

Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

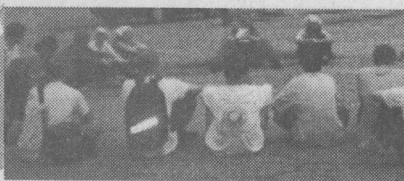
January 2000 PNL 687

The Power of the People

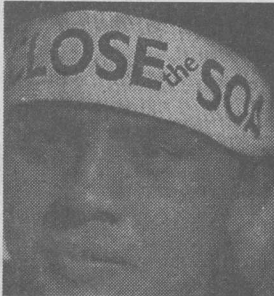
SIT-INS
TEACH-INS
MARCHES
THEATER
NO BUSINESS AS USUAL



WTO in Seattle



SOA in Columbus



BLOCKADES
BEARING WITNESS
SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

COAST-TO-COAST NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

Peace Newsletter

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE...

Recent events from coast to coast remind us that nonviolence remains as crucial and relevant as ever as the millennium draws to a close (at least according to the consensus in the United States). We near the end of perhaps the bloodiest century in human history—the beginning of the nuclear age, the carnage of two world wars along with hundreds of civil and international wars which took the lives of scores of millions and wreaked havoc in the lives of many times that number.

One can only speculate as to whether *Time's* selections for "Person of the Century" were made in spite of this legacy or because of it. However, it is interesting to note that two of the top three selections—Albert Einstein and Mohandas Gandhi—were strong international advocates and practitioners of active nonviolence.

We enter the month when our nation recognizes our best known native son of nonviolence—Martin Luther King, Jr. A memorial to Dr. King will soon grace the mall in Washington, DC. It will add diversity to the type of actions our nation chooses to honor as well as in the skin color of those so recognized. We must continue to remind people that Dr. King's understanding of the problems facing this country grew increasingly radical as he condemned the Viet Nam War and the horrors of capitalism in the year before his murder. With that in mind,

this issue of the *Peace Newsletter* highlights two recent instances of nonviolent direct action which address these very themes.

There are significant contrasts between the solemn and highly symbolic civil disobedience at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia and the in-your-face direct action of the street blockades at the World Trade Organization meetings in Seattle, WA. However, both actions drew on the rich history of nonviolent activism, prepared in earnest for nonviolent action and sought to bring together diverse forces in our nation and beyond to act for a better world.

The Seattle protests received much greater media attention, though much of it highlighted the few acts of property destruction. My reading of the events in Seattle leads to the conclusion that the activists maintained an admirable degree of nonviolence in the face of tear gas and other unprovoked assaults from law enforcement officers. Nonetheless, the incidents of protest violence are still regrettable in my eyes from both an ethical and a tactical perspective.

By presenting the voices which follow, the *PNL* continues its role of grappling with the latest issues which face those of us who doggedly maintain that we have a role to play in creating the Beloved Community which Dr. King so eloquently described.

—Andy Mager

COMMUNITY UPDATES

This first-of-the year issue of the *PNL* includes a special expanded section of Community Updates. Local community organizations were asked to provide more detailed information about their work and agenda for the coming year. In future issues of the *PNL*, we will include the usual shorter Community Updates and encourage groups to send along their news to the SPC by January 14 for the

February issue.

We also welcome inserts for future *PNL* issues. Inserts are full-size (8½" x 11") fliers, inserted into each copy of the *PNL* which is mailed out. Call us—472-5478—to get more information or to let us know that you want to run a staffer.

—Paul Frazier

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

Joan Carol Goldberg

February 13, 1935-
December 14, 1999



Much of her life was devoted to working for peace and social justice. She was active in many groups and coalitions, including Educators for Social Responsibility, Syracuse Covenant Sanctuary (working with Salvadoran refugees), Syracuse Peace Council, Syracuse Pride, New Jewish Agenda, and N.O.W. She worked to close the SOA. Her adult education work was often focused on

empowering people including elders, rural women, and people striving to make the transition from welfare to work.

Born in the Bronx, she lived in CNY since 1981. She died at home on December 14. On Saturday, December 18, Plymouth Church was filled with friends and music in a resounding testament to Joan's profound influence in and on our community.

Uncompromised

Tough as # 5 sandpaper
But not nearly so rough,
She seized each moment,
Fierce, insistent, incisive.
Warmth was not her first suit,
She led with analysis—
Knowledge and passion combined
Into her heat of necessity.
From within the heat
A gentler warmth pooled and flowed
Unbound compassion connecting
her stubbornly Caringly,
without compromise
To her prized companions.
She raged to live,
Lived to be present,
Wove herself into cherished lives
In Edmonton and San Francisco,
New York and Habana,
El Salvador and Nicaragua.
In a cousin's Andean stone prison,
Where unforgiving winds steal in
Through uneven granite walls.
And here at home,
Where she'd do anything for you.
All she asked
Was that you
Pay attention.

Paul Weichselbaum, December 15, 1999



Plowshares Craftsfair

A Real Good Time !

It is always wonderful to have one's anticipation of good times come to pass. For many Central New Yorkers the first weekend in December is the time for the Plowshares winter festival - an occasion to anticipate, sa-

vor, and think about amidst the sometimes heavy load of holiday consumerism.

This year we had the Y2K media circus to contend with as well. Whether crafting, buying, visiting, nibbling or just wandering around we were even more appreciative of the special feelings that come from being part of Plowshares. The Festival was also successful in helping us raise funds for the ongoing work of the Peace Council. Thanks to all who did their holiday shopping from the 50 plus crafters, enjoyed the wonderful food prepared by Sparky Mortimer and her crew, and supported the Peace Council table, Front Room Bookstore, and raffle.

There are many thanks to be given and we will do this a little bit at a time so that the contributions of time, energy, spirit, and resources can be well recognized. Most important is the (often behind the scenes) work of the Plowshares Committee. Thanks to Karen Kerney, Andy Molloy, Beth Mosely, Paul Pearce, Mardea Warner, Lanny Freshman, Barbara Floch, Margaret Birdleough, and Rae Kramer for their long-term commitment and hard work. While not a formal member of the Committee, we also want to recognize Duane Hardy who quietly and competently manages the ins and outs of the money, Set-up and clean-up thanks to Paul, Lanny, Margaret, Karen, Andy, Beth, Rae, the Hogan clan (Lance, Sara, Amanda, Mara); Sue Nuccio for raffle table set-up; James Shattell for trash clean-up. Special thanks to Diane Cass and Tim for setting up and running the SPC table - an important fund-raising component.

The raffle is another key fund-raising part of Plowshares. Thanks to all who purchased tickets - by mail and/or in person. We also want to recognize the people who donated many diverse prizes (services and goods), and ask you to support them throughout the year. This year's donors include: Bicycle Alley, J. Michael Shoes, the Syracuse Cultural Workers, Samir's, Bersani Gallery, Design Lines, Chimneys Videos, Eureka Crafts, the Framing Studio, Howard Walsdorf, Lanny Freshman and Rae Kramer, Peter's Liquor Store, the Front Room, Laura Kramer, the Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union, the Food Co-op, Hairanoia, Showcase Productions, Munjed's, Alto Cinco, A la Mode, Salt City Performing Arts Center, the Syracuse Stage, My Sister's Words, Seven Rays, the Erie Boulevard Bowling Center, Mary O'Halloran, the Jerk Hut, Harry Freeman-Jones, Karen Hall, and Amy Bartell. Wow! What a list. Congratulations to all the winners! More thank you's to come next month. With the spirit of Plowshares still with us, we offer our best wishes for a new year of peace and fellowship.

- SPC Council

The WTO

AND THE SHIPWRECK IN SEATTLE

John Fitzsimmons

One sign held by a protester in Seattle at the WTO conference said: "TEAMSTERS AND TURTLES—TOGETHER AT LAST," which smartly caught the spirit of the amazing protest against the WTO. Tens of thousands of peaceful demonstrators—husky steelworkers marching alongside costumed sea turtle impersonators, environmentalists and miners, human rights activists and students—combined to shut down the WTO conference for a day and brought this message to the world's attention: International corporations running the WTO (and their accomplices in government) can no longer make their trade rules based only on profits, but must consider human rights, labor rights and environmental issues.

THE WTO AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an international trade association with 135 nation members created in 1995 at the "Uruguay Round" of GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs & Trades) negotiations. The WTO, which replaced GATT, is responsible for enforcing a set of international trade rules which place priority on corporate gain and greatly restrict the ability of any country to develop policies which place the needs of people and the environment before the desire of corporations for greater profit. The WTO is probably the most powerful organization in the world. Its rules have international treaty status, meaning they supercede the domestic laws of any member nation. Ralph Nader of Public Citizen, calls the WTO "the greatest surrender of our national, state, and local sovereignty in American history." Mr. Nader's point is emphasized by a summary of a few recent trade disputes that resulted in the weakening of U.S. health and environmental protections due to cases brought be-

fore the WTO tribunal by foreign countries or multinational companies.

The U.S. weakened regulations limiting gasoline contaminants that cause pollution after Venezuela won a WTO challenge against the U.S. Clean Air Act.

The Clinton administration pushed legislation gutting the popular dolphin-safe tuna provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act after Mexico threatened a WTO enforcement action on an earlier 1991 ruling by a GATT panel. Tuna that are caught in nets which trap dolphins that are encircling the schools of tuna is now back in U.S. stores for the first time in over a decade.

The U.S. is fighting an infestation of Asian longhorned beetles, a tree-eating bug that arrived in raw-wood packing crates from China and Hong Kong. Hong Kong complained that U.S. rules requiring treatment of wooden packing to kill the beetles were illegal under WTO laws.

You might wonder how our government gave the WTO the power to supercede U.S. law. According to the *Public Citizen News*, it happened in 1994 when the GATT, which dealt mainly with tariffs and import quotas, was transformed into the WTO. Despite the objections of consumers, labor, environmentalists and human rights groups, the old agreement was vastly expanded and included provisions allowing the WTO to over-ride domestic law. In 1994 few people in the U.S. understood the new agreement, and its pre-emptive authority was essentially ignored by the mainstream media. Congress ratified the agreement, even though few members had even bothered to read it.

There are additional problems that call for extensive reform, dissolution or dismantling of the WTO.

Secrecy: The WTO tribunal process allows trade bureaucrats to go behind closed doors in Geneva, Switzerland and declare national laws illegal trade barriers that must be eliminated.

No outside appeal from these rulings exists. Such trade-oriented dispute resolution proceedings are conducted in secret. There are no meaningful conflict-of-interest rules or other basic due process guarantees.

Anti-Democratic: The combination of the WTO's extensive rules and powerful enforcement mechanisms allows the WTO to eviscerate popular, democratically enacted laws. For example, WTO rules do not permit countries to distinguish between products based on how they are produced. So a law banning the imports of products made with child labor—a ban broadly popular with the American people—would run afoul of WTO regulations.

"Under the WTO the race to the bottom is not only in living standards and environmental and health safeguards, but in democracy itself," said Ralph Nader. "Enactment of these so-called 'free-trade' deals virtually guarantees that democratic efforts to ensure corporations pay their fair share of taxes, provide their employees with a decent standard of living, or limit their pollution, will be met with the refrain: 'You can't burden us like that.'"

GOALS OF THE DELEGATES IN SEATTLE

The trade forum hoped that the meeting would start up a new round of global trade talks, tentatively named the "Millennium Round," that would flatten trade barriers to their lowest level in history and allow service providers such as telecommunication companies greater access to world markets. Despite weeks of meetings to work out a formal agenda for the meeting, negotiators broke off their talks in late November without agreeing on what to talk about. There were simply too many unresolved trade disputes among the member nations to expect that they could be resolved in Seattle. Some officials thought the meeting should be postponed for that reason. Further complicating the picture, the U.S. and the Europeans wanted the trade group to help resolve global disputes on labor and the environment. This push to expand the trade group's mandate divided the developed and less-developed countries. The less-developed nations (including India, Brazil, and Egypt) strenuously opposed President Clinton's proposals to have the WTO set and enforce international labor standards and outlaw at least some kinds of child labor. The proposals seemed designed to satisfy American unions, many of which argue that recent free-trade agreements have

John Fitzsimmons is a member of the Syracuse Peace Council, Peace Action and the School of the Americas/CNY Abolitionists. He made it to Georgia, but not Seattle.

given American jobs to countries with lower wages and less rigorous labor laws.

President Clinton had stronger Western backing for his initiatives on the environment. He proposed that the trade group respect the right of the U.S. to exclude imports that do not meet U.S. environmental standards.

The attitude of Third World countries to these proposals was cogently expressed by Peter S. Watson, former head of the International Trade Commission, who said: "Many third world countries think that discussions on environment and labor are a Trojan horse for turning the WTO into a forum that enforces Western rights."

In the end, the negotiations to rewrite the rules of trade for the new millennium collapsed, and everyone went home angry—that is, everyone except the protestors, who declared a great victory. Before the world trade forum, very few citizens of the world had heard of the WTO, and now the protests have made it known around the globe. The protestors caused the spotlight to be shown on the organization which used to have its deliberations held in the shadows. Now the entire world has seen that it works only for the benefit of the international corporations, and issues of human rights, labor and the environment are ignored. The spotlight has also shown that the economic elites of many third world



One person's take on the purpose of the WTO meetings in Seattle. Photo: Ted Grudowski

countries care nothing for the citizens or the environments of their nations.

THE BATTLE AFTER SEATTLE

William Greider, author of *One World, Ready or Not-The Manic Logic of Global Capitalism*, is a perceptive critic of neo-liberalism. He wrote recently in *The Nation* recommending post-Seattle actions for WTO critics:

"The campaign for authentic reform (of the global trading system) will be a long and uphill struggle, but it may already be time to open a new front. The next target for protest, I suggest, ought to be the major multinationals themselves, at least those that claim America as home base. If we are told that the WTO cannot consider such straightforward matters as child labor and humane working conditions, then the task of global reform must reside in the national legislatures, including Congress. America cannot tell other nations how to govern their domestic affairs, but it certainly can tell its own companies what's intolerable to U.S. consumers and citizens. If Congress can prohibit overseas bribery by U.S. corporations, it can prohibit abuses of humanity in their foreign factories, especially when the goods are produced for American consumers.

"As national legislation is developed to hold our global firms accountable for their behavior, we will be told that this approach violates our agreement to accept the WTO's governance. That's true. We do not accept it."



VOICES FROM SEATTLE

A Tremendous Victory...

December 7, 1999

They never knew what hit them. They had assumed it would be business as usual, the way it had been for decades. Rich men gather, meet, decide the fate of the world, then return home to amass more wealth. It's the way it's always been.

Until Seattle.

On the morning of November 30, 1999, as government officials from 135 nations attempted to meet with the largest gathering ever of corporate executives, tens of thousands of average everyday working Americans shut down the city of Seattle and physically prohibited the hoped-for historic and official merger of the earth's political and business elite. I was there. I saw it first-hand. It was a sight I had never seen.

But there it was. It was a massively representative body of Americans (and Canadians

and Brits and French, etc.), all of us standing there on the streets between Pine and Pike—Teamsters and turtle-lovers, grandparents and Gap clerks, the homeless and computer geeks, high school students and Alaskans, nuns and Jimmy Hoffa, Jr., airplane mechanics and caffeinated slaves from Microsoft...

The big labor march grew so large (that's what happens when so many workers are temps), it broke into six or seven separate marches, choking-off the entire downtown area of Seattle.

It was funny watching how the media presented the Battle of Seattle ("violent protests" was the mantra), and while a McDonald's and a Starbucks had their windows broken, the truth was that 99% of the participants destroyed no property and took great pains to treat the city of Seattle with endearing respect. Seattle is, after all, the only city in the history of this country to have a general strike (the entire town refused to show

up for work back in 1919)...

It was a tremendous victory for everyone who lives from paycheck to paycheck. We owe a lot to those brave souls who got arrested and spent the rest of the week in jail.

This is by no means the end of Big Business. The richest 1% still own 90% of everything in this world. They will not go down without a fight.

But they have been put on notice that people from all walks of life have had their fill and will not let up until we have a fair, just, and democratic economy. This week, Seattle was the Lexington and Concord of a movement that now cannot be stopped. Mark it down, this last great, The Battle of Seattle, the day the people got tired of having to work a second job while fighting off the collection agents and decided it was time the pie was shared with the people who baked it.

—Michael Moore

VOICES FROM SEATTLE

Disciplined, radical, well-educated

November 30, 1999

The protests today represented a new beginning of cooperation between labor, environmental, peace, human rights and other groups. Many were represented and worked together very well.

The direct action was carried out by mainly young activists who had been trained for the week before and handled themselves superbly, by and large. They were disciplined, radical, well-educated and had a good grasp of the value of nonviolence, at least as a tactic. I found that they knew a remarkable amount about the WTO, free trade, capitalism and related topics....

The City of Seattle's downtown area was completely shut down. The police took over the streets and the police were not able to exercise more than token control over them.... The protesters did a magnificent job of policing themselves. The minor outbreaks of violent anger were contained by the demonstrators with surprising skill and commitment.

It was probably a very significant day in the history of people's power, "free" trade evolution and defense of democracy....

As I walked around downtown, I found that practically every intersection was filled with people dancing, drumming and blockading and the numbers were truly amazing. The police were mostly holding various lines and not letting people through them. Then periodically they would use tear gas to clear an area. People would leave the area, circle around to another block and come back when the gas dispersed. The police would shortly abandon the intersection they had just secured and move to another one and the process would begin again. The upshot of this was that the police were unable to protect much of anything at all, yet they could not spare the manpower to arrest demonstrators without losing control of the areas they were trying to protect. The downtown was firmly in the protesters' hands and it was clear that without the consent of the governed not much could be accomplished, if enough of the governed decided to resist....

Photo: Terry Dyvak



In many intersections, protesters "locked down." They connected themselves to each other and to heavy blocks or concrete-filled pipes to make it impossible for the police to move them. This was another reason the cops didn't arrest people. They just couldn't. Some of those locked down were still in the intersections when the police used tear gas in the area and they just had to endure it....

I saw signs for at least these unions: steelworkers, electrical workers, teachers, bricklayers, ILWU (Longshoremen), painters, Stanford workers, service em-

ployees, teamsters, sheet metal workers, marine engineers, transit workers, boilermakers, plumbers, steamfitters and refrigeration workers, public service workers of Canada, cement masons, pulp paper and woodworkers, nurses, Canadian Airways workers and carpenters....

At 5 p.m., the police moved to clear the entire area. They began firing off large amounts of tear gas and people began to run down 6th. A number of us shouted for them to walk to prevent panic and stampede. Then we moved slowly out of the area. The tear gas overtook us and I was gassed more heavily this time. The stuff isn't as nasty as what they used to use in the 60s, but it's bad enough. Shortly after that I left.

—Peter Bergel



All the Creativity

December 29, 1999

"Art is not a mirror to reflect reality, but a hammer with which to shape it." -Bertolt Brecht

I went to the protest in Seattle with a small street theatre group from Peterborough. I was tear gassed, intimidated by cops, chased by an armoured tank (the peacemaker... or was it peacekeeper, I don't remember), put in an armbar by a cop and pushed around with one of those big clubs that all those trouble makers dressed in black (aka cops) had. I was generally scared shitless at least twice a day.

However, I also laughed until my guts hurt everyday and I juggled everyday and I sang everyday and I saw a hell of a lot of people smiling and doing the same... everyday!...

I think however, that what made this event so special was all the creativity that was expressed and all the joy that was there even in the face of police brutality and shitty media coverage. Indeed, I think if you take away that creativity then the joy (and success) of the protest would have left with it....

—Sean



person take—an officer drenched her face from close range while she and I were sitting down on the curb holding up peace signs.

It's true that there were vandals, but a very small group. Indeed, the nonviolent demonstrators were doing a fine job of keeping them under control. There were about (my unscientific estimate) 90,000 non-violent people and about 30 violent people. But the police gassed the passive res-

isters and drove them away. So while the nonviolent people were choking and gasping for breath, the violent people put on their gas masks and started throwing the tear gas canisters back. From there, it went to rocks and bottles. Every media member I've seen is commenting that the police exhibited "remarkable restraint." Actually, the restraint was shown by the protesters. For the better part of the day, they were subjected to physical and chemical assault, yet didn't retaliate....

—Roni

Building the Kind of World We Envision

December 1, 1999

Yesterday was absolutely incredible! It's very unfortunate, of course, that the ones who wouldn't keep the nonviolence pledge (which specifically included no property damage) were able to do so much damage, are getting so much coverage, and aren't being distinguished very well from the mass majority who conducted themselves so much more peacefully—though it did sadden me how many of "our folks" engaged in what I consider verbal abuse toward both the police and the blocked out delegates. At many of the intersections and key sites the mood was actually festive and upbeat much of the time, and though things could quickly change to being tense, I think most of the day the police showed amazing restraint and patience.... I spent quite a bit of time on Monday with Chris Nye from WRL in NY, who kept remarking how wonderful it was to be in such huge gatherings of such diverse groups (young punk-style anarchists, environmentalists, peace&justice activists, union members, religious groups of many denominations....)—and noted that we were not only protesting what we don't want happening, but also literally building the kind of world we envision, with all these different folks planning & working together nonviolently.

—Tana DeVietti

Nonviolent, Passive Resistance

December 1, 1999

I was there all day Monday and Tuesday, and I would like to point out that the vast majority of protesters engaged in nonviolent, passive resistance—refusing to move when ordered, sitting peacefully in intersections, etc. For their trouble, they were beaten, gassed and subjected to high-technology assaults by police weapons. The police initiated every bit of violence I saw — except for two instances when violence was initiated by WTO delegates themselves, one of whom pulled a gun on a line of protesters....

I was gassed five times, choked and dragged by an officer for about 20 feet, hit with a truncheon, and shot at with rubber bullets. One friend of mine was hit with more pepper than I've ever seen one

Listen to the Voices of the People

December 2, 1999

Some highlights that I saw...at one of the major blocking points the police began to congregate in riot gear. After a long standoff (over 45 minutes) they moved forward against the non-violent protest, teargassing us, violently arresting a few, throwing a tear gas bottle right in the faces of 2 older locked down protestors. Plastic bullets were also fired at protestors.

Back up at our base, cops began to congregate, getting ready to try to break through us. Ben and I stood face to face with this line of riot and gas masked equipped cops talking to them, telling them it was their choice whether they wanted to hurt us, reminding them that they were supposed to represent the people, not the few wealthy trying to get in. "One hundred thousand of us stand outside, only a few wealthy are trying to get in, you are for the people"... I was arrested without warning—and no charges were ever explained to me. While I was detained the cops advanced in on the lines of people sitting peacefully in front of them—the police used enormous amounts of pepper spray—shoving it in their faces, lifting their bandanas and then spraying and shoving it back in their face, they then began to use their clubs to try to move the rest. The rally did not disperse...

As the enormous throngs of people began to rally and to disperse the police set off tear gas bombs to move people out....

My favorite chant... "We have no vote, we have no seat, listen to the voices of the people on the street."

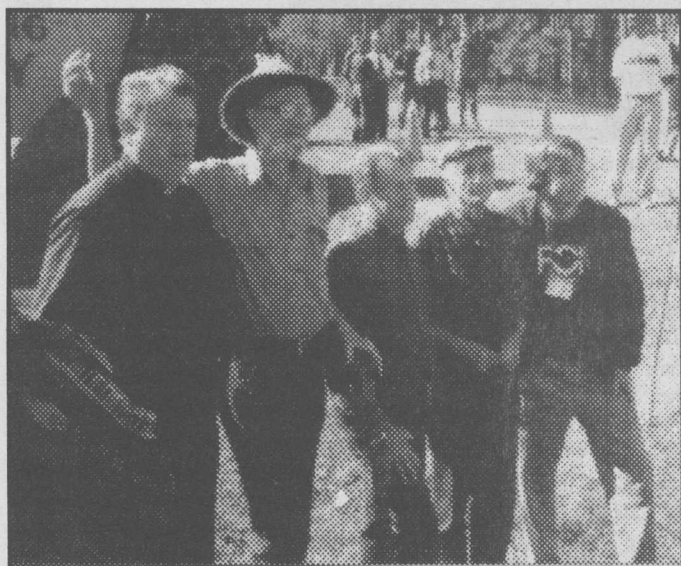
This is the beginning of something HUGE!

—Jonah Zern

NO BUSINESS AS USUAL: *The SOA, the WTO and the Press*

Ed Kinane

The anti-SOA procession onto Fort Benning a year ago last November was then the largest civil disobedience action in the U.S. since the Viet Nam War. Military police rounded up over 2300 anti-SOA protesters and—unable to process so many—simply bussed them off base.



Some of the heavies: Pete Seeger, Martin Sheen, Dan Berrigan and John Dear at the main gate to Fort Benning. Photo: Ann Tiffany.

On November 21, 1999 Benning was again overwhelmed by the numbers. Over 4400 risked arrest by crossing the line onto the base. (With 317, New York led the states in number of people crossing.) The action was a silent liturgy—marked by white crosses, incense, shrouds, death masks and coffins—demanding that the SOA be abolished. Benning singled out only 23 demonstrators—mostly recidivists—for possible prosecution. It has learned that making martyrs only fuels our burgeoning movement. Prison witness works.

While this year's procession dwarfed last year's, in early December it was itself dwarfed by the vast protest in Seattle against the World Trade Organization. In the face of clubs, rubber bullets, pepper spray and tear gas, the

anti-WTO demonstrators severely disrupted WTO deliberations. Their life-affirming message, "No Business as Usual," was heard 'round the world.' While our annual anti-SOA events have managed to close Benning's main entrance for a few hours on a Sunday, we have yet to close the SOA itself even for a day.

The World Trade Organization and the School of the Americas are criminal kin. The one is systemically violent, the other is directly violent. Both the WTO and the SOA are profoundly anti-labor and anti-democratic. Both are instruments of corporate domination, of corporate greed. The WTO undermines labor, welfare or environmental legislation anywhere in the world which might hamper multinational trade.

While the WTO spans the globe, the SOA targets Latin America. The SOA trains Latin American military to use terrorism to suppress opposition parties. For example, in Colombia, a nation with over

9000 SOA graduates, hundreds of opposition candidates have been assassinated. SOA doctrine leads Latin American death squads also to target those organizing for decent wages. The SOA's historic role is to maintain "stability," that is, to assure corporate access to an unending reservoir of cheap, docile labor.

Opposed to the WTO and the SOA are grassroots campaigns that are nationwide and nonviolent. (What violence there was in Seattle appears to have been largely perpetrated and provoked by the police.) Both campaigns conscientize the man and woman on the street. And, importantly, both mobilize students. At Benning this year there were an estimated 2000 high school and college students. In Seattle there were many times that.

By sheer force of numbers both campaigns have broken the collusive silence of the mainstream press. Such silence hasn't been

because the national press are sympathetic to big business, but because the press are big business. Hence their distaste for publicizing resistance to the organs of governance and control that protect their class interests. To maintain credibility the national media are forced to report our huge demonstrations.

Although the Syracuse dailies gave it scant notice, and the *Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal* ignored it entirely, other major dailies around the country featured the Nov. 21 Benning action. The *Atlanta Constitution*, the *Miami Herald*, and the *Boston Globe*, for example, provided front page coverage "above the fold" and with color photos.

Before the Nov. 21 demonstration at Benning, the New York Times had barely ever mentioned the ten-year old anti-SOA campaign. In Nov. '98 the Times devoted a paragraph to the immense civil disobedience action. This Nov. 22, however, it carried a half-page article.

That article tended to favor SOA spokesmen and undercut anti-SOA statements—this despite the fact that the Times once editorialized that, "An institution so clearly out of tune with American values and so stubbornly immune to reform should be shut down without further delay" (28 Sept. '96).

In Syracuse we've seen a similar split between the editorial and news departments in our two Newhouse-owned dailies. Over the past several years the morning *Post-Standard* and the afternoon *Herald-Journal* have run numerous editorials demanding closure of the SOA. The *Post-Standard's* December 7 editorial was pungently headlined, "SOA STINKS."

However, for most of the past two years the news department serving both papers has slighted the issue. This is so even though in that time seven Central New Yorkers have been in prison for opposing the SOA and even though they and scores of other local folks were actively involved in the November '98 and '99 vigil actions at Benning.

There a lesson in all of this. To be heard and to affect policy, we must take to the streets. We must do so more often and in ever-increasing numbers. Our own lives must say, "No business as usual."

Ed has been reporting in the PNL on direct actions to close the SOA since 1994.



VOICES FROM FORT BENNING

A Moment of Unity

It was a time of deep emotions that only an intensely spiritual experience can bring. Joy and sadness exhaled and inhaled moment by moment. Calm and fear taking turns in the collective solar plexus. Profound grief reflecting profound love. And the current running underneath it all—the ever-present feeling of community; connecting the living and the dead, young and old, Benning vigilers and at-home vigilers, protesters and protested.

I had been to Benning last year in a whirlwind, jet-setting weekend. It represented a small but personally significant way of honoring those I loved living behind bars being true to their beliefs; beliefs which I shared but never acted on concretely. It helped, of course, that Paul was going, and I'll never forget Joan Goldberg's words of encouragement, support, and care. The experience was transforming. I'd never felt a part of something that got me so totally outside myself while at the same time grounding my mind/body/spirit connection. The nonviolent redistribution of the balance of power happening that weekend was impressive. The well of hope for peace that sprung inside me continues to sustain me, as it sustained me through my witness in Chiapas last spring and as it sustained me through the process of deciding to cross the line this year.

It was crowded crossing the line. The 4,408 incarnated souls speaking truth to power with their bodies; the souls of the Central and Latin American martyrs of the SOA war against humankind; the souls of our civilly disobedient forebearers so poignantly described at the vigil as going back to the Hebrew midwives disobeying the pharaoh's orders; all those there in spirit from hometowns (and my mom and dad and cousin Shawn keeping a special watch). In such good company, my biggest fear was whether I could get through the day without having to pee. My physical concerns were tempered by the realization that my body had its greatest power in giving up its freedom (as temporary as I knew it would be that day). The moment of crossing that line was a moment of total unity between my mind, body, and spirit. In that unity, I connected to all the innumerable other souls crossing and all those at the vigil, seeking peace and justice.

—Deb Kenn

An Ecumenical Movement

A song that dates back to the '50s carried the macho title, "Stouthearted Men." Yet it contained a basic truth that has come to pass in the protest movement against the School of the Americas: "Start me with ten, who are stouthearted men and I'll soon give you ten thousand more." To mill among those 10,000 committed women and men, girls and boys from almost every state of the union, as well as from other countries was a strong spiritual experience. To be a part of a group in which several participants had already spent months or years in prison, and many others had indicated a willingness to do the same, touched me personally. To witness the solemn procession of civil disobedience to the drumbeat and repeated response "presente" brought a sense of awe to another CNY friend, who made the 20 hour trip for the first time. To listen to Pete Seeger leading "Amazing Grace," and belting out with gusto protest songs like "If I had a Hammer" and "This Land is Your Land," brought forth a joyful response from many hearts and voices. Doing it here at the entrance of Fort Benning with youthful Jolie Rickman and Colleen Kattau made it doubly enjoyable.

This is an ecumenical movement in the best sense of the word. It transcends religious and cultural barriers with creative participation by Native American tribes. It brings together the North and the South in our hemisphere with Hispanic and English speakers. Placed all together, it is a powerful non-violent response to years and years of violence perpetrated against a multitude of our brothers and sisters in Latin America. That is the bottom line on which Roy Bourgeois continues to keep our focus. This is a movement of repentance and hope.

—Frank Woolever

Conflicting Voices

Last September I began to ask myself, "should I go to the demonstration to close the School of the Americas at Fort Benning?" Let me tell you about the voices inside: One said, "Go! You are now retired, you have no excuse." Another: "Yes Go! You should stand up and shout for what you believe. Lend your voice to those protesting the atrocities committed in Central America with the tacit approval of the U.S. Government." (The thought

flashed through my mind of the German Minister who ruefully recounted that he had not stood up for the Jews, but waited until "they came for me.")

Other inner voices said: "Oh! it will be so inconvenient—a disruption in your life, and an expense." I suspect that was a shield for: "You don't know anyone to go with. You'll be alone. Others will have their friends, and you'll be isolated." Or: "If it's cold weather, you won't tolerate standing outside all day. You'll catch a cold!" (Mother speaking) Or even: "You'll be putting yourself in danger of a confrontation with the MP's or the police."

Finally, I decided to go and at once felt better, having made the travel arrangements and after attending the nonviolence training session in October, led by the very skilled people in our SOA Watch group.

The day of the march was warm and sunny. I had volunteered to be a peacekeeper. These are folks who are given yellow arm bands and work together to keep the march unified and nonviolent. We were to walk to the side of the procession as it moved onto the army base and to relay messages from the march organizers. I had some apprehensions about performing this role, but, as it turned out, it allowed me to meet and talk to people from different parts of the country. I remember especially Sister Betty, who is involved in fine work for the poor in West Virginia.

During the march I purposefully stationed myself next to a contingent from May Memorial. One of them said to me that she was glad to see me there as a peacekeeper in close proximity—it gave her more confidence. But my reality was that marching near them was gave me much needed support.

Another memory: seeing the blood-stained "bodies" and caskets, a dramatic demonstration put on by the "high risk" group. That sight affected me as if I had been physically struck by a blow to the chest!

And, of course, during the weekend I met people in our local SOA Watch group I hadn't known, and got to know others better. My feelings of isolation vanished. A high point for me was the Sunday evening dinner and swing dancing with Rae Kramer.

Would I do it again? Yes! It was an experience I wouldn't have wanted to miss.

Perhaps you will want to consider going next November.

—Richard Weiskopf

Nukes For Sale, Cheap... Guess Who's Paying?

Kyle Rabin

The fate of nuclear power plants is one of the more nettlesome issues facing electric utility industry restructuring in New York State. It is an issue that demands that the New York State Government proceed with much caution and scrutiny in order to understand what role, if any, nuclear power should have in the State's new energy marketplace. Exposing nuclear power to the rigors of marketplace competition raises a number of concerns for all New Yorkers.

Realizing that "the treatment of nuclear generation raises issues that warrant special attention," the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) has set out to answer the following basic questions: (1) Is it truly in the public interest to expose New York's four investor-owned commercial nuclear power reactors to the same competitive market that other electric generating facilities are now facing? (2) Is it in the public interest to require electric utilities to divest themselves of their nuclear power reactors, as they have been told to do with their fossil fuel and hydro-power plants?

To address these and other questions, the PSC—the state agency responsible for setting rates and ensuring that New Yorkers have access to safe, reliable, and low-cost utility services—launched a generic proceeding earlier in the year. Although New York has six commercial nuclear reactors, the PSC proceeding addressed only the four that it has authority to regulate: Nine Mile Point 1, owned by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NiMo); Nine Mile Point 2, owned by NiMo, New York State Electric & Gas, and three other co-owners; R.E. Ginna, owned by Rochester Gas & Electric, and Indian Point 2, owned by Consolidated Edison.

The two nuclear power reactors owned by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) were not addressed in this proceeding since

they are not investor-owned and lie outside of the PSC's regulatory jurisdiction. NYPA recently entered into negotiations for the possible sale of its Indian Point Unit Three and J.A. Fitzpatrick reactors to Entergy Corporation, a Louisiana-based energy company.

NiMo JUMPS THE GUN

Unfortunately, the PSC's analysis of this sensitive issue was thrown off track when NiMo and NYSEG prematurely decided to sell their interest in Nine Mile Point 1 and 2 (NMP1 and NMP2). Back in June, the two utilities announced that they had accepted a purchase offer from AmerGen Energy Company LLC. The announced sale was premature in that (1) the PSC had not yet ruled as to whether they would require electric utilities to divest themselves of their nuclear reactors and, (2) the new market for nuclear reactors is still in its infancy and competition hardly exists among the few companies seeking to buy reactors.

Without effectively addressing the original question and succumbing to utility pressure, the PSC responded with the following narrow query: "Are the sales of NMP1 and NMP2 in the public interest?" Refusing to look at the bigger picture, the PSC has restricted parties in the proceeding from raising broader economic, safety and public health matters that beg the real question: Is the nuclear industry itself in the public interest?

The PSC's narrow questions seem especially problematic when one considers the fiscal and technical mismanagement that has plagued the nuclear industry: Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, the radioactive contamination at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, the tritium plume present beneath the now permanently closed Brookhaven reactor. The PSC's shortsighted focus is particularly disturbing given the September 30, 1998 explosion at Japan's Tokaimura enrichment plant which was caused by what police investigators now describe as "a complication within the company that forced the employees to hasten the production of nuclear fuel." In a recent editorial for *The Nation*, energy expert Harvey Wasserman explains the police findings in more plain terms: "Simply put: In their

THE PSC WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

Sometime in the coming months, the PSC will issue a decision on the proposed sale of the Nine Mile Point plants. Until then they are accepting public comments. Contact the PSC at:

Information Line: 1-888-ASK-PSC1 (1-888-275-7721), Opinion Line (1-800-335-2120), NYS Department of Public Service, Office of Consumer Affairs, 3rd floor, 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350, web: www.dps.state.ny.us

Tell the PSC that they should not approve any proposed reactor sale that:

- * Allows current owners to continue to recover stranded costs from their ratepayers.
- * Involves a bidding structure that undermines competition.
- * Negatively impacts reactor safety.
- * Results in drastic staff reductions and subsequent cut backs on routine maintenance.
- * Allows new owners to keep leftover decommissioning funds, that should be returned to ratepayers.
- * Negatively impacts the economy of reactor communities by decimating property tax values.

haste to compete with foreign nuclear fuel producers, workers were mishandling fissionable materials.... The eerie blue light of the resulting fission may be a warning beacon for a U.S. industry now engaged in a similar cost-driven disregard for safety."

WHY THE RUSH?

Even with the state bailouts of their un-economic plants, nuclear utilities like NiMo still confront a marketplace in which the future costs of running their plants are too high to compete with lower-cost generators. With this in mind, nuclear utilities are already selling their reactors to a couple of newly emerging corporate entities like Entergy Corporation and AmerGen, a multinational joint venture

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between PECO Energy Company of Philadelphia (51% owner) and British Energy Plc. (49%). At this point, AmerGen and Entergy are the only major players looking to buy reactors. Through its AmerGen venture and its proposed \$8.2 billion merger with Unicom Corp., PECO already owns or is in the process of acquiring 20 reactors. AmerGen is now in the process of bidding on the Seabrook reactor in New Hampshire and the three troubled Millstone reactors in Connecticut. Entergy now operates six reactors and is managing decommissioning activities at two others.

including \$1.8 billion in construction costs and a \$1.4 billion return on investment (profit)—could total some \$3.2 billion over the next 15 years. Of the nearly \$6.6 billion construction cost for the Nine Mile reactors, NiMo shareholders have absorbed \$1 billion and ratepayers have already paid about \$3 billion. Oswego also faces significant financial shortfalls resulting from major reductions in the property tax value of the reactors.

Ratepayers will also be abused by the transfer of the reactor decommissioning (dismantling and decontamination) funds. NiMo, as part of the proposed deal, will transfer approximately \$300 million already collected from ratepayers to AmerGen. Betting it can decommission reactor sites cheaply, AmerGen has asked the Internal Revenue Service to let it keep the left-over funds tax-free. AmerGen will then redistribute the left-

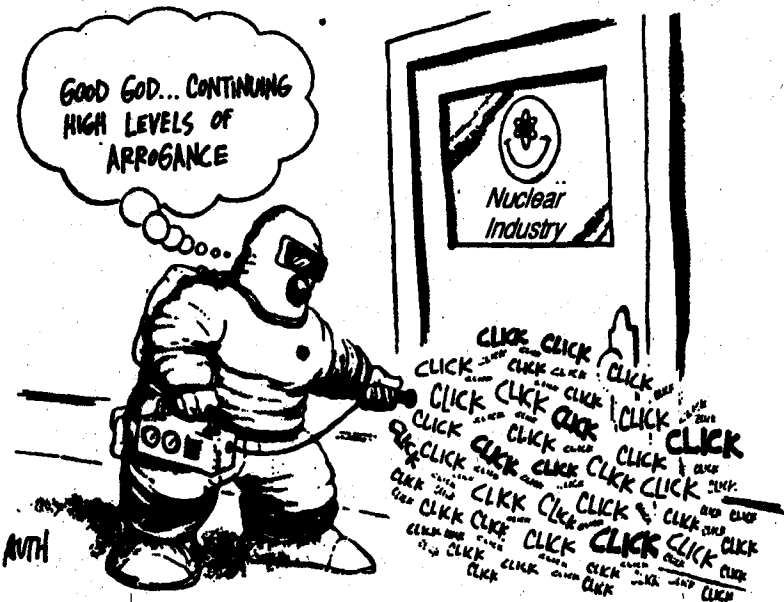
LATE BREAKING UPDATE
 On December 22, 1999 Rochester Gas & Electric announced that they would exercise their right of first refusal and acquire a controlling interest in the Nine Mile Point 2 Nuclear Reactor by purchasing the shares owned by NiMo and NYSEG and buy the Nine Mile Point 1 Nuclear Reactor (NMP1). RG&E has contracted with a subsidiary of Entergy Corporation to lease, operate, and maintain the plants. The specifics of this arrangement will become known early this year.

pressures of competing with other energy sources and utilities. But in the United States, under a deregulated and restructured utility environment, competitive pressures will be much higher than in Britain, where only a few companies monopolize electricity production and distribution.

Although AmerGen has promised not to reduce staff within the time frame of the current labor contract which expires in 2001, it is unknown what reductions they will make after that period. Any staff reductions would be on top of the nearly 30% staff cut Niagara Mohawk has made over the past five years.

PECO, AmerGen and Entergy would like the public to believe they are re-envisioning the nuclear industry, bringing Americans cleaner, safer, more economical nuclear power. In reality, this is a desperate attempt by nuclear electric generators to circle the wagons, consolidate resources, cut costs, and extract profits from an industry that has failed to deliver on its promise of cheap energy, failed to provide a solution to the problem of nuclear waste and cannot compete in a competitive power market. At a time when new, cleaner energy technologies should be encouraged to enter New York's electricity marketplace, state and federal agencies still remain sympathetic to the nuclear power industry which continues to seek further unfair incentives to extend operation on its aging, dangerous and expensive reactors.

CNY Citizens Awareness Network (CAN) and Environmental Advocates are mounting a campaign in New York against the great nuclear sellout. CAN has started a postcard campaign against the decommissioning tax waiver. For postcards or more information, contact Tim Judson 315-475-1203 or at nonukes@rootmedia.org. Visit CAN's website at www.nukebusters.org.



The logic behind PECO and Entergy's business plan is that by running many nuclear plants these corporations will be able to achieve economies of scale and subsequently reap a nice profit. Often this involves questionable schemes like license transfers that amount to a corporate accounting shell game allowing the original owners to unload their unprofitable reactors at a fraction of their original construction cost—with the balance a tax write-off. For example, AmerGen's purchase offer for NiMo's interest in the Nine Mile Point One and Two reactors is only \$163.2 million. The combined book value is about \$1.9 billion. NMP2 alone cost \$6.4 billion to build. The reactor's low market value means that current owners will seek to recover even more of their poor investments from ratepayers.

With the PSC's permission, NiMo, and other in-state investor-owned utilities who sell their plants at today's low prices, can still make up their losses by continuing to charge ratepayers for their past investments in construction. In Niagara Mohawk's case, the bill—

over funds—which should rightfully be returned to ratepayers as a credit—to their shareholders as dividends.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

In addition to increasing electric rates, this atomic sleight of hand also presents a threat to public and worker health. British Energy (BE), AmerGen's parent company, has already been criticized in an internal report by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, United Kingdom's equivalent to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, for dangerously cutting corners at their 11 operating reactors. Labor is typically the first area to be cut. In 1996, British Energy made a name for themselves by firing one-third of their workforce when Britain privatized its nuclear industry. BE laid off over 2,500 workers and intends to lay off thousands more to keep its cost down. The report, which warns that BE could lose its license unless it acts to prevent further staff cuts, is replete with references to

AFSC

American Friends Service Committee

American Friends Service Committee has worked since 1917 to stop war and violence; to alleviate the suffering caused by war and violence; and to prevent the causes of war and violence, especially poverty and injustice. It has maintained an active presence in the Central New York area since 1969. Upper NYS AFSC's current ongoing projects include:

1. Help Increase the Peace Project:

This project strives to reduce violence, strengthen cross-ethnic and cross-cultural understanding among young people and the adults in their lives, and support youth as they become active agents for social change.

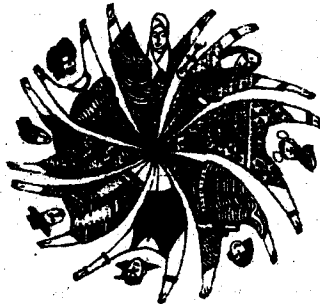
2. Akwesasne Environmental Justice Project: In partnership with Mohawk people of Akwesasne, this project provides assistance in small scale water and land-based economic development, and in advocating for the cleanup of dangerous industrial toxic waste on land adjoining and rivers running through Akwesasne.

3. Welfare Watchdogs Project: This project provides self-help opportunities for people using welfare to advocate for themselves and others, and a helpline for those using welfare and experiencing hassles. The Welfare Watchdogs also educate community and religious groups and college classes about welfare and low-wage worker issues and work actively for positive changes in policies affecting very low income people.

4. Support to Families of Prisoners: This project works together with those who have loved ones in prison to provide mutual support and assistance and to advocate for changes in prison policies and regulations that will benefit the prisoners and their families.

Additional Services: The office provides information regarding military enlistment; selective service registration; active military service; and conscientious objection and gay and lesbian issues in the military. Assistance is given to people in locating and applying for domestic and international service opportunities and work camps.

For more information:
315-475-4822 and
www.AFSC.org



Beyond Boundaries

Beyond Boundaries invites you to mix it up! Step outside your usual circles of work companions, friends and neighbors. Meet people who have different perspectives, life experiences from your own! Cross some social boundaries! Not as risky as civil disobedience but maybe as illuminating. Join a Beyond Boundaries awareness group to plan a journey and spend a portion of August 2000 in either Ghana, West Africa, Pine Ridge, SD (Lakota Nation) or Puerto Rico. Understanding is the cornerstone to building friendships and allies in the struggle to create a just society.

Beyond Boundaries fights racism and classism on the personal level. It creates diverse groups of Central New Yorkers who explore the cultural roots and history of African/African-Americans, Native Americans and Puerto Ricans. Those who join the West African, Lakota or Puerto Rican projects meet monthly to plan fund-raisers and their journey.

Beyond Boundaries also holds local cultural events to highlight and honor the non-dominant cultures that live in Syracuse and that give a marvelous texture to the fabric of our city and county. Coming events:

Rhythm Roots: a Cultural Fest of Drumming, Dance and Song (7-9 pm) preceded by drumming and dance workshops (10am-2pm): Saturday, January 29, South-west Community Center, 401 South Avenue, Syracuse

Karamu: A Community Feast featuring African cuisine, African inspired wearable art, poetry, drumming dance and song: Saturday, February 19 from 6 - 9 pm at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society, 3800 E. Genesee Street, Syracuse

The Seventh Multi-cultural Art Show and Auction: Sunday, May 7, Community Folk Art Gallery, 2223 E. Genesee Street, Syracuse

Central New York Environment

Central New York Environment is a not-for-profit educational organization, founded in 1976, that publishes the region's only bi-monthly paper devoted entirely to environmental issues.

CNYE strives to present fact and opinion such that readers can become better informed about environmental issues, and can gain a different perspective than is typically presented by the more traditional local media. Our aim is to get people *thinking about and involved in* environmental issues.

Our philosophy is to give readers the information that they need to make their own decisions about a given issue. We print articles, interviews and reviews as well as commentary, which is based on fact and good science. We also present poetry, information on upcoming events and conferences, and a regular Environmental Calendar. While we clearly advocate for the pro-environmental position on issues, we're always open to publishing well-thought-out and well-written opposing views. In this way, we strive to strike a balance of viewpoints, since environmental issues are never black-and-white, but present many sides and ramifications.

CNYE covers issues such as recycling; animal rights; land use and open space protection; conservation; water, air and land pollution; access to information; environmental justice; alternative transportation and energy; effects of development on the environment; and environmental recreation, to name a few. We have also run pieces on historic preservation, eco-feminism and spirituality and environment.

We constantly need articles, artwork, photos, poetry, etc. from people of all ages, colors and interest, as long as these pieces have an environmental theme, and some relevance to Central New York. Deadlines for submitting materials for publication are Jan. 21, Mar. 18, May 20, July 22, Sept. 16 and Nov. 18, 2000.

Besides writers and editors, a periodical such as CNYE requires people to serve on its Board of Directors, sell ads, work on fundraisers, help with mailing, distribute the paper throughout CNY, and do administrative tasks such as keeping up the membership database, writing thank-you notes, etc. Mailing parties are Feb. 7, April 3, June 5, August 7, Oct. 2 and Dec. 4., 2000 at 7 pm at the

Volpert Environmental Center. To help CNYE in any way, call Editor Lee Gechas at 446-5319, or write to CNYE, Volpert Environmental Center, 658 West Onondaga St., Syracuse, N. Y. 13204. Student internships available. Subscription are \$9 for 6 issues.



CNY-SOA Abolitionists

The CNY SOA Abolitionists are a Central New York grassroots group, affiliated with national SOA Watch. For several years we have been working to close the School of the Americas. We have also been providing support for the Syracuse area's seven former SOA prisoners of conscience from their arraignments through their trials, sentencings and incarcerations. Currently two of us are enduring two years of supervised release.

In part thanks to Abolitionist organizing, New York State had the most—over 300—people risking arrest of any state in the union at the November 21, 1999 vigil action at Fort Benning, GA (see pages 8-9).

One of our strengths has been the various projects undertaken by one or a few of us on our own initiative with the blessing of the group. We provide updates on our projects at our monthly general meetings. One such project is our quarterly newsletter. Another has been selling "You can jail the resister, but you can't jail the resistance" T-shirts (\$10) and kerchiefs (\$3) to raise operating expenses. A revived webpage may soon be in the works.

Abolitionist members -- often those who have been to prison -- present programs on the SOA to classes, congregations and to other grassroots groups throughout the region. These include a video showing and facilitated discussion.

We provide trainings in nonviolence to prepare participants for SOA civil disobedience actions. We sponsored Fr. Roy Bourgeois's Central New York tour last October and a teach-in-last March with Jennifer Harbury and with Cecilia Zarate-Laun of the Colombia Support Network. Each spring we lobby Congress in DC.

We also work with *Sing It Down* (SID), the local not-for-profit anti-SOA performance

group, SID uses Colleen Kattau and Jolie Christine Rickman's original topical folk music to expose the SOA and to mobilize audiences to work for its closure. SING IT DOWN has given its consciousness-raising concerts as far afield as North Carolina and California and has been featured at the annual November vigil actions at the gate of Fort Benning.

For more info about the Abolitionists or about SING IT DOWN, contact Ann Tiffany or Ed Kinane, (315) 478-4571 or via e-mail at anntiffany@a-znet.com.

Media Action Group

Community Media Action Group (CMAG)

The CMAG has been busy over the last few months. We have been working through the Technology Planning Grant awarded to Syracuse Alternative Media Network and Eastside Neighborhood Arts, Culture and Technology (ENACT) Center. This grant has allowed us to meet with community groups, youth and artists to plan a network for the coming Center. We are building an internet server computer. It will be temporarily housed at the Westcott Community Center, networking computers and serving youth, seniors and Syracuse Community Radio needs there.

We have eagerly joined forces with new members Justin Dewyea and Anika Paris who have brought much more energy and ideas to our group and projects. Our website, *Rootmedia.Org* has grown to host new sites and email accounts. At Rootmedia's site, you can find the Community Calendar, which is now fully interactive with instant posting of events from the web, search, personal configuration, automatic email reminders, and a weekly update email service as well.

In this coming new year we will be seeking out more grants, hoping to hire a staff person to do outreach and help build the Media Center at ENACT (computers, internet, alternative library, copier, fax, reading room, etc.) And we want so much for more activist groups and individuals to make use of our services: electronic and print media skills sharing, email listservs and accounts, and press release service as well as add to our

resources housed at www.rootmedia.org. That is why we do exist in the first place!

As always, our meetings are Tuesday evenings. For more information, check out our web page or call Adrienne at 423-4783, e-mail cmag@rootmedia.org or write CMAG at PO Box 7037, Syracuse, NY 13210.



Friends of Dorothy

Friends of Dorothy is going into its eighth year. We have stayed consistent with our original vision of providing hospitality and hospice care for someone with AIDS, one person at a time. We also provide transitional living for up to two others at a time. We continue our monthly meal for the Oxford Inn and provide emergency food baskets.

We invite you to our monthly dinners at St. Vincent's Parish Center, Winton Street, off Teall Avenue one block west of Teall and Burnet. Our phone number: 471-6853.

Dinner Calendar: The millenium may mean the end of the world as we know it, but pasta is forever. All dinners are served Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 pm:

Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 29, Apr 26 May 31,
No dinners in June, July, or August.

The New Environment Association

Twenty-five years ago the New Environment Association was created in response to the realization that humanity is caught up in an evolving pattern, or process which: (a) is leading to major crises of global dimensions in areas such as population, resources, technology, environment, poverty, social cohesion, warfare, etc.; (b) inherently lacks the means for averting or resolving these crises; and therefore; (c) has become pathological -- an evolutionary *cul-de-sac*.

This overall pattern in which people are embedded, and which they also carry in their minds, has been called the "psychophysical complex." Only very few individuals seem to manage an awareness of it. It is these people the New Environment Association tries to

find and to connect with, because they have the potential for helping to achieve the Association's objectives, and thus address the challenges now being faced by humanity. Our objectives are to create the beginnings of a new kind of world, a new psychophysical complex or "New Environment," where people live sustainably and in peace, and where every person can truly feel at home.

Some of the principles considered important for the New Environment include: cooperation; decentralization; a step-by-step process approach; a reshaped economic system which discourages waste, resource depletion, excessive consumption, and environmental degradation; social structures which are supportive of each human being; and a reverence for life.

Progress with implementing the beginnings of the New Environment depends on how many people are willing to become involved in this effort, and what energy, skills and other resources they can bring to this work. Having been quite limited all these years in the number of active members, the Association has so far engaged primarily in study and education activities. But there have also been a variety of cooperation projects, the most recent being "CSA-Central New York," a community supported agriculture project for the Syracuse area now entering its third year of operation. Twice-yearly retreats and the monthly newsletters have helped build a sense of community within the Association. A land trust has been established, and the Association's library and office are located at 821 Euclid Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210. Monthly General Meetings are held 7-9 pm, with potluck suppers at 6 pm - visitors are welcome. Upcoming dates are Jan. 23, Feb. 20, March 19, and April 30. On the web, check <http://web.syr.edu/~hs38/schedule.htm> for coming events and meeting topics, or call (315) 446-8009.



**NeXus: Journal of Peace,
Conflict and Social Change
A Child is Born!**

NeXus announces the long-awaited re-

lease of its inaugural issue for activists, artists, and academics! *NeXus* is a student-run journal that integrates conflict resolution, peace studies, and social movements by joining theory and practice at both local and global levels.

This issue is a large, double issue featuring numerous color photographs, poetry by Tsitsi Jaiji and Lindsay Brown, and artwork by Eli Thomas and Mary Housel. The issue also features a wide range of full-length articles on conflict resolution in the schools, structural violence against children, and power-sharing in Central Asia. Personal reflections by the environmental mediator Lawrence Susskind and social thinker Louis Kriesberg show the relationships between activism, ideas, and institutions. Finally, oral interviews of the Media Unit and Chief Paul Waterman of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy complement the articles published from written sources.

Subscriptions are \$20 for two issues per year and include international postage. Colorful posters and postcard packs are also available for \$5 each. We are presently taking submissions for the Fall 2000 issue. For more information, contact Zac Moore at 315-251-1379 or Brian Blancke at 315-675-3308

**Onondaga County/Syracuse
Commission on Human Rights**

Capital punishment, as an issue of human rights, is related to two larger issues we, the Commission of Human Rights, affirm: 1) the dignity and worth of all women and men, as human beings; and 2) that all specific actions of society should reflect a concern for the common good and for that which in the long run promotes the social good as expressed in a society that is generous, compassionate, just and humane. In light of that we hold to the following.

1. We recognize that society needs to be protected from people who take life illegally.
2. We recognize that victims of violence and murder have a claim upon society for support, protection and the realization of justice insofar as the society is able. Abandonment of victims of violence weakens the social fabric.
3. We recognize that the death penalty is applied unequally to people of color and to people who are poor.

4. We recognize that the death penalty has been applied to innocent people.

5. We recognize that attitudes and feelings about the death penalty are highly political and emotionally charged, which is one reason why it is difficult for society to come to an agreement about it.

6. We recognize that the law must be equally applied, regardless of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, creed or religion.

7. We recognize that the death penalty has not worked as a deterrent to violent crime and murder.

8. We recognize that, while understandable, actions of retribution and revenge, by individuals or by the state, do not promote the kind of society we wish to live in but rather tend to continue patterns of violence and poison the social environment for all of us.

Therefore, recognizing the problems and contradictions with the practice of capital punishment, we recommend a moratorium on the application of the death penalty until society can adequately address the concerns we and others have raised.

Pax Christi-Syracuse

Just one year ago, Pax Christi-Syracuse celebrated its 20th Anniversary. This makes it one of the oldest local chapters of this national and international Catholic justice and peace organization. Our parent organization was founded in France in 1945 with a goal of promoting reconciliation between France and German Catholics after the destructive violence of World War II. Now its mission has broadened "to work with all people of peace for all humankind."

While striving to be grounded in non-violent witness, our local group has been involved in a wide range of issues from sanctuary for refugees from Central America to nuclear disarmament. Regular vigils at Griffiss Air Force Base often included civil disobedience. We sponsored a peace pilgrimage from Seneca Army Depot to the Peace Pagoda in Grafton, NY, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the US exploding the first nuclear bombs. It began with a dozen individuals, and ended two weeks later on August 6 with some 140 participants led by Jum Sun, a Buddhist nun.

Most recently, our local chapter has focused on the lifting of Iraqi sanctions. We initiated and co-sponsored a walk from the CNY Islamic Society/Mosque to the Syracuse Community Health Center to dramatize the plight of the children of Iraq. Our involvement in certain justice issues has prompted the Syracuse diocese to encourage every parish to be involved with at least one of these action areas in the coming year: abolition of the death penalty; breaking the bondage of debt for third-world countries, bringing economic pressure to counter child labor/sweat shop abuses.

Except for December, our monthly meeting takes place on the last Saturday of each month. Held at the home of Jail Ministry, 208 Slocum Ave. (off W. Onondaga St.), we begin with prayer at 9:30 am. The issues and actions portion begins at 10:30 am, ending at noon. It is always an open meeting with anyone from the community invited. While our current focus continues to be on the lifting of the sanctions in Iraq, other issues are also addressed, as we strive to help create a world that reflects our name...the Peace of Christ.



Peace Action of CNY

Nuclear Abolition, Peace Voter 2000 and a new Director

315-478-7442 <http://www.cnypeaceaction.com>
email: sfcny@igc.apc.org

Peace Action CNY is a local chapter of the largest grassroots peace organization in the USA. Beginning in 1957 as the Committee for a SANE Nuclear Policy, and then known as "SANE/Freeze," Peace Action has always made the elimination of nuclear weapons its first priority. We publish the Voice 10 times a year and usually hold a general educational meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. at 7:30 p.m. Call us at 315-478-7442 to subscribe and to hear the topic for our next monthly meeting.

In the year 2000, we will combine our nuclear abolition work with our efforts to shift national budget priorities away from military spending to a Peace Economy. These issues will be combined in our PeaceVoter 2000 campaign.

In cooperation with other Peace Action

chapters around New York State, we will participate in a national "Missile Stop" tour, in which a mock-up of a nuclear missile will follow the presidential candidates around the country. We will call attention to the billions of dollars our government spends on weapons of mass destruction, in clear violation of treaties to reduce and ultimately eliminate our nuclear arsenal -- a goal supported by the vast majority of American citizens.

As part of this campaign, Peace Action CNY's local Abolition committee has been collecting signatures on a petition calling for nuclear abolition -- maybe you can be the person who adds the 2000th name to our petition! We will present our petitions to candidates running for national office in the Fall. To call attention to the positions of these candidates on a number of peace issues, we will also be distributing Voter Guides, showing how they have voted, or say they will vote, on nuclear disarmament, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, military spending, the School of the Americas, and the like. To help with our petition campaign or the distribution of voter guides, please call or email us and join this nationwide movement.

In January, Kaaren Anderson will join Peace Action CNY from Massachusetts as the new director of our CNY office. In addition to her work for Peace Action of CNY, she will be a part-time interim minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Glenns Falls, NY. Kaaren says that her recent trip to the Hague International Peace Conference left her recharged: "I left feeling like the work of peace groups needs to reach more people. The movement needs to explain things in simple, non-threatening ways -- understandable to the average Joe. I seek to extend our voice to those who normally wouldn't think of themselves as interested in 'peace issues.' Yet, I think more than ever, this is a time to show people that these issues are critical to their lives." We will welcome Kaaren with a potluck supper at May Memorial at 6pm on Tuesday, Feb. 1, followed by a discussion of our Peace Voter plans. All are welcome!

Students who are interested in our movement can join the Student Peace Action Network (SPAN), which has chapters at high schools and colleges across the country. Students will gather in Washington Feb. 5-7 for workshops and training, and discussion of SPAN's participation in a diverse, national coalition for non-violence. Lodging and food

will be provided, and 50% of travel costs can be covered. Call 478-7442, or Zac Moore at 251-1379 for more information.

People Against the Death penalty

While the Jeff Cahill death penalty case goes through the appeals process, **People Against the Death Penalty/CNY** will be concentrating its efforts on bringing about a moratorium on executions. We continue our efforts to call attention to the issue through our regular noontime vigils the last Thursday of every month at Columbus Circle, downtown Syracuse, 12-12:30 pm.

Further items of interest: a visit by lecturer Sr. Helen Prejean (of *Dead Man Walking* fame) on Monday evening, April 3, in the gymnasium of LeMoyne College at 7:30 p.m.

And on April 28, 29 and 30, attend New York's first statewide grassroots gathering to learn about the death penalty and organize against it. This promises to be an unusual event. For further information, call Mary Lou Rubenstein at 422-1606 or Bill Cuddy at 474-7437. And make the case to repeal the death penalty with friends, neighbors and co-workers.



People for Animal Rights, Inc. (PAR)

PAR is a grassroots, all-volunteer organization founded in Syracuse in 1982 with the purpose of protecting animals and the environment. We raise consciousness about speciesism, a prejudice more deep-seated than, but similar to, sexism or racism. This "ism" allows humans to regard the other animals as fundamentally different and inferior and thus allows people to enslave animals in a myriad of ways.

PAR promotes a plant-based diet; cessation of sport hunting, trapping and fur farms; protection of wild areas and the animals who live in them; non-animal methods of experimentation; and elimination of forms of entertainment which exploit animals. We encourage people to spay/neuter their dogs and cats to reduce the suffering and death caused by too

many animals for the number of available good homes.

We educate about these ideas by offering plant-based cooking events, where people have a chance to taste the delicious variety of food made from grains (and derivatives such as pasta and bread), beans, fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, etc. We bring in speakers, put out a newsletter, distribute literature, and maintain a legislative network to inform activists about bills which would help or hurt animals and our environment.

People can watch our cable TV program, *Sharing the Earth*, every Saturday from 10pm to 11 pm on public access channel 3 in the city of Syracuse and channel 12 outside the city. They can listen to our radio program of the same name the last Sunday of each month from 5 pm to 6 pm on Syracuse Community Radio, WXXE.

Our Earth and Animal Education Committee makes presentations about endangered species, plant-based diet, fur, or other subjects when invited by students or teachers. We "adopt" several teachers so they can receive *KIND News* for their classes.

For more information, contact People for Animal Rights, POB 15358, Syracuse, NY 13215-0358, 488-7877(PURR).

The People's Roundtable

The People's RoundTable is scheduled to present a forum of Civil Rights Movement veterans on Thursday, Jan 20 at 7 pm at South Presbyterian Church. The forum is entitled: "Because I Was There...I Am...: The Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. for the 21st Century." --Paul Weichselbaum



The Rose Center

Teri Cameron

As the millenium ends, Rose Center is completing its seventh year. There is a general concept of renewal every seven years.

The bible refers to forgiving debt after seven years. Body cells are totally replaced every seven years. I've been thinking of how cyclical life really is. It may have something

to do with becoming partial "empty-nesters" and grandparents over the last couple of years. It may have something to do with Rose Center.

Groups and organizations have "lives" because they are extensions of the people who commit a part of their life to the work they do. My experience of community work is that it never stops. It becomes firmly embedded in one's very existence. Rose Center has been like that for me. The constant demands for help—from eviction, utility shut-off, lack of food, clothing, and more—became a barrier to working on social justice, administrative issues, funding opportunities, proposal writing and newsletters, maintaining the center, etc. It was like jumping in the pool to save a drowning person—often they drag you down and you both drown anyway. The only solution at the time was to stop. I stopped trying to "do it all" and reduced my hours to be available at the center. Assistance is still provided, but to a lesser degree.

By stopping ourselves from "being consumed" by the need, an opportunity developed to review, reflect and renew plans for creating change. Rose Center entered into a transition period that is not yet completed. This old building needs work. The 1998 Labor Day Storm trounced the center with a cupola from St. Lucy's School and destroyed the ramp behind the center. Without electricity for two weeks, groups were unable to conduct business. The roof was devastated—it took over a year to patch it. Water damage occurred as well. A new roof, windows and some renovations are needed. Rose Center is looking for resources to fix up the building.

Rose Center now runs BINGO on Saturday nights at Hotel Syracuse. It's a small hall and attendance needs to improve, but it has provided needed funds. It does require a good bit of record keeping, paperwork and volunteers. Interestingly, it has also created another means of being a contact point.

It is exciting that Rose Center continues to operate and functions cooperatively. Individuals and groups who use the center contribute to its support. There is still no "funding" for the center outside of these contributions and fundraising efforts. Our goal remains to be supported by our work, those who use/benefit from the center and individual donors called Rose "Buds" (Buddies of Rose Center). Current groups/individuals include: American Friends Service Committee, CommonWorks, Dr. Shenouda's Livingology

Center, Muslim Dawah Center, Narcotics Anonymous, Neighborhood Women, Problemsolving (counseling), WeikaliNinjaDo, and WoodHath Hope Christian Community. The SecondHand Shop is in the basement. Aids Community Resources operates the "Health Fair" each month. A small group of crafters meet and hold a market in front of the center in good weather. Access to the Internet and numerous resources are provided for neighbors. Small/large meeting rooms, desktop publishing and office support are available to individuals, groups and small businesses. Counseling, information and referral are available on personal and business issues. Public workshops are being planned for 2000. This year, the center seeks to increase "staff" by applying for AmeriCorps VISTA members. Volunteers are needed in many areas. Rose Center is very involved in CNN (City Neighborhood Network) and GSW (Greater Syracuse Works). CNN is composed of grassroots groups engaged in community economic development and GSW is a collaboration of organizations that help low-income people get We plan to start renovations in the spring and to complete construction at the end of 2000.

Syracuse Alternative Media Network (SAMN)

We have had an exciting past year. We completed two documentaries that have been in production for years, one of which we produced for PBS. We are also involved in an incredible new project to create the Eastside Neighborhood Art, Culture, and Technology (ENACT) center. For those of you who are not familiar with SAMN, we are a non-profit video production cooperative that produces documentaries and educational videos. SAMN also teaches video production skills to area students and non-profit groups.

SAMN just completed a documentary titled *If I Had A Hammer: Pete Seeger and the American Quest For Justice* that was partially funded by the Independent Television Service for PBS. The hour-long documentary uses the life and music of Pete Seeger to present a concise historical overview of the struggles for increased democracy and social justice in the United States over the last sixty years. The struggles that are covered are the right to join a union, women's liberation, civil rights, anti-war and the environmental movement. Pete

serves as the host of the program and a total of eight songs are used in the video. Each movement has a song and a visual montage of that movement's struggles set to the music. We have held two screenings of the completed documentary and the reviews have been excellent!

The second documentary that we completed this year is called *Women's Options*. In *Women's Options*, myths about poverty, domestic violence, men, public assistance and race are exploded by the straightforward, often funny stories and thoughts of seven low-income women. Their life stories and insights unveil "behind the scenes" economic, political, and cultural realities of life in the United States.

SAMN has teamed up with Eastside Neighbors In Partnership (ENIP), Syracuse Community Radio, Westcott Teen Center, Community Media Action Group, and Altered Space to create the Eastside Neighborhood Arts, Culture and Technology Center (ENACT). ENIP has purchased and will renovate the large, Queen Anne style house at 2000 East Genesee Street (on the corner of Westcott & Genesee Streets). The building will house a television studio, radio station, computer center, teen center, gallery and performance space. SAMN continues to teach video production courses at local schools for students from fourth grade through twelfth grade. Students produce music videos and short documentaries on subjects of interest to them.

Local non-profit organizations continue to take advantage of our production services to create educational videos. Last year we completed a documentary on rural health care for women in Yemen for an educator at Colgate University. We are currently working on a video with Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered to create a program on the process of forming advocacy groups for people with mental disabilities.

We have been very busy over the last year. We are excited to have completed these projects and look forward to creating the Eastside Neighborhood Arts, Culture and Technology Center. If anyone wants more information about our programs or would like to get involved with us, just call (315) 425-7680 or write to SAMN, PO Box 550, Syracuse, NY, 13210.



Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union (SCFCU) Looking Forward:

The credit union staff and activists are making plans for our leap into the new millennium. How shall the credit union serve members' future needs? What should the credit union do differently? What can we do so underserved neighborhoods get financial services? How do we prepare for the specter of Global-Mega-Banking? How can we assist members to avoid pitfalls of rent-to-own, car leasing, finance companies, and other exploitative lenders? In short: How shall the credit union develop?

Among the approaches we are exploring are expanding partnerships with other community organizations and credit unions, extending the field of membership, developing new services, opening satellite branch offices, and investing in new technology for telephone, ATM or internet access by members to their accounts.

Exploratory committees are meeting now. At the end of January, activists and staff will meet to review research and digest suggestions. Expect an emerging plan, not immediate changes. Anyone with suggestions should write to SCFCU Suggestion Box, 723 Westcott Street, Syracuse NY 13210 or e-mail to the credit union at syrcoopfcu@earthlink.net — please put "Suggestion Box" in the subject line. To discuss the future of the credit union, members should come to our annual meeting on Sunday, March 19 from 3 to 5 pm.

New to our field of membership are: members of SAGE, everyone in East Side Soccer (players, coaches, refs., etc.), and employees of both Maziuk and Company, and Boom Babies Vintage Clothing. Anyone in the field of membership, as well as anyone with an immediate family member or household member in our field, is welcome to join the Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union.

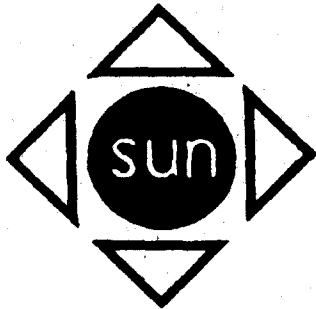
SSMI

The Syracuse Social Movements Initiative (SSMI)

SSMI is a certificate-offering educational project of the Program Analysis and Resolution of Conflicts (PARC), in Syracuse University's Maxwell School. The goal of SSMI is to enrich communication between the local social movement community and the university. We link students, faculty and local social movement activists through courses, collaborative action research projects, speaking events, and educational panels. SSMI generally offers a course on social movement theory every fall, and a course on participatory action research every spring. Non-matriculated activists from the community are encouraged to audit these courses.

In addition, SSMI hosts bi-weekly educational events (that include both academics and activists) every fall and spring. In the fall of 1999, for example, SSMI hosted an activist research conference; a talk by Father Roy Bourgeois on the campaign to close the SOA; a panel on popular resistance to globalization in Haiti and Chiapas; a forum on the anti-nuclear struggle in upstate New York; a talk on the uses of cyberspace in community organizing; and a meeting between a specialist on cyberspace organizing and the board of ENACT.

The event roster for spring 2000 has not yet been finalized, but we plan to have a panel on the labor movement and globalization; on struggling for a peace economy; and on the struggle for human rights in Onondaga County. We also plan to hold a series of "community soups" (with free hot food) that will host local community activists who wish to bring students and faculty up to date on their struggles. For example, we foresee hosting "soups" on the movement to abolish nuclear weapons, on solidarity with the Zapatistas, on the disability rights movement, and more. We eagerly welcome any local activist who would like to arrange a "soup" with us and make a presentation. For more information, and to get on our "community soup" schedule, please call John Burdick at 443-3822 or Mark Rupert at 443-1748.



Syracuse United Neighbors

Syracuse United Neighbors (SUN) is a grassroots organization run by the residents of the south and west sides of the city. By joining our voices together, SUN ensures that the concerns of low-income residents are heard in City Hall, in Albany and in Washington, D.C.

SUN persuaded U.S. Rep. James Walsh to use his influence in Congress to convince HUD to help reduce the number of vacant houses in Syracuse. The result has been several meetings with the Congressman and HUD Secretary Cuomo, as well as a federal commitment of \$15 million to rehabilitate vacant houses in our neighborhoods.

During the past year SUN members have forced the city to hire an additional dog control officer, pressured the police to send monthly notices of arrest to absentee landlords, stalled the move to place a football-sized raw sewage treatment plant in a residential neighborhood, and worked with the police to shut down several drug houses.

SUN's Housing Counselor can help find loans to fix up your house and negotiate with lenders to avoid mortgage defaults. SUN's staff can help you apply for HEAP benefits or receive a property tax exemption. SUN fights for our neighborhoods at four separate monthly meetings. PLEASE JOIN US!

Southside: Second Monday, St. Anthony's Church Hall. 1515 Midland Ave. 7pm

Tallman/South Ave: First Thursday, Brady Faith Center, 404 South Ave. 8 pm

Westside: Third Monday, Brown Memorial Church, 228 Davis St. 7 pm

Skunk City: Third Wednesday, Mundy Library, Corner of Rowland & S. Geddes St. 7 pm



Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity

Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity (SZS) has recently been revitalized with new energy and ideas. We are currently updating and restructuring an activist resource guide, the Zapatista Reader (\$4 postage paid), and will have it finished within the next month. We are participating in a project that would allow us to share and exchange media resources with a community in Chiapas. In addition, we are working on a 5-10 day Youth Delegation to the Zapatista territory.

We hope to meet with indigenous and activist youth from Mexico and act as international observers, a deterrent against military and paramilitary attacks on (pro-)Zapatista communities. We will bring back new knowledge and experiences that will enrich and guide our own work here. We also want the delegation to serve as part of our activism in educating our own communities about the situation in Chiapas and how it relates to our situation.

We need help planning and carrying out the delegation. We would like anyone in the CNY area who identifies as youth to join the delegation. Acquiring money for the trip will be difficult because as youth we are often unable to work, and as students we usually work for low wages. Anyone who can be of assistance, whether in funding or in helping with organizing and logistics, please contact us at: SZS, PO Box 7037, Syracuse, NY 13210, (315) 423-4783, or ace@rootmedia.org.



Westcott Community Center Beyond Y2K

It will be business as usual (we hope) at the Westcott Community Center in Y2K, as we continue to offer safe and accessible space for programs and events that unite the community through art, music, culture, dialogue, debate and services that are inclusive of all our residents. Monday, January 3 will find us setting up for the Golden Cafe, our senior

lunch program for those 60 and older. Lunch is served at noon on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, with many special events and activities to follow. The Teen Project, for neighborhood youth aged 9-15, takes over the center from 2-5 daily with video, art, music, dance, ping pong, 4-square, board games and much, much more. Classes and programs in tai chi, belly and Morris dance, figure drawing and yoga will continue to provide the community workouts for mind and body.

Special events at the Westcott Community Center will brighten our long, dark winter months. The Second Saturday Series presents John Rossbach and Friends on January 8, the *a cappella* gospel sounds of Five to Life on February 12 and Tom Knight on March 11, who will bring two concerts to the center, an afternoon matinee with puppets geared to young children and an evening performance for the older folks. The University Neighbors Lecture Series features SU Professor Goodwin Cooke on January 20, author Bruce Coville on February 13 and Preservationist Sam Gruber on March 9. The community is welcomed to dance to live music at the Euclid Recreation Club on Saturdays, January 22, February 5 and March 4.

The Westcott neighborhood and our Syracuse community house people from diverse backgrounds and the Westcott Community Center celebrates this diversity in food, music and story at our Winter Celebration on Friday, January 14. Friday, March 24 will bring the second annual "Telling Our Stories: A Celebration of Women's History." Again, women and girls are invited to tell their stories by performing poetry, prose, music and dance in an open mic setting.

During the first quarter of the new millennium, please join us for these events: Proud Voices Women's and Girls Open Mic on Tuesday, January 18; Sunday Kind of Words poetry workshop and readings on Sundays, January 23 and March 5; ARTiculations on Wednesday, February 2; and The Socialist Forums on Sunday, February 6 and Thursday, March 2.

The Westcott Community Center welcomes members in Y2K at 1999 rates, so please consider joining and getting involved. For more information, please call 478-8634 or stop by and visit us at 826 Euclid Avenue at the corner of Euclid Avenue and Westcott Streets in the Westcott/University neighborhood.

East Timor Update

East Timor is on the road to becoming the world's newest country, thanks to the tireless work of its people and others around the world. But conditions for over 100,000 East Timorese still trapped in camps in West Timor and in other parts of Indonesia are horrendous. The Indonesian military (TNI), as well as the TNI-backed militias control the camps, severely restricting humanitarian access and impeding the safe return of refugees to East Timor. Members of Congress and Clinton administration officials must maintain vigorous pressure on the new Indonesian government to halt collusion between the TNI and the militias and to disarm and disband all militia groups. U.S. officials should insist on Indonesian and international support for the independent UN investigation into human rights violations leading to an international tribunal. U.S. and Indonesian backing should be extended to Komnas HAM, Indonesia's National Commission on Human Rights, to continue its investigation of TNI and militia atrocities against the East Timorese.

The U.S. should adequately fund emergency relief and reconstruction efforts and the newly-established UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), which will administer health care, education, government and security structures for two to three years. While the U.S. has provided about \$51 million to the relief effort so far, UNTAET will require about \$1 billion for the coming year alone. Funding made available in the recently passed Foreign Operations Appropriations bill (\$25 million) must be used for reconstruction in East Timor. Money is needed immediately to provide shelter, water and sanitation systems, and everyday medical care. Your Representative and Senators should communicate these needs directly to Clinton administration officials.

What You Can Do

CALL your Representative and Senators. Tell them to call or write letters to President Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid demanding that TNI immediately cease collusion with militias operating in refugee camps in West Timor. These militias must be immediately disarmed and disbanded and the TNI must withdraw from the border and West Timor.

Encourage your Representative and Sena-

tors to visit East Timor as part of a Congressional delegation in early 2000. Such visits are important to ensure accountability of all parties involved in refugee return and nation-building, and provide Congresspeople with important, first-hand experience in East Timor during this critical transition period. Thank them for Congressional action and funding.

If s/he has not already done so, ask your Representative to co-sponsor and actively support HR 1063, the International Military Training Transparency and Accountability Act. ETAN will be reviving its efforts to pass this binding legislation in the new year.

The Congressional switchboard number is 202-224-3121, or consult www.congress.gov for contact information.

MEET with your Representative and Senators in their home offices during the recess (until late January). In-person meetings are effective means of keeping your Congresspeople updated and actively focused

on events in East Timor.

CALL or write Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. In addition to the points mentioned above regarding the Indonesian military, the militias and human rights violations, demand that the U.S. contribute its fair share to fund reconstruction efforts and UNTAET. Thank her for U.S. action and funding to date.

You can reach Secretary Albright at 202-647-5291, fax: 202-647-6434.

WRITE letters to the editor. Ensure that East Timor remains on the agenda of international, national, regional, and local media. Strongly urge that reporting accurately reflect the true situation for the people of East Timor.

There is still much to be done as East Timor begins its first year without Portuguese, Japanese or Indonesian troops in control.

For more information contact the East Timor Action Network, (202) 544-6911, web: <http://www.etan.org/>, email: etanko@igc.org.

CNY Activist Arrested in Palestine

Peace activist Bourke Kennedy of Skaneateles was arrested in the Middle East. The arrest was not for a capital crime or even a misdemeanor. She was arrested for selling tomatoes in Hebron's vegetable market on Friday, November 19, 1999.

Bourke, along with five other members of the Christian Peacemaker Teams and six visiting CPT delegates, arrived at the market at 9:00 am and immediately began hawking bags of tomatoes. Within ten minutes they were surrounded by Israeli police and army personnel and asked to desist. When they refused, they were arrested, put in police wagons and taken to the local station. They were held for an hour and a half while their passports were processed. Charges were not filed. Protesters were released on their own recognizance and directed not to return to the market.

This was no ordinary situation. The American and Canadian CPTers were trying to make a statement, calling on Israel to reopen the city's fruit and vegetable market that it had closed in 1994 after Baruch Goldstein, a right-wing settler, massacred twenty-nine Moslems at prayer in the Ibrahimi Mosque.

Since then, Israel has promised to reopen the market, first under the Oslo Agreement in 1995, then in the Hebron Accord of 1997, and

most recently as part of the Sharm el-Sheikh Memorandum which gave November 1, 1999 as the opening date.

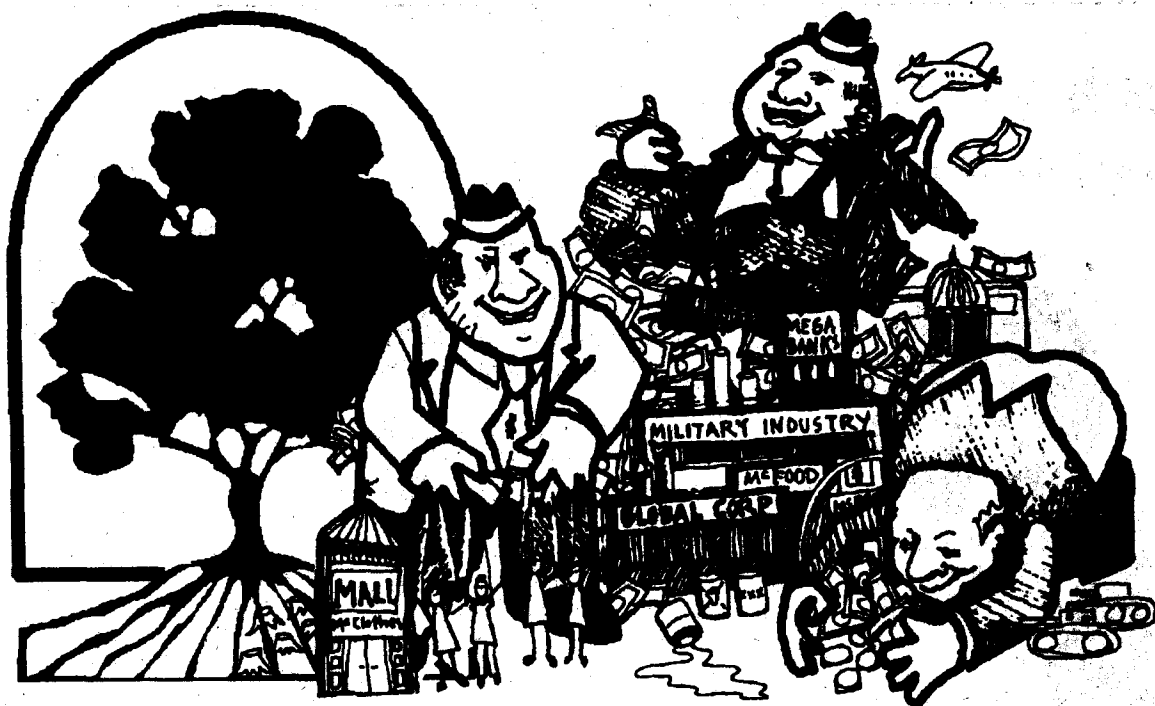
Seeing nothing done for three weeks after the November first deadline, CPT decided on a nonviolent protest: trying to sell tomatoes.

Four hundred and fifty right-wing religiously observant Israelis have been settled in four settlements in the center of Hebron, making the lives of the city's 150,000 Palestinians very difficult.

The fact that the market has not reopened undermines the Palestinian's trust in the Israeli Prime Minister. Such delays and failures to carry out clear agreements play into the hands of those Jewish settlers whose appetites for Palestinian land is unlimited. No one can believe that the Jewish settlers in the middle of Hebron want to live in peace if they are not willing to allow the Palestinians of the city to sell in their own market.

Bourke is proud to be a part of a peace team which is committed to nonviolent intervention and witness in Hebron and the West Bank. She is interested in meeting with those who want to learn more about the work of the CPT in Hebron.

Contact her at 150 Genesee St. Skaneateles, NY 13152, (315) 685-5414.



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Peaces

compiled by Mike Kernahan

Coke adds life?

Children in the United States are drowning in soda pop. And Coca-Cola, the Atlanta-based junk drink pusher, with its worldwide domination of the industry and relentless marketing, is in large part responsible for an epidemic of over-sugared kids.

Today, teenage boys and girls in the United States drink twice as much soda pop as milk, whereas 20 years ago they drank nearly twice as much milk as soda.

According to a recent report by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, the average 12- to 19 year-old male drinks 868 cans of soda pop each year.

The average 13- to 18 year-old male who consumes soda pop consumes more than three 12-ounce cans per day, while 10 percent of those males drink even more cans a day.

The average 13- to 18 year-old female soda drinker imbibes more than two cans a day, and 10 percent of females consume five or more cans a day.

Overall, people in the United States are consuming twice as much soda pop as they did 25 years ago. And they're spending \$54 billion a year on it. That's twice what is spent on books every year.

"Kids are drowning in soda pop," says Michael F. Jacobson, executive director of the Center.

Source: *Multinational Monitor*

Pacifica turns right (again)

Without notice to producers or listeners, the Washington, D.C.-based Pacifica affiliate WPFW has canceled FAIR's radio show, CounterSpin. CounterSpin, a media criticism show, has been censored by Pacifica stations five times this year for covering the ongoing crisis at the network.

In an indication of WPFW's hostility to efforts to cover the crisis at Pacifica, program director Lou Hankins told FAIR associate Laura Flanders that the station pulled CounterSpin's July 16 discussion of Pacifica issues because "We're not putting that garbage on our air." When FAIR contacted WPFW to ask why, after years of providing the station with a high-quality show for free, FAIR had been given no notification of its cancellation, general manager Bessie Wash replied only, "I'm sorry if that

upsets you." She gave no explanation for the cancellation.

"It's hard to conclude this is anything but a final act of censorship by WPFW," commented CounterSpin co-host Steve Rendall. "For years, WPFW has run our analyses of fear and favor at other news outlets—but when we turned our attention to Pacifica, WPFW repeatedly interfered with and finally canceled our show."

Source: *FAIR*

Ah, the Great Outdoors

During the winter, fresh air is pumped into ranger booths at the entrance to Yellowstone National Park to protect employees from carbon monoxide levels higher than those measured in Los Angeles. The thousands of snowmobiles that create this health hazard pour out more pollution in a single weekend than automobiles emit in the park in an entire year. Noise and fumes from snowmobiles have become major problems in both Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the National Park Service admits that visitors must sometimes move 10 miles or more to escape the noise.

In an effort to solve the problem, the Sierra Club and a coalition of local organizations have submitted a "citizen's solution" for the problem to the Park Service. The plan calls for elimination of all snowmobiles and the use of mass transit for winter visitors. The plan also calls for research to determine an appropriate level of winter use and the needs of wildlife wintering in the parks. The Park Service is considering the proposal.

Source: *The Planet*

Quote of the Month

"Take away soft money and we wouldn't be in the majority in the House and the Senate and couldn't win back the White House." *Republican Senator Mitch McConnell explaining why campaign finance reform is effectively dead in the US Congress for the foreseeable future.*

Quote from the Past

(Sound familiar?)

"The economic condition of the world seems on the verge of a great forward movement."
— *Bernard Baruch, financier, summer 1929*



"If you can't be with the one you love...."

In the wake of the Chinese spying scandal, the Department of Energy has wasted no time in issuing new pages of regulations to tighten security in our nation's nuclear labs. The key provision should make for some great reading. Employees at nuclear sites will be required to report on any "close and continuous contact" with foreign citizens from a list of 25 nations. However, in a major concession, the DOE decided that one-night stands would be exempt from reporting requirements. Apparently they do not threaten national security as would a two-night affair. Rumor has it the Energy Department was concerned about overwhelming their staff with paperwork. And in a notable concession to reality, the DOE decided employees must report regardless of whether they know or remember their sexual partner's name.

Source: *American Newspeak*

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.

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Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar January 2000

For a complete listing of events, visit our website at www.syracusepeacecouncil.org or call 478-8634. For more information, contact the Peace Council at 478-8634. For a complete listing of events, visit our website at www.syracusepeacecouncil.org or call 478-8634. For more information, contact the Peace Council at 478-8634.

<p>2 EVERY SUN: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable, Ch. 12, 8pm. Produced by Peace Council. Tune in, tape it, share it!</p> <p>EVERY SUN: Common Threads. acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3, 2-9pm.</p>	<p>3 People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3048 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.</p> <p>Peace Action monthly program. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.</p> <p>Every Man: Student Anti-racism/anti-homophobia/anti-heterosexism meeting. Shaw Dormitory basement, Conference Room, SU Campus. 7pm.</p>	<p>9 EVERY SUN: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.</p> <p>EVERY SUN: 51 Percent. Women's issues radio program, WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.</p> <p>16 New Environment Association. Friends Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. 8pm. 448-8008.</p>	<p>23 Sunday Kind of Words: Workshop with Roger Bonair-Agard. Westcott Community Center. 1:30-4:30pm. 478-8634.</p> <p>Syracuse Peace Council Bowl-a-thon. Strike For Peace! 1:30-4:30pm. Erie Blvd. Bowling Center. \$10 for two games, shoes & refreshments. 472-5478.</p> <p>Affirming King's Vision: 16th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. Center Dome. Keynote: Lani Gunier, President Clinton's controversial 1st nominee to head Justice Dept. Civil Rights Division. Dinner 5:30pm (\$), program 6:30pm (free). 443-5044.</p>	<p>30 Jan. 31-Feb. 1: Family Planning Advocates Legislative Conference featuring Gloria Steinem and Amy Richards. Empire State Plaza, Albany. 800-866-3404 for info.</p>
<p>4 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p> <p>EVERY TUE: Community Media Action Group meeting. 8pm. Call Ace for place, 423-7866.</p>	<p>10 Eastside Neighborhood Arts, Cultural & Tech. Center mtg. ENIP office, 204 Cherry St. 6pm. Joe, 471-7911 ext. 210.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 478-7475.</p> <p>Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WENA) meeting. Peff Library, Concord Pl. 7-9pm. 479-7301.</p>	<p>11 EVERY TUE: Open Mic Night. Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.</p> <p>18 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p> <p>EVERY TUE: Syracuse Community Radio meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 478-4766.</p> <p>EVERY TUE: Middle Eastern Dance with Zoe Artemis. Westcott Community Center. 5:15-6:15pm. Fee. 474-7084.</p>	<p>17 EVERY MON: HIV+ Issues Group meets. 6:30-8pm. Sponsored by AIDS Community Resources. Call for place 475-2430.</p> <p>People for Animal Rights business mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Westside meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddes & Delaware. 7:30pm. 478-7475.</p>	<p>24 EVERY MON: Morris Dance. Westcott Community Center. 7:30pm. 478-8634.</p> <p>31 Jan. 31-Feb. 1: Family Planning Advocates Legislative Conference featuring Gloria Steinem and Amy Richards. Empire State Plaza, Albany. 800-866-3404 for info.</p>
<p>EVERY WED: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Call Maige 472-5478.</p>	<p>5 SEUNA meeting. Erwin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm.</p>	<p>12 HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 328 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.</p> <p>CNY NOW general meeting. 5780 Widewaters Pkwy. 7pm. 487-3188.</p> <p>Caribbean/Latin America Coalition working potluck at Syracuse Peace Council. 6:30pm. 478-4571.</p> <p>Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.</p>	<p>19 NAACP meeting. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-8933.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Skunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.</p> <p>Sierra Club monthly meeting. 5 Wick Hall, SUNY ESF. 7:30pm. 478-8634.</p> <p>1st & 3rd WED: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. 472-5478.</p>	<p>26 Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker Benefit Dinner. St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center, Winton St., off Burnet Ave. 5:30pm. \$9-\$15 donation. 471-8853.</p> <p>25 Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. 1st Unitarian Universalist Society, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.</p> <p>EVERY MON, TUES, THURS: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 12pm. New friends, lunch, programs. 478-8634.</p>
<p>EVERY THU: Women's Voices radio program. WAER, FM 88.3. 6-7pm. Pat. 446-7259.</p>	<p>6 Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue. 731 James St. 6pm. 478-8228.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 478-7475.</p> <p>EVERY THU: Syracuse Zapistas Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 6:30pm. Ace, 423-4788.</p>	<p>13 Near-Phoneasy Gallery 10th exhibition opening featuring works by Nik Moore, Elyse Barr/Tarek, Collette Copeland and others. 218 W. Genesee St., 2nd floor. 7-11pm. 423-0182.</p> <p>Reconciliation: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 208 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-8237.</p>	<p>20 EVERY THU: Swing Meditation at Women's Info, 601 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free.</p> <p>University Neighbors Lecture. Goodwin Cooke, Council of Foreign Relations member. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. \$10. 478-8634.</p>	<p>27 Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. 475-1878.</p> <p>Thorneden Park Association meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carole Simson for location. 475-2807.</p> <p>Peace Newsletter Meeting Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Call to check date.</p>
<p>1 EVERY SAT: Dance Techniques with Dance-more Company. Westcott Community Center. 8am-1pm. Ages 5 and up. Fee. 677-7723.</p>	<p>7 John Rosebush & Friends in concert at Westcott Community Center. 8pm. \$8 admission. Childcare provided with advanced registration. 478-8634.</p>	<p>14 Winter Celebration at Westcott Community Center. A celebration of the diversity of our neighborhood in food, story and song. 5:30pm dinner. Admission \$2 with dessert or salad, \$5 without. 478-8634.</p> <p>EVERY FRI: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.</p>	<p>21 EVERY THU: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.</p>	<p>28 Half day presentation "A Critical Examination of the Current Concept of Rights in the Contemporary Human Service and Advocacy Culture." Goldstein Student Center, Room 201, SU South Campus. Skytop Rd. 1-5pm. Fee \$30 includes refreshments & handouts. 443-1690.</p> <p>29 Pax Christi meeting. Siocum House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woodlever. 446-1693.</p>
<p>15 EVERY SAT: Kids for the Arts with Agnes Johnson. Westcott Community Center. 12-1pm. Fee. 478-8634.</p> <p>Performance of "The Stonewall" at Open Hand Theater's International Mask & Puppet Museum. 518 Prospect Ave. 476-0466 for time.</p> <p>EVERY SAT: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.</p>	<p>8 John Rosebush & Friends in concert at Westcott Community Center. 8pm. \$8 admission. Childcare provided with advanced registration. 478-8634.</p>	<p>15 EVERY SAT: Kids for the Arts with Agnes Johnson. Westcott Community Center. 12-1pm. Fee. 478-8634.</p> <p>Performance of "The Stonewall" at Open Hand Theater's International Mask & Puppet Museum. 518 Prospect Ave. 476-0466 for time.</p> <p>EVERY SAT: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.</p>	<p>22 EVERY SAT: Food Not Bombs serving free food at Westcott Community Center. 12-2pm. Daniel. 478-8659.</p>	<p>29 Pax Christi meeting. Siocum House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woodlever. 446-1693.</p>



Erie Blvd. Bowling Center
1:30-4:30pm Sunday, Jan 23, 2000

A fun, fund-raiser for the *Syracuse Peace Council*.
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Tired of Y2K hype? Tired of Super Bowl hype? Longing to hang-out with friends and loved ones in a traditional down-home setting? Other than a nap (always a good plan), this is a fine idea for a cold Sunday afternoon. Yes folks, BOWLING! Come join us for the 2nd Annual SPC Winter Bowl-a-Thon. Building on the good time of last year, and hoping to make this event a key part of your winter schedule, we are casting our invitation net across Central New York. Will we see the Ladies, the Satanists, the Transgender Menace again? Will Frank

Woolever arrive fully equipped and ready to meet all challengers? Come and find out. Sign up as a team (up to 5 people) or as an individual. \$10 entry fee covers 2 games, shoe rental, soft drinks and a contribution to SPC. Outrageous and/or politically stimulating attire desired. Skill not required. Non-bowlers welcome to cheer and be rowdy. If you can't make it, consider being a sponsor. Call 472-5478 to sign up and use enclosed form for pledges. See you at the alleys. I'm the one trying to pick up the 7-10 split.

-Rae Kramer

Calling all Artists - Writers - Newsletter Makers - Flyer Creators Doing What We Do Better

The Syracuse Peace Council announces two exciting, hands-on workshops for 2000

Saturday, February 19, 2000 -
 10am until noon:

"Image-Making Workshop"

- led by Karen Kerney

This workshop will be a hands-on experience in combining words and drawings to create newsletter covers, flyers, art-work and propaganda material.

Karen, an artist, craftperson, and PNL newsletter cover coordinator for many years, brings a full vision to the world of image-making, using ink, pencil and paper as well as electronic-generated images.

Saturday, April 22, 2000 -
 10am until noon:

"The Power of Crafted Words"

- led by Ed Kinane

Ed will lead this workshop in making words work for a more just world. Op-ed pieces, press releases, letters to editors, think pieces and essays will be discussed, along with copy-editing.

A Syracuse native, an activist, and a former prisoner of conscience for his efforts to close the SOA, Ed has served as Editorial Committee member of the PNL, has written extensively on matters of justice for many decades, and is the person many turn to for editing.

Both workshops will be held at the Syracuse Peace Council, 924 Burnet Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203.

There is a \$1 registration. Call to register—315-472-5478—for each workshop.

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Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

February 2000 PNL 688

Celebrating **BLACK HISTORY**



*What has
changed...*

for the better or the worse
in the last 20 to 30 years
in the areas of

Race, Racism, and Equality.

Peace Newsletter

February 2000
PNL 688

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Black History Month

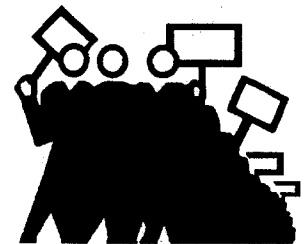
Carol Perry of The South Side Newsstand recommended the work of local artist Octavia Hirry for this month's Peace Newsletter. Her art work on the cover calls with a trumpet the celebration of the struggle. Black? Black History? African? African-American? Words often come up short.

We invited local activists Karl Newton, Reverend Larry Howard and Linda Williams to join with Carol Perry in sharing their reflections on Black History. We hope the dialogue continues.

The pitch from the justice and peace community often reads: "Think global, act local." The local actions, whatever they might be, demand the active involvement of people from many backgrounds: poor and not so poor; Europeans and Africans; and Caribbeans. North and South Americans. Students and laborers.

Listen to the angel's trumpet! Come and Celebrate! Join in the struggle! Words and actions!

Octavia Hirry, a native of Syracuse, has been creating art for eight years. A self-taught artist, she works in acrylics, mostly, as well as pencil and ink. She usually stays with Afro-centric work, greeting cards and paintings. Her work is seen at Southside Newsstand, and she can be contacted through Carol Perry at Southside, 472-0756. Octavia is married and has a daughter, Ontayeya, age 12, and a son, Orryan, age 7.



Campaign Time

Read in this month's *PNL* about the campaigns that will not easily break through to mainstream media. As the illusion of "differences that matter" continues from New Hampshire to Iowa and beyond, as contenders amass tens of millions to create ads and spins, another set of campaigns goes on.

Make no mistake: the campaigns identified in this issue of the *PNL* reflect the front line, grassroots movements that are alive and well in these United States! On the streets. In and out of jail. Trials. Organizing and more organizing. Shoestring budgets that are effecting change. From Seattle to Washington, from Columbus, Georgia to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Campaign: "a series of organized, planned activities for a particular purpose...". The dictionary of the next millennium may well change the next line of definition from "...as for electing a candidate" to "as for winning peace and freedom through nonviolent direct action."

Pick a campaign and get on board! The energy of these campaigns is alive and well and inviting.

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE



Plowshares thanks continued...

We know that for many of you the "visiting" part of Plowshares is at least as important as the shopping, and it often begins with the friendly face of the Plowshares "greeter" located at the front or back door of Southwest. Thanks to all our greeters for their smiling faces and spirit of hospitality.

Last month we thanked our raffle prize donors. This month we want to say thanks to the folks who staffed the raffle table and walked around adorned in the "Official Raffle Ticket Agent" chapeau (it's much too fancy to call a hat).

Thanks to: Lanny Freshman, Maryann Keenan, Sue Thorne, Susan Heffernan, Maryjane Monsour, Daniel Freshman, Jonathan Durand, Corey Kotlar, Karl Newton. For staffing the Front Room Bookstore, a job both fun and frantic, our thanks to: Rudy Leon, Bill Hamler, Frederick Noyes, and the stalwart Hogans. For end of the fair help and sanity thanks to Sue Adair.

A big apology to Cheri Ackerson who we accidentally omitted from the list of raffle prize donors. Cheri donated an hour of massage - a highly sought after prize.

Now that you have your calendar for the new year it's a good time to mark the first weekend in December for Plowshares 2000. See you there!

SPC Council

-Petition-

Don't Send Them To IRAQ

Dear Governor George E. Pataki,

The petition enclosed in this PNL asks the governor to refuse to send our NYS Air National Guard to enforce the *no fly zone* in IRAQ in March 2000.

The continuing sanctions, and US and United Kingdom bombings to enforce the *no fly zone*, are killing people daily.

Join other people of conscience, sign and circulate this petition and return it to R. Keough, 417 Roberts Ave, Syracuse, NY 13207.

For more petitions contact R. Keough or SPC (315) 472-5478

Do as I say...

We are very pleased about the commentaries this month regarding Black History Month and are appreciative of the efforts of our contributors and PNL committee members in producing this work. When we look in the mirror, however, we need to ask ourselves why our connection to these authors becomes manifest only now. If our task is to educate, agitate, organize...if we believe that "to get peace, work for justice" is the path...we need to figure out how to build everyday alliances, how to make our separate work the same work. Your thoughts about this will be much appreciated.

Fair Trade Week of Action

The Student Alliance to Reform Corporations (STARC) and the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) announce a Fair Trade Week of Action February 7-13, 2000.

Wednesday February 9 - Fair Trade Certified Coffee Day of Action.

For more information on local actions in Central New York, contact Keegan Cox (SEAC) 422-4924 or kecox@mailbox.syr.edu
For more information:
www.corpreform.org/FairTrade.html
www.corpreform.org/STARCCoffee.html
www.corpreform.org/WeekofAction.html

Month Long Fast to end Iraq sanctions

In Washington, DC, on January 15, the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr and the 9th anniversary of the Gulf War, thirteen activists; Kathy Kelly, Nicholas Arons, Simon Harak, S.J., Bert Sacks, Mark Maguire, Ramsey Kysia, Raed Battah, Ruthy Woodring, Phil Runkel, Erik Yandell, Anne Montgomery, and Joe Morton began a month-long fast to increase the level of action to end the Iraq sanctions.

"Our agenda and motivation, quite simply, is to engage in an action that approaches the crimes committed every day in our names against the people of Iraq. The fast is carried out in the nonviolent tradition of King and Gandhi...Please help us focus on how to best use the next few weeks as a time of massive education and compassion for the people of Iraq."

For further information, contact the Peace Council, 472-5478.

Peace Newsletter

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The Problems with Black History Month

BLACK
HISTORY

by Karl Newton

Several years back I came across an interesting assertion: that censorship in the United States followed the form of drowning out unwanted material more often than that of excluding it from appearing. My shorthand for this was "Happy Days" reruns rather than a blank screen. This viewpoint was probably the beginning of my rehabilitation as a would-be student of history.

Let me offer a confession of sorts: from a fairly early time in public school, I have distrusted history. Actually, hated would be a more accurate word for the earliest years. I burned with an inexplicable resentment. My progressive parents, with African and Native American as well as European ancestors, had prepared my siblings and me for our public education by teaching us to read and do simple arithmetic before we went to school. However, they did not offer much in the way of a warning that the material offered in school might be antagonistic to us as individuals, or as members of our family, let alone be untrue. We were warned about prejudiced people in the general society, but by silent implication, knowledge was good, schools safe. So, while I got average or better grades and even liked some subjects, my dislike of history only grew with my exposure to it. And so did a quiet insecurity.

"Why could I not just learn this subject? What was wrong with me?" one who was told so often how bright I was.

Over the years, I escaped into excelling in math, science and even foreign languages, and just coped with history and related topics, going on successfully to college and medical school. However history remained a suspect and painful subject and I felt somehow only partly educated.

This was brought home during my specialty training in psychiatry when a senior clinical supervisor made a point of telling me "black people were inherently inferior as proved by the 'fact' that there were no

permanent civilizations south of the Sahara." That I could not politically afford to win this one-sided debate did not bother me much. By then I knew it was just part of the intellectual bullying that passed for professional education. But, I was chagrined to realize that although I suspected his 'fact' was not the true story, I didn't know my ancestors' history.

So, it was with some interest that a year or so ago I found the book "Lies My Teacher Told Me - Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong" by James W. Loewen (The New Press, 1995). The book's introduction was an immediate validation of my experience: High school students hate history. When they list their favorite subjects, history invariably comes in last. African American, Native American and Latino

the questions history raises.

Thus, I see the problems with Black History Month as two-fold and interconnected. First, treating the history relating to Africans in America separately from the overall history of the nation relegates "Black History" to some intellectual corner or, worse yet, to the popular culture marketplace of oversimplified ideas and irrationality where we get "equal time" with, among others, those who still receive attention for their claims the Jewish Holocaust didn't occur. Secondly, as Loewen has pointed out, our *national* history is taught devoid of the clash of ideas, stripped of the dark periods and deeds that illuminate the human condition, avoiding the failures that might yet inspire us to try

"First, treating the history relating to Africans in America separately from the overall history of the nation relegates "Black History" to some intellectual corner..."

students view history with a special dislike. In college, most students of color give history departments a wide berth. Loewen examines the offerings of the mainstream high school American history textbooks in detail around several key themes: hero-making; pre-Columbian contacts with the western hemisphere; lies and distortions about American Indian life; the invisibility of racism; the ignoring of antiracism; idealizing government; absence of recent past events; and homage to "progress." He goes on to analyze the forces and practices that perpetuate these biases in textbooks and the cautious and often demoralized teachers who use them.

Loewen ends by admitting that his book is incomplete and encouraging the reader to follow his example of seeking to find out what really happened. I have been slow to move into any real study of history. I find that Loewen's book is very helpful for not being pretentious. Still it has been a gradual process of moving away from my old suspicions and into a rational engagement with

again, neglecting those questions not yet answered by scholarship, without, in short, the context of the various issues which make this country's history worthy of our study. To have a month dedicated to a history that did overcome all these deficits, only to fall back into the slough of historical ignorance and miseducation for eleven months, I believe would be an exercise in futility and self-centeredness (are they synonymous?). We must raise ourselves together, in historical studies as elsewhere.

So, for me, February will be History Month. I will finish reading Loewen's book. Next I will tackle Randall Robinson's book "The Debt: What America Owes To Blacks," which proposes reparations for the injuries of slavery. What a great debate could be approached with historically accurate knowledge instead of patronizing good will on one side and antagonistic guilt on the other. Oh, how we could learn and grow!

Karl Newton, MD has recently moved from working as a psychiatrist in the prison system of NYS to seeking more fundamental ways of building peace and justice.



For Better or For Worse...Black History

BLACK HISTORY

Linda Williams

What has changed—for the better or the worse in the last twenty to thirty years—in the areas of race, racism, and equality?

For the better: There are dialog groups dealing with issues of race which allow both blacks and whites to share their hurts, frustrations, as well as their hopes for the future. I think the main key for these groups to be successful is the trust factor, each side trusting and being honest with the other.

For the worse: We are now in the new millennium. I can remember thinking approximately twenty years ago that when we reach the year 2000, problems between the races will be a thing of the past. When white supremacists groups are still in existence; when there is racial profiling by the police; when people of color are followed by store security as they walk through retail establishments; when I went to look at properties to buy and the first properties shown to me were ones that would not have been shown to someone not a person of color the stairs were crooked and the roof leaked; when I found the house we eventually moved into and the first real estate agent didn't call to verify my employment, just didn't follow up and then called me and said, "It didn't go through"; a lot of work ahead is ahead for us all.

Young black and Hispanic men are very mistrustful when stopped by the police. A tension is there, "What is going to happen because of my color?" Young black men are more likely to be imprisoned than in college.

How have economic opportunities changed?

In the media, and from our political leaders we hear about the booming economy and how well we're doing. There is a large segment of the population who are "the Working Poor." These folks, some who are working several part-time jobs trying to make it, are still falling short and are unable to make ends meet.

These part-time jobs very rarely provide health benefits, which is

lifelong poverty and being stuck in a system that swears they want folks off of welfare but doesn't provide the tools that will make that happen. As it stands now under the new Welfare Reform Laws education opportunities are limited to twelve months. Twelve months of education will not get you the tools to get out of poverty.

On a personal level, what differences do you see?

Because part of the work I do is advocating for folks who feel they are being treated unfairly by the system, I feel the need to focus in that area. I still see single parents, mostly moms, struggle to provide food, clothing and shelter for their children. Under the Welfare Reform Law of 1996, twenty-five percent of those on welfare were required to participate in work activities in 1997, and that percentage will increase to fifty percent by the year 2002. These are folks who will still need to rely on food pantries as well as food stamps to feed their families. They still need Medicaid. The focus is on work, not on education. I know a woman who works three part-time jobs, no health benefits included. She will never get out of poverty. Education is the key. Without it you are stuck in the system.

What do you see that gives you the most hope?

I see folks working together from different economic backgrounds, different religions, different cultures, working together to make a real difference in peoples' lives. This gives me hope for the future. Our group, Welfare Watchdogs, has people on welfare, people who had been on welfare and are now off welfare, students, blacks and whites.

What do you think will be the hardest areas to change?

Peoples' prejudices about someone they perceive to be different from them, whether it is based on the color of someone's skin, their sexual orientation, or socio-economic status.



a necessity for the parent(s). Until there are really enough jobs, paying a livable wage, provisions for quality, affordable child care, and EDUCATIONAL opportunities, folks will remain mired down in the same place years from now. We are sentencing them to

Linda Williams has worked at American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) for twenty years, starting as a typist/secretary, moving to Office Manager and currently working as both Office Manager and Project Director of Welfare Watchdogs. Linda moved to Syracuse from Chicago in 1960, is married, and has two children and five grandchildren.



A Picture is Worth A Thousand Lives

BLACK HISTORY

Carol Perry

Carol Perry opened South Side Newsstand in March of 1997. She offered this photograph as she discussed black history and the past thirty years:

I grew up in Syracuse. We moved here in the early 50's. My family owned a record shop and a dry cleaning business. We were in a sheltered black community where the slogan 'It takes a community to raise a child' was not known, but practiced. There were black businesses—grocery stores, barber shops, dry cleaners, news stands. Churches were open doors. They offered summer camps and year-round shelter. Pastors did home visits and chased you and made you go to church. The 'mothers' of the church were involved in your life. They took leadership. Black neighbors were involved in disciplining.

One major problem facing us is the sewage plant. People living near the proposed plant have a welfare mentality: no ownership.

The proposed sewage plant gives the people nothing. A basketball court and 100 trees! Pathetic!

Carol Perry, a second generation community business person, creates out of her place of business, South Side Newsstand, a community center, a source of connections and support, a heart-centered oasis.

Look at the photograph of what once was before the housing projects came along. Homes. A residential community. Life!

The sewage plant proposal means much, much more than a football-size plant stuck in the neighborhood. It means more poverty. It means lower real estate values. It means more crime and violence. It means less incentive to invest in the neighborhood.

Big plans are in the making for a "revi-

a sewage plant. What will happen to school and business places in twenty years? Build next to a sewage plant? What will happen to property values? This is another stab at "urban removal."

We need to take and beautify the south side, develop economic plans and get away from the welfare mentality. The time has come for no more band-aids.

When the music plays at Clinton Square



Air view of site of Syracuse Housing Project before demolition

talized" downtown area near Clinton Square and with a sewage plant on the south border of that revitalized area, the south side is cut off even further. The proposed sewage plant creates another boundary towards further isolating the predominately black southside area. No one will have a reason to go south of Clinton Square. Just bypass the south side.

What will it be like living near a sewage plant? That's high-risk living, living next to

they block off streets. If a sewage plant goes up on Oxford, they will just move those barriers further south, down to about Adams Street.

We need much more than a buyout and a place to live. Look at the photograph. We need to rebuild community life.



Reflections of a Black Pastor

BLACK
HISTORY

Reverend Larry S. Howard

"In thee, O Lord, I do put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness. Bow down thine ear to hear me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for a house of defense to save me."

Psalms 31:1-2

Moving into Syracuse in 1980, I found myself trying to fit in, to find a niche in the present and try to help its future, but that was not done alone.

Therefore, I must call the role of the movers and shakers in this community that influenced my life: Reverend Robert Raspberry, Reverend Walter Blue, Reverend William Mack, Reverend Herb Seals, Pastor Earl Chevis, Reverend Ellery Proctor, Reverend Leroy Gains, Reverend Mark Briggs, Jr., Reverend James Thornton, Reverend Dr. Vergel Lattimore, Reverend Robert Dowdell, Reverend Nebraska Carter, Reverend Forest Adams, Reverend L.C. Walker, Reverend Sherman Jack, Pastor Robert Jones, Reverend Clarence Paige, Reverend Dr. Peter Durkin, Father James O'Brien, Reverend Harvey Punyon, Right Reverend Bishop Thomas Costello, Right Reverend Bishop O'Keefe, Reverend Dr. Harold Garman, Reverend Harold Avery, Reverend Thomas Schafer, Reverend Bill Coop, Father John Shopfer, Right Reverend Bishop Moynihan, Reverend Theodore Levy, Rabbi Janesh, Minister Mark Muhammad and Imam Yaya.

When we look on what took place 20 years ago, we have not moved that far from where we were to where we wanted to be as a community.

Racism was very institutional and subtle in the City of Syracuse. Prosperity hid racism through the factories, hospitals and companies that were vast in the Syracuse community. Through the 50s, 60s, and 70s this community enabled persons without a high school diploma to get work in the factories. When the factories moved, there was a lack

of employment, a lack of understanding, and a lack of training.

The communities were suffering.

The Interreligious Council, the Ministerial Alliance and the Downtown Clergy Cluster worked together to address racism.

The Interreligious Council was asked to include more denominations and associate itself with more Pastors of color.

There was hunger in Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse. The coalition of Downtown Clergy, ministers across this city, black and white, began opening their doors and created the Interreligious Food Consortium.

Nevertheless, racism was still flowing and seemed to be raising its head to higher heights in our community in the later part of the 80s. The Downtown Clergy Cluster and the Ministerial Alliance discussed ecumenically what more can we do. The Time of Jubilee Land Trust was created and developed low-income housing, affordable housing and ways to build quality housing to enable people to be homeowners. We moved forward with Jubilee Homes. A construction corporation was developed to build the home that families could move into. But hunger was not through.

The Interreligious Food Consortium and the Food Bank continue to struggle with supporting over one hundred pantries in Syracuse and Onondaga County. Pantries have increased, yet still run out in late spring, closing their doors until fall. Soup kitchens have increased in size. Fighting these hunger problems continues to raise the issue, letting it be known that hunger has not gone away.

Hunger is still a major problem in Syracuse.

Through the Syracuse Black Leadership Congress a development of ideas looking at issues such as economic development, politics and political education, health and educational issues have moved us to a point of frustration and conflicts when African American superintendents were hired or persons sympathetic to the African Ameri-

can community.

We moved to the issues of health that not only dealt with diseases but causes of death. In the 90s gun violence has become a major issue. Death of our children by guns has become a health issue. And we are working towards eradicating the conflict between community and law enforcement.

Where are we now? We are close to some changes yet far from others. Health issues: Syracuse Community Health Center is spreading its wings over three target areas to help provide stronger healthcare. Hospitals are beginning to open their doors and reflecting upon the needs of the community. The political community, Syracuse City School Board, County Legislature, Syracuse Common Council—all are bringing about changes to look at the needs of people of color. We have come a distance but we still have a long way to go.

I continue to **Struggle each day of my life for total freedom**. Freedom of all humankind, that we can all stand and share the goodness of MY GOD!

The Psalmist comes to mind when he speaks to the world:

"The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked even my enemy, my foe came up to me to eat my flesh they stumbled and fell. Though a host encamped against me, my heart shall not fail. Tho walls arise against me in this, I will be confident. One thing I have desired of the Lord that I will seek after, that I may dwell in the House of the Lord all the days of my life and to behold the beauty of the Lord and to require in His Temple. For in the time of trouble, He shall not hide me. He shall hide me in the secret of His tabernacle. He shall set me upon a rock."

I believe the Lord has brought us and me this far never to leave me.

There is hope for Syracuse. History is still evolving.

Therefore, WE SHALL OVERCOME!

Reverend Howard is Pastor of Hopps Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Syracuse.



Year 2000 Campaigns

Plan now for the April SOA rally in DC & "FAST 2000" in CNY

In spring the birds head north. But many Central New Yorkers just naturally go against the grain. For us, the arrival of spring means we'll soon head south. Since 1994 local folks have been going to Washington, DC every spring to impress upon Congress and the White House that the School of the Americas must be closed. This is not as quixotic an enterprise as it may seem: each year we win more Congressional allies.

This year the annual trek occurs on the first weekend in April - a lovely time of year in DC. (Think cherry blossoms!) On Sunday, **April 2**, we'll be rallying in LaFayette Park, across the street from the White House - home of notorious SOA supporter, William Jefferson Clinton. At this political carnival there'll be speakers and lots of music. Those engaging troubadours, SING IT DOWN'S Colleen Kattau and Jolie Christine Rickman, will be among those featured.

The next morning, Monday, **April 3**, we'll meet in our hundreds on the east steps of the Capitol. Here beltway insiders will give us a legislative update and brief us on how to lobby our issue effectively. Then groups of voters/taxpayers/constituents will head to Congressional office buildings nearby for appointments with Congressional people. We'll let them know we are shamed by the way our tax dollars go to support the School of Assassins.

While "School of Assassins" is a well-known name for the SOA, it doesn't quite convey the sordid reality. A more apt name would be *School of Terrorism...or School of Subversion*. After all, the SOA's decades-long mission has been to teach Latin American soldiers how to so thoroughly intimidate their own people that any democratic initiative, any threat to the power structure, any movement for decent wages, is aborted.

When we all come home from DC, our local educating and organizing will resume. SOA Watch is calling for a nationwide **13-day juice-only fast**. "Fast 2000" will involve tens of thousands on campuses and in communities across the country. Fast 2000 is a solidarity action with our Latin American neighbors who fast involuntarily each day thanks to poverty and oppression. It's a lobbying blitz to send thousands of post cards to Congress and the White House to say, "Close the SOA!" It's a media hook to spread the word in local media throughout the U.S.

Fast 2000 will begin **Thursday, April 6** and end on **April 19**. Each day of the Fast, in alphabetical order, will be devoted to a different Latin American country whose people have suffered from SOA terrorism and subversion. To get your organizing packet, with country fact sheets, contact SOA Watch, PO Box 4566, Washington, DC, 20017; phone (202) 234-3440; www.soaw.org

To arrange speakers for your event or to get info on activities in Central New York, contact the CNY SOA Abolitionists, e-mail anntiffany@a-znet.com, or phone (315) 478-4571.

Ed Kinane

Campaign: "a series of organized, planned activities for a particular purpose...." The dictionary of the next millenium may well change the next line of definition from "...as for electing a candidate" to "as for winning peace and freedom through nonviolent direct action."

Unmasking the Death Penalty: Opening Hearts and Minds

This will be statewide grassroots gathering to learn about and organize against the death penalty.

Fri. April 28, 7 - 10 PM

Burns Sisters Concert- Ithaca's own female folk trio. Their most recent CD is "*In This World*."

St. James Church 155 Main Street Johnson City \$15.00

Sat. April 29, 8:30 AM - 5:15 PM

All Day Conference - Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Renee Wormack-Keels

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 183 Riverside Drive Binghamton, New York 13905

Rev. Wormack-Keels, is a pastor of the United Baptist Church, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. Wormack-Keels is the Vice-chair of Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation, the founder of several non-profit agencies aiding prisoners and their families, and a nationally noted speaker on African-Americans in the criminal justice system.

Broome County/Southern Tier: Binghamton Community Friends Meeting, Broome County Council of Churches Peace and Justice Committee, Church and Society Committee of Wyoming Conference - United Methodist Church, The Catholic Community's Justice and Peace Advisory Council, NAACP - Broome & Tioga County Chapter, Unitarian Universalist Congregation Cortland, County Council of Churches, St. Anthony of Padua Church Elmira: Friends Monthly Meeting

Rochester: Reconciliation Network: Don't Kill In My Name including: Catholic Diocese of Rochester, Common Ground, Genesee Valley Chapter of the NY Civil Liberties Union, Judicial Process Commission, Pax Christi

Syracuse: People Against the Death Penalty - Central NY, Social Action Ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, Syracuse Peace Council

Others: Bruderhof Community and New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty

Financial Support is provided by: the Unitarian Universalist Funding Program for Social Responsibility and many other groups & individuals.

For more information contact Mary Lou Rubenstein
(315)422-1606

Rally and Civil Disobedience for the Life of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Washington, DC—February 28

The year 2000 will be the decisive year in the legal and political struggle for the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal. We are asking all people of conscience to join us in mass non-violent civil disobedience and a simultaneous legal rally on Monday, February 28 at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, DC. This action will coincide with a demonstration at the Court of Appeals in San Francisco, CA.

It is apparent to journalists, scholars, legal experts and human rights activists around the globe that Mumia's case is one of the most important political death penalty cases in US history. On October 13, 1999 a second death warrant for Mumia was issued by Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge. Although a stay of execution was granted 14 days later, that stay is simply a temporary postponement. Within the next few months, crucial rulings will be made which will determine the outcome of Mumia's final appeal. It is time to act.

The East and West Coast actions will generate national and international attention through the participation of public figures and activists from around the country who will risk arrest. It will focus attention on the federal court, which may decide Mumia's fate sometime next year. The federal court is Mumia's last avenue to receive a new trial, yet the federal courts' powers to review death penalty convictions have recently been drastically curtailed. During 1996-97 appeal hearings, Pennsylvania judge Albert Sabo—the same notori-

ous "hanging judge" who oversaw Mumia's original 1982 trial—rejected mountains of new evidence which showed that the case against Mumia was false. Under the 1996 Effective Death Penalty Act, the federal court may be bound by these biased rulings, essentially becoming a rubber stamp for the state court's decision sending Mumia to his death. Over the next few months, US District Court Judge William Yohn will be considering the question of whether the federal courts will hear any evidence, or simply let Judge Sabo's factual record stand. Without a full and fair consideration of the evidence, Mumia's fate is grim.

The peaceful mass civil disobedience action will expose our outrage at the Effective Death Penalty Act and this country's rush to kill. We will demonstrate our support for Mumia as a political prisoner as well as the other approximately 100 political prisoners still held in US prisons.

Join us to show the world that there is no justice in America as long as Mumia remains in prison and on death row. Together we can and must obtain a new trial for Mumia.

The actions are sponsored by Joint Action for Mumia, P.O. Box 3585 Oakland, CA 94609, 510-389-2377, e-mail: jerichosfbay@hotmail.com.

In Central New York, call Sam Alcott at 473-9005 for information on the actions and for details of local meetings concerning Mumia Abu-Jamal.

People's Campaign for Nonviolence

Come to Washington, DC this summer as part of the summer-long People's Campaign for Nonviolence— July 1-August 9, 2000.

Plan now to come to Washington, DC to demand disarmament and justice! Hundreds of national and local grassroots peace and justice movements and organizations from all across the country are gathering together throughout the Summer of 2000 to condemn our culture of violence and injustice and to help build a culture of nonviolence and justice.

Leading peace and justice groups from around the country have pledged to bring one hundred people to spend one day or more in prayerful vigil and peaceful protest at either the Pentagon, White House or the Capitol Building.

Over a period of 40 days, thousands of people will make their cry for peace and justice heard. After an opening evening panel discussion and a day of nonviolence training and workshops at Howard University, we will hold a daily presence and nonviolent direct action at the White House, Capitol Building, and the Pentagon, calling for disarmament and justice.

Each day, a different group from around the country will maintain this call for peace and justice. Each evening, we will gather for prayer and reflection led by a guest speaker.

Throughout the "People's Campaign for Nonviolence,"

we will sustain a public, faith-based demand for justice and disarmament, a recommitment to Martin Luther King, Jr's vision of the Beloved Community, and a call for a new culture of nonviolence and justice.

Throughout the People's Campaign for Nonviolence, we will seek to witness against the three evils linked together by Martin Luther King: racism, poverty, and militarism. We will help kick off the United Nations' "Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence," and will link the justice and peace movement together with two general demands:

1. Racial, Social, and Economic Justice: the creation of a nonviolent, non-oppressive society, with an economy that funds human needs and helps sustain all life on the planet.
2. Demilitarization: substantial cuts in military spending, the abolition of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction, and the pursuit of a nonviolent foreign policy.

The Syracuse Peace Council is interested in sending a large contingent to Washington, D.C. to take part in the campaign. Read future issues of the Peace Newsletter for details, or call the Syracuse Peace Council, 472-5478, to express your interest. Outside of Central New York, contact the Fellowship of Reconciliation, (914) 358-4601

Law Suits Brewing in Seattle, Hundreds of Nonviolent Protesters Face Legal Action. Many Protesters are Considering Suing Seattle Police

The following report was written on 12/29/99 concerning the legal aftermath of the confrontations between the police and protesters in Seattle.

The legal fallout from the World Trade Organization protests is far from over. The Seattle city attorney's office is pursuing cases against hundreds of protesters. And many protesters who claim they were abused by the police are likely to bring their own suits against the Police Department.

More than 500 people were arrested during the first week of December. Most were charged with failure to disperse and pedestrian interference. Eleven people were charged with felonies, including burglary, assault, malicious mischief and possession of stolen property. A handful of others were charged with violating the mayor's emergency curfew or possession of a gas mask.

Initially City Attorney Mark Sidran's office considered negotiating a plea agreement for all the misdemeanor cases, but is now handling them individually, said Michael Finkle, a supervising attorney in the criminal division of the office. Finkle said his office has been recommending that prosecution be deferred for protesters who agree to certain terms, which he declined to specify.

But Oakland attorney Katya Komisaruk said the proposed penalty is worse than what protesters would get if they went to trial and lost. She predicted that without a deal, the courts will be swamped with hundreds of trials in February.

Komisaruk, a representative of the National Lawyers Guild, is part of a legal support team for Seattle attorneys representing the WTO protesters. She said the attorneys assisting the demonstrators are eager for a court battle. "Public defenders and the private bar are doing dances of glee" at the chance to go to trial, Komisaruk said. "These are perfect First Amendment cases."

Several protesters allege that they were physically abused during and after their arrests. Komisaruk said the police restrained one woman and "slammed her face into the ground." And she said some men were held horizontally and rammed into a door. The accusations have gotten worldwide attention.

London-based Amnesty International has called for the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry to investigate police use of force during the WTO demonstrations. The human rights group said in a press release that some people sent to King County jail "were allegedly strapped into four-point restraint chairs as punishment for non-violent resistance or asking for their lawyers."

In another alleged incident, a woman "was stripped naked by four woman guards, while a male guard outside watched," the release said. "She further had her arms and legs folded behind her and was held down on the floor with the full weight of the two guards on top of her."

No suits have been filed against the Police Department, but Komisaruk said the legal community "is trying to figure out if one large class action or smaller suits" should be filed. She noted that there is a three-year statute of limitations in Washington for injury tort suits.

"There are few guarantees in law," Komisaruk said, but "I would bet any money" that civil suits will be filed.

Brenda Sandburg



Every Little Bit Hurts - or Helps!

Fur trim on jackets and coats. I hate to see it because I see beyond the style to the unnecessary cruelty and death that it represents. I see that beautiful fox in a tiny cage on a "fur farm" pacing back and forth instead of roaming free over the meadows and woods. I see her/him killed barbarically by anal electro-

cution. I hear that rabbit scream as s/he struggles in a steeljaw, leghold trap set near her home. And thanks to a recent national expose by one of the large animal welfare organizations, I see the dogs and cats killed horribly in other countries and exported for fur trim to the US.

Please remember that even a little bit of fur on your garments means suffering and death to innocent animals. Conversely, your little efforts can make a difference, such as: 1) Don't buy fur in any form. 2) Tell the store why you are taking this stand. 3) Tell others so they can consider their actions too.

If you want more information, contact People for Animal Rights, POB 15358, Syracuse, NY 13215, 488-7877, linpar@juno.com

Linda DeStefano

Un-Classified Ad

Quiet person to share house in University area - private bedroom across from bathroom - \$380 includes heat - 428-0776 after 5pm

What is War Tax Resistance?

*National War Tax Resistance
Coordinating Committee
(NWTRCC):
edited by John Fitzsimmons*

Each year, over 150 million people in the US pay federal income taxes. Moreover, everybody pays the government taxes on consumer goods. The total amount of tax money taken in by the US government each year is well over one trillion dollars (1,000,000,000,000), and growing each year. Put another way, the federal government alone collects an average of more than \$4,000 a year from every woman, man and child in the US—a total that does not include Social Security and other trust funds, state or local taxes, or user fees.

With all that money, one would think that the federal government would have an easy time providing the services that its citizens need—good schools and job training programs, universal health care, environmental protection, and so on. Instead, over half of all federal spending goes to the military—by far the highest such percentage of any industrialized country in the world. The federal budget reflects the government's warped priorities: to protect vast corporate wealth by military force, whatever the costs.

There are many different types of war tax resistance, and many different reasons why people choose to resist. Common to all of them is the refusal to cooperate with governments that kill, and refusal to pay taxes that finance murder.

CHOOSING WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

Both US and international law recognize the right of conscientious objectors to refuse military service. It follows, then, that if it is illegal to force individuals to kill, it should also be illegal to force individuals to pay for somebody else to kill.

For many years, a bill has been pending in the US Congress that would recognize the right of conscientious objection

for taxpayers. The Peace Tax Fund would divert the income tax dollars of objectors into a fund that would be used only for peaceful purposes (as defined by Congress). While the bill would not resolve the concerns of many war tax resisters, persistent lobbying for over twenty years has resulted in gradually increasing Congressional support.

For many persons of conscience, who cannot and will not cooperate in the killing which governments commit in their name, war tax resistance is a means to either symbolically or effectively withdraw their consent. War tax resisters generally do not object to taxation itself—but to the allocation of taxes for purposes that violate their mostly deeply held beliefs.

Frequently, resisters will redirect their refused taxes to peace or human needs organizations. In this way, more money goes directly to socially useful programs than by paying tax through the system. Resisters may also choose to set refused money aside, in escrow accounts or alternative funds. That method keeps the principal available to them if the IRS collects and the interest earned on it can be used for human needs.

Such redirection is not recognized by the IRS as payment for IRS-assessed taxes—but it is an important public statement of our right to decide where our money shall be spent. It also reminds us of all the things the US government should be doing with money that is instead being lavished upon its killing machines

WAR TAX RESISTANCE—AN OVERVIEW

War tax resisters target money intended for the General Fund—the portion of the US Government's operating budget allocated each year by Congress. Including the Department of Defense, military spending in other departments, covert expenditures, veterans' benefits, and the percentage of the national debt attributable to past military spending, the US spends over 50% of its General Fund budget to directly finance



militarism.

Each telephone bill, local or long distance service, includes a federal excise tax that goes to the General Fund. Historically, this tax has been directly related to the ups and downs of military spending; it became permanent at three percent in 1990, and is a focus of many war tax resisters. Generally, your phone company cannot legally disconnect your phone service for non-payment of the tax. Deducting the excise tax from your bill each month (and enclosing a note of explanation to the phone company) is a relatively low-risk way to withhold war tax dollars.

Income taxes also go to the General Fund, and hence over half of all income tax payments go for war. The income tax is the largest direct payment to the federal government most individuals make, and is the focus of a wide range of war tax resistance actions.

Some resisters choose to file their tax return normally, but withhold a symbolic amount or a small percentage from their income tax payments. Others withhold larger amounts, such as the military percentage, or file a return but refuse to pay any of the tax owed. Many resisters refuse both to file and to pay. Strategies depend on your motivations, the risks that you can take on, and your individual situation.

Ways to Resist War Taxes will continue in next month's PNL covering w-4 resistance, non-filing, public resistance, as well as resource information.

For questions and assistance about war tax resistance, call SPC (472-5478) on Wednesday afternoons and talk to Marge.





**Alternative Efforts:
AIDS In The Millinium:**

Since 1989, there has been a determined endeavor to change the effect of AIDS/HIV within our community. It began with the vision of a small group of individuals who foresaw compassion and housing for their friends in need. ACT UP/Syracuse (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) formed. The first goal was to make sure the Mayor of Syracuse was aware that there was an AIDS pandemic in Onondaga County and the need to address this issue. The group gathered together and built a coffin to symbolize all the deaths from this devastating illness.

The first year in existence, ACTUPers actively sought out a venue to provide housing needs for people with HIV/AIDS. Therefore, they formed a sub-group known

now as Alternative Efforts of Central New York, Inc. The project was huge and took a few years to accomplish. In October 1994, Depalmer House opened as a transitional facility for people living with AIDS/HIV. The house was named after one of the founding members of ACTUP/Syracuse and Board Member of Alternative Efforts, Reinaldo Depalmer. Since its inception, over 120 people have stayed there and moved on to permanent housing.

Since housing was the continuing goal of this formidable group, more housing issues were brought to the community's attention. Friends of Dorothy, Catholic Worker House became a member of the Alternative Efforts family in 1995. They provide an excellent model of how to provide "hospitality" and comfort care to those dying from illnesses related to AIDS/HIV. Friends of Dorothy has been nationally recognized for its work. Miss Helen's House, a Wendi Project became a member of Alternative Efforts in 1997. The goal of this project, when fully operational, will be to address the issues of women of color. Until recently, there have been limited venues for support and housing for this population of affected

individuals. Wendi Project is also dedicated in memoriam to an HIV/AIDS activist known internationally for putting a face to AIDS, Wendi Alexis Modeste.

Although housing was its main issue, education was also an instrument that Alternative Efforts needed to use to introduce the community to the ongoing needs of those affected/infected with AIDS/HIV. In 1997 the Syracuse Peace Council/Peace Newsletter became a part of the growing network of organizations at Alternative Efforts. One purpose of this conjunction was to inform the public on issues, education, people and organizations that pertain to the AIDS/HIV community.

Over the past ten (10) years, Alternative Efforts has seen some major changes in its goals. But its main purpose has always remained the same: housing. The future projects of this organization include: a healing center, and accessible funds for burial needs. But this future needs your help. Please consider participating in this organization either financially, physically or vocally.

Michael Casler

Central New York Citizens Awareness Network (CNY-CAN)

Resisting globalization at home after the massive international resistance to the WTO in Seattle, Central New Yorkers have been wondering how we bring the lessons home to Central New York. The coalitions formed to protest the WTO's new world order are optimistic and hopeful, but complex and often tense. But what seems to have made it possible was that everyone has some self-interest in globalization and the fate of the WTO.

February's People's Roundtable discussion will focus on one of the most significant ways globalization is coming to Central New York — and how we can resist it. Entitled "The Meltdown of Democracy: Globalization Comes to Our Town and Our Nukes," is being organized by Citizens Awareness Network (formerly Syracuse Anti-Nuclear Effort) which has been responding to Niagara Mohawk's plan to sell the Nine Mile Point nuclear plant to multinational corporations.

These multinationals, AmerGen and Entergy, are competing for nearly all of the US's 103 nuclear reactors. At stake in the new free market for electricity are jobs, higher electricity rates, and the short- and long-term health of our communities and environment. Three activists and community organizers who are working on the issue will start the discussion about how we can mobilize against this threat of globalization and set CNY on a socially and environmentally just path. Please join us for this important event, 7pm Thursday, Feb 16 at South Presbyterian Church, corner of S. Salina and W. Colvin in Syracuse.

Tim Judson, CNY-CAN
Citizen's Awareness Network - Central New York (315) 475-1203,
162 Cambridge St., Syracuse, NY 13210
nonukes@rootmedia.org



The University Neighbors Lecture Series welcomes author Bruce Coville at 3 pm on Sunday, February 13. Admission is \$10 and child care will be available.

Refreshments and a time to meet and greet neighbor Bruce Coville follow the formal portion of the program, with proceeds benefitting the Building and Accessibility Fund of the WCC. Future lectures in this series include Preservationist Sam Gruber on March 9 and Judge Rosemary Pooler on April 9.

Additional exercising for the mind in February will be available at ARTiculations at 7:30 on the 2nd and the Socialist Forum on the 6th at 3 pm.

Barbara Humphrey



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- * Mutual Funds, Annuities, Stocks or Bonds (including Socially Responsible Investments)
- * Life, Disability, Long Term Care or Health Insurance

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 *PNLs* each month for no charge (donations welcome).

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Reminder ~ Organizational Friends

We are very interested in including your activities and plans in the *Peace Newsletter*. You can connect to our readers through the Community Calendar and the Community Update section. Please get your information to us by the first Friday of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Feel free to use mail, e-mail (pnl-spc@juno.com), fax (472-7923), or stop in for a visit and cup of tea too.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The White Rose Old Books & Antiques



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SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

Feb. 4-6: Freedom Conference! Building an Empowered Coalition to Free All Political Prisoners/POW, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY. New and old activists will learn from each other and network together to create a positive change towards justice.

3 **Receival**: Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 476-6828.

Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 476-7475.

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6 **Receival**: Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 476-6828.

Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 476-7475.

7 **People Against the Death Penalty** meeting. Church Center, 3048 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.

Peace Action monthly program. May Memorial, 3900 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.

Meeting party for Central NY Environment newspaper. Volpert Environmental Center, 658 W. Onondaga St. 7pm. 446-5319.

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

ARTiculations Series: monument Artists will show, read, or perform their work followed by general audience discussion. Westcott Community Center, 828 Euclid Ave. 7:30pm. 438-2155.

9 **League of Women Voters** board meeting. Bryant & Stratton. 5pm. 422-9797.

HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots ADS group). Living Room, 328 Montgomery St. 6:30pm. 474-3816.

CINY NOW general meeting. 5789 Widewaters Pkwy. 7pm. 487-3188.

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

10 **EVERY THU: Sitting Meditation** at Women's NFO, 801 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free.

EVERY THU: Women's Voices radio program. WAER, FM 88.3. 6-7pm. Pat. 446-7259.

EVERY THU: Syracuse Zapistas Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 6:30pm. ACh. 423-4783.

11 **Presentation-Discussion** with Amy Goodman of Democracy Now! Human Services Bldg. 320 W State St. 8:30am. Hosted by Progressive Media Alliance. 7:30-9pm. Jessie 807-273-0532.

12 **EVERY SAT: Dance Techniques** with Dance-more Company. Westcott Community Center. 8pm-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.

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

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

University Neighbors Lecture. Bruce Coville, author of children's & young adult books & performance audio tapes. Westcott Community Center. 3pm. \$10. Refreshments provided. 478-8634.

14 **Eastside Neighborhood Center** mtg. ENJP office, 204 Columbus St. (near) 6:30pm. Joe. 471-7911 ext. 210.

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

Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WEINA) meeting. Petit Library, Concord Pl. 7-9pm. 478-7301.

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

EVERY TUE: Community Media Action Group meeting. 6pm. Call Ace for place. 423-7856.

16 **NAACP** meeting. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-9833.

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

Sierra Club monthly meeting. 5 Black Hall, SUNY ESF. 7:30pm. Marsha. 462-4745.

17 **EVERY THU: Syracuse Community Radio**, WXXE 90.5 FM. "Jim Hightower Radio Commentaries" 4:58pm; FAIR's "Counter Spin" 5pm; "Making Contact" 6:30pm; "Darkwave & Industrial" 7pm.

ReconSIDer: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 206 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-9237.

18 **One day workshop** on "The most common wounds of socially devalued people, with special emphasis on threats to and attacks upon their very lives." Room 201, Goldstein Student Center, South Campus, SU. 8am-5:30pm. Free for students, staff & faculty; fee for general public. 443-1980.

19 **Syracuse Peace Council** presents an **Imagelisting Workshop** led by Karen Kenney. Learn how to combine words & drawings to create newsletter covers, flyers, artwork & proposals material. 10am-noon. 824 Burnet Ave. \$1 registration fee. 472-5478.

Karam: A Community Feast featuring African cuisine, wearable art, poetry, drumming, dance & song. May Memorial, 3900 E. Genesee St. 6-9pm. Sponsored by Beyond Boundaries.

Emergency National Conference to save Mumia Abu-Jamal. Synod Hall of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City.

20 **New Environment Association** polluck & meeting. Friends Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. 6pm. 446-8009.

21 **EVERY MON: HIV+ Issues** Group meets. 6:30-9pm. Sponsored by AIDS Community Resources. Call for place. 475-2430.

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.

22 **EVERY TUE: Syracuse Community Radio** meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 478-4786.

EVERY TUE: Middle Eastern Dance with Zoe Artemis. Westcott Community Center. 5:15-6:15pm. Fee. 474-7084.

23 **Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker** Benefit Dinner. St. Winton St., off Burnet Ave. 5:30pm. \$0-\$15 donation. 471-8853.

EVERY WED: JD High School Acceptance Coalition meeting. Gay and straight teens working together. 2:15-3pm. JD High School, Edinger Rd. Room B-15. Contact Zack at 446-9290.

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

"History of the 18th Ward" lecture at Onondaga Historical Museum. Moderated by Carmen Harlow. 7pm. 428-1964. Free.

25 **EVERY FRI: Lesbian Discussion** Group. Women's Info Center, 801 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

26 **Pax Christi** meeting. St. Colum. House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Wootever. 446-1693.

27 **EVERY SUN: People's** 80 Minutes. Time Warner Cable. Ch. 12, 8pm. Produced by Peace Council. Tune in, tape it, share it!

28 **EVERY MON: Morris Denc-** ing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.

Civil Disobedience for Mumia Abu-Jamal. For info in Syracuse call Sam at 475-9005.

EVERY MON: Student Environ- mental Action Coalition meet- ing. SUNY ESF. 7pm.

29 **Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)** meet- ing. 1st Unitarian Universalist So- ciety, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.

EVERY MON, TUES, THURS: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 12pm. New friends, lunch, programs. 478-8634.

30 **EVERY WED: Military & Draft** Counseling at the Peace Coun- cil. Noon-3pm. Call Marge 472-5478.

1st & 3rd WED: Peace News- letter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. 472-5478.

31 **1st & 3rd WED: Peace News-** letter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. 472-5478.

32 **Thornden Park Association** meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carole Simson for location. 475-2807.

33 **Peace Newsletter** Mailing Party at SPC, 824 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Call to check date.

34 **Peace Newsletter** Mailing Party at SPC, 824 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Call to check date.

35 **Peace Newsletter** Mailing Party at SPC, 824 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Call to check date.

36 **Peace Newsletter** Mailing Party at SPC, 824 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Call to check date.

Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar February 2000

The Syracuse Peace Council announces
two exciting, hands-on workshops for 2000

Doing What We Do Better

Saturday, February 19, 2000
10am until noon:

"Image Making Workshop"

- led by Karen Kerney

This workshop will be a hands-on experience in combining words and drawings to create newsletter covers, flyers, artwork and propaganda material.

Karen makes images at Syracuse Cultural Workers and has co-ordinated PNL covers for years. She brings a full vision to the world of image-making, using ink, pencil and paper as well as electronic-generated images.

Saturday, April 22, 2000

10am until noon:

"The Power of Crafted Words"

- led by Ed Kinane

Ed will lead this workshop in making words work for a more just world. Op-ed pieces, press releases, letters to editors, think pieces and essays will be discussed, along with copy-editing.

A Syracuse native, an activist, and a former prisoner of conscience for his efforts to close the SOA, Ed has served as Editorial Committee member of the PNL, has written extensively on matters of justice for many decades, and is the person many turn to for editing.

Both workshops will be held at the Syracuse Peace Council

924 Burnet Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203

There is a \$1 registration fee for each workshop. Call to register 315-472-5478



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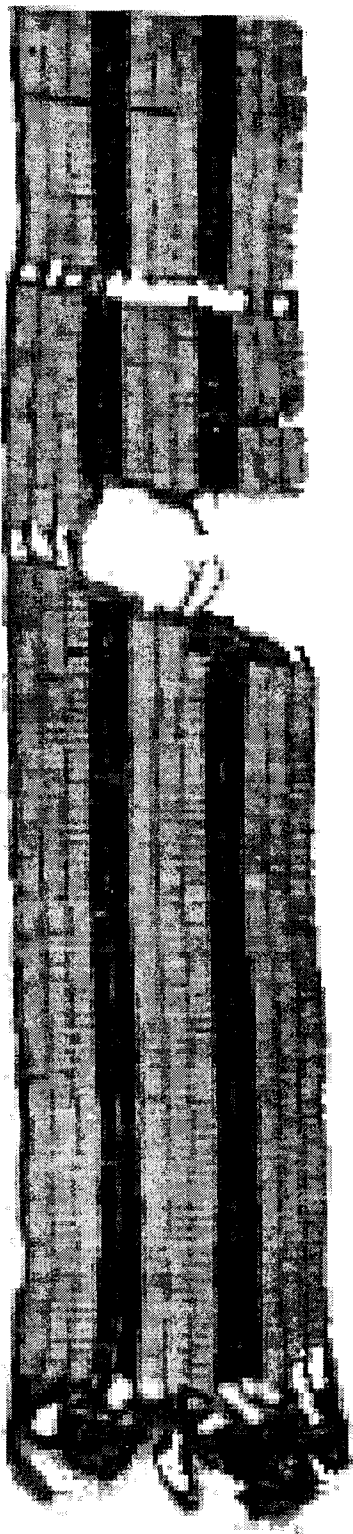
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Educate, Agitate, Organize

Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice March 2000 PNL 689



Gustwenta Two Row Wampum

You say that you are our Father and I am your son.

We say, We will not be like Father and Son, but like Brothers.

This wampum belt confirms our words.

These two rows will symbolize two paths or two vessels, traveling down the same river together.

One, a birch bark canoe, will be for the Indian People, their laws, their customs and their ways.

The other, a ship, will be for the white people and their laws, their customs and their ways.

We shall each travel the river together, side by side, but in our boat. Neither of us will make compulsory laws or interfere in the internal affairs of the other. Neither of us will try to steer the other's vessel.

The agreement has been kept by the Haudenosaunee to this date.

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		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Literature Committee • Program Committee • Political Action Committee • Organizational Maintenance Committee • Pledge Coordinator: Pat Hoffman 		

The Peace Newsletter

The *PNL Editorial Committee* meets at the Peace Council. To get involved please call for dates and times.

Editorial & Production: John Fitzsimmons, Paul Frazier, Karen Hall, Bill Hamler, Mike Kernahan, Rae Kramer, Joy Meeker, Andy Mager, Andy Molloy, Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce, Carl Mellor

Cover & Graphics Coordinator: Karen Kerney

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, Carole Resnick, Ed Kinane, Aggie Lane, 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.

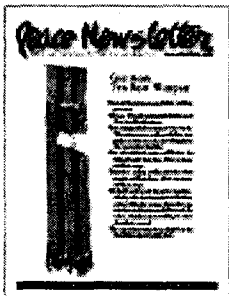
Alliances, Coalitions & Contacts

Abolish the Blockade of Cuba Doug Igelsrud 471-5749	P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Louis Clark 470-3300
ACLU-CNY Chapter 471-2821	People Against the Death Penalty 637-3344
AIDS Community Resources 475-2430	People for Animal Rights 488-PURR (7877)
Alliance-Psychiatric System	Physicians for Social Responsibility 488-2140
Survivors	Planned Parenthood 475-5525
George Ebert 475-4120	PWHIV/ AIDS Support Hotline
American Friends Service Committee 475-4822	Sandra 471-5911
Animal Defense League 479-9105	ReConsider
ARISE 472-3171	Nick or Alex Eyle 422-6231
Atlantic States Legal Foundation 475-1170	Religion: Other
Caribbean/Latin Amer. Coalition	Phoenix or Kat 474-8801
Paul Weichselbaum 446-6099	Rose Center
Citizens Awareness Network	Teri Cameron 422-3426
Tim Judson 475-1203	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
CNY N.O.W. 487-3188	Sue Carlson 445-1663
Coal. of NY Against the Death Penalty	Small Claims Court Action Center 443-1401
Joe Dubovy (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
Food Not Bombs	Syr. Alternative Media Network
Daniel Bowers 682-6887	Tim Brachocki 425-8806
Greater Syr. Tenant Network	Syracuse Area Vegetarian Society SAVES
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	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
Kenlark 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
Donna Reese 422-6933	Syr. Social Movement Initiative
Natural Organic Farmers Assoc.	John Burdick 443-3822
Ammie Chickering 365-2299	Syracuse United Neighbors
New Environment Association	Rich Puchalski 476-7475
Harry Schwarzlander 446-8009	S.U. for Animal Rights 443-4199
NYPIRG 476-8381	Urban League
Onondaga Audabon 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
Peace Action of CNY 478-7442	425-3653
Peace Brigades International	Women's INFO Center 478-4636
Ann Tiffany 478-4571	

Peace Newsletter

March 2000
PNL 689

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About The Cover

The opening lines of the text on this month's cover tell the fundamental piece of history that has provided the foundation for all that has followed. From the outset the Haudenosaunee faced the paternalistic racism of the colonial settlers. The Two Row Wampum was not only a statement of a desire for peace and autonomy, but a respectful reminder that paternalism was

inappropriate and unwelcome. They affirmed clearly that the only possible way to exist together in peace was to respect each other as equals, i.e., as brothers, NOT as father and son. In this issue we are honored to have articles from our Haudenosaunee sisters and brothers, alongside our own efforts to grapple with the moral and political challenges of Native sovereignty and land rights.

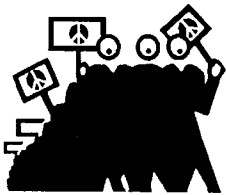
In our pages this month Kent Lyons offers valuable information about Haudenosaunee history, culture and spirituality, providing us with context for the current land claims. He reminds us of the harsh legacy of our shared histories: "...The native images and names that permeate contemporary modern American society are juxtaposed with the near successful extinction of an ancient

people and their culture..." Wendy Gonyea shares her perspective on the recent jury trial addressing the Cayuga Nation's struggle to regain lands in their ancestral territory. She reminds us that "...No Cayuga will be allowed to testify. The judge disallowed... testimony on cultural damages. He also has not allowed the Haudenosaunee perspective on the land...to be part of the record. This is a trial about money only." Doug George-Kanentiio's contribution provides yet more political and spiritual history, sharing information which connects the visionary foretellings of the Seneca leader Skaniateriio in 1799 with the environmental devastation which has occurred since that time. "...The Seneca prophet presented to the people a set of prophecies by which they were to mark humanity's abrogation of its relationship with the natural world. When the trees die from the top down, when the waters are unfit to drink, when the animals leave this world and the thunder beings refuse to bring the rains the People of the longhouse should not be surprised..."

We travel side by side in the same river, and right now it's terribly polluted. Coming to understand the meaning and reality of the cultural and political genocide carried out literally in our own back yards is a first step toward implementing the necessary cleanup.

Carole Resnick

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE



**Educate
Agitate
Organize!**

On March 25th, the Syracuse Peace Council, the Northeast Student Peace Action Network (SPAN), and the Syrucus Society will hold a free conference/training on economic and social justice and globalization. The conference will feature a teach-in on IMF/World Bank policies and how people are demanding justice from global financial institutions that impact our communities. The conference will also address activism within our own communities on issues of social and economic justice. A major component of the day will be nonviolent direct action training in preparation for April actions in Washington, DC, (IMF/World Bank) and May actions in NYC (Wall Street).

When: Sat. March 25- 9am - 5pm

Where: South Presbyterian Church

Corner of S. Salina & Colvin, Syracuse

Modest food will be provided. We will try to help attendees with housing, food, and travel assistance, so please contact us early. If you would like more information on attending or assisting with the conference, please contact Zac Moore (315-251-1379); or <zdmoore@maxwell.syr.edu>; or contact the Syracuse Peace Council (315)472-5478.

In Memory of Norman S. Putter

Human rights activist and Peace Council supporter Norman S. Putter died Feb. 4 in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

Born in Poland, he moved to the United States in 1919. He graduated from St. John's Law School in 1934. Active in human rights efforts much of his life, he was a member of the Syracuse NAACP board of trustees and the recipient of the Syracuse-Onondaga NAACP Freedom Award in 1985. He was co-founder of the Metropolitan School for the Arts and helped establish the annual commemorations at Syracuse Stage and the Civic Center.

His wife Ruth, and son Walter, are supporters of SPC. Ruth's photographs are often seen in this publication. It was a treat to see Norman at our last Birthday Dinner.

Our community joins them in mourning their loss.



SPC Celebrates Birthday #64 Saturday, May 6, 2000

Save the date and join us for an evening of good food, good talk, and good friends.

Special guest speaker : Cecilia Zarate-Laun, Colombian Peace Activist, Colombia Support Network. Vegetarian, Latin American cuisine "organized" by Ron Shuffler.

See next month's PNL for more information

Spirit of the Renaissance

Syracuse's Community Folk Art Gallery is currently exhibiting an important show, *Spirit of the Renaissance*, which features works by William H. Johnson and Malvin Gray Johnson, two artists prominent within the Harlem Renaissance. The exhibit, curated from the collections of the Hampton University Museum, presents a total of 47 pieces, including woodcuts, silkscreen works and portraits by William H. Johnson as well as watercolor and oil paintings by Malvin Gray Johnson. Having the exhibition on display at the Folk Art Gallery, 2223 E. Genesee St., offers a rare opportunity to see these works at a local venue. *Spirit of the Renaissance* is on exhibit through March 31. For more information, call 424-8784.



Successful Again!

The second annual SPC Bowl-a-thon brought good fun, lots of laughs, some inspired bowling, and much-appreciated revenue. Many thanks to all who bowled, cheered, and collected donations. It was great watching Angus McDonald shaking pompoms, Ed Kinane acting (kind of) rowdy, and the Transgender Menace exploring new socio-athletico (sic) cultural mores.

We enjoyed having new friends join us and old friends eager to make this event a regular part of their winter calendar. Special thanks to Beth Mosely for "structural support" - the boring administrative details.

REMINDER # 1 - please make sure to collect any outstanding donations and send them to SPC.

REMINDER # 2 - keep watch for announcements for 2001 (the third or fourth Sunday in January) .

Hope to see you at the alleys practicing for next year. Gotta go - I'm up.

Rae Kramer

Tax Day Cometh...

Save the Date, we will once again commemorate Tax Day with a public display of discontentment. See April *Peace Newsletter* for details.

Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

Subscribe to the PNL ~ Still only \$12 a year for 12 issues!

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

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



What is War Tax Resistance?

This article is a continuation of the article in the February issue of the Peace Newsletter. The February section was an overview of the subject. This section describes w-4 resistance, non-filing, public resistance, the risks of war tax resistance, as well as resource information.

W-4 RESISTANCE

Since half of any money paid to the government's General Fund will be used for militarism, many resisters refuse to pay any money at all. Persons wishing to withhold as much money as possible from the federal government need to insure not only that they don't pay taxes at the year's end, but that income taxes are not withheld from their paychecks. This can be done by being self-employed; by claiming "exempt" on the W-4 form you fill out when you begin a job; or by claiming a sufficient number of allowances on the W-4 form so that no money will be withheld from your paycheck. Consult with NWTRCC, a WTR counselor, or IRS Publication 15 (Circular E) to find out how many allowances you need to claim to reduce your withholding to zero, or fifty percent, or whatever other amount you choose.

Claims of exemption if wages normally exceed \$200 per week, or of more than ten allowances are forwarded to the IRS; otherwise, W-4 information remains with the employer. An employee can change her/his withholding status at any time during employment. The effect is to transfer responsibility for tax payment from the employer to the employee, and to ensure that your employer is not collecting taxes on the government's behalf.

NON-FILING

Many objectors refuse to file income tax returns at all. The IRS has a harder time collecting; but penalties and interest can be higher. Persons who refuse to file often do so as part of a strategy to make themselves uncollectable, no matter how great debts to the IRS become.

(See the NACC flyer, "Resisting Collection of Refused War Taxes.")

Other objectors choose to lower their income and/or simplify their lifestyle so that they are either exempt from taxation, or

don't have any assets that can be seized by the IRS for tax debts. A simplified lifestyle also reduces your contribution to other forms of taxation, e.g., production and user taxes in the retail economy, and is good for the planet!

PUBLIC RESISTANCE

Most war tax resisters are already working toward a more peaceful, just society, and see tax resistance as a component of their work. No matter what type of war tax resistance you decide to do, publicizing it adds to its impact. Letters to the IRS and to elected officials, letters to the editor, Tax Day leafleting, and organizing with other resisters in your area are all ways to help further the struggle against militarism.

Creating a supportive community with other tax resisters is also important to overcome fears and isolation, share strategies and experience, inspire each other, and build alternatives.

RISKS AND BENEFITS

War tax resistance is an act of civil disobedience, and it is wise to understand the possible consequences of this form of direct action for peace before beginning it.

Talking to an experienced war tax resistance counselor is recommended; you can call NWTRCC for referrals.

The risks incurred vary greatly depending upon the type of resistance, but are almost always financial in nature. Criminal persecution is possible, but in practice extremely rare. There is very little precedent for war tax resisters being jailed; when it has happened (fewer than two dozen times since World War II), it has generally been not for non-payment, but for related decisions (e.g., contempt of court for refusal to produce financial records). The IRS acts, essentially, as a collection agency.

A nonpaying individual's liability to the IRS will usually include assessed taxes, penalties, and accumulated interest. Civil penalties of up to 25% are possible for failing to file and failing to pay; so-called "frivolous" returns or filing false information on the W-4 form may lead to additional \$500 penalties. Interest on unpaid taxes and penalties is compounded daily at a rate that varies each quarter, depending on the prime interest rate. See NACC's "Potential Legal

Consequences for Refusing Federal Income Taxes".

Generally, resisters receive a series of tax due letters from the IRS, culminating in a "Final Notice Before Levy," thirty days after which the IRS is legally entitled to collect. The IRS tends to go after people's most liquid assets first (e.g., bank accounts and wages), these being the easiest for them to handle. Occasionally the IRS seizes property such as cars or houses; at that point many people either buy their property back, or organize around the seizure and generate publicity for their protest.

The IRS rarely collects from telephone tax resisters because of the small amounts involved. If you have no property in your name, no bank accounts, and are self-employed, there may be nothing for the IRS to seize, whatever your debt; making yourself "uncollectable" is an option chosen by a number of resisters. It is helpful to bear in mind that a resister may "bail out" at any point by offering to begin payment if she or he wishes.

Depending upon your collectability and the IRS's efficiency, it may take a few months, many years, or forever to collect your taxes; the longer the period of resistance, the greater the accumulated interest on the debt. An experienced war tax resistance counselor can help you assess your willingness to take on risks, and what types of resistance will be most effective for you at this time.

The benefits of war tax resistance are clear: you are not paying for war. You are demonstrating to others that they need not pay for war. And by redirecting refused taxes, you also have the opportunity to help others understand the connection between the criminal use of our tax dollars on militarism and the lack of availability of so many basic human services in the U.S. today.

Listed below are excellent resources for those interested in learning more about war tax resistance:

The National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC), a national coalition of local war tax resistance groups, which has excellent literature and a national



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The Great Horned Owl, a Ballad in the Mountain Mode

Great Horned Owl: Voice a resonant hooting... Female, lower in pitch, 6-8 [notes] - R.T. Peterson, A field guide to the birds, fourth edition

An angry feather duster with blazing yellow eyes,
Broken wing askew, beak clacking,
Flopped in the kitchen corner, well-hinged talons poised.
Margaret was appalled. Her man came home, explained:
A neighbor of his folks had found her, shotgunned off her nest;
Her chicks had starved.
A stout splint-bandage on the shattered wrist,
She might fly free again.

The wild owl ripped the bandage off.
Advice sought from the college: make her a neck-ruff
Of a foot-wide cardboard lid with metal rim
And she'll not tear the bandage off again.
She tore off ruff and bandage; gangrene set in.
"That bird has got a soul," he spoke "We can't just put her down.
I'll amputate above the wrist, and you must help."

The owl on Margaret's lap, her left hand on the pulsing feathered breast,
Her right hand, gauntleted, grasped tight as could be, both the feet,
Mindful of ruin those scuted claws could deal.
No place for flinching squeamishness
Tho' lately, she'd felt queasy off and on.

He, with kitchen shears, cut off the rotted hand.
Did something wild then die within the owl
As "I'm nevertheless Great Owl!" she cried?
He gently set her on the porch.
"Nature will heal the clean wing-stump;
I may have broke her spirit."

Their child was born, and bedtime was for lullabies:
"How can there be a baby, an' no cryin'?"

The open window looked onto the porch;
The owl's white crescent throat shone, from the real moon in the sky,
Her chest fluffed out, whe bowed with weight of song,
Her tail for balance cocked, her silhouette
The giant wren of Native dreams.

Vibrations stirred the autumn air,
She wove her tenor through the mother's treble:
"Hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo, hooo, hooo!"
The song she'd used to call her mate,
And used again at death's dire gate, to finally name herself,
Now chanted with his mother for to lull this human child.
"Hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo, hooo, hooo!"
"A baby when it's sleepin', there's no cryin'".

Two decades later, Margaret asked her son,
"Do you recall the owl we kept, when you were small?"
"Course I remember Owlie, she
Lived next door to me, for all those years,
And sang me lullabies."



Margaret S. Rusk, 1996



Letters



Devoid of Light

Women on Death Row

[As this is being prepared, 2/24/00, another woman was executed in Texas.]

The inhumane treatment of imprisoned women is unspeakable. Why is nothing being said or done about this? In the State of Texas, the meet cherished privileges given to men on Death Row are being taken from the women. They can't even watch Television, or read newspapers.

Pamela Perillo a woman on Death Row in Gatesville, Texas, complained in a letter to the Editor of *Women On The Row* that the Texas Prison Officials denied them the light and warmth of the sun streaming into the windows of their cells. Listen: 11 I spend a lot of my days in the cell watching the birds playing and taking baths and making nests, she wrote." Now they have covered our windows. Why would they do this? What could the harm be in us being able to look out these windows? I just had to sit down and cry."

A woman on Death row in Arkansas reported that the treatment on her cellblock has crushed and broken. her sprit - she has no reason- to live. She wants no further appeals. Her name is Christina Riggs. Listen.- "I know this may seem weird. Most death Row inmates are fighting to live. I'm fighting to die. The tremendous amount of pain I live with ever- day is just too much."

This is no fake talk show, folks. This is the cruel reality and the raw pain of women trapped in the dark world of death row devoid of light and the faintest flicker of humanity. These are the long lost daughters of Eve reduced to the dust of nothingness. They need to know you care. They need to hear someone-- Anyone, say, " I LOVE YOU".

For the addresses of women on death row and how you can support them contact: Women On The Row , Innisfree Village 5505 Walnut Level Rd. Crozet, Va 22932 Sisterko @ aol.com Visit Reggie's Website: [Http://members.xoom.com/ccadp/reginaldlewis.Htm](http://members.xoom.com/ccadp/reginaldlewis.Htm)

Reginald S. Lewis

Iraqi Sanctions - Protests - Actions - Arrests

Feb. 12-14 Sanctions Retreat / Protest in NYC

Four hundred people (police estimate) met at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, in NYC, to speak out about the horrors of the Iraqi sanctions being levied and enforced by the UN and the US/UK. Eighty-six of those protesters were arrested, many as they were speaking out on the steps of the UN, and many as they were attempting to approach the UN mission. The rally was a culmination of a full weekend of teach-ins, vigils, and prayer circles concerning Iraq.

Approximately 1.7 million people have died in Iraq since 1991; according to UNICEF, 250 people die every single day. Sanctions are the silent war that means genocide to the Iraqi people.

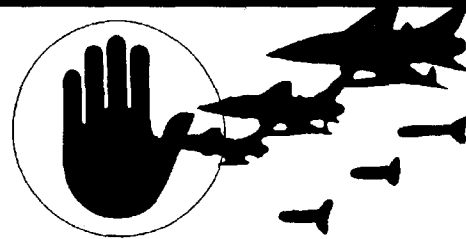
This weekend gathering was particularly organized around the anniversary of the Amariyah shelter bombing, when two smart bombs (led by global positioning satellites and accurate to within ten meters of their targets) "accidentally" hit an air raid shelter where 1200 people, mostly women and children, were taking refuge inside. It was a weekend of remembering, mourning, reflecting, community and hope.

Saturday morning began with a prayer circle facilitated by Sr. Eileen Storey at Mary House. There were readings, people who had been to Iraq shared what their experiences and what they learned from their visit. A teach-in followed led by Dennis Halliday, Amy Goodman, Sam Hussein, Phyllis Bennis and David Reynolds. We learned more about the atrocities associated with the bombing and renewed our dedication to the cause.

Sunday morning began briskly with a vigil in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral attended by 150 people. We hoped to remind churchgoers of the hundreds dying every day. The rally and vigil Monday morning, attended by Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Kathy Kelly, a doctor from Iraq, and Bridget Brownell, left many with troubled souls and tears, as we moved towards the UN to voice our opinions. We left with stronger hearts, a great sense of community with activists from all over the country, and a stronger sense of commitment and resolve in standing in solidarity with the Iraqi people.

Many, many thanks to FOR, the Catholic Worker communities in New York, Voices in the Wilderness, and the Kairos community, for all they did to make the weekend possible.

Jen Kipka and Mike DeWaele St. Francis Farm, Lacona, NY



Feb. 25 - 26 Protests continue in Upstate NY

The work continued at home as the 174th Air National Guard, operating out of Syracuse, prepared to leave for the Persian Gulf to participate in enforcing - with bombing - the "no-fly" zones over Iraq. On February 25, twenty people gathered at the steps of the state capital in Albany to present a petition with 1200 signatures to New York Governor Pataki, asking that he refuse to authorize deployment of the 174th. The Governor was not available and the petitions were reluctantly accepted by his staff.

On Sunday, February 26, sixty people from across NYS came together at the Hancock Field Air National Guard base with a last-ditch plea to our departing neighbors. "Take food, take medicine, instead of more death to the people of Iraq." Bearing packages of food and medicine, the group moved to the closing gates, and pushed the offerings under the fence and hung some on the barbed wire.

Ten people who crossed under the fence were quickly arrested.

At their arraignment at the Public Safety Building in Syracuse all ten pled not guilty to criminal trespass, a class B misdemeanor. The ten were each held in custody under a \$500 bond until late in the evening when they were bailed out by Bill Cuddy of Jail Ministry in Syracuse. The ten are: Jerome Berrigan, 80, grandparent, Syracuse • Frank Carver, 76, grandparent, Trumansburg • Ann Clune, 51, grandparent, Binghamton Catholic Worker • Mike deWaele, 25, St. Francis Farm, Lacona • John Doughty, 32, Rochester & St. Francis Farm, Lacona • Neil Golder, 53, Ithaca Catholic Worker • Clare Grady, 41, parent, Ithaca Catholic Worker • Lisa Guido, 34, Ithaca Catholic Worker • Anne Herman, 66, grandparent, Binghamton Catholic Worker • Tom McNamara, 41, St. Francis Farm, Lacona •

The deployment of the 174th will continue throughout the month of March; so then will the resistance. The next gathering at Hancock Field will be March 11 at 8am. We hope to have five hundred people there. Please join us - the Iraqi people need your voice! Call Dick Keogh at 476-0048 for more info.

Mike deWaele, Jen Kipka, Ed Kinane

IMF/World Bank - Mobilization in DC

Washington DC April 9-16!

Stand for Economic Justice! Oppose Oppressive Globalization!

A powerful US movement for economic and human rights and fair trade had its coming-out party at the WTO meetings in Seattle. We challenged one of the most insidious tools of unaccountable profit-driven rule, the World Trade Organization, and we scored important victories. Activists must continue this work until

the system is changed. Decisions about the fate of the planet and its peoples must not be made behind closed doors

In April, the struggle continues in Washington, DC, site of the World Bank, the US Treasury, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Many of the groups that helped organize the victories in Seattle are already preparing for days of protest, education, training, and direct action during the week of April 9 - 16. Sunday begins with a Jubilee

2000/USA mobilization to cancel debts of African, Latin American, Asia-Pacific, and Caribbean countries. The week culminates with a **Massive Rally at IMF Headquarters, Sunday, April 16.**

Call for Protests, Spread the Word! Organize, bring people to Washington! Learn about the IMF and World Bank-

Visit <http://www.50years.org>

50 Years is Enough Network (DC) 202-IMF-BANK or Global Exchange (San Francisco) 415-558-9486, X.254 *Juliette Beck*

Land Rights

Kent Lyons

There were an extraordinary number of native inhabitants in North America at the time of foreign contact, each with a unique cultural pattern developed by an age old understanding of their environment and a strong sense of spiritual connections with the natural world.

The first contact by foreigners found the Haudenosaunee thoroughly entrenched in a pure democratic system incorporating strong spiritual morality to govern civil affairs rooted and nurtured around the concepts of "the Great Peace." Protocol and procedure was observed in all things and the original inhabitants knew full well the importance of law, order and respect.

In our mutual historical development there are wars waged and battles won and lost over land, with Native people trying to preserve what they had while constantly repelling European encroachment aimed at the exploitation of the existing natural resources. It is a sad commentary on the attitudes of our present society when, at the turn of the 21st century, the main focal point of the upcoming generations will still be the same for members of the existing native peoples, and that is survival.

The relationship between the Haudenosaunee and the United States is another well documented example of Man's inhumanity to man; U.S. policies designed to undermine traditional native governments and affect the eventual breakdown of sovereignty issues insured by treaties. The very same treaties negotiated by early U.S. and native leaders.

There is a trend now more evident with the onset of the land claims in Central New

York and that is a reckoning of conscience that rests with the State of New York.

Fraudulent land acquisitions of the Haudenosaunee are now being scrutinized and made public by historians, lawyers, reporters, and interested citizens.

The land claims exist because predetermined Procedure was not followed by New York State in their dealings with the Native population of that time. This has been established by the U.S. court system and continues to be the basis for prosecution. The opposition to the claims are from people who are worried about the impending consequences of these illegal dealings; loss of home, land, and tax base. It is a very disturbing comment about the American society and its leaders to even try to place a numerical denomination against *the loss* of generations of cultural development by a people stigmatized as inferior and herded, against their will, onto reservations for the systematic breakdown of their culture and assimilation into American society. The larger issue that lies just underneath the surface is the American conscience. While they profess to be the leaders and protectors of human rights throughout the free world, the policies and actions in regard to Native peoples can be likened to the ethnic cleansing found *in any* part of the world where American policy uses military power to decide another people's fate. Time is also one of the factors which has been used for dispelling the notion of mutual resolution. Opponents of the land claims are saying they do not want to pay for the sins of the past by giving up their land and homes in a land claim. In all walks of life, where there is decency and a genuine concern for the welfare of all people, there exists a common law which is tempered with justice. This concept of fairness is designed to insure that when a person is wronged no matter when or how, there will be consequences for the misdeeds. Time can be your friend or it can be a foe. All of the time that land taken fraudulently was used for the advancement of the non-native peoples, natives suffered by not having the opportunities to develop the land for their own existence, sustenance and advancement.

Recent polls concerning how Central

New Yorkers feel about land claim issues bear interesting results...

-68% of the people polled felt that Native Americans were cheated 'Out of their lands over 200 years ago. But...

-49 % do not support Natives in their efforts to reclaim land and money.

-22% felt, when asked, Natives should get nothing!

-42% claimed they were in favor of just money as a solution

-90%, said "No" when asked if they feared losing their home due to land claims; no, they are not afraid.

These responses give the preliminary feeling that although Americans are willing to admit the wrongdoings of their state government, they obviously feel that money is the solution to all of these claims and are confident that their existing government will do the right thing when it comes to settlement.

The native images and names that permeate contemporary modern American society are juxtaposed with the near successful extinction of an ancient people and their culture. The borrowed concepts which were adopted into the constitution of the fledgling U.S. still bear the icons as reminders of their origin; the eagle, the bound arrows for strength in unity, and the tree, a symbol of lasting strength. In the eyes of a native person these are harsh reminders of a history disrupted by conquerors and kings in a relentless pursuit of wealth and material gain.

As the millennium starts we have only to look around and see the many great wonders that have evolved around us in the past 100 years. There have been great strides in many fields of study, and our understanding of our own existence has become clearer in the eyes of scientists and the academic communities involved in the pursuit of understanding the nature of this planet and its inhabitants.

Although the advancement of these sciences marks the great achievements of the human mind, the human relationship with mankind continues to suffer the same repressive attitudes which have prevented and continues to inhibit the true advancement of man.



Kent Lyons, an active Onondaga community member, is the general manager of the Onondaga Athletic Club. He is a dedicated boys lacrosse and hockey coach as well as goalie for the men's lacrosse team, the Onondaga Warriors. Kent is a welcome addition to the Onondaga Nation Communications Office where he works between jobs as a union glazier. He and His wife, Francine are parents of four children who attend the Onondaga Nation School.

Cayuga Trial

Wendy Gonyea

This piece was prepared during the trial, before the recent decision was announced.

It seems so long ago that Clint Halftown took the stand in Federal Court to testify on behalf of the Cayuga Nation in their struggle to regain lands in their ancestral territory. It was September 1998. Clint told the Court the Cayuga Nation didn't intend to bring hardship to the residents in their 64,027 acre claim area but would seek to purchase lands from willing sellers, negotiate lease agreements and quietly secure title to land wrongly taken by the State of New York 204 years ago. "What happened in 1795 and in 1807 when we were forced off our land is not the right thing to do today," he said. Clint told what dispossession of land has meant to the 575 Cayugas scattered throughout other Haudenosaunee territories. He presented a history of forced removal and assimilation emphasizing how they had given up so much more than land. Clint also said it has been a lifetime goal of his family and other Cayuga Nation members to live once again on Cayuga territory, building a future there for coming generations, to truly come home.

The Cayugas are back in Federal Court today in Syracuse, not in the witness chair, but patiently watching as a slew of lawyers, including state and federal, present, cross examine, and posture, before a jury of nine citizens to determine an amount of money to be paid to the Cayugas for the loss of their lands. The trial began Jan. 24 in the Northern District Federal Court of Judge Neal McCurn. Their attorney, Martin Gold, said this is "the first time in history the United States is appraising land and use in a trial on damages", Gold still hopes this case will settle amicably.

When this case is over, the Cayugas and

the surrounding communities are going to have to live together," Gold said at a Jan. 6 press briefing on the Onondaga Nation.

This time around, however, Clint Halftown will not be allowed to testify. Judge McCurn set the stage with pretrial limitations on what and whom the Cayugas can present to the court. No Cayuga will be allowed to testify. The Judge disallowed any emotional argument or testimony on cultural damages. He also has not allowed the Haudenosaunee perspective of the land, our gift of sustenance, to be a part of the record. This trial is about money only.

What's happened in our territories since Clint's 1998 testimony and today's January 2000 trial?

Well for starters, shortly after Clint's testimony, in Dec. 1998, the Oneida Nation of New York decided to shake things up and filed an amended lawsuit to include about 20,000 residents living in their claim area in Oneida and Madison Counties. This action resulted in the formation of a vocal Upstate Citizens for Equality (UCE) group actively voicing opinions in all Native matters since. Central New York witnessed rallies, motorcades, pickets, and at least one anonymous death threat directed at patrons of the Oneida Nation's Turning Stone Casino just before Thanksgiving 1999.

Thankfully the threat was nothing more, but not without a worry that still lingers. Judge Neal McCurn has also been the recipient of at least two threats. The most recent came on the last day of jury selection. A threatening message left on McCurn's voice mail accused the Judge of committing illegal acts. The FBI is investigating the anonymous call.

About midway through 1999, Judge McCurn ruled he would not allow ejectments in the Cayuga claim area. Protecting 'homeowners' and exempting them from paying monetary damages Judge McCurn also ordered a mediator, Eric Van Loon, to work with all parties in the hopes a settlement could be worked out before commencing a trial. The state and federal governments would pay the Cayugas if a negotiated settlement was reached. It seemed pos-

sible in July 1999 but when particulars leaked out Gov. Pataki caved in to the counties who were calling for "no sovereign nation in the claim area".

Again this year, in the eleventh hour before the scheduled start of the trial, the state offered a total of 13,000 acres of land within the claim area (3,000 to remain undeveloped), *but*, the Cayugas would have to sign off on the other 51,000 acres forever. The state was willing to pay about \$130 million. The Cayugas rejected that offer. The Cayugas want land, number one, and just compensation, number two. Negotiations in the Cayuga claim are now over.

Today Bernadette "Birdie" Hill, Cayuga Clanmother, Clint Halftown, Cayuga representative, and Jerry Dillinger, elected Chief from the Seneca-Cayugas in Oklahoma attend court daily. Their presence is essential to the proceedings taking place in the federal hall of justice. They listen daily to tedious testimony about the land their ancestors once called home.

The first week just one witness, Arvel Hale, a land appraiser hired by the Federal government, went over in painstaking detail how he arrived at his figures on land value, everything from how many bushels of corn a parcel produced in 1795 to what, when and where historical recorded land sales were found, the actual makeup of the land, water, minerals, gravel, and so on. Hale calculates the land to be worth \$264.7 million with a rental value of \$70.4 million. Cross examination was lengthy and detailed.

Week two began with the testimony of the state's land appraiser, John Bouck. He presented methods he used to arrive at the state's figure on the land value, somewhere between \$24 to \$40 million. The lawyers take turns grilling the land appraisers and the jury listens to their arguments to determine just how much the land is worth... only in dollars and cents mind you.

AFTER THE VERDICT UPDATE...

The Onondaga Nation continues to support our *Younger Brothers*, the Cayuga Nation in their quest for justice. We as native people have been struggling for a very long time, and we see this time as no different. The jury recommendation of \$36.9 for 64,015

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Wendy Gonyea works for the Onondaga Nation in their Communications Office. The office serves as a liaison between the Onondaga Council of Chiefs and the general public and prints a newsletter for residents of the Onondaga Community. Wendy is a former teacher/counselor at the Onondaga Nation school and the mother of three daughters and a son.

Not the Final Word

Jury Verdict in the Cayuga Land Claim Trial

Joan Cope Savage

When I began attending the Cayuga land claim trial at the Federal building in Syracuse in early February, it was at times a blur of detailed arguments about land appraisal methods. No discussion was allowed about the impact of land loss on the Cayugas. Unlike other civil trials to gain awards for damages, the jury was not allowed to consider the plaintiffs' pain and suffering.

A previous trial had determined that the Cayugas still have title to the 64,015 acre tract reserved for them in the federal 1784 Treaty of Canandaigua. As there are many non-Cayuga occupants of the tract, the Court had determined that the Cayugas would be compensated both for the loss of use of the land over the past 205 years and for the current fair market value of the land, as they are not allowed to retake possession of it from the current occupants, except by voluntary sale.

This winter's jury trial and the non-jury trial to follow in June are solely to determine the monetary damages due the Cayugas from the State of New York, which acquired the land on July 27, 1795 from the Cayugas under the guise of an illegal treaty. The Cayugas have said time and again that what they want is the land, and that it is not really about the money, except as a way to get their land back.

On February 17, the jury returned a two-part verdict after less than two days' deliberation. They set 'fair rental value' of the land at \$17,156.86 for each full year from July 27, 1795 to the present, or about \$3.5 million for 205 years. From the 'fair rental value' figures they subtracted payments previously made by New York to the Cayugas, leaving \$1,911,672.62 still owed. They set the 'current fair market value' of the Cayugas' 64,015 acres, as if it were unimproved, at \$35 million. The total verdict was \$37.9 million.

cont'd on page 20

Joan Cope Savage is a native Syracusan who started attending the Cayuga land claim trial in early February. She is trained as a forest biologist, and not an attorney.

Reflections on Native Land Rights:

What can we tell our children?

Carole Resnick

As I sat at the breakfast table reading about the jury verdict in the Cayuga Nation land rights case I explained to my 3 « year old son that a long time ago the people who lived here were Indian people. Then people came from far away and took their land. He responded, "Did we come from far away?"

All of us who are not Native people came from far away, and not that long ago. But honoring land rights is not about guilt for the actions of our collective ancestors. Guilt does not heal, nor does it create good solutions. The circumstances of our ancestors' immigration to this land are extremely varied. Some were colonial settlers, some slaves, some escapees from poverty, oppression or genocide in other homelands. For me, honoring land rights is about community, trust, and respect for all human beings. In other words, it is about the integrity of ourselves and our society, and hope for all of our future.

That is why I am so filled with shame and sadness on hearing of the decision made in the Cayuga case. The court had already ruled that the "claim" to the land was valid, and the only charge to the jury was to establish monetary value. The jury's extremely low valuation of the payment due to the Cayuga people was both shocking and revealing.

There is an inherent contradiction in this situation. Native culture does not include a concept of individual ownership of the land. The land is mother earth, and humans along with all other creatures have the honor of living with her, taking care of her, and sharing in her resources. There is no buying or selling possible within this framework. The current US culture knows value only based on money. Because the Indian nations have been colonized and

overpowered, the US political and legal system is the only avenue available for them to continue to pursue resolution and reparation. It is deeply shameful that this system and the culture it has created are steeped in racism and guided by principles which allow profit making to come before human values.

Some people opposed to land rights speak of 200 years ago as if it represents a remote and irrelevant period of history. But they stand by the US Constitution and Bill of Rights without hesitation as to their relevance. These were written during the same time period as the treaties which are the basis for the current attempts by the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations Confederacy) to reclaim land and monetary reparations for their losses. In fact, much of the early model used for US democracy was based on the democratic system of the Six Nations Confederacy. The Haudenosaunee date the beginning of their Confederacy over 1,000 years ago.

The Indian people I know speak about keeping the good mind. At least in part this means maintaining trust in people, acting honorably and fairly, not acting out of anger or greed, and trusting in the Creator. The Haudenosaunee have extended enough trust in the justice system to allow this most crucial question of honor and survival to be considered and resolved through a culturally foreign process. Land has been stolen, promises broken, culture and history intentionally dismantled, and racism deeply embedded. But people still keep the good mind, and move forward with willingness to trust and to work together.

This is why I am so sad for all of us. I am sad not only for the dishonor we have just done in our courts, but also for what this reflects of our US culture. We have lost the understanding that the land is all of our mother, that the earth is not a commodity. And we have lost our ability to conduct ourselves based on trust and respect for human dignity. There is no way to explain this to our children.

Carole Resnick is a Peace Council member, friend of the Haudenosaunee, and more recently a mother.



Neighbors of Onondaga Nation (NOON): New Group Forms to Support Land Claim

In the spirit of the Two Row Wampum, a small group of activists calling ourselves NOON met with members of the Onondaga nation last October. The Two Row Wampum is a white shell wampum belt with two purple rows. This wampum was the first treaty made with the Dutch in the 17th century and it was referred to as the basis upon which all subsequent treaties were made between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and other sovereign nations. The white field symbolizes peace and friendship and the two purple rows represent the separate but equal paths of two sovereign nations.

Members of NOON wanted to discuss the formation of a group within the non-Indian community who would do all that we could to promote peace and understanding in our vessel just as the Onondagas continue to do all that they can to promote peace in theirs throughout the Onondaga Nation land claim. These first meetings were our chance to ask questions of the Onondagas and to begin our own learning process so that the work we took on in the future would support the sovereignty of the Onondaga Nation and their traditional government.

After two meetings with members of the

Onondaga Nation, our group began to meet at the home of one of our own members. Before we could plan activities in the wider community, it was clear to us that we had homework to do. Subsequent meetings have focused on learning the history of interactions between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the United States, interactions dominated far too often by broken covenants, military interventions, and cultural genocide. Currently we continue to read and learn about this history to prepare ourselves to be storytellers in our own community. We also continue to inform ourselves of developments in the Onondaga Nation land claim process as well as the land claim process of other Haudenosaunee nations. We have begun a process of listing the concerns and issues which the land claims raise and have been aided in developing answers to address these concerns by Joe Heath who serves as legal advisor to the Onondaga Nation as well as to the Confederacy.

Our ultimate plans, though still in a formative stage, include presenting information and facilitating dialogue within the non-Indian community. Our debut will take

place on March 16th when we will take part in the People's Round Table at the South Presbyterian Church on the corner of Colvin Street and South Salina Street. We will present some of the history and information we have been learning and help facilitate a discussion about the Onondaga Nation land claim and the issues it raises for all of us in the community.

We also hope to hold a cultural event with music, art, storytelling and food in May. We feel it is just as important to build understanding between neighbors over food and entertainment as it is to build understanding over discussion of history, laws and treaties.

We would like to invite folks who wish to support the sovereignty of the Onondaga Nation and its traditional government to join us. Those interested should call 463-0413 for information. And we hope to see many of you at the People's Round Table on March 16th.

Carol Baum, Margaret Birdlebough, Cathy Cardell, Joan Cope Savage, Barbara DeFrancqueville, Karen Hall, Ed Kinane, Andy Mager, Karen Mihalyi, Beth Mosley, Paul Pearce, Carol Resnick, Ann Tiffany



THREE JEWELS AND A LIGHT IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

*As the sun sends its rays through the window,
you are not just yourself. You are also the
beautiful view from your window. You
are the Dharmakaya. *Thich Nhat Hanh,
Present Moment, Wonderful Moment*

As I look from the window of my eyes I
see what is outside and what is within.

For I am the water in Onondaga Creek
rushing from a sewage treatment
plant, just as I am the city planner
making plans.

I am the small boy throwing a flat ball at
a bent hoop with swinging chains and
I am his dream of a swish and two
points.

I am the white skins who have taught this
boy to dream of balls, not books,
who locked the car doors when his
brother stood on the corner, who
looked through his father.

I am the road in DeWitt that leads to
Wegmans. I am all of Wegmans, the
wheels clattering on brick, roots from
Jamaica, and housewives squeezing
avocados and smelling melons.

I am the lawn in Manlius and the cattails
in Nedrow. I am the gravel on the top
of Morgan Hill that hang gliders leap
from, and the trees in the woods
blown down in the storm.

I am all of the learnings in all of the books
in Bird Library, and I am the child in Ed
Smith Elementary learning to read. I
am the teacher and the lesson.

I am the widest community, the highest
knowledge, and the greatest being.
I am the force, the connection and
the compassion that will make of
myself and this world a light.

**Dharmakaya means literally "body" (kaya)
of the Buddha's teachings (Dharma).*

Karen Hall

Cayuga Trial Cont'd from page 9

sat patiently and respectfully as their lands this time around, were verbally dissected. Land value to the Haudenosaunee is not measured in dollars and cents. Land is a life sustaining gift to the people, for which we are continually thankful. There is a belief passed down from our elders that we, as Haudenosaunee, will never get a fair day in the United States court system. The February 17 verdict seems to validate that concept.

We believe a better condition for all could exist if the state leaders adopted a plan of resolution rather than conflict. This would avoid the tension and bitterness fostered by the present course of action. With good minds coming together, we believe a peaceful, mutually beneficial resolution is possible.

Da nay toh (that is all).



Early Feminists -Iroquois Influence

Exerpts of essays by Sally Roesch Wagner

The Untold Story of the Iroquois Influence on Early Feminists, a collection of three essays by historian Sally Roesch Wagner, began with her research into the writings of Matilda Joslyn Gage, Elizabeth Stanton and Lucretia Mott and was motivated by her quest for an answer to one central question: How did radical suffragists, living in 19th century United States, at a time when women were regarded as non-persons by state laws, come to dream not of perfunctory reforms but of a complete transformation of society?

For the author, the answer emerged in research on contacts between early feminists and Iroquois people. Stanton, for example, met with Oneida women during visits to the household of her cousin, Gerrit Smith, in Peterboro, New York. In 1848, Mott spent a month at Cattaraugus and observed the decision-making process of the Seneca nation, a governmental structure in which women played a key role. And Gage, in her book, *Women, Church and State*, wrote about matrilineage within the Iroquois Confederacy and its implications for changing society. Those are just a few examples of the documentation Roesch Wagner uncovered in her work. In the essays, she cites information gleaned from books, newspaper articles, ethnological studies and other sources. Moreover, she analyzes the data, pointing out that the Iroquois perspective on women certainly wasn't the only influence on Gage and her contemporaries. Nonetheless, it was clearly an important influence. The following are exerpts from *The Untold Story of the Iroquois Influence on Early Feminists*, first published in 1996 by Sky Carrier Press.

"The United States revolutionaries, once they had cemented power, placed women into a political subordination more severe even than that of the colonial period."

"It wasn't simply that Euro-American women had no rights; once they married they had no legal existence."

"Gage and Stanton, the major theorists of the women suffrage movement's radical wing, became increasingly disenchanted with the inability and unwillingness of Western institutions to embrace the liberty of all disenfranchised groups, including women. They looked elsewhere for this 'regenerated world,' and found it in upstate New York."

"The level of sophistication of these newspaper stories indicates that the average non-Indian in upstate New York 100 years ago possessed a level of knowledge about the Iroquois that, among whites, is held by only a small number of scholars today."

"To Stanton, Gage, Mott and their feminist contemporaries, the Native American concept of everyday decency, nonviolence and gender justice must have seemed the promised land."

"A common mythology held that Christianity and civilization meant progress for women, but Stanton and Gage saw through it. At the 1888 International Council of Women, they listened as Alice Fletcher, a noted white ethnographer, spoke about the greater rights of American Indian women. Fletcher made it clear that these Indian women were well aware that once they become United States citizens, they would lose their rights."

"For Matilda Joslyn Gage, the Haudenosaunee, the People of the Longhouse, were an example of the political, economic, gender, religious, social system of gynocracy she called the Matriarchate. 'Never was justice more perfect, never civilization higher than under the Matriarchate, she concluded.'

"Indian men were not unmindful of the unjust political position of non-Indian women, and some supported white suffragists in their struggles for political justice. Dr. Peter Wilson, Seneca chief and maternal nephew of Red Jacket, addressed the New York Historical Society in 1866, encouraging white men to use the occasion of Southern reconstruction to establish universal suffrage....."



"THE LEGACY of GAGE"



Matilda Joslyn Gage Conference

The second annual Matilda Joslyn Gage conference will be held March 24-26 in Fayetteville, the town in which Gage, an influential scholar and activist within the early feminist movement, spent most of her life. The conference, entitled "the Legacy of Gage," will feature, among other things, a panel of Gage biographers, a report on current Internet communications pertaining to Gage's views and the religious right, and artists' original works inspired by Gage. There will be tours of Gage's home, visits to local historical institutions archiving Gage materials, and a discussion meeting for women's studies scholars and historians. Conference participants will include not only folks from Syracuse and upstate New York but also from around the country. For information about the conference schedule and fees, check out Matilda J. Gage Website at <http://www.pinn.net/~sunshine/gage/mjg.html>.

Midwinter Affirms Iroquois Connection With Earth

Doug George-Kanentilio

As strange as the climate has been over the past few years nothing we have experienced to date has come as a surprise to the traditional Iroquois.

At the end of the eighteenth century the People of the Longhouse were confronted with a series of crises which placed their survival as nations in jeopardy. Most of their aboriginal lands had been alienated through a series of "treaty" frauds conducted by New York State officials desperate to secure money as the result of incurring massive war debts during the Revolution.

In lieu of immediate payment, New York had promised its militias land in exchange for service but the only territory available was held by the Iroquois, hence the necessity of stripping them of the land by whatever means were most convenient. No thought was given to the terrible effects physical displacement would have on the Iroquois as they were reduced from a free people to reservation-bound confines increasingly dependent on external agencies for essentials such as food, clothing and medicine. The new reality was a far cry from the pre-Revolution days, when the Iroquois were the paramount Native power in the northeast whose friendship was courted by governments from Virginia to Massachusetts. Reservation life was not simply physically confining but the poor sanitation, bad diets and contaminated water gave rise to communicable diseases such as typhoid and cholera resulting in the deaths of many thousands of Iroquois. As recently as the 1890's the Mohawks of Akwesasne endured local plagues which killed hundreds and added to a deep sense of despair. Alcohol was a convenient escape for many and State officials made sure it was readily

available during land cession negotiations. Alcohol abuse had become almost universal among the Iroquois which in turn contributed to innumerable acts of assault, murder and suicide. The visions of the Seneca leader Skaniateriio (Handsome Lake) in 1799 saved the Iroquois from total destruction since it brought a strong message from the spirit world which contained a way by which the Iroquois could survive economic, territorial and political displacement. Skaniateriio taught the Iroquois a good way, one based on abstinence from alcohol, respect for the family and affirmation of traditional values as expressed through the lunar ceremonies which mark the Haudenosaunee collective rituals of thanksgiving.

His words were as rain in a parched land, eagerly accepted by the Iroquois and strictly adhered to by most.

The exception were the Mohawks who lived along the St. Lawrence River-Lake Ontario, a group of four communities (Tyendinaga, Akwesasne, Kahnawake and Kanehsatake) whose population was predominately Christian, either Anglican or Catholic. Neither Protestant nor Catholic authorities had much tolerance for the 'pagan' rituals of the other Iroquois; both took a vigorous stance against the longhouse rituals.

Their opposition was strong enough to persuade the Canadian authorities to forbid the teaching of Skaniateriio's message and the conducting of the ancient ceremonies. A few brave Mohawks risked eviction from their homes by traveling to Onondaga, Oshweken or Tonawanda to join in such rites as Midwinter. They held on to their oral traditions and preserved the language, hoping for a time when the Mohawks would have their own longhouse.

At Akwesasne a small group composed of people such as Paul David, Alex Gray, Ross David, Joe Mitchell and Ray Fadden bucked the system and built a longhouse

using precious few dollars in the mid-1930's. Somehow, with the Great Depression at its lowest ebb, they raised a 70X30 foot structure and there, for the first time in 150 years, the Mohawks gave collective thanks to the Creator on their aboriginal territory.

Those heroes have passed on with the exception of the remarkable Ray Fadden, now entering his 90th year and still overseeing the Six Nations Museum in Onchiota, NY north of Saranac Lake. Their efforts were not in vain for thousands of Mohawks now say, with considerable assurance, they are part of a spiritual tradition which reaches back hundreds, if not thousands, of years. The Iroquois mark the new year with the beginning of the Midwinter Ceremony, held according to a specific phase of the moon. While gathered as clans and families they celebrate the many blessings of life but

also realize they are witnessing a time of great climatic changes as foretold by Skaniateriio. The Seneca prophet presented to the people a set of prophecies by which they were to mark

humanity's abrogation of its relationship with the natural world. When the trees die from the top down, when the waters are unfit to drink, when the animals leave this world and the thunder beings refuse to bring the rains the People of the Longhouse should not be surprised. Skaniateriio also cautioned against greed and materialism, warning of the destruction of the Iroquois not from without but from their own people who will stray from their ancestral values. He foretold of the decaying of the ozone layer, the disappearance of certain medicine plants and the open practice of sorcery, all of which are coming to pass. Yet the Haudenosaunee will somehow make it through this time of cleansing, emerging to a new time when humans are reconciled with the natural world and it is to that end the People of the Longhouse continue to express their gratitude to the Creator for simply being alive.



Doug George-Kanentilio, an Akwesasne Mohawk, a former editor of Akwesasne Notes. He currently resides on Oneida territory with his wife, Joanne Shenandoah



Nuclear Valentines

Kyle Rabin

The New York Power Authority (NYPA) chose Valentine's Day to announce a sweetheart deal to sell its J.A. Fitzpatrick and Indian Point 3 (IP3) nuclear power plants to Entergy Corporation. Just one day after the announcement, IP3's counterpart, Indian Point 2 - which Entergy has also expressed interest in - experienced a steam generator tube rupture that resulted in a release of radioactive steam into the air. If all goes according to the Louisiana-based company's plan, Entergy could ultimately own and operate as many as five of New York's six operating commercial reactors. As a result, Entergy could have a subsidized nuclear monopoly in the State by year's end. It now seems that the deregulation of the electric power industry means not only the loss of New York's regulatory authority over nuclear power production, but also the passing of reactor ownership to global energy corporations. If Entergy does acquire most or all of New York's reactors, it would have gained monopoly control over 20 percent of the electricity generated in the state. And all this is happening with little notice.

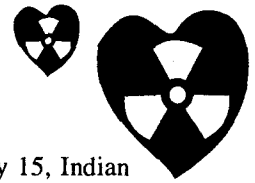
The *Syracuse Post Standard/Herald Journal*, *Albany Times Union* and other mainstream newspapers have been reluctant to cover this issue from any angle other than the business perspective. That's no surprise. Companies like Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NiMo) - which is selling their interest in the two Nine Mile reactors - provide hundreds of thousands of advertising dollars to these papers. And, for some editors and reporters, the story is just not "sexy" enough or Pulitzer Prize material. We are, however, fortunate to have publications like the *Syracuse Peace Newsletter*, which can shed light on issues that the mainstream media won't touch.

As Albert Einstein once urged, the facts about atomic energy must be carried to the

village square. From there, he said, must come America's voice. As we know, the proposals for nuclear power plants were never put to a vote or a public debate, although public outcry did prevent the Nixon Administration and the nuclear industry from reaching its ambitious nationwide goal of 1,000 commercial nuclear reactors by the year 2000. Today, just 103 licensed commercial reactors are operating in the United States. And as we know, the battle is far from over.

The sale of New York's nuclear plants have long-term consequences for public health and safety, the economic well-being of several local communities, and the quality of sensitive environmental resources. One of the primary concerns is that safety in these facilities will continue to be compromised in the rush to maximize profit. Neither current owners nor companies seeking to buy nuclear reactors have proven that they can operate reactors safely in the transition period leading up to deregulation. In early February, representatives from over 40 environmental, energy, and public health groups in New York wrote to Governor George Pataki urging that the New York State Public Service Commission complete a full public review of issues associated with the operation of nuclear power plants in competitive markets prior to any consideration of their sale.

Foreshadowing the groups' worries were some dark clouds hanging over the proposed State policy to expose nuclear power to market competition through the sale of nuclear power plants, including the J.A. Fitzpatrick, Nine Mile 1 and Nine Mile 2 reactors located in Scriba along Lake Ontario. The accident at Consolidated Edison's Indian Point 2 reactor (like its counterpart, located on the Hudson River just 36 miles north of New York City), new information regarding the harassment of a whistleblower at Indian Point 3, coupled with a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) investigation into the repeated failure of an emergency cooling system at Fitzpatrick, cast a murky shadow over the industry and regulator's claims that the deals are in everyone's interest.



INDIAN POINT 2 ACCIDENT

On February 15, Indian Point 2 (IP2) suffered a rupture in a steam generator tube that triggered a level two emergency, the first of its kind since Con Ed began operating IP2 in 1974. Federal, State and local officials have blasted both Con Ed and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) who apparently were well aware of the deteriorated component. According to a report prepared for the NRC, the rupture of as few as fifteen steam generator tubes in conjunction with a main steam line break could result in the meltdown of the reactor fuel rods, releasing catastrophic amounts of radiation into the environment. In a 1995 report published by Public Citizen it is noted that Con Ed had planned to replace the steam generators in 1993. Reductions in safety standards over the past few years have allowed IP2 and other reactors to operate with more severely degraded tubes. While this radiation release was said to be small, the accident looms larger in the context of current federal oversight where the NRC is allowing the nuclear industry to leave deteriorating components in service purely to save money for the industry. "The tube rupture at Indian Point is evidence of the advancing deterioration of operational and safety systems on a routine basis that equates to a rising cost for service, maintenance, testing, surveillance, repair and replacement," said Paul Gunter, Director of the NIRS Reactor Watchdog Project, based in Washington, DC.

FITZPATRICK REACTOR STILL FALTERS

Meanwhile across the state at NYPA's Fitzpatrick plant, another issue is the high pressure coolant injection system which, according to the NRC, "is an important mitigating system during a loss-of-offsite power event." It is likely, the NRC says, that the system "would not have been available to perform its intended function during a period of greater than 30 days." According to NRC inspection reports, NYPA has neglected to test the system as recommended by its manufacturer, leading to its failure during an emergency shutdown last October and a more recent malfunction on January 31.



Kyle Rabin is an Air & Energy Program Associate for Environmental Advocates, E-Mail: krabin@envadvocates.org Website: www.envadvocates.org

SOA Campaign Surges On

Ed Kinane

First some news, then what's coming up.... Col. Byron Disrael Lima Estrada was arrested in Guatemala on January 21 for the 1998 murder of Roman Catholic Bishop Juan Gerardi. According to a declassified US Defense Intelligence Agency biographic sketch, Lima Estrada -- surprise, surprise -- took military police training at the School of the Americas. He went on to head the D-2 (G-2) Military Intelligence agency at the height of the genocide campaign in Guatemala's civil war. For further details, see the current "Voice," the newsletter of Peace Action of CNY.

As the news of the arrest broke, Fr. Roy Bourgeois, founder of SOA Watch, was in Italy raising consciousness at the Vatican. Interviewed on Vatican Radio, Roy declared that he believed women should be permitted to be priests. His Italian translator refused to translate this exotic notion and the interview was soon terminated....

On November 21, 1999 over 4400 were arrested for liturgically "crossing the line" at Fort Benning, GA. Of those, less than 100 were booked and only 23 were arraigned. Of those 23 only ten are being prosecuted. Their non-jury trial will be in Columbus, Georgia on Friday, March 10. The charge, illegal re-entry, carries a maximum penalty of six months in prison and a \$5000 fine.

At the corresponding trial two years ago the "SOA 25," including seven from Central New York, were all given the maximum sentence and \$3000 fines. However, thanks to the enormous growth of our campaign, Benning may be learning that such harshness boomerangs. Also, Judge J. Robert Elliott, curmudgeon extraordinaire, is on sick leave and won't be presiding.

The "SOA 10" include former Syracuse activist Megan Rice, a nun now living at Jonah House in Baltimore. In 1998 Megan sojourned at Danbury prison for "crossing the line." The "SOA 10" also include John Honeck, a Rochester-area group home counselor.

It is likely that in March some of the 13

who aren't being prosecuted will renew their nonviolent civil disobedience protest against the School of the Americas. SOA Watchers at our annual strategy meeting in Washington, DC in early February were enthusiastic about "Gandhian Waves," i.e. doing multiple direct actions at Benning throughout the year. We don't want to lose our edge.

The separate trial for Charlie Liteky, who crossed the Benning line in both November and December, is likely to occur in late March -- yet another good opportunity for a Gandhian wave. In the past the feds have backed off from prosecuting Charlie, a former Viet Nam war chaplain awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for extraordinary courage under fire.

Here in Syracuse. at 7:30PM, Friday, March 10 at the Panasch Chapel on the LeMoyné campus, the CNY SOA Abolitionists and the Still Point Theatre Collective of Chicago will present "Points of Arrival." This play is about the life of Jean Donovan, who was murdered along with three other US churchwomen in El Salvador in 1980. The officers that commanded the killers were trained at the SOA. Admission to this moving 2 1/2 hour-long play is on a sliding scale, \$5-10. For details, call Doris Sage, 468-2293.

Also in March the CNY SOA Abolitionists will co-sponsor a 20th anniversary commemoration of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador. Again, the man that plotted the assassination, Roberto D'Aubuisson, trained at the SOA.

The event will be held in the sanctuary of the Cathedral in downtown Syracuse at 6:30PM, Friday, March 24. For details, and for information about vigiling earlier in the day, call Nancy Gwin, 422-4689 or Cathy Cardell, 446-7950.

On Sunday, April 2, in Washington, DC, SOA Watchers from all over the country will gather from 11AM to 5PM in Lafayette Park across from the White House to demand that SOA supporter Bill Clinton close that school of terrorism. (Okay, Hillary, where do you stand???) We'll be regaled with music by, among others, CNY's own Sing It Down. To purchase your seat on the Syracuse/Ithaca/Washington round-trip bus, call Ted Sizing,



475-0091.

The next day, Monday, April 3, at 7AM we'll be demonstrating at the Pentagon. Then from 8:30AM to 12 noon the Peace Action Education Fund is sponsoring a briefing/lobby workshop at the Caucus Room of the Cannon House Office Bldg. near the Capitol in DC. From noon to 6PM SOA Watch will hold a Vigil and Lobby Day on the East Center steps of the Capitol. From there we'll sally forth to lobby our congressional reps.

Back in Syracuse -- and in communities around the country -- SOA Watchers will be fasting for part or all of the 13 days from Thursday, April 6 to April 19 "to close the SOA fast!" Each day, in alphabetical order, will focus on a different Latin American country menaced by SOA violence and subversion. Check next month's PNL for details of local events during the Fast.

On July 31 SOA Watchers will gather in DC to hear Roy Bourgeois speak as part of the People's Campaign for Nonviolence. Here's how the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the organizer, describes the People's Campaign: "For forty days next summer [July 1 through August 9], people from every religion, class, and way of life will gather in Washington, DC to call for an end to our culture of violence and injustice and for the creation of a culture of nonviolence and justice. Leading peace and justice groups from around the country have pledged to bring one hundred people to spend one day or more in prayerful vigil and peaceful protest. Each day, a different group from around the country will maintain this call for peace and justice. Each evening we will gather for prayer and reflection led by a guest speaker." For more info, contact: FOR/People's Campaign, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960, phone (914) 358-4601, e-mail: peoplescampaign@forusa.org

To join the CNY SOA Abolitionists phone (315) 478-4571 or e-mail us at anttiffany@a-znet.com

!La lucha continua



Ed Kinane is a scribe for CNY SOA Abolitionists

Prison Dharma Walk

March 12, 2000 - April 25, 2000
Norfolk, MA - Waynesburg, PA

Modern civilization has been so wounding. People kill each other. It is never ending. The American prison system is getting worse and worse. If people are wounded, we have to heal each other with our compassion. The Prison Dharma Walk is a very small, simple prayer walk. But we have big dreams. We believe all living things are sacred. No more killing; take care of each other. Free Mumia!

Mumia Abu Jamal is an award winning journalist writing about the injustices of the criminal justice system, an opponent of police brutality, a prisoner on Death Row in Pennsylvania, convicted of killing a police officer.

What happened? On December 9, 1981, Officer Daniel Faulkner pulled over a car driven by Mumia's brother in downtown Philadelphia. Mumia was driving his cab nearby, saw the incident, got out and went toward Faulkner. Both Mumia and Faulkner were found shot; Faulkner later died. Many witnesses said they saw another man run away. Mumia was convicted and sentenced to death in 1982. His judge had sent more people to death row than any other judge in the US. He had an unprepared, unwilling court-appointed attorney and no funds for investigation or expert witnesses. The same judge heard Mumia's appeal in 1985, ruling that all the new evidence was unbelievable and irrelevant. One of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justices was a prosecutor against Mumia in 1984 and others had been elected with support from the Fraternal Order of Police.

Why do millions believe Mumia is innocent and didn't receive a fair trial? Several witnesses testified they were bribed or threatened by the police to frame Mumia. Witnesses who saw another man run from the scene of the crime were not allowed to testify. Experts disagreed about the caliber of the fatal bullet. The prosecutor's key witness was a police informant, probably not at the scene, and her testimony conflicted with the trajectory of the bullet that hit Mumia. All this was not heard by the jury. Mumia, because of his involvement with the Black Panther Party and being outspoken about police violence, had been a target of surveillance since he was 15 years old.

What is next? Pennsylvania has turned down all Mumia's appeals. He has filed an appeal in federal district court and has a stay of execution. Mumia's prison, SCI Greene, has 200 people on death row (85% are African-Americans). However, recent laws and Supreme Court decisions have made it harder to get a full federal hearing, and easier to execute the innocent. The judge will probably rule within 6-12 months.

We will walk approximately 15-17 miles per day. Drugs and alcohol are strictly forbidden. You are welcome to participate in this walk for one day, two days, or longer, as your schedule permits.

For more information please contact Grafton Peace Pagoda (518) 658-9301, between the hours of 8:30 PM - 9:00 PM; after March 12 call the Free Mumia Committee of Albany (518) 462-2871 or (518) 272-0501.

Endorsed by Nipponzan Myohoji (Japanese Buddhist Order); Free Mumia Committees of Albany, NY; Cambridge, MA; Boston, MA; Hartford, CT; Trenton, NJ; Philadelphia, PA; Pennsylvania Abolitionists united against the death penalty; New Meadow Run Bruderhof.

SYRACUSE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE'S

JUBILEE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

Jubilee 2000 is inspired by the biblical Book of Leviticus, which describes a Year of Jubilee every 50 years calling for the Israelites to leave their land untilled, forgive each other's debts, and set their slaves free and return to their spiritual roots.

The Syracuse Roman Catholic Diocese priests' senate urged a campaign to teach that all people are bestowed the gift of human dignity and basic human rights. The campaign endorsed by Bishops Moynihan and Costello asks priests, schools, and diocesan programs to focus on one or more of these three social justice issues in 2000:

Work for a moratorium on the death penalty.

Educate other Americans about forgiving debt among the world's poorest nations.

Fight sweatshops that force Third World adults and children to work long hours for scant wages.

A key element of the diocese's plan is to set aside Saturday or Sunday Mass in each parish for communal prayer on one of the three social justice issues. Each parish is provided a "jubilee justice packet" which includes sample prayers, letters to lawmakers about forgiving poor nations' debts and letters to corporations that have goods produced in sweatshops. At the conclusion of a weekend liturgy, parishioners will be afforded an action step taken from the jubilee packet. It is hoped that the 375,000 Catholics in Central New York will work to make our world more humane by these actions.

For more information on this campaign and the three issues call:

Cindy Falise - Diocesan Director of the Respect Life Office: 424-1830. Cindy has an excellent packet on capital punishment.

Fr. Ted Sizing - Former Director of the Social Action Ministry in residence at St Vincent dePaul parish in Syracuse: 479-6689. Ted has many materials on "Breaking the Chains of Debt for Poor Countries."

Fr. Tim Taugher - the recently appointed Director of Social Action Ministry. He resides at Blessed Sacrament parish in Johnson City. He has an office at Binghamton Catholic Charities - (607) 729-9166.

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Revere style

When multinationals come to buy our land and make a bad situation worse — a concerned citizenry to do? Sound art, of course!

Enron and the rest of the nuclear industry with one of the greatest debacles in nuclear industry's history. A subsidiary restructuring to the tune of over \$100 million is in the works — as much or more money than the 1980s Savings & Loan bailout. Only with the more dire consequences that it could strand the public with increasing dangers and nuclear pollution for another 20-80 years. Yet the public is being held in the dark through the enigma of deregulation, a mess so complicated the media don't even understand it. With an informed media and unresponsive government, it's up to the people to alert each other. So Citizens Awareness Network is cutting the highways and byways to spread the news throughout the Northeast.

We are planning a series of Paul Revere Rides with the message, "The Multinationals Are Coming!" With four of NY's reactors being sold to companies that plan to cut costs, fire workers, and marginalize safety to make the nukes "economical," CAN's first Paul Revere Ride will be in Central New York, March 30-April 1. We are planning the itinerary and looking for local support and contacts along the way — but we will need help. Contact CNY-CAN if you can contribute.

The February 15 radioactive release and steam generator tube rupture at Indian Point 2 (IP2) was no accident — it was the foreseen result of the kind of cost-cutting we can expect to see from multinationals Entergy and AmerGen.

For more about the dawning dangers of nuclear power, see Kyle Rabin's article on page 16. For info on the Nine Mile Point nukes, Entergy, and AmerGen, contact CNY-CAN 475-1203

<nonukes@rootmedia.org>

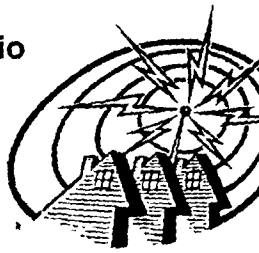
WXXE - Syracuse Community Radio

continues to grow in 2000.

The decade long dream of creating a broadcast station owned and operated by the community in which information could be shared between neighbors and citizens to create a better community, was finally realized in December of 1998. After celebrating our first anniversary of broadcasting at the end of 1999, the volunteers at Syracuse Community Radio have continued to move ahead toward establishing a network of stations to try and reach every household in Onondaga County as well as portions of at least six other counties. We have boosted our power once at WXXE and are now in the process of adding additional transmission sites to better reach our audience. If you haven't tried to receive us lately please try again. We are just to the left of the classical station. Make sure you have an antenna on your home receiver. You should have little problem receiving WXXE on your car radio in the eastern portions of the county, in Eastwood, and in the Westcott-University area.

The programming on WXXE is a breath of fresh air providing public affairs and music previously unheard here. Highlights include Jim Hightower's 2 minute commentaries every weekday at 4:58 PM, at 5 PM every Wednesday we have *Radio Nation, Counterspin* from *Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting* is heard on Thursday at 5 PM followed by *Making Contact* at 5:30 PM. The locally produced *Good Society Forum* hosted by Mary Stanley, can be heard every Tuesday between 5-6

PM. This show examines ways to create and enhance a better society one citizen at a time.



Musically the station offers a spectrum of wonderful programs exploring everything from Doo Wop to Reggae, Free Jazz to old time Country and Roots music with plenty of independent artists and labels throughout the week. Several programs combine music with important topics such as the World Trade Organization, anti-racism, rights, environmental preservation, and abuses of local slum lords. This isn't commercial radio at all!

While SCR has made significant strides toward creating a community broadcast station, we still have much more to do. We can accomplish all of our goals with the support of the community we aim to serve. Please consider making a donation to SCR in the form of financial support, time, or expertise, so we can continue to communicate with our community.

As always, check our web sites for additional details.

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www.rootmedia.org/~syacomradio

Unmasking the DEATH PENALTY: OPENING HEARTS & MINDS

Friday, April 28-Sunday April 30

Friday, 7 - 10 pm \$15.

St. James Church 155 Main Street,
Johnson City

Saturday, 8:30 am until 5:15 pm

Dinner at 6 pm

Unitarian Universalist Congregation,
183 Riverside Drive,
Binghamton

Sunday, 9:30 am until noon location to be determined

Conference fee: \$25 includes Saturday lunch and dinner

Statewide gathering to learn about and organize against the death penalty

On Saturday morning eleven different workshops on the history, the issues, and the strategies and organizational skills we need to help New Yorkers move toward moratorium and repeal. Experienced leaders from New York and across the country will work interactively with participants. The workshops will be repeated the afternoon following other speaker panel sessions.

Sunday sessions will focus on action plans.

For information, contact Bill Cuddy at 474-7437.

The Syracuse Social Movements Initiative (SSMI)

Community Soups

Lunch with Community Activists (good steaming food provided)

Wednesday, March 8 *Prison Witness and the School of the Americas* Peace activist Ed Kinane will speak about the role of prison-time in the peace movement, with special reference to his recent prison term imposed for his actions against the School of the Americas.

Wednesday, March 29 *Welfare Rights Movement* Activist Linda Williams will speak about her work in the Welfare watchdogs, a welfare rights community group in Syracuse.

Wednesday, April 12 *Disarmament Movement* Peace activist and graduate student Diane Swords will speak about the movement to abolish nuclear weapons, and the current drive to educate voters about disarmament issues.

Wednesday, April 19 NAACP Community activist Donna Reese will speak about her work as president of the local chapter to the NAACP.

Wednesday, April 26 *Homebirth Movement* Community activist and graduate student Maureen May will speak about her work as a nurse midwife involved in the struggle to make homebirth legal and accessible.

All events are in 402 Maxwell Hall, from noon to 1:00 pm.



Happenings!

It is happening at the Westcott Community Center in March. Singer/songwriter Tom Knight returns for two performances on March 11--at 3 pm he and his puppets will entertain children of all ages for a sliding scale admission of \$2-5. He will be joined by Jim Lawrence and opening act Isreal Hagan at 8 pm for an admission of \$6 (\$5 for WCC members).

Carla Ulbrich, whose original songs entertain with insight and humor, will make her CNY debut at the center on March 16 at 7 pm for a \$5 admission.

Tickets at \$10 each are still available for the March 9 segment of the University Neighbors Lecture Series featuring Preservationist Sam Gruber. The event begins at 7:30 pm; proceeds benefit our building improvement fund, including installation of an elevator to the second floor.

Capping off March will be the second annual "Telling Our Stories: A Celebration of Women's History" on March 24 at 7 pm. This event gives women and girls the stage for an open mic for individual and group performances of music, poetry, prose, dance and more. Please consider joining the Westcott Community and being part of what's happening. Call 478-8634 for more information.



A Fitting Memorial for Cindy and Buster

After many individuals, organizations and sympathetic legislators worked hard for years, a victory was gained for us and the animals with the passage in the NYS Legislature of an animal cruelty felony bill. I hope the new law will be interpreted and enforced in such a way that perpetrators of cruelty to animals will be given a sentence appropriate to the gravity of their act. A cat in Schenectady, Buster, and a kitten in Syracuse, Cindy, were each deliberately set afire and died horrible, painful deaths. Although this is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of extreme cruelty to animals, the publicity given to these murders galvanized public opinion and helped bring about the new law. Previously, the most savage act could be considered no more than a misdemeanor. With the possibility of a felony charge, the perpetrator will have a written record (not done with a misdemeanor), which may result in appropriate intervention after one act and possibly save other animals (and humans, if the violence escalates to human targets) from repeat behavior. Although not in the law, I hope many judges will also require counseling for those convicted of cruelty to animals. The American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has a counseling program which is geared to animal abusers. Also, Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has a manual to help counselors of animal abusers.

If you want to know more about these resources, contact People for Animal Rights, POB 15358, Syracuse, NY 13215-0358, (315)488-PURR (7877), linpar@juno.com

Linda DeStefano

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 *PNLs* each month for no charge (donations

Edited by Mike Kernahan

Get on the Bus

Calling themselves "drug price refugees," a group of New Hampshire senior citizens fed up with the high cost of prescription drugs has taken matters into their own hands by embarking on a bus trip to Canada, where the cost of their drugs is significantly less than in the United States. Russell and Suzanne Woodard of Piermont, NH are two of the seniors on the bus. They spend nearly 28 percent of their monthly income of \$1,400 on prescription drugs. When they can't afford to pay for a prescription, they cope by reducing their daily dosage or delaying filling the prescription. "Unfortunately, we can't go to Canada every time we need to fill prescriptions," Russell said. "Something needs to be done."

The trip is sponsored by Public Citizen, the New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Action, the New Hampshire Association for the Elderly and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. The groups are hoping that the bus trip will challenge the presidential candidates to support legislation establishing a comprehensive Medicare drug benefit and a program for negotiating substantial drug price reductions on behalf of Medicare's millions of beneficiaries. "The presidential candidates must deal with the drug price issue," said Public Citizen President Joan Claybrook. "We need to make prescription drugs just as affordable for seniors in New Hampshire as they are for seniors in Canada."

Source: Public Citizen

Living with the WTO in China

"Wanted — young, able-bodied, hard-working men and women to work in clothing factory. 600 yuan (\$72) a month. Short term. No residence permit needed." This advertisement at a Beijing labor exchange brought a throng of hopeful applicants including Zhang.

"No overtime. No benefits. Conditions are tough for outsiders," mutters Zhang, 34, who came to Beijing looking for work after being laid off two years ago by a bankrupt textile factory in the central province of Anhui.

"But if you don't like it, there are plenty of people to take your place," he says, hurriedly filling in an application form.

For workers like Zhang once protected by a cradle-to-grave state welfare system, China's imminent entry to the World Trade Organization (WTO) means only one thing.

"More unemployment," says Guo, 40, a former electronics worker from Shanxi province, who has come to the exchange in vain every day for the last two weeks.

Faced with slowing economic growth, China's cheap and abundant labor supply represents its most valuable natural resource, and its greatest potential threat. China must keep labor costs down to compete for pre-

Quote of the Month:

"Freedom is not a concept in which people can do anything they want, be anything they can be. Freedom is about authority. Freedom is about the willingness of every single human being to cede to lawful authority a great deal of discretion about what you do and how you do it."

Republican senatorial candidate Rudy Giuliani clearing up a fairly general misconception about the nature of freedom.

Quote from the past:

"Fascism is capitalism in decay."
Vladimir Lenin

vious export markets and foreign investment with neighbors made more attractive by big falls in the value of their currencies during the Asian economic crisis. But Beijing is also under increasing pressure to appease an army of workers disaffected by mass layoffs from flagging state enterprises and poor conditions in the private sector. The Chinese government has made it clear it will join forces with other countries when it enters the WTO to resist improvement of labor conditions.

Source: Reuters

Dumming Down Dept.

A federal judge has affirmed the inalienable right of US communities to refuse to hire people who are too intelligent. The town of

New London in Connecticut has for years been hiring new police officers on the basis of an intelligence test. Those who scored too high, answering more than 27 of the 50 questions, are routinely flunked from consideration on the grounds they will become bored with the humdrum routine of chasing criminals and eating donuts. When an over-intelligent candidate named Robert Jordan challenged this policy in court, US District Judge Peter Dorsey ruling against him, laying down a fundamental principal of American Law. "The question is not whether a rational basis has been shown for the policy chosen by defendants," he said. "Plaintiff may have been disqualified unwisely, but he was not denied equal protection." Since when could we expect rational basis from our government? (Supposedly there are even stricter standards for allowable IQ's for judges in this district).

Source: American Newspeak

Deja vu all over again

The Clinton administration has proposed a \$1.6 billion emergency military aid package for Colombia, ostensibly to fight the cocaine cartels, but in reality to provide equipment and training for the Colombian military to squash the rebels. 84 percent of the emergency request will buy 30 Blackhawk helicopters, 33 Huey helicopters, training for two battalions, and other aircraft and intelligence aid. A meager \$219 million will supposedly go toward economic aid, social development, and human rights assistance, despite the fact that right-wing paramilitaries and the army have killed most of the civilians who have died during the civil war. There are few details or controls on how any of these funds will be spent: funds for "human rights assistance" could very well end up in the hands of paramilitary groups, as happened throughout Central America in the 1980s. This aid will make Colombia the third largest recipient of U.S. funds behind Israel and Egypt. The proposal was unveiled just before the Central Intelligence Agency announced the patently ridiculous estimate that cocaine trafficking from Colombia has increased three-fold over 1998 levels.

Source: Eat The State

Not the Final Word from page 10

That was far below the \$335,202,495 asked for by Federal and Cayuga attorneys; furthermore, the jury's fair rental value figure of \$3.5 million was far below the \$10 million estimate made by the State's own expert appraiser. The jury apparently did not follow the methods of either the plaintiffs or defendants for calculating fair rental value.

However, the jury's verdict is not the actual judgment for damages; that will be made by the Court (Hon. Neal McCurn)

at the non-jury trial when McCurn considers any interest due on the back payments, inflation rates that alter dollar value, laches, and other considerations which might induce the Court to change the amount of the jury verdict.

Although 'laches' is a legal term unknown to most of us, the Court's interpretation of laches could have a huge effect on any other land claims to be filed, and on the public perceptions of whether justice has or has not been done. Laches is a common law doctrine which says that delay in filing a suit cannot be used to the party's advantage. If this were applied against the Cayugas, the approximately 190 year gap between 1795 and the

first opportunity to file the land claim in federal court in the 1980's might be discounted. However, the State's own delay in rectifying its illegal action can be compared to failure to make support payments, an area of law in which laches is not a defense.

Many who watched the trial now take it for granted that whatever the outcome of the trial in summer, appeals from either the plaintiffs or defendants are likely and would thus postpone resolution, possibly for several years. At this point, the possible outcomes are still hugely variable. "It's not over 'til it's over."



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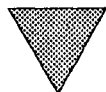
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Plowshares vs Depleted Uranium

Plowshares vs Depleted Uranium have been indicted by jurors of the State of Maryland, for the body of Baltimore County on 5 charges. They are Sabotage (carrying 10 years); Conspiracy to commit Sabotage (carrying 10 years); Malicious Destruction of Property (carrying 3 years); Conspiracy to Maliciously Destroy Property (carrying 3 years); and Trespass (carrying 90 days).

Initial charges of burglary were replaced in the indictment by Sabotage and Conspiracy to commit Sabotage, as well as Conspiracy to Maliciously Destroy Property. The indictment defines Sabotage as follows: to hinder, delay, or interfere with the preparation of the United States for defense or for war, or with the prosecution of war by the United States.

How does one commit Sabotage against Depleted Uranium? Depleted Uranium has done grave damage to the land and people of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Bosnia; it has afflicted the people who live adjacent

to US military bases in Vieques, Puerto Rico and Okinawa, Japan as well as neighborhoods by weapons manufacturers; and it has been injurious to the health of our own military personnel. The munitions are offensive to humanity, decency, and any definition of responsible conduct; they are a violation of the laws of war, international law, and the natural law. The moral law and the laws of God indict the weapons not the people who resist them.

Despite the indictment being handed down by the grand jury on the 18th of January, it did not come to the defendants until February 1. They now struggle to prepare to stand trial against these charges. They are aided by Ramsey Clark and Jon Katz who, it is hoped, will stand with them in court.

In sharing this information with you, we ask you to alert your local or national press to the wrong that DU munitions represent and to the absurdity of the charges

against our friends. They remain incarcerated in Baltimore County with large bail levied against them.



We just got word that the trial for the Plowshares vs Depleted Uranium (Phil Berrigan, Susan Crane, Rev. Steve Kelly SJ, and Elizabeth Walz) will begin in Circuit Court in Towson MD on March 20, 2000. We will have a Festival of Hope the night before the trial, March 19. There are as yet no specifics. We will continue to be in touch as they develop.

The Plowshares vs Depleted Uranium are: Philip Berrigan #995-923, BCDC, 404 Kenilworth Ave, Towson MD 21204; Susan Crane #995-375, 200 Court House Court, Towson MD 21204; Steve Kelly SJ #995-924, BCDC, 404 Kenilworth Ave, Towson MD 21204; Elizabeth Walz #995-376, 200 Court House Court, Towson MD 21204.

*Love from all, Liz McAlister
With gratitude from all at Jonah House.*

War Tax cont'd from page 5

contacts and counselors listing. P.O. Box 774, Monroe, ME 04951; (207) 525-7774; 1-800-269-7464.

War Tax Resistance: A Guide to Withholding Your Support, a highly-recommended, 130-page basic war tax resistance handbook available for \$12 from War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012; (212) 228-0450.

War Tax Resisters Penalty Fund, a program which helps resisters offset IRS penalties and interest. c/o FOR, P.O. Box 25, North Manchester, IN 46962.

For questions and assistance about war tax resistance, call SPC(472-5478) on Wednesday afternoons and talk to Marge.

Prepared by John Fitzsimmons

People's Roundtable Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 16

Whose Land Is It Anyway?:

The Onondaga Land Claim

Thursday, April 6

Dirty Deal on Onondaga Creek:

Update and Action on the Onondaga Lake Clean-up

Speakers include: Samuel Sage of Atlantic States Legal Foundation

All programs begin at 7 PM at South Presbyterian Church, on the corner of S. Salina and W. Colvin Streets.

More details to follow, particularly regarding speakers.

Brick by Brick

Brick by Brick, the new prison solidarity group of Central New York, meets every Sunday at 7pm at 172 Fellows Ave., across from Levy Middle School. We are working towards the liberation of all political prisoners and the dismantling of the oppressive prison-industrial complex.

Though many supporters were dismayed and somewhat discouraged by the Supreme Court's refusal to take the case of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, he has been granted another stay of execution and we are again walking the path of resistance with a

letter writing campaign. After a trial with an appalling 29 violations of his constitutional rights, Abu-Jamal has spent years on death row wrongly incarcerated for the murder of a Philadelphia police officer. What is most important at this point in the case is that the new judge, William H. Yohn, grants him an evidentiary hearing in spite of strong pressure from the Fraternal Order of Police. Should the hearing not occur, Yohn will have to decide the case based strictly on the facts that former Judge Sabo let in, which exclude, among other things, the fact that

many witnesses have since come forward and testified in the PCRA hearings that they were coerced by police and forced to lie.

Many followers of the case have been encouraged by Illinois' moratorium on executions and the strong, diverse popular support of Mumia as illustrated at rallies around the world. Please join the millions for Mumia and get involved. Contact us at cnybrickbybrick@hotmail.com; Sam- 473-9005; or join our listserv community at <http://www.onelist.com/community/mumia-cny>

Anika Paris



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MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar March 2000

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to the Peace Council: 472-5478. April deadline: March 24.

ACE maintains an online version of this calendar. Updates and more at www.root-media.org/calendar.htm.

5 **6** People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.

EVERY MON: Student Anti-anthropocentric Reasoning Organization meeting. Shaw Dormitory basement, Conference Room, SU Campus. 7pm.

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

EVERY SUN: 51 Percent, Women's Issues radio program, WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.

EVERY SUN: Brick by Brick prison solidarity group meets. 172 Fellows Ave. 7pm. 473-9005.

13 Film "Romero" about Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador. Panasci Chapel, Le Moyne College. 7pm. Pat Reitor, 446-2380.

14 **EVERY TUE:** Open Mic Night. Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.

15 **EVERY SUN:** Common Threads, acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm.

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1 **SEUNA** meeting. Erwin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm.

8 Lunch with Local Community Activists, Prison Witness & the School of the Americas with Ed Khrane. Food provided. 402 Maxwell Hall, SU, Noon.

9 **EVERY THU:** Slitting Media-tion at Women's INFO, 601 Allen St. 7:30-9:30am. Free.

10 **EVERY THU:** Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 6:30pm. Ace, 423-4783.

11 **EVERY THU:** Beyond SOA study/reaction group. The Sage's, 208 Breakspear Rd. 7pm. 468-2293.

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2 **Stonewall Committee** meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 476-6226.

3 **Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting.** Brady Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 476-7475.

4 **Masks of Life: Mask Traditions Celebrating the Important Moments of Life.** 40 minute performance featuring Open Hand Theater's Geoffrey Navias. International Mask & Puppet Museum, 518 Prospect St. 11am. 476-0466.

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

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

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23 **EVERY THU:** Syracuse Community Radio, WXKE 90.5 FM. "Jim Hightower, Radio Commentaries" 4:59pm; FAIR's "Counter Spin" 5pm; "Making Contact" 5:30pm; "Darkwave & Industrial" 7pm.

24 **Archbishop Oscar Romero 20th anniversary interreligious commemoration.** Vigil at Federal Bldg. 11 am-5:30pm. Procession from Federal Bldg to Cathedral of Immaculate Conception.

25 **Central NY Diversity Annual Dinner.** May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 6pm. Entertainment by The Nines. 475-2133.

26 **EVERY SUN:** Common Threads, acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm.

27 **EVERY MON:** Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.

28 **EVERY MON:** Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.

29 **EVERY TUE:** Middle Eastern Dance with Zoe Artemis. Westcott Community Center. 5:15-6:15pm. Fee. 474-7084.

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23 **EVERY THU:** Syracuse Community Radio, WXKE 90.5 FM. "Jim Hightower, Radio Commentaries" 4:59pm; FAIR's "Counter Spin" 5pm; "Making Contact" 5:30pm; "Darkwave & Industrial" 7pm.

24 **Archbishop Oscar Romero 20th anniversary interreligious commemoration.** Vigil at Federal Bldg. 11 am-5:30pm. Procession from Federal Bldg to Cathedral of Immaculate Conception.

25 **Central NY Diversity Annual Dinner.** May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 6pm. Entertainment by The Nines. 475-2133.

26 **EVERY SUN:** Common Threads, acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm.

27 **EVERY MON:** Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.

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29 **EVERY TUE:** Middle Eastern Dance with Zoe Artemis. Westcott Community Center. 5:15-6:15pm. Fee. 474-7084.

30 **EVERY WED:** JD High School Acceptance Coalition meeting. Gay and straight teens working together. 2:15-3pm. JD High School, Edginger Rd. Room B-15. Contact Zack at 446-9290.

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

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HAVE I GOT SOME HOT DEALS FOR YOU...

SMILIN' ED'S PRE-OWNED ATOMICS

SMALL-TOWN LIVING GREAT NOW! TO MAKE KIDS	CASH COW MORE DETERMINATION PUN D. LIVE IT UP!
FIXER-UPPER - A REAL STEAL!	SNOWBIRD SPECIAL - A REAL STEAL!

Nuclear News!
See Pages 14 & 17

JUSTICE

The Syracuse Peace Council exciting hands-on workshop for 2000

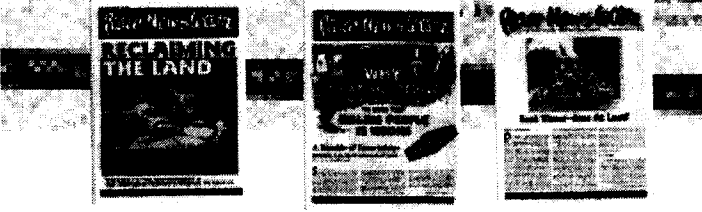
Doing What We Do Better

Saturday, April 22, 2000 -
10am until noon:
"The Power of Crafted Words"
- led by Ed Kinane

Ed will lead this workshop in making words work for a more just world. Op-ed pieces, press releases, letters to editors, think pieces and essays will be discussed, along with copy-editing.

A Syracuse native, an activist, and a former prisoner of conscience for his efforts to close the SOA, Ed has served as Editorial Committee member of the PNL, has written extensively on matters of justice for many decades, and is the person many turn to for editing.

Held at the Syracuse Peace Council
924 Burnet Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203.
There is a \$1 registration.
Call to register - 315-472-5478



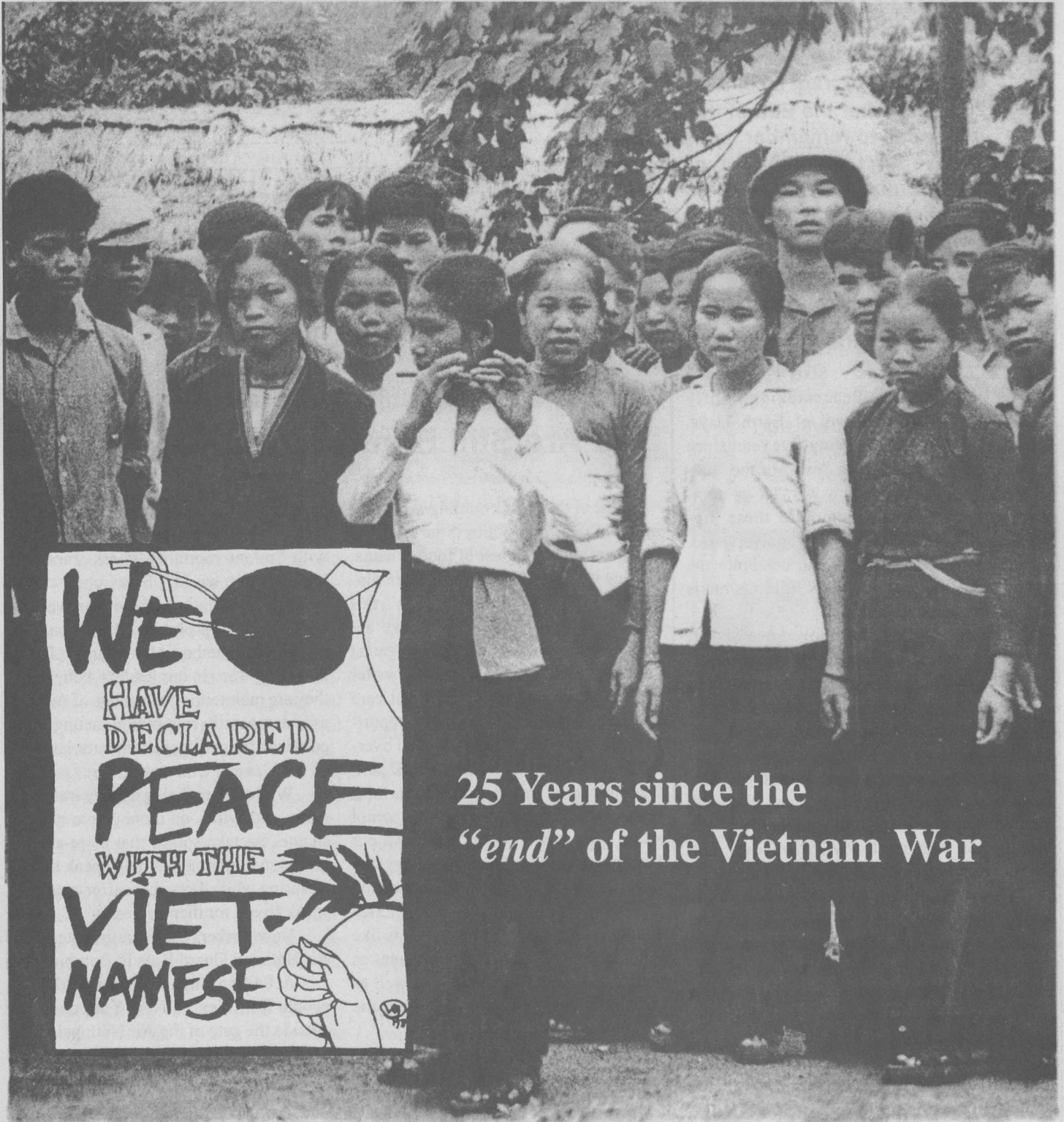
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Educate, Agitate, Organize

Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

April 2000 PNL 690



25 Years since the
"end" of the Vietnam War



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About The Cover

War is easier to start than stop



Sixty-Four years of Peacemaking, thirty years of Earth Days, twenty-five years since the "end" of the Vietnam war, let us commemorate these significant anniversaries. We can celebrate the end of fighting, but is

it really the end of any war?

Ask anyone who lost a loved one to war, ask those who are still maimed either physically or mentally. Ask anyone who fought in or against a war. The horrors of war continue long after treaties are signed, history books are written and new economic partnerships are established between former enemies. The victims of un-exploded ordinance and chemical contamination are constant reminders of the devastation that is slowly grown over and forgotten.

Does anyone really believe the *cold war* is over? There is a little boy in Miami that has been drafted. What about Korea? How about confederate flags in North Carolina and parades in Northern Ireland. The Middle East, Africa, South & Central America..... and in the streets and homes of Central New York.

Let us celebrate the end of a war, but we must continue to stop them before they start, that is our most important mission.

Paul Pearce

The Gulf War hasn't ended: We Are Still Bombing Iraq



One of the most troubling aspects of modern US foreign policy is our ability to wage war under the guise of another name. Calling it a "police action" or "maintaining the integrity of the no-fly zone", this rose continues to stink. What we are doing in Iraq is waging war - against children and adults, against clean water and safe housing, against medical care and going to school. Mainstream reporting about our illegal unsanctioned overhead presence in Iraq is, for the most part, incomplete and distorted. Just as harmful is the lack of news, allowing us to not know what is happening, as we live our busy lives far away from the misery and anguish caused by bombs and economic sanctions. Yet again, we in America simply cannot comprehend that it is like to look up to the sky to see warplanes as well as clouds, to hear bombs as well as thunderstorms, to run for shelter not the bus.

Maintaining the economic sanctions is punishing the powerless and seems to have no impact on Saddam or other Iraqi leaders. Reports from humanitarian ob-

servers note the transformation of Iraq from "relative affluence to massive poverty", with "infant mortality rates...among the highest in the world." Sanctions are also a systematic violation of the Geneva Convention which prohibits "starvation of civilians as a method of warfare." By not declaring war, do our leaders believe that they are maintaining the image of America as a democratic role model, acting in accord with the civilized, humanitarian credo of the Geneva Convention?

While what is being done in Iraq in our name and with our money is a national shame, we take solace that there are also voices in America that help speak to Iraqi suffering while those that suffer cannot yet speak freely for themselves.

New Yorkers Continue to Protest NYS Air National Guard Role in Bombing Iraq

At 8:00 am on each Saturday in March, people from Central New York convened outside the gate of the Air National Guard base in Syracuse. Hoping to raise local awareness, protesters offered food and medi-

Bombing Iraq / see page 6

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

Goldberg Peace and Justice Award Announced

The Syracuse Jewish Peace Fellowship has announced the creation of the *Joan Goldberg Peace and Justice Award*. The award will be presented annually to two Central New York Jewish teenagers who demonstrate a commitment to creating peace and justice locally, nationally and globally. The recipients will receive an award certificate and a partial scholarship to attend a peacemaking seminar for young people.

Joan Goldberg spent her entire adult life working on a wide range of peace and justice issues. In those efforts she was motivated by the Jewish ideals of Shalom and Tikkun Olam. Ms. Goldberg was active in efforts for nuclear disarmament, Israeli-Palestinian peace, for the rights of Central American refugees fleeing the persecution of U.S.-backed governments and many other progressive issues. Ms. Goldberg passed away on December 14, 1999.

The Jewish Peace Fellowship will be looking for young people who have demonstrated their interest in working for peace and justice through: * *Commitment* to world peace through nonviolent action * *Willingness* to take a position of conscience, even if others disagree * *Desire* to settle conflicts in a cooperative manner * *Efforts* to help people in need, with a commitment to changing the social inequalities which create that need * *Demonstration* of respect for all people and standing up to prejudicial attitudes and behaviors

The recipient(s) must be willing to share the information they have gained with other young people in Central New York. For an application form, contact Syracuse Jewish Peace Fellowship, c/o 559 Buckingham Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210, 476-0161, email: magcap@gte.net. Completed applications are due by May 1 to be considered for the 2000 Award.

This prize will help nurture the next generation of Jewish social activists, a true testament to Ms. Goldberg's life. Tax-deductible donations in Ms. Goldberg's memory can be sent to the address above.

-Andy Mager

SPC Celebrates Birthday #64

Saturday, May 6, 2000

The "end of the winter" thaw brings a concentration of events in April: SOA Watch rally and lobbying days in Washington; protesting the IMF and WTO, also in DC; NY state-wide conference on the Death Penalty; the 30th anniversary of Earth Day; and various Tax Day protests (among others). In light of these demands on our time and energy we have decided not to have a birthday dinner. Instead we hope to have a "coming together" after a busy April to celebrate our 64 years of active commitment to peace and non-violence.

We invite you to join the birthday celebration and share the snacks, music, birthday desserts, and our wonderful featured speaker, Cecilia Zarate-Laun, co-founder of the Colombia Support Network. There will be a special sale of items from the Front Room Bookstore, including T-shirts for the summer, buttons, bumper stickers, and vintage posters.

Please see back cover of this issue for details. Hope to see you at the party!



Local Peace Conference a Success

On March 25, the Syracuse Peace Council, Northeast Student Peace Action Network, and the Syracus Society co-sponsored an all-day conference. The program included a teach-in on IMF/World Bank policies and civil disobedience training for the upcoming April events in Washington, DC. The day was well attended, the food was great, and many participants expressed a desire for longer conferences of this kind. Thanks to *Paul Frazier, Barrie Gewanter, Ed Kinane, Andy Mager, Zac Moore, Beth Mosley, Donna Reese, Ann Tiffany, and South Presbyterian Church.*



Doing What We Do Better

Saturday, April 22

10am ~noon:

The Power of Crafted Words

- led by Ed Kinane

Ed will lead this workshop in making words work for a more just world. Op-ed pieces, press releases, letters to editors, think pieces and essays will be discussed, along with copy-editing.

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Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

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the Syracuse Peace Council •
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Declaration on Climate Change

Excerpted from *The Ecologist*
(a radical environmental journal)

There are various agendas, protocols, etc. being used globally in an effort to combat global warming. Our local Global Warming Action Network considers the following document informative and substantial. This declaration, if implemented, could effect real change. We pass it on to you ... for your understanding and activism.

We call upon the world's political and corporate leaders to take immediate action to prevent seriously disruptive climate change. Evidence of human impact upon the Earth's climate is now irrefutable. We have emitted enough greenhouse gases into the atmosphere to commit the climate to change. If we carry on as we have, we can expect a rapidly worsening situation that, because of the long life of emissions in the atmosphere, will continue for centuries to come. Within a trend of rising temperatures that could reach levels in the next century that our species has never previously experienced, our climate will become more and more unstable, marked by extreme and unseasonable weather.

Such climatic destabilization will have dire consequences for every part of the world, every sector of society and every aspect of our lives. Our health and food supplies will be affected dramatically by increased droughts, heat-waves and the spread of disease-bearing insects and pests in response to rising temperatures. Agricultural land, towns and cities will also suffer substantial damage from rising sea-levels, and increased flooding and violent storms, with huge costs for industry and ordinary people as their homes and livelihoods are destroyed. UN scientists predict millions of people will die and millions more will become environmental refugees.

Global temperatures are rising at a rate faster than for 10,000 years, with the 12 hottest years in recorded history occurring since 1980. There has also been a sharp rise in extreme weather events, with a signifi-

cant increase in the last 20 years in the frequency and intensity of hurricanes, tornadoes, large floods and heat-waves that have left a trail of devastation to infrastructure and agriculture in their wake.

The extent of climate destabilization is likely to be even more severe than previously thought if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise unchecked. As warming increases, vital natural processes upon which we depend to absorb or contain three-quarters of our greenhouse gas emissions - such as the carbon dioxide-absorbing function of the world's forests and oceans, would weaken and even cease to operate. Instead of being net 'sinks', they will become net sources of greenhouse gases.

Hence, if emissions continue to rise unchecked, we risk releasing billions of tons of carbon into the atmosphere as rising temperatures trigger a huge die-back of trees, causing billions of acres of South American rainforest to turn into desert before 2050. If this and other positive feedbacks occur - and they could well do so within the next few decades - we could find ourselves in a situation of catastrophic, runaway climate destabilization.

Yet the political and corporate response to this problem has been grossly inadequate. To stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at non-catastrophic levels, as the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stated in 1990, greenhouse gas emissions from human sources would have to be reduced immediately by at least 60 per cent below 1990 levels. At Kyoto, however, developed countries agreed to a cut of just 5.2 per cent, to be achieved between 2008 and 2012. Worse, the US Congress has refused to ratify the US' Kyoto commitment. Even if the Kyoto targets were met, given that developing countries are under no obligation to prevent their emissions from continuing to increase, global emissions would rise to 30 per cent above 1990 levels by 2010.

We deplore the lack of serious political

action to address this issue and we deplore attempts by many large corporations to block meaningful change. For short-term gain, they seem willing to jeopardize the welfare, indeed survival, of a large part of humanity.

If catastrophic climate change is to be avoided, we call upon our governments to take the following action without delay:

☉ Accept the goal of reducing carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere to 1990 levels.

☉ To achieve this goal, a target of 30 years to have cut CO2 emissions by 70-80 per cent below 1990 levels, and 50 years for a near total phaseout of fossil fuels should be adopted. This is the very minimum that the current crisis demands. While it may be challenging for many countries, it is the political will to implement policy options which is the biggest challenge, not the technology.

☉ Implement a crash program to meet these targets. Significantly reduce energy use. Our remaining energy requirements should be met by a combination of existing renewable energy technologies - quite feasible if invested in sufficiently and produced on a large enough scale.

☉ Transfer all public subsidies and private investment away from supporting fossil fuels and cars, and towards supporting ecologically sustainable renewables and public transport. This applies equally to loans and investments to developing countries from the industrialized world and to the international financial institutions. It should be recognized that in developing countries, where dependence upon fossil fuels is less, it will be far easier to turn rapidly towards a renewable energy path.

☉ Change taxation systems to discourage the use of fossil fuels and cars.

☉ End the development of new oil,



coal and gas reserves immediately.

● Set in place a far more effective, inclusive and equitable international political mechanism to curb the consumption of fossil fuels in all countries.

● Recognize that the avoidance of serious climate change cannot succeed without the protection of the planet's natural sinks. Hence, stop the continued destruction of the world's remaining forests, particularly tropical rainforests -critical for the stability of global climate. At the international level, legally-binding forest protection must be negotiated, even if this requires the provision of compensation to those countries that possess the principal standing forests. In developed countries, consumption of wood and wood-derived paper will have to be reduced by two-thirds. Measures should also be put in place to ensure massive reforestation, while avoiding monoculture plantations of fast-growing exotics where possible.

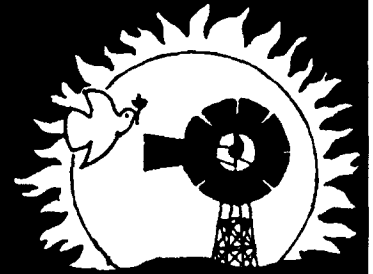
● Eliminate all ozone-depleting chemicals responsible for a hole in the ozone layer that in 1998 was larger than ever - and that are still being produced despite the Montreal Protocol. Also, make the removal of CFCs from all appliances prior to disposal a legal requirement. Unless this is achieved, the phytoplankton in the oceans, upon which we depend to absorb carbon dioxide, will continue to be destroyed by increasing ultraviolet radiation.

● Transfer all public subsidies away from supporting industrial agriculture, which is largely responsible for the unremitting destruction of our agricultural soils - another important sink for carbon dioxide - and for substantial emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane. Instead, a rapid transition to low-impact, ecologically-based organic farming for local consumption should be promoted.

● Reverse the current subordination of ecological and social imperatives to the short-term interests of corporations and investors and the maximization of world trade. Large-scale global trade massively increases the distance goods are transported, resulting in more greenhouse gas emissions, while simultaneously exerting powerful deregulatory pressures that inhibit governments from raising environmental standards.



The earth needs all of our efforts Now!



To stop and actually look at the demise of life on earth...to consider the violent and painful consequences of human activity upon this beautiful planet is terrifying. It is heart wrenching. It is too much to acknowledge. But we can no longer ignore, or deny what is happening.

Global warming is no longer an abstract, questionable threat looming in the distant future. Significant climate change is already causing serious disruption © drought, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes... refugees, hunger and disease. The twelve hottest years in recorded history have occurred since 1980. The polar ice caps and glaciers are melting at unprecedented rates. Meanwhile, we keep burning fossil fuels and cutting down forests...

This year, the thirtieth anniversary of the original Earth Day, people are organizing across the globe. Thousands of organizations are participating on every continent. It is anticipated that 500 million people will gather together and act for our planet.

Essentially, people are calling for a fundamental shift in planetary priorities. A shift away from consumption and domination, a movement towards sustainability and simplicity.

Specifically, people are calling upon government, industry and ourselves to:

- ✿ radically reduce fossil fuel (gas, oil, coal) use and emissions
- ✿ rapidly transition into renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power
- ✿ protect/preserve forests and oceans which absorb and transform CO²
- ✿ walk, ride bicycles
- ✿ drive cars, use pleasure/sport vehicles and fly much less
- ✿ improve and expand public transportation
- ✿ grow, buy and eat organic food (thus reducing use of deadly pesticides)

✿ seriously reduce or eliminate beef consumption (the beef industry causes deforestation, habitat destruction and overuse of precious water)

✿ reduce paper consumption and recycle.

Although Earth Day 2000 and the ongoing struggle to reverse global warming call for significant changes, these changes are necessary to protect the planet. These changes are necessary if our children are to grow up in a safe and stable world.

Please be part of this effort.

In Syracuse, there will be a family friendly ***Earth Day event at Thornden Park, Saturday April 22, 2000*** from noon to two. The gathering will include education, singing, poetry, petition signing, facepainting, mural making, science/nature activities and more...(Thornden Park is south of madison between Ostrom and Beech, near SU)

If you want to participate in the ongoing work to stop global warming join the recently formed Global Warming Action Network. GWAN is trying to facilitate grassroots movement and outrage about the current climate crisis. We are using education, advocacy, activism and cultural expression to try to mobilize people. GWAN is especially working with children and youth, encouraging them to voice their fears and hopes... encouraging them to actively and vigorously create their future.

Call ***Stacey Smith*** at 471-5068 or ***Ollie Clubb*** at 428-8953 for more information on GWAN.

Bombing Iraq from page 2

cine for the soldiers to take instead of bombs. Twelve people were arrested for entering the base without authorization, resulting in the charge of criminal trespass, a class B misdemeanor. Others read the names of Iraqi victims, circulated petitions, sang, and stood in silent vigil, connected in thought and prayer to our neighbors the weekend soldiers, and our faraway neighbors, the Iraqi people.

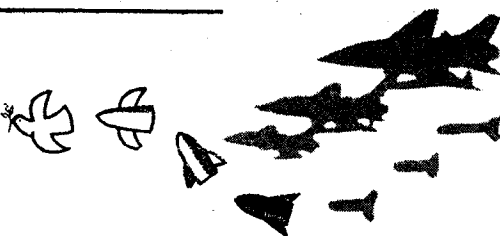
Dick Keogh and Bill Griffin, Central New York peace activists for many years, tried to present petitions with almost two thousand signatures to Governor George Pataki, asking that he decline deployment of the NYS Air National Guard 174th fighter wing to assist in enforcement of the no-fly zone. After almost two weeks of no response from the Governor's staff, Dick and Bill went to Albany for one more try. When no word was forthcoming, they spilled some of their own (safe and uncontaminated) blood on the floor "to symbolize the Iraqi blood being shed today." They were arrested and put into custody.

Rae Kramer

Excerpt from Statement of Jerome Berrigan to the Dewitt Town Court

"We lawbreakers think of ourselves as Biblical people. ... If it is true that actions speak louder than words, so be it - we ten have acted modestly, sincerely and nonviolently. Yet let me here offer some words to interpret our actions. In crawling under the National Guard gate and submitting to arrest we were saying to Tony Blair and Bill Clinton, those modern clones of Herod and Pilate, "You ask what is truth?" By this action we reply, "Truth is innocence like that of the million Iraqi children your bombs and your sanctions have murdered; truth is love of neighbor, and truth is love of enemies like those Iraqi people, who because they dwell atop oil reserves coveted by you, Tony and Bill, and your billionaire henchmen of British Petroleum and Gulf and Texaco, are considered expendable; truth is goodness and compassion and nonviolence; truth is the opposite of hatred and greed and war... And it is the truth of the lives of the children of Iraq that will endure vibrant and radiant and blessed. That is our conviction - that is why we acted."

Jerry was one of ten arrested inside the gate of the 174th air base



For background on the Iraqi issue please consult the webpage of Voices in the Wilderness:

www.nonviolence.org/vitw###, and EPIC (The Education for Peace in Iraq Center) (202) 543-6176 or www.savegeneration.org.

Humanitarian Legislation Introduced Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) has introduced HR 3825 which calls for US sales of food, medicine, and medical supplies to Iraq. The bill would remove obstacles to such sales and open of public debate about changing US policy regarding Iraq. Other initial co-sponsors are Reps. Tom Campbell (R-CA), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Paul Ryan (R-WI), and Zoe Lofgren (D-CA).

Please communicate your support of this bill to your representative. Warm thanks to the original co-sponsors is also helpful.

Getting Out of Iraq

Most Rev. James M. Moynihan

I wish to support and commend our Central New York people of conscience who continue to call our attention to the on going bombing of Iraq in "no-fly zones," and the deplorable sanctions which have resulted in the deaths of 150 Iraqi children on a daily basis.

I can find no moral justification for our conduct in Iraq: As happened in Kosovo, we are carrying out acts of war against a nation with whom we are not at war. We are compounding that aggression with a further act of aggression, which is the embargo of goods and services necessary to the survival of the people of Iraq. Our leaders tell us that the embargo does not include food and medicine, but the fact of the matter is that food and medicines are in such short supply, they are being used by only the authorities and the few people who can get their hands on them. Over the last nine years, the embargo has caused the deaths of at least half a million Iraqi children.

We do not and never have defended Saddam Hussein. His character and leadership are not the issues, however. The central issue remains a moral one that deals with the dire effect the sanctions are having on the most vulnerable people in Iraqi society, its women and children.

No one I know who opposes the sanctions is an apologist for Saddam Hussein. Secretary General Kofi Annan is not an apologist for Saddam Hussein. Pope John Paul II is not an apologist for Saddam Hussein. The recent resignations of UN officials whose job it was to administer the food and medicine program do not mean that they are apologists for Saddam Hussein. It simply means that they have resigned from their UN posts because they cannot, in conscience, administer a program that is bankrupt, and just a smokescreen for a policy that has failed. The disintegrating support for the embargo among other Gulf States, members of the UN Security Council and other Western allies - all these elements show that the cover is coming off what has

been a largely hidden war whose victims are average Iraqis.

While quick to place total responsibility on Saddam Hussein for this tragedy, no measure of culpability relieves our own responsibility to work for an immediate and radical change in our current policy: Remove the sanctions! Stop the bombing! Instead of bombings, let there be airlifts of food and medicine to those most in need. Instead of an embargo, let there be an outpouring of assistance for a people that has been crippled and devastated not only by the actions of a despot they are unable to control, but also by the actions and inactions of a people supposedly dedicated to the best interests of humanity.

We were able to develop an "exit" strategy from Vietnam and more recently from Kosovo; it's about time we developed an "exit" strategy from Iraq.

Most Rev. James M. Moynihan
Bishop of the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Syracuse

A CALL TO REMEMBER

25 Years After the "End" of the Vietnam War

Leslie Cagan

April 30, 2000 marks the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. An entire generation has been born and grown to adulthood—with other generations on the way—without knowing the horrors of that conflict.

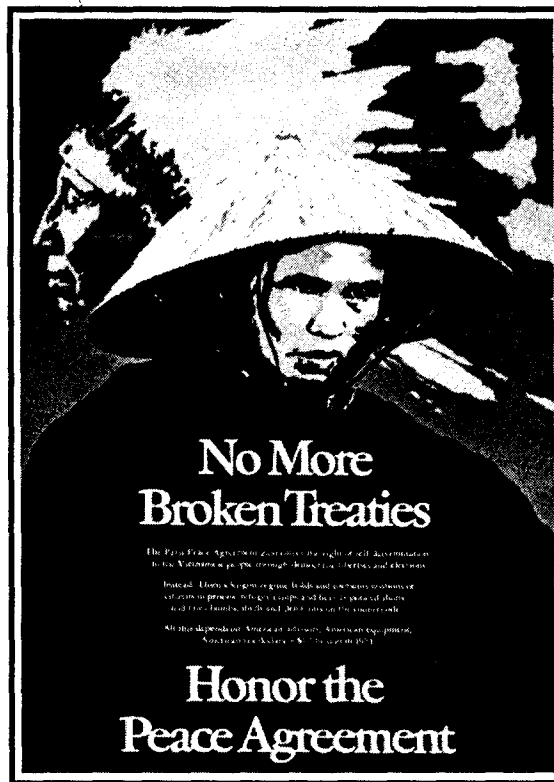
But we remember.

We remember the millions of Vietnamese dead, and the millions more broken and maimed bodies that survived the slaughter of the innocents. We remember the Cambodian nation destroyed and the million of its people butchered in the carnage that grew out of U.S. policy in Indochina. We remember that one half of the Laotian people were forced for years to live as displaced persons in their own country because of U.S. saturation bombing. We remember the Tiger Cages and other tortures inflicted on Vietnamese patriots by the "government" imposed on them by Washington. We remember the napalm and the phosphorous bombs that rained on peasant villages, leaving burnt bodies and blackened holes where once there was family life.

We remember My Lai and hundreds of other hamlets where children, women and elderly were killed by U.S. armed forces ordered to impose Washington's will upon a people who wanted to be left in peace. We remember the Agent Orange and other poisonous chemicals that eliminated Vietnam's forests and that left behind—a quarter of a century later—an array of severe birth defects passed along from generation to generation. We remember the policy decisions in the White House and Pentagon to "bomb into the Stone Age" the hospitals, schools, bridges, roads and civilian infrastructure of one of the poorest countries on earth.

We remember that, even as the civil rights movement gathered force to end segregation in the

Deep South and racism throughout this country, our government sent as cannon fodder ground troops that were disproportionately African-American and Latino while carrying out a criminal war against an Asian people. We remember that the antiwar movement was sparked and inspired by the civil rights movement, some of the most courageous leaders of which came to speak on behalf of both movements.



We also remember the more than 58,000 Americans—almost entirely the sons and daughters of poor and working-class families—who lost their lives, ordered into battle by arrogant men 10,000 miles away. We remember the hundreds of thousands of GIs who returned home, many with bodies wounded and minds suffering with the trauma of war. We remember those addicted to alcohol or drugs, others incarcerated because of acts of despair, and still others homeless. We remember how our government turned their backs on these veterans.

We remember the many thousands of families broken by the loss of loved ones who went to war, or went to prison or into exile to resist the insanity. We remember that when peace finally came, and our government agreed to help rebuild Vietnam with reparations, that agreement was immediately betrayed and has never been implemented. All of this has left a gaping wound in the life of our country that has never been closed.

And we remember that, because the Vietnamese would not bend to the will of U.S. policy-makers, and because the American people in their majority came to oppose this war of unending atrocity, we finally brought it to an end. After 14 years of daily lies by our elected leaders, after jailings of thousands of resisters, after killings of protesters at Kent State, Jackson State & other campuses, after GIs refused to fight & organized an antiwar movement within the armed forces, after teach-ins & sit-ins and peaceful protests and massive mobilizations built a popular majority that forced Pres. Lyndon Johnson & Pres. Richard Nixon out of office, the peoples of Vietnam & the United States were able to impose peace. This was one of the great triumphs of an incorruptible human spirit.

We remember all this. And we will never forget it. Subsequent generations of U.S. policy makers have tried to make us forget, to glorify the war, to "put Vietnam behind us," to end "the Vietnam syndrome" by which is meant the unwillingness of Americans to kill and die for the imperial designs of others. What the men who sit in the halls of power have learned is that to conduct "successful" wars now requires high-tech slaughter from the air (or where possible, the use of proxy armies), economic sanctions which result in children dying from lack of food and medicine, control of the television images reaching

Leslie Cagan is a longtime activist for peace and justice.

Vietnam 25 Years / see page 10

We Ain't Marching Anymore: *Draft and Military Resistance to the Vietnam War*

Andy Mager

Draft resistance permeated our national consciousness during the Vietnam War as "Hell No, We Won't Go!" echoed through our city streets, college campuses and high schools from coast to coast. Twenty-five years after the end of the war, what can we learn from that movement and those who made life-altering decisions of conscience?

Of the 27 million men of draft age during the war, nearly nine million enlisted. Only 2.2 million of the remaining 18 million were drafted. Approximately 700,000 refused induction or deserted once they were in the service. According to government figures, which are generally conservative, more than half a million men and women were classified as deserters. Estimates of the number of non-registrants range from 250,000 to two million, about half of whom were African-American.

On the civilian side, the Justice Department identified 570,000 men who violated the draft laws. Of 206,775 names referred to U.S. Attorneys for prosecution, 25,000 were indicted, more than 9,000 were convicted, and 3,250 were imprisoned for their resistance. Some 172,000 men received legal conscientious objector status. While every war in the history of our country has faced some moral resistance, this was a decidedly different phenomenon.

RESISTANCE TO STOP WAR

"The idea of draft resistance as a way to influence or stop a war is fairly new in American life," notes peace movement historian Lawrence Wittner. He classifies the resistance to World War I as primarily one of "personal witness" and identifies the idea that "wars could be halted if men

Andy Mager is a former PNL editor. When he refused to register for the draft in 1980, he was fortunate to have the opportunity to draw on the experience and knowledge of previous resisters.

refused to fight" as developing soon thereafter. Wittner believes that those resisting World War II did not do so to "disrupt" the war and that "draft resistance during the Vietnam War represented a turning point, for it was both widespread and, often, designed to destroy the draft and 'stop the warmakers.'"



Photo: Diana Davies

The Korean War-era draft remained in place as U.S. involvement in Vietnam deepened. In 1963, President Kennedy increased the number of "adviser" troops in Vietnam to 15,000. The first major anti-war protests began the following year. In the spring of 1965, President Johnson escalated the ground and air war. During the first International Days of Protest against the war on October 15, 1965, Catholic Worker activist David Miller burned his draft card rather than giving a speech, breaking a law passed several months earlier. His action received tremendous publicity. By the end of 1965, draft call-ups which three years earlier had averaged some 6,000 a month increased to 40,200 per month.

Although antiwar activity had begun to build in New York City and other metropolitan centers, it had not spread throughout much of the country. Dik Cool, a stu-

dent at Michigan State University, had to travel far to begin learning about the war. "In 1964, I hitchhiked out to southern California with a college buddy. His parents were, what I guess we'd now call, the hippies of the day. They introduced me to folks that I had never known existed, such as the Peacemakers." Later that year, Cool drafted a letter to the Selective Service about his resistance to the war. Like other resisters, Cool saw "the privilege that college students had in terms of who fights wars. I decided that I wasn't going to accept that."

By the time of his 1965 trial for refusing induction in Syracuse, Cool was still not connected to any movement organizations. There was no visible community support for his stand, and his pacifist attorney (an active Peace Council member) tried to convince him to apply for conscientious objector status rather than resist. Cool experienced a deep sense of isolation. "I really had no idea what I was getting into. I wasn't sitting with anybody to talk about what prison would be like. There just wasn't anybody to talk to."

But his personal commitment carried him forward; he eventually spent two years in federal prison.

Reflecting on that time, Cool recalls, "In many ways prison was an opportunity for me to meet and interact with and learn from a range of people that it's just impossible to come in contact with, particularly for a middle-class white guy. It certainly continued my radicalization process." Upon his release from prison, Cool worked at Bristol-Myers for a time before joining the Peace Council staff in January 1970. Cool played a crucial role in SPC's evolution into a powerful activist force in opposition to the Vietnam War. He remained on staff until 1981.

Being white and middle class, Cool was similar to many draft resisters who would follow. But unlike Cool, David Harris of California was immersed in the anti-

war movement as a key figure in The Resistance, a decentralized network of draft resistance activists. He characterizes that movement as not very diverse in today's terms. "No women were subject to the draft. Mostly college students, mostly middle-class, some Blacks, and some exceptions to the class rule. But by the standards of the time it was reasonably diverse." (Women did play key roles in the movement despite the sexism of the times and despite not being in a position to formally resist the draft; Harris himself was married to prominent antiwar activist and folksinger Joan Baez.)

Harris was imprisoned for 20 months. He believes that the draft resistance movement played a central role in the larger movement to end the war. "It provided a real impetus for the rest of the movement. When there were people who were prepared to risk five years in prison it made it easier for other people to go out and march or pass out leaflets. It provided inspiration and a sort of moral grounding." An historic example of that inspirational effect involves Pentagon whistle-blower Daniel Ellsberg, who often cites draft refuser Randy Kehler's conscientious resistance to the war as a major influence on Ellsberg's decision to risk his career by releasing The Pentagon Papers.

GI RESISTANCE BLOSSOMS

Draft resistance also sowed the seeds for resistance within the military itself. Early in the war, the few cases of GI resistance such as those of Dr. Howard Levy (1967) and the Fort Hood Three (1966) received widespread publicity. As the war continued and the peace movement grew, noncooperation within the military expanded greatly. GI coffeehouses were set up outside military bases throughout the country, providing peace activists an opportunity for dialogue with those in the military; the kitchen equipment for the first GI coffeehouse was donated by The Resistance.

Hundreds of thousands of GI's deserted, refused orders or took other steps to bog down the military machine. In addition, some 17,000 applied for conscientious objector discharges. Keith Mather of San Francisco was drafted in September 1967, and, although he knew he "didn't want any part of the war," he went along with the process. Shortly after beginning his advanced infantry

training, he went home for the holidays, feeling "like I was walking around with a weight on my shoulders. I decided that I wasn't going to Vietnam and the weight was lifted."

Back at the base, Mather soon went AWOL, returning to San Francisco. He quickly became involved with the War Resisters League and with other AWOL servicemen who refused to go to Vietnam. He and nine other military resisters, representing all four branches of the military, sought public sanctuary in a church, chaining themselves to ministers of different denominations. Their action, which received significant publicity, ended with their arrests and incarceration in military prisons.



Two soldiers are arrested during a Pray-in for Peace at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, 2/13/68, Photo: The Power of the People

When Mather refused to cooperate in any way in San Francisco's Presidio Stockade, he was put in solitary confinement. On October 11, 1968, fellow prisoner Richard Bunch was shot and killed by a member of the military police while walking away from a work detail. Other prisoners rioted in protest, and three days later Mather and 26 other prisoners who wanted a more focused demonstration held a sit-in. The 27 protesters were charged with mutiny and faced up to 25 years in military prison.

Mather had already been sentenced to four years for his earlier resistance, and,

as one of those identified as ringleaders, feared for his safety. He and codefendant Walter Polowski escaped and went to Canada. He lived there for 12 years before returning in 1980 under his own identity. Four years later Mather left his drivers license at a gas station. When it was turned over to the local police, they realized he had an outstanding warrant and arrested him. For four and a half months he endured a difficult imprisonment in various military prisons; significant peace movement support and a sympathetic media probably helped gain his early release.

EFFECTS OF THE RESISTANCE

Linking with those in the military was an important component of the movement strategy to, in Harris' words, "make it impossible to raise an army to support the war." Another important challenge was transforming draft resistance from an isolated act into a large scale movement. On April 15, 1967, the morning of a massive peace rally in New York City's Central Park, 175 men burned their draft cards. The following fall, The Resistance organized mass draft card turn-ins. The first and largest occurred on October 3, 1967, with more than 1,500 men returning their cards.

While this approach never led to the complete collapse of the U.S. military, "we certainly made it far more difficult for the government to raise an army," observes Harris. Confirming that view, Col. Robert Heintz wrote in the June 1971 issue of *Armed Forces Journal*, "The morale, discipline and battleworthiness of the U.S. Armed Forces are, with a few salient exceptions, lower and worse than at any time in this century and possibly in the history of the United States." And the Oakland, CA, Induction Center reported that from October 1969 through March 1970 more than half of those ordered to report for induction did not show up; of those who did, 11 percent refused induction.

Large numbers of both draft and military resisters chose to leave the country, with most heading to Canada, others to Sweden and elsewhere in Europe. Estimates of deserters range from 80,000 to more than 200,000. One-third of those who left the country had refused to accept deferments or

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exemptions for which they would have qualified, contradicting a popular view of the expatriates as cowards. Leaving the country was also, for many exiles, a powerful way to live out their rejection of dominant U.S. values.

The last induction of draftees took place on July 1, 1973. Draft registration ended March 29, 1975, and the war was over a month later. President Ford's conditional amnesty offer in September 1975 and President Carter's pardon for draft resisters in early 1977 still left tens of thousands of military resisters out in the cold.

No REGRETS

The Vietnam War is still being fought in popular culture. This year's presidential field consists almost entirely of men who faced the prospect of fighting in Vietnam. Except for John McCain, they waffle about their positions on the war and the choices they made. Historical revisionists paint an image of deep regret on the part of many who opposed and/or resisted the war, regret expressed by none of the resisters contacted for this article. (No surveys provide us with statistics.)

"I don't know of any draft resisters who have turned their backs on draft resistance,"

says David Harris. He adds, "I think that the people who evaded the draft didn't really

to register who regretted it later." Dik Cool's only regret is that "we didn't end the war earlier. But in terms of personal decisions, I did what I thought was best in terms of ending the war." Keith Mather "wishes it hadn't been so hard on my children and other family." But having "people tell me that they didn't go because of what I did erases any potential regrets. I'm proud of it."

While few former resisters question the positions they took several decades ago, not all remain active in movement efforts. Some have, like Kehler, whose efforts for nuclear disarmament, war tax resistance and campaign finance reform have continued since the war, and Cool, whose Syracuse Cultural Workers provide beautiful resources to support and inspire social movements. Both Harris and Mather continue to speak and write about the war and their resistance to it.

There can be little doubt that the massive war resistance during the Vietnam War was a critical juncture in our nation's history. How powerful that legacy remains is in the hands of those of us who continue to work for peace and social justice.



take a position, other than their own self interest. Some of them have regrets now." Randy Kehler agrees, "I don't know and haven't heard of anyone who went to prison or left the country or became a CO or refused

Vietnam 25 Years / from page 7

into our homes, and avoiding casualties to U.S. troops—and to do so in the name of "humanitarianism" and "nonintervention".

We have learned different lessons—of the arrogance of power, of the right of nations to self-determination, of the need to resolve political differences peaceably, of the distinction between international solidarity and "globalization". We have experienced the calamity to our cities, our public education and public-health systems when war making and war preparation get first call on our nation's treasury. We have also learned that when we are determined, organized and united and when our cause is just, the people of this country can impose our will on elected officials and policy makers.



These are memories, lessons and moral responsibilities that we keep alive for new generations. We ask, as a first step in fulfilling the U.S. commitment to the agreements we signed in ending the war, that our government resolve, without qualification, to work with Vietnam to eliminate the environmental and health plagues visited on both our peoples by the use of Agent Orange and other defoliants. We commit ourselves to continue to oppose U.S. interventionism, foreign policy driven by corporate profits and greed, and assaults on the rights of people around the world.

We call upon you to join us in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War this Spring.

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 action plans.

For information, contact Bill Cuddy at (315) 474-7437.



**PROTECT DOWNED
 ANIMALS IN NY STATE**

Legislation to prevent cruelty to downed
 farm animals (animals too sick to even stand)
 has been introduced in the NY State Senate
 (S.3251) and Assembly (A.6298), and it is
 expected to be addressed this year. Your
 calls and letters are urgently needed to help
 advance this important measure.

Downed animals are commonly left to
 suffer for hours or days without receiving
 food, water or veterinary care and in many
 instances, they die of neglect. Downed ani-
 mals who survive handling and transport are
 often slaughtered for human food, threaten-
 ing human health. The incapacitated ani-
 mals are dragged with chains or pushed with
 tractors and forklifts, inhumane methods
 which cause injuries ranging from bruises
 and abrasions to broken bones and torn
 ligaments.

Downed animals should not be trans-
 ported and marketed for slaughter. These
 animals should receive necessary veterinary
 care or be humanely euthanized.

Please call, fax or write to Senator
 Hoffman and Assemblyman Magee. Urge
 them to do everything in their power to
 prevent downed animal suffering by enact-
 ing the Downed Animal Bills (Senate bill
 S.3251, Assembly bill A.6298).

Nancy Lorraine Hoffman Chair,
 Senate Ag. Committee 848 Legislative
 Ofc Bldg. Albany NY 12247 PH: (800)
 298-5219 FAX: (518) 426-6828 Email:
 hoffman@senate.state.ny.us

William Magee Chair, Assembly Ag.
 Committee 641 Legislative Ofc. Bldg.
 Albany NY 11248 PH: (518) 455-4807
 FAX: (518) 455-5237 Email:
 mageew@assembly.state.ny.us

For more info:
 Farm Sanctuary (607) 583-2225
 www.nodowners.org

The People's RoundTable

Dirty Deal on Onondaga Creek: The Sewage Plant & The Lake Clean-up

Speakers: Samuel Sage of Atlantic States Legal Foundation & others
 Thursday, April 6 7:00 PM South Presbyterian Church corner of W. Colvin and S.
 Salina Streets

For more information, please call Samuel Sage or Sean Lynch at 475-1170

Onondaga County's current proposal to place an enormous sewage plant on Oxford
 St. has raised serious concerns about its effect on the neighborhood, and about its actual
 feasibility as an element of the larger Onondaga Lake clean-up process. This forum will
 pull together the very latest information about the project which has engendered
 opposition in the neighborhood.

Samuel Sage will discuss the legal efforts to halt the project, and he will put the project
 into the context of better technical and environmental approaches to resolving the
 Combined Sewage Overflow problem. Neighborhood leaders and "just plan folks" will
 offer their analysis and their suggestions for meaningful and realistic solutions to the
 Onondaga Lake clean-up issue, to share among all the city's neighborhoods both the
 benefits and the hardships involved in the overall process.

The People's RoundTable is normally on the third Thursday of each month, but an
 exception is being made in April, in order to respond to what seemed to be Onondaga
 County government's precipitous push to get the project started as quickly as possible,
 despite the disturbing questions raised in numerous quarters. The next People's RoundTable
 will be held Thursday, May 18 at 7 PM, with the topic to be announced.

Community Choir, Onondaga Nation, & Friends

In the spirit of good neighbors, you are invited to sing with the Community Choir in
 evening of songs, stories, and connections with people from the Onondaga Nation. Also
 invited - but not yet confirmed - are some special friends of the Onondagas and Haudeno-
 saunee: the Indigo Girls, Richie Havens and/or Ulali, an acapella women's singing group.

The choir will be directed by Karen Mihalyi, and the event is cosponsored by the
 Interreligious Council and NOON (Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation). Here is your
 chance to sing on the big stage!

Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday April 26 at 7:30 pm at the Westcott Community
 Center, 826 Euclid Avenue. Some rehearsals will be held at the Onondaga Nation School.
 The concert is tentatively scheduled for late May.

Call Dick Mundy (445-0797) for more information. REMEMBER - all are welcome
 to sing in the choir. There are no auditions, childcare is provided, and the center and Nation
 school are wheelchair accessible.

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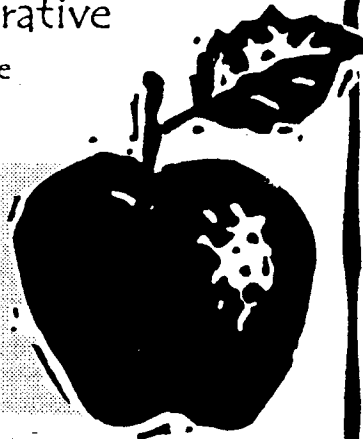
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Assassinations in Colombian Peace Community

Andrew Miller

On February 19, 2000, armed men, in fatigues, murdered five individuals in San José de Apartadó. Two other people were injured in the same attack, one was a member of the local Peace Community

San José de Apartadó is situated in north-east Colombia. Due to its strategic location, the area has become the scene of violent confrontation, marked by the presence of subversive groups, paramilitaries and the Colombian army. In 1996 the farmers living in the small villages nearby were forced to relocate to the town center after suffering two massacres, apparently carried out by paramilitary groups, as well as a series of "selective assassinations" by paramilitaries and guerrillas.

With the assistance of the Center for Popular Education and Research (CINEP), the Intercongregational Commission of Justice and Peace, and the support of the Diocese of Apartadó, the displaced people de-

clared themselves a Peace Community on March 23, 1997. It was their hope that armed groups would then have greater respect for the community, and that they would not be forced to abandon their lands.

Since 1997 some 65 people have been murdered, the majority at the hands of "Self-Defense" paramilitaries. The rest were the apparent victims of violence perpetrated by the army and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas.

In 1998, Peace Brigades International (PBI) established an accompaniment team in the area in response to a request from the Intercongregational Commission of Justice and Peace and CINEP.

Since a massacre in April, 1999, the PBI team has established a permanent presence in the community, and regularly accompanies the missionary team of the Intercongregational Commission of Justice and Peace. Due to an increase in violent threats, PBI has been accompanying the community permanently 24 hours a day since December 1999.

What You Can Do :

This latest massacre shows that previous measures have not been sufficient to provide protection. PBI is asking for help:

1: Send letter to your representatives, using the model letter.

2: To increase the likelihood of response to your letter, call your congressional offices, to speak with the legislative assistant responsible for human rights and/or Colombia. Ask the congressional staffer if he/she will be able to take the recommended action on this case.

3: Follow-up. It is likely that the staffer will not have an immediate answer. In this case ask her/him what is a reasonable waiting time for a response. Call back at the end of that period.

4: Inform PBI of your actions .

Call Pete Stanga at the national office in Oakland, CA: Tel. (510) 663-2362 or E-mail: {pbiousa@igc.apc.org}

Andrew Miller, provides protective accompaniment in Colombia with PBI. Edited for the PNL by Rae Kramer

Model Letter:

As one of your constituents, I would like to draw your attention toward a recent tragedy in Colombia's on-going civil conflict. I have been informed of another massacre of civilian population in the village of San José de Apartadó (Urabá, Province of Antioquia, Colombia) in which a group of armed men selectively assassinated five people and wounded two others.

Two highly renowned human rights organizations, the Intercongregational Commission of Justice and Peace and Amnesty International, have issued communiqués that condemn this massacre, in which local witnesses are quoted as seeing soldiers of the Colombian Army, identified by their insignia, amongst the members of the armed commando.

The massacre took place while two international observers from Peace Brigades International were present in San José de Apartadó, including US citizen Andrew Miller. They witnessed part of the events, and immediately informed the Colombian Armed Forces in the area. Despite this, the Armed Forces have not made any mention of actions designed to prevent the attacks from continuing, or to apprehend the group responsible. Likewise, the Colombian press has printed conflicting reports about whether or not the army was present on the outskirts of the village.

I wish to express my deep concern for the latest events, especially when taken in the context of the more than 65 people from San José de Apartadó who have been murdered since the foundation of the Peace Community, the majority of them at the hands of members of Self-Defense or paramilitary groups.

The concern felt is greater still, in the light of the fact that the Inter-American Court on Human Rights has outlined preventive measures to be taken by the Colombian State to ensure the protection of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. The Colombian Government has made a public commitment to offer the necessary protection to the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó.

This latest massacre shows that previous measures have not been sufficient to protect the lives of the villagers of San José de Apartadó. In the light of this failure, it is clear that new and better-defined measures are necessary to ensure their protection.

Therefore, I urge you to contact the Colombian government to stress the importance of taking specific measures to shed light on the events leading up to the massacre of February 19, 2000 and previous murders; and that lines of responsibility are established.

Also, please contact the Colombian government so that it guarantees the security of the people of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, of the NGOs and the entities that work with them, which include the Intercongregational Commission of Justice and Peace and the members of Peace Brigades International.

-Please follow up specific measures that the Colombian Government may take, and monitor those results.

Thanking you in advance for your valuable support.
Sincerely,

revised fri 3-24-00



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SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar

APRIL 2000

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to the Peace Council, 472-5478. May deadline: April 21.
Ace maintains an online version of this calendar with updates and more at www.roof-media.org/calendar.htm.

2 Empire State Pride Agenda
6th annual brunch. Keynote speaker NYS Comptroller H. Carl McCall, 11am-2pm. Cornell Campus, Ithaca. 475-2133 for more info.

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

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

Vera House presents White Ribbon Campaign Breakfast. Hotel Syracuse 7:30am. Keynote: Terry McClelland of Landis Plastics "In the Home, in the Office: Thoughts on Domestic Violence." \$15.

Peace Action monthly program. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.

9 EVERY SUN: Brick by Brick
prison solidarity group meets. 172 Fellows Ave. 7pm. 473-9005.

University Neighbors Lecture. Rosemary Pooler, US Court of Appeals judge. Westcott Community Center. 3pm. \$10. Refreshments provided. 478-8634.

EVERY SUN: Common Threads,
acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm.

10
Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 478-7475.

Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WENA) meeting. Peitt Library, Concord Pl. 7-9pm. 479-7301.

11
EVERY TUE: Community Media Action Group meeting. 6pm. Call Ace for place, 423-7856.

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

12
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.

13
Onondaga Audubon meeting Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 475-7731.

19 NAACP meeting. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-6933.

Lunch with Local Community Activists. Food provided. 402 Maxwell Hall, SU. Noon.

Syracuse United Neighbors/Skunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.

16
Demonstration against the IMF & World Bank in Washington, DC. Call Peace Council for info. 472-5478.

New Environment Association potluck & meeting. Friends Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. 6pm. 446-8009.

17
People for Animal Rights business mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.

Every Mon: Student Anti-arthritis Reasoning Organization meeting. Shaw Dormitory basement, Conference Room, SU Campus. 7pm.

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

21
EVERY MON: Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.

22
EVERY MON: Student Environmental Action Coalition meeting. SUNY ESF. 7pm.

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

5
SEUNA meeting. Erwin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm.

EVERY WED: JD High School Acceptance Coalition meeting. Gay and straight teens working together. 2:15-3pm. JD High School, Edinger Rd. Room B-15. Contact Zack at 446-9290.

6
Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 476-6226.

Peoples' Round Table, "Dirty Deal on Onondaga Creek: Update & Action on the Onondaga Lake Clean-up." S. Presbyterian Church. 7pm.

Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 476-7475.

Herbalist & Wise Woman Susan Weed on "Menopause Can Change Your Life" at HW Smith School, 1130 Salt Springs Rd. 7:30pm. \$10 advance/\$12 door. Sponsored by Marie Summerwood & My Sisters' Words. 428-0227.

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29
Pax Christi meeting. Stocum House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woodaver, 446-1693.

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EVERY THU: Sitting Meditation at Women's Info, 601 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free.

EVERY THU: Syracuse Zapataista Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 6:30pm. Ace, 423-4783.

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Daily in April except Mondays: Syracuse Stage presents "A Raisin in the Sun." \$15-\$38. 443-3275 for times. "Never before had so much of the truth of black people's lives been seen onstage." - James Baldwin

April 8-19: Join the SOA Watchers & Abolitionists Fast 2000. Gathering each day from 5:30-6:30pm at Ed & Ann's, 340 Midland 478-4571.

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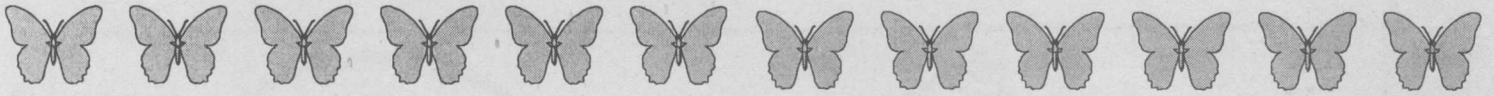
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Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Call to check date.

EVERY THU: Women's Voices radio program. WAER, FM 88.3. 7-9pm. Pat, 446-7259.

Thornden Park Association meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carole Simson for location. 475-2807.



GUNS, DRUGS & BUTTERFLIES

Syracuse Peace Council's 64th Birthday Celebration

Thirty years of Earth Days, Twenty-five years since Vietnam and the Peace Council is Sixty-Four! What a great opportunity to gather and celebrate with old and new friends.

Saturday - May 6, 2000

Northeast Community Center
716 Hawley Ave (near Corner of Oak)
near the Peace Council

- 7-8pm Snack & Social time
 (Front Room Bookstore wares)
- 8-9pm Speaker & discussion
- 9-10pm Birthday desserts & music

Donation Sliding Scale

childcare

featured speaker

Cecilia Zarate-Laun

co-founder of the Colombia
Support Network



In her writings, Cecilia Zarate-Laun has analyzed the Colombian situation in all its complexity, dealing with political, economic and environmental issues. First and foremost, she has described widespread human-rights violations as peasant leaders, labor leaders and grass-roots organizers are routinely murdered. The Colombian army and its paramilitary allies are responsible for almost 75 percent of the killings, while the remainder are committed by two guerilla forces, the FARC and the ELN. Arrests for murder are rare, and convictions are even rarer.

Second, she has heavily critiqued pronouncements made by Clinton administration drug czar Barry McCaffrey who has pledged support for the Colombian government's campaign against drug traffickers and guerillas. Zarate-Laun has pointed out that druglords are part of Colombia's economic elite; they have the same interests as other large landowners and wealthy individuals. Moreover, the definition of guerilla in Colombia is a very elastic one. Paramilitary forces have justified



And her discussion of life in Colombia puts a face on the violence committed in that nation. Zarate-Laun has written movingly about visiting the grave of Don Bartolome Catano, founder of a community of peace in the city of San Jose de Apartado. He was killed on August 17, 1996; six months later, paramilitaries beheaded four leaders of the Balsamar cooperative in the same city. Another essay spoke of paramilitary murders committed in the smalltown of El Aro, in northern Colombia.

Finally, Zarate-Laun has written about the Colombian government's plans for pipelines, highway expansion and hydroelectric plants in the Choco region, an area known for stunning biodiversity. It has more than 600 species of birds, 525 species of butterflies and well over 7,000 species of plants. In order to pave the way for development, paramilitary forces have already driven hundreds of peasants from their lands. Zarate-Laun has described those abuses, the threat to the environment posed by deforestation and mining, and the larger implications of events in the Choco region, noting links to NAFTA and globalization. She has discussed how the Pacific Plan will exploit the region for the benefit of economic elites in the Colombia and in the United States. As in other matters, her analysis is comprehensive and incisive.

**SYRACUSE
PEACE
COUNCIL**

924 Burnet Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13203

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"Welcome to the New Global Citizenry, we have no leaders."

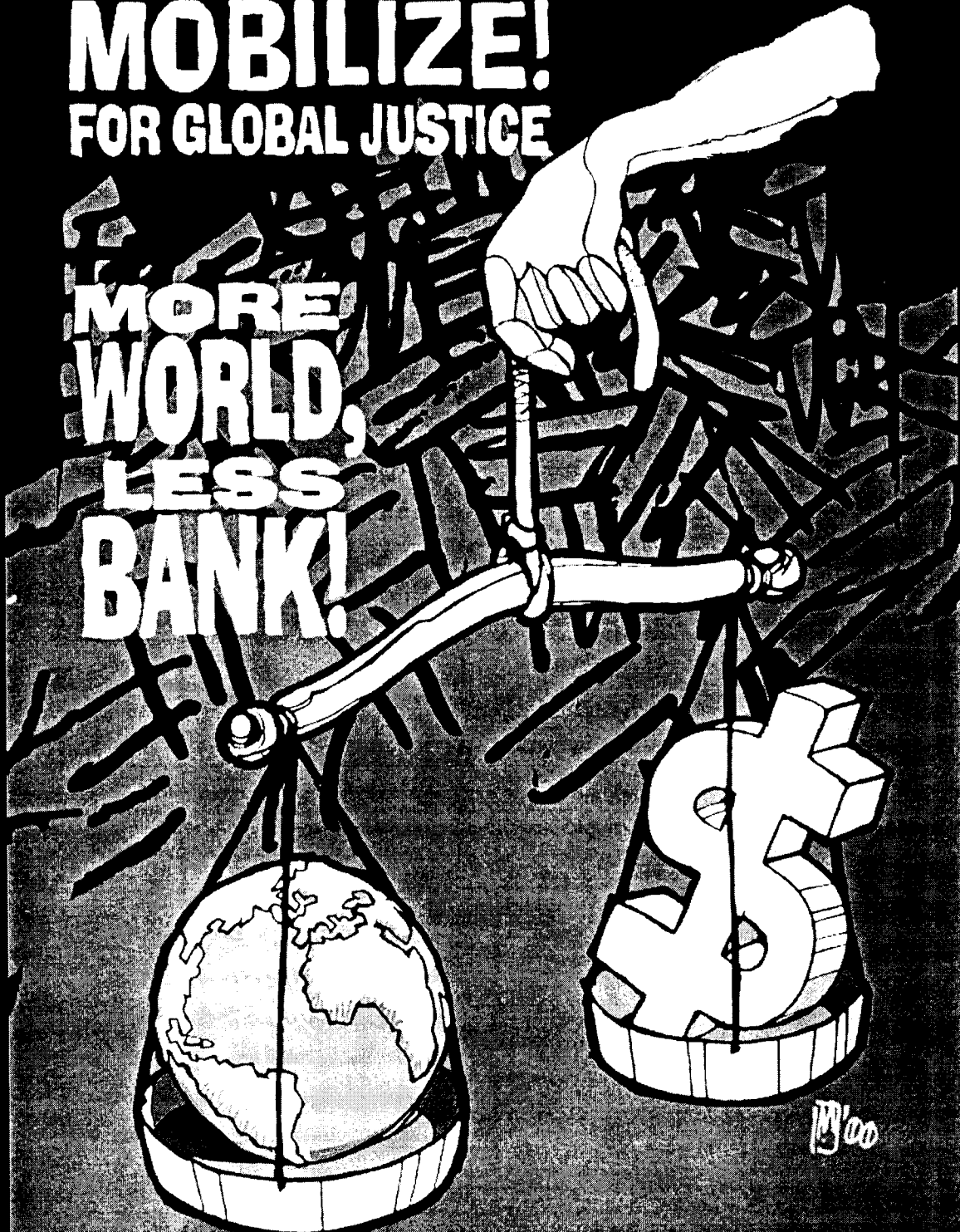
Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

May 2000 PNL 691

MOBILIZE! FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

MORE WORLD, LESS BANK!



SHUT DOWN the IMF and WORLD BANK!

Published Monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council - Founded in 1936

Peace Newsletter

May 2000
PNL 691



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"Welcome to the New Global Citizenry, we have no leaders."

Cecelia Alario, speaking for *Mobilization for Justice*, in response to the question "Who are your leaders?"

The Peace Council statement of purpose includes...

"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.

Like pieces of a great picture puzzle, issues of war and peace, environment, labor, human rights, sovereignty, and-so-on... are connecting to form a grand image of a peaceful world.

-UPDATE-

Last World Bank-IMF Protesters Leave DC Jails With \$5 Jaywalking Fines

After refusing opportunities for release for at least 4 days, about 150 protesters struck a deal knocking their charges down to jaywalking and a fine of \$5. The original charge was the misdemeanor of crossing a police line, with a maximum penalty of \$300.

They were the last to remain incarcerated, after nearly 1,300 demonstrators and some bystanders were arrested during a week of protests. Most of the 1,300 arrested either paid their fines or requested a trial, and they were released. The last group challenged the District's court and jail system by practicing a tactic they called jail solidarity.

They refused to give their names or accept release, in order to strike a group deal. The jail was forced to surpass its court-imposed population cap, and Superior Court judges shook their heads in frustrated amazement at people who didn't want their freedom. The strategy, according to volunteer lawyers for the group, was to extract the best plea deal and to score one last political point: that the people, united, can force the criminal justice system to bend their way.

At their release they expressed their commitment;

"Our time of incarceration has been a minimal inconvenience in comparison to the impact of institutions like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization."

Welcome home to our many articulate representatives!

Weary Smiles and Tired Feet

Frederic Noyes

We came together
Comrades and acquaintances
New friends and welcoming smiles
We learned from and listened to one another
And collectively dreamed of the future we are told is not ours to ask for
Yet is perceived and nurtured and cherished in a multitude of ways

Fatigued but exhilarated
Resolute in my convictions but not without apprehension
I walked through the cold, wet grass in the twilight
[an intermediate state that is not clearly defined]

I reached the streets and began to see sentiments and desires made real

As I walked up through reclaimed avenues

I felt the hope and the determination of humanity

A sense of belonging and purpose

We were not just marching against the wrongs

Not just singing with defiance

We were demonstrating
Not only against those things we found unacceptable
We were demonstrating alternatives
And were the embodiment of those choices
Each thought and gesture hinted at a better way
We tried to speak loudly for voices not heard
We rubbed tired shoulders
We shared smiles and encouraging words
We fed one another and kept each other warm
We attended to the injured
We learned from and were inspired by each other
Our compassion was one of our greatest strengths
The clouds passed on this twice-born* day
and a new season welcomed us
We walked out of the commotion
and toward the sunshine, the flowers and the fountains in the park
Weary smiles and tired feet in the warm green grass

*having undergone an experience of moral and spiritual renewal

Frederic, a.k.a Agent Floyd can be heard on **WXXE-91FM (91DoubleX)**. For more of his creativity, check out **Common Good Wednesdays** at 10pm (currently) on cable 3 (city) 12 (suburbs)

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

On October 20, 1995, *Bread & Puppet Theater* performed a benefit for the *Peace Council* titled

"Enough is Enough: Mr. Budhoo's letter of resignation from the IMF"

The play is based on the resignation of an IMF official because of his outrage over its impact on the Third World. Many community volunteers participated in this entertaining and informative exploration of the evils of the IMF and World Bank.

The spirit of that performance was evident in the creative and vibrant activism recently in Seattle and Washington D.C.

see PNL # 636



BREAD & PUPPET

MR. BUDHOO'S
LETTER OF
RESIGNATION
FROM THE
IMF

BREAD
AND
PUPPET
THEATER



GUNS, DRUGS & BUTTERFLIES

SPC Celebrates
Birthday #64

Saturday, May 6, 2000

Activists and issues are coming together all over the world. The planet is in a precarious political and environmental state, fueled by corporate greed and political indifference.

Our Birthday celebration is an opportunity to connect with friends, neighbors and other people of conscience to catch up on this invigorating time of actions and enlightenment.

We are happy to have *Cecilia Zarate-Laun* join us to help connect our concerns about the Environment, Militarism and Human Rights.

See the back page for all the details!

April 15, 2000

Dear friends:

Enclosed is a donation to support the work of your organization. I am happy to have the opportunity to aid your work in this small way.

I am sending this donation now because my personal commitment to non-violence leads me to redirect my federal income tax money to the types of projects which I believe government should be supporting.

As someone who believes that war is a crime against humanity, I find it impossible to pay federal taxes when I know that nearly 50% of it will be spent on the military and preparations for war. As our nation's traditional "enemies" have evaporated, the need to waste such vast sums of money becomes increasingly absurd.

This year my "tax money" will support the work of over 40 important organizations. It will help to feed hungry people, create affordable housing for low-

income families, assist refugees, help prevent Palestinians from being kicked off their land, work against war and violence, teach conflict resolution skills to prisoners, care for people with AIDS and more. I realize that by refusing to pay taxes I am violating federal law and may someday be prosecuted as a result of my resistance. However, it is a risk I have chosen to take because of my deeply-held beliefs.

I wish you the best of luck in the coming year and hope that the work of your organization is effective. Perhaps, with all of us working hard to make a difference, we will one day create a world in which I don't have to violate laws in order to support work which our community and the world so desperately needs.

In Peace, Andy Mager



From: *Mary Loehr*

It's great that you printed information about war tax resistance in your February and March issues. War tax resistance is a daily way of withdrawing our consent from the military and redirecting it towards life-affirming work.

The National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee has moved its office from Maine to Central New York. Our new address is PO Box 6512, Ithaca, NY 14851. Phone is 607/277-0593 or 1/800-269-7464. Email is nwtrec@lightlink.com. Web site is www.nwtrec.org.

Feel free to call for an information packet about war tax resistance. There will be an international conference of war tax resistance and peace tax campaigns July 6-9 in Washington, DC. It will be a rare opportunity to meet with other war tax resisters from around the country and the world. For more information, call the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund at 888-732-2382. Folks from Ithaca will be going, if you want to carpool.

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Butterflies, Drugs and Guns

Failed Policies,
Threatened ecosystems

Margaret Rusk

In all the discussion of what forms of aid to send Colombia to end export of illegal drugs, I've heard few cautions about aerial spraying of coca and poppy plantations. Herbicides, virtually by definition, kill nontarget organisms - illicit crops that farmers may subsequently try to grow in contaminated fields. They also kill other plants and animals that are part of Colombia's delicate tropical ecosystems.

As long ago as 1997, there had been formal complaints of food crops being fumigated in one coca-growing region and "numerous" reports of health problems in people working near glyphosate-sprayed areas. In one instance, a worker went blind in one eye after the banana plantation he worked in was fumigated along with a neighboring coca field. There were also cases of farm animals dying after drinking from contaminated

streams or after spray-planes passed over. Colombia Human Rights Network's

Colombia Update reports that farmers who are trying to escape sprayed areas are fleeing deeper into the jungle, damaging the still-pristine natural areas.

In an attempt to rid Colombia and receiving nations of illicit drugs, we must not repeat the Agent Orange tragedy that occurred in Vietnam a quarter-century ago.



From The Front Line: Tale Of Failed Drug War

Sylvester L. Salcedo

I have served on the front lines of the war on drugs. I am reporting back that it is a failure. Last year I received a Navy achievement medal for my military service in the drug war. Last month I returned this medal to President Clinton to protest his proposed \$1.7 billion special appropriation for Colombia.

Under the guise of fighting drugs, this aid package will dramatically escalate U.S. military involvement in Colombia's civil war. Colombians are exhausted and dispirited after 40 years of civil strife. In recent months, Colombians by the millions have taken to the streets in huge national marches calling for peace.

Representatives of the insurgents and government negotiators have just returned from a watershed 25-day tour of Western Europe, where they explored the peace process. Increased U.S. military aid to Colombia will derail this peace process. More than 80 percent of the funds destined for Colombia will be spent on helicopters and other military aid. These are the wrong tools to fight a problem that is fundamentally political and economic.

Moreover, the Colombian military is profoundly ineffective and tied to right-wing paramilitary forces that are human-rights abusers and drug traffickers. The U.S. aid package is a recipe for more lawlessness and military failure on the battlefield.

Our drug-war leaders say their goal is a "drug-free America." But three decades of the drug war have shown that goal to be unrealistic, so our strategy must be replaced. Pursuing an unrealistic goal has resulted in insufficient funding for effective programs, such as making treatment available on request and providing after-school programs for our children.

At the same time, we waste tax dollars on ineffective, expensive and dangerous programs such as the massive imprisonment of drug users and the exorbitant military-aid package to Colombia. As a result, today we have more prisoners per capita than any other country, and Colombia receives the most U.S. military aid in this hemisphere.

The best way to help Colombia and to help the United States is to reduce the demand for

illicit drugs here at home. This conclusion is reinforced by my work as a Spanish teacher in Roxbury, Massachusetts, a low-income, drug-riddled section of Boston — where I have seen drug abuse among our kids and witnessed the deleterious effects of our domestic drug war.

As an alternative to the drug war, I propose a "Plan USA" to provide treatment, on request, for our hard-core drug-addict population that now exceeds 5 million people. The Rand Corporation has found that treatment is 10 times more cost-effective than interdiction in reducing the use of cocaine. Plan USA would also discourage drug use by adolescents by providing adequate funding of after-school programs and mentor programs. In addition, Plan USA would move to treat and reintegrate the more than 100,000 prisoners imprisoned on nonviolent drug charges.

With the proper programs, these people should be able to return to their families and communities, where they could work and pay taxes.

We need to set realistic goals — fewer deaths from drugs, less adolescent drug use, less disease and less crime from drug abuse. We can implement a strategy of control. We can achieve a safer and healthier America that is no longer at war with itself. These are not utopian platitudes, but achievable goals.

Other countries, especially in Europe, are more successfully controlling drug abuse through public-health approaches. We should follow their lead. It is time to admit failure and end the war on drugs.

As a first step, Congress should say no to more aid for the Colombian military. Instead, we should take that \$1.7 billion and invest it to support the peace plan in Colombia and to provide treatment and prevention programs here at home. Weapons and war are not the answer. Americans and Colombians both need peace for their families and communities.

Sylvester L. Salcedo, now retired, was a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy and served as an intelligence officer with Joint Task Force 6, which provides training support to drug law-enforcement agencies. Reprinted from the Baltimore Sun, April 10, 2000

WTO-World Bank-IMF-SOA One Big Happy Family

Ed Kinane

In mid-April, as I write, all eyes are on Washington, DC. Thousands have converged on DC to blockade the April 16/17 semi-annual meetings of the IMF/World Bank. They include scores of Central New Yorkers. Among them is the CNY/SOA Watch affinity group made up of about 20 folks from Ithaca, Auburn and Syracuse. Six of these, including SPC's own Ann Tiffany and Rae Kramer,* were arrested early this afternoon (4/17) in solidarity with those already arrested.

Our affinity group is just one of eight SOA Watch affinity groups from around the country forming a coordinated cluster in DC. That cluster is just one of many clusters making a huge coalition of students, anarchists, organized labor, peace and justice groups, environmentalists, and people of faith — much the same cast who last fall fought the WTO "Battle of Seattle."

Those of our group willing to risk arrest wear serapes, each with the name of a different Latin American country on the front and "IMF/SOA Victim" on the back. And the group brandishes a 15-foot banner designed by Kathleen Rumpf: "WTO, World Bank, IMF, School of the Americas — One Big Happy Family. Shut Them Down!"

What, you may ask, does the SOA have to do with that dark trinity, the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank? Plenty. SOA military repression is the flipside of the economic and environmental repression that they all impose on Latin America's poor.

Those opaque, amoral, undemocratic, overarchingly powerful global institutions busy themselves sucking resources out of the South for the benefit of the North. Or, rather, a minute sector of the North: the banks and other corporations. They busy themselves undermining labor, destroying national self-sufficiency and sovereignty, and disrupting the planet's ecology.

The victims don't acquiesce without a

gun to their head. In Latin America, as elsewhere, people resist. This makes it difficult to implement the IMF/World Bank structural adjustment policies (SAPs). SAPs are the strangling strings attached to their loans. They make a country more porous to Northern investment. In Latin America, the SOA grad's job is to squash his fellow citizens' inevitable resistance to these SAPs.

Consider the Zapatista uprising in Chiapas. On January 1, 1994 the indigenous people of Chiapas rose up to protest NAFTA. The North American Free Trade Agreement is a regional adjunct of the dark trinity. NAFTA means, among other things, that the US can dump cheap corn on Mexico, thus depriving the people of Chiapas of their market, of their livelihood. Chiapas is now occupied by tens of thousands of Mexican military, many of whose officers trained at Fort Bragg and at the SOA.

BOLIVIA

Bolivia is another timely example. Its president, Hugo Banzer, is an SOA grad, and an exemplary one: his portrait hangs in the SOA Hall of Fame at Fort Benning. Back in the 70's, it was Banzer who authored the Banzer Plan targeting church people and who deported Fr. Roy Bourgeois, then a Maryknoll missionary, for his solidarity with Bolivia's poor. In 1998 Bolivia, the poorest country in South America, had the third

highest number of soldiers at the SOA.

In early April Banzer declared martial law. It seems that the World Bank — as part of its SAP — is forcing Bolivia to privatize government utilities. A Bechtel Corporation subsidiary, seeing a chance to make big bucks, bought the Cochabamba water supply in a secret deal and immediately jacked up the rates.

According to Jim Shultz of the Democracy Center in Cochabamba, "Families with monthly incomes of around \$100 have seen their water bills jump to \$20 a month — more than they spend on food." And more, as Jim points out, than World Bank bureaucrats pay for water in the suburbs of Washington, DC.

When Cochabambinos demonstrated against this extortion and theft of their water supply, a plainclothes officer, behind a line of uniformed soldiers, was filmed firing into the crowd. Victor Hugo, 17, was killed with a bullet through his face. The sniper, Captain Robinson Iriarte de La Fuente — surprise, surprise — took combat weapons training at the SOA....

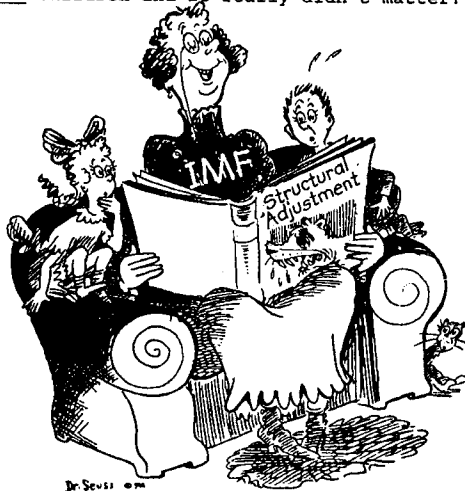
Iriarte isn't the only SOA heavy. Kathryn Ledebur of the Andean Information Network notes that Cochabamba's new military governor, Gen. Walter Cespedes Ramallo, is also an SOA grad. "We are particularly worried about having him as governor. He was the Commander of the Joint Task Forces (a combination of military and police forces) in the Chapare coca-growing region in 1998. During road blockades and resistance, 15 farmers were killed, others were brutally tortured and many were wounded.... This February Cespedes was charged by an investigative judge... with negligent homicide in the death of three of these campesinos."

[personal communication, April 13]

The judge has since been receiving death threats. For updates on the Bolivian crisis, contact Kathryn at kledebur@albatros.cnb.net or Jim Shultz at JShultz@democracyctr.org.

*The other four, all from Ithaca, were Leslie Schultz, Grace Ritter, Antoinette Chen See and Briana Binderd-Dale.

... and the Wolf chewed up the children and spit out their bones... But those were poor children and it really didn't matter!



Ed Kinane got to stay home by the phone while his partner Ann spent five days in the DC jail.



MOBILIZE! FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

SHUT DOWN the IMF and WORLD BANK!

What is the IMF?

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were created in 1944, shortly before the end of World War II, at a conference in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. Both institutions are now based in Washington, DC. The IMF was designed to promote international economic cooperation and provide its member countries with short term loans in order to trade with other countries and achieve balance of payments.

During the 1980's, the IMF took on an expanded role of lending money to "bail-out" countries during financial crisis. This gave the IMF leverage to begin designing economic policies for over 60 countries. Countries have to follow these policies to get the IMF's "seal of approval" to get loans, international assistance, and even debt relief. Thus, the IMF has enormous influence not only in structuring the global economy, but also on real-life issues such as poverty, environmental sustainability and development. The IMF is one of the most powerful institutions on Earth – yet few know what it is.

TOP TEN REASONS TO OPPOSE THE IMF

1) THE IMF HAS CREATED A SYSTEM OF MODERN DAY COLONIALISM THAT SAPS THE POOR TO FATTEN THE RICH

The IMF, along with the WTO and the World Bank, is directing the global economy on a path of greater inequality and environmental destruction. The IMF and World Bank's "structural adjustment policies" (SAPs) ensure debt repayment by requiring countries to cut spending on education and health; eliminate basic foods and transportation subsidies; devalue national currencies to make exports cheaper; privatize national assets; and freeze wages. These policies increase poverty, reduce

countries' ability to develop strong domestic economies and allow multinational corporations to exploit workers and pollute the environment.

2) THE IMF CATERS TO WEALTHY COUNTRIES AND WALL STREET

Although industrialized countries have not borrowed from the IMF in twenty years, rich countries dominate decision making. Voting power is determined by the amount of money that each country pays. The U.S. is the largest shareholder with a quota of 18%. The U.S., Germany, Japan, France and Great Britain together hold about 38% of the vote. Each of these countries appoints their own representative to the executive board, while other groups of countries elect a representative. The U.S. Executive Director is Karin Lissakers, and she works closely with Lawrence Summers and the U.S. Treasury Department to design policy for the IMF. The disproportional amount of power held by wealthy countries translates into decisions that benefit wealthy bankers, investors and corporations from industrialized countries at the expense of sustainable development. Is it a surprise that the IMF then uses its leverage over cash-strapped developing countries to force them to open up to powerful transnational corporations?

3) THE IMF IS IMPOSING A FUNDAMENTALLY FLAWED DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Unlike the path followed by most industrialized countries, the IMF forces countries from the global South to prioritize export production over the development of a diversified domestic economy. Nearly 80% of all malnourished children in the developing world live in countries where farmers have been forced to shift from food production for local consumption to the production of crops for export to industrialized countries. The IMF also requires countries to eliminate tariffs and provide

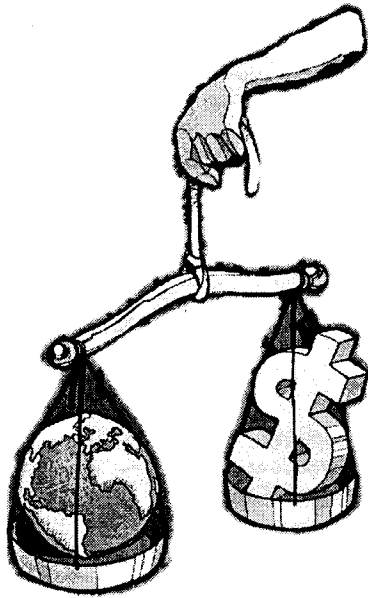
incentives for multinational corporations – such as reduced labor and environmental protections. Small businesses and farmers can't compete with large multinational corporations, resulting in sweatshop conditions where workers are paid starvation wages, live in inhumane conditions, and are unable to provide for their families. The cycle of poverty is perpetuated, not eliminated.

4) THE IMF IS A SECRETIVE INSTITUTION WITH NO ACCOUNTABILITY

The IMF is funded with taxpayer money, yet it operates from behind a veil of secrecy. For the most part, members of affected communities do not participate in designing loan packages. The IMF works with a select group of central bankers and finance ministry staff to decide policies without input from other government agencies such as health, education and environment departments. Furthermore, the IMF has resisted attempts to open up to public scrutiny and independent evaluation. The IMF has made elites from the Global South more accountable to First World elites than their own people.

5) IMF POLICIES PROMOTE CORPORATE WELFARE

To increase exports, countries are encouraged to give tax breaks and subsidies to export industries. Assets such as forestland and government utilities (phone, water and electricity companies) are sold off to foreign investors at rock bottom prices. Some examples: In Guyana, an Asian owned timber company called Barama received a logging concession that was 1.5 times the total amount of land all the indigenous communities were granted. Barama also received a five-year tax holiday. The IMF forced Haiti to open its market to imported, highly subsidized U.S. rice at the same time it prohibited Haiti from subsidizing its own farmers. A US corporation called Early Rice now sells nearly 50% of the rice consumed in



MORE WORLD, LESS BANK!

Haiti. Haitian farmers have been forced off their land to seek work in sweatshops, and people are poorer than ever.

6) THE IMF HURTS WORKERS

Many SAPs require changes in labor laws, such as eliminating collective bargaining laws and lowering wages in order to provide conditions favorable to attracting foreign investors. The IMF's mantra of "labor flexibility" permits corporations to fire at whim and move where wages are cheapest. According to the 1995 UN Trade and Development Report, employers are using this extra "flexibility" in labor laws to shed workers, rather than create jobs. In Haiti, the government was told to eliminate a statute in their labor code that mandated increases in the minimum wage when inflation exceeded 10%. By the end of 1997, Haiti's minimum wage was only \$2.40 a day, just one-fifth of the minimum wage in 1971 in real terms. Workers in the U.S. are also hurt by IMF policies by having to compete with cheap, exploited labor. Two years ago, the IMF's mismanagement of the Asian financial crisis plunged South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and other countries into deep depression that led to the creation of 200 million "newly poor." The IMF advised countries to "export their way out of the crisis." Consequently, the dumping of Asian steel in U.S. markets resulted in the layoffs of over 12,000 steelworkers.

7) THE IMF'S POLICIES HURT WOMEN THE MOST

SAPs make it much more difficult for women to meet their families' basic needs. When education costs rise due to user fees,

girls are the first to be withdrawn from schools. User fees in public health facilities make it unaffordable to those who need it most. The shift to export agriculture also makes feeding one's family increasingly difficult. Women have also become more exploited in the private sector workforce as regulations are rolled back and sweatshops abound. The general lack of economic opportunity has meant an increase in prostitution and other black market jobs and indentured servitude.

8) IMF POLICIES HURT THE ENVIRONMENT

IMF loans and bailout packages are paving the way for natural resource exploitation on a staggering scale. The IMF does not consider environmental impacts of lending policies; and environmental ministries and groups are not included in policy making. The focus on export growth to earn hard currency to pay back loans means unsustainable liquidation of natural resources. Government cutbacks inevitably target the environmental ministry as one of the first agencies to come under the budget axe. This happened with the bailouts of Brazil, Indonesia, and Russia—countries that are renowned for their great biodiversity.

9) THE IMF BAILS OUT RICH BANKERS, CREATING A MORAL HAZARD AND GREATER INSTABILITY IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

The IMF pushes countries to dismantle trade and investment rules, as well as raise interest rates in order to lower inflation. The removal of regulations that might limit speculation has greatly increased capital investment in developing country financial markets. More than \$1.5 trillion crosses borders every day. This capital is short-term, unstable, and puts countries at the whim of financial speculators. The Mexican 1995 peso crisis was partly a result of these IMF policies. When the bubble popped, the IMF and US government

stepped in to prop up interest and exchange rates, using taxpayer money to bailout Wall Street bankers for their high-risk investment. This encourages investors to continue making risky, speculative bets, increasing the instability of national economies. Furthermore, during the bailout of Asian countries, the IMF restored rich people's profits while implementing policies that threw people out of work and increased poverty. Asian governments were required to assume the bad debts of private banks, thus making the public pay the costs and draining yet more resources away from social programs and real development.

10) IMF BAILOUTS DEEPEN, RATHER THAN SOLVE, ECONOMIC CRISIS.

During financial crises, such as with Mexico in 1995 and South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, Brazil, and Russia in 1997, the IMF stepped in as the lender of last resort to "bail out" countries with huge loan packages. Yet the IMF bailouts in the Asian financial crisis did not stop the financial panic—instead, the crisis deepened and spread to more countries. The policies imposed as conditions of these loans were bad medicine, causing layoffs in the short run and undermining development in the long run. In South Korea, the IMF sparked a recession by raising interest rates and lowering the currency, resulting in more bankruptcies, increased unemployment, and government spending cuts. Under the IMF-imposed economic reforms after the peso bailout in 1995, the number of Mexicans living in extreme poverty increased more than 50% and the national average minimum wage fell 20%.

Information for this article and more:
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 415-558-9486x254



MILLION MOM MARCH

Candace Rhea

Mother's Day is coming up soon, but this year I'm telling my children to forget about the gifts. No potted geraniums and gardening books – this Mother's Day I'm asking my sons to join me in a march on Washington.

I should make it clear that I've never been a marcher. I am opinionated, and argumentative, but I have always let the idealistic "activists" take public stands. But is it idealistic to want the gun violence to stop? I am angry and frustrated, and even though I would rather be planting a new crab tree and reseeding the bare spots in the lawn, on May 14th I will join thousands of others who have come to Washington to put Congress on notice. The Million Mom March on Mother's Day will send a message to all our representatives in government, that common sense gun policies are the will of the people.

Polls tell us that I am not alone; the majority of Americans want more effective controls on handguns, yet our lawmakers don't seem to be listening. Guns killed 32,436 people in 1997, and 4, 223 of those who died by gunfire were children, under 19 years of age! Do we need more proof that we are not doing enough to control the free flow of guns in this country? Americans own 200 MILLION guns and 65 million of those are handguns, yet state laws restricting free access to these guns are weak and weakly enforced. Studies by the Center for Disease Control show that American children under 15 years old, are twelve times more likely to die from gunfire than children in twenty-five other industrialized

Candace Rhea, the local coordinator for the Million Mom March, is a potter/ sculptor, living in Syracuse with her two sons, ages 20 and 16.

countries COMBINED. Obviously, suicides and homicides are far more likely in homes where there are firearms available.

OK, we are all bored by statistics, but how many more school shootings can we tolerate? How many more stunned and shattered families can we watch on TV? How many more toddlers caught in some mindless neighborhood "gunplay"? How many more shooters who were angry at being cut off in traffic?

I am not the only one who has had enough. I believe I can make a difference, and I want my sons to feel empowered by

joining throngs of people on the National Mall for a day of speeches, music, rallies, and hope. On May 14th the Million Mom Marchers will demand a uniform National Policy that starts by requiring all handguns be licensed and registered with the proper authorities.

Please join us! Help show America's young people that we DO have the power to make our lives better. Whether you are a mother, have a mother, or know a mother, the Million Mom March wants your support and participation.



The local organizing committee is sending buses to participate in events on the National Mall.

To make it easy and affordable we are planning a one-day trip. Buses will leave Syracuse at 2 a.m. on Sunday the 14th. Our buses will be directed to a designated Washington Metro stop where there is room to park. We will take the Metro to the National Mall. (During large marches, cars and buses are not allowed in downtown D.C.)

When the activities conclude, we will return to Syracuse, arriving around midnight. A seat on the bus costs \$45, and some people are taking children.

The local organizing committee is also soliciting donations for "bus scholarships" for anyone who would like to go, but cannot afford the cost of a seat.

For more information about May 14th activities on the National Mall in Washington D.C., visit the national website at

www.millionmommarch.com

For local registration, bus information, or to volunteer to help organize, call 422-5638.

Mother's Day

Proclamation of 1870

Julia Ward Howe



Arise, then women of this day!
Arise all women, who have hearts
Whether your baptism be that of water or of tears!
Say firmly:

"We will not have questions decided by irrelevant agencies,

Our husbands shall not come to us reeking of carnage, for caresses and applause.

Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience.

We women of one country

to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own, it says "*disarm, disarm!*"

The sword of murder is not the balance of justice.

Blood does not wipe but dishonor

Nor violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war,

Let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel.

Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead

Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as the means

whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after his own time the sacred impress,

not of Caesar,

But of God.

In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask

that a general congress of women without limit of nationality

be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient

and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities,

the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.

Mothers in Prison, Children in Crisis

Mother's Day March & Rally

Did you know that more than 146,600 women are in jails or prisons throughout the United States. The majority are *nonviolent* mothers from poor communities. Women in prison are frequently the victims of gender discrimination:

• **W o m e n** , though incarcerated at rates far lower than

men, are the fastest growing prison population, and are offered even fewer services and opportunities than men (Boite, M, in *Justicia*, April 1999). This alarming increase is the direct result of mandatory minimum sentences for drug law violations.

• Because women are most often the primary caretakers of children, women prisoners and their children face especially difficult challenges. A mother in prison suffers both the pain of separation and the concern for her children's care. Children are unfairly punished for the crime of their mothers. They may be removed from home, school, and community. They are deprived of seeing parents and siblings and they are often left on their own to comprehend what is happening to their family. Without community support, children of women prisoners are prone to experience anger, alienation, failure in school, feelings of abandonment, and overall dysfunction.

Campaign 2000 for alternatives to incarceration is designed to foster public understanding of addiction as a medical not criminal problem, and to raise public awareness for the crippling social and economic consequences for calling for more prisons and harsher punishments.

Marina Zender - AFSC



Mother's Day March & Rally Friday May 12

Starting at 11am from Jail Ministry (208 Slocum Ave, Syracuse) a march will proceed to the Justice Center (State Street). Following the march there will be speakers and an open microphone so that the community can share their stories and ideas.

Sponsored by: American Friends Service Committee; Families of Prisoner's Support Project, Jail Ministry, JusticeWorks Community, South Side Newsstand; Syracuse Coalition for Incarcerated Women, and the Syracuse Peace Council.

Plowshares Activists Silenced/Sentenced

The trial of four Plowshares activists in Baltimore, Maryland took a critical turn when Judge James T. Smith ruled against expert testimony concerning the harmful effects of depleted uranium on the earth and the atmosphere. The four defendants, Philip Berrigan, Susan Crane, Rev. Stephen Kelly and Elizabeth Walz, didn't deny that they had hammered and poured blood on two A-10 Warthog aircraft at the Warfield Air National Guard Base on December 19, 1999. They hoped to explain that after studying international law and scripture, they took this action as one step toward a disarmed and peaceful world.

However, because of Smith's rulings, the trial focused only on the events at the air base, and all four were convicted of malicious destruction of property. Smith then imposed prison sentences on all the defendants, with Walz receiving

18 months in jail. Crane and Kelly both received a prison term of 27 months while Berrigan received the harshest sentence—30 months.

During the trial and afterwards, the legal system was critiqued. Berrigan commented that "the courts are identified with the Pentagon and the government. There is no way nonviolent defendants can get a serious hearing in this or any other courtroom. That is my experience over the years in several dozen courts."

And on March 27, 1999, one week after the trial began, Sr. Rosalie Bertel wrote to Judge Smith, noting that his failure to admit expert testimony had eliminated any opportunity for her to appear in court and discuss the rationality of the December 19 action. "In your better moments, you must find that shooting radioactive waste at one's enemy is outrageous behavior," she wrote. How much more outrageous is it to undermine the health of one's own military personnel, and the woman and children of the land you have polluted. There is no war theory that condones indiscriminate poison."

The case against depleted uranium weapons is an extensive one, based on contamination of Iraqi soil, air and water by

weapons used during the Gulf war, on international law which forbids use of indiscriminate weapons, and on health consequences for anyone exposed to depleted uranium, a toxic, radioactive substance. Bertel, an epidemiologist, has spent three years working with Gulf War veterans who are seriously ill. Beyond that, United States sale of depleted uranium to other countries courts environmental disaster and makes it easier for more nuclear weapons to be produced.

These and a host of other issues could have been discussed in the Baltimore court, but thanks to the rulings from the bench, no testimony was offered about rights and duties under international law. In court Crane stated that "we have been denied our right to testify about these topics. We have been denied our expert witnesses. Therefore, we can't go forward. We will not participate in what amounts to a legal gag order."



COMMUNITY UPDATES

Syracuse Pride 2000!

The Syracuse Pride Committee announces plans for this year's GBLT Pride Celebration on **Saturday, June 17, 2000. Syracuse Pride 2000**, will be another wonderful day in our community's history. As we come together once again to affirm our pride and rejoice in our diversity. Syracuse Pride 2000 builds on the parade/festival format begun last year. The Parade will be followed by a large outdoor festival in Everson Park. This year will include another new venue: a large outdoor dance to close the Pride festivities.

The Pride Parade begins at 5pm from the Trolley parking lot at Clinton and Gifford streets. Starting later provides opportunity to attend the annual Juneteenth celebration that is held on the same day. This year the Pride Parade will expand with our newest addition, a float competition. Help us make this new addition a success by entering your float in the competition. Individuals, businesses and community organizations are invited to enter a float in this year's parade. Prizes will be awarded for the three best floats. Entries are encouraged to be original, creative or simply outrageous. For more information on the float competition, contact Larry Fuller at (315) 478.3230 or Bernie McCarthy at (315) 471.0714. The Parade will follow the great painted lavender line as it winds its way through the streets of downtown to the festival site.

Last year's Pride Festival, attended by over 1,000 people, was a large success. On the grounds of the Everson Museum there will be a large festival tent, food vending carts, a beer tent and the main stage. We will have live entertainment, food and drink, community orga-

nization information tables, shopping, official Syracuse Pride 2000 merchandise, a postal cancellation station, the Big Pride Prize raffle and much more. Commercial and community vendors will offer merchandise for sale. The festival is slated to run from the end of the Pride Parade into the evening.

New to the pride celebration this year is a large outdoor dance, which will close the evening's festivities. As the sun goes down, the lights will come up and Everson Park will begin to move and groove with dancing and celebrating. The music spun by a local DJ will end around 11:00pm.

Unlike other cities, the committee works very hard to keep the Syracuse GBLT Pride celebration free of charge for all participants. The costs for last year's celebration were in excess of \$6,000. All monies raised to fund the Pride celebration came from our community in the form of cash grants, donations of merchandise or services, or through sponsorship. To help defray the cost, contact Michael Stephan at (315) 463.8516. Watch for other fund-raising venues in the near future. The Committee meets on the last Monday of each month at the Pride Community Center, 745 North Salina Street. Help us by volunteering your time. The committee needs volunteers to help with the parade route, security, festival staffing and other activities. Stop by the Pride Center for our meetings or watch for our announced dates for volunteer meetings. Promote the spirit of pride in Syracuse, get involved in this great event.

*Michael Stephan Fund-raising Chair
Syracuse Pride Committee 463.8516*

BEYOND BOUNDARIES

Beyond Boundaries' annual art auction will be held Sunday, May 7, 3-5 p.m. at the Community Folk Art Gallery, 2223 E. Genesee St. Artwork will be on display May 4-7. Bidding in this silent auction begins at 3 p.m. May 7th, with final bids due at 4:45 p.m. This is a fun, multi-cultural, multimedia event with diverse art at affordable prices, food and socializing! The event will benefit our four awareness projects:

Puerto Rico: This summer, members will again stay in the coastal town of Loiza (home to many local Puerto Ricans) during the Festival of Santiago; and travel to the island of Vieques, the site of controversial US bombing tests. Join us for a **Latin Dance June 3 (tentative date, stay tuned)** with dance instructors and great Latin music!

Ghana, West Africa: In August, BB returns to Ghana, meeting with members of CENSUDI, an organization in Bolgatanga that works for the empowerment of girls and women. BB helps raise scholarship funds to help girls in Bolgatanga go to school.

Lakota Nation: For four years, BB members have tented on Lakota Nation land (in Porcupine, South Dakota) and plugged into local work projects. They return this August, and also hope to participate in a Crow Nation dance festival (in Montana).

Gullah Islands, Charleston, SC: In April, three members explored sites significant to African American culture and liberation. They met with the Gullah-Geechee Sea Island Coalition, which works to preserve the unique Gullah culture, an island culture with strong West African roots maintained from the days when slaves inhabited these islands in relative isolation. BB plans to return next spring.

Beyond Boundaries is a local grassroots group that encourages cross-cultural understanding and self-awareness by building relationships across cultural and class boundaries. For information, contact Aggie Lane 478-4571 or Mardea Warner 479-5757.

Radell Roberts, for Beyond Boundaries



**WASTED LIVES,
WASTED TAX MONEY**

Governor George Pataki has a line in his state budget for \$700,000 to expand the Reynolds Game Farm, which raises pheasants for the sole purpose of providing living targets for sport hunters. These birds are reared in large numbers and then released for the pheasant hunting season. Being used to people, they sometimes don't even move when approached by a hunter. Being raised without learning survival skills from a parent, most of them who escape the gun die in other ways before Spring.

Pataki proposes to take this \$700,000 out of general tax revenues, meaning those who oppose recreational killing would be forced once again to subsidize it. This misuse of taxpayer money is especially obnoxious when you learn that the entire budget for the Endangered Species Unit of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is only \$550,000 and has been static for years, meaning it has decreased in real dollars. Apparently, state government leaders think it's far less important to protect New York's endangered animals and plants than it is to raise an exotic species (originally from China) for those who enjoy blood sports.

If you agree that this is wrong, please contact:

Gov. George Pataki, Executive Chamber, State Capitol, Albany 12224

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, NYS Assembly, Albany 12248

Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, NYS Senate, Albany 12247

your own state senator and assemblyperson

If you don't have a name and address for your own representatives, contact your local Board of Elections to find out. In Onondaga County, the Board of Elections is 435-3312.

Linda DeStefano

Neighbor to Neighbor; Nation to Nation Concert

An evening of songs, stories and connection with Onondagas

It is not too late to join the choir! We are rehearsing for a concert with the Onondaga Nation, directed by Karen Mihalyi, scheduled for June.

No auditions! You don't have to know how to sing.

We meet Wednesdays at the Westcott Community Center. 826 Euclid Avenue, 7:30pm. Call Dick Mundy for more information (455-0797). Child-care is available. The event is cosponsored by the Inter-Religious council and NOON (Neighbors Of the Onondaga Nation).

Women's Coffeehouse Proudly Presents:

The Last Hurrah! *The completion of the fourth and final season*
Friday May 19 7-10pm

First Unitarian Universalist Church - Waring Road \$1-20 sliding Scale

Hosted by *Mary Ann Zeppetello* featuring: *Eleanor Russell, Francis Parks, Rosalyn Rasberry, Colleen Kattau, Syracuse Women's Drum Circle, Jolie Rickman, Wildfire, Evelyn Ayers-Marsh*

Everyone welcome - hors d'oeuvres served

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AVAILABLE AFTER MAY 16

We are looking for a nonsmoker who is reasonably quiet, neat, conscientious and responsible. Vegetarians or semi-veggie preferred. We live on a quiet street one block from Westcott St. and overlooking Thornden Park. It is about a ten minute walk to campus. The room has its own bathroom with shower and two entrances and porch. The sunny backyard has a wonderful garden. Use of washer and dryer, new kitchen, living room with wood stove. Your choice if you want to pay \$290 and 25% of utilities or \$330 including.

libre1@juno.com 476-9266

Whose Land?

An introduction to the Iroquois Land Claims in New York State by Philip Harnden for the American Friends Service Committee

This 45 page report answers a myriad of questions and concerns in a concise, understandable voice without oversimplification.

- ◆ a brief History of The Land Claims
- ◆ concerns of Non-Indians residents and claim opponents
- ◆ AFSC's conclusions
- ◆ introduction to Indian Sovereignty
- ◆ frequently asked questions
- ◆ profile of the 6 Iroquois Nations and their current land claims
- ◆ resource addresses
- ◆ reading list
- ◆ feedback/response form

We ask all people to ask: What does Justice Require?

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420½ Gifford St., Syracuse, NY 13204
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*Guidance in Nutrition &
Natural Remedies*

Edited by Mike Kernahan

WE PLAY, THEY PAY

The effects of global warming are cruelly ironic: the impact of fossil-fuel consumption will be most severe in regions where the least fuel has been consumed. Sub-Saharan Africa is becoming drier; in East Africa droughts of the kind that used to strike every 40 years are arriving every four or five.

On the Indian subcontinent the great centers of population and food production are all fed by Himalayan glaciers. These are retreating so fast that their rivers may dry up by 2040 with catastrophic results. Bangladesh will be hit twice, as the people of the river deltas are driven off their land by rising sea levels.

Environmental refugees already outnumber those displaced by conflict. Last month Sajeeda Choudhury, the Bangladeshi environment minister, told the BBC that climate change would leave her country with 20 million environmental refugees. Rich nations would have to "rethink their immigration policies".

The distinction between political and economic refugees has always been an artificial one: poor regions of the world remain so as a result of the policies of rich. But in this case the West's moral responsibility is incontestable: every time someone in the West turns on a kettle, he or she is helping to flood Bangladesh. Global warming requires an ethical framework that classifies hitherto innocent actions as deadly. There is nowhere else for the displaced people of Bangladesh or sub-Saharan Africa to go. The cities have nothing to offer them: there will be no industrial revolution in these regions. If the West doesn't let them in, they will die, and Westerners, the consumers of fossil fuels, will be responsible. If global warming is not contained, the West will face a choice of a refugee crisis of unimaginable proportions, or direct complicity in crimes against humanity.

Source: *Corporate Watch/The Guardian*

NO NUKES FOR ME

A Lawrence Livermore Laboratory chemist has quit working on weapons research to support the antinuclear move-

ment. Andreas Toupadakis, a Livermore resident who took a job at the lab in August 1998 to pursue a career in environmental research was assigned instead to weapons work. In an open letter of resignation to lab director Bruce Tarter, Toupadakis appealed to "every secretary, technician, custodian, scientist, engineer," and others involved in weapons research to switch to other fields.

"When I was hired by (Livermore Lab)," the letter continues, "I was not adequately informed about the specifics of my job responsibilities. I came to do environmental work, believing that weapons were being dismantled and help was needed to bury

Quotes of the month:

"There are some moments when I've just been fortunate to have made it through the day without making a mistake or something."

George W. Bush waxes philosophical regarding the perils of the campaign trail.

Quote from the past:

"The political arena leaves one no alternative: one must either be a dunce or a rogue."

Emma Goldman (1869-1940), U.S. anarchist.

their deadly by-products. Instead, I found myself being expected to work on the maintenance of nuclear weapons." Toupadakis worked most recently in the lab's Stockpile Stewardship Program, which seeks to maintain and assure the reliability of the US nuclear arsenal. He called Livermore Lab "a place of insanity," and announced his intention to pursue a teaching career "to teach students about the truth: how to save humanity."

Source: *The Tri-Valley Herald*

SPEAK FREELY

Most Americans probably believe that laws exist which prevent telephone companies from giving out explicit information about who you call without first obtaining your permission. Until late last year, they would have been correct in that belief. But then the 10th circuit of the US Court of Appeals stepped in to correct the cruel injustice such provincial attitudes cause downtrodden organizations like MCI Worldwide, Sprint, Bell Atlantic, and US West. In a landmark decision the court ruled such laws violated the First Amendment rights of these poor folks, saying that "although we may feel uncomfortable knowing that our personal information is circulating in the world, we live in an open society, where information must pass freely." It was not immediately clear from the ruling how the court felt regarding the appropriateness of similar provisions for public access to corporate records.

Source: *The New York Times*

MY GOD, YOU CAN'T MEAN THOSE HUDDLED MASSES!

Yet another fantasy to which generations of US schoolchildren have been subjected is the whitewashed story of the Statue of Liberty. The traditional version has it that France presented Lady Liberty to the United States in 1886 in commemoration of the friendship of the two nations. Prominently placed on a small island in New York harbor, it became a potent symbol to millions of arriving European immigrants. A wonderful story, but basically, untrue.

The idea for the statue was actually conceived at a dinner party hosted by a French abolitionist in the year Abraham Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation, which theoretically freed US slaves. The National Park Service has said it is investigating these claims and will report on its findings later this year. Liberty herself provides some compelling evidence in support of the claim: a broken chain lies at her feet.

Source: *Various news reports*



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SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

1 People Against the Death Penalty meeting, Church Center, 3048 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.

May 1-31: "Martin Luther King, Jr.: Peacemaker: a Photographic History of the Civil Rights Movement." Onondaga Historical Association, 321 Montgomery St. 471-0420.

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

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

"Voices on the Land: Exploring Issues & Facts About the Native Land Claims in Central NY." Storer Auditorium, OCC 6:30pm. 476-1196.

SEUNA meeting. Erwin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm.

4 Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 476-6226.

Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 476-7475.

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

6 "Guns, Drugs & Butterflies." Syracuse Peace Council's 64th Birthday Celebration. Featuring Cecilia Zarate-Laun on Colombia. 7pm. Northeast Community Center, 716 Hawley Ave. Siding Scale. 472-5478. See you there!

Children Make Change, story hour for ages 4-6. My Sisters' Words Bookstore, 304 N. McBride St. Fee: handful of change from each child. 10:30am-noon. Cosponsored by AFSC. 428-0227.

7 7th Annual Multicultural Art Show Closing Silent Auction. Community Folk Art Gallery, 2223 E. Genesee St. Benefit for Beyond Boundaries. 3-5pm. 478-4571. Art Show runs from May 4-7.

A Day for Mumia. The Theater at Madison Square Garden. 2pm. 202-544-5752.

8 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. 479-7301.

9 EVERY TUE: Community Media Action Group meeting. 6pm. Call Ace for place, 423-4783.

HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Monticore St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.

"Voices on the Land: Exploring Issues & Facts About the Native Land Claims in Central NY." Storer Auditorium, OCC 6:30pm. 476-1196.

CNY NOW general meeting. 5789 Widewaters Pkwy. 7pm. 487-3188.

Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7773.

10 NAACP meeting. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-8933.

Syracuse United Neighbors/Skunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.

Sierra Club monthly meeting. 5 Ilick Hall. SUNY ESF. 7:30pm. Martha. 492-4745.

11 Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 206 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-6237.

EVERY THU: Syracuse Community Radio. WXSE 90.5 FM. "Jim Hightower Radio Commentaries" 4:58pm; FAIR's "Counter Spin" 5pm; "Making Contact" 5:30pm; "Darkwave & Industrial" 7pm.

EVERY THU: Sitting Meditation at Women's INFO. 601 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free.

EVERY THU: Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 6:30pm. Ace. 423-4783.

12 "Mothers in Prison, Children in Crisis" Mother's Day March & Rally. 11am. start at Jail Ministry, 208 Stocum for a march to the Justice Center. Speakers, open microphone. Cosponsored by Peace Council & many others.

Peace Action Mother's Day Event. An evening of stories, testimonies & songs. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. \$3 admission. 478-7442.

13 Colorblind James Experience in concert. Westcott Community Center. 8pm. \$9/\$6 admission. Refreshments. 478-8634.

14 EVERY SUN: Brick by Brick prison solidarity group meets. 172 Fellows Ave. 7pm. 473-9005.

Million Mom March. Washington DC. Demonstrating for stronger gun laws. 478-7442 for carpool info from Syracuse.

EVERY SUN: Common Threads, acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm.

15 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.

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

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

17 NAACP meeting. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-8933.

Syracuse United Neighbors/Skunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.

Sierra Club monthly meeting. 5 Ilick Hall. SUNY ESF. 7:30pm. Martha. 492-4745.

18 "Voices on the Land: Exploring Issues & Facts About the Native Land Claims in Central NY." Storer Auditorium, OCC. 6:30pm. 476-1196.

Citizen's Roundtable. Topic: "The People's Review Board: The Future is Now" with speaker Felicia Davis. Discuss issues of concern in our community. S. Presbyterian Church, corner of S. Salina & Colvin. 7-9pm. Martha. 492-4745.

19 Women's Coffeehouse presents "The Last Hurrah!" Don't miss the last of our 4-year run. Featuring many performers including Rosalyn Rasberry, Colleen Parks, Joie Rickman, Colleen Kaitau & more. 1st Unitarian Church, Waring Rd. 7-10pm. \$1-\$20 sliding scale. Everyone welcome.

20 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.

21 Socialist Forum. Topic: "Seattle, Washington, DC—What Next?" Panel discussion. Westcott Community Center. 3-5pm. Free. 475-2395.

New Environment Association potluck & meeting. Friends Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. 6pm. 446-8009.

22 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.

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

EVERY WED: JD High School Acceptance Coalition meeting. Gay and straight teens working together. 2:15-3pm. JD High School, Eddinger Rd. Room B-15. Contact Zack at 446-9290.

24 EVERY WED: Peace News-letter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. 472-5478.

Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker Benefit Dinner. St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center, Winton St. off Burnet Ave. 5:30pm. \$0-\$15 donation. 471-6853.

EVERY WED: Syracuse Community Choir rehearsal for concert with Onondaga Nation & Friends in mid-June. Come sing with us! No auditions. Westcott Community Center. 7:30pm. 445-0797.

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

Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SFC, 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Call to check date.

26 Women's Coffeehouse presents "The Last Hurrah!" Don't miss the last of our 4-year run. Featuring many performers including Rosalyn Rasberry, Colleen Parks, Joie Rickman, Colleen Kaitau & more. 1st Unitarian Church, Waring Rd. 7-10pm. \$1-\$20 sliding scale. Everyone welcome.

27 Pax Christi meeting. Stocum House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woollever. 446-1693.

28 EVERY MON: Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634

EVERY TUE: Syracuse Community Radio meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 476-4769.

EVERY MON, TUES, THURS: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 12pm. New friends, lunch, programs. 478-8634.

29 EVERY MON: Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634

EVERY SUN: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable. Ch. 3 in city. Ch. 12 in suburbs. 8pm. Produced by Peace Council. Tune in, tape it, share it!

30 EVERY TUE: Syracuse Community Radio meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 476-4769.

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**Syracuse Peace Council
Community Calendar
May 2000**



Thirty years of Earth Days, 25 years since Vietnam and the Peace Council is 64! What a great opportunity to gather and celebrate with old and new friends.

Saturday, May 6, 2000 ~ 7-10pm

Northeast Community Center

716 Hawley Ave (near Corner of Oak)

Close to the Peace Council

GUNS, DRUGS & BUTTERFLIES

Syracuse Peace Council's 64th Birthday Celebration

7-8pm	Social time - lite fare by <i>Ron Shuffler</i> (Spanikopita, greek salad, hummus & more)	childcare
	Front Room Bookstore T-shirts, books, buttons , special <i>vintage poster sale</i>	
8-9pm	Welcome -Speaker & discussion	
9-10pm	Birthday celebration Awards & Music Desserts by <i>Theresa Florack</i> & 7 others	
	Live Latin Sound by <i>Barb Schloss</i> & <i>Tom Witkowski</i>	
	Reservations recommended - not required. Call (315)472-5478	



featured speaker **Cecilia Zarate-Laun**
co-founder of the Colombia Support Network

CECILIA ZARATE-LAUN

Born in Colombia, Cecilia Zarate-Laun became a professor of nutrition at the National University of Colombia in Bogota. After completing a master's degree in the U.S. and marrying an attorney from Wisconsin, she served as the nutritionist for the National Nutrition Plan for Colombia's National Planning Department. Leaving government service, she returned to the U.S. and became active in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, in which she served as Latin American issues consultant for several years.

Concerned about the high level of violence and injustice in her home country, she co-founded the Colombia Support Network in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1988. CSN has expanded to a nationwide grassroots organi-

zation providing information about the human rights crisis in Colombia and establishing sister community relationships between United States and Colombian communities under the stress of the war. It works to promote solidarity between U.S. citizens and Colombians who are working for peace and justice and whose lives are often threatened.

She has written numerous articles, among them "The War on Drugs from the Supply Side", published in *Z magazine*, and studies of the effects of the war and neo-liberal economic policies on Colombian society and the environment. She coauthored with Ed Hermann "Globalization and Instability: The case of Colombia" in the current issue of *Z magazine*. She concluded a speaking tour through the United States focusing on the effects of U.S. government policies on

the situation in Colombia and promoting formation of new sister community links. Her tour included a talk at the School of the Americas Watch demonstration in Columbus, Georgia, on Colombia's military trainees and their human rights abuses. She has been a member of the WILPF national board; a member of the AFSC-Permanent Panel on Latin America and the Caribbean; a member of the Wisconsin Community Fund Grant Allocations Committee; and is a current member of the SOA Watch board. In April she was a keynote speaker at the University of Colorado's Conference of World Affairs.

Cecilia is currently researching effects of US policy on the Colombian rainforest and ecosystem. The increased aerial sprayings of both herbicides and a fungus apparently engineered by the DEA will be subjects of soon to be published articles.

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Peace News Letter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

June 2000 PNL 692

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Annual Vacation Guide Inside!

Published Monthly by the Syracuse Peace Council - Founded in 1936

Peace Newsletter

June 2000

PNL 692



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SYRACUSE PEACE CONCIL PAGE

**Syracuse Peace Council's
64th Birthday Celebration**
**GUNS, DRUGS
& BUTTERFLIES**

A BITTERSWEET PARTY

The Syracuse Peace Council celebrated birthday # 64 on May 6, 2000. It was a lovely party. A large crowd enjoyed the wonderful food by Ron Shuffler, Teresa Florack, and others, cheery decorations with the Chris Spies-Rusk touch, toe-tapping music from Barb Schloss and Tom Witkowski, and presents to our activist honorees Dick Keogh, Bill Griffin, and the energizing young people at St. Francis Farm.

It was a time for meeting new people and old friends as we shared stories of kids, grandkids, mutual friends, and the peace and justice work that's been happening since the last time we spent an evening together. All this and sweet sunshine and soft breezes too. Thanks to the usual suspects for set-up and clean-up. Thanks also to the other folks whose last minute help was needed and appreciated. Special recognition to Jack Manno who, with delicacy and firmness, kept us from being greedy

with the delicious spanikopita. *This was the sweet part.*

It was also an evening of learning, of hearing about things that shouldn't be, things that hurt our hearts and made us angry. Our guest speaker, Cecilia Zarate-Laun, co-founder of the Colombian Support Network, taught us about the impact of the self-imposed military and economic imperialism that is the story of Colombia today. Guns, Drugs, and Butterflies - this grouping that we used in our publicity and invitation - was explained. We learned, among other things, that the pesticides used to increase coca farm production threaten certain butterfly species - a poignant symbol of the vulnerability of all life and beauty. Ever-present are the guns of military and para-military soldiers, some of whose leaders may have "sharpened their skills" at the School of the Americas. *This was the bitter part.*

We come back to the sweet - or how else do we keep going? The expressions of enjoyment of the evening remind us that in community -sharing our food, our laughter, our stories, and our pain - is our strength. We hope to see you many times at the Peace Council before we come together for birthday # 65.

Rae Kramer

Green Grow the Grasses...

...and the weeds and the flowers and then the weeds again. The recurring cycles of life and growing bring our recurring need for help. If you haven't quite satisfied your need to do spring clean-up, have we got a deal for you! In fact, the deal is still good no matter what. Please call us at (315) 472-5478 if you can give the Peace Council some time for: - clipping, mowing, weeding and other yard improvements - painting - inside and out - general housework - organizing, i.e. straightening up the second floor - anything else you feel like doing to help with the house and yard. Bring a friend to help out, it's a great way to spend time together for a good cause.

We will be enormously appreciative of whatever help you can give. Hours available to meet your schedule. Just call and leave a message if we're not in. Thanks in advance for your time and labor.

Statement of Purpose



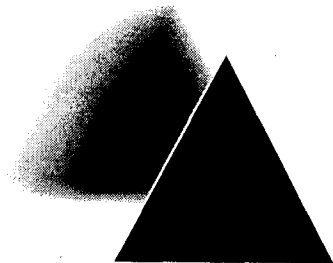
The *Syracuse Peace Council (SPC)*, founded in 1936, is an antiwar/social justice organization. It is community-based, autonomous and funded by the contributions of its supporters.

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.

Queer Reflections



To celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender pride month, we asked local activists to reflect on how their gender and sexuality interacted with their lives in the community. What we got in return were stories of surviving illness, prejudice and alienation, of being teachers, performers and participants in communities that are local, universal and on-line. These stories testify to the diversity and depth of the LGBT community, the foundation of our pride. We hope they will inspire you to write your own queer reflections and send them to the PNL for next year's Pride issue.

And happy pride to all!

Winning the Lottery

Henry Yokel



I have just celebrated the 5th anniversary of my successful liver transplant! My transplant came about as a result of liver deterioration due to a chronic hepatitis B infection, a condition which I've learned is highly concentrated in the gay male population. My journey started in the late 70's, early 80's with my exposure to Hepatitis B, "the other gay disease." I came of age as a gay man in the early 70's and didn't worry about anything more serious than syphilis or gonorrhea, which were annoying, but curable. My first adventure at a gay bath house earned me a case of hepatitis, which "with proper care and diet you could get over in a few weeks," or so I was told at the time. About two to three weeks after my initial symptoms, I felt better, and I thought I was over it. The doctor cleared me, and I never gave it another thought until the summer of 1983.

A routine physical with a new internist, who was up on diseases among the gay male population, revealed that I was still carrying the Hep B virus. I had joined a select number of folks (10%) who become chronic carriers. I was told that I was asymptomatic

and that the virus was doing "a slow burn." There was no cure, however, I should have a normal life expectancy. "Just be careful not to pass it on." So I didn't worry about it throughout the decade of the 80's.

The 90's were a different story. In 1991, I started to have digestive problems which I first thought were acid reflux. It turned out that my liver enzymes had gone way up. A liver specialist at Upstate (NYS Health Science Center at Syracuse) got me involved with group trials of a drug called interferon at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. I was flown there once a month for six months, at government expense, to learn how to inject myself with the drug and to get periodic supplies. The side effects were terrible! I felt like I constantly had the flu for the six months that I was on interferon. It proved to have no effect on the virus in my case. (There was only a 40% positive response rate.) After I went off the drug, I experienced such a resurgence of energy and good health that I was convinced that they were wrong.

It wasn't until January of 1993 that symptoms of actual liver failure developed. And I was again checking in with liver specialists at Upstate for help with managing this disease. This time, I didn't find much optimism or affirmation. At first they were only interested in me as a potential "guinea pig" for more drug trials. Then as my symptoms became more advanced and their drug study "was pulled due to too many deaths," the doctors began losing interest in helping me. When I suggested the possibility of a liver transplant, I was told by one specialist that I "wouldn't find a transplant facility anywhere that would waste a good liver" on me because of my chronic Hepatitis B status and, even if I did, I would never get my health insurance to cover it. In fact, this same doctor tried to convince me that I had Kaposi's Sarcoma because of a skin lesion on my face that was the result of my liver failure. He insisted that I have yet

another HIV test and have the lesion biopsied by a dermatologist before he would continue to treat me.

Well, facing certain death with no options left, I first got depressed and was ready to give up; then I got angry and ready to fight for my life; and finally I got even! I fired that doctor and found a better one, and two years later I was headed for Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston for my liver transplant, which turned out to be a great success!

As the orderly wheeled me into the operating room for the surgery, he remarked, "Well I guess you won 'the Lottery' last night." I didn't understand what he meant at first, but later it began to sink in. I had never considered myself very lucky or blessed until that moment, but I've been counting my blessings ever since: being blessed by the miraculous presence of "angels" along the way, who restored my self-esteem, got me past countless obstacles and facilitated my journey from one step to the next; being lucky enough to survive the development of the drugs and technology which have kept me alive; being lucky to have the support of family, friends, colleagues, and an activist Community that inspired me to fight for and demand equal treatment from the medical establishment... because I was worth it!

Henry Yokel is a sometimes gay activist, a grateful liver transplant recipient, and a survivor of a chronic Hepatitis B infection.

Performing in the Grid Lines

Sonita Surratt

While reading an article and viewing the art work of British artists Gilbert and George, I began to question my own grid lines. Do I have a performance closet? Do I live in/out of the closet? During the early seventies, an extremely homophobic period, Gilbert and George's artistry existed in between vertical and horizontal lines; boundaries could not be crossed.

I will never forget a parent's telephone

Continued on page 6

Nonviolent Resistance to US Militarism on Vieques, Puerto Rico

Andy Mager

During the past month the US media (and general public) suddenly discovered one of the most exciting nonviolent campaigns in recent years—the effort to evict the Navy from Vieques, Puerto Rico. Beginning in late April, the news was filled with reports that US forces were preparing to arrest nonviolent demonstrators on Vieques. This coverage continued through the May 4 eviction of over 200 activists.

Although the media coverage has slowed to a trickle since the major confrontation, activists have regrouped and continue their resistance. The US forces were successful in shutting down the public encampments and securing the two bases briefly, but they have been unable to prevent the ongoing return of demonstrators to the military areas.

The activists are prepared for a protracted struggle. In a recent update, organizer Robert Rabin wrote, “Our people are committed, more each day, to peaceful civil disobedience in defense of our right to life.” On May 18, Rabin was the victim of a brutal assault by a special unit of the Puerto Rican police who have maintained a heavy handed presence on Vieques since early May.

During a journey to Vieques in March, I had the opportunity to visit the camp at the entrance to Camp Garcia (one of 14 camps scattered in various parts of the military areas) and meet some of those working to end the military domination of their island.

One such inspiring activist is Luisa Guadelupe who, despite her 82 years of age, is a sprightly woman. She remembers Vieques before the US Navy came and evicted her family and thousands of others from their land 60 years ago. She vividly recalls the way her family of 16 was thrown off their



Andy Mager interviews long-time Viequense activist Luisa Guadelupe at the nonviolent encampment outside the gates of Camp Garcia on Vieques. Photo: Cheri Capparelli

land after receiving a scant 24 hours notice. “They came with a big truck and put all our belongings in the truck. They brought us to an acre of land, but didn’t give you a title—just in case they needed to move us again.”

A 1947 Interior Department memo discussed plans to move the entire population of Vieques to the island of Santa Cruz. Fortunately, these plans were never carried out.

“It was during World War II and people didn’t have the intelligence or bravery to confront the military,” she recalled. But Doña Luisa and her compatriots have matured over the years and, just over a year ago took a stand to rid their beautiful island of the US military occupation and its accompanying bombing. She is clearly an inspiration to other protestors who see the fire in her eyes for justice.

STILL A BEAUTIFUL ISLAND

Vieques is a small island off the northeast coast of Puerto Rico. It is renowned for its lovely and secluded beaches, as well as one of the world’s three bioluminescent bays.

The Navy controls both ends of the string-bean-shaped island, leaving only the center third for civilian use. The ongoing military exercises have been so intense that the island is reputed to have more craters per square mile than the moon.

This military onslaught has led to grave human and ecological consequences. Vieques has a 53% higher infant mortality rate than the rest of Puerto Rico and the highest cancer rate in all the Caribbean. A security guard I met at the ferry terminal described undiagnosable skin problems which she believes are related to the military contamination. In May 1999 the Navy admitted that it had fired depleted uranium shells on the eastern end of the island. Prevailing winds carry the uranium dust directly over civilian areas.

There have been sporadic campaigns by the people of Vieques and Puerto Rico to regain their land. However, they never achieved mass support and were quickly repressed. The people of Vieques particularly remember Angel Rodriguez Cristobal

Andy Mager is a former PNL editor, long-time social activist and freelance journalist. He’s excited to track nonviolent resistance to militarism and injustice wherever it rears its transformative potential.

who was arrested with 20 others for protesting the military presence on their island in 1979. He was sentenced to six months in federal prison in Tallahassee, Florida and was brutally murdered in his cell.

RESISTANCE MOUNTS

Everything changed on April 19, 1999 when David Sanes Rodriguez was killed and four others wounded during a US bombing exercise. His death ignited the long simmering resentment of the Viequesens. They organized quickly and set up a series of non-violent encampments which prevented military exercises for over a year.

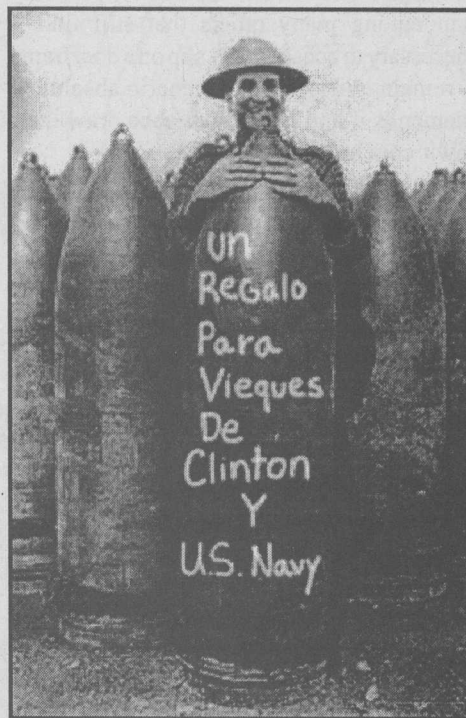
"Fuera La Marina de Vieques" (Navy Out of Vieques) has become a common refrain. On February 21, tens of thousands demonstrated in Puerto Rico's capital city of San Juan. In early April over 2,000 people (of a total population of less than 10,000) participated in an anti-Navy motorcade on Vieques. Religious leaders on both islands have been nearly unanimous in their support for the demonstrations.

Angel DeLeon, a 6th grade school teacher, was inspired to take a semester off from school to work full-time at the encampment. A veteran of both the US Army and the Coast Guard, he was adamant that "we're gonna stay here [at the encampment] until the Navy leaves." A veteran of the invasion of Grenada who taught Salvadoran soldiers at the School of the Americas, DeLeon now finds himself head to head with his former employer.

Despite attempts by law enforcement to provoke demonstrators, the activists have maintained their commitment to nonviolence. After the main police operation on May 4, the activists were taken to Roosevelt Roads military base on the main island. They refused to sign any agreements that they would not return to the military areas on Vieques and were released without any charges being filed. A small number of demonstrators evaded the police and remained on the base.

Ten days later, nearly 60 people were arrested, including the former president of the Puerto Rican Bar Association and a former boxing champion. Puerto Rican Independence Party President Ruben Berrios has also been arrested as well as a number of religious leaders.

On December 12, US District Court Judge Carmen Consuelo Vargas de Cerezo recused herself from Berrios' case, declar-



ing, "Vieques is a silent prayer for peace and renewal before the Holy Sacrament." In her statement she indicated strong support for the Vieques cause.

There has also been significant support for the protests among the Puerto Rican community in the US, as well as from some peace and justice organizations. Two US legislators of Puerto Rican ancestry were arrested on Vieques. Protests occurred in over a dozen US cities, including one the day after the military action, where seven activists were arrested for jumping onto the field at Yankee Stadium with Puerto Rican flags. Statements of support have been issued by the United Church of Christ and the National Association of Social Workers among others. The Springfield (MA) City Council passed a unanimous resolution calling "upon the United States Navy to relocate from the island of Vieques and return the land to the Municipality of Vieques for civilian uses."

The organizers continue to develop strategies for the next phase of their campaign. They wholeheartedly reject the agreement forced on Puerto Rico by President Clinton in February. This agreement, signed by Puerto

Rican Governor Pedro Rossello, extends the military occupation of Vieques for at least three more years. During that time the Navy agrees not to use live ammunition. Vieques will receive a miserly \$40 million for economic development and a referendum will be held within the next two years to determine the ultimate fate of the bases.

DON'T VOTE—LEAVE

"There was no vote when the military took our land, so why do we need to vote to evict them?" asks organizer Angel DeLeon. He and others are concerned about the military's ability to use intimidation and money to influence the outcome of any voting which were to occur. The activists continue to call for an immediate end to the military occupation.

Doña Luisa was among those arrested by the FBI, despite the cautions of her grandchildren "to be careful." Her determined resistance to the US military presence on her island "doesn't mean that I don't like North Americans," she emphasizes. Doña Luisa remains confident that if people in the US understood the reality facing her people they would join in the chorus calling for an end to the military domination of Vieques.

What You Can Do

Contact Jeffrey Farrow, (202) 456-2896 (phone), (202) 456-2889 (fax) and Maria Echaveste at the White House, (202) 456-6594 (phone), (202) 456-6702 (fax) and tell them you oppose President Clinton's use of force in Vieques. Contact your federal representatives in Congress as well.

For further information, contact: Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques (Comité Pro Rescate y Desarrollo de Vieques), Apartado 1424, Vieques, PR 00765, (787) 741-0716, email: <bieke@coqui.net> or check the web at: www.viequeslibre.org.

VIEQUES libre 

Reflections from page 3

inquiry about a music class I offered for young children. After she asked what I considered the relevant class content questions, she without hesitation asked if I were a lesbian; she had heard this. Without hesitation and I hoped masked defiance, I responded. That moment before I spoke seemed a blur, but I remember thinking "who I am as a person is being challenged." Never before had anyone in any way refused to enroll their child or children in my class because of my sexuality. The woman's justification probably floored me even more. To enroll her child would contradict the tenets of her Muslim faith, the orthodoxy of which espouses my lifestyle is immoral.

Being more of an optimist than a pessimist, I focused my attention on the young people that were interested in my artistic expertise. I was determined that arrogance and discrimination under the guise of religion would not subvert my focus from sharing the universal language of music. While steadfast, however, part of me became an empty frame in the Gilbert and George grid. In the grid I must discern and scrutinize because being open and speaking freely forces closed minds to either lie or treat you as though you don't exist. This idea of being in an empty space exists in reality, not in a void, which personifies the sense of being valueless exponentially. Only with confidence can I do silent battle with the lies and rejection. Seeing their fear and embracing myself I can use my art to fill the grids with meaning.

A more recent encounter that was somewhat more intimate prompted such feelings. I worked with a group that was excited about the improvement of their sound and was very happy to have me as their vocal teacher/coach until they became aware of my sexuality and then one by one our interaction changed. Fortunately, I was able to see the innate nature of my emotional response where trust had been invested. As an artist, particularly in the performing arts, trust is such a necessity.

One's perception, however, does not deter them from the road to self-preservation. Since I do not live a surreptitious life, I can probably forego the idea of a performance closet. As experiences accumulate so does the need to be more discerning.

Though I am not a silent partner, I probably am among many others that still find it necessary to occasionally slip on a doorframe - remain quiet - when a scenario absolutely demands it and let the audience draw their own conclusions.

Sonita Surratt completed her degree work in music and theater.. She is a member of Glimmerglass Opera Company, Artistic Director for Rising Sun Productions, and is best recognized for Opera in the Hood. Her theater credits include the role of Jacintha in the off-Broadway production of Testimony.

Gender Queerness and Maintaining a Sense of Self

Rob S. Pusch



In 1993 I came out as transgendered. At that time knew I didn't feel like a woman. Others seemed to think that meant I must be a man. But I didn't feel like that either. I also wasn't quite sure what I really and truly meant when I said I was transgendered. I read Leslie Feinberg's Stone Butch Blues when it came out and the story seemed to speak to me. But I still needed to find other transgendered persons to speak to. I went in search of others like myself. I needed someone to talk to who felt the same way I did in order to help me process this. It's hard to find community when you're not quite sure what community you fit into.

At that time there wasn't a visible trans community to be found in Syracuse. It wasn't clear to me that there was a visible community anywhere. While I did come to find out about three other guys like myself, for the most part I heard rumors of there being other transgendered persons around town, but no one was willing to actually tell me who these people were. It wasn't at all like when I came out as a lesbian when social and support groups were fairly easy to find. I knew two, yes two, other guys locally who identified as transgendered. But two doesn't offer much in the way of community. I tried calling the number for the local support group for trans-persons. I got a machine; no one ever called me back. I wasn't even sure yet what I was feeling about myself. I wanted other people like myself to talk this through with.

At the time, I was already fairly active

online on various listservs (electronic mail discussion lists) for lesbians where transgendered issues came up often. I quickly found lists specifically for people who identified as transgendered on the female-to-male spectrum. It was my first chance to really correspond with people who seemed to feel like me: people born into female bodies, yet not identifying as women. People who also struggled with not identifying as women, but not necessarily identifying as men. People who identified their gender in a variety of different ways, such as GenderQueer, FtM, boi, boychick, trannie-boi, trannie-fag, or as one friend of mine wrote "I'm a boi-fag-dyke-ftm-genderqueer." I could define who I was, I could redefine myself, rethink my identity. I was allowed to express the ambiguity, contradictions, and inconsistencies of who I was without judgment; without the feeling that I must choose now and maintain the choice forever. We could discuss the contradictions between our private selves, and our public selves. The difference between feeling as if we are other-gendered, yet living within a society that allows us to only fit within one of two gendered boxes. I found a community of individuals who were, in many ways, like myself. Even upon meeting these people in person, to them, I was who I said I was; they did not judge who I was based on my body, as happened in my day-to-day life.

It often surprises me when people ask "how do you know these people are who they say they are?" While there is a chance that some are not, the ones I've grown closest to are people who I see periodically off-line, although many of them I see only once a year at one of the annual conferences for those of us who identify as being on the female-to-male spectrum. Still, they are often the people who know me best, or at least know best the thoughts and feelings that I keep deep inside. They are the people who help me survive the day to day life and the struggle of maintaining a sense of who I am in a society that cannot yet accept anything other than those who are man or woman.

Rob S. Pusch is a boi-dyke-ftm-genderqueer who grew up in Syracuse, but left for a while and then came back to go to graduate school here in Instructional design. Someday he will graduate and leave again.



SUMMER VACATION GUIDE

compiled by Andy Molloy

artwork by Karen Kerney

Our annual summer vacation guide is back for another year. Consider one of these intriguing and important events when you plan your journey away from home. Joining with others in their struggles reminds us that the movement for social change is alive and vibrant in communities across the U.S. Perhaps your participation will help bring our diverse communities a small step closer and strengthen our resolve to work towards a better future for us all.



POLITICS

Radical Walking Tours of New York City

DATE: June 4, 11; July 2, 16; August 13, 20

PLACE: New York, NY

CONTACT: 718-492-0069; www.he.net/~radtours

COMMENT: learn about the social history of the city

Shut Down The Organization of American States

DATE: June 4-6

PLACE: Detroit, MI & Windsor, Canada

CONTACT: 313-770-2041

COMMENT: the FTAA is a proposal by the OAS to establish a "free trade" zone in the western hemisphere that would extend NAFTA (North American Free Trade Area) to the tip of South America. The main purpose of these trade areas is to allow corporations to reap greater profits by getting rid of environmental regulations and unionized workplaces and opening the borders for corporations to exploit workers in many nations, while at the same time refusing to grant access to workers who cross borders seeking better working and living conditions; also coincides with the People's Global Action Conference

Star Wars Action Days

DATE: June 8-10

PLACE: your local community

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

COMMENT: join local activists who will protest at Congressional district offices across the country to voice public opposition to Star Wars-type weapon systems

National Sudan Day

DATE: June 9

PLACE: Washington, DC & other locations

CONTACT: Christian Solidarity International and American Anti-Slavery Group, 888-212-5044 or 202-822-6106

COMMENT: the Campaign calls the nation to action and petitions President Clinton to stop what Congress deems a "genocidal" onslaught by the Government of Sudan on its indigenous African population; the onslaught includes forced starvation, enslavement, and religious persecution

Delmarva Chicken Festival Protest

DATE: June 10

PLACE: Berlin, MD

CONTACT: United Poultry Concern, Karen Davis, 757-678-7875; www.upc-online.org/000610chicken_festival.html

COMMENT: demonstrate against factory farming

Leonard Peltier Vigils

DATE: June 11-12

PLACE: many communities

CONTACT: Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, PO Box 583, Lawrence, KS 66044; 785-842-5774; www.freepeltier.org

COMMENT: there are a large number of vigils planned before Leonard's parole hearing

11th Annual Protecting Mother Earth Conference

DATE: June 14-17

PLACE: Brownsville, TX

CONTACT: Charlotte Caldwell, Indigenous Environmental Network, PO Box 485, Bemidji, MN 56619; 218-751-4967; www.alphacdc.com/ien

COMMENT: focus will be on reclaiming our sacred water: purification, healing & activism

2000 Subversions: Women's Studies & the 'Twenty-First Century'

DATE: June 14-18

PLACE: Boston, MA

CONTACT: NWSA, University of Maryland, 7100

Baltimore Blvd., Ste. 500, College Park, MD 20740; 301-403-0525; www.nwsa.org

COMMENT: 21st Annual National Women's Studies Conference

National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America 11th Annual Conference

DATE: June 14-20

PLACE: Washington, DC

CONTACT: N'COBRA; PO Box 62622, Washington, DC 20029; 202-635-6272; www.ncobra.com

COMMENT: includes workshops, daily activities for youth, and two days of lobbying on Capitol Hill for the passage of H.R. 40, The Commission to Study Reparations for African Americans Act

Black Radical Congress, National Organizing Conference

DATE: June 23-25

PLACE: Atlanta, GA

CONTACT: Black Radical Congress, PO Box 490365, Atlanta, GA 30349; www.blackradicalcongress.org

8th Annual Dyke March

DATE: June 24

PLACE: San Francisco, CA

CONTACT: 415-241-8882; <http://www.fireworx.org/dykemarch.html>

COMMENT: starts at Dolores Park; keynotes by Dorothy Allison & Jewelle Gomez

San Francisco Pride Parade: It's About Freedom

DATE: June 24-25

PLACE: San Francisco, CA

CONTACT: San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Parade Committee Inc., 1230 Market St, PMB 421, San Francisco, CA 94102; 415-864-3733; www.SF-Pride.org/home.html

COMMENT: food booths, arts and crafts, dancing and entertainment

VACATION GUIDE

Summer Lobby Days to End the Iraq Sanctions

DATE: June 24-28

PLACE: Washington, DC

CONTACT: Education for Peace in Iraq Center, 1101 Penn Ave SE, Washington, DC 20003; 202-543-6176; www.saveageneration.org

How to Run a Large Scale Community Supported Agriculture Farm

DATE: June 28

PLACE: Burlington Intervale, VT

CONTACT: 802-434-4122; www.nofavt.org

COMMENT: 3-5pm

People's Campaign for Nonviolence

DATE: July 1-August 9

PLACE: Washington, DC

CONTACT: Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960; 914-358-4601; www.nonviolence.org/for

COMMENT: huge schedule of events including daily vigils, rallies, nonviolent actions, nonviolence trainings, leafletting, panel discussions

Protest Launch of New Navy Destroyer & Excessive Military Spending

DATE: July 2

PLACE: Bath Iron Works, ME

CONTACT: Jack Bussell, 207-772-1442

COMMENT: in the spirit of the protests against the WTO, IMF and World Bank, activists are, once again, confronting the military industrial complex when the USS MCCAMPBELL, an Arleigh Burke Class Aegis guided missile destroyer, will be launched; sponsored by Veterans For Peace & Peace Action

Earth First! Round River Rendezvous

DATE: July 2-9

PLACE: Cherokee National Forest, TN

CONTACT: River Faction, POB 16242, Knoxville, TN 37996; 865-633-8483; <http://move.to/katuah>

COMMENT: workshops in camo, stealth, radios, waterfalls, fields, homebrew

Genetic Engineering and Our Food Supply

DATE: July 6

PLACE: White River Jct, VT

CONTACT: Adam Appel, 802-295-5804

COMMENT: free panel discussion

8th International Conference on War Tax Resistance & Peace Tax Campaigns

DATE: July 6-9

PLACE: Washington, DC

CONTACT: National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, 2121 Decatur Pl NW, Washington, DC 20008; 202-483-3751; www.nonviolence.org/peacetax

COMMENT: held in the U.S. for the first time

Southern Girls Convention

DATE: July 7-9

PLACE: Louisville, KY

CONTACT: Liz Palmer, 502-459-4492; www.brat.org/sgc2000

COMMENT: for radical Southern wimmin and their allies; includes workshops on radical parenting and education, reproductive freedom, queer liberation, youth liberation, anti-tampon campaign, zine-making, hacktivism, graffiti and street propaganda; also many wimmin musical acts & vegan food; childcare

National Jewish Fast For Peace & Justice

DATE: July 20

PLACE: US Capitol, Washington, DC

CONTACT: Lee Diamond, 703-560-3623

COMMENT: call for ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, promotion of a federal living wage, and enactment of a moratorium on the death penalty

Stop the Mad Scientists! Animal Genetix Days of Action

DATE: July 20-26

PLACE: Minneapolis, St. Paul, MN

CONTACT: Upper Midwest Resistance Against Genetic Engineering, 651-213-6131

COMMENT: Earth & Animal Liberation activists will converge to greet the International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG) at their conference; a wide range of activities is planned to help mobilize against the rapidly developing bio technologies that threaten wildlife, and aim to control and commodify living beings on a entirely new level

Pax Christi USA National Assembly

DATE: July 28-30

PLACE: Ashland, VA

CONTACT: Pax Christi, 532 West 8th St, Erie, PA 16502; 814-453-4955; www.nonviolence.org/pcusa

COMMENT: Sound The Jubilee Trumpet: Reconcile, Renew, Rejoice!; features noted scripture scholar, author and activist Ched Myers

Unity 2000

Protest the Republican Convention

DATE: July 30-August 3

PLACE: Philadelphia, PA

CONTACT: Unity 2000/PCAN, 3001 Walnut St., 5th Fl, Philadelphia, PA 19104; 215-382-1390; www.unity2000.com

COMMENT: multi-issue, multi-constituency march and rally to kick off a week of actions during the Republican Convention. Join thousands of people from organizations and movements across the U.S. If you care about fighting globalization, establishing real democracy, protecting workers rights, civil and human rights for all people, saving our environment, eliminating poverty...other actions include legal rallies and massive civil disobedience.

Nonviolent Witness at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station

DATE: July 31

PLACE: Norfolk, VA

CONTACT: Norfolk Catholic Worker, 1321 W. 38th St., Norfolk, VA 23508; 757-423-5420

COMMENT: where the Navy keeps W-88 nuclear warheads ready to be fitted onto Tomahawk missiles

National Mobilization to End the Sanctions Against Iraq

DATE: August 5-9

PLACE: White House, Washington, DC

CONTACT: Education for Peace in Iraq Center, 1101 Penn Ave SE, Washington, DC 20003; 202-543-6176; www.saveageneration.org

COMMENT: join Kathy Kelly, Martin Sheen and others to deliver thousands of petitions on the 10th anniversary of the sanctions

Demonstration & Civil Resistance at the Y-12 Uranium Processing Plant

DATE: August 6

PLACE: Oak Ridge, TN

CONTACT: Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, 100 Tulsa Rd., Suite 4A, Oak Ridge, TN 37380; 423-483-8202; orep@earthlink.net

North American Anarchist Conference

DATE: August 11-17

PLACE: Los Angeles, CA

CONTACT: The August Collective, PO Box 6188 Fullerton, CA 92834; www.geocities.com/naacweb

COMMENT: networking, workshops, direct action, films, art, plays, protest & more

Home District Lobby Days to End the Iraq Sanctions

DATE: August 11-31

PLACE: your community

CONTACT: Education for Peace in Iraq Center, 1101 Penn Ave SE, Washington, DC 20003; 202-543-6176; www.saveageneration.org

COMMENT: learn how to lobby and meet your elected officials in their home offices

Disarming the Naval Colossus in Puerto Rico

DATE: August 12-20

PLACE: Vieques, Puerto Rico

CONTACT: Fellowship of Reconciliation, 2017 Mission St., #405, San Francisco, CA 94110; 415-495-6334; forlatam@igc.org

COMMENT: join national delegation to visit community groups & civil disobedience camps

Weekly Peace & Anti-Sanctions Vigil At MacDill Air Force Base

DATE: every Thursday

PLACE: Tampa, FL

CONTACT: MacDill Vigil Group, (727) 827-1630; nosnews@hotmail.com or barbhowe@hotmail.com

COMMENT: MacDill is the command and control center for all military actions against Iraq and other points in the Middle East



12th Anniversary New York Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

DATE: June 1-11
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: over 100 films hosted in several venues

21st Annual Otsiningo Pow Wow

DATE: June 2-4
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: features Allegany River Indian Dancers, Caciba Jagua (Taino-Arawak), Yarina (Quichua), Thunder Lizard Singers; also Indian Craft Fair, lectures, exhibitions, food, campfire storytelling, art

23rd Annual Bluegrass Festival

DATE: June 2-4
PLACE: Strawberry Park, Norwich, CT
CONTACT: Strawberry Park, Box 830, Norwich, CT 06360; 860-886-1944; camp@strawberrypark.net
COMMENT: camping, instrumental & vocal workshops, children's activities

Goddess 2000: International Goddess Festival

DATE: June 8-11
PLACE: Oakland, CA
CONTACT: Women's Spirituality Forum, PO Box 11363, Oakland, CA 94611; 510-444-7724

Clearwater's 34th Annual Great Hudson River Revival

DATE: June 17-18
PLACE: Croton Point Park, Croton-on Hudson, NY
CONTACT: Clearwater Revival, 112 Market St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601; 800-67SLOOP; www.clearwater.org
COMMENT: 7 music stages of folk, blues, gospel, Irish, Cajun, World, Swing; Children's theater, crafts, storytelling, ethnic foods; Holly Near, Janis Ian, & others

26th Annual National Women's Music Festival

DATE: June 22-25
PLACE: Muncie, IN
CONTACT: NWMF, PO Box 1427, Indianapolis, IN 46206; 317-927-9355; www.a1.com/wia
COMMENT: oldest women's festival in the U.S.; 10 concerts, guest speakers, comedy concert, theater presentation, 150 workshops

20th Annual Old Songs Festival

DATE: June 23-25
PLACE: Altamont Fairgrounds, Altamont, NY
CONTACT: Old Songs, Inc., PO Box 399, Guilderland, NY 12084; (518) 765-2815; www.oldsongs.org
COMMENT: traditional music & dance, children's activities, crafts; feature Cajun, banjo, fiddling, Contra dances, Celtic, French Canadian and more

Musicstock 2000 Festival of Music, Peace & Love

DATE: July 3-5
PLACE: Cayuga Co. Fairgrounds, Weedsport, NY
CONTACT: 607-272-9213
COMMENT: 45 bands, camping, fireworks; proceeds to benefit soup kitchens & food pantries

Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival

DATE: July 13-16
PLACE: Rothvoss Farm, Ancramdale, NY
CONTACT: Grey Fox Office, PO Box 535, Utica, NY 13503; 888-946-8495; www.greyfoxbluegrass.com
COMMENT: 5 stages including main, workshop, grass roots, dance & children's

Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival of Music & Dance

DATE: July 20-23
PLACE: Trumansburg, NY
CONTACT: Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival, PO Box 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 21-23
PLACE: Long Hill Farm, Hillsdale, NY
CONTACT: FRFF, 74 Modley Rd, Sharon, CT 06069; 860-350-7472; www.falconridgefolk.com
COMMENT: many stages, dancing, camping, crafts, workshops, song swaps, comedy, family, spoken word

25th Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

DATE: August 8-13
PLACE: Walhalla, MI
CONTACT: WWTMC, PO Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458; 616-757-4766; www.michfest.com
COMMENT: 40 performances, hundreds of workshops,

film festival, crafts fair; the Festival is also an experiment in alternative community where we all contribute to a collectively run village

2nd Annual Mother Earth Music, Arts & Peace Festival

DATE: August 10
PLACE: Bath, NY
CONTACT: PeaceWeaver Center, 607-776-2026
COMMENT: multi-cultural gathering takes place on 269 acres; combines internationally known musicians, traditional Elders and speakers on global issues all focused on creating greater Harmony & Peace on Earth; performers include Baba Olatunji, 10,000 Maniacs and Samite of Uganda

Children's Crusade 2000

DATE: August 11-13
PLACE: Farmington, PA
CONTACT: New Meadow Run Bruderhof, Farmington, PA 15437; 724-329-8573; ccrusade2000@hotmail.com
COMMENT: work, play, sing, dance, think, share cultures & need; festival for children



Socialist Summer School 2000

DATE: June 8-11
PLACE: Chicago, IL
CONTACT: Institute for Social and Economic Research, 312-409-1105
COMMENT: the world's three richest people own more than the combined gross national product of 48 countries. Meanwhile, 1.3 billion people live on less than \$1 a day. These are the realities that make the best case for a society that serves human need instead of corporate greed. Join us to take up the important questions these movements now face. More than 80 discussions on struggles today, the socialist tradition, women's liberation and more

Community Action School

DATE: June 8-11
PLACE: University of Maryland, College Park, MD
CONTACT: Community Action School, Academy of Leadership, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; 301-405-8564; www.academy.umd.edu/cas
COMMENT: national training for community leaders, grassroots organizers, union activists, student activists; keynote by Wilma Mankiller, Manning Marable, Linda Chavez-Thompson

Democracy Action Camp

DATE: July 13-19

PLACE: Los Angeles, CA

CONTACT: Rukus Society, 2054 University Ave #204, Berkeley, CA 94704; www.rukus.org

COMMENT: join dozens of committed environmentalists, human rights advocates, social justice organizers and globalization activists to gather with experienced trainers and facilitators; activists will share skills in the strategies and tactics of nonviolent confrontation in preparation for actions at the Democratic & Republican conventions

Nuclear Free Action Camps

DATE: summer

PLACE: southern VT, southwest MI

CONTACT: Citizens Awareness Network, 413-339-5781; can@shaysnet.com

COMMENT: includes training for nonviolent direct action, organizational, skills development, issues workshops & nonviolent direct action at VT Yankee & Cook nuclear power plants

Training for Social Action Trainers

DATE: June 2-4, 13-18

PLACE: Philadelphia, PA

CONTACT: George Lakey, 4719 Springfield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19143; 215-729-7458; www.trainingforchange.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

Minority Activist Apprenticeship Program

DATE: June 15-August 1

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

Reconciliation Work Camp in Bosnia

DATE: June 24-July 12

PLACE: Sanski Most, Bosnia

CONTACT: Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960; 914-358-4601; forpti@igc.org

COMMENT: US students participate with Bosnian students in a work camp to heal the wounds of war

Democracy Summer

DATE: mid-June through mid-August

PLACE: various locations

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

AFL/CIO Organizing Institute

DATE: June-July

PLACE: New York City, NY

CONTACT: Daisy Rooks; 800-848-3021; arooks@hotmail.com

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 several grassroots community organizations: NY Acorn, Mothers on the Move, Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy

Intergenerational Gathering

DATE: July 7-9

PLACE: Washington, DC

CONTACT: Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960; 914-358-4601; forpti@igc.org

COMMENT: enables the exchange of ideas & experiences between activists of different generations

Wise Women Weekend 2000

DATE: July 15-16

PLACE: Miami, FL

CONTACT: CenterPeace, 305-672-7759

COMMENT: empowering and inspiring weekend; experiential and informational workshops on holistic health, & maintaining balance

Open Hand Theater's Circus Camp

DATE: July

PLACE: Lafayette and Syracuse, NY

CONTACT: Open Hand Theater, 518 Prospect Ave, Syracuse, NY 13208; 315-476-0466

COMMENT: classes include Comedy and Mime, Movement and Dance, Magic and Juggling, Mask Making and Art; ages 8 and up

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

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; isl@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: Susun Weed, POB 64, Woodstock, NY 12498; 914-246-8081

COMMENT: for women and men; write for listing; examples: Hands-on Herbal Medicine, Menopausal Years: The Wise Woman Way, Green Witch Intensive

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

Tours to Cuba

DATE: June-August

PLACE: Cuba

CONTACT: Center for Cuban Studies, 124 W 23rd St, New York, NY 10011; 212-242-0559;

www.cubaupdate.org

COMMENT: topics include Visual Arts, Politics & Economics, African Roots of Cuban Culture & more

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



Deadly Harvest

Unexploded Ordnance in Laos

Michael Greenlar

Vietnam's western neighbor, Laos, seems to get forgotten in any current debate on the American legacy of the war in South-east Asia. I have recently returned from a three week trip into Laos for field research and photography for a project on unexploded ordnance (bombs) in Laos. The point I would like to make is that decisions our government made more than 35 years ago regarding the war are still reaping deadly harvests today and will continue to do so for many generations to come.

It is an acknowledged fact that the United States armed forces dropped two million metric tons of bombs during the "secret war" between 1964 to 1973 in Laos, much of that in an attempt to eradicate the Ho Chi Minh Trail. America dropped more bombs on Laos than it did in all of World War II, giving Laos the distinction of being the most bombed country in the history of warfare.

Foreign advisors in Laos such as MAG, the Mine Advisors Group from England, estimate up to 30% of the bombs did not explode and are therefore still dangerous. Extensive ground battles also left artillery



Bombie: anti personnel cluster bomb

and mortar shells, mines, rockets and other unexploded ordnance, or UXO. Two-thirds of the country is UXO-affected with ten out of 18 provinces severely contaminated. At present there is a 17-country humanitarian coalition called UXO LAO, which in con-

Michael Greenlar is a freelance photographer living in Syracuse.

junction with the Lao government are responsible for all de-mining. Louise Sampson from UXO LAO told me there may be as many as 300 million bombies in the ground in Laos. Bombies are the nickname for anti-personnel bomblets also referred to as cluster bombs. They are small tennis ball size bombs and are the predominant UXO danger. Unlike landmines, these are designed to kill rather than injure.

Most accidents occur in rice fields, grazing lands and in any attempts to build infrastructure like roads, schools and hospitals. Many of the thousands of victims

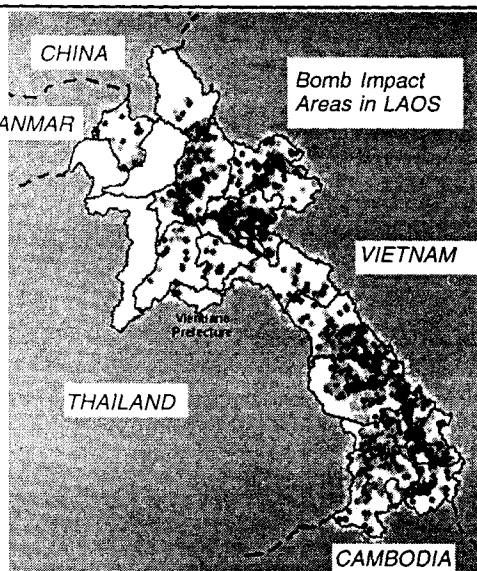


Hmong blacksmith Papo Yang washing hands after fashioning metal grass rakes from American artillery shells.

© Mike Greenlar 2000

have been children like 12 year-old Va Yer, a Hmong boy who, on April 5th, was attempting to help his family clear their land for the new rice crop. He found a bombie, picked it up and threw it away. The bomb exploded on impact.

I met Va on my first visit to the Friendship Hospital, in Vientiane, the Lao capital. The hospital wasn't one by any American standards. Va Yer lay stretched out across an old steel framed bed, blind in his left eye



with a cast up to his waist. He had small scars from shrapnel imbedded in his face. He passed the time clutching a battery powered desk clock with its repeating monotonous loud alarm ringing inches away from his ear. It was a haunting scene.

In the course of my travels I never experienced a measure of bitterness towards America, not even in Xieng Khuang, one of the most heavily bombed provinces where the entire citizenry was reduced to living in caves for almost a decade.

I made a number of visits to a small Hmong village still stuck in the 19th century, by the name of Thachok. It was a place where the children had never seen chewing gum. Thachok was filled with war scrap. There were hundreds of cluster bomb casings used as fences, pillars to hold up rice huts, pig troughs and even a planter.

One day I came across a blacksmith named Papo Yang, who was fashioning metal grass rakes (to weed rice fields) from old American artillery shells—a modern sword into plowshares I thought. I just had to have one, to bring it home as a souvenir. At 30,000 kip (about \$4 US) I considered it a steal.

The United States needs to accept responsibility in postwar Laos and become the largest donor country contributing to the de-mining trust fund. At present it is not. The United States Department of Defense should make available all classified information on Vietnam era ordnance to humanitarian organizations in order to more safely and effectively defuse all UXO's in Laos. So far it has not.



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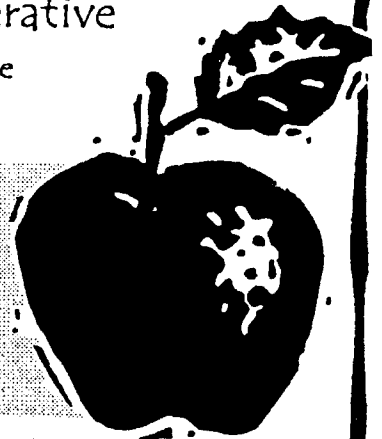
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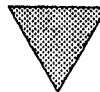
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GUNS, DRUGS AND BUTTERFLIES

The expression "Everything is connected" was made explicit for me once again when I went to the Syracuse Peace Council's 64th birthday party on May 6 and listened to Cecilia Zarate-Laun speak about "Guns, Drugs and Butterflies."

A native of Colombia, Cecilia spoke eloquently about the deep injustices in that Latin American nation; vast differences of wealth between the small rich class and the vast poor class leave a small middle class. The showcase democracy is a sham because the military is the real power behind the civilian government. The US government is sending financial aid to the Colombian government under the guise of fighting drug trafficking, but this is only increasing the drug trade because the Colombian para-military and military, not just the revolutionary forces, are part of the drug trade! Cecilia suggests that the main motive for US aid is to make Colombia safe for "globalization," in which multi-national corporations have free access to weaken laws which protect workers, consumers, animals and the environment. Good for profit but bad for the rest of us.

Here's the connection Cecilia made for me as an activist for animal rights and protection of the environment: as the wealthy eject peasants from the land they have been farming, many of the peasants go to the rainforest to plant crops (primarily coca), which kills trees, plants and animals. To compound the destruction, the US government has been aerial spraying the coca crops with pesticides, which also kill food crops and sicken people and other animals. A new atrocity is that the U.S. government has introduced a genetically engineered fungus to the rainforest. Theoretically, the fungus attacks only coca plants, but Cecilia has heard reports that it is attacking other plants too. She fears that it will devastate the plants and then the animals of this area of amazingly rich biodiversity. A rare butterfly is only one of the precious creatures who are threatened. To me, this is an illustration of how human rights (or the lack thereof) and protection of animals and nature are connected. For me, part of my animal rights and environmental protection work is to also try to convince my government to stop sending my taxes to unjust and repressive regimes.

Linda DeStefano

**SANDRA STEINGRABER
IN SYRACUSE JUNE 7**

Author of *Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment*, Sandra Steingraber is also a biologist and poet, currently based at Cornell University, and a sought-after speaker. Thanks to a grant from the Yvonne Tasker-Rothenberg Fund, the Iroquois Group of the Sierra Club will bring Steingraber to the Carrier Theater of the Civic Center, downtown Syracuse, on Wed., June 7 at 7:30 pm. Donations of \$5 are suggested to benefit the local Sierra Club in its various campaigns, including education about the health and environmental dangers of many widely used pesticides. Steingraber will address the far-ranging issues covered in her important book and will relate the topic to some of our local environmental problems. For more information, contact Linda at 488-2140 (8 to 5) or Martha at 492-4745 (8 to 5) or Debra at 415-1458 (5 to 9).



SIERRA CLUB
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New Name - Same Shame



LOCAL TO GLOBAL : A SHORT WALK

In solidarity with others across the country, about 50 people gathered at Columbus Circle in downtown Syracuse on May 24th to mark a significant moment in the struggle to close the US Army School of the Americas. By the close vote of 214 - 204 the House of Representatives voted on May 18 to close the School and re-open it shortly with a new name - the Defense Institute for Hemispheric Security Cooperation. The "new" school will be in the same place and have the same mission. Changes in curriculum- e.g. increasing the human rights segment from 4 to 8 hours - will be cosmetic. An amendment proposed by Mr. Moakley from Massachusetts that called for closing the School for good (without the transparent pretense of the name change) was defeated.

The intent of the gathering was to note in a public way that we understood what had taken place in Congress and to share this message : New Name...Same Shame.

Several people spoke describing current actions of SOA Watch and the connections that tie together the SOA, the World Bank, the IMF, and the WTO. Stories were shared about the April 16-17 actions in Washington, DC and the presence of Central New Yorkers in those actions and the jail solidarity that followed.

As the stories were being told, we were joined by about 15 people who have been picketing outside the MONY Building two blocks away. The pickets are in response to the sudden firing on May 12 of their current janitors, some of whom have provided satisfactory service for more than 30 years. To save money MONY has changed their janitorial contractor to one that will cost less. It will cost less because it will use non-union entry level employees, pay them less and provide fewer benefits. After years of service the fired janitors, union members and mostly women, will lose a living wage, health benefits, and pensions.

We sang together, led by the music and spirit of Colleen Kattau and Joli Rickman, and we spoke about the connections between the struggle of local workers for decent employment conditions and the role of the SOA in terrorizing union organizers and workers in South and Central America. We saw the obvious. If we work together, we can deepen our understanding of the connections that join us and increase the impact of all of our work. See you on the picket line.

Rae Kramer





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Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar

JUNE 2000

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to the Peace Council: 472-5478. July deadline: June 23.

Ace maintains an online version of this calendar with updates and more at www.root-media.org/calendar.htm.

<p>4</p> <p>EVERY SUN: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable. Ch. 3 in city, Ch. 12 in suburbs. 8pm. Produced by Peace Council. Tune in, tape it, share it!</p> <p>5 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>EVERY TUE: Community Media Action Group meeting. 6pm. Call Ace for place. 423-4783.</p> <p>Peace Action monthly program. May Memorial, 3900 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Child Care Council 25th Anniversary Celebration. Hotel Syracuse. 5:30-8pm. 446-1220.</p> <p>SEUNA meeting. Erwin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm.</p> <p>1st & 3rd WED.: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. 472-5478</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 206 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-6237.</p> <p>EVERY THU: Striving Meditation at Women's INFO. 601 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free.</p> <p>Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 6:30pm. Ace. 423-4783.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>EVERY FRI: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2nd Annual Bumper Sticker Events sponsored by Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace. Help distribute peace-related bumper stickers & gather petition signatures. Genesee, NY. 10am-4pm. (716) 243-1077.</p>	<p>11 EVERY SUN: Brick by Brick prison solidarity group meets. 172 Fellows Ave. 7pm. 473-9005.</p> <p>EVERY SUN: Common Threads, acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 476-7475.</p> <p>Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WENA) meeting. Petit Library, Concord Pl. 7-9pm. 479-7301.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>EVERY TUE through 10/17: Downtown Farmer's Market. Corner of Salina & Washington Streets. 7am-4pm. 422-8284.</p> <p>EVERY TUE: Open Mic Night. Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.</p> <p>CNY NOW general meeting. 5789 Widewaters Pkwy. 7pm. 487-3188.</p> <p>Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>People's Roundtable. Topic: "InterNetworking at the Grass Roots Level: the Internet as an Organizing Tool" with speaker Paul Hogarth. Discuss issues of concern our community. S. Presbyterian Church, corner of S. Salina & Colvin. 7-9pm.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>June 17th Ancestral Ceremony. Higher Onondaga Park. Designed to pay homage to both African-American ancestors and local elders. 7-9pm. 425-5185.</p>	<p>17 June 17th Parade from Dunbar Center to South-west Community Center. 11am.</p> <p>June 17th Festival at South-west Community Center, 401 South Ave. Educational events, music, games, crafts, food, Morris Day & the Time. All day. 425-5185.</p> <p>Syracuse Pride Parade. Clinton & Gifford St to Everson Museum. 5pm. Festival, music, dance. 463-8516.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Absolutely Everything is Art: Community Day 2000. An exploration of untraditional art forms. Noon-5pm. Everson Museum.</p> <p>New Environment Association meeting & meeting. Friends Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. 6pm. 446-8009.</p>	<p>19 People for Animal Rights business mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.</p> <p>Eastside Neighborhood Arts, Cultural & Technology Center meeting. ENP office, 204 Cherry St. 6pm. Joe. 471-7911 ext. 210.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/ Westside meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddes & Delaware. 7:30pm. 476-7475.</p>	<p>20 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p> <p>EVERY TUE: Syracuse Community Radio meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 476-4769.</p> <p>EVERY TUE: Middle Eastern Dance with Zoe Athens. Westcott Community Center. 5:15-6:15pm. Fee. 474-7084.</p>	<p>21 NAACP meeting. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-6933.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/ Skunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.</p> <p>Sierra Club monthly meeting. 5th Floor, SUNY ESF. 7:30pm. Martha. 492-4745.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>EVERY THU: Women's Voices radio program. WAER, FM 88.3. 7-9pm. Pat. 446-7259.</p> <p>EVERY THU: Syracuse Community Radio, WXXE 90.5 FM. "Jim Highlander Radio Commentaries" 4:58pm; FAIR's "Counter Spin" 5pm; "Making Contact" 5:30pm; "Darkwave & Industrial" 7pm.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Kids & Difficult Divorces, a one-day workshop sponsored by Kids First. Strategies, skills & resources. Holiday Inn, 100 Farrell Rd. Syracuse. (570) 344-8884.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Pax Christi meeting. Slocum House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woolever. 446-1693.</p> <p>EVERY SAT: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>EVERY SUN: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.</p> <p>EVERY SUN: 51 Percent Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>EVERY MON: Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. 1st Unitarian Universalist Society, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.</p> <p>EVERY MON, TUES, THURS: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 12pm. New friends, lunch, programs. 478-8634.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Neighbor to Neighbor, Nation to Nation, an evening of music & cultural sharing with the Onondaga Nation & the People of CNY. Onondaga Nation School, Rte 11A. 6pm doors open, 7:30pm concert.</p>	<p>29 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>Thornden Park Association meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carole Simson for location. 475-2807.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>32</p>
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Juneteenth 2000

June 16-17 Juneteenth commemorates the June 19th date in 1865, when the slaves in Texas and Louisiana discovered that they were free - more than two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

7-9 pm Friday, June 16 - Ancestral Ceremony taking place in Higher Onondaga Park. This ceremony is designed to pay homage to both African-American ancestors, and local elders.


11am Saturday, June 17 - Juneteenth Parade from the Dunbar Center 1453 S. State St. to the Southwest Community Center **JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL**

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS, MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT, AND GAMES, CRAFTS AND FOOD ALL DAY.
70's Block Party with *Morris Day and the Time*

All events are inclusive, and are intended to benefit the entire community, All Juneteenth events are free and open to everyone. Free shuttle service will run from downtown to the festival site from 11am to 11pm on Saturday.

The event will close at 10pm.

For more information call 425-5185



NATION TO NATION
Onondaga Nation & the People of Central New York

In the Spirit of Celebration and Peace, the Onondaga Nation, the Interreligious Council of CNY, Syracuse Community Choir and Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) Invite You to an Evening of Music and Cultural Sharing

Summer Solstice Concert

With Irving Powless Jr., Audrey Shenandoah and others. Traditional Native Music, Contemporary Native Artists, Open Hand Theater, Syracuse Community Choir directed by Karen Mihalyi, The Wagon Burners, Cheryl Wilkins-Mitchell.

Wednesday JUNE 28- at the Onondaga Nation School*
6 pm - Refreshments and Art Displays - Concert begins at 7:30
Sliding Scale Donation (0-\$10) Call 472-5478 (SPC) for info.
Wheelchair accessible- Interpreted for the Hearing Impaired

CO-SPONSORED BY: SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL, PEACE ACTION, OPEN HAND THEATER, SYRACUSE CULTURAL WORKERS

*Directions: Take 81 South to exit 16 (Onondaga Nation Territory). Turn Rt. On Route 11. Travel 1/4 mile. Turn Left on Route 11A (watch for signs). Travel 1 3/4 mile to Onondaga Nation School (on right). Parking in back

SYRACUSE PRIDE 2000

Saturday, June 17, 2000. Pride Parade 5pm

From the Trolley parking lot at Clinton and Gifford streets to the grounds of the Everson Museum

Festival tent • beer tent • main stage • live entertainment • food and drink • information tables • shopping • official Syracuse Pride 2000 merchandise • postal cancellation station • Big Pride Prize raffle • large outdoor dance closes the evening's festivities around 11:00pm.

-----Free-----
*Promote the spirit of pride in Syracuse, get involved in this great event.
For information or to volunteer, call 463-8516*

Starting later provides opportunity to attend the annual Juneteenth celebration.

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL

924 Burnet Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13203

(315) 472-5478

Educate, Agitate, Organize

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It never did make sense

Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice August 2000 PNL 693

“There is no way in which a country can satisfy the craving for absolute security, but it can bankrupt itself morally and economically in attempting to reach that illusory goal through arms alone.”

President, General Dwight Eisenhower

Peace Newsletter

August 2000
PNL 693

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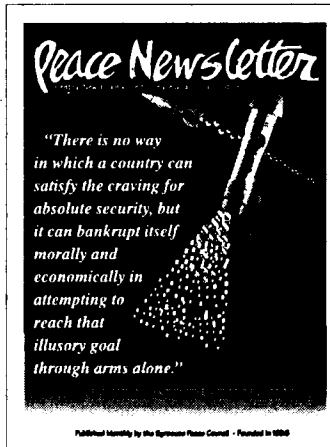
The Peace Newsletter

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 *PNLs* each month for no charge (donations welcome).



Cover by Paul Pearce

Just when you thought it was safe to re-enter outer space, they start up the *Star Wars* machine again.

President *Ike* knew the real story, he warned us of the dangers of the *Military Industrial Complex*. With the exception of the arms merchants and politicians, no-one really thinks we need this "protective shield". Does anyone really think it can work?

Here we go again, wasting money by threatening and offending the rest of the world with our reckless militarism.

Look to page 4 where John Burdick thoroughly exposes the details.

PWP

Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

Subscribe to the PNL ~ Still only \$12 a year for 12 issues!

Name: _____

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 People's 60 Minutes



The *Peace Council's* Television show
8 pm every Sunday night.

Cable channel 3-City • 12-Suburbs
Watch it- Tape it - Share it!

In memory of Hank Strunk who left us 260 shows ago.

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

Will you still need me, will you still feed me...?

SPC is 64 years old. We are proud that we are the oldest, continuously running, local peace and justice organization in the US. We are also stuck in a paradox. Our recent birthday dinner is a good example. The evening was a wonderful success: lots of folks learning and enjoying fellowship and delicious food. Many people enthusiastically helped out *at* the dinner, but it was only a tiny number that did the just-as-needed *before* and *after* stuff. It seems that it isn't as much fun or engaging enough to work on planning or organizing, or writing about the event for the PNL.

The question we often ask ourselves is, "How do we increase the number of people who participate in the work of the Peace Council on a regular basis?" I think that a different question might bring a more productive answer. Something like, "What should the Peace Council be so that more people would want to be involved on a regular basis?" If we need to spend a lot of time persuading people then something is missing. We have decided to try to find out what the missing pieces are about.

We will soon be sending out a survey to many of our readers. We hope that you will complete it so that we can better understand what is important to you. The (paraphrased) words of a long time supporter who got somewhat burned out because there were too

few doing too much, capture the dilemma. "I don't know exactly what's wrong, and I don't know exactly how to fix it. I do know that if the Peace Council didn't exist we'd have to create it."

Here then is our opportunity. If not to create, then to re-create. To be an energizing force for progressive change. Read our statement of purpose again if you haven't read it in a while. I think that you will find that it continues to be strong, eloquent, and well worth supporting. And so...will you still need me, will you still feed me...?

Finding the Balance

Somewhere on the continuum of joy to despair we each have a changing seat. How to enjoy an evening walk in summer, while Iraqi children needlessly die? How to have a giggle with a friend while other friends are in jail for bearing witness? How to share food and stories when so many usually have too little food and the stories often have unhappy endings?

Somehow, we need to find the balance. To nourish the strength that keeps us fighting the good fight and at the same time cherishing what we have rather than bemoaning what we don't. To be fueled (*without* any polluting effects!) by the needs we see, energized and not disheartened.

We welcome your thoughts about this and would like to share them with our readers. Thanks in advance for joining the conversation.

Rae Kramer

Dik Cool - Our thanks too

Amidst the list of well-deserving honorees at Peace Action's annual award dinner this coming October is Dik Cool, founder and current director of the Syracuse Cultural Workers. We applaud Peace Action for their choice, for we too recognize in Dik a steadfast voice and presence in the struggle for peace and justice. Our debt to Dik runs deep, for his passion and hard work as staff at the Peace Council for more than a decade. While most of his time these days is spent spreading the word using art and language, there is always some energy to be found for organizing and bearing witness. A good part of SPC's history is a reflection of his intelligence, determination, and hard work. Thanks from us too.

In addition to Dik, awards will be given to Diane Swords, Rev. Len Bjorkman, Julius Edwards and students from the Fayetteville Manlius High School *Model UN Club*. Peace Action's dinner will be held at LeMoyné Manor on Sunday, Oct 15, at 5pm. Call (315) 478-7442 for information.

Save This Date!

Friday, September 15, 7:30pm
Video & Discussion night
Colombia- another Vietnam?
Westcott Community Center
Westcott & Euclid

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.

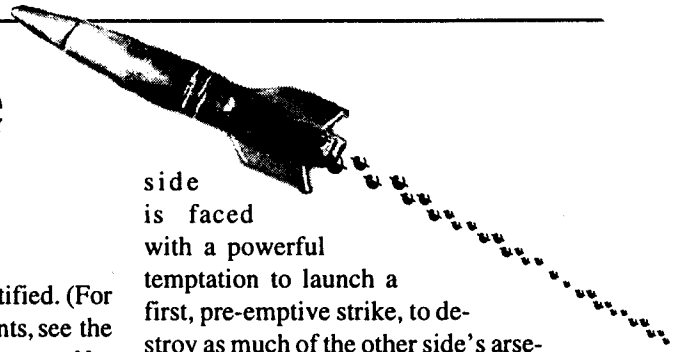
SPC educates, agitates and organizes for a world where war, violence and exploitation in any form will no longer exist. It challenges the existing unjust power relationships among nations, among people and between ourselves and the environment. As members, we work to replace inequality, hierarchy, domination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

National Missile Defense

Makes the World a More Dangerous Place



John Burdick

The world lies on the brink of a major disaster. If Bill Clinton goes ahead this September and decides to deploy a national missile defense system (NMD), he will open the door to a new nuclear arms race, and will increase, not reduce, the danger of nuclear war.

It did not have to come to this. From 1992-1996, Clinton joined three consecutive Congressional majorities in rejecting the idea of missile defense as wasteful, unnecessary and dangerous (not to mention technically nonviable). In 1996, however, Clinton caved to pressure in an election year to appear strong on defense, and committed himself to supporting a missile defense system that could show it was "technologically viable" and "cost-effective". (He later added that he wanted to be assured that any such system would be justified by a real threat, and would be compatible with arms control.)

Clinton is now poised to make a decision on deployment of NMD. Before he does, it is crucial that he hear e-mails, editorials, demonstrations - that the American people understand that NMD fails according to every criterion he himself has articulated. Above all, we must show him we know and fear that NMD will reduce, not increase, the safety of the US and of other nations throughout the world.

I will not tarry here with the questions of threat, cost and viability, grounds upon which most observers now

agree NMD fails utterly to be justified. (For excellent analyses of all these points, see the web-site of the *Friends Committee on National Legislation*.) Briefly, a nuclear attack on the US, if it were ever to occur, is far more likely to come in the form of non-missile delivery than in the form of missiles; NMD has failed virtually every test it has undergone; and the price tag, so far, of this unnecessary and unreliable system is \$120 billion. If that is cost-effectiveness, heaven help us from inefficiency.

What these points miss, however, is that even if there were a real threat, the technology were reliable, and the whole thing could be had on the cheap, NMD still should never be deployed, because such a deployment would trigger a return to the darkest days of the arms race, and would increase the likelihood of nuclear war.

At the heart of the matter is the basic good sense enshrined in the 1972 ABM Treaty. In that treaty the US and Soviet Union prohibited themselves from deploying any missile defense system designed to shield their national territories from attack. At first this may seem counter-intuitive: after all, don't good fences make good neighbors? Not, it turns out, when fences attempt to keep out nuclear warheads. The logic is simple. If one country starts to build a shield, the other will reason as follows: no shield can keep all our missiles out, but it may be able to keep some out. Therefore, we must build more missiles, so at least some will get through; otherwise the shielded country will be able to dictate terms to us. If the shield can keep out two missiles, then we must build four; if it can keep out four, then we must build eight. This was the ineluctable logic the ABM Treaty was designed to render obsolete.

The ABM Treaty recognized another crucial point: that, in a military crisis, missile defenses do not reduce, but rather *increase* the likelihood of a nuclear exchange. Again, the logic is simple. With a shield, the other side's ability to retaliate has been reduced. Therefore, in a crisis, the shielded

side is faced with a powerful temptation to launch a first, pre-emptive strike, to destroy as much of the other side's arsenal as possible, then rely on missile defense to blunt any retaliation. This is a profoundly destabilizing situation. Just think: the side without a shield, fearing the shielded side's temptation to strike first, will in turn feel pressure to launch a first, pre-emptive strike, to ensure it can overwhelm the other side's shield. Again, the logic is inescapable: the very existence of shields makes the behavior of nuclear powers unpredictable and the possibility of war increasingly likely. No wonder the ABM Treaty outlawed for good the deployment of missile defenses.

So here we are, twenty-eight years into the life of a Treaty which even Clinton has recognized as a "cornerstone" of international stability. Yet deployment of NMD will require that the US abrogate or withdraw from that Treaty. This is why Clinton has felt the need to convince Vladimir Putin to consider "amending" the treaty. The problem is that the "amendment" Clinton seeks is to permit missile national defenses, the very thing the treaty is designed to prevent. No wonder Putin said "no", and has continued to state that, if the US goes forward with the deployment, the effects will be "grave".

What might those effects be? Most immediately, deployment could trigger a return of the US-Russian arms race. Not only would NMD reduce Russian incentives to pursue SALT talks, but Russian fear that any NMD might be expanded could lead to an upward spiral in arms development. The Russians, faced with the decline in their conventional forces, are in fact already over-dependent on their nuclear arsenal; going ahead with NMD would simply add fuel to the fire. Furthermore, US withdrawal from the ABM treaty could place unprecedented strain on Russia's desire to abide by agreements to eliminate the proliferation of nuclear technology. Already, US refusal to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

John Burdick teaches anthropology at Syracuse University, where he directs the Syracuse Social Movements Initiative. He is also on the board of Peace Action of Central New York.

cont'd on page 10

Gary Graham

R.I.P.

Joe DuBovy

On June 22, 2000, Gary Graham was executed by the Department of Corrections in Huntsville, Texas. His execution will have a profound impact on the worldwide movement to abolish the death penalty. It comes on the heels of a hunger strike by over 100 Texas death row prisoners and 300 general population prisoners housed in administrative segregation. While the prison system denies it, the strike was inspired by intolerable prison conditions. Prisoners called the strike a "non-disruptive show of unity with the goal of informing the public, news media, and prison administration about prison conditions."

Death row prisoners also initiated a proposal which was circulated on death row and sent to families and supporters. The proposal reads, "*Whether you are white or brown, gang-related, or not affiliated, we are all in the same predicament here. We are all being actively discriminated against by the TDJC officials who are responsible for our care and management.*"

A supporting statement distributed daily by the hunger strikers in downtown Houston described the inhumane conditions: "Death row prisoners at Terrell spend 23 hours of each day alone, in a 6 X 10 foot cell with a solid steel door. They are denied contact, and spend their time in total isolation. Recreation, showers, meals are alone. They cannot participate in work programs, or watch TV. Only model prisoners are allowed radios." In a court hearing after the 21-day hunger strike, a federal judge stated, "Texas' segregation units violate the prisoners' constitutional rights to protection against cruel and unusual punishment, causing profound psychological pain and suffering. Texas' segregation units are incubators of psychoses in healthy inmates and exacerbating illness in those with mental illness."

Sympathy hunger strikes took place in Italy, and in London, supporters of Texas death row inmates gathered at the US Embassy.

Graham's execution highlights the racism in administration of the death penalty. (As if we need yet another reminder.) A Philadelphia study showed that the probability of receiving a death sentence was lowest for nonblack defendants with a black victim and somewhat higher for a nonblack defendant with a nonblack victim, or a black defendant with a black victim. The probability of receiving a death sentence was highest for a black defendant with a nonblack victim. Death penalty racism is clearly understood when we consider that 98% of prosecutors in death penalty decisions are white.

A Call for A Moratorium on the Death Penalty

In 1997, after the number of people executed reached an all-time high, the American Bar Association called for an immediate moratorium on executions, citing a crisis in our criminal justice system. Since then, religious organizations, city councils, and other institutions and groups have passed resolutions urging elected officials to halt executions so that an intentional public dialogue can evaluate the fiscal and human costs of the death penalty. The goal of this national campaign is the passage of 2,000 moratorium resolutions by the end of the year 2000.

Much of the world has abolished the death penalty. The United Nations Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International support a ban. The 15 countries of the European Union permit membership only to countries opposing executions. In maintaining the death penalty, the United States joins China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan.

While many groups are actively working toward abolition of the death penalty, they are also supporting the *Moratorium Now* movement as a possible first step towards a permanent moratorium.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT THE MORATORIUM

- Prepare a moratorium resolution for your group's approval (see below for sample resolution).
- Write a letter (or more than one) to the editor and your state and federal legislators.

Sample Resolution

We, as members of (group name), join with the American Bar Association, the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations, and a growing number of civic, religious, and governmental bodies across this country calling for a moratorium on executions.

Whereas the death penalty is contrary to our understanding of compassion, nonviolence and the sanctity of life; and

Whereas the death penalty takes away the possibility of both a "change of heart" for the one convicted of a capital crime and the realization of forgiveness and reconciliation with the victim's survivors; and

Whereas the history of the death penalty is replete with cases of innocent people being executed; and

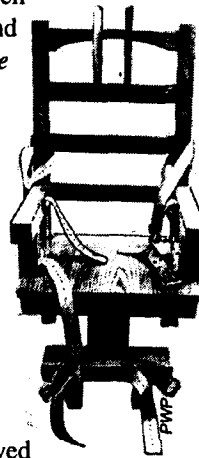
Whereas there is ample evidence that the administration of death penalty cases often fails to meet the standards of fairness and impartiality, discriminating against the poor and minorities; and

Whereas many states allow for the execution of mentally disabled persons and persons who were under the age of 18 at the time of their offenses; and

Whereas there is little evidence that the death penalty deters crime;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that we (group name) call on Governor _____ and our state representatives, and President Clinton and our representatives in Congress, to enact and adopt legislation imposing a moratorium on executions; and that copies of this resolution be forwarded as necessary.

(Please also send copies of your group's resolution to People Against the Death Penalty/CNY - P.O. Box 6424, Syracuse, NY 13217; and Equal Justice/Quixote Center - P.O. Box 5206, Hyattsville, MD 20782.)



The jubilee year is a time to open our eyes
to the suffering of our children

Mothers In Prison Children In Crisis Campaign 2000

Luz Marina Zender

Syracuse -- On May 12, about 25 people gathered outside the Onondaga County Justice Center to call attention to all the mothers who spent Mother's Day without feeling the warm embrace of their children. The rally began with an 11 am walk from the Jail Ministry offices on Slocum Ave. to the Justice Center on State Street. A handful of participants buttoned up their jackets and braved the threat of rain. Outside the Justice Center, more people gathered to hear the speakers.

Rev. Millicent Collins, from South Presbyterian Church, began the rally by reflecting on a scripture reading, Leviticus 25:10: "The jubilee year is a time to 'set the captives free'." Rev. Collins, ending her comments, said "The time is now. It is time for us to move forward, to release the captives. And I mean that literally, not symbolically." Paula Johnson, a law professor at Syracuse University, spoke about her research on women in the justice system across the country. "These women did not aspire to be in prison. They had other hopes and dreams that somehow got derailed. When the women are incarcerated, the link to their children and to the rest of the community is destroyed. If the court's job is to punish, that punishment should not extend to the children." Doris Sage, a prisoner of conscience who served time for participating in a demonstration at the School of the Americas at Ft. Benning, Ga., told several stories about women inmates and how they spent their Mother's Day. Katya Wilson, a health professional who works with incarcerated women, spoke passionately about the lack of health care available to women prisoners.

Lastly, Jan Rosbrook, a core member of Jail Ministry, read a letter from Natasha, a mother of three serving time at the Justice Center. An excerpt from her letter reads, "What I wish women in my situation would have had was a treatment center where women can take their children and also get help for their addiction. Women are sometimes afraid to ask for help, because the children are immediately removed from the home and the mother is placed in jail. If only society can somehow help women feel comfortable to reach out and then build more treatment centers, aftercare programs involving children; create work programs with daycare included and build apartment buildings for the women after treatment. We must break the chain of separation with the moms and children. The children wind up being hurt, confused and angry; and before you know it another cycle of hate is created."

This jubilee year is a time to truly open our eyes to the suffering of our children, and to move forward with new vision and change. Natasha is so right; we must stop the cycle of hate.

Luz Marina Zender works on this project at AFSC (American Friends Service Committee).

Circle of Peace & Hope

Deep feelings of respect and fellowship surged through a group of 50 people gathered on the shores of Cayuga Lake in Seneca Falls on July 17 for the second Circle of Peace and Hope. The event, organized by S.H.A.R.E. (Strengthening Haudenosaunee-American Relations through Education), drew a diverse group of people from throughout the region.

Julie Uticone of Seneca Falls welcomed everyone and asked participants to share from their hearts as we went around the circle. I was moved by the earnest appreciation expressed by several of the Haudenosaunee participants for the respectful support they experienced at the gathering. A Seneca woman from the Western part of the state told us that this was the first time she felt welcome in Cayuga County where she often visits her daughter. The Cayugas in the circle shared their hopes to become neighbors in this community.

Many of the non-native people in the circle expressed their desire to create a community which welcomed the Cayugas back to their territory. A woman from Ithaca presented Clint Halftown, a Cayuga Chief, with a fresh berry pie as an expression of her heartfelt wish for peace. A Seneca Falls businessman returned for the second circle despite the fact that his attendance at last year's event led to his expulsion from United Citizens for Equality (UCE), the anti-land claims group.

While there were certainly differing viewpoints represented in the circle, UCE activists and the perspective they represent were noticeably absent. Whether an event such as this will have much impact on the wider community is difficult to gauge, but it was certainly very valuable for those of us who attended: Central New York-based NOON (Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation), which has been in contact with S.H.A.R.E. so that the two groups can support one another's efforts, is considering organizing a similar circle in the Syracuse area.

A number of those present, both native and non-native, said they were only there to learn and listen during the circle. A wonderful potluck meal, with lots of opportunity for informal discussion, gave them and others the chance to get to know one another on a more personal level. A full literature table complemented the food.

S.H.A.R.E. is a new group based in Seneca and Cayuga counties. Their mission is "to promote opportunities through education for mutual understanding and respect between the Haudenosaunee and American people, our communities, and governments." The organization's goal statement reads, "For the sake of our children, grandchildren, and those whose faces have not yet risen from the earth, to ensure a mutually respectful coexistence that upholds the dignity, spirit, and integrity of all peoples."

S.H.A.R.E. can be contacted at (315) 364-3206. NOON can be reached via the Peace Council at (315) 472-5478.

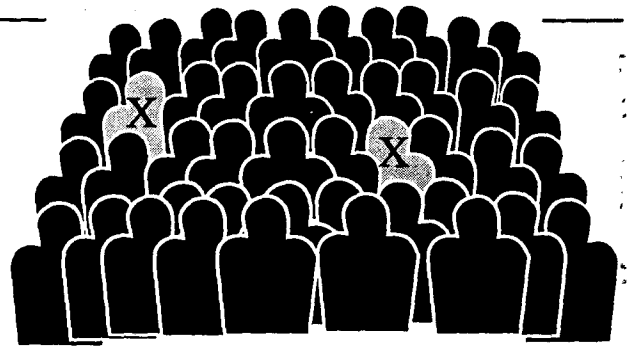
Andy Mager



In Syracuse

Democracy and Free Speech Threatened

Nicolas Eyle



Two out of Forty-Five

A few months ago Onondaga County legislator William Kinne called me up and told me that there were four vacancies on the Onondaga County Drug & Alcohol Abuse Commission and, if some ReconsiDer people would send him resumés, he would submit them to the Health Committee for approval. Bill Kinne has been a member of ReconsiDer for years and knows that we are knowledgeable on matters of drug policy. He also knows that the County Drug & Alcohol Commission has been a rubber-stamp for whatever anti-drug propaganda comes down from the White House, has spent over \$3 million in taxpayer money, and positioned themselves as "experts" while drug use has risen in the county. Kinne felt that some fresh ideas might be in order, hence the phone call.

Two ReconsiDer members, Dr. Gene Tinelli and myself, sent in our resumés

and they were submitted to the health committee. Dr. Tinelli is a retired US Navy Commander and one of three board-certified addiction psychiatrists in Central New York. He teaches at the medical school and practices at the VA. I have been involved with drug policy for years, have been on panels and presented at international drug policy conferences, lectured at colleges and written on the subject, and currently serve as executive director of ReconsiDer, one of the leading drug policy reform organizations in the country. The health committee approved us unanimously.

Nicolas Eyle is the Executive Director of ReconsiDer: Forum on Drug Policy. He welcomes opportunities to meet with groups and individuals interested in authentic and meaningful drug policy reform.

Now the nominations were to go before the full legislature for approval. Minutes before the vote, chairman Bill Sanford announced to the committee that he was pulling our names from consideration because he had gotten an email from the chair of the Drug & Alcohol Abuse Commission, Assistant US attorney, John Duncan, telling him that Tinelli & Eyle are "drug legalizers" and could not possibly serve on the commission. So much for democracy.

The Syracuse Newspapers picked up on the story and an excellent article appeared on the front page of the local section detailing the proceedings. In the article John Duncan tried to explain why the inclusion of

two people with different views would be harmful to the 45-member commission. Family court judge Bryan Hedges, who

serves on the Drug & Alcohol Commission, said he didn't see a problem having us aboard. "As a judge, I want to keep an open mind," said Hedges. "And it must be said that no one seems to have the answer to the drug epidemic. So we can't afford to turn away new, and possibly better, ideas."

The controversy continued as letters poured in to the paper almost entirely in our favor. After all, it's not as though we've solved our drug problems in Onondaga County, and most people didn't see the problem with listening to some other opinions. An editorial in the Syracuse Newspapers came out a few days later. "Gene Tinelli and Nicholas Eyle are anything but wild-eyed radicals. They are serious, thoughtful men who care deeply about their community and about society. They surely do not advo-

cate drug abuse," said the editorial, which went on to defend our qualifications to serve on the commission, and condemn the behind-the-scenes activities of Assistant US attorney Duncan, to keep us off. The editors went on to say "Tinelli and Eyle have been blocked from the drug abuse commission not because they repudiate its goal. They share that goal, but they are locked out because they do not march in lockstep with prevailing opinion on how to accomplish it. If ever an effort needed new insights, new perspectives, it's the War on Drugs."

Dr. Tinelli and I testified before the health committee a few weeks ago and made, what I believe was a favorable impression. The committee decided to postpone the vote until it could hear from the other applicants as well. I ask you to please take a few minutes and call your county legislator. Be polite, but tell him or her that you think our drug policy is in need of reconsideration, and that you, as a constituent, want ReconsiDer represented on the Drug & Alcohol Commission. Our drug policy is racist, unfair, extraordinarily expensive, hypocritical, breeds crime, poverty, and violence, and, incidentally, doesn't reduce drug use. I think it's a phone call worth making.

...we can't afford to turn away new, and possibly better, ideas."

Bryan Hedges, Family Court Judge

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Fighting the World Trade Organization

After Seattle

John Fitzsimmons

The thousands of protesters, and their allies, who stopped the WTO in Seattle from completing its agenda have not been basking in that success since last December. Seattle raised the profile of the WTO, so the world's people could see that it exists to aid the economic elites of the industrialized nations to gain more wealth at the expense of their own people as well as the citizens of the poorer nations. Since the "Battle in Seattle" the fight against the WTO is being waged on many fronts.

COMMUNITY ACTIONS AGAINST THE WTO

According to Nick Penniman, executive director of the Massachusetts-based Alliance for Democracy, local action might be an effective way of confronting the WTO. The heat in the streets of Seattle last December raised the awareness of people across the country, that global trade under existing rules is usurping democratic choice. The result has been a surge in local action against a global system designed mainly to serve the interests of the international merchant class. Cities such as Austin, Texas, Boulder, Colorado, and Indianapolis, Indiana have passed "precautionary declarations" on globalization; warning the leaders of the WTO that they must not pass regulations that override local laws. The city council of Arcata, California has committed to disobey any WTO ruling that interferes with local decision-making. "I don't think the city would buckle easily," says Arcata activist Paul Cienfuegos. "Both the city council and the people in the street feel pretty strongly about this."

Penniman says the Alliance for Democracy is trying to create an immune

John Fitzsimmons is a member of the Syracuse Peace Council, Peace Action and the School of the Americas/CNY Abolitionists. He missed Seattle and made it to A16 in DC. Who knows where he'll show up next.

system against the WTO at the local level. He says that US trade negotiators won't be able to push a corporate agenda if urban and rural centers around the country make clear statements of opposition. The effort is similar to the 1970s and 80s effort to establish a worldwide network of self-declared nuclear-free zones. In that case, local action helped block American nuclear colonization, keeping nuclear weapons off the soil of entire nations, such as New Zealand and Australia.

ACTION IN CONGRESS

House Joint Resolution 90 (H.J.Res. 90) to withdraw US approval from the WTO agreement was introduced in March by Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX), and co-sponsored by seven other Republicans and two Democrats. The resolution does not formally order the US to withdraw from the WTO, but withdraws the approval of the US Congress from the agreement. The House vote on this resolution was on June 21. It was voted down 300 to 50. (Ed. note for CNY readers: Congressman Walsh voted against the resolution.)

In an addendum to the House Ways and Means report on H.J. Res 90, Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA) stated: "The lack of leadership from our Administration in the WTO has allowed transnational organizations to dictate US trade policy while consumer protections, labor, environment, and human rights have not been considered relevant issues in the world body. The Executive Branch has fought fervently for intel-

lectual property rights but lacks the same zeal when it comes to the survival of the species. No one disputes that trade increasingly involves broad public policy matters, yet there are no representatives of labor, environment, or human rights organizations on most WTO trade advisory committees. Industry representatives are the sole members on the vast majority of trade advisory committees, and this is simply wrong. We cannot expect to have the interests of labor, the environment, and the oppressed represented by those who are motivated by the bottom line."

CORPORATE CODE OF CONDUCT

Two members of the House have come forward to offer sweeping proposals to regulate the global operations of US-based multinational corporations and to reorient the global trading system toward sustainable development for poor nations and away from the pur-

suit of corporate greed.

Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga) has introduced the Corporate Code of Conduct Act (H.R. 4596). Rep. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt) has introduced the Global Sustainable Development Resolution (H. R. 479).

McKinney's bill would require all US-based corporations with more than 20 employees abroad to enact a code of conduct. The code would require companies in their overseas operations to pay a living wage, ban practices such as retaliation against whistleblowers, respect international labor standards (including the right to organize, minimum wage guarantees, and protections



for job safety and health), and adhere to both international standards and US environmental regulations.

The Sanders resolution includes a code of conduct, but goes much farther. The heart of it addresses the institutions regulating international commerce. One of the key elements of his proposal is the creation of US and UN Commissions on the Global Economy. The US commission would hold open hearings around the country to investigate the effect of globalization on workers, industry, and the environment of the United States. The UN panel would encourage other nations to hold their own series of open meetings and would initiate a global North-South dialogue aimed at negotiation of an international agreement for global sustainable development.

Some of the main provisions that the Sanders resolution seeks to have enacted through global negotiations include:

- ✦ a tax on international currency flows, designed to stem financial volatility;
- ✦ cancellation of the debt of the poorest countries, with no structural adjustment conditions;
- ✦ remaking the World Bank, to end support for destructive mega projects and support instead the development of renewable energy capacity and food security for poor countries;
- ✦ trade agreements that do not allow corporations to shop around the world to find the lowest wages, the fewest environmental regulations and the weakest social protections for workers;
- ✦ guarantees for nations and localities that promote local economic development, such as raising employment levels, enhancing employment opportunities for targeted populations, and raising wage levels in specific industries.

Neither the McKinney bill nor the Sanders resolution will be enacted any time soon. Congress is too much under the influ-

ence of corporate money to mount this major a challenge to their money masters.

Only stronger grassroots movements offer the prospect of changing Congress' primary allegiance. The importance of initiatives such as those introduced by McKinney and Sander is that these kinds of concrete plans can serve as community organizing tools for political action.

What Can We Do?

There is much local citizens can do to engage in the struggle to radically change the WTO, or to withdraw US membership if it will not change:

Follow Arcata, California's lead in getting your community's governing council to declare that it will not obey any WTO directive that violates local law.

Lobby your Congressional Representative to join McKinney and Sanders in their projects to impose a code of conduct and a set of rules on US corporations in their operations overseas.

Persuade your Representative to join the effort to withdraw the US from the WTO. (Rep. Walsh's Syracuse office number is (315) 423-5657. The Congressional switchboard number is (202) 224-3121.)

Join Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch. (202) 546-4996.

Join Global Exchange. (415) 255-7296. www.globalexchange.org

*The July 10 issue of **The Nation** contains a fascinating essay, "The Vision Thing," which describes the structure of the coalition that organized the demonstrations in Seattle and the A-16 actions in Washington, DC. The coalition structure is internet based and completely different from anything in the past.*



NEW INTERNATIONAL CITIZEN GROUP COALITION BUILDS ON SEATTLE VICTORY BY DEMANDING WTO "TURNAROUND"

The international "Seattle coalition" of civil society groups that conducted the 1999 "WTO: No New Round Turnaround" campaign culminating in the breakdown of WTO talks in Seattle last year, is poised to launch a new initiative. The year 2000 campaign will build on the success of Seattle as well as its initial victory, which was stopping the negotiations two years ago on the Multilateral Agreement on Investments (MAI). The MAI was a global investment treaty plan which would have aided international corporations in moving their investments throughout the world without interference by governments. It was aptly dubbed "NAFTA on Steroids." The new "WTO Turnaround" agenda will demand radical changes in the WTO's procedures and rules.

"Over the past three years the international movement composed of critics of the WTO and the global trade system, designed by and for business interests, has bloomed into the largest and most diverse worldwide coalition in history," noted Lori Wallach, director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch. "Either the WTO will be forced to bend, or the WTO will be broken."

Star Wars from page 4

(CTBT) has reduced Russian interest in such agreements. Abrogation of the ABM Treaty could push the Russians, as well as the Chinese, into sharing nuclear technology with their allies, as a way to counter the growing power of the US.

Equally worrisome is the possibility that US abrogation of the ABM Treaty could trigger an arms race in Asia. China currently has a small arsenal of twenty nuclear warheads, which they claim prevents their country being dictated to by Russia or the US. If the Chinese arsenal were nullified by NMD, there is reason to believe that China would feel pressured to increase the size of its nuclear arsenal. Any such increase would have momentous geopolitical effects. A

stronger Chinese arsenal might pressure India to increase its own arsenal, which could in turn lead Pakistan to build more nuclear weapons. On the other side of the continent, a Chinese arms buildup could, in the context of a weakened overall international nonproliferation regime, and in the absence of US commitment to a CTBT, increase pressure on both South Korea and Japan to develop their own nuclear deterrents.

Abrogation of the ABM Treaty would have other effects throughout the world. Leaders in Europe, astonished already by the US rejection of the CTBT, have expressed fears that NMD would trigger an arms race, and would leave Europe more vulnerable than ever to nuclear attack. In this context it would be unsurprising if Europeans became

reluctant to cooperate with the US on limiting the spread of missile technology. The breakdown of non-proliferation as a principle in world affairs, along with the failure of the CTBT, might make countries such as Brazil, Argentina and Libya reconsider the possibility of constructing their own nuclear arsenals, once again pouring their precious resources into a wasteful, destructive technology.

In 1989 it may have seemed to many that a dark chapter of world history was coming to a close. Tragically, Bill Clinton's political cowardice may ensure that the nightmare of nuclear proliferation and holocaust will return to haunt our days and nights. It is therefore more crucial now than ever before to write, e-mail, march and cry out: "Never again".

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The lights dimmed, the last rustles of sound as last-minute arrivals found a place, the sense of anticipation shared by audience and performers alike... and then words of thanksgiving and welcome for an evening of sharing of nations and neighbors.

On June 28, several hundred people attended a wonderful concert of music, dance, storytelling, and affirmation. The evening was hosted by the Onondaga Nation, and co-sponsored by a variety of CNY community organizations, including the Syracuse Peace Council.

Voices rang out in song and story about suffering and joy, about bravery and steadfastness on the path to peace. Our spirits were raised by the sight and sound of the Syracuse Community Choir and the several speakers. For those who could not attend, we are offering two pieces of the program - a statement of commitments to the Onondaga Nation, written and presented by Jack Manno, on behalf of the Choir, and a message from the Onondaga Nation, presented by Audrey Shenandoah, well-known for her interest in teaching the history of the Haudenosaunee.

As expressed by Karen Mihalyi, director of the choir, in the program notes, "May we continue in the spirit of good neighbors; may we carry our dreams of peace forward with integrity and open hearts; may we keep singing!"



Commitments To the Onondaga Nation

We stand with you in gratitude at the center of the world. In the land of the hills, to speak and sing from our hearts.

We commit to transforming our nation into a place of neighborliness and community, a nation that respects elders, one that understands what it means to keep a promise, redress an injustice, exchange a heartfelt greeting, honor a treaty.

We promise to cultivate an attitude of gratitude. May we recover our own thanksgiving prayers in our own voices and traditions, remembering that no single life stands apart from the whole, that our every breath of air, sip of water and morsel of food is a legacy from the work of countless ancestors and fellow beings.

We vow to remember that all of creation desires to be appreciated and we'll wake up and notice.

We promise to slow down, back off, make room, tread lightly, be quiet, observe, let the voices of these hills and valleys be heard.

We vow to be steadfast against racism - loud and determined not to stand for the trivializing and demeaning of Native People.

We'll remember that we have not only chores and jobs and ambitions but also duties - Onondaga creek will flow clear, the Lake will breathe again and the Peacemaker will be honored on its shore, salmon will run, eagles will soar - we'll make sure of it.

We commit to the two-row way. We'll do our best to take the rudder of our ship away from the forces of destruction and steer it with a good mind as we travel alongside you making a new positive history of relations between us.

So may it be.

Message From The Onondaga Nation

In our Creator's plan for life People would live together in peace and compassion, caring and sharing the bounty of creation. In balance with all the rest of Creation.

Our forefathers, yours and mine centuries ago made an agreement - a Treaty, their intention being that we would live side by side as brothers. Our vessels would travel in the river of life side by side, each with honor and respect of the other.

My ancestors shared with fellow humans a homeland abundant with the richness of earth. The Two Row Wampum Treaty, ever sacred to my people remains as relevant today as it was at its inception. For it states that this agreement will last: "For as long as the sun shines."

The sun still shines on us today. "For as long as the waters flow." Rivers and streams are flowing still. "For as long as the grass grows." In the infinite wisdom of our ancestors this language means forever. They originated the formula for future generations to follow.

Far too soon transgression began, the freedoms and the rights of the original inhabitants disregarded; the sacred treaty trampled.

To most Americans this is an untold part of their history. Overlooked in retelling of their great accomplishments in the making of this great nation in the world theatre. Perpetuated in this country, remaining unknown, unrecognized as genocide and attempted annihilation of our people. To many this continues under the guise of denial.

Thank you for your compassion and commitment. We are very thankful, hereby expressing heartfelt gratitude to you who understand the millions of years of pain my people have cried.

It is good medicine to look into your warm eyes and warm smiles. We want you to know how very thankful we are, that we appreciate all your continued support in our continued, ongoing struggle for justice. Creator knows of you, for you are included in our thanksgiving.

Happiness is a warm gun

Textile students at an art academy in Poznan, Poland have invented a novel way to improve the appearance of some of the plug-ugliest relics of the Cold War era. Artist Jerilea Zempel and a group of students (known locally as "The Tank Girls"), spent two years crocheting a rosy "tank cozy," designed to cover one of the things. The cozy was first deployed in 1998 on a tank at the Poznan military museum. The Tank Girls are currently raising funds to take the cozy on a "Tank Tour" of Eastern Europe this summer.

Source: Reuters

Less hot air

William Clay Ford, Jr., chair of Ford Motor Company, announced in December that he is pulling his company out of the Global Climate Coalition (GCC), a controversial group of more than 40 major corporations. The GCC argues that there is insufficient scientific evidence to confirm the existence of serious warming of the earth due to "greenhouse" gases. Other companies that have left the group in the past two years include British Petroleum, Shell Oil, and Dow Chemicals.

Activist groups fighting global warming claimed a victory. "This may well be the kind of strong and clear statement that can end the debate over global warming," said Kevin Sweeney, chair of Ozone Action. "When 2500 scientists agreed on a statement that global warming is a real and urgent phenomenon caused by humans, the GCC drummed up a small handful of dissenters," Sweeney says. "Spending millions on advertising, lobbying, and other efforts to discredit the best science, the group's small clique has had a huge presence...they've provided ready sources for journalists who, under the guise of objectivity, lazily assume that "another side" to the science should be presented in each story on the topic.

"In walking away from the GCC," Sweeney says, "Ford has pulled back the curtain to show that science has never clouded this debate. It was the sophisticated advocacy and self-interest of panicked industrialists that did so."

Source: Multinational Monitor

Voodoo Tax Calculator

George Bush Jr.'s web site features a "Bush for President Tax Calculator" that ostensibly "lets taxpayers see how Governor Bush's tax plan helps working Americans." Unfortunately, the tax calculator often simply doesn't work.

If you type "single, two kids, making \$22,000, for example, you'll be told that your current income tax is \$100 and that your tax under the Bush plan would be zero. That's pretty far off since the actual figures are minus \$1701 now and would be minus \$1811 under the Bush plan. Perhaps to avoid

Quote of the month

"Thank you Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Kansas."

George Bush Jr. in a press release following several primary victories, (despite the fact that there was no Kansas primary).

Quote from the past

"Mos anytime you see whitemen spose to fight each other an' you not white, well you know you got trouble, because they blah-blah loud about Democrat or Republican an' they huffin' an' puff about democracy someplace else but relentless, see, the deal come down evil on somebody don' have no shirt an' tie, somebody don' live in no whiteman house no whiteman country."

June Jordan US poet and civil rights activist. *Moving Towards Home: Political Essays*, "White Tuesday."

conflicting with Bush's claim that single mothers are grossly overtaxed today, the Bush calculator leaves out the Earned Income Tax Credit. As a result the tax information it provides for families making less than \$30,000 is usually wrong.

Oddly, the Bush calculator won't allow income entries greater than \$100,000—quite an oversight, given that most of Bush's tax cuts are targeted to the 11 million couples and individuals whose income exceeds that amount. Of course, in order for Bush's calculator to be really useful, it would show how much working Americans stand to lose in government services to pay for Bush's gargantuan tax cuts. Needless to say, it doesn't do that.

Source: American Prospect

Edited by Mike Kernahan

Shot at the border

For some people, coming to the US is a life-or-death struggle, and journalist Scott Stanley has the proof. Last fall, after a year of legal battles, he won the right to publish photographs of 12 illegal immigrants who died attempting to cross the US-Mexico border. Stanley ran the photos in his literary magazine, the *Tucson poet*, hoping to raise awareness of the gruesome fate that can befall those caught on the wrong side of US immigration policy.

Ten of the photos show Mexicans, ranging from teenagers to grandmothers, who died of exposure in the desert. Creating more controversy, two depict men killed by the Border Patrol. "These are real people," says Stanley. "Without these photographs, they would just be names in the newspaper, if that."

When Stanley first requested the photographs from the Pima County, Arizona coroner in October 1998, he was rebuffed and told that the privacy of the victims' families outweighed any public right to the photos. Stanley claims the coroner's decision had little to do with privacy. "These pictures are lousy PR for the Border Patrol," he says. "They aren't pretty." In February 1999, Stanley threatened legal action to force the release of the photos. District Attorney David Dingeldine not only fought Stanley's request, but filed suit to make him pay for the county's legal costs, landing the matter in court. In September 1999 Superior Court Judge Nanette Warner sided with Stanley. "The old adage, 'A picture is worth a thousand words,' is applicable here," she said in her ruling. "There is a legitimate public interest in knowing policies and practices of the US Border Patrol...aimed at stemming illegal entry into this country at the Mexican border."

"Our intent is to make everyone a witness to these deaths," says Stanley. "If you were to collect photographs of all the people who died trying to get into the US, I think most people would be horrified. We've put together one small glimpse of that horror."

Source: MoJo Outfront

COLOMBIA: More Killing Fields

Clinton, Congress and the Pentagon are hell-bent on planting more killing fields in Colombia. Under the pretext of the so-called "war on drugs" — which no informed person here or abroad takes seriously — over a billion dollars in military aid is about to be given to the Colombia military.

We hear lots about Colombia and drugs in the US press, but little to help us understand the decades-long civil war there. Yes, drugs are a factor. But more basic are land, disenfranchisement, control of natural resources, and vast disparity in wealth.

Much of the US aid will go to provide helicopters for anti-insurgency and anti-civilian warfare. In Colombia many civilians, indigenous and non-indigenous, occupy land in areas where guerrillas operate. Or they occupy land coveted by cattle barons, mining interests, and US oil firms. (Al Gore himself has substantial holdings in Occidental Petroleum, a company seeking to drive the Uwa from their ancestral lands.)

No country has had more students at the School of the Americas than Colombia: over 10,000. The Colombian military is notorious for its corruption and human rights abuse...and for its intimacies with drug-trafficking paramilitaries and death squads. (For documentation read Javier Giraldo S.J., *Colombia: The Genocidal Democracy*, 1996 — out of print but available free on the Common Courage Press web site.)

This past spring Cecilia Zarate-Laun, co-founder of the Colombian Support Network (CSN), spoke at the Peace Council birthday celebration. Cecilia travels the US, tirelessly trying to shake US citizens awake in the face of our actual and impending invasion of her country. A dozen Syracuse-area activists, members of the CNY SOA Abolitionists, have responded by forming a local CSN chapter. Individual annual membership is \$25 (\$15 low income).

Besides lobbying and consciousness-raising here in the US, the CSN strives to build sister-community relationships with vulnerable Colombian communities in the war zones. This entails periodic visits to the community by chapter representatives. The Syracuse chapter is eager to expand; please consider joining us. To do so, contact Ann Tiffany, (315)478-4571, anntiffany@a-znet.com.

SOA Update: Sr. Megan Back in Prison for Six Months

by Ed Kinane

Sister Megan Rice SHCJ, aged 70, formerly of St. Lucy's parish in Syracuse, has a persistent conscience. In 1998, as one of the "SOA 25," she spent six months at Danbury Federal Prison. Last November Megan returned to Fort Benning, the home of the US Army's School of the Americas and the scene of her crimes. She (along with over 4000 others) was arrested there for once again "crossing the line."

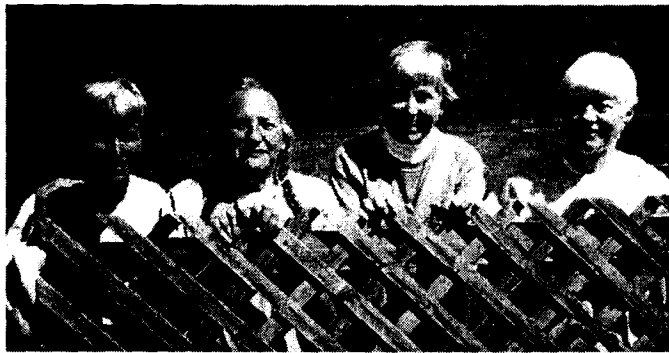
It goes without saying, of course, that she (and they) did so nonviolently. It also goes without saying that the Pentagon — that supreme defender of democracy — sees such peaceful expression as a threat.

Megan and nine other repeat "offenders" were singled out for prosecution. On June 8 in Columbus, GA federal judge Hugh Lawson sentenced all but one of them to prison. Megan got the max for her trespass misdemeanor: six months in prison and a \$5000 fine. Also receiving the maximum sentence was Charlie Liteky, friend of the CNY SOA Abolitionists, Viet Nam War chaplain and winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Charlie got two six months sentences to be served consecutively and a \$10,000 fine for two trespass charges.

Seven of their codefendants, including John Honeck of Rochester, were each sentenced to three months in prison and fined \$2500. Due to family circumstances one was sentenced to "only" one year's probation and fined \$1000.

As I write, Megan resides at the Muscogee County Jail in Columbus and is awaiting transfer to a federal minimum security prison. The other defendants got "self surrender" — they'll report to their

respective prisons soon. Megan writes, "I am glad I made the choice not to cooperate with the judge's allowance of 'self-reporting' as we did last time, and to be able to know how people are really being treated when they have



Ann Tiffany, Anne Herman, Megan Rice, Doris Sage

no chance to go home and 'prepare' for jail as some are allowed to do."

One of the "SOA 10," Margaret Knapke, said about going to prison, "I am going to think of it as a semester of unlearning my class privilege. It's not going to be pleasant and at its worst it's going to be relatively easy compared to what the people of Latin America have had to endure as a result of the SOA and US policy."

This spring 20 others have been arrested in three separate nonviolent direct actions at the School of the Americas building at Fort Benning. All 20 are awaiting arraignment.

The SOA, in response to accelerating criticism and mounting civil disobedience against it, is getting a "facial." Thus its name change to the Defense Institute for Hemispheric Security Cooperation. Maybe it thinks "security" and "security cooperation" have a warm fuzzy ring; but in fact the new cosmetics are revealing and menacing. No one, it seems, takes this image management seriously: NEW NAME, SAME SHAME.



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SAT

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to the Peace Council, 472-5478. September deadline: August 25. Ace maintains an online version of this calendar with updates and more at www.peacecouncil.org/calendar.htm.

1 Aug. 1-9: Continuation of People's Campaign for Non-violence. Daily events, speakers, demonstrations & more. Washington, DC. Check www.fonusa.org for updates.
Aug. 1-18: But is it ART?, a conceptual collection of non-traditional works. Community/Folk Art Gallery, 2223 E. Genesee St. 424-8487.

2 Summer Reading Group at My Sisters' Words bookstore. This week: "Beyond the Limbo Silence" by Elizabeth Nunez. 7-8:30pm. Registration required. 428-0227. Free. SEUNA meeting. Erwin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm.
1st & 3rd WED.: Peace News letter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. 472-5478.

3 Stoneywall Committee meets at Tu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 478-6226.
Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 478-7475.
Media Unit's 3rd Annual Teen Performance Festival. Landmark Theater. 7:30pm. Admission. 478-8648.
EVERY FRI: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

4 Media Unit's 3rd Annual Teen Performance Festival. Landmark Theater. 8pm. Admission. 478-8648.
EVERY FRI: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

5 EVERY SAT: Dance Techniques with Dance-more Company. Westcott Community Center. 9am-1pm. Ages 5 and up. Fee. 677-7723.

6 National demonstration to end the economic sanctions on Iraq and to support nuclear disarmament. Noon. Gather at Lincoln Memorial, march to White House. Washington, DC. 773-784-8066. Also on Aug. 7.
Media Unit presents "Larry & Linda," a story of love & baseball. Landmark Theater. 2pm. Admission. 478-8648.

7 People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3048 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.
National demonstration to end the economic sanctions on Iraq. US Capitol. Washington, DC. 773-784-8066.

8 HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room. 328 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.
CNY NOW general meeting. 5789 Widewaters Pkwy, 7pm. Onondaga Audubon meeting. 487-3188.
Women's INFO, 601 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free.
EVERY THU: Syracuse Zapateria Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 6:30pm. Ace, 423-4783.

9 HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room. 328 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.
CNY NOW general meeting. 5789 Widewaters Pkwy, 7pm. Onondaga Audubon meeting. 487-3188.
Women's INFO, 601 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free.
EVERY THU: Syracuse Zapateria Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 6:30pm. Ace, 423-4783.

10 Reconciliation: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 208 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-6237.
EVERY THU: Sliding Meditation at Women's INFO, 601 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free.
EVERY THU: Syracuse Zapateria Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 6:30pm. Ace, 423-4783.

11 Media Unit's 3rd Annual Teen Performance Festival. Landmark Theater. 7:30pm. Admission. 478-8648.
EVERY FRI: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.

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

13 EVERY SUN: Brick by Brick prison solidarity group meets. 172 Fellows Ave. 7pm. 473-9005.

14 Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Calkin St. 7pm. 476-7475.
Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WENA) meeting. Petit Library, Concord Pl. 7-9pm. 478-7301.

15 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.
EVERY TUE: Rough Times Live. Television produced by, for and about teens. 8pm. Cable Access Channel. 478-UNIT.
EVERY TUE: Open Mic Night. Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.

16 NAACP meeting. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-6933.
Summer Reading Group at My Sisters' Words bookstore. This week: "Adios, Barbie: Young Women Write About Body Image & Identity" ed. by Ophira. Edut. 7-8:30pm. Registration required. 428-0227. Free.

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

18 Aug. 18-22: Nuclear Free Northeast Action Camp & Summit on the 2nd Generation of Nukes. Contact Tim Jackson for place. 315-422-4924.

19 Aug. 18-22: Nuclear Free Northeast Action Camp & Summit on the 2nd Generation of Nukes. Contact Tim Jackson for place. 315-422-4924.

20 Unity Acres Annual Family Day Picnic. Outdoor religious service followed by all-day picnic.

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

22 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.

23 Summer Reading Group at My Sisters' Words bookstore. This week: "Chocolat" by Joanne Harris. 7-8:30pm. Registration required. 428-0227. Free.

24 EVERY THU: Women's Voices radio program. WAER, FM 88.3. 7-8pm. Pat. 446-7259.
EVERY THU: Syracuse Community Radio, WXSE 90.5 FM. Jim Hightower Radio Commentaries. 4:58pm. FAIR's "Counter Spin" 5pm. "Making Contact" 5:30pm. "Darkwave & Industrial" 7pm.

25 EVERY THU: Women's Voices radio program. WAER, FM 88.3. 7-8pm. Pat. 446-7259.
EVERY THU: Syracuse Community Radio, WXSE 90.5 FM. Jim Hightower Radio Commentaries. 4:58pm. FAIR's "Counter Spin" 5pm. "Making Contact" 5:30pm. "Darkwave & Industrial" 7pm.

26 Pax Christi meeting. Slocum House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woolver, 446-1693.
EVERY SAT: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.

27 EVERY SUN: Common Threads, acoustic local music on WAER FM 86.3. 2-5pm.
EVERY SUN: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90. 6:30-7pm.
EVERY SUN: 51 Percent Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90. 6-6:30pm.

28 EVERY MON: Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.

29 EVERY TUE: Syracuse Community Radio meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. 478-4789.
EVERY MON, TUES, THURS: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 12pm. New friends, lunch, programs. 478-8634.

30 Summer Reading Group at My Sisters' Words bookstore. This week: "Chocolat" by Joanne Harris. 7-8:30pm. Registration required. 428-0227. Free.

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

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**Syracuse Peace Council
Community Calendar
August 2000**

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

Thornden Park Association meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carole Simson for location. 475-2807.

Why Nagasaki?

For more than fifty years the Syracuse Peace Council, along with other groups and individuals has marched in early August to bear witness to the horror of the birth of nuclear weapons. In solidarity with similar events around the world, the march usually takes place on August 6 - Hiroshima Day. The practical reason why we are commemorating the event this year on Wednesday, August 9 - Nagasaki Day - is that more people will be out-and-about downtown on that day than on Sunday.

But there's a deeper reason to take note of what happened 55 years ago, three days after the Hiroshima "Little Boy" forever changed the world. True, the second bomb, "Fat Man" killed fewer people (39,000 compared to 66,000) thanks to Nagasaki's smaller size and hilly topography. But this is just the point - these "fewer" died so gratuitously.

The Hiroshima bomb was intended to end the war swiftly. The official reason for the Nagasaki bomb is that after Hiroshima, the stubborn Japanese leadership didn't immediately beg for mercy. (Hindsight makes it apparent that they were trying to assess the Hiroshima damage before making a diplomatic move.) Tragically, the US refused to wait, bent on underscoring its position and determined to end the war.

And was there perhaps a more evil ulterior reason for Nagasaki? If one were a fly on the wall of some Pentagon conference room would one have heard, "We have this second, bigger, technologically different weapon ready to go; let's detonate it too, and see what it does..."

So we remember Nagasaki also.



Marge Rusk

(With thanks to John Brulé for research help.)

Hiroshima / Nagasaki Observance
Wednesday, August 9 - Columbus Circle

Gather at Plymouth Church at 11:30 am

procession starts at noon
ending with vigil at Columbus Circle
Be part of this important tradition!

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Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

September 2000 PNL 694

Anvil vs. West Nile

What You Should Know About the Pesticide 'Solution'

Brian Dominick

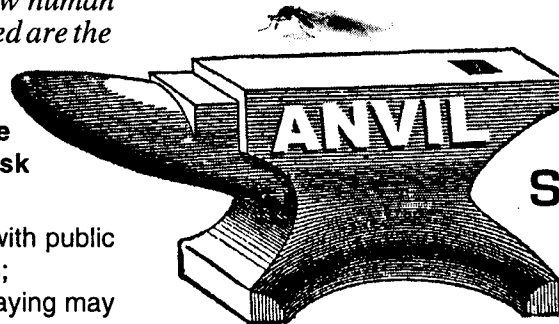
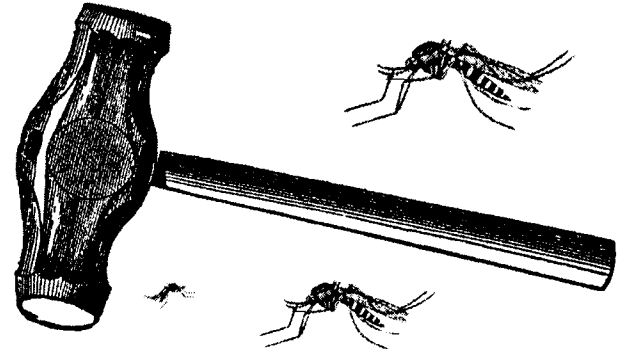
A growing number of Onondaga County residents are joining people throughout New York State and New England in challenging local governments' decisions to employ Anvil and other pesticides to combat a virus that poses an extremely low human health risk. Among the concerns being raised are the following:

Onondaga County health officials are responding inappropriately to the actual risk posed by the West Nile Virus.

- ⊙ officials did not respond early enough with public education and risk assessment campaigns;
- ⊙ the dangers of wholesale pesticide spraying may well exceed the dangers of WNV infection;
- ⊙ the County Health Department has intentionally exaggerated the risk of WNV infection and ignored entirely the risks accompanying generalized pesticide application;
- ⊙ officials have failed to effectively forewarn residents they were about to be exposed to toxic chemicals;
- ⊙ numerous alternatives have not been seriously considered by health officials; and
- ⊙ it is unlikely that spraying to kill adult insects (*adulticide*) on nearly any scale, would effectively reduce the spread of WNV

When proposals for solutions to public health problems place the public itself at risk, residents should have the prerogative to decide for themselves what course of action is most appropriate. This means:

- ⊙ more effective and accurate education, from diverse sources, through various means, regarding public health issues and *all* possible solutions; and
- ⊙ public referendum, following said education campaign, where all residents have the opportunity to choose a collective course of action



Swatting
mosquitos
with a
Sledgehammer

The decision of the Onondaga County Health Department (OCHD) to fight a perceived threat of the West Nile Virus with a hazardous pesticide known as Anvil took most of Central New York, including environmental activists, by surprise. Some of us have spent the past couple of weeks scrambling to become experts. Numerous concerns have driven our interest in the issue, not least among them the virus itself, the wholesale application of a dangerous pesticide, and the summary circumvention of democracy in County Health Commissioner Lloyd Novick's decision to fight a minor public health threat with another public health threat of unknown severity.

While it's extremely unlikely that Anvil, a relatively low-grade pesticide, will cause any deaths in Central New York, certainly in the short term and probably in the long run, it's also extremely unlikely the much-hyped West Nile virus (WNV) will claim any lives either.

It seems the OCHD has taken a cue from NATO and developed the ability to impose a "solution" to a problem which only causes more problems. Onondaga County has long maintained a relatively dormant anti-mosquito division, complete with a small fleet of pesticide spray trucks, just waiting for something to justify its budget. This should sound eerily familiar to PNL readers...

Continued on page 13

Peace Newsletter

September 2000 PNL 694

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To the editor,

Dick Keough, Janet Bezila and I trespassed at the Hancock Air Base in Syracuse on March 11th to call attention to US policy causing the deaths of innocent civilians in Iraq. The National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing is involved in military actions that are in violation of the rules of international law as sanctioned by the US Constitution, Article VI.

On August 16th, Judge Jack Schultz sentenced us each to 100 hours of community service to be completed in two months at local Veterans' Administration hospitals. The Judge set aside for an October hearing the government's demand for \$39,000 in restitution for so-called security expenses in handling our peace witness. He said this was a fitting sentence for protestors since it put those of us who exercised free speech rights together with veterans who

"shed their blood" in protecting those rights.

Is it really that simple? Is that what the military "shed blood" for? History records that the overwhelming majority of military "blood shedding" has to do with protecting and furthering the interests of the powerful, in all countries. Whether pharaohs, pirates or profiteers, the elites of the world consolidate their nationalistic and imperialistic conquests.

Yes, veterans spill blood, but not primarily for reasons as pure and simple as the right to protest. Those in power make sure that protests are protected as long as they don't threaten the entrenched system of power. And that system includes the judicial system. The veterans, myself included, also served, and many died to protect our Constitution and to uphold international law.

Free speech protesting is reduced to the ritual of "protest - its a free country, have

your day in court, take your punishment, and don't forget to honor the military who guarantee this ritual". The judge commended us for being upstanding citizens but refused to acknowledge what we stood up for. Our reasons for upholding international law were given *no weight in court*. We trespassed, we were guilty, "justice" had been rendered.

Since the ritual of "virtual justice" denies the message "stop the killing of civilians in Iraq", I look forward to completing 100 hours of community service for my veteran brothers and sisters by serving and sharing with them the reasons we and others throughout the country took such actions. I'm confident that my community with other veterans will be a productive and useful means to discuss the sanctity of all life and our precious environment.

Sincerely, *Bill Griffen*



about the cover OVERKILL!

Whether it is with spraying or bombing, over-reaction has serious consequences. Even if you get the mosquito, what else does the sledgehammer smash? How about reasoned response, not dangerous reaction.

Paul Pearce

The People's 60 Minutes

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SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL PAGE

SPC is cosponsoring a Rally for New Priorities slated to begin at noon on **Friday, Sept. 8** at the Federal Building in downtown Syracuse. The rally, organized by Peace Action of CNY, will focus on the Star Wars weapon system, funding for nuclear weapons (\$30 billion per year), and alternatives for spending the money devoted to such weaponry. Education and human services quickly come to mind. Join Peace Action, SPC, the local NAACP and other community organizations at the rally. For more information, call Peace Action at 478-7442.

Sr. Megan Rice, a Syracusan imprisoned for her resistance to the School of the Americas, has been transferred from a local jail in Columbus, Georgia to Danbury, a federal prison. Send letters of solidarity to Sr. Megan Rice, #88101-020, FPC Danbury, Rt. 37 Pembroke Station, Danbury, CT. 06811-3099.

Local activist Shirley Novak traveled to Chiapas, Mexico to observe the election of a state governor on August 20, 2000. She went there as part of an international delegation sponsored by Global Exchange, a human-rights organization based in San Francisco, and Alianza Civica, a Mexican group working for clean elections in that nation. We look forward to her comments about the election in which the PRI candidate, handpicked by a political machine, was defeated by a candidate supported by many organizations opposed to the PRI.

Lori Berenson is getting a new trial!

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.

SYRACUSE
PEACE
COUNCIL

Police State News

Access To Syracuse Streets Denied



After decades of parades through the city of Syracuse to commemorate the Hiroshima/Nagasaki bombings, the Syracuse police forced this year's parade from Salina Street to the crowded sidewalk. Very large puppets dominated the procession which made the event awkward and ineffective.

Just as in previous years, the Peace Council had secured a valid permit from the police department. The reason for forcing the parade to the sidewalk was never clearly articulated by officers on the scene. Chris Spies-Rusk and members of Peace Action are trying to meet with the police to get an explanation and assure that this will not happen in the future.

Great Puppet Massacre

In Philadelphia, puppet makers at the Republican National Convention were arrested and the police trashed their work. The police were acting on a tip about *instruments of crime*. See page 8 for details.

LAPD Blocks Satellite Feed

The live satellite feed from the Los Angeles Independent Media Center, covering the Democratic National Convention, scheduled to broadcast between 8 and 9:30 pm. CST, was replaced by the following message:

"FSTV live coverage of Democratic Convention kept off the air by Los Angeles Police Department. Please call LAPD toll free 1-877-275-5273."

The Los Angeles Independent Media Center [<http://la.indymedia.org>] carried this statement:

"Breaking News 6:54pm - Based on an anonymous tip given to LAPD this morning that there was a bomb in a van, at 4:30 PM, the County police detained the two owners of the van, and blocked the parking lot including the area with the satellite truck. This has eliminated our broadcast. "

A bomb was never found.

Michael Eisenmenger
Paper Tiger Television

Technology & Schools:

A Partnership of Exploitation or Promise



Bill Griffen

Technology, particularly computer technology, functions in the present to move capital globally, accelerate production and consumption, and anesthetize the driven population with commodified entertainment and diversionary cyberspace action. This technology-intensive economic system becomes all things to all people: a billionaire maker, a Wall Street casino for the new net-dwellers, a number to indicate the economy is the "best ever" and the means to corporatize the world in the image and likeness of dot.com

But for the average American family the reality is falling or stagnant income, increased hours at work, less job security and fewer benefits. In addition, this facade of a healthy economy disguises some of the worst inequities our nation has ever experienced. The top 1% of the US holds more wealth than the bottom 95% combined. More than one in five children are living in poverty. US CEO's average compensation was \$2100 per hour in 1995 while factory workers averaged \$11.46 per hour in that year.

Why, then, if the new information technology plays such a vital role in maintaining the above-cited inequalities, do the economic victims persist in computer worship? The computer, driving and reproducing an economic order that is grossly unjust in terms of the resulting power and wealth concentrations is now presented as the magic solution to those still questing to make it. The personal computer is given a friendly face and enters the marketplace with the ultimate modern promise: PROGRESS. All on board and for this ride you will need a computer and if you are a parent or educator, your kids need computers too.

But now look at the social life of the computer. As every other technology in this system, computers represent potential power. That power will be used for some ends and not others. Considering the present ownership of computer technologies, what is the likelihood of computer-derived power being ap-

plied to remedy the staggering mal-distribution of wealth and power cited above?

In the rush to jump on the computer-for-every-human bandwagon, the digital, data-glutted vision-deprived culture is thoughtlessly supported in our schools. The opportunity to think about our age of information culture and the quality of life beyond one's first job and a commercial, materialistic future is almost universally ignored by our schools. Instead, like lemmings, educators see the new education "gold standard" in terms of students-to computer ratios (one to one being nirvana), classrooms wired, software owned, computer courses offered, etc. The economic class destination of all those computer-skilled graduates will be similar to that of their parents and the new generation will make up a workplace, career hierarchy in which future inequalities will be played out, not phased out as promised.

For schools to represent the needs of the majority of their students rather than the already privileged, critical rethinking of the social role of technology, computers and the so-called relevant partnership with vocational education must take place. The basic pedagogical question would no longer be: *"What are the skills, knowledge and values needed for employment in the corporate world?"* Instead, schools would raise the democratic question: *"How might individuals be helped in the direction of self-actualization consistent with caring communities grounded in ecological sanity?"* Guided by such a basic premise friendly to humans and the environment, a simple yet profound insight would surface. The present political and economic system meets the needs of only the few at the expense of both the majority and the environment. Such a fundamental understanding of our reality could shape a schooling that rejects the present "one against all" divided society in favor of a future based on ecological and social justice. It would become possible to imagine a society of equals in which families with real communities worked for individual and social needs because these needs would now be symbiotic, not divisive.

People with commitments to social

goals of caring, compassion and justice would not likely be so consumed by the latest computer add-on or virtual reality if the basic needs of nutrition and health care of members of the community were unmet. New priorities would replace the produce, service, consume, discard, pollute way of the present profit-and-grow-at-any-cost system. Present schools functioning to prepare students to support and join this hyper consumer materialistic culture would start to give way to other possibilities. The sacred cash market would be demystified. Schools would encourage the young to envision other kinds of living: one not obsessed with things and converting feelings into products and services; a living where wealth isn't a number on the stock index but a healthy lake or a clean air supply; a living where "multicultural" is recognized as a shallow buzz word distorted to mean that ethnic, national and religious groups blindly accept the monocultural wired world of cyberspace and commerce where the bottom line is economic growth (profit) or die.

Hundreds of schools, having shaken loose from the hypnotic materialist mantra of "grow or die" will now accept and live by the sobering realization: grow and die. We will have started to transcend that tragic part of the Enlightenment when in a nanosecond of geological time humans violently intervened with the physical environment reducing nature to commodities and space to be conquered. Schools would now function to move the collective consciousness from biophobia to biophilia. Schools would embrace a passion for and love of life and develop an informed skepticism of technology whose ultimate goal is virtual reality. Schools would become places where the young pondered the wisdom of elevating the artificial over the natural.

Finally, the collective wisdom percolating up from thousands of liberated schools will conspire to point out the obvious: Modern global capitalism is incompatible with earthlings and their nest. We will begin the exhilarating struggle of birthing a civilization free from technological determinism and the enslavement of ecocidal markets.



Needed : Totally Different Schools



Bill Griffen

Does anything in our culture seem more certain than business-as-usual, only more so? More computers, more web-sites, more TV channels, more commercials, more products, more services, more highways, more malls, more sports and entertainment spectacles all driven by the unchallenged belief that growth is good. Unfortunately for our grandchildren and our earth nest, all this is accompanied by more pollution, unsolvable waste problems, more ozone layer erosion, more violence - to ourselves in suicide, and to each other with war and crime. All this is played out in a worldwide class system with 1.1 billion people living in grinding, unrelieved poverty. Their claim to all of the above "more"? - less than \$700 a year per family member. At the top end of the planet's class system are 358 (and rapidly increasing) billionaires claiming the bulk of the *more* of everything. Those billionaires, centimillionaires, deca-millionaires and their millionaire cohorts own the resources and much of the lives of those who support and/or work for the corporations. And while school children still "learn" about the nations comprising the world, the fact is that of the world's 100 largest economies, 50 are corporations. And yet the myth of nation-state entities determining people's lives and futures continues to mask the reality of a corporate-elite driven global order. Private power is effectively hidden as government is made scapegoat for every imaginable human problem.

What role should schools play in the present reality? Their major function is to reproduce the present industrialized, technologicalized, at-war-with-nature global disorder.

The most important function of schools

Bill Griffen is a direct action advocate for peace (see page 2), coauthor of Teaching the Vietnam War, jazz musician, professor at SUNY Cortland, and long time friend of the Peace Council.

and teaching should be to inspire a vision. Schools that merely describe the present reality and prepare students to take their place in it *are* the problem. After decades of beating up on or defending our schools, nothing fundamental has changed. The rich get richer, the poor get poorer, and we continue to accept this as inevitable rather than as a reality in need of basic change. The environment receives token concern (recycle) but the real attention and actions support the growth marketplace, be it the mall, mail-order, make a lot of money.com, investing, or creating jobs that reproduce the corporatism way of life. Money remains at the center of our universe and its pursuit gives "meaning" to most of what we do. Not surprisingly, schools have had little effect on changing the wealth and income inequities noted above or reversing the fact that ecological needs are always subordinated to the pursuit of individual profit ("making it") and the be-all, economic growth.

Schools have become places that either by design or default are deeply involved in reproducing and reinforcing a nondemocratic, non-egalitarian and ecologically-alienated world. Why haven't the schools made a difference? The answer lies in understanding who is affected by the normal functioning of schools. Who gains and who loses as schools remain irrelevant to problems of justice, democracy and environmental sanity? Obvious answer - victimizers win; victims continue to lose. "Why change?" conclude the winners and those expecting to win someday. "What to change and how to change" puzzles the victims.

The real problem of changing schools is related to the general misunderstanding of the *actual*, not the officially stated function of schooling. If the majority is always convinced that education is designed to solve problems of the victims, including an increasingly immiserated working/middle class, schools will be seen not as irrelevant or sup-

portive of the victimizer's agenda, but merely in need of reforms related to individual student goals, i.e. test scores, career skills, credentials, and privatistic aims demanded by the corporations.

The irrelevancy of schooling and school reforms has become institutionalized. Reformers, be they parents, students, teachers, school boards, others, repeatedly ask questions about educational techniques, this or that reshuffling of teacher-student-administrator or parent roles, propose or reject federal, state, or local testing requirements or portfolios, etc.; but don't *ever* use the schools to critically study these questions: Why the gap between wealth and poverty? How can the endless economic growth identified as our major national policy *not* result in eventual ecocide?

Schools in the 21st century must challenge the conventional, uncritical loyalty to corporatism, the market system, and global capitalism. We must resist the globalization of everything, because missing from these elite-driven plans is the globalization of peace over power and violence, justice over exploitation and victimization, and ecological sanity over treating nature as a commodity.

Bill's calling card

If anyone questions my ability to function as a professor without a technology support system of computers, email, using "smart classrooms," etc.; I offer the following response:

My teaching responsibilities are met through being in the company of students, working in the print media realm and the occasional use of the telephone and television. I have also relied on traditional mail services. The breadth of information (infinite) needed for the level of scholarship I pursue is available through these venues. The time saved (in some instances) by hi-tech use is not crucial in these reflections.

My scholarly and moral commitment to eco-justice prohibits me from accepting further technological support systems that are threatening the environment and affecting the culture's future in ways the vast majority of people have had no voice.

At the Root, A Struggle for Dignity

Karen Hall

In a recent interview, Richard Holbrooke, US ambassador to the United Nations, was asked what the greatest problem facing the world today is. In the not too distant past, Holbrooke claimed, he would have identified nuclear proliferation as the world's greatest problem, but now he identified AIDS as the greatest problem we face.

Holbrooke's conceptualization of AIDS and nuclear proliferation as existing in the same category follows a trend to characterize the global AIDS crisis as a threat to national security comparable to armed conflict. This past January the UN Security Council devoted itself to the topic of AIDS, dedicating its first ever session to a health issue. Al Gore chaired the session and said, "we must wage and win a great and peaceful war of our time — the war against AIDS." While international attention to AIDS issues is welcome, those of us in the peace and justice movement will feel little confidence as we watch national and UN leaders discuss militarized strategies of combating these issues.

Unfortunately the linking of the rhetoric of illness and the rhetoric of war and militarism is not new, as Susan Sontag pointed out in her 1978 book about cancer, *Illness as Metaphor*, and her 1989 book,

Karen Hall acts in and studies culture from her place of origin, Syracuse, NY.

AIDS and Its Metaphors. In the case of AIDS, the militarized mentality of US culture was at work in framing those affected and infected by HIV/AIDS as the enemy, so much so that an early slogan within the AIDS movement was "Fight AIDS, Not People With AIDS." For those infected with HIV, the presence of a virus in their bloodstream became a defining characteristic of who they were as individuals, dictating how people treated them and for many impacting the way they thought of themselves. Almost immediately a new identity group formed and along with it came a new social disease, AIDS phobia.

From the very beginning of the epidemic in 1981, AIDS has been as much a social and political issue as it has been a health issue. And this has meant that HIV/AIDS issues have of necessity been of as great a concern to political, social and cultural workers as they have been to medical and science workers.

The perception of people as the problem prompted some within the political arena to suggest that people with AIDS should be forced to register with the government and other extremists to suggest quarantine and tattooing. Government agencies regulated against immigration for people with AIDS and discrimination against those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS has made protective legislation necessary and slowly available.

The social movement that has grown over the years around HIV and AIDS issues includes many from the gay and lesbian movement, the peace and justice movement and civil rights movements of people of color. These political activists have been important in the struggles to educate the public about the health and social issues related to AIDS, to ensure access to affordable medicine and health care, to establish and protect equal access to housing, jobs and social services, and to ensure that people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS receive the basic rights and dignity due all individuals.

In future issues, the PNL will address the issues of HIV and AIDS both locally and internationally. We will introduce you to people and organizations involved in HIV/AIDS issues locally, report on national and international issues and events, and invite you to contribute your own stories about how AIDS has affected your lives. Hopefully these columns will help to educate, agitate and organize our readership as well as to testify that AIDS is not a war, but a complex social, political and health issue with human dignity at its root and core.



Peachtown



Native American Festival

Sept. 30th Wells College in Aurora. Also, Iroquois Social Friday night, the 29th, in the Sommer Center on campus. A lot of educational demonstrations, food, dancing and fun for everyone to enjoy. Anyone who is interested in working toward better Hudenosaunee/American relations should attend this event. Get to know who your O'ngwehonwe neighbors are, at an event that will highlight many diverse aspects of who the Hudenosaunee are as distinct Peoples.

"Reclaiming of the Creek"

The coalition organizing to stop the construction of the sewer treatment plant at Midland and Blaine Streets is planning a major event in October - "*Reclaiming the Creek*" from the Onondaga Nation to Onondaga Lake. The excitement of this effort is that a wide range of community people will be taking part in a walk or jog or bike or canoe along the creek, stopping along the way, celebrating the neighborhood, reclaiming the creek, committing to the economic development of the creek for all residents, and saying "NO" to the sewer treatment plant proposed for Midland and Blaine.

More information in October PNL

WESTCOTT STREET CULTURAL FAIR

Sunday, September 17 from noon to 6 pm (rain date is 9/24). Artists, crafters and performers; games and activities for all ages; a multi-cultural parade beginning at the Westcott Community Center at noon; and much, much more.

THE UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORS LECTURE SERIES

The 2000-2001 season begins with a talk on the Erie Canal by Samuel Clemence on Thursday, September 21 at 7 pm. \$10.



What is a Sweatshop?

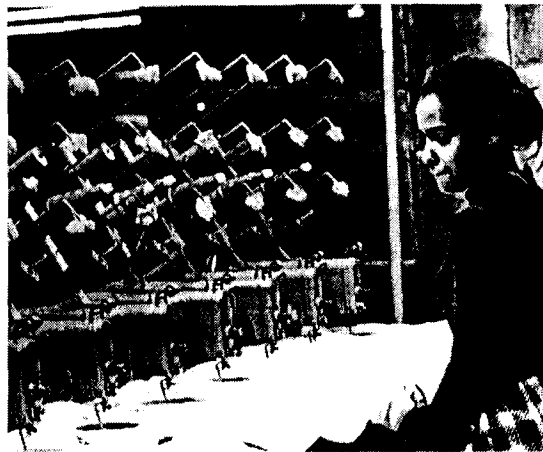
Nickie Remetta

The word sweatshop, for many people, conjures up images reminiscent of the turn of the century, when women and children toiled away as seamstresses in the cramped, tiny spaces of NYC. Although this may stand as an accurate description of the early 1900's, the sweatshops in existence today take on a much broader definition. The US General Accounting Office (GAO) defines a sweatshop owner as "an employer that violates more than one federal or state law governing minimum wage and overtime, child labor, industrial homework, occupational safety and health, worker's compensation, or industry regulation." Sweatshop conditions generally arise through a system of subcontract, which consists of farming out work by competing manufacturers to competing contractors. It is a practice that is innate to the garment industry due to the divisions of labor involved. In order to minimize their fixed cost, an employer seeks out very low rent facilities, usually substandard factories such as cellars, attics, or abandoned buildings, and then the employer crams as many workers into the space as possible. This extreme congestion leads to supplies, equipment and material inventories blocking the aisles and exits, which inevitably results in fire hazardous conditions. In addition, there is usually only one exit/entrance that is kept locked at all times, dramatically escalating the danger of the situation.

The injustices perpetrated by these factories to cut costs and raise profits are uncountable. There is no imposition of hourly wages because that would force the employer to carry a certain cost of production regardless of the worker's productivity. Thus, the workers are paid per piece at sub minimum wages. For many in the US this turns out to be between one to two dollars an hour,

while workers in the third world are earning far less. Wages in the Dominican Republic hover around sixty-four cents an hour, in El Salvador wages stand roughly at fifty-six an hour, and in Haiti workers may only be earning twenty-eight cents an hour. Even though employees are generally forced to work almost nonstop, eighteen-hour days (or possibly longer for rushed orders), the money made is barely enough to keep their families from starving. It probably goes without saying that overtime pay is unheard of.

Problems involving permanent eyesight damage and respiratory illnesses such as pulmonary bronchitis result from the condi-



tions in which these sweatshops are operating; that is usually hot, dusty and poorly lit. Another dehumanizing condition workers endure is having to request tickets, which are limited, in order to use the bathroom, and being punished if they stay in the bathroom too long. Predatory supervisors are usually screaming and threatening workers to work faster so that some astronomical quota set by the company will be met. Sexual harassment is very common since 90% percent of the workers are women and children between the ages of 15-22 years old. There are usually mandatory pregnancy tests before being hired, and once working, these women and children are forced to take birth control. If a pregnancy does occur, abortion is automatically induced by the use of needle injec-

tions.

The sweatshop owner ensures through the instillation of fear that dissention is not allowed. Complaining of any kind will result in immediate termination, as will any talk of organizing or unionizing. This isolation tactic, which prevents the formation of unions, stomps out any hope of worker empowerment and is a major factor in the perpetuation of sweatshop conditions. In one example in the Dominican Republic, 600 workers were fired for attempting to organize. Unfortunately, because sweatshops thrive in areas where poverty is high and masses of people are looking for work, this worker surplus ensures that each individual worker is expendable, and expendable workers are exploitable. All 600 positions in the Dominican Republic were filled with new workers within one week, serving to increase the fear and desperation in the remaining workers and ensuring that they wouldn't try to organize again.

Since the 1980's, the use of sweatshop labor by multinational corporations has been steadily on the rise. This return of sweatshops may be attributed to the decline of government regulation, the diminishing strength of unions, and the overall facts of globalization. In fact, as global free trade increases so does the gap between the rich and the poor. During the last 15 years, executive salaries in the US have increased by 500 percent while factory pay has severely lagged behind inflation, and actually fallen by a net 2 percent. According to the US Department of Labor over 50 percent of the United States garment factories are considered sweatshops, and although this may seem outrageous, it is only a scratch on the surface of this growing problem. It is probable that sweatshops exist in every country of the world. Wherever there is poverty there will be masses of desperate, exploitable workers, and as long as corporations are allowed to monitor themselves, they will continue to exploit those desperate people for the sake of profits.

Nickie Remetta is a member of the student coalition on Organized Labor (SCOOL) at Syracuse University. She is a student at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.



Insurrection in the Streets around the Republican National Convention

Gretchen King

Rolling into town for the Republican National Convention, delegates were welcomed with signage declaring, "Welcome GOP!" posted along highways and in storefronts of downtown Philadelphia. Delegates were also greeted by thousands of protesters who converged in Philadelphia, some "to disrupt the meeting of the wealthy" and some to take their issues to the streets.

Diversity of Issues and People Protests around the RNC focused on a number of issues that a diverse group of first-time demonstrators, longtime activists, newly organized groups, and experienced organizations brought to the streets to raise local, national, and international awareness.

The week long protests had a major kick-off on Sunday, July 30, with the festive Unity 2000 march, the largest permitted march of the protests. The "Corpzilla" float, built by the Washington Action Group, carried a mudslinging fight between activists portraying George W. Bush and Al Gore fighting for corporate dollars. The march showed support from a variety of groups (including NOW, Peace Action, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force), leading Unity 2000 organizers to declare success in coordinating one of the largest cross-interest protests at a national political convention.

This simultaneous demonstrating on a variety of issues continued all week, dumbfounding mainstream media who tried to understand the protests as one event in disagreement.

NEW GROUPS DESCEND UPON RNC

New faces added a fresh take on the issues. Billionaires for Bush (Or Gore) created by United for a Fair Economy, used glaring sarcasm to illustrate the little differ-

Gretchen King is a local activist who along with other activists, is gearing up for the first national debate in Boston on Oct 3. For more information on getting involved locally or caravanning to Boston, call SPC and/or check out this web site <http://www.bostoncan.net/03a.html>

ence between Bush and Gore especially on issues concerning economic inequality. The Anarchist Clown Bloc declared that the two party system "isn't having any fun" and took to the streets during the week to liven up the protests without many of their props (their pies and water balloons were confiscated by police), but solicited chuckles with chants like "The pizza united, will never be divided!"

Longtime Freedom Fighters Protests began early on Monday morning with a banner drop on the opening day of the RNC, by AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power or ACT UP! The banner, which read "Bush + drug company greed kills. Generic AIDS drugs for Africa now!" hung over a billboard on the Vine Street Expressway along the Schuylkill River.

"We're moving up and out of poverty now!" proclaimed advocates for America's economically marginalized working poor and homeless people at Monday's march for Economic Human Rights. The Kensington Welfare Rights Union (KWRU), lead organizer for the march which proceeded five miles south of downtown Philadelphia to the First Union Center (location of the RNC), drew massive support from around the country. The KWRU also organized "Reality Tours" to draw awareness to the 250,000 families in Philadelphia that have been left behind economically. The first stop on the tour was "Bushville," a tent city setup on city property by KWRU for homeless people displaced because of the events around the RNC. Bushville was dismantled by police on Monday after an anonymous tip that pot was being sold on the premises.

The thousand who marched with KWRU on Monday were flanked by cops on every mode of transportation: foot, horse-

back, bike and motorcycles, patrol cars, and helicopters. Only a handful of arrests were made, but police activity around the protests became even more glaring on Tuesday.

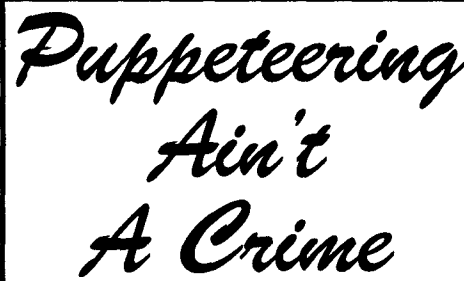
POLICE LOSE RESTRAINT AT BRUTALITY DEMONSTRATION

While protesters took to the streets to raise awareness about police brutality, the criminal IN-justice system, and the racists use of the death penalty, police descended upon the Ministry of Puppetganda in West Philadelphia. Police searched the workshop armed with an anonymous tip that instruments of crime were in the space. Seventy puppet makers were arrested after

a stand off that lasted for several hours. The next day, officers commenced what the Puppetistas call "The Great Puppet Massacre," when for four hours the police returned the puppets to trash.

The mass mobilization of police in Philadelphia's streets was evident in downtown as well, where protesters converged in the streets to disrupt delegates trying to get from their hotels to the convention. The MOVE organization was out in force, advocating for freeing the MOVE Nine (family members in jail) and for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Other groups participating in the convergence were the International Action Center, African Americans for Mumia Abu-Jamal, and a variety of affinity groups, including the Black Bloc. Several groups locked down on Tuesday, each numbered from a handful to as many as fifty participants. Forty-eight anti-death penalty activists locked down at the Vine Street entrance to Interstate 676 and were subsequently arrested. Others locked down throughout downtown blocking the delegates' routes.

The arrests numbered close to 400, but



Puppeteering
Ain't
A Crime

the cops were not just arresting Puppetistas or protesters locked down. Several medics were arrested while treating protesters. One medic reported being trapped by an officer, searched, challenged to a fist fight, and told to "get out of town." Demonstrators who were vocal and/or had large banners were also singled out by police.

ROUNDING OUT THE WEEK WITH PROTEST AND JAIL SOLIDARITY

A coalition of dedicated individuals and groups stayed in the streets after Tuesday's police misconduct. While rallies took place in Franklin Square in support of jailed activists, on Wednesday a march with representation spanning generations, races, genders, and political ideologies took to the streets of downtown Philadelphia to protest "anti-woman and anti-farmer globalization polices." Also on Wednesday, the Rain Forest Action Network presented Citigroup with the "honor" of being "The World's Most Destructive Bank," drawing attention to the bank record in destroying economies and the environment.

Friends and supporters continued to voice their support of jailed activists in the streets and at Franklin Square, which is across from the "Round House" where most of the arrested activists were being held. Those in jail were brutalized behind closed doors and denied access to their legal and human rights (some officers only allowed one phone call per cell and the cold temperature maintained in the jail prevented RNC prisoners from sleeping). Some of the Philadelphians, who poured into the streets during the week to learn about the issues and watch their police interact with protesters, also made their way to Franklin Square to offer their support.

The protest created a positive political energy in the face of new police tactics (preemptive strikes not just on puppets, but on "leaders," people with cell phones, and affinity groups), brutality in the jails, and misinformation disseminated by officials. Jail solidarity continued well after the RNC left Philadelphia as 150 jailed activists were on hunger strike.

For the latest information and a growing archive on the protests around the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, visit <http://www.indymedia.org>.



Bush Speech

A Cause for Concern

Doug George-Kanentlio

The August 3 acceptance speech of Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush should send waves of apprehension through Native communities across the United States.

Bush did not mention Native people specifically in his remarks but he did say at one point that "Now is the time, not to defend outdated treaties but to defend the American people." Candidate Bush was addressing the deployment of a missile defense system to guard against possible rocket attacks against the US but the suggestion that any treaty might be casually disregarded sounds an alarm bell to Native people, particularly in light of Bush's 1999 statement when he said Indian affairs were best left to the individual states.

Bush's statement will be interpreted by many anti-Native groups to mean he will, as president, terminate all Indian treaties and suspend the US Justice Department's role in resolving aboriginal land claims. The US Supreme Court has already ruled Congress has the ultimate authority over Native affairs and may do what it pleases with Indian nations, so a Bush initiative to suspend treaties and conclude the federal government's involvement with Native nations could easily succeed.

Certainly, the US government has proven to be less than competent in its handling of aboriginal concerns, with the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs believed to be one of the most inefficient agencies in the entire federal bureaucracy. Currently, the BIA and the Department of the Interior are being sued for mismanaging hundreds of millions of dollars in Native trust funds, a situation which may well lead to the overhauling of the Bureau to be replaced by direct government-to-government relations.

Native nations, particularly those with formal treaty status with the US, might be empowered by the dismantling of the BIA but such progress would suffer greatly if Indians were placed at the mercy of state



governments, few of whom have proven to be sympathetic to quasi-sovereign political entities in their midst.

It must also be acknowledged that Indian nations give ample ammunition to their critics, particularly when a Native government or leader violates the civil rights of Indian people, engages in financial irregularities or attempts to manipulate the US political system through large campaign contributions.

Casino gambling is also a factor as Natives are perceived by their opponents to be opportunists, willing to exchange their culture and destroy the environment for quick profit. Indians also fuel the fire of resentment when they elect to place individual homeowners at risk through poorly planned lawsuits, then blanket all of their critics as ill informed racists.

Bush's pledge is frightening to Indians for another reason: it comes on the heels of a motion by the Washington State Republican Party to supplant Native governments, using force if necessary; this, along with recent federal legislation aimed at giving the states the right to collect taxes on Indian territory.

In New York, the Republican administration of George Pataki has proven itself rather incompetent on Native issues. In the six years Pataki has been at the helm of New York he has yet to resolve a single land claim or negotiate even one tax agreement. With one exception, he has refused to meet with a collective delegation of Native leaders to discuss mutual concerns, and has he appointed no one with expertise on Indian issues to a senior advisory position. He is seemingly content to let the claims issue stumble towards an unsatisfactory end while tossing casino gambling compacts around like so much fish bait.

No wonder Native people in New York, and others across the nation, are quick to take note of any statement made by a Republican of influence to bring an end to treaties. If Bush can do so with the Russians, he would have no hesitation responding to Republican governors and suspending all Indian treaties.



The FLA^wed Logic vs. The Workers Rights Consortium (WRC)



Curtis Dahn

Universities today are coming under increasing pressure from students, labor, and consumers to take a strong stance concerning where and under what conditions their apparel is manufactured. Currently they are presented with either the corporate dominated Fair Labor Association (FLA), or the United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) created Workers Rights Consortium (WRC) as ways to placate the public demand for justice (and in the case of the WRC, reform their labor practices as well). To understand the difference between these two organizations, it is important to understand the motivations of the groups who created and support them, and how the organizations are actually structured.

In 1996 the Clinton administration, recognizing the threat to their agenda of promoting global free trade (already shown to be weak by the narrow win of NAFTA) that the anti-sweatshop movement posed, created the Apparel Industry Partnership (AIP), a task force made up half of NGO's and labor representatives, and half of corporate representatives. In November 1998 this task force presented the already controversial FLA program. In protest of a system which they believed to be nothing but a corporate smoke-screen, all of the labor and religious representatives in the partnership resigned.

It has become increasingly clear that the FLA is a corporate public relations tactic, not an attempt to reform an exploitative and oppressive system. It requires only that a company submit a list of 10- 15% of its factories to be monitored for one day a year for all of that company's products to receive the FLA's "No Sweat" certification. This certification is intended to pacify the public by instilling a false sense of security that they are buying products made free from exploitation. In this small percentage of factories which are to be inspected, the moni-

toring system that the FLA describes is completely ineffective. The FLA claims that the inspections are to be made by independent monitors. These so-called "independent" monitors are paid by the corporations that contract with the factories being monitored creating a direct conflict of interests. These monitors are also not people that the workers will trust. The fear that the factory owners have instilled in the workers will prevent them from talking to any foreign monitoring firm which might come to visit their factory for a day, or worse, this fear will cause them to lie about the severity of their mistreatment. The FLA helps the factory owners instill this fear in the workers by notifying the factory owner in advance that the factory will be inspected, providing time to cover up any health and safety violations, and time to threaten the workers that if they talk to the inspectors, they will be fired. Furthermore, the code of conduct the FLA owners adhere to does not make any provisions for a living wage. More importantly, it does not ensure workers the right to organize; nor does it offer them an opportunity for collective bargaining, leaving them dependent on a weak monitoring system rather than on one that empowers them.

This code of conduct, and the general structure of the FLA, are virtually un-reformable because a two-thirds majority vote is necessary to make these changes, and this is difficult to obtain when the 12 member governance board is made up of six NGO's who's own motivations are questionable and six corporate representatives who can be expected to vote for profit, rather than human rights. If they had demonstrated otherwise, there would be no need for an FLA or a WRC.

The WRC, on the other hand, does not limit the number of factories it will inspect. It will check factories based on a third-party complaint system, unlike the FLA, which inspects factories based on a list provided by the company. The WRC operates with the knowledge that the apparel industry is enormous, and that there are thousands of factories that need to be reformed. Therefore, it

does not certify products by any company as "sweat-free," since it would be impossible to check all, or even most of the factories that a company contracts out to (especially since companies regularly switch contractors after an order has been completed increasing the number of factories that would have to be inspected in a year). Thus, the WRC will not instill a false sense of security in the public through any sort of certification process. The WRC works primarily through a third-party complaint system, based on the idea that the workers will talk to those that they know they can trust. It establishes relationships with local NGO's who already have standing relationships with the workers, and uses its own NGO's to investigate the claims of these workers by monitoring the factories that receive the most complaints. In short, rather than pompously moving in with outside NGO's (such as Pricewaterhouse Coopers) like the FLA, the WRC listens to, and works with the workers and their communities to attempt to raise both the working standard and the standard of living. This working standard, as defined by the WRC code of conduct, is much higher than that of the FLA. In an industry who's labor force is made up primarily of women, the WRC has strong provisions for women's rights. In an industry where pay is quite often below minimum wage, the WRC demands not just minimum wage pay, but payment of a living wage. It is the hope that the WRC will eventually be unnecessary through the organization and unionization of the workers. The code of conduct of the WRC empowers workers by guaranteeing them the right to organize. The FLA does not.

Inspections done by the independent monitors are performed unannounced to the factory owner so that the actual conditions of the factory can be observed. If violations are found, these factories which are found to be in violation will receive follow up checks to ensure that they are brought up to standard. Companies are penalized by the WRC

Curtis Dahn is a student and key point person for the student coalition on Organized Labor (SCOOL) at Syracuse University

Continued on page 12



Be Aware of "GE" Foods

The biotechnology industry is making severe changes to our food and environment by transferring the genes of one organism to another. Molecular biologists are using bacteria and viruses to insert the genes of other living organisms into the food we eat. Genetic engineering (GE) changes the fundamental nature of these foods. It introduces foreign materials and organisms into the human food supply. Genetic engineering could result in unexpected mutations in organisms and unforeseen toxins and allergens in foods. How could a vegetarian know if fish genes have been inserted into a peach? (Yes, animal genes are being put into plant foods.) How would someone with a severe nut allergy know what foods had peanut genes in them?

GE foods also mislead consumers with counterfeit freshness; a healthy-looking, bright red tomato could be several weeks old and of little nutritional worth. Risks to our environment have increased due to the use of herbicides and pesticides. Crops are also being engineered to produce their own pesticides, placing more toxins into our fields and food than ever before. Cross-pollination or crossbreeding of GE plants with wild plants is inevitable, and threatens ecosystems and food chains.

Like nuclear contamination, genetic pollution is irreversible. Consumers have a fundamental right to know what they eat, and federal officials should require that all foods containing GE ingredients be labeled as such.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Choose 100% certified organic, non-GE foods and cotton.
2. Write the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to demand mandatory (non-animal!) safety tests for, and labeling of, GE foods: Lead Deputy Commissioner, FDA, Fishers Lane Room 1471, Rockville, MD 20857.
3. see <http://www/foodsafetynow.org>
4. read "Eat Your Genes" by Stephen Nottingham

Sources: *Sierra Atlantic; Nutrition Today; Sierra Club Canada; The Green Guide; Organic Gardner*

J. Freund

Thunder and Rain Holds Off - Making Peace Camp a Success

Doug George-Kanentio

The Onyota:aka have completed a two day event to restore peace and harmony given to the Haudenosaunee by the Peacemaker at the formation of the Iroquois Confederacy.

They elected to sponsor an overnight encampment, hold a social dance to lift the spirits of the people, sponsor a tobacco burning and then plant a tree of peace on the 32 acre site.

Kevin Deer from the Mohawk community of Kahnawake traveled to Oneida to assist in the events. He was joined by Mohawk singers Andy Fish and Dean George along with Cayuga singer Dagrahadungee George.

Onyota:aka Wolf Clanmother Maisie Shenandoah welcomed the people to the Peace Camp on July 31. A large bonfire was kept burning throughout the night with the flames providing light for the social dancing. The heavy clouds, flashes of lightening and rumbles of thunder passed just south of the camp but a light, misty rain cooled the people just as the social ended.

On the morning of August 1, Kevin Deer did a tobacco burning to give thanks to the Creator for the many blessings of life; he was joined in his prayer by Chester Mahoody, a spiritual leader from Badger clan of the Zuni Nation and his wife Barbara, an Akwesasne Mohawk.

Again, the weather forecasters had predicted an intense thunderstorm would strike the encampment area but the Thunder Beings withheld the rains by moving to the north.

At midmorning the peace advocates walked through the fields to the 32 acre land where they were met by Mohawk Nation chief Jake Swamp, his wife Judy and Jun Son from the Grafton Peace Pagoda. A six foot eastern white pine was carried to the planting site, located on a grassy lawn across from the Oneida Nation longhouse.

Monitoring the event, which attracted about 75 people, was a large con-



tingent of Oneida Nation police officers while the Men's Council held its regular Tuesday session inside the longhouse. No attempt was made to interfere with the tree planting ceremony which took place beneath the warmth and light of the elder brother sun.

Chief Swamp addressed the crowd, speaking with passion about the significance of the tree of peace. He gave an initial blessing followed by the telling of the story of the formation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the first tree of peace planting at Onondaga many generations ago.

Swamp told of the efforts by the Peacemaker to bring peace and harmony to a people who were living in great fear and of how the violence of that era was replaced with the power of the good mind.

Once the tree had been placed inside the earth Swamp spoke another prayer while the people formed a large circle while holding hands around the tree. Chester Mahoody brushed the tree with two eagle feathers before the people placed soil gently around the tree.

The heavy rains did fall on Oneida territory, but during the evening after the peace advocates had broken camp and left for home.

Doug George-Kanentio, an Akwesasne Mohawk, is former editor of "Akwesasne Notes". He currently resides on Oneida territory with his wife, Joanne Shenandoah.

The Tree of Peace drawing is by Mohawk educator Ray Fadden who just turned 90.

FLAwed logic from page 10

for using cut and run tactics such as moving work to a new factory that has not yet been inspected, rather than working to reform the factory where the violation has occurred, unlike the FLA, which does nothing to prevent this. If a company is continually found to be violating the code of conduct of the WRC, it can be punished through loss of contract with the universities that are member schools of the WRC. The FLA has nothing more than the threat of being decertified as "sweat-free" (a label which most apparel does not carry anyway) to ensure that the code of conduct that it has created is followed.

It has been proven, based on the failures of apparel manufactures to implement their own codes of conduct, that the goal of any corporation is profit, and that human rights are a luxury which will exist only as long as they are profitable. It is with this knowledge that the WRC refuses to allow corporations onto its governance board. The governance board is instead made up of a coalition of students, labor, and human rights groups. The WRC governance structure is set up to allow the WRC to be a living organization,

free to adapt to the needs of the workers, and as unforeseen obstacles arise.

Neither the WRC nor the FLA are completely altruistic ventures. The FLA seeks to hide the problem of sweatshops and instill a false sense of confidence in the consumer, obviously to the benefit of multinational corporations such as Nike. The WRC, on the other hand, is supported not only by student activists, but labor as well. Both the students and labor are beginning to recognize that in an age of globalization, it is important to have global solidarity among workers of the world. Global exploitation affects both workers and students who will soon join the labor force domestically too. The decline of the cost of labor and the dis-empowerment of workers in the third-world leads to the de-

cline of real wages and the dis-empowerment

of workers here, as labor, both union and nonunion, tries to remain competitive. This leads to the growing class divide between the powerful and the poor around the world. The wealth distribution in this country leaves the richest 1% of the nation controlling more capital than the bottom 95%, resembling more closely the class structure of a third-world country than that of a first-world country. This class divide is growing, working to ensure that the economic strangle-hold that the multinational corporations have over the people both here and abroad continues to grow stronger.

no sweat



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ANVIL Cont from page 1

IS ANVIL HAZARDOUS?

While your chances of exposure to West Nile Virus are extremely slim, if you live in Onondaga County the likelihood of coming in contact with Anvil increases nearly every day, as the spraying continues indefinitely.

The Health Department continually insists there are absolutely no health risks to the spraying of Anvil. This simply isn't true. The New York State Department of Health, also a strong advocate of Anvil usage, is at least responsible enough to admit there are potentially significant adverse effects.

The more I learn about Anvil and its contents, the clearer it is nobody actually knows their dangers. No tests for safe exposure levels have been conducted. However, there *is* substantial evidence that the chemicals in Anvil, especially in combination with each other, have significant side effects. Beyond the immediate discomfort and illness which may be suffered by those with respiratory ailments, the active ingredients in Anvil are thought by some experts to have carcinogenic and hormonal effects, and are known to be ground water contaminants. Connections to testicular and breast cancers are suggested by some experts, yet to be disproved.

Beyond seeping into our groundwater, the chemicals in Anvil are known to kill bees and fish. They do not break down as easily as local health officials are claiming. The amount of time the substances remain on items they contact has in fact been estimated as high as 10 days, as opposed to the single hour OCHD claims.

IS ANVIL EFFECTIVE?

The manufacturer of Anvil itself admitted to me that one ground application in a given area will not necessarily kill more than 25% of the adult mosquito population. David Pimentel, an entomologist and professor of ecology at Cornell University, suggests Anvil is effective against less than one percent of mosquitoes in a target area. Introduce the weekly harvest of newborn mosquitoes, the resistant nature of mosquitoes which allows their various species to quickly adapt to pesticides, and the bizarre policy of the County Health Department which calls for spraying areas where infected birds – but mind you no infected mosquitoes – have been found. This adds up to an even bigger

question: How is it the County sees their solution as even potentially effective against the elusive virus? Ask yourself if you've noticed a significant decrease in the mosquito population next time you are outdoors in an area that has been sprayed...

DEMYSTIFYING WEST NILE VIRUS

So far this year, only three human cases of minor illness brought on by WNV infection have been reported in New York State. All three infections took place on Staten Island, where as of this writing (8/22/00) a total of 51 mosquito pools and 31 dead birds have been found to be infected by West Nile Virus. By way of comparison, in Onondaga County, where no one has yet fallen ill, what is considered one of the most aggressive gatherings of bird and mosquito samples has turned up a grand total of ten birds and absolutely no mosquitoes infected with the virus. There is no proof, in fact, that infected mosquitoes are circulating in populated areas of the County.

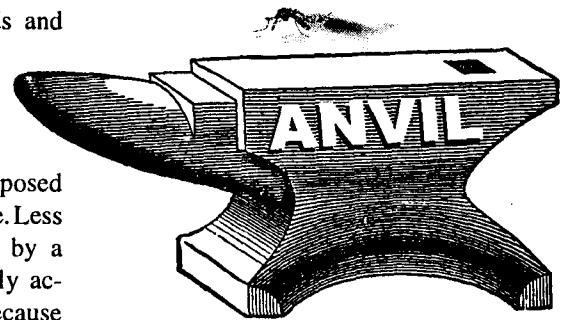
In abstract terms, the actual risk posed by West Nile virus seems just as remote. Less than one percent of humans bitten by a WNV-infected mosquito will actually acquire the virus from its host. Then, because the human body happens to be very adept at building antibodies to this particular virus, among the very few who are bitten by a WNV-positive mosquito and then become infected themselves, chances of developing any illness at all are estimated between 1 in 140 (for weaker immune systems) and 1 in 300 (for the healthy). Then, perhaps one in ten will actually develop a terminal case of encephalitis. So, *if you were to be bitten by an infected mosquito*, your chances of becoming ill (which would probably mean suffering flu-like symptoms) would be at worst 1 in 1400, as little as 1 in 3000. Your chances of dying would be, at most, one in 14,000.

ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES?

Onondaga County is belatedly trying to make up for having seriously dropped the proverbial ball on the West Nile virus scare. It just so happens that early this Spring, the NYS Department of Health released its "West Nile Virus Response Plan," which suggested all New York counties conduct a public education program intended to inform residents to reduce mosquito breeding areas. It also recommended proactive efforts on the

part of officials themselves in such reduction attempts, plus selective use of larvacide in known mosquito breeding grounds. It called for spraying with Anvil only as a last resort. OCHD opted to ignore these suggestions, deferring instead to the Centers for Disease Control plan, which quite conveniently calls for large scale adulticide spraying only once the virus is detected in a given area.

Not every county is responding the way ours is. Some have refused to spray even after numerous birds have been found. Nassau County, which has found several more birds than Onondaga County, has still not chosen to expose its residents to pesticides, and has reported no human cases of WNV-related



illness. Erie County's Health Commissioner is leaving pesticide spraying for a last resort, suggesting it is not a "do no harm" approach.

Brian and other local activists and environmentalists are available to speak at public events concerning OCHD's response to the West Nile Virus. A more extensive version of this article, as well as other resources, can be found on-line at www.rootmedia.org/nospray. To get involved with local activists campaigning to stop the spraying, among other demands, call 423-4783.

MEETINGS ANNOUNCEMENT:

A group of concerned residents is meeting weekly to plan public education and other actions regarding the Anvil spraying. Meetings are open, and held weekly at the Westcott Community Center (corners of Westcott St. & Euclid Ave), every Tuesday evening at 7pm. Call 423-4783 for more information.





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Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar

September 2000

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to the Peace Council: 472-5478. October deadline: September 22.

ACE maintains an online version of this calendar with updates and more at www.foot-media.org/calendar.htm.

<p>3 EVERY SUN: Brick by Brick prison solidarity group meets. 172 Fellows Ave 7pm. 473-9005</p> <p>EVERY SUN: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable Ch. 3 in city. Ch. 12 in suburbs. 8pm. Produced by Peace Council. Tune in, tape it, share it!</p>	<p>4 People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878</p> <p>Labor-Religion Coalition annual Labor Day events at the State Fair. 10am. Blessing of the Workers. Center Court Pavilion. Noon luncheon. Empire Room \$10 with speaker Denis Hughes, president of NYS AFL-CIO. 2pm. Rally</p>	<p>5 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442</p> <p>EVERY TUE through 10/17: Downtown Farmer's Market. Corner of Salina & Washington Streets. 7am-4pm. 422-8284</p>	<p>6 SEUNA meeting. Elwyn Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm.</p> <p>1st & 3rd WED: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnett Ave. Call for time. 472-5478</p> <p>EVERY WED: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Marge 472-5478</p>	<p>7 Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Tu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 478-6226</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 478-7475</p> <p>Film: "Tell the Truth & Run: George Saldes & the American Press." Westcott Community Center. 7pm. Sponsored by Alliance for Democracy, CNY chapter.</p>	<p>8 Peace Vote "New Priorities" Rally. Urge our representative to reduce funding for nuclear weapons & NMD and instead use it for education & human services. Federal Bldg., downtown Syracuse. Noon. Sponsored by Peace Action. NAACP, SPC & others. 478-7442</p>	<p>9 Sept. 9-10: Golden Harvest Festival. Beaver Lake Nature Center. 10am-6pm. 638-2519</p> <p>EVERY SAT: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights</p>	<p>10 Sept. 9-10: Golden Harvest Festival. Beaver Lake Nature Center. 10am-6pm. 638-2519</p> <p>Meeting to support Dr. Jennifer Daniels Call Peace Council for time and place. 472-5478</p> <p>EVERY SUN: 51 Percent Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90.6-8:30pm</p> <p>EVERY SUN: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90.6 9:30-7pm.</p>	<p>11 Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church. Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 478-7475</p> <p>Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WENA) meeting. Petit Loryay. Concord Pl. 7-9pm. 479-7301</p>	<p>12 EVERY TUE: Community Media Action Group meeting. 6pm. Call ACE for place. 423-4783</p> <p>Sentencing of Frank Carver, Mike deVaele, & Neil Golder for airplane trespass protesting Iraq bombings. 6pm. Dewitt Town Hall</p> <p>EVERY TUE: Open Mic Night. Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry music, short stories. 8pm. \$2</p>	<p>13 HOPE Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3816</p> <p>CNY-Columbia Support Network monthly meeting. 7pm. Plymouth Church</p> <p>CNY NOW general meeting. 5789 Widewaters Pkwy. 7pm. 487-3188</p> <p>Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731</p>	<p>14 Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 208 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-6237</p> <p>EVERY THU: sitting Meditation at Women's INFO. 601 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free</p> <p>EVERY THU: Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 6:30pm. Ace. 423-4783</p>	<p>15 "Colombia: Another Viet Nam?" video & discussion with Michael Lopez, publisher of Colombia Bulletin. Co-sponsored by SPC & the CNY-Columbia Support Network. 7:30pm. Westcott Community Center.</p>	<p>16 First Annual BBQ sponsored by Women's Effort & SAGE. Glen Loch Restaurant, 2846 North St. Jamesville Liveentertainment \$25</p> <p>National Beach Cleanup Day. Focusing on 1.9 mile stretch of Lake Ontario shoreline at Sterling Nature Center. 10am. 947-6143.</p>	<p>17 Westcott Street Cultural Fair. Noon-6pm. Artists, crafters, performers, multicultural parade. Rain date 9/24</p> <p>EVERY SUN: Common Threads, acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm.</p> <p>New Environment Association potluck & meeting. Friends Meeting House. 821 Euclid Ave. 6pm. 446-8009</p>	<p>18 People for Animal Rights business mtg. 7pm. Call 468-7877 for location.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Westside meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddes & Delaware. 7:30pm. 476-7475</p>	<p>19 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442</p> <p>EVERY TUE: Rough Times Live. Television produced by, for and about teens. 8pm. Cable Access Channel. 478-UNIT</p> <p>EVERY TUE: Middle Eastern Dance with Zoe Artemis. Westcott Community Center. 5:15-6:15pm. Fee. 474-7084.</p>	<p>20 NAACP meeting. NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-8933</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Skunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475</p> <p>Sierra Club monthly meeting. 5 Millick Hall, SUNY ESF. 7:30pm. Martha. 492-4745</p>	<p>21 People's Roundtable. Topic: "Why Can't We Just Get Along? Grassroots Activists & Mainstream Media." S. Presbyterian Church, corner of S. Salina & Colvin. 7-9pm. Paul. 478-1592</p> <p>University Neighbors/Lectures Series presents Samuel Clemence speaking on "The Erie Canal: Engineering & History." Westcott Community Center. 7pm. \$10</p>	<p>22 People's Roundtable. Topic: "Why Can't We Just Get Along? Grassroots Activists & Mainstream Media." S. Presbyterian Church, corner of S. Salina & Colvin. 7-9pm. Paul. 478-1592</p> <p>University Neighbors/Lectures Series presents Samuel Clemence speaking on "The Erie Canal: Engineering & History." Westcott Community Center. 7pm. \$10</p>	<p>23 Sept. 23-24: Onondaga Nation Arts & Music Festival. Lacrosse Field, Rte 11A, Onondaga Nation. Noon to dusk. \$6 adults, \$ students/seniors, under 12 free. Native artists, crafts, musicians, foods, singers, dancers. 469-0880</p> <p>Household Hazardous Waste Collection drop off at OCCRA's Rock Cut Rd. or Ley Creek transfer stations. 453-2870 to register.</p>	<p>24 Sept. 23-24: Onondaga Nation Arts & Music Festival. See Sept. 23 for info.</p> <p>Socialist Forum. Topic: "The Car-counsel Mail Hustle" panel discussion focusing on the proposed mail expansion. Westcott Community Center. 3-5pm. Free. 475-2395</p> <p>SOLAS Concert (traditional Irish band) fund-raiser for bus to Ft. Benning, GA in Nov. Starter Auditorium, Cornell Univ., Ithaca. Ellen Grady. 607-277-8932</p>	<p>25 EVERY MON: Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7:30pm. 478-8634</p> <p>EVERY MON, TUES, THURS: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 12pm. New friends, lunch, programs. 478-8634</p>	<p>26 Domestic Violence: Dynamics & Intervention. Marley Education Center, corner of Living & Waverly. \$20. 9am and 1pm. 425-0818</p> <p>EVERY TUE: 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 Wainwright Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940</p>	<p>27 "Confronting Hate Violence in Our Communities," a community-wide conference. Ramada Inn, Buckley Rd. 8:30am-3:30pm. Call the Interfaith Council at 449-3552, ext. 121.</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 Burnett Ave. 5-7pm. Free food!</p> <p>Thornden Park Association meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carole Simson for location. 475-2807.</p>	<p>29 Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. 475-1878</p> <p>Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC. 924 Burnett Ave. 5-7pm. Free food!</p> <p>Thornden Park Association meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carole Simson for location. 475-2807.</p>	<p>30 Pax Christi meeting. Stocum House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woolever. 448-1683</p> <p>Peachtown Native American Festival. Wells College, Aurora. Food, dancing, educational demonstrations.</p>
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Video and Discussion Night

Colombia Support Network

Colombia another Vietnam?

Video: In the COMPANY of FEAR
Discussion with Michael Lopez

Friday September 15 - 7:30pm

sliding scale donation

Westcott Community center
corner of Euclid and Westcott



I went to law school in Madison Wisconsin, where I first came in contact with the Colombia Support Network. Cecilia Zarate helped me connect with Padre Javier Gilado of the Intercongregational Commission of Justice and Peace in Bogota. I went there in January 96 with the idea of working with them for about three years. In October 96, I was in the City of Villavencencio with Josue Giraldo (no relation to Javier), leader of the left political party Patriotic Union and a well known human rights attorney.

On October 13, at around 8:00 am we were in the empty lot in front of his house putting up a tent for his two girls (then 3 and 5) to play in when a gun man came out of the high weeds and started shooting. I grabbed the girls and ran to the house while

the gunman followed Josue. I secured the girls in the house, went back out and Josue was laying in the street, shot 8 times, the last in the back of the head before the assassin ran across the lot to another waiting on a motorcycle. On others advice, I left one week later.

In the two years that followed I pushed CSN to publish a quarterly called Colombia Bulletin. The magazine is still currently being published by the Chicago-Colombia Committee.

I still give talks and updates on Colombia about 3-4 times per year between Buffalo, Rochester, and, now Syracuse. I will be bringing copies of the latest issue of the Colombia Bulletin, and back copies, to distribute at the event.

Michael Lopez



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October 2000 PNL 695

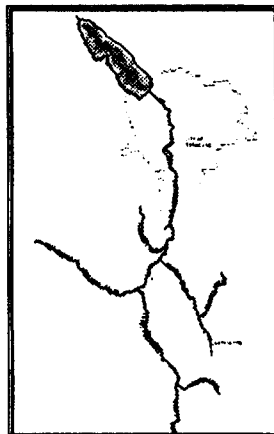
TALK TO THE WATERS

CHANGE THE WORLD

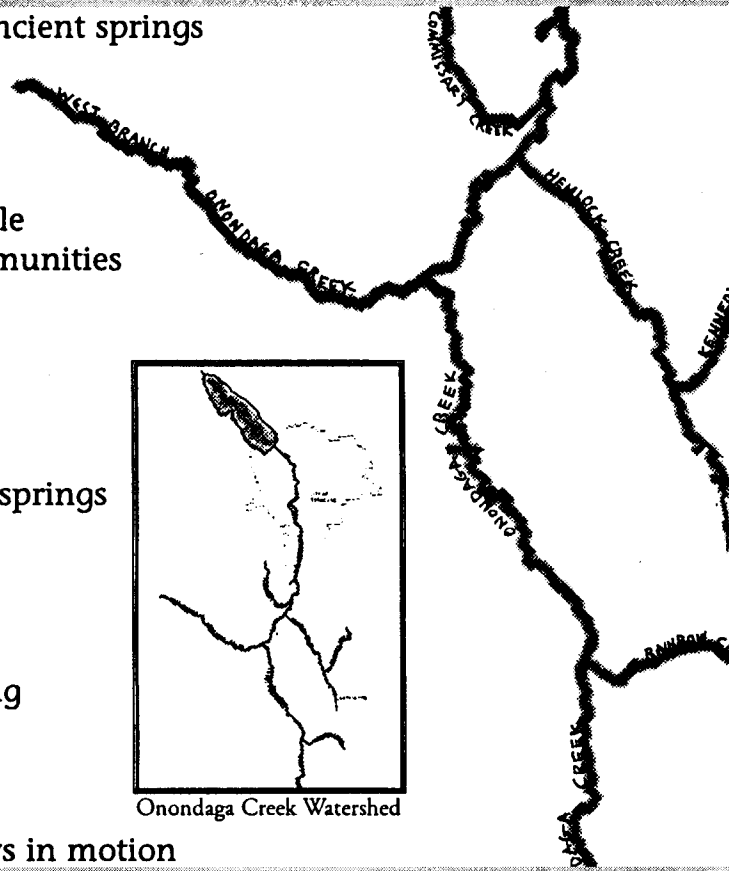
from ancient springs
fresh water
flows giving
taking
shaping land
shaping people
shaping communities
collecting
gathering
all ways
in motion

from ancient springs
come brooks,
and streams
come creeks
and fishing
and swimming
and lakes
come oceans
come rains

all ways in motion



Onondaga Creek Watershed



RECLAIM THE CREEK

KNOW YOUR WATERSHED

ONONDAGA CREEK

It's Time *Ed Kinane* ----- 3
 Lift Economic Sanctions Now! ----- 3
 Reclaiming Onondaga Creek *Paul Frazier* ----- 4
 The Partnership for Onondaga Creek ----- 5
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 It isn't radical to resettle a refugee *Pinyoun* ----- 11
 Africa Matters ----- 11
 Week Without Violence ----- 11
 Pesticide Notification, Tangled Web of Abuse, WXXE on the Web ----- 13
 Community Calendar *Andy Molloy* ----- 15

Rally for New Priorities

With the 50' Peace Action inflatable missile providing a surreal phallic backdrop, we gathered at the federal building in Syracuse to talk about the many community strengthening ways to spend the \$60 billion Star Wars (SDI), National Missile Defense (NMD) budget.

Speakers included:

- **Kaaren Anderson** (Peace Action) - Introduction and analysis including the perspective of a child.
- **Donna Reese** (NAACP) - the power of quality education available to all
- **Rae Kramer** (SPC) - health care as a right not a privilege
- **Tim Judson** (CAN) - the relationship of commercial nuclear power and nuclear weapons
- **Bill Coop** (S. Presbyterian) - peaceful international relationships
- **John Burdick** (S.U.) - Where do we go from here?

This wish list is a good beginning. Let's not forget...hungry children, caring for our elders, ending homelessness....
 [watch it on SPC-TV]

The People's 60 Minutes

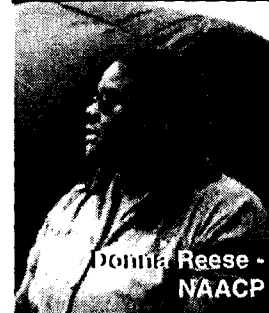
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Rae Kramer - SPC



Kaaren Anderson
Peace Action



Donna Reese -
NAACP

about the cover

When I learned that the northern-most spring of the Chesapeake Bay is located in Pompey, NY, 7 miles south of where I live, my head swelled. Watersheds are organic zones of gravity and nature, great divides of north and south, east and west. My sister Gail lives in rural Maryland, my brother Bill in Baltimore. I felt strangely closer to them...both physically and in spirit. Knowing your watershed gives you place. Knowing your place in the watershed gives you responsibility. I live atop the headwaters of the Great Lakes; how I live takes on that greatness. I have added 'Atlantic Ocean Watershed' to my address. My paradigm has, ever so magnificently, shifted.

-Karen Kerney, *Creek Walk Tour Guide*



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IT'S TIME

It's time to get ready to go to Benning. It's time to close that bloody school.

Thanks to the relentless persistence of a growing mass of SOA Watchers around the country, the SOA is soon shedding its soiled name. Two new names in particular are part of bills before Congress.* Gone will be the imperial, majestic simplicity of the "School of the Americas." In its place will be a multi-word bafflegab crafted to guarantee that no one will remember it, crafted so no one can make a slogan out of it.

No one, of course, takes the SOA name change or its other cosmetic PR changes seriously. We say, "New name, same shame." In response, SOA Watch won't be scrambling to change its name. The SOA, under any alias, will always be "the School Of Assassins."

Or, as I prefer to call it, "the school for terrorists." The word is precise: terrorism is the systematic use of terror, violence, and intimidation to achieve an end. The end being making Latin America safe for US corporate investment and trade.

We admit it — it's gratifying to watch the SOA squirm. It's gratifying to watch the SOA run through its chameleonic paces. Sometimes it even seems like we're near closing that cursed place. But, folks, it just

ain't gonna happen — unless we keep pushing and pushing. It won't budge if we don't shove. Now is not the time to slack off.

This November 18th and 19th at the annual Vigil Action at Benning we will mass once again to demand that the SOA be closed. In an event of enormous solidarity, not only will thousands risk arrest, but thousands will be there in support. Collectively we will be a mass that the SOA and Congress will be hard put to ignore.

This year's Vigil Action — like last year's — may well be the largest nonviolent civil disobedience action in the US since the Viet Nam War. Mass action helped end a war; it should be able to close a school of war.

Those with PNL subscriptions will find details of the Vigil Action on a staffer accompanying this issue. Others should feel free to call the local CNY SOA Abolitionist office from 9AM to 9PM seven days a week at (315)478-4571. Check www.soaw.org for all kinds of useful info, including updates on which Columbus, GA hotels and motels still have vacancies that weekend.

Traditionally we've held nonviolent trainings in Columbus in the days before we "crossed the line" onto Ft. Benning. Given our huge numbers, that is no longer feasible. SOA Watch has asked that we conduct the nonviolent trainings back home. It urges everyone going to Benning — especially

those crossing the line — to get training, even those who have done nonviolent training before. SOA Watch also encourages everyone crossing the line to do so as part of an affinity group.

Here in Syracuse we will have two trainings in early November — one on a weekend and one on a weekday evening: 1PM-5:30PM, Saturday, Nov. 4 and 4PM to 9PM, Monday, Nov. 6, both events at Plymouth Church in downtown Syracuse.

These trainings are free and open to all those going to Benning this year. Call Ed or Ann at (315)478-4571 to register.

These trainings are an excellent opportunity to meet others going to Benning, to form affinity groups, to learn about this year's new action options. They are an opportunity to deepen your understanding of nonviolence. When we finally get that bloody school closed, you'll be able to say that you helped push it over the edge.

* The name proposed in the House bill is Defense Institute for Hemispheric Security Cooperation. The Senate bill name is The Institute for Professional Military Education Training.

— Ed Kinane

Ed has been arrested crossing the line at Benning several times. He's none the worse for wear.

LIFT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS NOW! to be published in the *New York Times* in October, 2000. How Many More Iraqi Children Must Die?

[See back cover for info on upcoming Iraq events in CNY](#)

For the past 10 years, the people of Iraq have endured a slow and painful death in the form of U.N./U.S. economic sanctions. The World Food Organization and UNICEF say that over one million people have died as a result of the sanctions. Children under 5 account for 600,000 of these deaths. Nothing could be worth the price of this suffering.

Economic sanctions were imposed on Iraq in 1990 as an alternative to military intervention after Iraq invaded Kuwait. Ten years later, they are a failed policy. They have not ended human rights abuses and aggression by the Iraqi government. In 1991, the U.N. decided to continue the sanctions to prevent the production of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. Instead, the sanctions themselves have become a weapon of mass destruction, targeting innocent Iraqis and inflicting inhumane levels of suffering. Three senior U.N. administrators of Iraqi relief aid

have resigned in protest over the sanctions: Denis Halliday, Hans von Sponek, and Jutta Burghardt. Halliday calls the sanctions genocidal. "We are destroying an entire society," he says. "It is as simple and as terrifying as that."

Economic sanctions have prevented Iraq from rebuilding its infrastructure, which was severely damaged during the Gulf War. Raw sewage flows in the streets. Broken water purification systems increasingly contaminate water. UNICEF reports a six-to-eight fold increase in the fatality rates in children due to diarrhea and pneumonia from 1991 to 1996.

On November 10, 1998, the United Nations' General Assembly proclaimed the years 2001-2010 to be "A Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World." We ask: How can the United Nations seriously call for a decade of

peace and nonviolence while maintaining economic sanctions which are killing over 5,000 children each month?

We call upon the United Nations to end its hypocrisy by immediately lifting the economic sanctions against Iraq, leaving military sanctions intact;

We call upon the United States to take the lead on the U.N. Security Council by submitting a resolution calling for the immediate lifting of economic sanctions;

We call upon the Iraqi government to end human rights abuses and aggression throughout the region;

We call upon the governments of Iraq, the United States and all nations to cease production of weapons of mass destruction.

A Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World must include the Children of Iraq.

Reclaiming Onondaga Creek

Paul Frazier

The call to Reclaim Onondaga Creek—for all the people, not just some—demands our attention.

Few issues arrive on the pages of the *PNL* that cross so many ideological and political boundaries. Pick your turf and the CREEKWALK calls you. Environmentalists who know the Creek understand its tragic condition and offer solutions. Political activists who speak the language of empowerment, home and abroad, identify with a residential community when county planners tell them their neighborhood is the ONLY place on earth to construct a football-sized sewer treatment facility. Those who believe race and class issues underlie corporate mismanagement of the planet need travel only as far as the *Creekwalk Rally & Picnic* site on Saturday, October 8 to join in a common struggle.

We have walked, driven, and biked the length of the Creek several times in preparing for the *Creekwalk Rally & Picnic*. Most readers know its name: Onondaga Creek. But most may not know the incredible—yes, incredible—diversity, beauty, abuse, and potential that runs as the waters flow from south of the city line into sad Onondaga Lake.

You may choose to gather at Kelly Brothers Park on Dorwin Avenue and meet with representatives of the Onondaga Nation. You will see a Creek meandering and flowing as if in the wilds. Wide meadows and grasslands line the banks. Simply: a beautiful gift. The Onondagas tell us one of their villages near where Green Hills Farm now rests was uprooted years and years ago when the Creek was rerouted.

In the five miles from Dorwin Avenue to the proposed Midland treatment site you will witness a Creek becoming urbanized and selectively cared for. Stand on Ballantyne Rd. and look south: the meandering Creek bends back towards the Valley. Turn and look north and see how the Creek has instantly become narrowed, walled, and is the recipient of storm drainage overflow sites. Stop along the way and see how the Creek can become—and already is for some—a place to walk, jog, and enjoy flowing waters. Ask about the signs you will see: storm drainage overflow.

The rains that fall along a wide area of this nine-mile stretch from the city line to Onondaga Lake pour down into sewer lines. These are the same sewer lines that collect raw sewage from homes and businesses. When heavy rains fall—about fifty times a year—the sewer lines, as they exist, cannot handle the combined volume of raw sewage and rainfall. The Creek becomes the answer: At more than fifty sites along the Creek overflow from the combined raw sewage and rainfall is dumped into the Creek. This is the problem the county proposes to resolve with a sewer treatment facility: cleaning up the raw sewage problem of the Creek. And only at residential Midland Avenue, near Oxford and Blaine, can such a treatment facility be placed, so says the County.

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR ONONDAGA CREEK SAYS DIFFERENTLY.

The proposed site inflicts an environmental injustice on a community that has invested resources in redevelopment and revitalization. It is not fair that the problems caused over years of neglect and abuse are addressed by sacrificing a residential neighborhood.

This major capital project is not linked to any community vision or revitalization project within the neighborhoods along the Creek. Although the Inner Harbor demonstrates a change in attitude on the part of the city about the lake, it is not a community-based project.

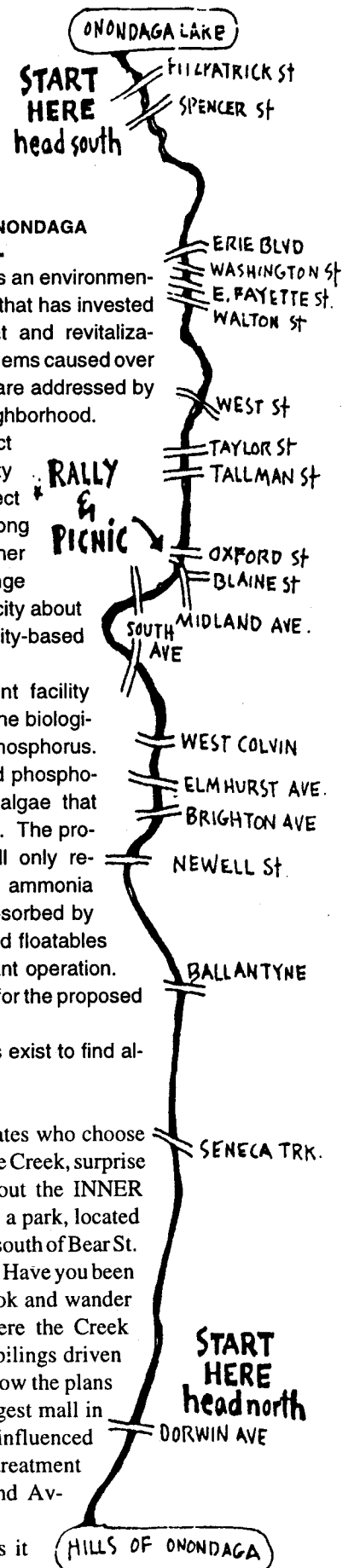
The proposed treatment facility technology will not remove the biologically active ammonia or phosphorus. Ammonia is toxic to fish and phosphorus is responsible for the algae that frequently occurs in the lake. The proposed treatment facility will only remove incidental amounts of ammonia and phosphorus that are absorbed by or adhere to particulates and floatables that are removed during plant operation.

The technology offered for the proposed site is not state-of-the-art.

Considerable time does exist to find alternatives.

For those Creek advocates who choose to begin at the north end of the Creek, surprise number one is learning about the INNER HARBOR CREEK WALK, a park, located on Van Rensselaer Ave. just south of Bear St. Have you heard of this park? Have you been there? Come and take a look and wander south past a vast area where the Creek widens into a harbor. See pilings driven into the water and wonder how the plans for creating the world's largest mall in that area just might have influenced the plans to stick a sewer treatment plant on residential Midland Avenue.

Stay with the Creek as it



winds around beautiful office buildings, and snakes its way through Franklin Square. See beautiful walkways and bridges and wonder why the bridge in Kirk Park is a damaged, dirty, broken, unattended walkway over this same Creek. Look where the Creek goes under NIMO buildings, and Reclaim the Creek as it flows through Armory Square—quite a potential there—and becomes an eyesore and a half as it crosses W. Onondaga Street heading south towards Midland.

You may pick up the Creek along South Avenue and walk its loop into lower Onondaga Park. What a wonderful site for development of a natural beauty for the people of that area.

As you walk or bike or ride the Creek towards the Midland—Blaine picnic, wonder why some areas of the Creek are so beautifully developed and others are left to ruin. Ask about those divisions.

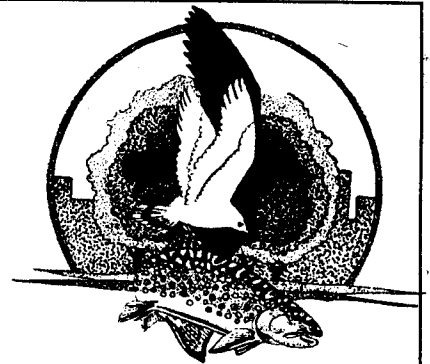
Syracuse is a city of barriers and divisions. Several months ago the PNL ran a photo of the south side. The perspective: looking at the university from South Salina Street. The content: homes and more homes between Salina and the University, from Adams Street south to Castle. Pre-urban removal—renewal to some. Today: those homes are gone.

And so it will be in another brief thirty or forty years for the Midland-Blaine area. Will real estate sellers promote a home, to buy or to sell, three blocks from a treatment site? Will you look at a home for sale or a site to develop a small business on the street where the trucks roar past, hauling sewer treatment leftovers and chemicals?

Another line has been drawn separating the rich from the poor, the haves from the have-nots. The blacks from the whites. Mall here, sewer treatment there, and—“No one asked you to move, but....”

Concerned citizens from all perspectives are urged to take part in the **Creekwalk Rally & Picnic** on Saturday, October 8. Meet at 11 am. at either beginning site: Kelly Brothers Park on Dorwin Ave. or the Inner Harbor Creek Walk park. Walk or bike or take one of the tour busses along the creek. Gather, Picnic, and Rally at the proposed Midland site from 1 to 3 p.m. **Reclaim the Creek for all!**

The Partnership for Onondaga Creek



Statement of Purpose

The Partnership for Onondaga Creek is a community-based organization of individuals and organizations concerned about and willing to take positive action to protect the health of the citizens and water resources within the Onondaga Creek watershed.

The Partnership will support and coordinate the creation of a comprehensive plan for the development of a greenway for the Onondaga Creek corridor. The Partnership will develop and implement a community involvement program that will guide the development of the greenway plan; establish an educational facility and programs that will develop and support citizen stewardship of the watershed. To achieve these goals, the Partnership will use democratic processes that will insure that there is equity in the sharing of resources, information, and community involvement.

Statement of Principles

The Partnership for Onondaga Creek believes that all waters within the Onondaga Creek watershed have an intrinsic value and should not be used as sanitary sewers or conduits for waste.

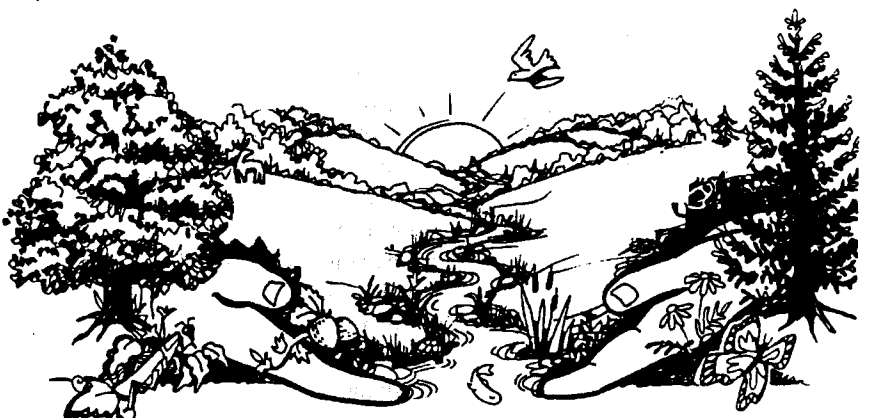
The Partnership for Onondaga Creek will support development within the watershed that affirms the spiritual, cultural, and economic life of communities along the creek and its tributaries.

The Partnership for Onondaga Creek will work to protect all waters within the Onondaga Creek watershed from further degradation.

The Partnership for Onondaga Creek will work to make Onondaga Creek and its tributaries safe for all citizens by developing plans to restore the creek and its tributaries to their original channels.

The Partnership for Onondaga Creek will work to protect and restore ecological integrity of the streams and creeks within the watershed.

The Partnership will work with individuals and organizations that share these beliefs and are willing to work in partnership to put these beliefs into action.



Monitoring Elections in Chiapas

An Interview with Shirley Novak

Ed Kinane

Shirley Novak teaches English as a Second Language in Syracuse's near west side. She is a long-time human rights activist who has visited Latin America numerous times. Shirley is on the Board of Doctors for Global Health, an NGO with health and human rights projects in Uganda, El Salvador and Chiapas. She is very active with the Syracuse-La Estancia [El Salvador] Sister Community.

As part of a six-day Global Exchange delegation, Shirley was one of 80 international observers who monitored the August governor's election in Chiapas, Mexico.

In that election Pablo Salazar, head of the eight-party Alliance for Chiapas, trounced the PRI candidate, Sami David. The PRI—the Institutional Revolutionary Party — which has ruled Mexico for decades, also lost the presidential election earlier this summer.

Shirley and I talked over a delicious — and spicy — lunch at the Jerk Hut, a Caribbean restaurant on South Av.

Shirl, you traveled thousands of miles to be an election day monitor. You went into a war zone and put yourself at some risk. Why was being there so important to you?

I had been to Chiapas before. It was a privilege for me to accompany those indigenous people for this critical election. A trip like this helps me to grow personally. Being there helps me put in perspective what I have and what others lack.

Besides, our being there seemed to make a real difference.

What makes you think so?

Our monitoring helped provide a climate of tranquilidad. This made it safer for people to come down from the mountains to vote. More people voted in this election than ever before, even more than in this summer's presidential election. We were a presence that helped deter violence and intimidation by the military and the paramilitary.

Besides helping to create a safety net, we documented the voting process on election day. While we saw irregularities, they weren't sufficient to change the outcome of the vote. Most irregularities were due to inexperience — of the voters and the poll officials. Our final report, together with that of others — Rigaberta Menchu was there too — and the reports of those monitoring the whole campaign process, helped establish the legitimacy of the election.

In the past, elections in Chiapas have been grossly fraudulent. Votes were often bought by the parties and there was an intense climate of fear. This was the first election that the Zapatistas didn't boycott.

Why should US Americans care about a state election in a remote, hardly-developed corner of Mexico?

Chiapas may be remote, but as US taxpayers we're very involved there.

Since the Zapatista uprising in 1994 Chiapas has been heavily occupied by the Mexican military.

Campesino communities are surrounded by the military.

Mexico gets plenty of US military aid. Lots of weapons and training. In the last few years Mexico has been the country with the most students at the School of the Americas.

The US and the Mexican elite imposed NAFTA on the people of Chiapas. This directly threatens their livelihood. Thanks to NAFTA, cheap corn from the U.S. comes pouring into Mexico — undermining the campesinos' market. NAFTA has also led to the abolition of the ejido land tenure system, the campesinos' traditional method of communal farming.

Although Chiapas is the poorest state in Mexico in terms of illiteracy and health care, it's the richest in terms of natural resources:

oil, minerals and hydropower. By destroying the ejido system US corporations are able to gain title to the land much more easily. Communities resist, but individuals can be picked off one by one.

So what was at stake in this election?

Just the whole future of Chiapas. And whether the militarization and oppression will continue. Now there's hope peace negotiations will be resumed and the military will be pulled out.

I heard both candidates speak. I was



Indigenous Mayan community of Pojcol gathers at the poll. Each voter listens for his or her name to be read from the photo ID registry before S. Novak photo

favorably impressed with Pablo Salazar. He spoke against globalization and said, "We need to create a culture of human rights."

With both Salazar and [President-elect] Fox in office it should be easier to revive the San Andreas Accords. This agreement between the Zapatistas and the national government laid groundwork for peace and some justice in Chiapas. Unfortunately the PRI hasn't enforced it since it was signed in 1996.

But if the new government doesn't put in social programs, nothing will change. Without social programs the paramilitary will continue to recruit the desperately poor in exchange for the few handouts they get.

In the months and years ahead, we can repay part of our debt to the people of Chiapas with our accompaniment and solidarity.





HISTORIC UNITED NATIONS PEACE SUMMIT



For the first time in history, religious and spiritual leaders of the world's diverse faith traditions came together in New York on August 28 - 31, 2000 to discuss how to forge a partnership of peace within the United Nations. More than 1,000 leaders attended.

Planning of the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders was guided by an international advisory board of religious leaders, theologians, and scholars. Strategic partners included the Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions, Scholar's Group at Harvard Divinity School, the United Nations University for Peace, the Earth Council, the World Faiths Development Dialogue, the World Resources Institute, the Forum for Religion and Ecology, the World Conference on Religion and Peace, the Parliament of the Worlds Religions, and the Interfaith Center of New York. Ted Turner served as honorary chair of the Summit.

Funding for the World Peace Summit was provided by the U.N. Foundation/Better World Fund, (which was founded by Ted Turner), the Ford Foundation, Ruder Finu Inc., the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Carnegie Foundation, the Modi

Foundation, the Greenville Foundation, and others. Religious groups provided financial support by sponsoring meals and in kind contributions.

The goal of the Millennium World Peace Summit was to identify ways that the worldwide religious and spiritual communities can work together as interfaith allies with the United Nations on specific peace, poverty, and environmental initiatives. All regions of the world were represented, as well as many faith traditions.

The world leaders who were gathered discussed how to harness the power of religious tolerance and spiritual faith to educate and mobilize their communities. They focused on reducing divisions and ancient antipathies. After the U.N. meetings, leaders continued to engage in two-day working group sessions to devise special initiatives to address regional conflict, poverty issues, and environmental problems.

The calling together of this unprecedented gathering was in response to the armed conflict which has claimed approximately 27 million lives worldwide during the past 50 years. It is estimated that civilians represent 85 percent of the casualties, with a majority being children and the elderly. In the last decade there have been more

than 100 armed conflicts in over 70 different locations and in every region of the world.

The participating world leaders focused on identifying early warning signs where conflict could erupt, developing systems to alert local, national and regional authorities, and suggesting actions that might prevent potential conflicts. Their work included developing strategies and mechanisms to resolve conflicts after they have erupted by consulting with United Nations officials, regional religious and spiritual leaders, political leaders, and local grassroots organizations. The projected role of this group also encompasses providing advice on the healing process after conflict has been halted, and recommending steps to ensure that peace is sustained.

One outcome of the summit was the establishment of an ongoing International Advisory Council of Religious and Spiritual Leaders to serve as a resource for the U.N. Secretary-General and the U.N. System in its conflict prevention and resolution efforts. A Commitment for World Peace was written and is reproduced here. There has been some paraphrasing to minimize the formal language of international proclamations.

"This is an Alarming Message that Requires Your Absolute Attention"

When I read the traditional words of thanksgiving offered by our neighbor, Onondaga elder and spiritual leader, Audrey Shenandoah, I am renewed by the strength of belief she expresses in the power of people to put our minds together, "wrapped in a huge bundle as one", and thereby to bring change and healing to the world. Audrey offers each of us encouragement by reminding us that we are all born with honor, responsibility, and the capability to use our minds for thanksgiving and acknowledgment of our place in the universe among all living things, as well as for action.

When I read the stark warning voiced to the world by our neighbor, Onondaga elder and spiritual leader, Oren Lyons, I am initially stunned and terrified. "...This is an alarming message that requires your absolute attention...Despite all of our declarations and all of our proclamations, no matter how profound they may be, the ice is melting in the north. We see the acceleration of the winds. We see the fires that are raging in North America. And, we see that the sun's rays that provide us with light, energy and the very essence of life now are causing cancer to people, blinding animals and killing plankton and krill of the sea."

I'm not sure, but I suspect that terror is a normal human

reaction to even a moment of looking clearly into the eyes of the suicide of our species, alongside our murder of the rest of life on Earth. Surely, this is not something we, as a species driven by the law of regeneration Oren speaks of, are inherently able to comprehend. When my terror subsides I am deeply thankful that Oren speaks this truth so clearly and with such commanding tone. His honesty and deep belief in human beings makes it more possible for us to hear his words.

I am bewildered when I realize that one of the richest men in the world is responsible for the funding of this gathering. What does it mean that a program of the United Nations was founded by Ted Turner? What does it mean that an international peacemaking gathering is funded and planned through the same structures in our society which plan and fund war making (i.e. capital generated by corporate profits, and corporately and governmentally funded institutions)?

We live in a time when corporate interests have superseded national borders and governments. The contradictions between the medium and the message are staggering, disturbing, and deeply thought provoking.

Carole Resnick



UNITED NATIONS PEACE SUMMIT



Audrey Shenandoah, one of the clanmothers of the Onondaga Nation of the Haudenosaunee, and Oren Lyons, a faithkeeper of the Onondaga Nation of the Haudenosaunee represented Indigenous peoples of North America at the United Nations Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders, August 28-31, 2000. The text of their messages is presented here.

Audrey Shenandoah

Nya Wenha Skainon

My people are the Onondaga Nation of the Haudenosaunee. A confederation of Nations, we are comprised of the Mohawk Nation, Oneida Nation, Onondaga Nation, Cayuga Nation, Seneca Nation and Tuscarora Nation. We are joined in that order by our Peacemaker who walked among our people in another millennium or time in our history. Today we continue as brothers and cousins, a family of people since that time.

We humbly offer today these words of thanksgiving, in this joint effort of Spiritual Leaders to bring about peace and contentment to our troubled Earth and the life contained within.

A most important responsibility among my people is always to address greetings of acknowledgment and thanksgiving to all components of this miraculous cycle of creation. All components contribute and work together insuring that life will continue in peace and balance.

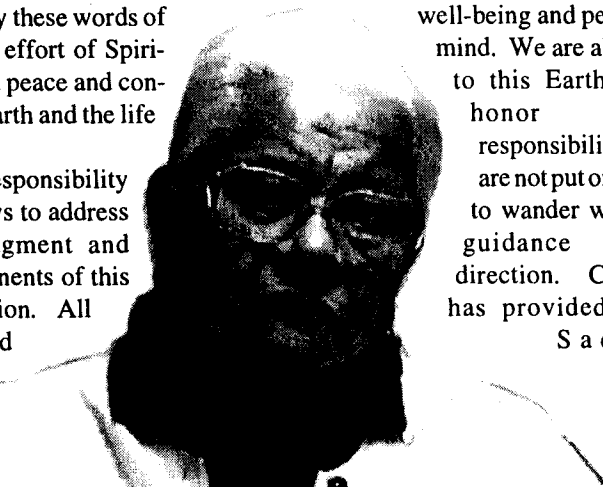
At this time we will wrap all our minds together as one mind as we address thanksgiving, acknowledgment and greeting. Our instruction that people be first as we give thanks tells us that people being caring and giving to one another must be paramount in Creator's plan for life. We are given a pattern to follow.

Now we address greetings, acknowledgment, and thanksgiving for all components of Creation. Our Mother Earth who gives and nourishes all life: the Waters; the

Plant Life from which we gather food and medicine; the Woodlands, our Brothers; the Four Leggeds and the Winged Ones.

Our acknowledgment and thanksgiving includes our Grandfathers, the Thunderers who bring the rain, cleansing and nourishing all life; the Moving Winds, the air that we breathe; our Elder Brother the Sun, providing light and warmth to Earth and all its bounty; our Grandmother Moon and the beautiful stars of the nighttime sky carrying on their duties as given at their creation.

All of these are good medicine for our well-being and peace of mind. We are all born to this Earth with honor and responsibility. We are not put on earth to wander without guidance and direction. Creator has provided four
S a c r e d



Beings, our Protectors, whose duty is to keep straight our minds and our capability to reason with responsibility.

With all our minds wrapped in a huge bundle as one, we bring closure to our greetings of acknowledgment and thanksgiving and address our Creator, the provider of all these life forces which in turn provide that we may have life and know contentment and peace as we journey our path on this Earth. We thank Creator for the



ways man is given to help us keep a balance. We all are given a way to live in peace.

We are gathered at this great center today in these troubled times to put together our minds as one in efforts to bring about peaceful coexistence among peoples of the Earth. There is much talk of peace by those in positions of power in the governments of this world.

Not much is being done to de-escalate the conditions creating the chaos all over this planet. Weapons of war must cease to be top priority. To care for the people! Save the Earth! Reviving spiritual values, respect for life and living things must be renewed and practiced.

Our minds put together as one can be one of great power. Our acknowledgments and thanksgiving reinforce that we all are connected, all related, family. We address the whole universe as such. Our mother; our brother; our sisters, plant life; our grandmother; our grandfathers.

Shongwaya'dihsaih skwaya'da genha. Onhwanja qwegih. Deskwennya donh, lhs qwa'sa'satstenhsa, en yongwa'sko gwa'. Da ne'toh. Nya wenha.





UNITED NATIONS PEACE SUMMIT



Oren R. Lyons

Leaders of the World;

Neyuwenha-skanoh (Thank you for being healthy).

I bring you greetings from the Indigenous peoples of the north and the great Turtle Island, now called North America.

I bring you the most urgent message brought to our annual gathering of traditional elders and youth by a runner from the north, from Greenland: *The ice is melting in the north.*

He informed us that some fifteen years ago they noticed trickles of water coming down the sheer face of Glacier Mountain. That trickle has grown to a roaring river of



ice water pouring out of this mountain into the Atlantic Ocean.

He informed us that Glacier Mountain has lost four thousand feet of ice in these past few years. And the melt continues to accelerate. *This is an alarming message that requires your absolute attention.*

Leaders of the World;

We are a collective voice of indigenous peoples. We have joined this great mission for peace. We add our presence in support of this great effort for reconcilia-

tion between peoples and nations.

We agree that there must be parity and equity between rich nations and poor nations; between white people and people of color and rich people and poor people with special attention to women, children and indigenous peoples.

We, in our collective voices, add to this that *there must be a reconciliation between people and the natural world, between nation states and the forests that sustain us; between corporations and the resources that they mine, the fish that they catch and the water that they use.*

Leaders of the World;

Indigenous nations and peoples believe in the spiritual powers of the universe. We believe in the ultimate power and authority of a limitless energy beyond our comprehension. We believe in the order of the universe. We believe in the laws of creation and that all life is bound by these same natural laws.

We call this essence the spirit of life. This is what gives the world the energy to create, procreate and becomes the ponderous and powerful law of regeneration, the law of the seed.

We in our collective voices speak of this to remind you that spirit and spiritual laws transcend generations. We know because this has sustained us.

Religion and spirituality are vital to survival and moral law. It is faith that has sustained our human spirit through our darkest hours. It has sustained our human spirit in crisis, during the times we suffered through the grinding measures of inexorable persecutions that have spanned generations and continue today.

Yet here we are, today, adding our voices to this plea for sanity in leadership and responsibility to the future generations whose faces are looking up from the Earth, each awaiting their time of life here.

Leaders of the World;

The collective voices of indigenous people add that we are saddened by the absence of our elder brother the Dalai Lama in this forum. We believe that reconciliation should begin here, because peace is an inclusive term, and peace and reconciliation are the purpose of this summit.

Peace is dynamic and requires great efforts of spirit and mind to attain unity. Leaders of peace must step forward and take responsibility for a paradigm change in the direction of current lifestyles and materialistic societies.

The human species has become the most voracious and abusive consumer of Earth's resources. We have tipped the balance of life against our children and we imperil our future as a species.

Leaders of the World;

Despite all of our declarations and all of our proclamations, no matter how profound they may be, *the ice is melting in the north. We see the acceleration of the winds. We see the fires that are raging in North America. And, we see that the sun's rays that provide us with light, energy and the very essence of life now are causing cancer in people, blinding animals and killing the plankton and krill of the sea.*

This is only the beginning and already we are helpless. We will now see the real spiritual powers that govern the earth.

Leaders of the World;

There can be no peace as we wage war upon OUR MOTHER, THE EARTH. Responsible and courageous actions must be taken to realign ourselves with the great laws of nature. *We must meet this crisis now, while we still have time.* We offer these words as common peoples in support of peace, equity, justice and reconciliation.

As we speak, the ice continues to melt in the north.

Dahnato (now I am finished). Neyawenha (thank you).

A Commitment for World Peace



We stand at a critical juncture in human history, one that calls for strong moral and spiritual leadership. We as religious and spiritual leaders recognize our special responsibility for peace on Earth and the well-being of the human family and the greater community of life.

The United Nations and the religions of the world have a common mission—the quest for peace.

The United Nations in its charter has pledged to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and to secure universal justice and peace.

Our world is plagued by violence, genocide, war and destruction which is often perpetrated in the name of religion. Religions have contributed to the peace of the world, and they have also led to division and conflict.

This aggression is a dire tragedy for the human lives ruined and lost, for the larger living world, and for the future of our religious and spiritual traditions.

The foundation of peace is based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, eradication of poverty, economic equity, a culture of nonviolence, and protection of Earth's ecological systems and resources.

There can be no real peace until we end poverty, meet the basic needs of all, and protect the environment for present and future generations.

There can be no real peace until we recognize, respect and preserve the cultural diversity of the human family in a spirit of mutual respect and tolerance.

We can no longer live in isolated microcosms in our interdependent world, but rather we must accept our role in the emerging global community and realize that our every action has an impact on others.

We are committed and determined:

1. To collaborate and partner with United Nations internationally, regionally and locally for the achievement of peace in all its dimensions;
2. To bring about a renewal of our religious traditions, including a deepened sense of reverence for life in all its diversity and respect for each person's inherent dignity and fundamental human rights and freedoms;
3. To manage and resolve nonviolently the conflicts generated by religious, ethnic and national difference, to condemn violence committed "in the name (of religion)," and to affirm that all peoples are members of one human family, emphasizing respect for all faiths and traditions;
4. To appeal to all faiths and all ethnic and national groups to engage in mutual forgiveness for errors committed in the past, and to engage in the process of reconciliation;
5. To awaken in all individuals and communities a sense of shared responsibility for the well-being of the human family as a whole and a recognition that all human beings, regardless of religion, race, gender and ethnic origin have the right to education, health care, and an opportunity to achieve a secure and sustainable livelihood;
6. To promote the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations, reversing the current trend toward a widening gap between rich and poor;
7. To educate our communities about the urgent need to care for the natural environment and the greater community of life, and to make environmental protection and restoration integral to all development planning and activity;
8. To recognize the common moral principles among the world's religions, for the purpose of promoting mutual respect and understanding;
9. To join with the United Nations in the call for all nation states to work for the eventual abolition of all nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction for the safety and security of life on this planet;
10. To practice and share with our communities the values of the inner dimension of peace which is the foundation for a peaceful society.

We as religious and spiritual leaders, appeal to all nation states to join us in the commitment to dialogue where there are difference, to refrain from violence, to have compassion and respect, and to uphold the dignity of all life.

This information was provided to the press by The Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth, Anishanaabe, Saginaw-Chippewa Michigan.

It isn't radical to resettle a refugee; What's radical is to listen to a refugee

One of the lost opportunities in this world occurs when well-meaning people pat refugees on the head! This relegates them to some isolated but charitable condition in which we declare them valuable to listen to only after they've learned English are no longer on D.S.S., have worked for over a year, have been thoroughly oriented to American mores and thus implicitly agree to rarely refer to the place from which they came. We also request they say how very happy they are to be in America, which therefore could allow us to assume that where they came from has little to offer.

In fact, most refugees love their original country and culture! Most still have deep connections to family, friends and community, whom they were compelled to leave. Most refugees are a compact library of stories, traditions, ancestral memories, languages and more. Without firm reference points they must actively engage in the task of remembering. Our most profound gift to a refugee is a safe place to remember and dream.


Although starkly poor and stripped of all superfluous things, the refugee is a truth-carrier and truth-teller. First, in the early stages of resettlement, they are powerful teachers reminding us how crucial it is to be

grateful for the fundamental gifts of life. Secondly, they are able to personify and personalize major struggles for justice elsewhere in the world that we approach too theoretically and without the blood of direct experience. Thirdly, the refugee becomes a prism through which America's involvement in the refugee's original country can be more fully understood, even if it is a negative involvement. Finally, although the refugee comes as a stranger, he or she bears great gifts. They often carry valuable universal qualities—courage, resilience, gratitude, and hope—and also the unique and particular gifts that are carried from their cultural tradition that will deepen and enrich the mosaic of the American culture.

There are practical ways to interact with refugees: attend 'Africa Matters', tutor a refugee once a week, help to fully furnish an apartment for a newly arrived refugee family, join a refugee resettling team which actively and interpersonally supports a refugee family for one year, or make a financial contribution to increase resettlement resources. For information about involvement call Catholic Charities / Refugee Resettlement (474-7428).

Thank you for your attention.

Pinyoun



Africa Matters

Saturday, October 28, 2000
3-8pm
St. David's Episcopal Church
Free! Voluntary \$10 donation

Come help welcome refugees from the Congo, Somalia and Sudan who have recently arrived in Syracuse, in a welcoming ritual!

A Photographic exhibit of Africa by Paula Johnson, Professor at SU School of Law, will surround this event at St. David's.

Three winning essays for a youth contest on *How Africa has influenced my life* will be presented.

A choice of African or American home-made food.

Information: Pinyoun – 474-7428

Week without VIOLENCE

A coalition of local community groups, including the Urban Ministry Project at Syracuse University and YWCA Week Without Violence, are sponsoring a day of workshops and presentations focusing solely on reducing violence in our community. On Thursday, October 19, there will be discussions not only of problems but of a package of solutions developed by Boston, Massachusetts, a community in which gun violence has been drastically reduced, prompting news coverage by NPR, PBS and other media. Most importantly, a workable play to promote peace in Syracuse will be

discussed.

The day begins with a special session of the Thursday Morning Roundtable at 8:15 am at Forum West, located at 321 W. Onondaga St. near downtown. All city and county clergy, neighborhood and organizational leaders are invited to that discussion. Then from nine a.m. to noon there will be a series of workshops led by people active in Boston's anti-violence movement, as well as a plenary session. The presenters include Minister Don Muhammad, a key figure in Boston's efforts for peace; Mickey Roache, former Boston police commissioner who opened his department to greater involvement with the faith community and black community groups; and Franklin Tucker, former director of the Barron Center, a Boston public-school program

for youth caught bringing weapons to school.

In the evening, the program will shift to South Presbyterian Church, corner of South Salina and West Colvin streets, for a 7:00-9:00 pm meeting of the *People's Roundtable*. George Kilpatrick of WCNY-TV will moderate a panel discussion involving Minister Don Muhammad, Roache and Tucker, followed by a sermon delivered by Bishop Violet Fisher of the United Methodist Church. The evening will close with the development of a ten-point plan for Syracuse.



Friends of Dorothy

A Catholic worker house

Dinner Schedule

2000/2001

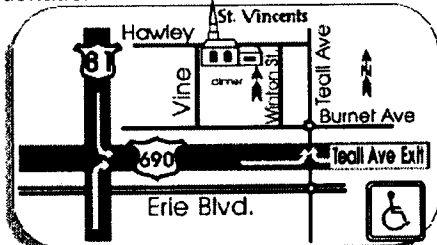
Oct 25, Nov 29, Jan 31

Feb 21, Mar 28, Apr 25

May 30

St. Vincents

Starts at 5pm -
donation



Fable, Farce & Folly (Oh, My!)

four comedies for adult audiences
performed by

Synergy: Women at Play

Saturday, October 14, 7:30 pm
First Unitarian Universalist Society of
Syracuse
250 Waring Road

\$5 donation requested
to support

Alternative Efforts Center of CNY's
housing for women of color
living with AIDS

Tickets available at:

My Sister's Words

For Info: 437-7647 or 424-0841

AFSC Families of Prisoners Support Project

is looking for donations of
fabric scraps

4 in. diameter plastic lids from coffee
cans

Scraps or pieces of felt

These items will be used for an upcoming
craft night for children who have a
loved one incarcerated.

Contact: Luz Marina Zender

American Friends Service Committee

420 1/2 Gifford Street, Syracuse

475-4822 or mzender@afsc.org

or Carol Perry

The Refrigerator Door Club

472-0756 or news26@juno.com



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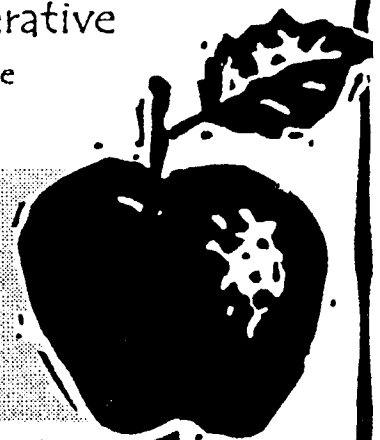
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Will Onondaga County Legislature Snatch Away Pesticide Neighbor Notification Victory?

The Good News...Gov. Pataki signed into law the Pesticide Notification bill. This requires, beginning July 2001, that schools and daycare centers provide notification to staff and parents when they apply pesticides inside or outdoors (with some exceptions). Also, commercial yard pesticide applicators will have to give 48 hours written notification to abutting neighbors before they apply pesticides to someone's yard (with some exceptions). Homeowners applying pesticides themselves will not have to give prior notification but will have to post small signs for 24 hours to let passersby know about a pesticide application (exceptions include very small areas or small containers of pesticide).

The Bad News ...The yard pesticide segment of the law is not a statewide requirement. Each county legislature must vote to opt-in or not. The Suffolk County legislature has already voted unanimously to opt-in. However, in Onondaga County, some representatives of the businesses who would have to provide neighbor notification have come out strongly against opt-in, even misrepresenting the new law.

You Can ... be part of the decision by contacting your county legislator and saying you want our county to opt-in so you'll have the same protection as other counties who choose to opt-in. With prior notification, you can be sure to be inside (along with your children and companion animals) and have your windows closed and air conditioning off when pesticides are applied on abutting property. (See below for some of the reasons why you don't want to be exposed to pesticides.) If you don't know who your county legislator is, ask the Board of Elections at 435-3312. If you want more info, contact the Iroquois Group of the Sierra Club at 488-2140 (9am - 10:45pm).

Numerous studies link home and garden pesticide use to childhood cancers, including leukemia and brain cancer.

Dogs whose owners use the lawn herbicide 2,4-D (the most commonly used home and garden pesticide) more than 4 times a year have twice the normal risk of developing lymphoma.

Linda Destefano

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Since the webcast began in mid August we have received messages from listeners in a dozen countries and all over the U.S.

Of course WXXE continues to broadcast original music and public affairs programs every day at 90.5 on the FM dial in portions of Madison and Onondaga Counties.

WXXE is providing a considerable amount of coverage of the Ralph Nader campaign for the Presidency as well as those two other guys who are running for that office. Check out our alternative media coverage.

826 Euclid Ave, Syracuse NY 13210 (315) 234.1999 (315) 234.2000
Syracomradio@juno.com

Frederic Noyes - Program Director



Fall Event:

The Tangled Web of Abuse - and Hopeful Strands

On Monday, Oct. 30 at 7 pm at the Liverpool Public Library, 310 Tulip Street in the village, People for Animal Rights (PAR) will welcome Jim Tedford, director of the Humane Society at Lollypop Farm in Rochester. He will talk about the tangled web of abuse which connects violence toward humans and violence toward other animals. For example, abuse of a family dog or cat can be a signal that a child or other person in the family is also being abused. He'll tell us what his organization is doing to reduce this problem. He'll show snippets of a video interview with an animal abuser but will not show any graphic material. Also, we'll hear briefly from Colleen O'Brien, co-director of the Syracuse Area Domestic Violence Coalition and staffer with VeraHouse.

Our first humane award will be presented to Linda and Debbie Young of Kitty Corner for their wonderful work of saving homeless cats. We'll serve vegan snacks and have literature available on the violence connection as well as other animal rights and environmental topics. Admission is FREE, but there will be merchandise to buy if you like, particularly crocheted animals and other items by Karen Peck.

We are happy that the Syracuse Area Domestic Violence Coalition is co-sponsoring this event with us and look forward to continued collaboration to protect people and other animals. Questions? Call 488-PURR (7877).

Linda DeStefano

PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL Volunteers Needed in Colombia as International Human Rights Workers

Training: December 2-8, 2000

San Francisco Bay Area

Deadline to Apply-Oct. 13, 2000

Check out our website at:
<http://www.igc.org/pbi/colombia.html>
For more information and forms:
Pete Stanga pbiusa@igc.apc.org
(510) 663-2362

Work for Community Empowerment

Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union has openings for the right person. Join us in a daring struggle against the forces of neglect in a rustbelt city. Learn community development finance working in the most funky, diverse, and vibrant, neighborhoods in Syracuse. This is a great opportunity to join a dedicated team of community activists posing as bankers. Together we will help members with low levels of economic resources build financial strength. The positions available are:

* **Lending Specialist** to work on all aspects of consumer and mortgage lending, including interviewing applicants, reviewing and processing loan applications and preparing documents. Looking for good communication and people skills. The right person will have the ability to analyze personal finances, exercise sound judgment and find creative solutions to assist members toward reaching financial goals. Prior lending experience is preferred.

* **Multifaceted position** includes member service (teller, new accounts), growth into other responsibilities. The right person will be organized and detail-oriented, with good communication and people skills, able to handle money, and have basic math and computer competence. We will train in specifics.

Community involvement, related experience or education, bilingual (English-Spanish) are a plus. Full-time or part-time at 20 to 35 hours. Benefits. EOE. For information call Ron Ehrenreich at (315)476-5290

Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union (SCFCU) is a community development credit union, with assets of \$5.4 million. SCFCU is owned by its members and operated for mutual benefit and community service. SCFCU provides a broad range of financial services.

SCFCU is part of the struggle against injustice, disempowerment, discrimination, corporate irresponsibility and environmental degradation. Our goals are to serve those unserved or underserved by for-profit financial institutions, to build an economy in opposition to the structures of injustice, and to manage the aggregated wealth of members in responsible ways.

Send Letter of application or Resume ASAP to:

Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union Staff Search, 723 Westcott Street, Syracuse, NY 13210 or fax to (315) 476-0567



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<p>1 EVERY SUN: Brick by Brick prison solidarity group meets. 172 Fellows Ave 7pm. 473-9005</p> <p>EVERY SUN: 51 Percent Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90.6-6:30pm.</p> <p>EVERY SUN: This Way Out, Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90.6:30-7pm.</p>	<p>2 People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.</p> <p>"A Peacemaking Poet in the War-Making State," a lecture by Daniel Berrigan, S.J. Panassi Chapel, Le Moyne College. 7:30pm. Reception to follow. Free.</p> <p>Miriam Mirandas: A Garifuna woman from Honduras, speaking on indigenous & Black People's Rights Movement in post-Hurricane Mitch Honduras. Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell Univ. 7pm. Free. 607-255-7293.</p>	<p>3 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p> <p>"Points of Arrival: A Jean Donovan Journey" moving story of the Mayknoll worker murdered in El Salvador by graduates of the SOA. 7pm. Cornell Univ. Call 607-255-7293 for location.</p>	<p>4 SEUNA meeting. Erwin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm.</p> <p>1st & 3rd WED.: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Ave. Call for time. 472-5478.</p> <p>EVERY WED: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Marge 472-5478.</p>	<p>5 Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 478-6226</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 478-7475</p> <p>Film: "McLibel: Two Worlds Collide." Westcott Community Center. 7pm. Sponsored by Alliance for Democracy. CNY chapter.</p>	<p>6 October 6-9: 13th Anniversary Celebration of My Sisters' Words bookshop. 304 N. McBride St. Special events, readings, sales, even cake! 428-0227.</p> <p>EVERY FRI: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 607 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.</p>	<p>7 International Day of Protest to stop the militarization of space and Star Wars. Call Peace Action for info. 478-7442.</p> <p>"Isidor's Cheek" at International Mask & Puppet Museum, 518 Prospect Ave. 11am. \$5 children, \$8 adults. 476-0466</p> <p>An Evening of Music with Ben Tausley & Colleen Kattau to benefit the CNY-SOA Abolitionists. May Memorial, 3800 E. Genesee St. 8pm. \$5-15 sliding scale. 478-2393.</p>
<p>8 Syracuse Animal Defense League meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm.</p> <p>EVERY SUN: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable. Ch. 3 in city, Ch. 12 in suburbs. 8pm. Produced by Peace Council. Tune in, tape it, share it!</p>	<p>9 Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 476-7475.</p> <p>Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WENA) meeting. Peit Library, Concord Pl. 7-8pm. 479-7301.</p>	<p>10 EVERY TUE through 10/17: Downtown Farmer's Market. Corner of Salina & Washington Streets. 7am-4pm. 422-8284.</p> <p>EVERY TUE: Residents for Environmental Action & Community Health meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7-15:30pm.</p>	<p>11 HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group). Living Room, 326 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.</p> <p>CNY Columbia Support Network monthly meeting. 7pm. Plymouth Church.</p> <p>CNY NOW general meeting. 5789 Nidewaters Pkwy. 7pm. 487-3188.</p> <p>Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.</p>	<p>12 Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 206 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-6237.</p> <p>EVERY THU: Syracuse Community Radio, WXSE 90.5 FM. "Jim Highower Radio Commentaries" 4:58pm; FAIR's "Counter Spin" 5pm; "Making Contact" 5:30pm; "Darkwave & Industrial" 7pm.</p>	<p>13 Theater Unbounded presents 3 one-act plays. Westcott Community Center. 8pm. \$8 students, \$10 adults.</p> <p>October 14-16: "Day Without the Pentagon" activities. Call SPC at 472-5478 or the War Resisters League at 800-975-9688.</p>	<p>14 "Onondaga Creek Environmental Justice Walk & Rally" to raise awareness about the condition of the creek and to oppose the construction of the Midland Sewage Treatment Plant. 11am-3pm. 1pm pictorially at Midland & Blaine 478-4571.</p> <p>Pax Christi presents "Peacemakers & Prophets" conference. Features Rosalie Bertell on "Planet Earth, the Latest Weapon of War." She will explain the military's manipulation of the weather and ionosphere in preparation for "Star Wars" 8:15am-4pm. St. Lucy 9pm. 432 Gilford St.</p>
<p>15 Sunday Evening Women's Film Series. FIRE, by Deepa Mehta (India). Westcott Community Center. 7pm. \$1-\$5.</p> <p>Fail work day at the Peace Council. Help with maintenance, winterizing, and general clean-up of the building. Please stop by and give us a hand! 924 Burnet Ave. 9am-5pm. 472-5478.</p> <p>Socialist Forum. Topic: "The Erosion of Democracy: Campaign Finance Abuse, Suppression of Free Speech & Corporate Rule." Westcott Community Center. 3-5pm. Free. 475-2395.</p> <p>"Abolishing War in the 21st Century: New Challenges for the Peace Movement" with Bill Hartung at Peace Action's Peace Award Dinner "Peacemaking Together" honoring Len Bjorkman, Julius Edwards, Dick Cood & Diane Swartz. LeMoyné Manor, Liverpool. 5pm. \$40 dinner. 478-7442.</p>	<p>16 People for Animal Rights business mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Westside meeting. Brown Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddes & Delaware. 7:30pm. 478-7475.</p>	<p>17 Oct. 17-Nov. 12: Syracuse Stage presents "Eleanor: Her Secret Journey" recalling the transformation of E. Roosevelt into human rights crusader. 443-3275.</p> <p>EVERY TUE: Community Media Action Group meeting. 9pm. Call Ace for place. 423-4783.</p> <p>EVERY TUE: Open Mic Night. Happy Endings Coffeehouse. Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.</p>	<p>18 NAAACP meeting. NAAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-6933.</p> <p>Syracuse United Neighbors/Skunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475.</p> <p>Sierra Club monthly meeting. 6:30pm. Ace, 423-4783.</p>	<p>19 EVERY THU: Women's Voices radio program. WAER, FM 88.3. 7-8pm. Pat. 446-7259.</p> <p>EVERY THU: Sitting Meditation at Women's Info, 601 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free.</p> <p>EVERY THU: Syracuse Zapatista Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 6:30pm. Ace. 423-4783.</p>	<p>20 Oct. 20, 21: Open Hand Theater presents "Beowulf" with shadow and puppet imagery. International Mask & Puppet Museum, 518 Prospect St. 8pm. Tickets \$8-\$12.</p>	<p>21 Teaching Day on Iraq. Ithaca. NY. Call SPC for info. 472-5478</p> <p>EVERY SAT: Dance Techniques with Dance-more Company. Westcott Community Center. 9am-1pm. Ages 5 and up. Fee. 677-7723.</p>
<p>22 New Environment Association polluck & meeting. Friends Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. 6pm. 446-8009.</p> <p>University Neighbors Lecture Series presents Sherry Chayot speaking on "Zen & Creativity: The Arts as an Expression of Zen Awakening." Westcott Community Center. 7pm. \$10. 478-8634.</p>	<p>23 EVERY MON, TUES, THURS: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 12pm. New friends, lunch, programs. 478-8634.</p> <p>Syracuse Animal Defense League meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm.</p> <p>EVERY MON: Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.</p>	<p>24 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.</p> <p>EVERY TUE: Rough Times Live. Television produced by, for and about teens. 8pm. Cable Access Channel. 478-UNITE.</p> <p>Parents Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. 1st Unitarian Universalist Society, 250 Warring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.</p>	<p>25 Film: Charcoal People (Brazil, 1999). Depicts the devastating impacts of the charcoal industry on both the environment & the lives & life expectancy of its workers. Uts Aud., Cornell Univ. 8pm. Free.</p>	<p>26 Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. 475-1878.</p> <p>Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC. 5-7pm Food!</p> <p>Moved to November 2</p>	<p>27 Oct. 26, 27, 28: Open Hand Theater presents "Beowulf" with shadow and puppet imagery. International Mask & Puppet Museum, 518 Prospect St. 8pm. Tickets \$8-\$12.</p>	<p>28 EVERY SAT: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.</p> <p>Pax Christi meeting. Siocum House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woolver, 446-1663.</p>

**Syracuse Peace Council
Community Calendar**

October 2000

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to the Peace Council. 472-5478. November deadline: October 19.

Ace maintains an online version of this calendar with updates and more at www.root-media.org/calendar.htm.

Why Is It Easier to Clean Someone Else's Kitchen?

Or Replace the Garage Roof?

We don't know why. But we hope it's true. Take a break from your own "to do" list and help with ours. Volunteers needed for the

**SPC FALL FROLIC,
CLEAN-UP & GARAGE ROOF
RENAISSANCE**

Sun, Oct. 15, 9 am to 5 (rain date 10/22)

Come when you can—stay as long as you can.

Bring: Work gloves, yard tools, rags, cleaning supplies, trash bags, good spirits

Lunch provided (snacks too!)

Call SPC 472-5478 for more info



**Going to Ft. Benning or Thinking About It?
Nonviolence Training in Syracuse**

SOAW anticipates big crowd in Georgia; too big for training there and training is suggested for all participants

**Saturday, November 4—1pm 5:30 pm
or Monday, November 6—4pm - 9pm**

**Plymouth Congregational Church
232 E. Onondaga Street Syracuse**

Free – (donations welcome to support local SOAW work)

Call: Ann or Ed to sign up (315) 478-4571

sponsored by SPC and CNY SOA Abolitionists

Syracuse Peace Council's 30th

**HAMMERING SWORDS INTO
PLOWSHARES
Craftsfair**

**Saturday Dec 2 – 10-5
Sunday Dec 3 – Noon-5**

Be a good friend and bring someone you love who's never been or not in a long time

Southwest Community Center
410 South Ave, Syracuse, NY

CNY Learning and Speaking Out Together about Iraq

Sat. October 21, 2000 10am - 4pm Cornell Univ. Goldwin Smith Hall – Everyone welcome!

INSIDE / OUTSIDE: the Faces of US Policy towards Arabs and Muslims

(hosted by Upstate Muslim Community, Ithaca Catholic Workers, CRESP, SPC)

10am - 12noon Prof. *Al-Arian* - sharing his direct knowledge of the US Secret Evidence Act and how it has targeted and jailed Arabs and Muslims with no charges or evidence Congressman Maurice Hinchey - invited

12noon - 1pm Lunch (\$2 - 5 sliding scale)

1pm - 4pm Expert Panel

- Moderator *Amy Goodman* (host of Pacifica Radio's Democracy Now)

- *Scott Ritter* (former US/UN weapons inspector in Iraq) speaks out clearly that Iraq is qualitatively disarmed of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons

- *Rania Masri* (coordinator of the Iraq Action Coalition (IAC); national member Peace Action) IAC is an informational network whose missions to distribute news on the effects of sanctions and military war on the people of Iraq

- *Kathy Kelly* (founding member of Voices in the Wilderness (VITW) speaks about the VITW delegations to Iraq to break the siege and bring desperately needed medicine

Sat. October 21, 7:30pm *Kathy Kelly* to speak at St. Andrews Church in the church hall. 124 Alden St. Syracuse

Sun. October 22, 9:30am and 11:30am *Kathy Kelly* attends mass at St. Lucy's—432 Gifford St. Syracuse

(N.B. Kathy then leaves for New York City and on to Iraq)

Mon. October 23, 7pm LeMoyne College Grewen Hall

IRAQI NIGHT - presentations by a panel with first-hand impressions of their Peace Missions to Iraq; also, update on current developments in Iraq. Students - free; adults \$10 donation for medicine for Iraqi children

(hosted by LeMoyne International House and Pax Christi)

Follow-up meeting to End the Genocide in Iraq

Nov 5, 2pm Slocum House, 208 Slocum Ave.

"In 50 years, the next generation will ask,

What were you doing when the children of Iraq were dying?"

Mariead Maguire Nobel Peace Laureate

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PEACE
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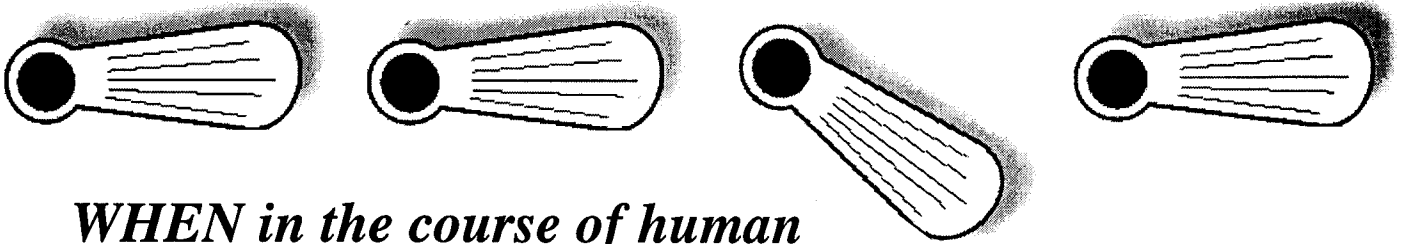
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Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

November 2000 PNL 696

Struggling to maintain identity and diversity while building community



WHEN in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

What does it mean to be a good citizen, of nation or world?

Can we maintain our obligation and responsibility to our community while following our conscience. Can we conscientiously object?

Our system is based on division and continues to pull us apart.

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Whose Rights Were the Police Protecting? Whose Conduct Was "Disorderly"?

Around 8am, on October 24, PNL contributor, Ed Kinane, was participating in a small, vocal demonstration promoting a Living Wage for Workers outside a "Women for Rick Lazio" rally at the OnCenter in downtown Syracuse. When two police officers told the demonstrators they had to move down the street, Ed who was on a public sidewalk outside the OnCenter portico asked them why. Neither he nor any of the other demonstrators had been blocking any entrance or otherwise impairing public order.

Ed also asked the officers if the demonstrators were somehow breaking any law. One of the officers said, "You are disobeying a direct order." When Ed shrugged and started to walk away (and further away from the entrance), he was suddenly seized, handcuffed, and not-too-gently escorted to the backseat of a prowl car down the block. He was soon released with a ticket to appear in City Court on October 31. Although at no time had he been disrespectful of the police (nor anyone else), Ed was charged with "disorderly conduct."

To anyone who received the message about Ed Kinane's arrest, Ed is right, in that you have a constitutional right to protest on a public sidewalk, as long as you are not part of a group large enough or rowdy enough to be construed as a mob, and as long as you do not obstruct the entry or exit from a business or other location the public may visit.

In an ideal world, the police would always respect these rights, however I think that many of us would agree that we, the committed few, have not yet achieved anything near our ideal world, country, state, county, city. We haven't given up by a long shot, but we're not there yet.

Bearing that in mind, no matter what rights you have, if you disobey the direct orders of a police officer, you are doing what is called "risking arrest." That means that the police can arrest you if you refuse to comply with their directives, even if that directive is a violation of your rights. Legally, you are supposed to follow their orders and seek redress for the violation later. Admittedly, this is like a loophole in your civil liberties, but in practical terms, that is how it works.

I am not saying that the police should have arrested Ed for standing by his principles and sticking up for his rights. I respect Ed tremendously for his principles, his dedication, and his commitment to social justice. However, I want everyone who gets this message to know that if any of us choose to disobey the direct orders of a police officer, you are also choosing to "risk arrest." I want everyone to understand this dynamic so that he or she might make this individual choice in an informed way. This is an important piece of information to consider when determining the line between free speech based protest action and intentional civil disobedience.

As always, if you are contemplating a protest and wish to request an ACLU observer, contact me and I will see if any members of our Chapter our able and willing to serve in this capacity.

*In Solidarity, Barrie Gewanter, Vice-President,
 CNY Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union*

The People's 60 Minutes

The Peace Council's TV show
8 pm every Sunday night
 Cable TV
 Channel 3- City • 12- Suburbs
 Watch it - Tape it - Share it!
 Now showing "SPIN"
 and a short *Chuck Durand Memorial*



Community Mourns the Loss of

Chuck Durand, a "Man of Peace"

Susan Keeter

On October 9, 85-year-old William Chuck Durand, community volunteer, conscientious objector, and much loved friend, died at home. A Manlius resident since 1946, Durand was the owner of Cross Creek Farm Nursery from 1946 until he retired in 1993, when his wife, Ann, became ill.

For decades, Chuck was active in the Syracuse Peace Council and Contact and was a supporter of the national non-violent conflict resolution organization, Fellowship of Reconciliation. Not long after his wife's death in 1994, he also became active in Literacy Volunteers.

Born in Brooklyn on December 5, 1914, Chuck graduated from Columbia University in the early 1930's. While a student at Columbia, he signed the Oxford Pledge, a commitment to reject involvement in military affairs, a pledge Chuck upheld for the rest of his life.

According to Syracuse Peace Council archives from 1990, Chuck stated, "My position (as a conscientious objector) was well formed before Pearl Harbor...Military action is a poor substitute for settling international disputes." In a recent letter to a



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Chuck's Ad for many years in the PNL

friend, Timothy Reger, Chuck continued his explanation, "(Since high school)...I was fully and entirely comfortable as I rejected the ways of violence. Nothing that has happened since those early days has persuaded me to change my course."

Susan and her mother Carolyn Berry were good friends of Chuck. With Paul Pearce and Rae Kramer

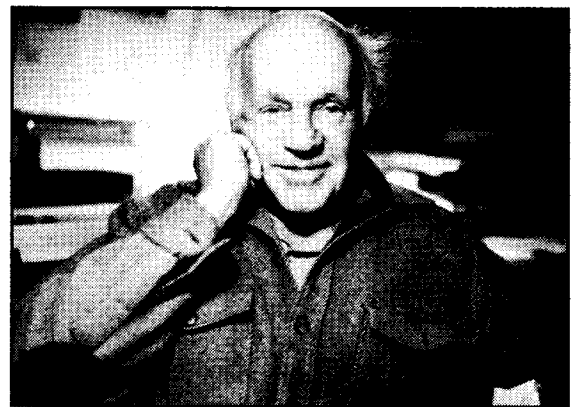
When Chuck was called for the military draft in 1941, he applied for conscientious objector (CO) status, and underwent a lengthy examination before receiving the CO designation in 1942. Later, when his brother, John L. Durand applied for CO status, he was denied and served time in prison.

From 1942 to 1945, Chuck Durand was in Civilian Public Service camps, working as a baker and nursing aide. It was there that he met his future wife, Ann, a nurse who volunteered at one of the camps. While serving in a camp, Chuck became acquainted with Norman Whitney, a Quaker who helped found the Syracuse Peace Council in 1936.

As explained by another long-time Syracuse Peace Council member, Duane Hardy, age 88, "After the draft was proposed prior to the US involvement in WWII, the peace churches worked together to persuade the United States government to create a classification for conscientious objectors. The civilian public service camps were created as one alternative form of service for those who, in good conscience, could not serve in the military."

After World War II, the Durands travelled around up-state New York in search of a farm and settled at Cross Creek, the 136 acre farm near Oran. Because the seasonal demands of the farm and nursery dictated Chuck's work schedule, much of his community involvement was concentrated in the winter months. Former Peace Council staff person Andy Molloy reported in a 1990 PNL profile, "It was a warm day when the Syracuse winter winds blew Chuck back to us (at the Peace Council)."

At Cross Creek Farm Nursery, Chuck hired scores of young people as farm hands, instilling a strong work ethic and broadening their world views. Many of these former employees remained friends. A Cazenovia resident, who began working alongside Chuck thirty years ago, at age eight, com-



William Chuck Durand -October 15, 1990 - Paul Pearce

mented, "I had the strength and conviction to become who I am because of Chuck's training and belief in me."

Chuck volunteered as a telephone worker at Contact for over twenty years. Mary Mol, director of volunteers at Contact, described his role, "He gave hundreds of people a safe place to call to talk out problems. He opened his mind and heart to our struggling callers. Some people may be alive today because of Chuck's compassion."

In 1995, Chuck became involved with Literacy Volunteers and tutored several people from Viet Nam and Korea.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Peace Council's Plowshares Crafts fair. It will be the first year in many that you will not be able to see Chuck's twinkling eyes or enjoy a Chuck moment of humor. He worked the Sunday 12-5 shift at the Peace Council table and his loving presence will be sorely missed.

Contributions in Chuck's memory may be made to the Syracuse Peace Council, Contact, or Hospice of Central New York.



The Eco-Candidate: Meeting Iroquois Ecological Standards



Doug George-Kanentio

For the citizens of the Haudenosaunee, a critical factor in determining which US electoral candidates are best for the job would be to examine their relationship with the natural world.

When the Haudenosaunee were drawn together as a united nations a thousand years ago on the southern shore of Onondaga Lake they were given instructions by the prophet we call Skennenrahawi as to the manner in which we might live in harmony on this earth.

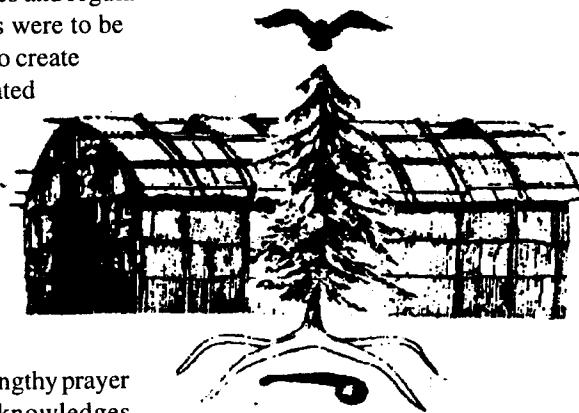
As important as the rules and regulations by which the Iroquois were to be governed was their ability to create a society which incorporated the needs of the natural world in the political deliberations of each nation.

All sessions of the leadership, and in fact all public gatherings, began with the reciting of the Ohen:ton Karihwaterkwon (The Words Before All Else), a lengthy prayer whereby the speaker acknowledges earth, water, plants, insects, animals, medicines, winds, thunder, sun, moon, stars and the Creator for working in harmony so that life may continue as originally planned.

The prayer is a form of thanksgiving and is meant to restore mental and spiritual tranquility prior to a meeting or social gathering. It was also designed to emphasize the importance of the natural world in human affairs. It is believed by the Haudenosaunee that human beings have an ob-

ligation to consider the effects of their actions on all living things and that other species of life have the right to pursue their specific existences without undue interference from humans.

Trouble begins when people assume they have an inherent right to exploit the earth's resources for immediate material benefit without thought to the future. A strict provision of traditional Iroquois law requires the leadership to consider the ramifications



of their actions on the children yet unborn; that our descendants have a right to breathe clean air, drink pure water and derive their food from fertile soils.

The despoiling of what was a pristine land, done so without adequate thought to the future, is one of the great blunders of modern times. Perhaps it is time to hold the candidates up to close scrutiny and determine how they will manage this important public trust.

If candidates for office were brought before the clanmothers and chiefs to find out if they met the Iroquois standards for leadership they would be asked the following:

- ◆ Have they demonstrated a clear understanding of natural law and do they realize the consequences to earth, water and sky if the current rate of abuse continues?
- ◆ Do they believe the earth is a living entity and that humans are its custodians?
- ◆ Do they possess a strong sense of spiritual values which might be called up to speak honestly with the people about the true ecological state of this land?
- ◆ Are they compassionate enough to consider the effects of their actions on the unborn?
- ◆ Have they the courage to point out the dangers of too much consumption and to make those who pollute the earth fully accountable for their actions?
- ◆ Are they willing to press for tougher laws to protect the environment?
- ◆ Will they use public resources to encourage the development of alternative, non-polluting energy sources?
- ◆ Will they use their authority to protect our parks and forests or will they try to maintain the current rate of resource depletion at the expense of our national heritage?
- ◆ Have they shown an ability to take a firm stand against contaminators?
- ◆ At what point would they be willing to discuss more rigorous population control methods, an issue which must be discussed if the natural world is to survive?

Americans are riding an unparalleled wave of prosperity making it easy to dismiss environmental conservation as a key issue, but one day the good times will end and the ecological bills will have to be paid. Let us hope our next governmental leaders are brave enough to tell the people to go easy on the land or there will be nothing but scraps left for the grandchildren.

Douglas M. George-Kanentio, Akwesasne Mohawk, is a columnist with the Syracuse Herald American and News From Indian Country. He currently resides in Oneida Castle, NY.

Jews Act for a Just Israeli-Palestinian Peace

Andy Mager

The latest wave of violence in Israel and Palestine has revived local activism for a just Israeli-Palestinian peace. While the situation on the ground clearly remained volatile, most activists were caught off guard by the intensity of the clashes and the toll in human life. The Syracuse Jewish Peace Fellowship (JPF) began talking about how to respond.

When we learned that other Jewish activists around the country would vigil on the afternoon before Yom Kippur (October 8), we decided to join that coordinated plan. Nearly a dozen supporters of a just peace stood at the intersection of East Genesee St. and Erie Blvd. in Dewitt. Our signs, which read "Jews Call for Peace in Israel-Palestine" and "Shalom/Salaam," were warmly greeted by many who drove by. Peace signs, thumbs up and honks of support were the most common responses from those who acknowledged our presence. All three local television stations and WSYR radio covered the event.

The next day local Arab-Americans, Muslims and peace activists rallied at the Federal Building. Because their demonstration occurred on Yom Kippur, the most holy day of the year on the Jewish calendar, I was the only JPF member who attended. I spoke as a Jew in support of a just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and read a prayer written by Rabbi Arik Ascherman of Rabbis for Human Rights in Israel. The prayer is a revised version of a traditional prayer for this Day of Atonement. It includes the following:

And for the Sin which we have sinned against You knowingly or unknowingly, Allowing the Israeli government to continue expropriating land, demolish homes, build roads, uproot trees and deny water in our name, even while publicly speaking words of peace...

Andy Mager is a long-time Jewish peace activist, nonviolence trainer and writer. He works as a domestic violence educator.

*For the sin which we have sinned against You by silence -
When we knew that human beings were being mistreated, and said nothing.*

*For the sin which we have sinned against You by the abuse of power -
Using excessive lethal force to kill and maim...*

My presence and the prayer clearly touched many of those in attendance and helped break down the myth that all Jews support Israel's actions unconditionally.

Discussions have continued among JPF about how to continue providing a public Jewish voice for peace as well as provoking



open conversation within the Jewish community at-large. Several of us attended the "Pro-Israel Rally" organized by the Syracuse Jewish Federation. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, a single position—that Israel has responded reasonably to Palestinian "provocation"—was presented there. The arson at Temple Beth El has certainly frightened all Jews in Central New York and will complicate our work.

A public vigil is planned for Tuesday, December 12 from 4:30-5:30 at the same location in Dewitt. Plans for community conversation(s) among Jews are currently being formulated.

Our position is summarized below:

As members of the Jewish community, and citizens of the United States, we join Israeli peace activists in calling upon the Israeli government to:

- Stop the War - Lo Lamilchama
- End the Occupation - Dai lakivush
- Say Yes to Just Peace, No to Violence - Shalom Tzodek Ken - Alimut Lo

In the words of Israelis who raise a voice for peace in their nation:

There is an occupation—an ugly occupation which is very much alive more than seven years after that historic handshake on the White House lawn which was supposed to bring it to an end, and which has a brutalizing and dehumanizing effect on all that it touches. An occupation which manifests itself in land confiscation and settlement extension, house demolition and uprooting of orchards and humiliating searches at checkpoints. An occupation which this very day manifests itself in helicopter gunships bombing towns which have no means of defending themselves, and in tanks placing a tight siege on a helpless civilian population.

It is the occupation which is the culprit, which breeds the hatred and the conflict. The victims—the Israelis and the much more numerous Palestinians—are all victims of the occupation. There is no assurance that the hatred will automatically disappear with the end of the occupation; but we can be certain that continuation of the occupation will lead to increase of the hatred.

—Gush Shalom (Israeli Peace Bloc)

Please contact US and Israeli officials in support of a just resolution to the conflict: Clinton: President@Whitehouse.gov; Albright: Secretary@state.gov; Israeli Embassy: ask@israelemb.org. More information is available on the web at: www.btselem.org or www.members.tripod.com/-other-Israel.

Locally, contact JPF at (315)476-0161, or email: magcap@gochatplus.com.



Report on the People's Roundtable Town Meeting to Reduce Violence in Syracuse

Carl Mellor

The October 19 People's Roundtable capped a day of workshops, discussion, testimony and prayer, all devoted to reducing violence in Syracuse, and culminating in announcement of a ten-point plan to promote peace in our community. Roundtable presenters included Franklin Tucker, Mickey Roache and Minister Don Muhammad, three people instrumental in creating the "Boston model," a program that drastically reduced youth violence in that city. A cross-section of the Syracuse community also spoke.

The Boston presenters addressed the topic from several angles but focused on two principal themes: the need for partnership among youth, clergy, community groups and police, and the need for direct involvement with youth. "You don't raise children," Minister Muhammad said. "You rear them, and we aren't doing it. When you're not doing that, they turn to a synthetic family, their peers. The whole community must be involved in motivating youth toward something good."

Then came questions and comments by

local folks, including Ann Morris, a South Side resident and businesswoman, who talked about both her love for her neighborhood and her distress at seeing nine-year-old children already skipping school and embracing street life. She said community policing had grievously failed in her neighborhood.

The next segment mixed prayer, a scriptural reading and a sermon by Bishop Violet Fisher, bishop for the United Methodist Church in the upstate New York region. She recounted her experiences in combating drug use in Philadelphia and exhorted clergy to become agents of change and transformation. "We can't hide behind sacred doors and glass-stained windows," she said. "We can take action and take back communities, homes, young men, young women. We can turn Syracuse upside down and upside right."

The meeting, sponsored by the Urban Ministry Project & many community groups, continued with a reading of the ten-point plan (see related sidebar) by Sherman Dunmore, pastor at the People's AME Zion Church, and a call to the audience to participate in the anti-violence program. Many people responded to that call, and that was a

Ten Point Plan to Promote Peace in Syracuse

Syracuse Faith Communities called to commit to and work on the following:

1. Responding to Trauma Incidents
2. Involving Congregations with Neighborhood Gangs
3. Reducing Drug Trafficking in Neighborhoods
4. Expanding Faith-based Economics and Home Ownership
5. Activating Suburban Congregation Links
6. Involving Congregations in Crime Watch Programs
7. Monitoring Health Issues : HIV-AIDS, Cancer, Diabetes, and Violence
8. Redirecting Youth Anger
9. Enhancing Job Readiness and Educational Opportunities

very positive ending to the evening.

However, the positive developments were mixed with talk about the US Justice Department's decision to terminate pilot-program funding for the Partnership to Reduce Gun Violence, a Syracuse organization that's an essential part of local anti-violence efforts. "When I heard that the partnership lost its contract, I took it personally," Tucker said. "You must find the resources to sustain the program."

Reclaiming Onondaga Creek - the story continues

Cathy Cardell

On Saturday, October 14, people from the north, south, east, and west came together for a rally and picnic to protest the proposed \$75M sewage treatment plant at Midland and Blaine Streets on Syracuse's south side. Many had arrived via a Creek walk which encompassed both the northern and southern ends of this incredibly beautiful, diverse, and abused waterway. Participants heard speakers from the Onondaga Nation, Syracuse United Neighbors, and the Partnership for Onondaga Creek offer their visions for a community-based revitalization of this natural treasure that winds its

Cathy Cardell is a longtime Syracuse resident and activist who quietly and persistently fights the good fight (non-violently of course)

way from the Hills of Onondaga, through the City, north to Onondaga Lake.

All who spoke agreed that the sewage treatment plant, a County proposed major capital project (which is not linked to any community vision or revitalization project along the creek), will not clean up the Lake, which maintains its position on the top-10 list of polluted lakes in the US. All agreed, as well, that there are alternative sites and alternative technologies that must be explored before this neighborhood is sacrificed to expedience and inadequate planning.

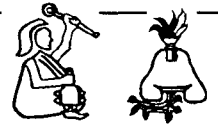
As my friend, Paul Frazier, writing earlier in this publication says, "Syracuse is a city of barriers and divisions. As you walk or bike or ride the Creek towards Midland and

Blaine...wonder why some areas of the Creek are so beautifully developed and others are left to ruin. Ask about those divisions. Another line has been drawn separating the rich from the poor, the haves from the have-nots. The blacks from the whites. Mall here, sewer treatment plant there..."

The struggle to relocate the sewage treatment plant continues in courtrooms, City Council Chambers, and at neighborhood meetings. As we often say, "If they can put a man on the moon, then why can't they...?" We believe "they" and "we" can use our intelligence and knowledge to figure out an effective, responsible way to address the sewage treatment issue while maintaining and strengthening our neighborhoods. Stay tuned. Think about how you might help.



A Few Variations on an Ill Theme:



A report on talks by Abel Barrera Hernandez, indigenous Mexican social anthropologist and human rights activist

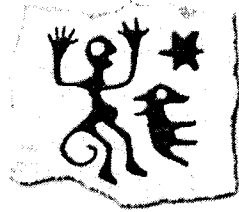
Marge Rusk

Sponsored in Syracuse by the SOA Abolitionists, and nationally by Mexican Solidarity Network (MSN), Abel Barrera spoke October 10 at a delicious part-Mexican potluck at Shirley Novak's, followed by a public event at Plymouth Church, and a media interview the next day. Jessica Marques of MSN, Shirley, and Paul Weichselbaum took turns putting his cogent Spanish into English.

Anti-School of the Americas activists could feel affirmed that they are focusing their energy correctly when Abel made his main point: that it is globalization of Latin American militaries under US direction that supports economic globalization.

Abel spoke mainly from his knowledge of Guerrero, his home region where he currently works. He pointed out differences from Chiapas, where the Zapatistas' program is broader (the struggle for rights of all oppressed groups, not only indigenous people), and from Colombia, where the regime is more extensively brutal than in Mexico.

It is of interest that the original Zapatistas, followers of Emilio Zapata in the 20th century's second decade, were from Guerrero, which already had a history of military struggle at the time of the liberation from Spain. Since "guerrero" is Spanish for "warrior", I wondered whether its history had given this "departemento" its name. During the question period Abel explained that it had been called Guerrero after an individual with that family name (ironic coincidence!).



At present, fighting is viewed as a last resort in Guerrero as well as neighboring Oaxaca and Chiapas. The church works with indigenous people to secure their rights and in fact sees links between Catholic and Mayan theology (as is true in Chiapas too).

Yet the US manipulates puppet-strings in Mexico (and other Latin American countries) by sending aid that turns the military from their traditional role of defending borders against attack into police who job it is

to maintain a climate favorable for multinational business enterprises. To look at this from the other side, police in many Latin American countries are actually soldiers and members of paramilitary organizations.

NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Accord, originated with the hope of improving local living standards. The disappointing reality, however, is more, not less, poverty for the common people. Deepening poverty leads to an increase in drug farms, as people see no other recourse for survival. What follows is more repression in the name of the "war on drugs" - actually a war on the poor.

In response to the increase in repression, the drugs don't disappear, but rather just "move around" and go into hiding in the jungle, contributing to further deterioration of the environment. This vicious cycle begins with US military aid.

Asked the standard question, "What can we do?," Abel Barrera replied, "Raise the consciousness of your congress-people." "Urge them to visit Mexico and see for themselves what destruction and terror the purported war on drugs funds are wreaking."

(Thanks to Shirley Novak for help with this article.)

graphics: *Justicia Negada*, Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, 1996

a review: **ROGUE STATE** by *William Blue* Common Courage Press

The twin sins of nationalism and militarism and their deadly consequences for people standing in the way of US Empire, are documented in William Blue's just released (June 2000), **Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower**. Read in tandem with his 1995 **Killing Hope: US Military and CIA. Interventions Since World War II**. Blue served in the State Department during the 60's and then became one of the founders and editors of the **Washington Free Press**, the first "underground" newspaper in the capital.

If only half of the well documented history of recent US imperialism were known

to the public, there might be an enlightened public debate to curb a foreign policy at odds with most of the world and the environment. Blue argues that only those leaders that are "willing and able to be inordinately cruel and remorseless can hold positions of leadership in foreign policy establishment." They clear the field for the rapaciously, greed-driven corporations at the top of the global order piracies.

The information that Blue has assembled should be used to identify the **real** terrorists - the US Military and the **real** rogue state - the US. The "Star Wars"/defense shield discussion must make clear

who is being shielded and from What? **Rogue State** makes clear that what the overwhelming majority of the world's population (including those in the US) need protection from, are the marauding First World Corporations and their violent military enforcers (mainly the US).

Use the empowering facts presented, especially the chapters on "a concise history of US global interventions," and the final chapter, "the US invades, bombs and kills for it... but do Americans really believe in free enterprise?" to build a shield against militarism.

William Blue has given us a manual on how our country is ruling the world. Let us continue to expose militarism as counter-productive to life sustaining goals.

Bill Griffen

SOA We Go Again

Ed Kinane

This November 18 and 19, the weekend before Thanksgiving, thousands of US Americans will head for the annual SOA Watch Vigil Action at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Benning, of course, is home to the US Army's School of the Americas.

More and more I'm seeing this School for Terrorism as the gym toning the military muscle that enforces IMF/World Bank economic repression in Latin America.

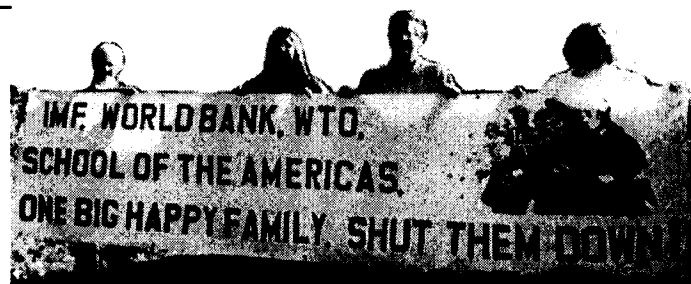
Here are eight reasons why solidarity activists and people of conscience should join us at Benning:

1. November 18 & 19 will be the one time this year that the national corporate-owned media will be forced — through sheer force of our numbers — to publicize the SOA. This is the moment to impress upon the powers-that-be that masses of US Americans refuse to be silent accomplices.

2. Our federal taxes finance the SOA. The Pentagon and Congress and the president-elect must hear that we will not finance a school of terrorism in a US that claims to be a democracy. The SOA and the Pentagon claim that "the SOA's mission is to foster democracy." That "our" military conceives of democracy in such terms is scary. It's proof that even our residual democracy is in severe jeopardy. The time to mobilize is now.

3. For decades, the US — either through armed intervention or by proxy through military aid and training — has manipulated and ravaged Latin America. On Nov. 18 & 19 US citizens will solemnly recall the uncountable victims. At Benning, we will be the voice of the dead and of the

Ed often writes for the PNL. This article is an expanded version of an op-ed which appeared in the October 16 Syracuse Post-Standard. To learn more about the SOA and the Nov. 18 & 19 Vigil Action, check the SOAW web site: www.soaw.org, or call Ed at the CNY SOA Abolitionist office, (315) 478-4571.



marginalized who have no voice.

The annual Vigil Actions at Benning are part of this country's largest protracted campaign of nonviolent dissent and civil disobedience since the Viet Nam War. The SOA Vigil Action is a perfect opportunity to vote with our bodies against violence and for nonviolence. It is the time to take an embodied stand against US intervention and to act in solidarity with our Latin American sisters and brothers.

4. Wherever there is severe repression in Latin America, the SOA trains those who are doing the repressing. Wherever there is civil strife in Latin America, the SOA trains those who are doing the wholesale killing. In the seventies, the SOA trained Somoza's National Guard — which metastasized into the Contras. In the eighties, the SOA trained Salvadoran officers; these included those of the Atlacatl Battalion, who massacred 900 mostly women and children at El Mozote. Since the mid-nineties the SOA has been training Mexican officers. Many of these are busy forcing NAFTA on Chiapas.

CNY Local Vigil

Calling for the Closing of the
US Army School of the Americas
Sunday - Nov 19 - 2000

12:30 pm Gather at Federal Building
procession to St. Paul's arrive 1:15pm
Procession to Columbus Circle

Conclude with fellowship, soup, bread,
showing of video, singing-
Plymouth Church

Today, as in the past, the SOA is training Colombia's officer corps. Together with its paramilitary allies, the Colombian military is the most violent and anti-civilian armed force south of the Rio Grande. These thugs are awash in the \$1.3 billion in military aid provided by Congress and Clinton (with the acquiescence of Gore). Already hundreds of thousands of Colombians are

refugees within their own country; now many more will live in terror.

5. It's time to say NO to the SOA's anti-civilian, anti-human rights agenda. If "our" military trains foreign soldiers to target their own people, what will stop them from using such tactics here, too? Already the chickens have come home to roost:

*** In the US, 45 SOA Watch prisoners of conscience have cumulatively spent nearly 30 years in prison. As I write, nine SOA Watchers are in federal prison. These include a 70 year-old Catholic nun (from Syracuse), two Protestant ministers, and a former Army chaplain/winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery under fire in Viet Nam. Their crime: exercising the increasingly residual right to peacefully protest. [See page 2]

*** In the US, prison construction has become our major growth industry. Hundreds of thousands of young people — mostly young men of color — are being "disappeared" into these prisons every year.

*** In the US, the police are being militarized. We saw this in Seattle last December. We saw it in Washington, DC on April 16. We saw it at the National Republican Convention in Philadelphia in July. Police: beating, rioting, targeting, infiltrating, deliberately attacking our First Amendment rights. The victims in those cities were mostly white. But Black and Latino ghettos experience such military occupation daily.

*** Last year the head of the US Army's Southern Command declared that if Congress closed the SOA, the Southern Command would reopen it elsewhere the next day. The civilian Secretary of the Army blandly repeated this threat, without comment, on the Jim Lehrer News Hour. Nor did Jim Lehrer find it within himself to comment. So much for civilian control of the military....the Constitutional doctrine which the SOA repeatedly claims to impart

Cont'd on page 11

True to Our Word?

A review of *Treaty of Canandaigua 1794*, edited by Peter Jemison and Anna M. Schein, Clear Light Publishers, Santa Fe, NM, 2000, \$14.95

Andy Mager

Last spring I spoke at one of the Quaker-sponsored Voices on the Land programs at Onondaga Community College. As a landowner within the Onondaga claim area, I described my belief that the land claims presented us with a great opportunity to redress historic injustices, and my hope that we would meet that challenge.

As soon as the program ended, I was approached by several activists from Upstate Citizens for Equality (UCE), the anti-land claims group in Oneida and Cayuga/Seneca counties. They confronted me with loads of facts that they claimed undermined what I had said. I realized that while I had some basic background about the historic and ongoing oppression of Native Americans in our region and throughout the country, I didn't have the detail to engage these folks. While I knew that their information was biased and inaccurate, they had done their homework, and in order to keep doing this work I needed to do mine.

Reading the *Treaty of Canandaigua 1794: 200 Years of Treaty Relations between the Iroquois Confederacy and the United States* is part of that learning process. The book is a compilation of writings related to the Treaty of Canandaigua and its legacy. Most of the chapters were originally presented as papers at a symposium held in conjunction with the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Treaty of Canandaigua in 1994. The appendix includes a variety of very interesting historical documents, including correspondence between President George Washington and Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) leaders, the text of the treaty and journal excerpts from one of

the Quakers who observed the treaty-making process.

"The current wealth that is enjoyed in New York and in the country as a whole was built on a foundation of illegally taken land and stolen natural resources. These land claims test whether this theft will be acknowledged and at least partially paid for," writes Seneca historian and journalist John Mohawk in the preface. The remainder of the book, while rarely addressing the current land claims directly, supports his statement.

Like any compilation, the quality of the writing and analysis varies and there are points of repetition. There is a nice balance of Haudenosaunee and academic contribu-



Onondaga Chief Irving Powless Jr., Tuscarora Chief Leo Henry, Mohawk Chief Jake Swamp and Seneca Chief Emerson Webster march during the 200th anniversary commemoration in Canandaigua. Photo: Helen M. Ellis

tors, although the lack of Haudenosaunee women's voices is a limitation. Despite such shortcomings, the volume presents a wealth of valuable information and perspectives for anyone seeking to understand the background which underpins the current land claims in New York State.

The Treaty of Canandaigua begins "Peace and friendship are hereby firmly established, and shall be perpetual, between the United States and the Six Nations." It is a treaty between two sovereign nations, made voluntarily, not as the result

of conquest. The Haudenosaunee teach each new generation about the treaty and to continually remind our nation of its meaning. In the treaty, our government acknowledges the territories of the Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca nations and guarantees "never to claim the same, nor to disturb them... in the free use and enjoyment thereof."

A primary purpose of the Canandaigua Treaty was to redress problems created by the Fort Stanwix Treaty (1784). The Haudenosaunee were extremely unhappy with that first treaty with the US, which came immediately on the heels of the Revolutionary War, during which some Haudenosaunee fought on the side of the British. In a letter to President George Washington (December 1, 1790), Haudenosaunee Chiefs wrote, "What they agreed to has bound our nation. But your anger against us must by this time be cooled, and altho' our Strength has not increased nor your power become less we ask you to consider calmly were the terms dictated to us reasonable and just?"

These eloquent words would prick the conscience of any reasonable person. By the time of the Canandaigua Treaty our fledgling nation needed peace with the Haudenosaunee to allow it to concentrate its efforts elsewhere, particularly in what is now called the Midwest, where war threatened to erupt with indigenous people in that region. This treaty also followed the 1790 Non-Intercourse Act in which the federal government clarified that states could not make treaties without federal approval.

John Mohawk's contribution ends, "the Canandaigua Treaty stands as a symbol of what might have been almost as much as it is a symbol of what came to be." A just settlement of the current land claims will be a major step toward lessening the gap between the peace and friendship described in the treaty and the reality of oppression and stolen land.

Andy Mager is a member of Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation.



Edited by Mike Kernahan

Don't worry, be happy, eat poison

If you live in Canada or the US you've heard the message: biotech foods are safe to eat and harmless to the environment. The industry's \$50 million PR campaign-driven by Monsanto, Dupont, Novartis, and others - is designed to stop European "hysteria" over genetically modified foods from gaining traction in North America. Alas, the "hysteria" just keeps growing. Last year, a UK study showed that monarch butterflies were at risk from eating the pollen of genetically modified crops and now, a new study from the University of Jena in Germany shows that genes from genetically modified crops can spread to bees and other wildlife. These are the early signs that the specter of "genetic pollution" is a legitimate worry. At worst, according to Bill Joy, Chief Scientist of Sun Microsystems, genetic engineering could create a "White Plague" in which altered organisms wreak havoc with the world's food supply. At best, says physicist Amory Lovins, biotech is a "scientifically immature but commercially hell-for-leather enterprise" that transforms "the measured pace of biological evolution to the speed of the next quarter's earnings report."

Source: *Adbusters*

Coming to a state near you...maybe

Hate crime bills have been introduced in at least 14 states this year. In nine states (CO, ID, MT, MS, MO, NY, OK, VA, WY) bills have been introduced to add sexual orientation to existing hate crimes statutes. In addition to Wyoming, the Idaho and Montana bills were defeated. In three states (IN, NM, SC) the bills would establish first-time hate crimes bills in those states. In Texas a measure has been proposed to strengthen the state's existing statute by enumerating groups that would be covered under the law. The California legislature is considering a bill to equalize penalties for anti-gay hate crimes with penalties for other types of bias crimes. Other states likely to see hate-crimes legislation this year include Michigan and Hawaii.

Source: *Anything That Moves*

Politics makes strange bedfellows

Despite a worldwide trend toward abolition of the death penalty, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (like the United States) continues to inflict this cruel and irreversible punishment at an alarmingly high rate. Twenty-nine offenses (recently reduced from 44) are punishable by death, including crimes against national security, murder, rape, drug trafficking, and economic crimes of embezzlement, fraud, and counterfeiting. Comutations are uncommon. Executions are carried out by firing squad-sometimes in public-although rarely reported. Families are usually only informed after the execution when they are summoned to collect the belongings of their relative. In early 2000 it

for manslaughter or rape. The Correctional Association of New York reports that there are over 22,000 drug offenders in the New York State prison system, about 33% of the total prison population. Ninety percent of New York's inmates imprisoned on drug charges are imprisoned under the Rockefeller Drug Laws. It costs New York State \$715 million a year to keep drug offenders in prison. Nearly 80% of drug offenders in New York State prisons were never convicted of a violent crime. The Correctional Association of New York State also reports that, despite studies showing that the majority of people who use and sell drugs in New York are white, African-Americans and Latinos comprise more than 94% of the drug offenders in New York State prisons. Prospects for passage of legislation introduced this year to reform the Rockefeller Drug Laws appear dim.

Source: *Drug Policy Letter*
Equal Time?

In the typical, no-frills C-Span broadcast, the camera focuses solely on the speaker; even reaction shots are rare, let alone commentary. But the rules changed on June 18 when C-Span aired an Antioch College commencement address delivered by death-row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal. Preceding Abu-Jamal's brief address, a C-Span announcer informed viewers that some Antioch audience members walked out during Abu-Jamal's speech, and that after his speech, C-Span would be carrying responses. Following the address-an inspirational message that mentioned nothing of Abu-Jamal's legal case-the camera turned on two pro-Mumia bystanders, and then to Maureen Faulkner, the widow of the police officer Abu-Jamal is accused of murdering in 1981. Faulkner condemned the "evil" inmate before condemning Antioch for allowing him to speak. Would C-Span feel a similar need to air a rebuttal to a commencement speech by, say, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who, when told that sanctions in Iraq had killed half a million children, replied that "we think the price is worth it."?

Source: *Extra! Update*

Quote of the month:
"The Internet is like one of those garbage dumps outside of Bombay. There are people, most unfortunately, crawling all over it, and maybe they can find a bit of aluminum, or perhaps something they can sell. But mainly, it's garbage." **Joseph Weizenbaum**, retired MIT scientist who created the famed "Eliza" artificial intelligence program.

Quote from the past:
"When you see something that is technically sweet, you go ahead and do it and you argue about what to do about it only after you have had your technical success. That is the way it was with the atomic bomb." **J. Robert Oppenheimer**, US physicist instrumental in the development of the atomic bomb.

was reported that 194 death sentences had been carried out in 1999. There are fears that these numbers will increase.

Source: *Amnesty International*

"I am ashamed the law is such an ass."

George Chapman 1559-1634

Established in 1973, New York's Rockefeller drug laws impose a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years to life for selling more than two ounces or possessing more than four ounces of illegal drugs-a sentence stiffer than the minimum sentence

Continued from page 8

to its trainees.

6. The SOA, where all instruction is in Spanish, is the Southern Command's key training center. The SOA is essential to the Southern Command's strategy for dominating Latin America. That strategy is to co-opt, indoctrinate and coordinate Latin American militaries, to meld them into a force making Latin America safe for US corporate investment. We are training thugs because corporate interests control our foreign policy. We are training thugs so corporations can siphon billions of dollars out of our southern satellites every year.

Unless you oppose a living wage and decent conditions for workers, whether organized or unorganized, you must oppose the SOA. According to its own instruction manuals (released by the Pentagon in Sept. '96), the SOA views organized labor as, by definition, subversive. Job One for the SOA is to train soldiers to keep Latin America a vast pool of cheap labor.

The corporate agenda is "stability." That means low overhead and cheap labor. "Instability" means the poor acquiring human dignity through literacy. It means workers organizing. In our client countries when workers organize, they are still labeled "communist" and killed by SOA-linked death squads.

US workers lose jobs when US factories

go south of the border to hire cheap non-union labor. The national AFL-CIO has called for closing the SOA (as has the national NAACP).

7. Those SOA instruction manuals encourage the "neutralizing" of socially-conscious nuns, priests and lay members of base Christian communities. People of faith throughout the US are mobilizing to close the SOA. Over 150 Catholic bishops and the leadership of most mainline Protestant denominations have called for the closing of the SOA.

Thousands of people of faith will journey to Benning on November 18 & 19 to take part in this liturgical action. The annual Vigil Action is a sacramental event. Thousands will risk arrest "crossing the line" on to the forbidden base, somberly walking several abreast, each carrying a small white cross inscribed with the name of someone killed by an SOA graduate. More thousands — not risking arrest — will be there to witness and support. Either way, we experience a rare sense of community and solidarity. As activists, as strugglers against militarism, we all need that in our lives.

8. Granted, the SOA is just one chunk of the iceberg of US militarism spanning the globe. But unlike other, grander, more diffuse causes, closing the SOA is a campaign we can win. When we finally get that bloody school closed, you'll be able to say you were there and you helped make the difference.



Life-Affirming Thanksgiving

What a wonderful way to give thanks for one's blessings by preparing a meal which does not involve the suffering or death of animals! Here's one of many possible menus for a vegan Thanksgiving and a recipe for pumpkin pie. "Vegan" food means no animal flesh and no animal products, such as eggs or dairy.

TOFURKY AND GRAVY; this works well as a main dish as it mimics the typical centerpiece (a turkey) by providing light and dark "meat" and gravy. Available at some health food stores.

MASHED POTATOES (White or Sweet or both) with vegan margarine (such as Spectrum Spread or Willow Run)

CRANBERRY SAUCE
LETTUCE and MIXED GREENS SALAD with OIL AND VINEGAR OR OTHER VEGAN DRESSING
ROLLS OR BREAD
PUMPKIN PIE

Vegan Pumpkin Pie

I modified this from a recipe in *The Compassionate Cook* by P.E.T.A. and Ingrid Newkirk.

one-16 oz. can Walnut Farms organic pumpkin pie filling (contains pureed pumpkin, salt and spices)

firm tofu - 12.3 oz.

2/3 cup maple syrup (If you like pie to be sweeter, also add 3/4 cup sugar - preferably Sucanat)

1/3 cup flour

3/4 T cinnamon

1 t nutmeg

Pre-heat oven to 400 degrees. Blend all ingredients and pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake for 25-30 minutes.

For topping, make Tofu Whipped Cream.

firm tofu - 12.3 oz.

1 T vanilla extract

WXXE

Community Radio for Central New York

Syracuse Community Radio (WXXE 90.5 FM) is your source for radio created by members of the Central New York community.

Please join us in our efforts to create a community facility: become a programmer (no experience necessary, community involvement a plus), member (lots of benefits), volunteer (we need help!), AND don't forget to tune in 90.5 FM on your radio dial or on your computer (www.wxxe.org).

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826 Euclid Ave, Syracuse NY 13210
(315) 234.1999 (315) 234.2000
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What's the easiest way to learn more about SCR? Join us for Open House on the 1st Saturday of each month from noon 'til 5pm. Drop by, bring your favorite CD or something to read on air, and check out the studio (you'll be surprised that it's actually bigger than your closet).

Look forward to seeing you in the studio on 1st Saturdays! Feel free to call me at home (424-3898) or in the studio.

gretchen SCR Outreach Coordinator



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Special invitation for children who have a family member or friend incarcerated.

Nov 21 - Bottle Cap project

Paper plate picture frame.

Dec 13 - Animal Finger Puppets/
door knob

2621 So. Salina Street
6:30 to 7:30pm

Contact: Luz Marina Zender 475-4822
American Friends Service Committee
or Carol Perry

The Refrigerator Door Club
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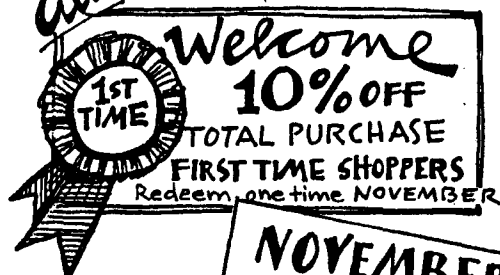
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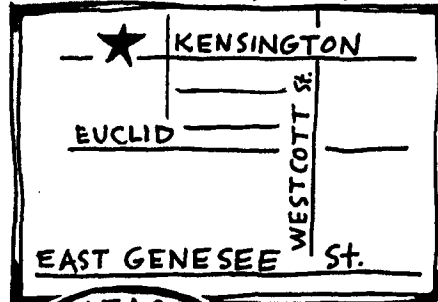


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SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

Syracuse Peace Council Community Calendar

November 2000

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to the Peace Council, 472-5478. December deadline: November 17.

ACE maintains an online version of this calendar with updates and more at www.ace-media.org/calendar.htm.

5 Sunday Evening Women's Film Series, "Antonia's Line" Westcott Community Center, 7pm. \$1-\$5.
EVERY SUN: 51 Percent Women's issues radio program, WRVO FM 90.8-8:30pm.
EVERY SUN: This Way Out, Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90.8-30-7pm.
EVERY SUN: Brick by Brick / Boots to Prisoners: prison solidarity group meets. 428 Westcott St. 4pm. 472-5633.

6 Reach for the Stars: Promoting Possibilities for Youth, 22nd Annual CNY Council on Adolescents Pregnancy Conference, Holiday Inn, Liverpool. 471-0564.
People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878.

7 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.
EVERY TUE: Residents for Environmental Action & Community Health meeting, Westcott Community Center. 7:15-9pm.

12 Syracuse Animal Defense League meeting, Westcott Community Center. 7:30-9pm.
Remembrance Service for Jesusita & two women killed in El Salvador in 1989. Cathedral, downtown Syracuse. 11:30am.
Socialist Forum. Topic: "After the Elections: What Next for the Left." Westcott Community Center. 5-9pm. Free. 475-2366.

13 Syracuse United Neighbors/ Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 478-7475.
Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WENA) meeting. Petit Library, Concord Pl. 7-9pm. 478-7301.

14 EVERY TUE: Community Media Action Group meeting, 8pm. Call ACE for place, 423-4783.
EVERY TUE: Open Mic Night, Happy Endings Coffeehouse, Poetry, music, short stories. 8pm. \$2.
21 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442.
EVERY TUE: Rough Times Live, Television produced by, for and about teens. 8pm. Cable Access Channel. 478-UNIT.
Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. 1st Unitarian Universalist Society, 250 Warring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.

19 New Environment Association potluck & meeting. Friends Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. 8pm. 446-8008.
SOA Watch Vigil Action at Fort Banning, GA. Help close the School of the Americas. 478-4571.
EVERY SAT: Unwelcome Guests: a program about wealth, power, & people's resistance to the New World Order. 5-7pm, WXXE Syracuse.

20 People for Animal Rights business mtg. 7pm. Call 488-7877 for location.
Syracuse United Neighbors/ Memorial Church, corner of S. Geddes & Delaware. 7:30pm. 478-7475.

28 EVERY MON, TUES, THURS: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 12pm. New friends, lunch, programs. 478-8634.
Syracuse Animal Defense League meeting, Westcott Community Center. 7:30-9pm.
EVERY MON: Morris Dancing, Westcott Community Center. 7:30-9pm. 478-8634.

26 EVERY SUN: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable Ch. 3 in city, Ch. 12 in suburbs. 8pm. Produced by Peace Council. Tune in, tape it, share it!
EVERY SUN: Common Threads acoustic local music on WAER FM 88.3. 2-5pm.

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29 Friends of Dorothy Catholic Worker Benefit Dinner. St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center, Winton St., off Burnet Ave. 5pm. \$0-\$15 donation. 471-6853

1 SEUNA meeting, Erwin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm. Nov. 1-12. Syracuse Stage presents "Eleanor: Her Secret Journey" recalling the transformation of E. Roosevelt into human rights crusader. 443-3275.
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Youth Workshop with Amy Somme, Curtin Auditorium, Public Library, Downtown Syracuse. 4-7pm. Gaty, 435-1800.

2 Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 478-6228
Syracuse United Neighbors/ Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 478-7475.
Film: "Black & Gold: The Latin Kings & Queens Nation." Westcott Community Center. 7pm. Sponsored by Alliance for Democracy, CNY chapter.

3 Nov. 3-5: Otsiningo Harvest Festival. Craft workshops, harvest dinner, & more. Participants include Mohawk, Lakota, Navajo, Onondaga & Abenaki artists. Johnson City, NY (near Binghamton). Dolores, 807-728-0016.
Teaching Through Drama: Practical Strategies, professional training seminar for teachers, counselors & community educators to address critical issues facing young people. Planned Parenthood, 1120 E. Genesee St. Heather, 718-546-2771 ext. 343.
Speaker: Pedro Canil, representative of Mayan community in Guatemala, seeking to bring former dictator & SOA grad Erwin Rose Montiel to trial for genocide. 2:20-3:30pm. Room 200, McNaughton Hall, SU Law School, free and open to public.
Nov. 1-Dec. 31: Something Went Wrong: An Exhibition of Photographs by Chan Cheo of the democracy struggle in Burma. Menshof Gallery, Schine Student Center, SU. 10am-10pm. Jeffrey, 443-1300.

4 **11** Canandaigua Treaty commemoration, Elementary School, Canandaigua. 10:30am. Parade 1:30pm. Ceremony 2pm. Dinner 4:30pm.
CNY Nat'l Org. for Women 22nd Annual Unsung Heroines Awards Dinner. Holiday Inn, Liverpool. 6:30pm. \$30. 487-2751.
"Well Aged Words." Laura Simms presents Robe of Love: Fairytales for Adults. International Mask & Puppet Museum, 518 Prospect Ave. 8pm. \$12/\$14. 476-0468.

8 HOPE, Inc. meeting (grass-roots AIDS group), Living Room, 328 Montgomery St. 5:30pm. 474-3616.
CNY Columbia Support Network monthly meeting. 7pm, Plymouth Church.
CNY NOW general meeting. 5789 Widewaters Pkwy, 7pm. 487-3188.
Onondaga Audubon meeting, Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.

9 Reconsider: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 208 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-6237.
EVERY THU: Syracuse Community Radio, WXXE 90.5 FM. "Jim Highower Radio Commentaries" 4:58pm; FAIR's "Counter Spin" 5pm; "Making Contact" 5:30pm; "Darkwave & Industrial" 7pm.
16 People's Roundtable, Topic: "The Living Wage: Why We Can't Live Without It." Discusses issues of concern in our community. S. Presbyterian Church, corner of S. Salina & Colvin. 7-9pm. Bill, 478-2105.
University Neighbors Lecture Series presents Lamy Clin on "How the Internet Makes Children Better Thinkers." Westcott Community Center. 7:30pm. \$10. 478-8634.

10 Mailing Party December PNL Moved to 16th

17 Nov. 17-19: Free-Form Annual Gathering of War Tax Resisters, Refusers & Their Supporters. Deerfield, MA. To register call Melinda at 413-584-5608.
Strengthening Families through Parent/Professional Alliances Conference at Hotel Syracuse. 8am-4pm. To register call 446-1220.

15 NAACP meeting, NAACP Office, 1125 S. Salina St. 7pm. 422-8633
Syracuse United Neighbors/ Skunk City meeting, Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 478-7475.
Sierra Club monthly meeting. 5 lillick Hall, SUNY ESF. 7:30pm. Martha, 492-4745.

23 Vigil Against the Death Penalty, Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. 475-1878.
Circle of Peace and Hope sponsored by Neighbors of Onondaga Nation. 10am-noon. Willow Bay Picnic Area, Longbranch Park, Liverpool. Opportunity to share hopes for a peaceful & fair resolution of land claims in CNY. 472-5478.
Thornden Park Association meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carole Simson for location, 475-2807.

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

1st & 3rd WED: Peace Newsletter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Ave. Call for time. 472-5478

25 EVERY SAT: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights
Pax Christi meeting. Slocum House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woolever, 446-1893.

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30 EVERY THU: Sitting Meditation at Women's Info, 601 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free.
EVERY THU: Syracuse Zapatisa Solidarity meeting, 208 Bassett St. 6:30pm. Ace, 423-4763.
EVERY THU: Women's Voices radio program. WAER, FM 88.3. 7-8pm. Pat, 446-7259.

Join Us For Our 30th Annual

Plowshares Craftfair & Winter Peace Festival

Dec. 2 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.
Dec. 3 Noon - 5 P.M.



Southwest Community Center
401 South Ave.

Over 50 local crafters!

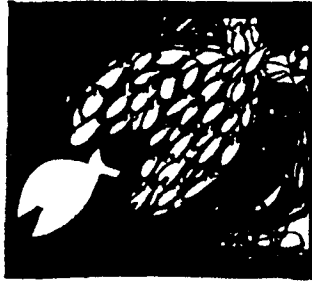
Would you trust a crafts fair over 30 years old?

Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice

December 2000 PNL 697

30th Anniversary



PLOWSHARES

DEC 2-3

SATURDAY 10-5PM

SUNDAY NOON-5PM



SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER

401 SOUTH AVENUE, SYRACUSE, NY

Plowshares is a Syracuse community crafts fair 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

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Teen: Animated Blood and Violence ----- 5
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About This Issue

This issue is a kind of mixed bag with a clear focus on the Peace Council's annual *Plowshares Craftsfair*. Included as well are articles about *Light Work/Community Darkroom's* photo exhibit, the continuing threat of nuclear power and the dangers of chemical pesticide applications. You will also see a variety of advertisements for goods and services, including a two page ad from the *Syracuse Real Food Co-op*. What these disparate pieces have in common is our work in developing, strengthening and protecting our community economy. These are examples of efforts to create, produce, distribute, earn credits for, barter, sell, and donate goods and services within the community. While the definition of community may vary (the neighborhood, county, region, etc.), the goal is the same: to increase the amount of work over which we have control, and decrease the dependence on large corporations and institutions whose purpose is profit without sufficient concern for other human and social values.

Plowshares happens once a year. Decisions about what to consume, acquire, develop, and get rid of happen every day. How we do these things is a measure of our community vitality. Join us in celebration at *Plowshares* where we share our creativity and knowledge. Learn more about organic farming, community banking, and the many faces of activism. Treat your senses with art, textures, sounds, beauty, and delicious vegetarian cooking. Perhaps the experience and memory of *Plowshares* can serve as food for thought as we "grow" our community economy.

The People's 60 Minutes

The Peace Council's TV show
8 pm every Sunday night
 Cable TV
 Channel 3- City • 12- Suburbs
 Watch it - Tape it - Share it!



correction:
 The author of *Rogue State*, reviewed last month, is *William Blum*

Remembering Joan Goldberg

Feb. 13, 1935 - Dec. 14, 1999

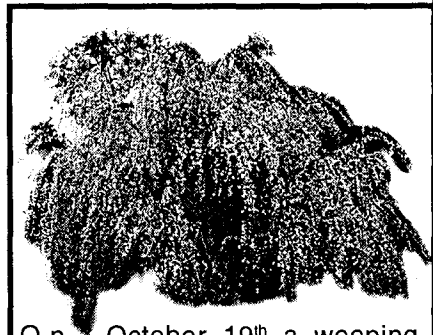
During recent weeks the local chapter of the Jewish Peace Fellowship (JPF) has engaged in a flurry of activity.. As we have met and vigiled to provide a Jewish voice for a just peace in Israel and Palestine, we have sorely missed Joan Goldberg's presence. Joan was an active member of New Jewish Agenda in the 1980's and was among a small group of Jewish women who regularly demonstrated as "Women in Black" against the Israeli occupation in the mid-1990's. Despite her illness, Joan played a valuable role in the formation of JPF and supported our efforts right up until her death. At our vigil on November 16, we took a moment to remember Joan's steady commitment to peace and justice for all people.

Andy Mager

Since the December 18, 1999 memorial service, Joan's ashes have been scattered in California, New York State, and Maine. Some of her ashes are buried in Detroit (where she grew up) where we had an unveiling in September. It has been a difficult year where intense grief has been balanced by support from this social justice community as well as organizations like

Hope for the Bereaved and Hospice. I miss Joan's love, her energy, her enthusiasm, her devotion to the things she believed in. Seeing how much she cared for her friends, how well organized she was, how attentive she was. I am still amazed how she was able to look after me, even though I was the supposedly the "caregiver."

Doug Igelsrud



On October 19th a weeping cherry tree was planted at the Petit Library in memory of Joan as part of the library's garden project. The tree will be dedicated on December 14th at 5:30 pm in a short ceremony outside the library. All are welcome.



Nuclear Power:

No Solution to Global Climate Change

Kyle Rabin

While many Americans assume that nuclear power is a dying technology, the nuclear industry is not ready to concede defeat for this dangerous and costly power source. The current debate on climate change is resurrecting the industry's hopes - by opening the potential for large-scale nuclear investment in developing countries. The nuclear industry is jockeying for a position in energy markets in the developing world by selling itself as sustainable energy technology that can help mitigate global climate change.

Last month, the nuclear industry took their fight to The Hague which was host to the sixth annual meeting (November 13 - 24) of the Conference of the Parties (COP-6) to the Climate Change Convention. COP-6 was the most important meeting on international climate negotiations since Kyoto. Ministers from around the world engaged in discussions about how to implement the Kyoto Protocol - an international trade agreement designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in both industrialized and industrializing nations.

Working through the United States, Japanese, and French delegations, a handful of power companies, including General Electric (GE), Mitsubishi and Framatome, argued for the creation of massive international subsidies for building new nuclear plants in countries like China, India and Vietnam. Western corporations, like GE, unable to construct new nuclear plants in North America or Europe due to safety, environmental and costs concerns, attempted to dump their unwanted and failing technology on developing countries, at a time when small scale and decentralized power plants are becoming more economic.

A key issue dealt with by COP-6 was whether or not nuclear power should be part

of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), a worldwide pollution trading credit scheme and a controversial aspect of the Kyoto Protocol. Under the Protocol, a developed nation that builds an electric generating project in another country would receive a pollution credit if the new plant leads to lower greenhouse gas emissions. However, the country receiving the credit does not have to reduce their greenhouse gas production. The CDM allows nations in the developing world to participate in meeting that goal through "sustainable development" projects.

Climate treaty negotiators grappled with the question of how to define sustainable development. The European Union had taken a position to exclude nuclear power from the CDM by requiring COP-6 to adopt a positive list of environmentally sound projects based on renewable energy sources, energy efficiency improvements and demand side management. However, the United States opposed the development of a positive list of eligible projects by arguing that each country should determine for itself what qualifies as sustainable technologies. This negotiating tactic gave the appearance of flexibility, but in actuality was intended to allow countries like China and India to label nuclear power as sustainable development and to qualify for tradable credits under the climate treaty.

It is disturbing that at a time when new, cleaner energy technologies should be encouraged to enter the global energy marketplace, the nuclear power industry continues to seek incentives to spread this doomed technology throughout the world. Nuclear power is not sustainable and is not the solution to global climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy are. Any further subsidy to the nuclear industry will thwart cleaner and more sustainable technologies and ultimately hurt our efforts to address global climate change.

While every energy technology has some environmental ramification, nuclear power is particularly non-sustainable for the following reasons:

Each nuclear plant can cost one to several billion dollars in lifetime costs. To make a substantial reduction in CO₂ emissions, commercial reactors would have to replace many coal-fired plants as they are retired, requiring approximately 2,000 nuclear power plants. The total cost penalty of using nuclear power would amount to several trillion dollars.

This approach would divert funds away from renewable energy development and energy efficiency. In the past 50 years, the nuclear power industry has received 96.3% of \$150 billion in US government subsidies according to the Renewable Energy Policy Project; that's \$145 billion for nuclear reactors and only \$5 billion for wind and solar projects. Energy efficiency is up to seven times more effective in CO₂ emissions reduction than nuclear power.

Many more reactors would result in the creation of thousands of metric tons of spent fuel, in addition to existing wastes. There is no viable policy for the management of spent fuel, which is dangerous for many thousands of years.

Plutonium in spent fuel can be used to make nuclear weapons. Each current 1000-megawatt commercial reactor produces 40 bombs worth of plutonium a year.

Nuclear reactors threaten our health. In normal operation, reactors release radioactive substances to the air and water. Many human population studies demonstrate that additional, low, constant levels of radiation can cause cancer and genetic mutations in this and future generations.

With nuclear power there is the very real potential for serious accidents, as we have seen from Three Mile Island in the US, Chernobyl in the Ukraine, and, most recently, the 1999 critical event at the Tokaimura uranium processing plant in Japan that released radiation estimated at about 4,000 times the level considered safe for a person to receive in a year. These accidents resulted in human illness and premature death and have damaged the local economy.

Kyle is Nuclear Energy Policy Project
Director for Environmental Advocates
518-462-5526 ext. 240

Burma: Something Went Wrong

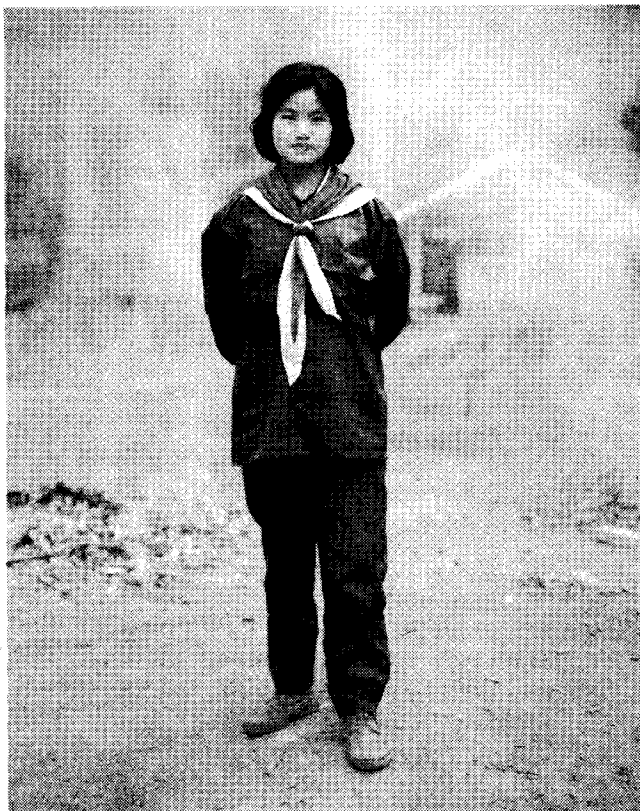
Carl Mellor

Documentary photographers generally fall into two camps: those who provide a generous serving of text with their images and those whose exhibits offer a minimum of text. Chan Chao definitely belongs in the latter school of photographers. His exhibition, *Burma: Something Went Wrong*, currently on display at Syracuse University's Menschel Gallery, presents 34 color images, all of which were taken in Burma's countryside. Each subject is accompanied only by a brief caption stating the person's name and when the photo was taken.

However, that doesn't mean the show is unfathomable. It's clear that Chao, who lived in Burma until age 12 and then moved to the United States with his parents, has great affection for the people he photographed. They include a woman holding a baby, a Buddhist monk, several guerrillas engaged in armed struggle against the government, and Micho, a young woman whose portrait is one of the show's highlights. The point seems to be that all of them, including a young man cradling a book, two children, and two men in combat fatigues, are ordinary people. The guerrillas are seen at ease; there's no weapon pointing or angry facial expressions. Their images pose a fundamental question. Why did these everyday citizens take up arms?

This particular show pushes that question back to the viewer. Chao visited Burma several times during the 1990s and is well informed about human-rights vio-

lations in that nation, but he doesn't include any photos of demonstrations or any images specifically documenting other aspects of human-rights work. Instead he focuses on well-done portraits that show the subjects in ordinary settings and enables us to connect with them on



an emotional level. Thus Chao has issued a challenge: if you respect these people as people, take the time to find out what's happening in Burma, to learn about the pro-democracy movement.

The downside of that approach is obvious. The viewer leaves the gallery with a sense of non-fulfillment and many questions. What is the track record of non-violent movements in Burma? How much support do the guerrillas have? Answers to those questions can be gleaned only through research, and Chao clearly anticipates that some viewers will take up that work.

Struggle in Burma

The human rights struggle in Burma has many elements, including the 1988 White Bridge massacre in which hundreds of peaceful demonstrators were shot or drowned in a nearby river; a second massacre that year resulting in the murder of an estimated 3,000 demonstrators by government forces; the formation of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and its smashing success in the 1990 elections. However, the ruling junta, SLORC, refused to permit the NLD candidates to take their seats in the national assembly.

Throughout the last decade, the junta has continued its suppression of democracy and repression of dissidents, one being Aung San Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize. She was kept under house arrest for six years and is still harassed by SLORC operatives.

In addition to political repression, the junta functions as a kleptocracy, profiting from the opium trade, forced labor, and sales of logging rights. Over the past eight years SLORC has actively sought deals with foreign corporations. One example was the joint project between Unicol, a US company, and its French partner, Total, to build an oil pipeline.

There has been vigorous debate about the propriety of US and European companies doing business in Burma as well as instituting a regimen of sanctions. The Clinton administration, as might be expected, has taken a middle-of-the-road position, prohibiting new contracts but refusing to cut off trade with Burma.

Burma: Something Went Wrong

is on display at the Menschel Gallery, located on the second floor of the Schine Student Center, 303 University Place, through December 29. The gallery is open from ten to ten daily, with the exception of holidays when the university is closed. For information about holiday hours, call (315) 443-2450. Chan Chao will be in Syracuse for a reception on December 8, from six to eight pm, in the Menschel Gallery. The reception, like the gallery, is open to the public.

www.lightwork.org

The Pesticide Wars Of Onondaga County

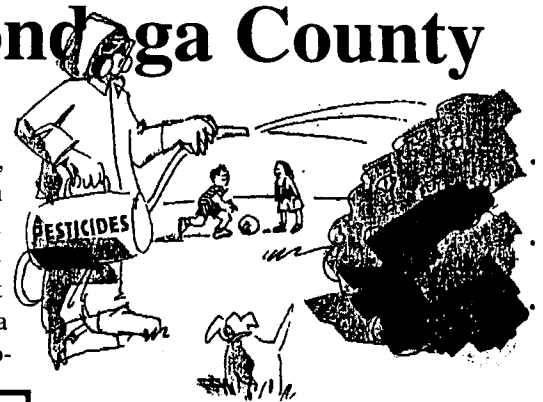
Linda DeStefano

As reported in the October PNL, many years of organizing and lobbying by advocates for protection of health and the environment culminated in August with the signing by Gov. Pataki of the Pesticide Notification Law. The intent of the law is to provide prior notification when pesticides (with some exceptions) are applied at schools and daycare centers and on lawns. The school and daycare portion is a statewide requirement, but the notification by commercial pesticide applicators to abutting neighbors of a treated lawn is -- unfortunately -- required only if one's county government chooses to opt-in to the law.

In Onondaga County and most of NYS, the pesticide application industry has come out vociferously against the requirement that they provide 48 hours written notification to abutting neighbors before applying most pesticides. Although protection of health and the environment should be a bipartisan priority, the reality in Onondaga County is that the Republicans on the county legislature have sided with the industry by coming up with numerous ploys to delay and confuse a vote while almost all the Democrats have come out in favor of opting-in to the notification requirement.

Linda is Chair, Conservation Committee, Sierra Club

Local organizations which, so far, have asked Onondaga County to opt-in include the American Lung Association of CNY, the Syracuse Metropolitan League of Women Voters and the Westcott East Neighborhood Association (ask me for a full list). Individuals have spoken elo-



DID YOU KNOW!

- In 1997, 16.7 million pounds and 2.4 million gallons of pesticides were applied commercially or sold to farmers in New York State.
- Over a third of the total pesticide products reported statewide in 1997 contain carcinogens, and nearly 40% contain potent neurotoxins.
- Numerous studies link home and garden pesticide use to childhood cancers including leukemia and brain cancer.
- Dogs whose owners use the lawn herbicide 2,4-D (the most commonly used home and garden pesticide) more than 4 times annually have twice the normal risk of developing lymphoma.

quently and poignantly to legislators about their right to know when pesticide drift might enter their property so they can protect themselves by being inside with windows closed and air conditioners off. For example, one woman told how her cancer specialist at Dana Farber Institute explained that her multiple

myeloma was caused by radiation or pesticides. She figured out that lawn pesticides from her neighbor had seeped into her well. Another woman told how her son died of pesticide poisoning while spraying trees as part of his job. The Environmental Protection Agency verified that this was the cause of his death.

If you read this article in time, please come to the public hearing on Monday, Dec. 4 at 2:10 at the legislative chambers, 4th floor courthouse, across from Columbus Circle. In any case, letters and calls to your county legislator and to county executive Nick Pirro are important before and after Dec. 4.

You can ask Mr. Pirro to support opting-in by contacting him at the Civic Center, 14th floor, 421 Montgomery St., Syracuse 13202, (315) 435-3516 (phone), (315) 435-8582 (FAX). If you don't know who your county legislator is or how to contact her or him, call the Board of Elections at (315) 435-3312 to find the information.

Content Rating:

Teen: Animated Blood and Violence*

Is it more "PC" to stalk, maim and kill unsuspecting prey on an animated computer screen than in real life? That's what I wondered after I read a recent review of a hunting video game, in the Syracuse Newspaper's Technology section. You'd think an advocate of free speech, especially an animal-rights activist, would embrace simulated mayhem in the woods, fields, and skies over real blood and guts, given that choice. But think again. Do violent videos and video games provide a harmless outlet for pent-up pubescent (or middle-aged) bloodlust? Or do they decrease empathy for others, and

increase the likelihood of translating such actions from the small screen to the real world?

Many studies over the past couple of decades would have us believe that videos, TV shows, and movies that glorify gore and violence turn impressionable frequent viewers into raging monsters at worst and unfeeling observers at least. Other studies point to examples like Japan, which supposedly has wildly popular and ultraviolent animation, and yet a much lower violent-crime rate than the US, to support the theory that there is no cause-and-effect relationship between one's choice of entertainment and one's real-life

behavior. After some thought, I have decided that "kill for a



"thrill" videos are inherently unhealthy and undesirable, whether they stimulate viewers/players to duplicate their actions or not. I can't imagine that women's rights activists would support video games in which females are stalked and killed, or that minority-rights supporters would find racist cartoons entertaining, or that social workers would support the "rights" of those who find animated pedophilia a harmless pastime.

R.Xochitl Rick

* quote from a hunter's rating of "Bird Hunter, Wild Wings edition"

Edited by Mike Kernahan

No news is not necessarily good news

MIT professor Theodore Postol has been one of the Clinton administration's biggest headaches as it pushes its controversial missile defense proposal. A former Pentagon scientist, Postol has made headlines with his exposures of the anti-missile system's flaws and the Pentagon's deceptions. But when Postol complained of a government attempt to silence him, the media ignored him. According to Postol, three agents from the Pentagon's Defense Security Service showed up unannounced at his MIT offices, offering to show the physicist some classified documents. Postol refused, saying the visit was an attempt by the Pentagon to entrap him. Once he had been shown classified information, he could be prosecuted if he discussed it publicly. Postol's story, which was first reported in the Metro section of his hometown newspaper, the *Boston Globe* (6/24/00) has been picked up by only one US paper in the Nexis database: the *Commercial Appeal* of Memphis, Tennessee (6/25/00). While the main French newswire Agence France Presse ran an entire article on it (6/27/00), the Associated Press has completely ignored it.

Source: Extra! Update

Take it out of petty cash

American General Life and Accident Insurance Company, one of the largest US life insurers, will provide \$206 million worth of relief to millions of poor and minority policyholders nationwide to settle charges of racial discrimination and other unfair practices. Florida's insurance commissioner Bill Nelson says policyholder refunds and other restitution will be made by American General to resolve allegations that several companies it acquired charged blacks more than whites for burial and other insurance, and that even after the sale of race-based policies was halted in the 1960's, the insurers continued collecting higher premiums from African Americans. The agreement imposes a \$7.5 million sanction on the company and American General also announced that it would contribute another \$2 million

to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "It's tragic that this kind of discrimination and exploitation occurred in the first place," Nelson says. "It's incomprehensible that this practice continued up until recent days." In the agreement, American General neither admits nor denies that it violated any laws.

Source: *Multinational Monitor*

STATISTIC OF THE MONTH:

\$3,200,000,000.

Preliminary estimate of the final total spent by the Gore and Bush campaigns in the 2000 presidential election.

Quote from the past:

"When I go to hell I mean to carry a bribe: for look you, good gifts evermore make way for the worst persons." **John Webster**, (1580-1625) English dramatist, *The Dutchess of Malfi*.

Do as I say, not as I do

Although the United States ratified the 1999 International Labor Organization convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, and the US Congress has denied trade benefits to developing countries that do not comply with the new treaty, the United States itself is not in compliance with the treaty, according to a leading human rights group. Because of exemptions in the Fair Labor Standards Act, as well as weak enforcement of existing regulations, hundreds of thousands of child farmworkers in the United States are working under dangerous and exhausting conditions, according to a new Human Rights Watch (HRW) report entitled "Fingers to the Bone." HRA says that child farmworkers in the US -- the vast majority of whom are Latino -- regularly work 12 to 14 hour days, often suffering pesticide poisoning, heat-related illness, machine and knife related injuries, and lifelong disabilities. Many are forced to work without access to toilet or hand-washing facilities or adequate drinking water. Although HRW estimates that there are at least one million child labor violations in the US each year, the US Department of Labor cited only 104 cases of child labor violations in 1998.

Source: *Human Rights Watch*

God, how I get nervous when they start talking "sin"

In Nashville, many Southern Baptist churches are now offering adult Sunday school lessons on how homosexuals can "change" into heterosexuals. "I hope through this lesson that people would see an open door for all sinners and come and have a changed life through Jesus Christ," said Ross McClaren, a biblical studies specialist at Lifeway Christian Resources, the publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention. McClaren said the lessons aim to condemn homosexuality but not homosexuals. Bill Turner, co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Tennessee, said he finds the idea of "hate the sin but love the sinner" patronizing. "I know plenty of lesbian and gay Christians who are quite convinced they have a perfectly adequate relationship with god," said Turner, adding that he is not contesting the right of Southern Baptists to teach what they want. "The problem is imposing that doctrine on the rest of the culture," Turner said, citing the Southern Baptist boycott of Disney for its corporate practice of extending health insurance to homosexual partners of employees. The lessons characterize homosexuality as unnatural and sinful. Homosexuals are encouraged to change and heterosexuals are asked to help them. Some of the lessons list additional readings on "healing" homosexuals. Fundamentalist Christian groups whose members believe homosexuality is a chosen lifestyle rather than a genetic predisposition drew criticism from homosexuals last year with a national ad campaign aimed at "converting" homosexuals. After the ad campaign, Turner said he heard reports of homosexuals attempting suicide when they were unable to change their sexuality.

Source: *Associated Press*



Welcome to the 30th Annual
Winter Holiday Peace Festival
PLOWSHARES CRAFTSFAIR

Welcome to Plowshares - a community marketplace of handmade crafts, clothing, jewelry, rugs, bowls, cups, art work, furniture and more. Wandering minstrels, fabulous food, and a spirit of camaraderie 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 a regional marketplace. Our Central New York tradition is a collective effort of many peace workers.

We bring you a crafts fair free of commercialism. All of our various craftspeople make their own crafts by hand, and by their own design. We are proud to say that Plowshares is one of the favorite craftshows for the craftspeople, having one of the most enjoyable family atmospheres in the area.

For 20 years the crafts fair was held at Plymouth Congregational Church in downtown Syracuse. This is our 10th year at the Southwest Community Center. Please take advantage of your visit here to find out more about what the Southwest Community Center offers.



SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL (SPC)

SPC was founded in 1936 as an anti-war organization. The Peace Council's vision of a world where war, violence, and exploitation in any form will no longer exist has

been a mainstay for 64 years.

The Peace Council has changed, though, over the years from a group with a few members working out of peoples' homes, to a larger organization with active volunteers and paid staff working out of our own building

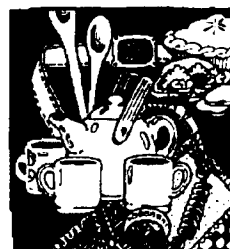
It is the Peace Council's belief that present social injustices cannot be understood in isolation from each other nor can they be overcome without recognizing their economic and violent roots. Essential for peace and justice is an economic system that places human needs above monetary profit. The Peace Council seeks to make these connections clear.

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

Peace and social justice struggles have reached unprecedented proportions around the globe, and constant organizing is taking place around these struggles. We are all part

of the global fight for progressive change and it is up to us to realize that one voice can always make a difference. For more information about the Syracuse Peace Council, stop by the SPC table at the crafts fair.

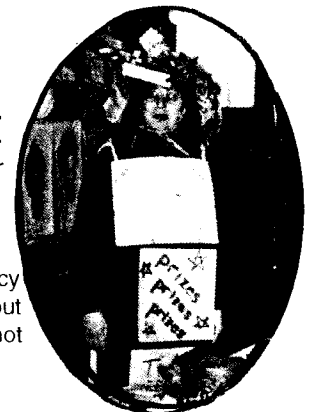
THE SPC INFO AND CRAFTS TABLE



Find out about the Peace Council and pick up literature. Here you will also find an assortment of crafts for sale that were donated by the craftspeople. All proceeds go to support the Peace Council.

SPC RAFFLE

Over 25 great prizes!! At only \$1 per chance or 6 for \$5, these raffle tickets are a great buy. Buy your tickets at the raffle table or from one of our roving ticket sellers (look for the fancy hats). Drawings take place throughout the two day festival, and you need not be present 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. Money raised last year was used to buy SPC a laser printer for the office and helped put a roof on the garage out back.

Peace Newsletter

Central New York's Voice for Peace and Social Justice December 1998 PNL 67

THE PEACE NEWSLETTER (PNL)

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, we hope you will 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. We don't want just your money. (one year subscription, still only \$12); articles and art work warmly requested. Also, letters to the editors give dialogue to our diverse perspectives.



SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER (SWCC)

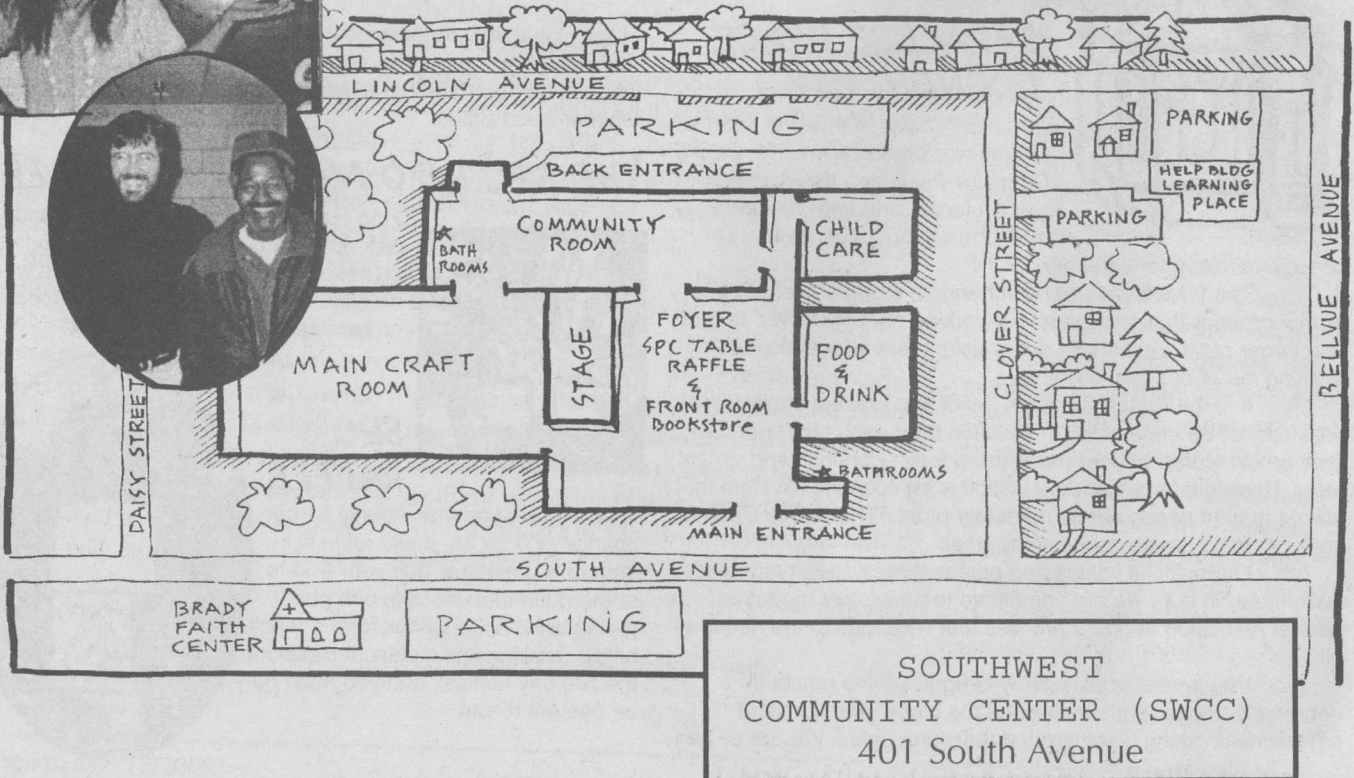


SWCC was built by the City of Syracuse in 1975 with a Model Cities Block Grant. The programs and activities that go on under this one roof are both routine and unique to the community: youth activities, after-school, pre-K, Bishop Foery Foundation, a branch of the county library, senior groups, family 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 this afternoon!!

DIRECTIONS: FROM 690: Exit 2 West St. to W. Onondaga St. Right on W. Onondaga. Go four blocks and take slanted left (South Ave.) SWCC is in 400 block of South Avenue.
FROM 81: Exit 17 Brighton Ave. Head west on Brighton to South Ave. Right on South, stay left at Y. SWCC is 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 of Clover next to the HELP Building. ...Look for cloth banners.



SOUTHWEST
COMMUNITY CENTER (SWCC)
401 South Avenue

ENTERTAINMENT ON STAGE

SATURDAY, DEC 2th

1:00 Grace Martial Arts Academy
 2:00 Gypsy Fire Dance Troupe
 3:00 The Pleneras of 2000
 4:00 The Media Unit

SUNDAY, DEC. 3rd

1:00 Talk That Talk
 Storytelling with
 Vanessa Johnson
 2:00 Full Moon Tribal
 Dance Company
 3:00 West African Master
 Drummer

Wandering Minstrels

Hammer Dulcimer
 Dan Duggan



GREAT FOOD

Food and drink are an essential part of any decent gathering and a centerpiece to Plowshares. We still tell the legends of Nick Orth's cooking at past Plowshares. Fortunately for all of us, we are now blessed with the cooking of Chef Linda "Sparky" Mortimer. Sparky used to work with Nick

and offers us similarly delicious and affordable mealtime fare. Yay Sparky and accomplices!

ASSORTED BEVERAGES

Organic coffee, variety of teas, hot chocolate, soymilk and cream available, bottled water and spritzers.

LUNCH SPECIALS:

Beans and karen kerney Greens, Black Beans and Polenta, Burritos, Veggie & Marinated Tofu Sandwiches, Green Salad, Kid friendly pizzas, Gourmet pizzas on Pasta's Stretch Bread, Syrian Chick Pea Salad, Baked Zita

DESSERT ITEMS: Cookies and Brownies baked by Carm

BREAKFAST SPECIALS:

Muffins, Veggie Sausage, Biscuits and Gravy.

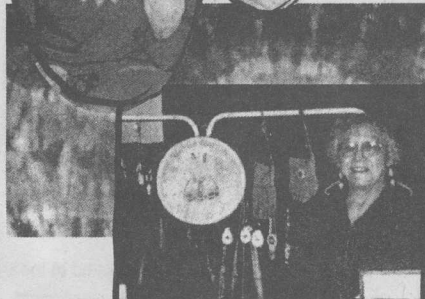
As in the past, monies made from the food concession benefit SPC and the Friends of Dorothy House. Chef Sparky is thrilled at the prospect of cooking at Plowshares again, and runs her own catering business entitled "Sparky's At Your Service Catering"



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.



photos by Margaret Birdlebough/ Plowshares 1999

Plowshares Craftsfair Participating Craftspeople

- **David Alessi** handmade creative rubber stamps
South Wales, 716-655-2159
- **Merri Baldwin** woven rag rugs, Ukrainian eggs
Homer, 607-749-3354
- **Linda Barbour** dessert pies, cakes, pudding, soaps
Syracuse, 315-446-7330
- **Kathy Barry, Babouska** handcrafted hats, bags, scarves, quilts
Syracuse, 315-425-7257
- **Amy Bartell** cards, prints, furniture, t-shirts
Syracuse, 315-422-4406
- **Robin Behling** silver jewelry
Phoenix, 315-695-1227
- **Beyond Boundaries** ornaments, greeting cards, t-shirts
Syracuse, 315-478-4571
- **Aduke Branch** angels, dolls, earrings, table runners
Syracuse, 315-423-4603
- **Lauren Bristol** coiled & crocheted baskets, bead necklaces
Syracuse, 315-446-0529
- **Gail Calloway** tin ornaments, painted boxes, scrapbooks
Jordan, 315-689-9975
- **Rebekah Clark** quilted potholders, oven mitts, pillows
Syracuse, 315-472-8255
- **Citizens Awareness Network** nukemon stuffed animals, t-shirts
Syracuse, 315-475-1203
- **Denise Cole** wearable art, dyed clothing
Syracuse, 315-474-5374
- **Common Place Land Trust** soaps, gourds, tinctures, animal collars, herbs
Truxton, 607-842-6799
- **Joe DiPasquale & Tanya Zabinski** hand silkscreened prints on clothing
Buffalo, 716-885-2197
- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. PTO** necklaces, earrings, decorations, pins
Syracuse, 315-435-4580
- **Dan Duggan** hammered dulcimer tapes & CDs
Red Creek, 315-754-8946
- **Caroline Dunn** celtic cards, photo mattes, writing paper
Oswego, 315-343-3944
- **Wendy Edwards** fleece hats, scarves, headbands, travel bags
Manlius, 315-682-9635
- **Sandy Eure, Jacquelyn Maye, Karen Patton** ornaments, spices, wearable art jewelry
Syracuse, 315-445-1426
- **Gaia's Creations** gemstone jewelry, walking sticks, charms
Plainville, 315-635-7637
- **Barbara Floch** sea glass, silver jewelry
Syracuse, 315-437-0309
- **Kevin Galleli** batik clothing
Palmyra, 315-597-0294
- **Lillie Harris** delectable desserts, bows
Syracuse, 315-445-2459
- **Liz Handler, Martha Hanrahan** scrub tops, fleece hats
Syracuse, 315-492-3007
- **Carol Horan** photo & collage cards, painted rocks/cottages
Syracuse, 315-479-8707
- **Katherine Hughes** pottery, pendants, mugs, bowls, plates
Syracuse, 315-479-6897
- **Ira & Flora Johnson** wooden crafts, bird & bat houses
Syracuse, 315-454-3397
- **Amy Kalisher** angels, blankets, jewelry, ornaments
Syracuse, 315-472-7966
- **Karen Kerney, Margaret Birdlebaum, Scott Luscumbe** turtle puppets, pillows, skin healer
Jamesville, 315-469-0403
- **Diane Koi-Thompson** hammocks, hammock chairs, puppets
Odessa, 607-594-3924
- **Chris Kowalski, Lisa Davis, Sally White** glassware, floral photo notecards
Syracuse, 315-428-0914
- **Judy Lieblein** ceramic jewelry
Syracuse, 315-469-8445
- **Linda Malik** paper mache bowls, votives, clocks, mobiles
Syracuse, 315-474-1796
- **Alison Mazzetta** stoneware pottery, udu drums
Syracuse, 315-469-8589
- **Joelle McAndrew** stuffed dolls & animals, fabric purses
Syracuse, 315-422-9692
- **Ralph Minnifield** leather goods & art
Syracuse, 315-428-0312
- **Eva Monostory** beaded, macrame & silver jewelry
Fayetteville, 315-637-6735
- **Mosi Village: Vanessa Johnson, Mardea Warner** bracelets, pins, dolls, rings, gourds, fiber vessels, cards
Syracuse, 315-479-5757
- **Jim Nelson** postcards, bookmarks, stereoscope sets
Fair Haven, 315-947-6713
- **Kelly Nye** beaded, sterling, gemstone jewelry, boxes
Jamesville, 315-492-1932
- **Brenda Ocampo** stone, gold, silver, glass jewelry
Syracuse, 315-476-1807
- **Onondaga Craft Cooperative** handmade beadwork, salves, tinctures, teas
Onondaga Nation, 315-492-1440
- **Felice Osband** hand blown glass
Rochester, 716-482-6145
- **Osupa T.** oils
Syracuse
- **Jabari Penda** hand dipped incense & oils
Syracuse, 315-428-9428
- **People for Animal Rights** crocheted items, holiday decorations
Syracuse, 315-488-7877
- **Marge Rusk** wreaths, sachets, catnip toys, herbs
Syracuse, 315-476-7635
- **Heather Sackett** clay wizards, fairies, fountains, elves
N. Syracuse, 315-458-0455
- **Cindy Schmidt, Helen Carter, Karen Hall** signs, cards, clocks, cat beds
Mexico, 315-963-1494
- **Linda Sherman** pottery, cloisonne enamel & bead jewelry
DeRuyter, 315-852-9623
- **SOA Abolitionists** t-shirts, bandannas
Syracuse, 315-468-2293
- **Beth Sturley** suncatchers, nature crafts
Kirkville, 315-656-7076
- **Marie Summerwood** vinegars, honeys, salves, kidney warmers
Syracuse, 315-476-1256
- **Syracuse Cultural Workers** posters, prints, t-shirts
Syracuse, 315-474-1132
- **Diana Trifoso** batiked clothing, face-painting
Syracuse, 315-422-2323
- **Lori Wyman** massages, corn bags
Baldwinsville, 315-635-5289

This list was complete as we went to press. Additional crafters will be listed at the event.

Even Bird Watching is Dangerous in Colombia

Margaret Rusk

The recent issue of Audubon (magazine) included an article entitled, "A Habitat Held Hostage", by Kirk Semple. The article describes the kidnapping of four American birdwatchers by guerrillas in Colombia and their eventual safe return home.

While the author sought to present an even-handed accounting, the presentation was incomplete. The "moral of the story", insufficiently made clear, is that US military meddling was the indirect cause of the incident.

Interference in Colombian affairs in the guise of help in the war on drugs, has not helped. It has merely pushed illegal drug-

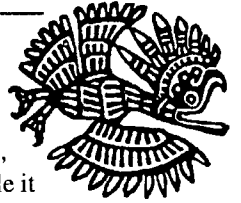
growing into pristine less-accessible parts of the exquisite environment; the pesticide spraying of drug plantations has destroyed legitimate crops and harmed farm animals and even farmers in the vicinity, not to mention elements of natural ecosystems. This social and environmental destruction is not helping the drug situation. Stopping drugs in the US must be accomplished, rather, by interdicting their entry and supporting rehabilitation of addicts.

Multinational corporations persist in investing in Colombia, despite the guerrilla threat, because of the protection provided by US military aid to Colombia!

Exploitation of Colombian resources harms the environment in the first place because of tree-cutting, road-building, etc.

and secondarily when guerrillas, for example, bomb pipelines. While it may seem counter-intuitive, there is probably no contradiction between FARC's protection of rare species and pipeline bombing, but rather a tragic calculation of the lesser evil - sabotage versus further inroads into the rainforest by exploiters.

Who does Colombia belong to - the people (including the disregarded indigenous) who live there, or greedy multinationals?



Marge lived in Colombia for 20 months when this environmental destruction was beginning, info from from the Colombia Support Network, P.O. Box 1305, Madison, WI 53701.

Marie Summerwood



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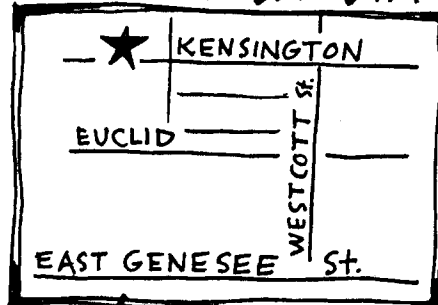


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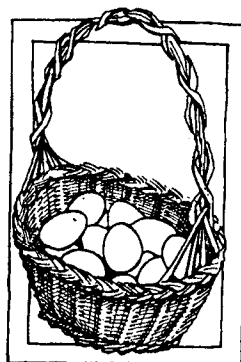
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**Syracuse Peace Council
Community Calendar**

December 2000

To have your group's event or meeting listed, call or send the info to the Peace Council, 472-5478. January deadline: December 15.
Ace maintains an online version of this calendar with updates and more at www.root-media.org/calendar.htm.

<p>3 Sunday Evening Women's Film Series. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. \$1-\$5. 478-8634. EVERY SUN: 51 Percent Women's issues radio program. WRVO FM 90.6-6:30pm. EVERY SUN: This Way Out. Gay & Lesbian radio program on WRVO FM 90.6-3:30-7pm. EVERY SUN: Brick / Books to Prisoners prison solidarity group meets. 429 Westcott St. 4pm. 472-5633.</p>	<p>4 People Against the Death Penalty meeting. Church Center, 3049 E. Genesee St. 7pm. 475-1878. 3rd Annual Elder Abuse Conference, Out of the Shadows. 8:30am-5pm. 425-0818 for info.</p>	<p>5 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442. Peace Action monthly program. Video: "Back from the Brink." May Memorial. 3800 E. Genesee St. 7:30pm. 478-7442. EVERY TUE: Residents for Environmental Action & Community Health meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7:15-9pm.</p>	<p>6 SEUNA meeting. Erwin Methodist Church, Euclid Ave. 7pm. Holiday Luncheon of CNY Advisory Council for the NYS Human Rights Division. Speaker Gina Lopez. 428-4643 to register.</p>	<p>7 Stonewall Committee meets at Tu Venue, 731 James St. 6pm. 476-6226. World AIDS Day Fundraising Dinner. University Sheraton. 6pm. Call Eiren at 474-6823 to register. Syracuse United Neighbors/Southwest meeting. Brady Faith Center, South Ave. 7pm. 476-7475. Film: "The Myth of the Liberal Media: The Propaganda Model of News." Westcott Community Center. 7pm. Sponsored by Alliance for Democracy, CNY chapter. Film: "The Myth of the Liberal Media: The Propaganda Model of News." Westcott Community Center. 7pm. Sponsored by Alliance for Democracy, CNY chapter. CNY NOW general meeting. 5789 Widewaters Pkwy. 7pm. 487-3188. Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.</p>
<p>8 Dec. 1-10: The Winter Tale by Open Hand Theater. Info: 476-9466. Dec. 1 & 2: Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus holiday concert. Holiday Romance: A Ten Year Love Affair. Plymouth Church, 232 E. Onondaga St. 8pm. World AIDS Day Morning Service. Panasci Chapel, Le Moyne College. Breakfast to follow. 7:30-8am. 475-2430. Mass for the Jubilee Year. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. 7:30pm.</p>	<p>9 Dan Duggan & Peggy Eyres performing at Westcott Community Center. 8pm. \$7-\$10 sliding scale. 478-8634.</p>	<p>10 Syracuse Animal Defense League meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. Sunday Evening Women's Film Series. Westcott Community Center. 7pm. \$1-\$5. 478-8634. Countdown to Clemency, Leonard Pelletier March for Freedom. Led by Leonard's family & survivors of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation reign of terror. Last chance to press for clemency from Pres. Clinton. Battery Park, NYC. Info: 785-842-5174.</p>	<p>11 Syracuse United Neighbors/Southside meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Midland & Colvin St. 7pm. 478-7475. Westcott East Neighborhood Association (WENA) meeting. Pettit Library, Concord Pl. 7-9pm. 479-7301.</p>	<p>12 CNY Columbia Support Network monthly meeting. 7pm, Plymouth Church. EVERY TUE: Residents for Environmental Action & Community Health meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7:15-9pm.</p>
<p>13 CNY Columbia Support Network monthly meeting. 7pm, Plymouth Church.</p>	<p>14 Reconsilder: Forum on Drug Policy meeting. 206 Onondaga Ave. 7:30pm. 422-6237.</p>	<p>15 CNY NOW general meeting. 5789 Widewaters Pkwy. 7pm. 487-3188. Onondaga Audubon meeting. Dewitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Blvd. 7:30pm. 457-7731.</p>	<p>16 EVERY SAT: Sharing the Earth. Animal rights & environmental videos. 10pm. Time-Warner Cable channels 3 & 12. Produced by People for Animal Rights.</p>	<p>17 New Environment Association potluck & meeting. Friends Meeting House, 821 Euclid Ave. 6pm. 446-8009. EVERY SAT: Unwelcome Guests: a program about wealth, power, & people's resistance to the New World Order. 5-7pm, WXXE Syracuse.</p>
<p>18 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>19 Coalition for the Common Good meeting. 658 W. Onondaga St. Noon. 478-7442. EVERY TUE: Rough Times Live. Television produced by, for, and about teens. 8pm. Cable Access Channel. 478-UNIT.</p>	<p>20 An Evening of Cultural Sharing with the Onondaga Nation to Celebrate the Winter Solstice with special guests from the Nation and the Syracuse Community Choir. St. Paul's Cathedral, corner of Fayette & Montgomery, downtown Syracuse. 7:30pm. 428-8724. Syracuse United Neighbors/Skunk City meeting. Mundy Library, S. Geddes St. 7:30pm. 476-7475. Sierra Club monthly meeting. 5 Illick Hill, SUNY ESF. 7:30pm Martha. 492-4745.</p>	<p>21 EVERY THU: Sitting Meditation at Women's Info. 601 Allen St. 7:30-8:30am. Free. EVERY THU: Syracuse Community Radio, WXXE 90.5 FM. *Jim Highflower Radio Commentaries* 4:58pm; FAIR's "Counter Spin" 5pm. EVERY THU: Syracuse Zapata Solidarity meeting. 205 Bassett St. 6:30pm. Ace. 423-4783.</p>	<p>22 EVERY FRI: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.</p>
<p>23 Pax Christi meeting. Slocum House. 9:30am-12pm. Frank Woollever, 446-1693.</p>	<p>24 EVERY SUN: People's 60 Minutes. Time Warner Cable. Ch. 3 in city, Ch. 12 in suburbs. 8pm. Produced by the Peace Council. Tune in, tape it, share it!</p>	<p>25 EVERY MON, TUES, THURS: Golden Cafe for seniors at Westcott Community Center. 12pm. New friends, lunch, programs. 478-8634. Syracuse Animal Defense League meeting. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. EVERY MON: Morris Dancing. Westcott Community Center. 7-8:30pm. 478-8634.</p>	<p>26 EVERY TUE: Middle Eastern Dance with Zoe Artemis. Westcott Community Center. 5:15-6:15pm. Fee. 474-7084. Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) meeting. 1st Unitarian Universalist Society, 250 Waring Rd. 7:30pm. 446-5940.</p>	<p>27 EVERY WED: Military & Draft Counseling at the Peace Council. Noon-3pm. Marge 472-5478. 1st & 3rd WED.: Peace News-letter editorial meeting. 924 Burnet Ave. Call for time. 472-5478.</p>
<p>28 Vigil Against the Death Penalty. Columbus Circle, Syracuse. Noon-12:30pm. 475-1878. Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Free food! Call to confirm date EVERY THU: Women's Voices radio program. WAER, FM 86.3. 7-8pm. Pat. 446-7259. Thornden Park Association meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carole Simson for location. 475-2807.</p>	<p>29 Peace Newsletter Mailing Party at SPC, 924 Burnet Ave. 5-7pm. Free food! Call to confirm date EVERY THU: Women's Voices radio program. WAER, FM 86.3. 7-8pm. Pat. 446-7259. Thornden Park Association meeting. 7:30pm. Call Carole Simson for location. 475-2807.</p>	<p>30 EVERY FRI: Lesbian Discussion Group. Women's Info Center, 601 Allen St. 7pm. 622-5351.</p>	<p>31 EVERY SUN: Common Threads, acoustic local music on WAER FM 86.3. 2-5pm.</p>	<p>31 EVERY SUN: Common Threads, acoustic local music on WAER FM 86.3. 2-5pm.</p>

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The Weight of Nothing

"Tell me the weight of a snowflake," a sparrow asked a wild dove.

"Nothing more than nothing," was the answer.

"In that case, I must tell you a marvelous story," the sparrow said. "I sat on the branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow, not heavily, not in a raging blizzard, no, just like a dream, without any violence. Since I didn't have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When the next snowflake dropped onto the branch - nothing more than nothing, as you say, the branch broke off."



Having said that, the sparrow flew away.

The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while and finally said to herself, "Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come about in this world."



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