DAY: On Sunday, November 14th we are having a WCC spruce-up and maintenance day addressing small repairs and improvements that the building needs to remain fully functional as your local community center. As you may know, the center is on a very tight budget and relies on the support and participation of its membership and users to help keep the center viable as a neighborhood resource. Please join us between 10am and 2pm and do your part to help keep the center in good condition.

The Westcott Community Center
 826 Euclid Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13210
 478-8634

-Barb Humphreys



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The Peace Newsletter

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.

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.

INCLUSIONS

Americorps/Vista Job Openings at

Eastside Neighborhood In Partnership (ENIP).

ENIP has job openings in several programs, including:

Housing: Property/Rental Management Program Specialist and Housing Cooperative Specialist.

City Neighborhood Network (CNN): Farmstand Program Specialist and Capacity Building Specialist.

Community Organizing: Economic Development Specialist, Research/Development Specialist and Youth Action/Organizing Specialist.

Send resume to ENIP, PO Box 8016, Syracuse, NY 13217, or fax: (315) 423-9181.

Peace Newsletter Committee seeks intelligent, responsible and committed activists to continue publishing. Call SPC, 472-5478.

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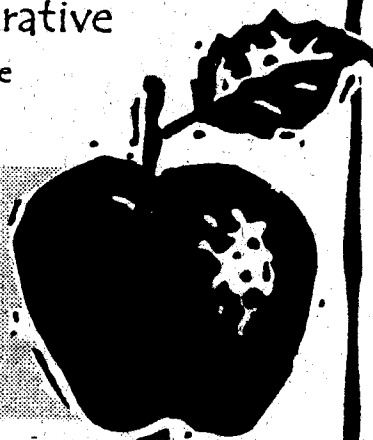
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Syracuse Peace Council's 29th

PLOWSHARES Craftsair



DEC 4 1999 DEC 5

SATURDAY 10-5PM

SUNDAY NOON-5PM

Wonderful Arts, Crafts and Food... Great Music, Dance and Raffle...

Plowshares is a Syracuse community craftsair celebrating a world where people enjoy their work and have control over it. It is one of the main fundraisers of the Syracuse Peace Council
Childcare, Fully Accessible, Off-Street Parking... \$1 Admission benefits SPC... Under 16 & over 65 Free... No one turned away

SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER - 401 SOUTH AVENUE, SYRACUSE, NY

Mumia Must Not Die! *Help Stop His Execution*



Journalist and African-American activist Mumia Abu-Jamal faces a December 2 execution date. Please join the international call for a new and fair trial.

On October 4, the US Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Ridge quickly scheduled a December 2, 1999 execution date.

Mumia was convicted of killing a Philadelphia police officer in 1982 and has been on death row ever since. Key trial witnesses recanting their testimony is one of the reasons why a new trial is necessary. The refusal of appellate courts to order a new trial reinforces the belief that Mumia has been targeted. A national demonstration is planned for Philadelphia on Sunday, November 7. For further information, call 498-2646.

Please Join a Local Demonstration

Tuesday, November 16 from 4:00-5:30 pm

corner of Fayette and Salina Sts. in downtown Syracuse.

PLEASE CALL THE FOLLOWING TO DEMAND A FAIR TRIAL:

Governor Tom Ridge: 717-787-2500, Fax: 717-772-1198 or 717-783-4429

US Attorney General Janet Reno: 202-514-2000, Fax: 202 514-4371

**SYRACUSE
PEACE
COUNCIL**

**924 Burnet Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13203**

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Educate, Agitate, Organize

Why 2K?

Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

December 1999 PNL 686

Winter Holiday Peace Festival

PLOWSHARES CRAFTSFAIR

SAT. DEC. 4, 10-5

SUN. DEC. 5, NOON-5

SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER

401 SOUTH AVENUE, SYRACUSE, NY

And I dreamed we were all
in a simple world and small
Where we all made our lives
with our hands.

Somehow we muddled through
no one told us what to do
and the winds of freedom
blew through the land

—Charlie King,
words from the song
Old And Simple Dream



SHOPPING AS IF
SOMEONE'S LIFE DEPENDED ON IT.

Paul Frazier

Decisions, decisions: Which shoes shall I wear today? Sneakers or boots? Is it cold enough for the parka or just the vest? Shall I go to the Plowshares Craftfair or not? Does my day hinge on whether or not I go to this craft fair? Does anyone's life hinge on this early morning decision? Does it matter?

The Peace Council tells me this is my chance to buy conscientiously. Well, I do look at labels when I buy: I try to guess which country the shirt comes from before I look at the label. And I do look for "made in the usa" tags, but they are hard to come by. With those free trade agreements, what difference does it make? NAFTA?
(continued inside pg. 3)

Published Monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council—Founded in 1936

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

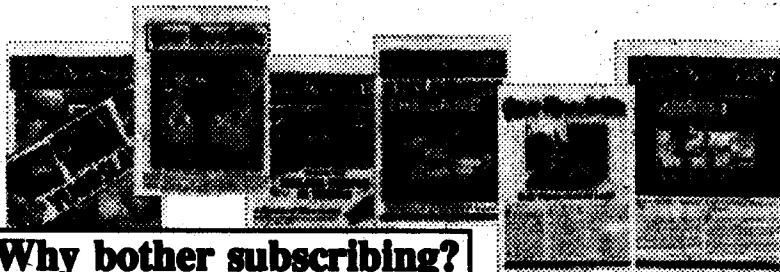
Jan 23, 2000 1:30- 4:30pm
Bowlathon to Support SPC



An alternative to *Super-Bowl-Sunday!* While everyone else gets consumed by that other sport spectacle, you can be a real sport and spend an exciting afternoon in a noncompetitive competition (No skill or experience required. Enthusiasm and a funny shirt desirable.). Help us raise funds and have some inexpensive post-holiday fun too. Sign up at the Plowshares Craftsair or give us a call (472-5478) if you would like to bowl or sponsor someone else.

\$10 = 2 games, shoes, unlimited soda!

Form a team or come free-lance and we'll match you up. Recruit sponsors to pledge *pin money* or sponsor someone else if you can't make it. Spectators and fans are welcome.



Why bother subscribing?

Your subscription means a lot more than just having a government employee bring it to your house.

Yes it is convenient to have it mailed to you. You don't have to worry that your favorite free distribution site has run out. You'll also receive those important and popular *stuffers* that *only* go out in the newsletters we mail. You will also receive invitations to special events and notices of actions and demonstrations that might not appear in the *PNL*. Your support and subscription also qualifies you to become a member of the Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union, that financial institution that puts humanity and community into banking.

The most important reason to subscribe is the support it provides for our work. This modest subscription fee is prudently used to maximize our outreach and activism. Your subscription will help provide those free copies that go out on the street so that others can see our message and eventually become subscribers themselves!

Peace Newsletter

Subscribe to the PNL ~ Still only \$12 a year for 12 issues!

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Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____



- 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

The Facts Speak for Themselves



When we compose our periodic fund appeal letters to you we work hard to make them clever and persuasive. We tell you why we're asking and why you can feel good about giving us money. We assume (perhaps incorrectly) that the amount of money we receive is a reflection of how good the letter was. And then we work hard again to find "new" and "creative" ways to say thank you.

It occurs to me that the power of this last appeal letter was the incomplete list of examples of war and exploitation that need our attention; that, without fancy rhetoric, the facts speak for themselves.

Likewise, there is no need to find a gimmick or special phrase to say thanks. We are grateful to those who responded and sent back a donation, a *PNL* renewal, or both. You are generous, caring, and concerned. We know that you are there and when asked (and when there's a little extra in the kitty), you give. The facts speak for themselves.

If you were planning to respond and have not done so yet, there is no time limit. Both maintenance and improvement work are ongoing and there are always multiple uses for whatever funds come in. As noted in the request letter, the Peace Council welcomes volunteers and we can arrange a good fit between your time and interests and our needs.

So...during the post-Thanksgiving, holiday whirlwind, remember that we are connected, that we are community, that when there is need, there is response. When you give or get your first hug at Plowshares, the facts speak for themselves.

Rae Kramer



"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!

Shopping as if someone's life depended on it

(CONT'D. FROM COVER)

NAFTA? You don't hafta. I wrote someone a letter about NAFTA, but quite honestly, I am really overwhelmed by the incessant initials game. I can't keep up. I read a little Chomsky, but not enough. Do you have a working knowledge of neo-liberalism? I don't. Are you up-to-date on the world-wide battles over the MAI—the Multilateral Agreement of Investment? I hear the implications could be shattering—for some people.

Yes, I have heard about the gap between the rich and the poor until my ears ring. Enough, already. Are you going to tell me the middle class doesn't have a place? So you think we are buffers between the haves and the have-nots? And somehow going to Plowshares is going to balance those scales?

I enjoy the casual shopping, and a nice cup of coffee on a nasty day, in that store where they let you bring new books into the coffee shop (yes, the coffee is a buck sixty-nine, but I think you get a refill) does make me feel better. For a while. I hear Plowshares offers great food at affordable prices.

All I want to do is score some holiday presents at a good price. Have some fun and eat some decent food. Pizza is pizza, isn't it? And you are right, they won't be selling genetically engineered food at Plowshares.

Do you want me to believe the Peace Council survives and thrives and on the proceeds from this Craftfair?

So you want me to enjoy the music, find great crafts and at the same time vow not to buy from sweatshops?

Does any of this make a difference? A thousand holiday purchasers and a thousand

purchases. And we are going to change the face of the earth? I deserve to buy what I want to buy. Is one pair of Nike sneakers going to make a difference? What about ten pair, you say? Sure, boycott all Nike sneakers and some Third World people will be out of a job. Oh, it's not a job?

I'm pretty good at charity, kinda look for the Sally Ann folk on the corners during the



Coffee going to market the old-fashioned way in El Salvador.
Photo courtesy of Sweatshop Watch

holidays. And you are right, Plowshares does combine holiday craft purchases and justice.

So am I to capitalize (pardon the pun, but you see I am, deep down, a liberal who thinks liberal and acts liberal and buys liberal) on this sensible way of shopping and head to the Plowshare Craftfair?

Am I to pledge my allegiance and vow not to buy from superstores for a year? Buy only from coops? Avoid sweatshop goods, despite the price?

You are presenting quite a comprehensive picture, aren't you? Global economics tied to what I wear and where I shop? You'll probably tie together militarism and Third World debt. What about environmental concerns? Do you think the pollution problems surrounding Onondaga Lake include the mall with wooden horses?

Buy local you tell me. Just how local do

you mean? Local is as local does. Do you mean to avoid all supermarket big-stores? Where would I buy my sugar? My coffee? My chicken? Vegetarian? Food coops? Grow my own?

Just give me a chance to hang out and chat, pick up a few holiday gifts, have a snack, and meet old friends doing the same. If you want me to think globally and act locally year round, then give me some reason to do that, give me some real, down-to-earth, irrefutable reasons to commit my purchasing power to a higher good than my own convenience.

You really are trying to tell me the military budget *and* the global economy *and* neo-liberal policies are all connected?

And the conscious choices I make this morning, above and beyond whether or not I wear a vest or a parka, make a difference? What's a person to do? Accept the reality that the rich are getting richer and the poor poorer, and commit to make a change, no matter how small?

Yeah, yeah, I do know Dorothy Day said that we must do these acts, no matter how small and insignificant we think

they might be. But wasn't she talking about cleaning pots at soup kitchens?

Pass the butter, if you don't mind. O.K., pass the homemade jelly, and let's count our blessings and make purchases as if someone's life depended on it.

And do you promise the revolution will be as fun as Emma Goldman wanted? O.K., O.K. But first, let me just make some *structural adjustments*, invest at the credit union (a little interest does go a long way, but isn't "everybody" making upwards of 20 percent?), drop the illusion that *all is right in the world* and commit to economic justice.

Plowshares is one heck of a place to begin.

And I will check out that boycott list, avoid the place with wooden horses, and buy local.



Local Economics:



A Sampling of Our Local Economy Grounded in the Needs of the Community

The Farmstand Project

Michelle Raymie (315-428-0070) at Jubilee Homes or Joe Bowes (315-471-7911, ext 211), at East Side Neighbors Partnership (ENIP)

Starting its second year in operation, The Farmstand Project supports local farmers, cuts down on unnecessary transportation, and teaches young entrepreneurs how to get active in local and cooperative agriculture while giving resources back to the community. From March through October, they provide innercity neighborhoods access to freshly grown food

The Farmstand Project teach business development, budgeting, and marketing skills. The project is expanding to a year-round program and looking for interns (including paid summer work and an Americorps-VISTA). This year, six sites operated: on the East side, one at the downtown farmers market, in Syracuse housing, and .on the SouthWest side

The Project is supported by the City Neighborhood Network (CNN), a coalition of 18 grassroots organizations dedicated to community economic development in CNY.

Jamaica Home Cooking Restaurant

314 W. Onondaga Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
315-423-9505

The Jamaica Home Cooking Restaurant's Owner and Manger, George Phillips says that his work at the restaurant is to "serve the people food and the word of God," and to "encourage them how to survive."

Located on W. Onondaga Street, two blocks from downtown, the restaurant is a wonderful example of survival in a rebuilding neighborhood, serving up not just food but nourishment for the spirit as well.

South Side News Stand

2126 S. Salina St.
Carol Perry. (315-472-0756)

Carol Perry says she loves her work and feels safe doing it at the South Side News Stand. "I believe in the 'mom and pop' concept of the business and the hands-on approach by the people... turning the money back into the community.

"We take care of each other. I will sell loose sheets of paper to work with low-income

consumers' needs. I stopped selling tobacco to help make the space safe for young people. We need that recycling of money...

"When I started this business, there was



Stocking the shelves at the Syracuse Real Food Coop

nothing to feed the mind in our community. I wanted something that had a good feel."

"I had no money...my landlord Will McCarthy looked into my eyes, believed in me and made a handshake deal.

"People helped make it work. The Rose Center gave me furniture, the Syracuse Cultural Workers gave my customers a free calendar for two years. People gave books, cups, coffee machines.

"It's people power: If your house catches on fire, I bake the bread and I give you half of it. I believe in being a role model and believing in people. Making a place for us-- that's the real definition of real economics. Little things and believing in people go a long way."

Ithaca Hours (Local Money System)

Box 6578, Ithaca, NY, 14851
607-273-8025 ithacahour@aol.com
www.publiccom.com/web/ithacahou

Syracuse Real Food Cooperative

618 Kensington Ave., Syracuse 13210
(315)-472-1385

The Syracuse Real Food Cooperative is a member-owned organization of about 500 members. The cooperative has been around for over 25 years in the community and tries to buy many products locally.

Some of the local products they feature are cards and calendars from the Syracuse Cultural Workers, cheese from buttercup cheese, fresh bread and granola from Tierra Farms Bakery, milk and other dairy products from Byrne Dairy, and organic produce from Son E' Acres, Grindstone, and Frosty Morning Farms.

Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union: A Socially Responsible Financial Services Cooperative.

SCFCU, 723 Westcott Street, Syracuse, NY 13210. Ron Ehrenreich 315-471-1116.
www.syrcoopfcu.org

Ron Ehrenreich said of the SCFCU's community efforts in changing people's lives: "We're rebuilding the world on cooperative footing. Our services help serve other cooperative ventures like community organizations. We also improve members' lives by starting small businesses, assisting with home repairs, and assisting first-time homebuyers. SCFCU is owned by its members and operates for their mutual benefit."

Shaped by the concerns of an active and engaged membership, the SCFCU has evolved with the needs of the local community in mind. For example, their Visa Check Card makes money for local nonprofit groups. The credit union's commitment to justice, equality, environmentalism, and eliminating racism and discrimination is carried out with personal treatment to all customers.



Buying coffee with a conscience

This section is dedicated to the struggle of local merchants and socially conscientious consumers against irresponsible global corporations.

What does the watchdog organization, Coop America, say about buying coffee with a conscience?

Coffee bought directly from wholesalers instead of cooperatives encourages workers exploitation and deforestation. Coffee pickers often work long hours for little pay, no health care or benefits, and are exposed to harsh chemicals in the fields.

In purchasing coffee, look for organic coffee. Transfair USA, a non-profit monitoring organization, certifies that participating traders are following fair trade guidelines.

Starbucks, who owns and operates one-

the choice of an organic coffee. Praised for adopting a code of conduct in 1996, Starbucks came under criticism in 1997 for failure to implement and monitor the code. As a result of the pressure, the company released a new action plan on implementing their code in March 1998. So far, the early results are promising. They have developed an incentives program to pay growers a premium to improve working conditions, which has provided workers with benefits in education, health care, and housing. And Starbucks is encouraging other coffee companies to follow their lead. However, Starbucks has not established independent monitoring to ensure these improvements are taking place nor guaranteed a living wage."

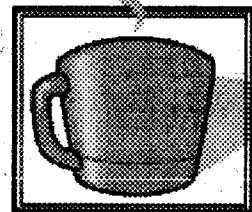
In addition to the problems of abiding by a conscientious code of conduct, Starbucks and chains like it put extraordinary pressure on locally owned and managed coffee houses through predatory business practices.

What do Seattle and Syracuse have in common? In addition to having a thriving activist culture, declining economies, and the fewest days of light per year, they also share the honor of having populations that drink more coffee per day than anyone else in the U.S. In Syracuse, people drink an average of 6.5 cups of coffee per day.

With the demand for coffee drinking a solid fact in Syracuse, some people have wondered why the Seattle based Starbucks Coffee chain has not landed in town to take advantage of the market. Others who patronize local coffee establishments like Happy Endings, Coffee Grounds, The Good Earth Cafe, the Coffee Cave, and No Borders No Boundaries are rejoicing in the local flavor that has flourished without the competitive tactics of a national chain. However, that may soon change.

Just off the campus of Syracuse University, Marshall Street coffee vendors and customers opposed to "corporate coffee" have begun to work together to prevent a Starbucks coffee shop from driving them out of business. Starbucks is presently negotiating with Syracuse University's bookstore and with the owner of Archie's pizza,

who is also the Marshall Street landlord of another locally owned and operated coffee house, No Borders No Boundaries.



In the last three years, No Borders has become a mecca for artistic, cultural, and musical celebration providing a thriving alternative entertainment venue to bars where alcohol is served and some ages are restricted. A sense of community has developed among students, local artists, and people who have managed to use the free form space as their casual "office."

Many who see a cultural venue at stake and in fact, a part of their own history in jeopardy, are organizing through petitions and support groups to raise awareness about the need to support locally owned coffee businesses in Syracuse.

Recent resistance to corporate pressure on locally owned businesses ended in victory. Last spring, a coalition of concerned citizens led by the Save Our Small Shops Coalition (472-1394) successfully lobbied the Syracuse Common Council regarding the expansion of a Rite Aid pharmacy on E. Genesee that would have harmed locally owned and operated pharmacies and groceries.

For more information on organizing to protect local coffee houses from Starbucks and other national chains, contact Zac Moore of the No Borders No Boundaries Coalition (NBNBC) at 251-1379.

Material on this page about purchasing "coffee with a conscience" and on pages six and seven of the PNL about boycotts was made available by Coop America, from their fall 1999 "CoopAmerica Quarterly," issue no. 49. Coop America is "dedicated to creating a just and sustainable society by harnessing economic power for positive change." A national non-profit membership organization, Coop America can be contacted at 1612 "k" St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, (202)872-5307; www.coopamerica.org.

The following organizations received Coop America's "top rating" for responsible purchasing:

- Equal Exchange**
A leader in developing new markets for coffee that is 100 percent fair trade. (781) 830-0303.
- Thanksgiving Coffee Co.**
Has incorporated social and environmental goals in their criteria for "Green Coffee Beyond Organic." (800)648-6491.
- Cafe' Campesino**
Source for sustainable grown, fairly traded coffee. (912)924-2468.
- Headwaters International**
Supports farmers' cooperatives and helps producers gain more control of their natural resources. (888)324-7872.
- Pax Organica**
Distributes by mail order organic, fairly traded coffee. Supports living wages for coffee growers as well as biodiverse and sustainable family practices. (213)466-1707.

fifth of all coffee shops in the United States, did not fare as well. In Coop America's Fall 1999 Quarterly Report, they write, "In April 1999, after years of resistance, Starbucks began providing some of their customers with

Boycotts in Action!

Boycott information provided courtesy of Co-op America

Target	Organizer/Allegation	Organizer's Contact Information
<i>American Express</i>	People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) alleges that American Express sells fur in its catalog.	<i>PETA</i> , 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA, 23501 (757) 622-PETA
<i>Amoco (gas)</i>	San Juan Citizens Alliance alleges that Amoco's coalbed methane (natural gas) drilling in southwest Colorado has tainted the groundwater, negatively affecting the area's health and safety.	<i>San Juan Citizens Alliance</i> , c/o Western Colorado Congress, P.O. Box 2461, Durango, CO, 81302 (970) 259-3583
<i>The Beach</i>	Women's Voices for the Earth alleges that the making of the Twentieth Century Fox movie, <i>The Beach</i> , involved environmental destruction in Thailand.	<i>Women's Voices for the Earth</i> , 210 North Higgins, Suite 206, Missoula, MT 59802 (406) 543-3747 www.wildrockies.org/wve/beach.htm
<i>Beef (public lands)</i>	The Oregon Natural Desert Association alleges that western public lands are environmentally abused by private cattle ranchers.	<i>Oregon Natural Desert Association</i> , 16 NW Kansas, Bend, OR 97701 (541) 389-0613
<i>Bovine Growth Hormone</i>	The Campaign for Food Safety and Food & Water allege that milk and dairy products produced from cows injected with rBGH are potentially hazardous to human and animal health and to the future of small dairies. Food & Water is targeting Land O'Lakes only.	<i>Campaign For Food Safety</i> , 860 Highway 61, Little Maria, Minnesota, 55614 (218) 226-4164/ <i>Food and Water</i> , RR1, Box 30, Old School House Common, Marshfield, VT, 05658 (802) 426-3700
<i>Burlington Coat Factory</i>	The Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade alleges that the Burlington Coat Factory sells fur.	<i>Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade</i> , P.O. Box 822411, Dallas, TX 75382 (214) 503-1419
<i>Burma: clothing marked "Made in Myanmar"</i>	The National Labor Committee and the Free Burma Coalition allege that the repressive Burmese military regime profits from Burmese garment factories.	<i>National Labor Committee</i> , 275 7th Ave, 15th Fl., NY, NY 10001 (212) 242-3002/ <i>Free Burma Coalition</i> , P.O. Box 19405, Washington, D.C., 20036 (202) 777-6009
<i>China: all products made in China</i>	The International Campaign for Tibet and Tibetan Rights Coalition allege the Chinese government is perpetuating ongoing human rights abuses.	<i>International Campaign for Tibet</i> , 1825 K St. NW, #520, Washington, DC, 20006-1202 (202) 785-1515/ <i>Tibetan Rights Coalition</i> , P.O. Box 31966, Seattle, WA, 98103 (206) 547-1015
<i>Clorox</i>	The Committee for Universal Security alleges that Clorox produces chlorine and chlorinated compounds that are an environmental threat to all living matter.	<i>Committee for Universal Security</i> , 1095 5th Grade, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
<i>Gap, Inc.: Gap, Banana Republic, Old Navy</i>	The Save the Redwoods—Boycott the Gap Campaign alleges that the Fisher family, which owns Gap, Inc., is engaging in clearcutting and other environmentally destructive behavior in the redwood forestland of Medocino, CA.	<i>Save the Redwoods—Boycott the Gap Campaign</i> , 252 Frederick St., San Francisco, CA 94117 (415) 731-7924
<i>Gold</i>	The Montana Environmental Information Center charges that the 1872 mining law which regulates the mining of gold allows a misuse of public lands and a lack of environmental regulations.	<i>Montana Environmental Info Center</i> , Box 253, Pony, MT, 59747 (406) 685-3481
<i>Honey Bunch of Oats</i>	Orange County People for Animals alleges that the ham retailer supports institutional animal abuse by purchasing pig body parts from so called "factory farms."	<i>Orange County People for Animals</i> , P.O. Box 28918, Santa Anna, CA, 97299, (714) 751-OCPA
<i>Hormel: Includes Dinty Moore, Great Beginnings</i>	Austin United Support Group alleges that the company conducts unfair labor practices. The boycott will continue until workers fired during a strike are re-employed.	<i>Austin United Support Group</i> , 505 7th Street, NE, Austin, MN, 55912 (507) 437-4110
<i>Levi Strauss & Co: Levi jeans and apparel, Dockers, Britannia, and Officer Corps.</i>	Fuerza Unida alleges that workers were not adequately compensated for job loss when the San Antonio factory relocated operations to Costa Rica.	<i>Fuerza Unida</i> , P.O. Box 830083, San Antonio, TX 78283-0083 (210) 927-2294
<i>Macy's Department Stores</i>	People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade allege that Macy's sells fur in its stores.	<i>PETA</i> , 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA, 23501 (757) 622-PETA <i>Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade</i> , P.O. Box 822411,

Target	Organizer/Allegation	Organizer's Contact Info
Mitsubishi: Kirin beer, Union Bank of California, and Nikon camera	Rainforest Action Network alleges that the trading company Mitsubishi Corporation imports tropical timber to Japan and engages in other environmentally destructive acts, particularly in Mexico and Alberta, Canada.	<i>Rainforest Action Network</i> , 221 Pine St., Ste 500, San Francisco, CA 94194 (415) 398-4404
Monsanto products	The Campaign for Food Safety, Pure Dairy Commission and Family Farm Defenders allege that Monsanto produces genetically engineered foods that may be unhealthy and conducts business in a manner not conducive to family farms.	<i>Campaign for Food Safety</i> , 860 Highway 61, Little Marais, MN, 55614 (218) 226-4164/ <i>Pure Dairy Comm.</i> 23638 20th St., New Auburn, WI, 54747/ <i>Family Farm Defenders</i> , P.O. Box 531, Hillboro, WI 64834 <i>Farm Labor Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO</i> , 1221 Broadway, Toledo, OH, 43609 (419) 243-3456
Mt. Olive Pickles	The Farm Labor Organizing Committee alleges that Mt. Olive refuses to bargain a contract with farmworkers to improve wages and conditions.	
Neah Bay, WA	The Washington Citizens' Coastal Alliance alleges that the Neah Bay community of the Makah Nation of Washington has killed whales illegally.	no information available
Neiman Marcus	The Campaign to Abolish the Fur Trade alleges that Neiman Marcus sells fur.	<i>Campaign to Abolish the Fur Trade</i> , P.O. Box 822411 Dallas, TX, 75382 (214) 503-1419 <i>INFACT Canada</i> , 6 Trinity Square, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M5G 1B1/ <i>INFACT</i> , 256 Hanover St. Boston, MA, 02113 (617) 742-4583
Nestle:	INFACT Canada alleges that Nestle uses unethical marketing practices to sell infant formula in developing countries, resulting in the alleged suffering and death of millions of infants.	
Nike	Justice! Do It Nike! charges that Nike produces many of its products using subcontractors in countries such as Indonesia and Vietnam which use exploitative labor practices.	<i>Justice! Do It Nike!</i> P.O. Box 219231, Portland, OR 97225 (503) 292-8168
NORPAC: FLAV-R-PAC, WESTPAC	PCUN alleges that NORPAC growers, including Kraemer Farms, will not negotiate a contract or resolve farmworker complaints with PCUN, which claims to represent farmworkers.	<i>PCUN</i> , 300 Young St., Woodburn, OR 97071 (503) 982-0243
Norway: Norwegian fish, King Oscar sardines, Jørgensen cheese.	Earth Island Institute alleges that Norway has broken with the international moratorium on whaling and kills seals.	<i>Earth Island Institute</i> , 300 Broadway, Ste. 28, San Francisco, CA, 94133 (415) 788-3666
Old Growth Wood	Rainforest Action Network alleges that a variety of lumber and paper companies are destroying age-old endangered forests.	<i>Rainforest Action Network</i> , 221 Pine St. Ste. 500 San Francisco, CA 94104 (415) 498-4404
Pepsi: Pepsi, Frito-Lay, Tropicana	Showing Animals Respect and Kindness alleges that Pepsi supports bullfighting through advertising and licensing.	<i>Showing Animals Respect and Kindness</i> , P.O. Box 64354, Chicago, IL 60664-0354, (773) 436-6148
Phillip Morris:	INFACT alleges that Phillip Morris, through its Marlboro Man advertising campaign, and RJR Nabisco, through its Joe Camel cartoon character, encourage underage youths to smoke	<i>INFACT</i> , 256 Hanover St., Boston, MA 02113 (617) 742-4583
Procter & Gamble: writes for a complete list.	According to In Defense of Animals and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals , the company continues to conduct animal testing.	<i>In Defense of Animals</i> , 131 Camino Alto, Ste. E, Mill Valley, CA, 94941 (415) 388-9641/ <i>PETA</i> , 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA, 23501, (757) 622-PETA
PVC Plastic: #3 plastic	Citing the problems #3 plastic bottles cause to plastic recycling efforts, in addition to the toxic components that go into the production of PVC, the Recycling Advocates have asked consumers to boycott all products packaged in #3 plastic containers.	<i>Recycling Advocates</i> , 32 NE 44th Ave, Portland, OR, 97213-2301 (503) 230-9513
Shell Oil Company	A coalition of groups, including the Sierra Club , allege that Shell's involvement in Nigeria contributes to the repressive political situation there.	<i>Sierra Club</i> , Sierra Club, 85 Second Street, Second Floor, San Francisco CA, 94105-3441, (415) 977-5500

Welcome to the 29th Annual Winter Holiday Peace Festival

PLOWSHARES CRAFTSFAIR

Plowshares—a community marketplace of handmade crafts, clothing, jewelry, rugs, bowls, cups, art work, furniture. Wandering minstrels, fabulous food, and a spirit of comradere fill the Southwest Community Center for a weekend of buying and selling, grassroots style: a grand opportunity to connect at year's end and share in the life and culture of regional marketplaces.

Syracuse Peace Council

SPC was founded in 1936 as an anti-war organization. Based on the belief that social injustices cannot be understood in isolation from each other nor can they be overcome without recognizing their economic and violent roots, SPC is committed to non-violent means of conflict resolution and to a process that responds to the needs of all.

Visit our information and craft tables at the fair; crafts donated by craftspeople are for sale (proceeds to benefit SPC). Visit the RAFFLE table, buy lots of tickets (\$1 each/6 for \$5), win products and services donated by community folks and businesses. (You don't need to be there to win.)

THE FRONT ROOM BOOKSTORE

This annual incarnation of the Front Room Bookstore brings t-shirts, bumperstickers, buttons, books, and a wide variety of calendars to you. Check out the 'priced to move' table.

The Peace Newsletter

The Peace Newsletter is the main educational project of SPC. Published 12 times per year, the PNL serves as an internal newsletter for members as well as an alternative/critical voice on local, national and international issues. Our monthly calendar of events gives a listing of progressive events in the region, providing an essential service to the community. Our advertisers are a steady source of support; support them.

Since publishing criticism of the powers that be isn't the best way to raise money, we rely on PNL subscribers to keep this important voice strong. And we don't want just your money (One year subscription, still only \$12). Articles and art work welcome. Also, letters to the editors give dialogue to our diverse perspectives.

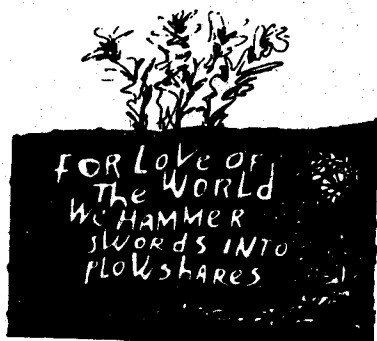
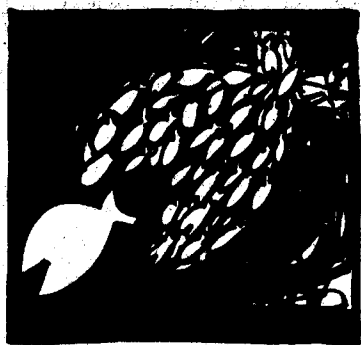
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SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL

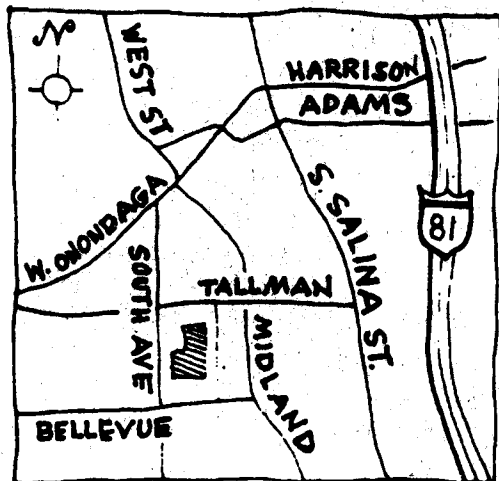
924 Burnet Avenue Syracuse New York 13203 315-472-5478



SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER

SWCC 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 both routine and unique to the neighborhood community: youth activities, after-school, pre-K, Bishop Foery Foundation, a branch of the county library, senior groups, Family Counseling, AIDS education, A Parenting Center, indoor pool, a summer Caribbean Festival and Plowshares to name a few. Across from the Jerk Hut on South Avenue...put it on your map of Syracuse!!

DIRECTIONS: FROM 690: take West St to W. Onondaga St. Right on W. Onondaga. Left on South Ave, 4 blocks on left. **FROM 81:** Exit 17 south of the city to Brighton Ave. Head west on Brighton to South Ave. Right on South, stay left at Y, SWCC on right in 400 block.



OFF STREET PARKING

The Brady Faith center across from SWCC has a huge lot we can use during the weekend. A large lot off Lincoln behind the center is close to the rear entrance. The two side streets, Daisy and Clover are available for parking as is the lot off Clover next to the HELP Building...Look for cloth banners.



ChildCare

FREE UP YOUR KIDS FOR THE DAY
Childcare provides a separate space for children attending the fair: Hours are 10-4:30 on Sat and 12-4:30 on Sun. A dollar per child per hour goes to the caregiver.
Toys, art supplies and snack provided.



Performers

SATURDAY, DEC 4TH

noon
Kucheza

12:30

Opera in the Hood

2:00

Gypsy Fire

2:45

Media Unit

4:00

Bartleby and the
Scriveners

SUNDAY, DEC 5TH

2:00

Gabrielle Barry-Caufield

3:00

Jolie Christine Rickman
and John Rossbach



Wandering Minstrels
Henry Jankiewicz and
Harvey Nusbaum

Hammer Dulcimer
Dan Duggan



Great Food

Food and drinks are an essential part of any decent gathering and a centerpiece to Plowshares. Many thanks and praises to outgoing chef Nick Orth and big welcome to 99's chef Linda "Sparky" Mortimer. Sparky has volunteered, assisting Nick for the past two years and plans to offer a similar vegetarian menu..
i.e.delicious and affordable:

LUNCH SPECIALS:

Vegetarian Lasagna
Bean Burritos
Black Beans and Rice
Cheese Pizza
Vegan Pesto Pizza
Hot Veggie Chili

Nick's Famous Beans n' Greens

DESSERT ITEMS:

include Vegan Brownies
Chocolate Chip Cookies
Biscotti.

For the early Birds

BREAKFAST SPECIALS:

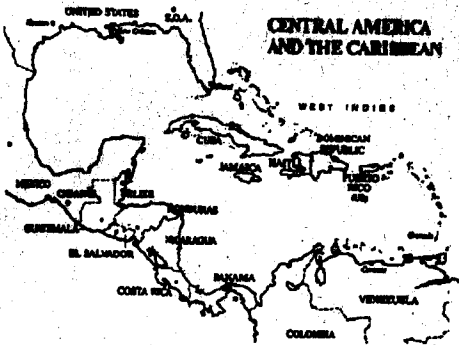
include Muffins,
Veggie Sausage n' Gravy over
Biscuits
Coffee, Tea, Cider, Natural
Soda and Water will be avail-
able to quench your thirst.

As in the past, monies made from the food concession benefit SPC and The Friends of Dorothy House. Chef Sparky is thrilled at the prospect of cooking at Plowshares, as she is launching her own catering business entitled
"Sparky's

At You Service Catering " and is looking for a kitchen to work from on a full time basis.
So come on down...

Plowshares Craftfair Participating Craftspeople

- **Anahid Adjemian**
Syracuse, 315-469-6607 painted pottery, clay-paper lights
- **David Alessi**
South Wales, 716-655-2159 handmade creative rubber stamps
- **Merri Baldwin**
Homer, 607-749-3354 woven rag rugs, Ukrainian eggs
- **Linda Barbour**
Syracuse, 315-446-7330 dessert pies, cakes, pudding, soaps
- **Kathy Barry, Babouska**
Syracuse, 315-425-7257 handcrafted hats, bags, scarves, quilts
- **Amy Bartell**
Syracuse, 315-422-4406 cards, prints, furniture, t-shirts
- **Aduke Branch**
Syracuse, 315-423-4603 Afro-centric angels, dolls, earrings
- **Sheryl Brisson, Shannon Brisson**
Clay, 315-699-9213 floral arrangements, flower pots
- **Lauren Bristol**
Syracuse, 315-446-0529 coiled & crocheted baskets, pouches
- **Gail Calloway**
Jordan, 315-689-9975 tin ornaments, painted boxes, scrapbooks
- **Jenny Connelly**
Fulton, 315-592-9003 stoneware, candleholders, goblets, steins
- **Denise Cole & Megan White**
Syracuse, 315-474-5374 wearable art, dyed clothing
- **Common Place Land Trust**
Truxton, 607-842-6799 wreathes, candles, soap, gourds
- **Anna Currie**
Ithaca, 607-272-9978 metal, stone, glass, bamboo jewelry
- **Schaelon & Mathew Davis**
Syracuse, 315-476-7953 artwork, cards, shirts
- **Joaquin DiDomenico & Jack Boyd**
Ithaca, 607-277-6090 silver, stone, brass jewelry
- **Joe DiPasquale & Tanya Zabinski**
Buffalo, 716-885-2197 silk screen prints on clothing
- **Dan Duggan**
Red Creek, 315-754-8946 hammered dulcimer tapes & CDs
- **Caroline Dunn**
Oswego, 315-343-3944 photo mattes, cards, writing paper
- **Sandy & Gloria Eure**
Syracuse, 315-449-0195 ornaments, painted bulbs, beaded stars
- **Barbara Floch**
Syracuse, 315-437-0309 sea glass, silver jewelry
- **Teresa Florack**
Syracuse, 315-471-1269 vegan & gingerbread cookies, houses
- **Kevin Galleli**
Palmyra, 315-597-0294 batik clothing
- **Carol Horan**
Syracuse, 315-479-8707 photo & collage cards, painted rocks/cottages
- **Katherine Hughes**
Syracuse, 315-479-6897 pottery, vases, pendants, mugs
- **Ira & Flora Johnson**
Syracuse, 315-454-3397 wooden kitchen items, bird houses, pies
- **Karen Kerney & Margaret Birdlebaum**
Jamesville, 315-469-0403/422-4201 turtle puppets, assorted wildcrafts
- **Monika Kriebel**
Syracuse, 315-446-2963 fabric gift bags, mohair head bands
- **Susan & Mathew LeBlanc**
Canastota, 315-684-9134 leather goods, clay & beaded jewelry
- **Judy Lieblein**
Syracuse, 315-469-8445 ceramic jewelry
- **Jacquelyn Maye**
Syracuse, 315-445-1426 framed artwork, scarves, plates, dolls
- **Alison Mazzetta**
Syracuse, 315-469-8589 stoneware pottery, ceramic drums
- **Joelle McAndrew**
Syracuse, 315-422-9692 fabric dolls, stuffed animals
- **Carolyn Messina-Yauchzy**
Syracuse, 315-449-1325 assorted crafts
- **Ralph Minnifield**
Syracuse, NY leather goods
- **Eva Monostory**
Fayetteville, 315-637-6735 stone, macrame & silver jewelry
- **Mosi Village: Vanessa Johnson, Mardea Warner**
Syracuse, 315-479-5757 bracelets, pins, dolls, rings, gourds, fiber vessels, cards
- **Kristen Napiorkowski**
Syracuse, 315-474-6706 journals with painted covers
- **Kely Nye**
Jamesville, 315-492-1932 beaded, sterling, gemstone jewelry
- **Brenda Ocampo**
Syracuse, 315-476-1807 stone, metal, glass jewelry
- **Felice Osband**
Rochester, 716-482-6145 hand blown glass
- **Karen Patton**
Syracuse, 315-445-0935 wire necklaces & jewelry
- **Sharron Pearson**
Syracuse, 315-428-8800 angels, kente stockings, holiday plates
- **Jabari Penda**
Syracuse, 315-428-9428 hand dipped incense & oils
- **Leona & Addie Powless**
Onondaga Nation, 315-469-0257 bead, leather, bone and silver work
- **Marge Rusk**
Syracuse, 315-476-7635 wreaths, sachets, catnip toys, herbs
- **Heather Sackett**
N. Syracuse, 315-458-0455 clay wizards, fairies, fountains, turtles
- **Cindy Schmidt, Helen Carter, Karen Hall**
Mexico, 315-963-1494 signs, clocks, tin stars
- **Linda Sherman**
DeRuyter, 315-852-9623 pottery, stone & cloisonne jewelry
- **Chris Spies-Rusk**
Syracuse, 315-423-0684 photographs
- **Sue Streeter**
Syracuse, 315-431-9814 candlesticks, wooden bowls & items
- **Beth Sturley**
Kirkville, 315-656-7076 suncatchers, nature crafts
- **Syracuse Cultural Workers**
Syracuse, 315-474-1132 posters, prints, t-shirts
- **Cynthia Towndrow**
Syracuse, 315-475-6773 dolls, deco fans, wood benches
- **Diana Trifoso**
Paia, HI, 808-243-0577 batiked clothing, face-painting
- **Eva Williams**
Syracuse, 315-471-7659 accessories made from African textiles
- **Jen Winders**
Albany, 518-456-1417 soaps, oils, facial scrubs, herbal first aid kits
- **Lori Wyman**
Baldwinsville, 315-635-5289 massages



CARIBBEAN / LATIN AMERICA COALITION UPDATE

Attendance at the Caribbean / Latin America Coalition meetings has continued to be small. At the October meeting a decision was reached to cease having monthly meetings. Strong and positive Latin America solidarity work goes on in Central New York, through efforts to abolish the School of the Americas, support human rights in Chiapas and throughout Mexico, and rebuild communities in El Salvador.

In the past seven years of CLAC's existence, local Latin America solidarity groups have had a place and time to meet regularly to share information, discuss issues, and periodically plan joint activities. CLAC has carried out a critical networking function, which will continue in other contexts. CLAC's monthly meetings may turn out to only be suspended, to be revived in the future when several Latin America solidarity groups want to address shared issues. We thank the Syracuse and Central New York communities for so much valuable support and interest over the years. —Paul Weichselbaum

Is your favorite community organization here?

Each issue of the PNL devotes one or more pages to "Community Updates," an opportunity for community organizations to promote their work and their upcoming activities. Organizations are provided this space free of charge.

We encourage community organizations to submit material to the PNL Editorial Committee by the first of each month for the following month's PNL. You have our address and telephone number. Our e-mail address is pnl-spc@juno.com.

It's happening at the Westcott Community Center—for seniors, teens, Westcott neighbors and the community, too. Read on.

The Golden Cafe welcomes seniors 60+ and their spouses on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for lunch at noon. Make new friends, renew old ones and enjoy the company of these friends over a game of cards, a movie or live music. The Golden Cafe will head downtown in December to the Everson Museum and Landmark Theatre thanks to a grant from the UpDowntowners. The Golden Cafe urges seniors to get ready for winter and Y2K. Come to dinner on Thursday, December 2 and learn about what every household should have on hand to be prepared for any emergencies that man or Mother Nature may send our way. There will be music and games. Lucky seniors will go home with prizes for their Disaster Preparedness Kits. Pasta dinner will be served at 5, music and games at 6 PM. Reservations requested by calling 478-8634.

The Teen Project gives Westcott teens 10-15 a safe, fun place to spend their after-school time. There are games, art, crafts, music, computers and the Westcott Teen Video Project available. Teens, register today for Teen Project fun.

Check out the Second Saturday Series concerts at the Westcott Community Center. December 11 features national recording artist Ilene Weiss, whose "Weiss Christmas" songs will get your holiday spirits going. And you can't enter the Y2K without experiencing "Millennium," one of the many original songs offered by local artists, Dana Cooke and the Short Order Symphony, opening for Ilene Weiss. The concert begins at 8 PM; admission is a sliding scale from \$6 to \$10 and refreshments will be served. Second Satur-



day welcomes Westcott resident John Rossbach on January 8 and Syracuse a capella gospel group Five to Life on February 12.

Music, poetry, prose, comedy, dialogue and dance have a home at the Westcott Community Center. Proud Voices, an open mic for women and

girls, will conclude its 1999 third Tuesday series on November 16 and resume again on January 18 at 7:30pm. Westcott poet Georgia Popoff brings Sunday Kind of Words

to the center on December 12 and again on January 23 for afternoon workshops and evening readings and an open mic. Admissions are \$20 for workshops and \$4 for readings, with discounts available to center members. The University Neighborhood Lecture Series features six Westcott neighborhood residents from a variety of backgrounds who are well known throughout the region, country and, in some cases, the world. SU Professor Laurence Thomas opened the Series on October 17, challenging us to change society, one moral act at a time. Mary Karr, author of "The Liar's Club" comes on November 18, followed by Professor Goodwin Cooke on January 20, author Bruce Coville on February 13, Preservationist Sam Gruber on March 9 and Judge Rosemary Pooler on April 9. Attendees have the opportunity to socialize with lecturers and neighbors following the formal part of the program and partake of refreshments. Seating is limited, so get your tickets now for \$10 each (with the exception of Judge Pooler, whose lecture is at no charge.)

The Westcott Community Center thanks those who support the center through your membership, volunteering, and attendance at activities and events. We wish you all a merry, healthy holiday season and happy Y2K. Put membership in the Westcott Community Center on your New Year's resolution list to be in the know about what's happening at the WCC. Call 478-8634 or stop by at 826 Euclid Avenue at Westcott Street for more information.

New York's first statewide grassroots gathering to learn about the death penalty issue and organize against it.

April 28, 29 and 30, 2000 Binghamton, NY
For information call Mary Lou Rubenstein 422-1606 or Bill Cuddy 474-7437



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The Peace Newsletter

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.

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.

UNCLASSIFIEDS

Americorps/Vista Job Openings at

Eastside Neighborhood In Partnership (ENIP).

ENIP has job openings in several programs, including:

Housing: Property/Rental Management Program Specialist and Housing Cooperative Specialist.

City Neighborhood Network (CNN): Farmstand Program Specialist and Capacity Building Specialist.

Community Organizing: Economic Development Specialist, Research/Development Specialist and Youth Action/Organizing Specialist.

Send resume to ENIP, PO Box 8016, Syracuse, NY 13217, or fax: (315) 423-9181.

Peace Newsletter Committee seeks intelligent, responsible and committed activists to continue publishing. Call SPC, 472-5478.

The White Rose Old Books & Antiques



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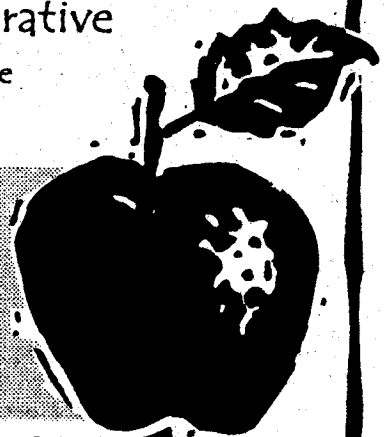
315/ 478-3312

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Guidance in Nutrition &
Natural Remedies

Edited by Mike Kernahan

Don't worry, the government checks these things out

Lack of enforcement of the Occupational Safety and Health Act by the Clinton administration has resulted in fewer inspections and fewer violations cited compared to prior administrations, according to a report released recently by Public Citizen's Health Research Group. Public Citizen used data from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to analyze the number of inspections, violations, the nature of violations and penalties imposed from 1972 to 1998. The report shows that, depending on which of the enforcement measures Public Citizen analyzed, Clinton's record on enforcing the OSH Act is either the worst in the history of the OSH Act, worse than the Bush administration or no better than the Bush administration. It documents that every year Clinton has been in office, the number of inspections has been lower than at any point during any prior administration. "On this Labor Day, as we honor the contributions of U.S. workers, it is time to admit that Clinton's occupational health policy has been a failure that has left workers dangerously unprotected," said Dr. Peter Lurie of Public Citizen's Research Group.

Source: Public Citizen

So that's where all those new jobs are

The booming economy for the upper middle class and the new availability of illegal immigrants has fueled a rebirth in the employment of household servants. Over 1.8 million people now work as housekeepers, cooks, nannies, gardeners and chauffeurs in a field expanding at 5 times the rate of overall job growth. Fortunately, a book has appeared to help employers manage their largely Latino helpers. Entitled "Household Spanish: How to Communicate With Your Spanish Employees" by William C. Harvey, the book is chock full of Spanish phrases essential for good relations. Some examples: "Bring the dustpan", "Please use soap" and "Don't pour grease down the garbage disposal." You can learn

how to ask prospective helpers whether they have been a bellhop, or a busboy, or a pool cleaner or a dishwasher. Then you can tell them how you are an architect, or a doctor, or a lawyer, etc. Other handy phrases: "How long are you planning to stay in the USA?" and "There's so much to do." The author even provides helpful advice like this: "Commands are practical and easy to use, but don't overuse them" But if, despite all your efforts, they simply will not do, the book provides the all-important phrase "You're fired" ("Usted esta despedido").

Source: American Newspeak

Quote of the Month

"I proved that if you get a C average, you can win."

Republican presidential candidate George Bush Jr. inspiring the nation's youth to academic excellence on a campaign stop in New Hampshire touting his education reform proposals. He was not asked to spell "potato."

Quote from the Past

"Non-cooperation with evil is a sacred duty."

Mahatma Ghandi

For the person who has absolutely everything

Tiny silver replicas of the first atomic bombs, sold as earrings at the National Atomic Museum, are stirring emotions in one of the Japanese cities that was leveled by an atomic blast during World War II. The earrings are shaped like the "Little Boy" and "Fat Man" atomic bombs that were developed during the war at Los Alamos under the Manhattan Project. They sell for \$20 a pair at the Energy Department museum on Kirtland Air Force Base. The bomb dubbed "Little Boy" was dropped on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. Nagasaki was obliterated by Fat Man three days later. As many as 175,000 people were killed immediately in the two attacks, according to museum exhibits. Members of the Japanese anti-nuclear group

Gensuikyo found the earrings and other items, including medallions that commemorate the bombing missions over Japan, on the museum's Web site.

"We're very angry," Gensuikyo spokesman Naomi Kishimoto said in Hiroshima. "It's not the sort of thing you should be hanging from your ears or using to decorate your desk. It's unforgivable that (the) museum would sell through the Internet something that praises the unit that dropped the atomic bomb." Gensuikyo is known in English as the Japan Council Against A and H Bombs. Museum director Jim Walther said the museum doesn't plan to stop selling the earrings.

Source: AP/Andy Mager

The best government money can buy
There is no better way to grasp how big business is investing in the U.S. federal electoral process than to review the contribution record of the member companies of the Business Roundtable, a business group consisting exclusively of the CEOs of the largest companies in the United States. A new report from Public Disclosure, a Washington, D.C.-based campaign finance watchdog group, indicates that 156 of the 175 Roundtable companies maintain Political Action Committees that made "hard money" donations to candidates in the 1997-1998 electoral cycle. One hundred thirty-eight of the companies made "soft money" contributions, supposed to be used for party-building activities but not direct electoral work. Republicans lapped up twice as much as Democrats in Roundtable contributions. One hundred fifty-two of the elite Roundtable companies gave more than \$21 million in hard money, and more than \$18 million in soft money, to Republicans. Democrats took in more than \$10 million in hard money from Roundtable companies, and nearly \$7 million in soft money. The leading Roundtable donors to Democrats were: GTE, AT&T, Bell South, BankAmerica, Boeing and Lockheed Martin. The leading Roundtable contributors to the Republicans were: GTE, UPS, Federal Express, Union Pacific, AT&T and Citicorp.

Source: Multinational Monitor

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT


**Syracuse Peace Council
Community Calendar
December 1999**

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to the Peace Council: 472-5478. January deadline: December 17.
See maintains an online version of this calendar with updates and more at www.spc.org.
media.org/calendar.htm.

<p>5 Plowshares Craftsair, Southwest Community Center, 401 South Ave. Noon-5pm. Over 50 crafts-people, food, childcare, good cheer! Fundraiser for Peace Council. "Amahl & the Night Visitors" performed by Open Hand Theater. 2pm. See Dec. 3 for details.</p>	<p>6 People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1876. Peace Action monthly program. May Memorial, 3600 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442. Syracuse Area Domestic Violence Coalition presents "Elder Abuse: Out of the Shadows." Marley Education Center. 8:30am-4pm. 425-0818.</p>	<p>7 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442. Onondaga Women's Political Caucus holiday party. 1216 Westmoreland Ave. 7pm. Bring dessert to share. 457-4739. EVERY TUE: Community Media Action Group meeting. 6pm. Call Ace for place. 423-7856.</p>	<p>8 HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616. CNY NOW general meeting. 5789 Widewaters Pkwy. 7pm. 487-3188. Caribbean/Latin America Coalition working potluck at Syracuse Peace Council. 6:30pm. 478-4571. Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.</p>	<p>9 YWCA Women's Network Luncheon on "Advertising & Media Effect on Women's Health." Noon-1:30pm. Duminis. 424-0040. EVERY THU: Syracuse Zapata Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 6:30pm. Ace. 423-4783.</p>	<p>10 "Amahl & the Night Visitors" performed by Open Hand Theater. 8pm. See Dec. 3 for details.</p>	<p>11 Spanish Action League Christmas celebration. 475-8153 for time & place. "Amahl & the Night Visitors" performed by Open Hand Theater. 2pm & 8pm. See Dec. 3 for details. Dec. 11-12: National Organization for Women state convention for Women state convention. Saratoga Springs, NY. 518-782-1659.</p>	<p>12 Eastside Neighborhood Center mtg. ENIP office, 204 Cherry St. 6pm. Joe. 471-7911 ext. 210. Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 476-7475. Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WENA) meeting. Peit Library, Concord Pl. 7-9pm. 478-7301.</p>	<p>13 Arts, Cultural & Tech. Center mtg. ENIP office, 204 Cherry St. 6pm. Joe. 471-7911 ext. 210. Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 476-7475. Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WENA) meeting. Peit Library, Concord Pl. 7-9pm. 478-7301.</p>	<p>14 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442. EVERY TUE: Syracuse Community Radio meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 478-4789. EVERY TUE: Middle Eastern Dance with Zoe Arteris. Westcott Community Center. 5:15-6:15pm. Fee. 474-7084.</p>	<p>15 NAACP meeting. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-8833. Syracuse United Neighbors/Skunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475. Sierra Club monthly meeting. 5 Hick Hall, SUNY ESP. 7:30pm. Martha. 462-4745. CNY Diversity presents a program & reception featuring US Congressman Barney Frank. Civic Center. 7pm. Tickets available at My Sisters' Words bookstore. 475-2195.</p>	<p>16 NAACP meeting. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-8833. Syracuse United Neighbors/Skunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475. Sierra Club monthly meeting. 5 Hick Hall, SUNY ESP. 7:30pm. Martha. 462-4745. CNY Diversity presents a program & reception featuring US Congressman Barney Frank. Civic Center. 7pm. Tickets available at My Sisters' Words bookstore. 475-2195.</p>	<p>17 "Amahl & the Night Visitors" performed by Open Hand Theater. 8pm. See Dec. 3 for details. EVERY FRI: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.</p>	<p>18 Arts with Agnes Johnson. Westcott Community Center. 12-1pm. Free. 478-8634. "Amahl & the Night Visitors" performed by Open Hand Theater. 2pm. See Dec. 3 for details. EVERY SAT: Dance Techniques with Dance-more Company. Westcott Community Center. 9am-1pm. Ages 5 and up. Fee. 677-7723. EVERY SAT: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.</p>	<p>19 New Environment Association potluck & meeting. Friends Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. 6pm. 446-8009. EVERY SUN: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.</p>	<p>20 EVERY MON.: HIV+ Issues Group meets. 6:30-8pm. Sponsored by AIDS Community Resources. Call for place. 475-2430. People for Animal Rights business mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location. Syracuse United Neighbors/Westside meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddes & Delaware. 7:30pm. 476-7475.</p>	<p>21 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442. EVERY TUE: Syracuse Community Radio meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 478-4789. EVERY TUE: Middle Eastern Dance with Zoe Arteris. Westcott Community Center. 5:15-6:15pm. Fee. 474-7084.</p>	<p>22 1st & 3rd WED.: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnett Ave. 5-7pm. 472-5478. Local event marking 2nd anniversary of the Acolal massacre in Mexico. Call Zapata Solidarity Committee for details. 423-4783.</p>	<p>23 EVERY THU: Sitting Meditation at Women's INFO. 601 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free. Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 206 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-6237.</p>	<p>24 "Amahl & the Night Visitors" performed by Open Hand Theater. 8pm. See Dec. 3 for details. EVERY FRI: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.</p>	<p>25 Pax Christ meeting. Slocum House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woolever. 446-1693. EVERY SAT: Food Not Bombs serving free food at Westcott Community Center. 12-2pm. Denise. 478-8559.</p>	<p>26 EVERY SUN: "Common Threads," acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm. EVERY SUN: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable. Ch. 12. 8pm. Produced by Peace Council. Tune in, tape it, share it!</p>	<p>27 EVERY MON: Committee on Women & Art meeting to help plan the annual Matinee Symposium. 132C Schaffer Art Building. SU. 7:30pm. EVERY MON: Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.</p>	<p>28 Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. 1st Unitarian Universalist Society, 250 Wang Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940. EVERY MON, TUES, THURS: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 12pm. New friends, lunch, programs. 478-8634.</p>	<p>29 Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC. 924 Burnett Ave. 5-7pm. Call to check date. EVERY WED: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478.</p>	<p>30 Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. 475-1878. Thornden Park Association meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carol Simson for location. 475-2807. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve "Gay" event with The Nines. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 9pm-1am. Reservations call 424-8148. Dec: Nine Mile One 30th Birthday Retirement Party/Call Peace Council for date. 472-5478.</p>	<p>31 Coming in January: Syracuse Peace Council Bow-a-thon. Superbowl Sunday. See inside for more info.</p>	<p>32 Dec. 31: New Year's Eve "Gay" event with The Nines. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 9pm-1am. Reservations call 424-8148. Dec: Nine Mile One 30th Birthday Retirement Party/Call Peace Council for date. 472-5478.</p>	<p>33 StoneWall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue. 731 James St. 6pm. 476-6226. EVERY THU: Women's Voices radio program. WAER. FM 88.3. 6-7pm. Pat. 446-7259. Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 478-7475. Socialist Forum. Topic: "Left-wing Political Action. Present & Past." Westcott Community Center. 7:30pm. Free. 475-2395.</p>	<p>34 Dec. 1-17: "In the Field of Black Birds: Kocover Returns to Albania & Italy," photographs by Ernie Wamsleker. Light Work Gallery, 316 Waverly Ave. 10am-10pm. Dec. 1-22: "Looking at Cuba Today," photographs by Steve Cagan. Light Work Gallery, 316 Waverly Ave. 10am-10pm. Reception Dec. 10. 6-8pm. 443-2450. SEUNA meeting. Ervin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm.</p>	<p>35 Plowshares Craftsair, Southwest Community Center, 401 South Ave. 10am-5pm. Over 50 crafts-people, food, childcare, good cheer! Fundraiser for Peace Council. "Amahl & the Night Visitors" performed by Open Hand Theater. 2pm. See Dec. 3 for details. "Grandfather Frost's Stories of Russia." International Mask & Puppet Museum, 518 Prospect Ave. 11am. \$4 children, \$6 adults. 476-0468. "Amahl & the Night Visitors" performed by Open Hand Theater. 8pm. See Dec. 3 for details. Spanish Action League Christmas celebration. 475-8153 for time & place. "Amahl & the Night Visitors" performed by Open Hand Theater. 2pm & 8pm. See Dec. 3 for details. Dec. 11-12: National Organization for Women state convention for Women state convention. Saratoga Springs, NY. 518-782-1659.</p>
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Join Us For Our 29th Annual
Plowshares Craftsair & Winter Peace Festival

Dec. 4 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.
Dec. 5 Noon - 5 P.M.



Over 50 local crafters!

Southwest Community Center
401 South Ave.

UNDERSTANDING BIG WORDS:

Neo-liberalism

Excerpts from a speech given by Susan George at the Conference on Economic Sovereignty in a Globalizing World, Bangkok, March 24-26, 1999

The whole point of neo-liberalism is that the market mechanism should be allowed to direct the fate of human beings. The economy should dictate its rules to society, not the other way around. Neo-liberals have understood, as progressives have not, that ideas have consequences. If you can occupy peoples' heads, their hearts and their hands will follow. They have made neo-liberalism seem as if it were the natural and normal condition of humankind.

Let me stress how important it is to understand that this vast neo-liberal experiment we are being forced to live under has been created by people with a purpose. Once you grasp this, once you understand that neo-liberalism is not a force like gravity but a totally artificial construct, you can also understand that what some people have created, other people can change. But they cannot change it without recognizing the importance of ideas. I'm all for grassroots projects, but I also warn that these will collapse if the overall ideological climate is hostile to their goals.

The central value of neo-liberalism is the notion of competition—competition between nations, regions, firms and of course between individuals. People are unequal by nature, but

this is good because the contributions of the wellborn, the best-educated, the toughest, will eventually benefit everyone. Nothing is owed to the weak, the poorly educated; what happens to them is their own fault, never the fault of society.

Another implication of competition as the central value of neo-liberalism is that the public sector must be brutally downsized because



*Migrant farmworker picking California lettuce
Photo courtesy of Corporate Watch*

it does not and cannot obey the basic law of competing for profits or for market share. Privatizing is one of the major economic transformations of the past twenty years. The

whole point is to simply transfer wealth from the public purse—which could redistribute it to even out social inequalities—to private hands.

At the international level, neo-liberals have concentrated all their efforts on three fundamental points:

- Free trade in goods and services
- Free circulation of capital
- Freedom of investment

Neo-liberalism claims that the economy should dictate its rules to society, not the other way around. Democracy is an encumbrance, neo-liberalism is designed for winners, not for voters who, necessarily encompass the categories of both winners and losers.

Neo-liberalism has changed the fundamental nature of politics. Politics used to be about who ruled whom and who got what share of the pie. Aspects of both of these central questions remain, of course, but the great new central question of politics is, in my view, "Who has a right to live and who does not?" Radical exclusion is now the order of the day, I mean this deadly seriously.

We have the numbers on our side, because there are far more losers than winners in this game. We have the ideas, whereas theirs are finally coming into question because of repeated crisis. What we lack, so far, is the organization and the unity which in this age of advanced technology we can overcome. The threat is clearly transnational so the response must also be transnational. Solidarity no longer means aid, or not just aid, but finding the hidden synergies on each other's struggles so that our numerical force and the power of our ideas become overwhelming.

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