

THE WREE-VIEW OF

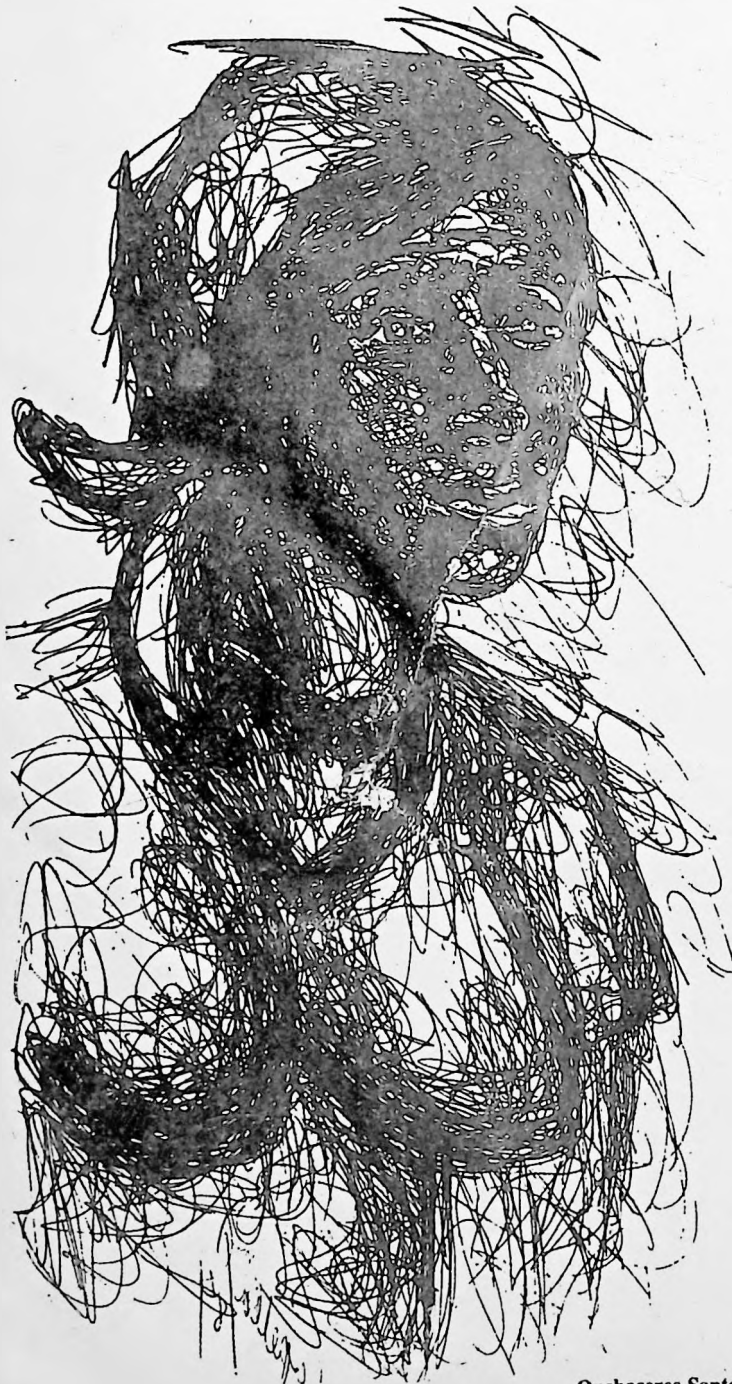
# WOMEN

FOR RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

VOL 10 NO 2-3

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SPRING 1985



In This Issue. . .

POTENTIAL OF  
PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

ACTIONS FOR  
SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION  
IN THE MINES

MILA AGUILAR —  
PHILIPPINE PRISONER

PREPARING FOR NAIROBI

TV y LOS NIÑOS

and much more. . .

# THE WREE-VIEW OF WOMEN FOR RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

## WREE CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

by Sally Chaffee  
National Membership Secretary

On March 8, WREE chapters across the country celebrated International Women's Day as a tribute to women's victories in the struggles for racial justice, economic equality, and peace. This year's IWD celebrations recognized especially the struggles of our South African sisters against the oppressive system of apartheid, linking the role of the U.S. government and transnationals in maintaining apartheid in South Africa and denying economic and racial equality to workers here.

In Hartford, Connecticut, WREE and the Connecticut Anti-Apartheid Committee co-sponsored a Tribute to South African Women to benefit the Women's Section of the African National Congress. A multiracial gathering of two hundred people, including trade unionists, representatives of the Rainbow Caucus, and community leaders participated in the exciting event held at the West Indian Social Club. Mamazane Xulu of the ANC Women's Section was the featured speaker. The "Bread and Roses" group sang the ANC national anthem and Frances Sharpe gave a moving dramatic presentation.

### Fannie Lou Hamer Award

Connecticut WREE continued their tradition of presenting the Fannie Lou Hamer Award to a local person active in the fight against racism. This year's award was Sherry Deane, a Black lawyer and peace activist. Ms. Deane, the Director of Connecticut Clergy and Laity Concerned, was recently arrested in the anti-apartheid demonstration at the South African Embassy in Washington.

The International Women's Day event was the kick-off of Connecticut WREE's spring activities. The chapter is part of the local April 20th Coalition, "Greater Hartford Together for Jobs, Peace and Justice." Connecticut WREE and WILPF will share a bus to Washington for the April 20th demonstration.

Connecticut WREE is actively involved with Local 1199 in the struggle to get union recognition for the workers at Hillside Manor Nursing Home. The workers, the majority of whom are women, 50% Hispanic and 30% Black, are facing tough union-busting opposition from the management of the nursing home.



Sherry Deane, Connecticut recipient of the Fannie Lou Hamer Award. Following is Sherry's acceptance speech.

### Honor Community Leader

The Dayton, Ohio chapter honored a Black community leader, Sarah Harris, a dynamic candidate for County Commissioner in last fall's election. Although Ms. Harris' campaign was not successful, the support for the struggles she represents is strong. A broad mixture of labor, civic, women's, and church groups were represented by the 80 people who joined WREE to honor Ms. Harris. The speakers, including representatives of the City Commission and the School Board, stressed the role of racism in holding back progress for all people and recognized WREE's role in promoting unity around the issue of racism. Dayton WREE is also active in the anti-apartheid coalition and has been working hard on the Ohio divestiture campaign.



Sarah Harris was Dayton WREE's choice for the annual award.

This issue of the WREE-VIEW of WOMEN is a "doubled-up" expanded edition. In other words, you will receive five instead of six issues in 1985. This is the Spring issue, the next will cover July/August.

There is simply not enough money to produce, as well as mail and distribute six issues this year. We are determined, however, to produce five issues. It costs more than \$2000 for each issue, and we ask for your help to guarantee the next 3 issues for 1985.

If you agree that our paper is worth supporting — do it! Send your contributions to WREE in any amount, as soon as you can. Please, read this copy through. Do you know any other women's periodical that provides you with this kind of service? Help get the next issue printed and mailed.

Over 200 people joined Minneapolis WREE to observe IWD at an exciting event cosponsored by the Trade Union Coalition for Peace. The celebration was endorsed by Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), Women Against Military Madness (WAMM), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Minnesota 9 to 5, and the Minnesota Rainbow Coalition. The guest speaker was Emma Mashinini, General Secretary of the Commercial Catering and Allied Workers of the South, the second largest Black trade union in South Africa. Sharon Sayles-Belton, City Councilwoman from Minneapolis and the only elected Black female in Minnesota, proclaimed March 8, 1985, as "Emma Mashinini International Women's Day." State Representative Karen Clark spoke, linking the critical issues of child care and labor struggles with divestment in South Africa.

The Rainbow Theater, a Black children's theater group, presented a moving dramatic piece on Harriet Tubman. Other entertainment was provided by Doris Hines, a talented singer and Leo and Kati Lara, singing New Song Movement music from Latin America.



Emma Mashinini, So. African Labor leader, holds her award presented by Councilwoman Sharon Sayles-Belton (at mike) in Minneapolis.

## Proclamation



WHEREAS, March 8th is recognized as International Women's Day and this date has been set aside to recognize the contributions of women and the struggle for women's equality; and

WHEREAS, the City of Minneapolis has long supported the basic principles of equality for all peoples; and

WHEREAS, racism and sexism must be condemned everywhere but particularly as it is enforced under the apartheid regime of South Africa; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the women and trade unions of South Africa must be supported in the struggle to end apartheid and bring about a society based on equality; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Emma Mashinini, General Secretary of the Commercial, Catering & Allied Workers of South Africa is visiting our City on this Women's Day,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Donald M. Fraser, do hereby proclaim March 8, 1985, as

"WOMEN'S DAY"

and encourage all citizens to recognize the women and trade unionists of South Africa who are struggling to eliminate the apartheid system in South Africa; and

I further proclaim that this day shall officially be

"EMMA MASHININI DAY"

in recognition of her efforts in behalf of her members and all people of South Africa who wish to bring an end to apartheid.

MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS

I have cried tears for babies dying before age 1,  
For the seemingly never-ending struggle for freedom.  
Summer/Autumn/Winter: Tear-filled months, but also  
months filled with joy.

I have never loved flowers more nor wanted them more in  
my life.

Woe is not me...there is something else. It is in the future,  
not in the past, that we have always counted on for the  
future. The future has its own schema, and isn't it sort of  
beautiful that we can conspire with it? After all, even the  
future has a history. Maybe we can tell it something it is  
not yet aware of...something that it may need, something  
that even the future cannot get all on its own.

Isn't there something to all of this we call life?  
It's all a variation on the theme.

And if we knew what the theme was, we would all be poets,  
and art would merely be an index. Maybe that's what life  
is! An index that facilitates our connections with time and  
experiences immemorial.

I wish I knew how it would feel to be free.

I am more afraid today than I have ever been in my life,  
And one would think that courage grows with time.

Joy: The smile of a child, the warmth of the family, a new  
friend, an old friend. The sharing of laughter, of tears,  
birth, the ability to soar in spite of grounded fears, four

generations of womanhood (that is a reference to my great-  
grandmothers, my grandmothers, my mother, and her  
daughter).

The security of friendship, the intimacy of love,  
The hues in a rainbow,

The sorrow felt upon reaching the last chapter in an excel-  
lent book,

The transformation of the seasons.

The church where black people go, grandparents, personal  
creativity,

The ability to distinguish between that which will pass away  
and that which will endure.

And always, the music.

What is it that will kill love?

Death does not kill life,

Sterilization does not kill babies,

Heartbreak does not kill the next lover,

Racism is deadly, but it does not kill the race.

The rose blooms: How fragile is the strength,

I have never loved flowers more.

I thank you

For caring, and sharing, and recognizing my struggle to  
grow and to be free;

If not in my lifetime, in the lifetimes of seeds not yet even  
planted.



## The Collective Strength of Women

Cecelia McCall, chair of WREE's National Committee on Peace and Solidarity, spoke on March 9 at the New School for Social Research at a conference sponsored by the International Women's Day Coalition. She spoke of the demonstration the day before at the South African Consulate in New York (see story on page 1), at which some 60 women were arrested.

We offer excerpts from Cecelia McCall's presentation as our editorial for this issue of *The WREE VIEW of WOMEN*:

A few minutes before the arrests, Nomazizi Sokudela of the Women's Section of the African National Congress declared that these women were rocks just as the women of South Africa were rocks. She repeated the motto of the ANC, "When they touch the women, they have struck a rock." I thought as I listened once again to those words, that individually we are rocks, but collectively we can be a mountain. A mountain of indomitable women who will not be overcome. We can build a monumental, unified women's movement so that women of the Third World, whether they are suffering oppression in the United States of America or in their homeland in the Middle East, the Caribbean, or Africa, know that there is a force of women in the "Old World" and the "New World" who are aiding and abetting their struggle. Third World women are not alone. Moral, material and, yes, physical assistance are given as conditions dictate.

My organization, WREE, along with the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), our international umbrella organization, has worked in solidarity with women's groups everywhere. We are raising funds for the Revolutionary Ethiopia Women's Association; have sent funds to Amnlae in Nicaragua, and have an ongoing relationship with the Women's Section of the ANC.

### Unity to Achieve Change

A unified women's movement is as needed today as

it was during the 60s and 70s when significant social changes occurred as a result of the civil rights campaigns, the women's movement, and the antiwar movement. The inclusion of Title VII in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was the first time that Congress passed legislation for equal employment. It was followed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and the Title IX Education amendments. Even though the Equal Rights Amendment never became effective, it was a rallying cry for millions of women and has led to subtle changes in the workplace for many women. Not only that, women are entering unions and are ready to wage a campaign for comparable worth. And of course and perhaps the most significant result of unity and mass agitation was to hasten an end to the US undeclared war against Vietnam.

In spite of the Reagan administration's systematic attack on the social and economic programs that were a result of agitation and fought-for legislation and its outrageous interference in the governments of the Caribbean and Middle East, and its collusion with the racist regime in South Africa, the movement will continue to demand back all that has been taken away, and more, until there is justice for all.

### Struggle Is Universal

Justice for all in South Africa means one man, one vote; one woman, one vote. That is the ultimate demand. Through organizations such as WREE, women of all races, all ethnic backgrounds, and all economic levels form a united front to support the struggles of their sisters in South Africa.

WREE women know that the material circumstances of Black women in America are not that different from Black women in South Africa. The women who have no vote in the land of apartheid can be shot, banned and imprisoned on the slightest pretext; women who have a vote in this land can be beaten, shot, and imprisoned at the whim of the "Law." The Eleanor Bumpurs

murder by New York's "Finest" and the growing number of police brutality cases across the country demonstrate that there is very little protection for Black women in the United States.

Just as South African women are separated from their spouses who leave the bantustans to seek employment, that also has been the historical experience of Black women during and subsequent to slavery. Just as mothers witness the death of their malnourished African babies, so too do AfricanAmerican mothers lose their children to diseases formerly limited to the African continent. Hunger has reached epidemic proportions in some of the ghettos of this land of plenty. *The New York Times* cites marasmus and kwashiorkor, diseases of advanced malnutrition, as diseases being treated by clinics in poor areas. The same article states that the infant mortality rate of the United States is worse than that of other industrialized nations; and in central Harlem, the rate peaks at 25.6 per 1000 births, in Fort Greene at 26.5 per 1000 births, and in one small area in Chicago, Avalon, it is 55 per 1000!

In expressing our solidarity and support for our South African sisters we affirm our concern for all women in similar circumstances. We hope that in publicizing the plight of all women we will weld a movement of conscious action against the governments at home and abroad that refuse to initiate legislation, appropriate funds, and enforce laws that guarantee income, food, shelter, and education. While perverting the ideals of liberty, justice, freedom, and democracy, these administrations promote counterrevolutionary activities, destabilize governments, intimidate the press, and escalate spending for nuclear weapons. While Reagan remains silent, the Botha regime has killed more than 200 people in the last month in townships in South Africa, has imprisoned leaders of the unions and the United Democratic Front, has continued forced removals to bantustans. While Botha assaults Black people and their allies, Reagan has promoted a policy of "Constructive Engagement," thus ignoring the United Nations boycott of that country.

We must, as we did twenty years ago, march and rally in the streets until Reagan and Botha hear the tumult and heed the demands. We must stop the attack on Social Security, health care, and nutrition programs, education at home, and bankrupt Botha's government by withdrawing funds from banks that make loans to South Africa, urging the Congress to pass anti-apartheid legislation and ending the sale of Krugerrands.

La Lutua Continua

## Our Sisters Say:

Dear women,

We are very interested in receiving your excellent paper. As a collective of mostly white but concerned women, we feel your paper as a shared resource in our center and library would be very educational and important. From looking at your paper as a group only once, we feel very strongly about receiving the *WREE-VIEW of WOMEN*.

We would appreciate your processing our order with a purchase order and as an individual subscription, as we do not have much money . . . .

Thank you very much for having such a great paper which connects women essentially so that we know what is happening and can be resourceful.

Sincerely,  
Dana S. Kahn  
Women's Resource Center  
Washington University  
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear WREE:

If I were any more scared about the implications of the Bhopal tragedy I don't think I could continue to live in this world! Not being a "quitter" by nature, however, I find myself converting the fear to anger. I am angry at the U.S. government for their support of businesses like Union Carbide. I am angry about the apathy in this country towards environmental concerns, and most of all, I am angry at these companies — Union Carbide, in particular, for their obvious cover-up of the whole situation.

When I read your recent article on the Bhopal disaster (*WREE* Jan./Feb. '85) I recognized the name, SEVIN. Panicked, I raced out to my storage shed in the back yard to look at a package I had purchased last year for pest control. The name on the package is SEVIN. The ingredients listed are as follows: SEVIN — trademark of the UCC (Union Carbide Co.) for Carbaryl 1-Naphthyl N-Methylcarbamate. While the name, SEVIN, is the same, the chemical make-up is different (methylcarbamate vs. methyl isocyanate). What I'd like to know is this: Is this "SEVIN" a dangerous poison like the one that killed all those people in Bhopal? My rational side (which never trusts anything "chemical") tells me that we are polluting our world to the point of annihilation with chemicals for "pest control" to provide a higher crop yield. What irony that food production meant to give life is causing the use of chemicals to bring death!

Please set me straight on all of this. Do I have good reason to fear all products named SEVIN? How should I dispose of this package that is innocently sitting on a shelf in my shed? What actions can I take to inform people of this danger and to help stop the U.S. from ruining our planet

### WREE's Program of Activities and the Base of Our Work Is:

## THE WOMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

1. Peace and security, an end to the arms race, freedom from racist and sexist violence.
2. A safe job at a living wage or a guaranteed annual income.
3. Equal pay for equal or comparable work.
4. Affirmative action to end discrimination in training, hiring, and promotion.
5. Organize the unorganized women to make the trade union movement reflect the interests of all workers.
6. A culture free from racist and sexist images of women, and which reflects our multinational history and multilingual character.
7. Federally funded nonracist, nonsexist child care for all who want or need it.
8. Federally funded nonracist, nonsexist public education.
9. A federally funded national health care system.
10. Full reproductive freedom, including maternity leave with pay, the right to federally funded abortion, and an end to experimentation and sterilization abuse.
11. Decent affordable housing.
12. An environment free from toxic wastes and industrial pollution.

through companies such as Union Carbide?

Sincerely,  
Katherine Owen  
Fayetteville, Ar.

[Ed. Note: What is lethal about SEVIN occurs in the manufacturing process, as the Bhopal accident showed. Methyl isocyanate is the intermediary chemical that exploded into a deadly gas. The product SEVIN is classified by the federal Environmental Protection Agency as "moderately toxic," i.e., to be used with caution

— as instructed on the container. This, of course, is no guarantee of "safety." We prefer to say "Do not use anything toxic." We do not wish to be alarmists, but the violations by the giant monopoly corporations of the rights and lives of working people is rampant, and what was foremost in the writer's mind was to expose this criminality in the case of Union Carbide. — Margo Nikitas.]



WREE: National & Editorial Office  
130 East 16 Street  
New York, NY 10003  
(212-473-6111)

President: Cheryl Allen Craig

Vice Presidents: Vinie Burrows  
Pearl Granat  
Walteen Grady Truely  
Norma Spector

Membership Secretary:  
Sally Chaffee

Treasurer: Lillian Curley

The WREE-VIEW of WOMEN:  
Editor: Norma Spector  
Managing Editor: Margo Nikitas

## Fuerza Colectiva de las Mujeres

Cecilia McCall, Presidenta del Comité Nacional de Paz y Solidaridad de WREE, pronunció un discurso el 9 de marzo en una conferencia patrocinada por la Coalición por el Día Internacional de la Mujer en la Nueva Escuela de Investigaciones Sociales. También hizo uso de la palabra en la manifestación que tuvo lugar el día antes frente al Consulado de Sudáfrica en Nueva York (véase noticia en la página 1), en la que fueron detenidas unas 60 mujeres.

A continuación publicamos algunos fragmentos de los pronunciamientos de Cecilia McCall como artículo de fondo de este número de The WREE-VIEW of WOMEN.

Minutos antes de producirse las detenciones, Nomazizi Sekudél de la Sección Femenina del African National Congress declaró que esas mujeres eran rocas iguales a las rocas que representaban las mujeres sudafricanas. Coreó el lema del ANC y expresó: "Cuando golpean a las mujeres, están golpeando en la roca." Mientras escuchaba una vez más esas expresiones, pensé que individualmente somos rocas, pero colectivamente podemos ser una montaña. Una montaña de mujeres indomables que no será vencida. Podemos construir un movimiento femenino monumental y unificado para que la mujer del Tercer Mundo, ya sufra la opresión en los Estados Unidos de América o en su propio país en el Oriente Medio, el Caribe o África, sepa que hay una fuerza femenina en el "Viejo Mundo" y en el "Nuevo Mundo" que contribuye a su lucha y que la apoya. La mujer del Tercer Mundo no está sola. Se le presta ayuda moral, material y también física según dicten las condiciones. Mi organización, WREE, junto con la FDIM, nuestra organización matriz internacional, ha trabajado en solidaridad con la mayoría de las organizaciones en el país y el exterior. Recaudamos fondos para el Comité Revolucionario de Mujeres de Etiopía; hemos enviado fondos a AMNLAE en Nicaragua y mantenemos relaciones con la Sección Femenina del ANC.

como lo fue durante los años 1960 y 1970 cuando tuvieron lugar cambios sociales significativos como resultado de las campañas en favor de los derechos civiles, el movimiento femenino y el movimiento en contra de la guerra. La incorporación del Título VII en la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 fue la primera vez que el Congreso aprobó una legislación que amparara la igualdad en el empleo. A ello siguió la Ley de Igualdad de Oportunidades en el Empleo de 1972 y el Título IX de Enmiendas sobre Educación. Aunque la Enmienda sobre la Igualdad de Derechos jamás ha entrado en vigor, fue un grito unificador de millones de mujeres que ha culminado en cambios útiles en los lugares de trabajo de muchas mujeres. Y no sólo eso, la mujer se incorpora a los sindicatos y está preparada para librar una campaña en favor de la equiparación de su valor. Por supuesto que el resultado a tal vez más significativo de la unidad y de la agitación de masas fue el fin de la guerra no declarada de los Estados Unidos contra Viet Nam.

A pesar de los ataques sistemáticos del Gobierno de Reagan contra los programas sociales y económicos que fueron el resultado de la agitación de la muy disputada legislación y a pesar de su injerencia ultrajante en los gobiernos del Caribe y del Oriente Medio y de su confabulación con el régimen racista de Sudáfrica que oprime diariamente a la población maumayoritaria negra de ese país, el movimiento continuará exigiendo la devolución de todo lo que ha sido arrebatado y mucho más, hasta que haya justicia para todos.

Justicia para todos en Sudáfrica significa por cada hombre un voto; por cada mujer un voto. Esa es la demanda fundamental. Por medio de organizaciones como WREE, mujeres de todas las razas, de todas las procedencias étnicas, de todos los niveles económicos forman un frente unido de apoyo a las luchas de sus hermanas en Sudáfrica.

Las mujeres que integran WREE saben que las circunstancias materiales de la mujer negra en los Estados Unidos no se diferencian de las de las mujeres negras de Sudáfrica. La mujer que no tiene derecho al voto en la tierra del apartheid puede ser asesinada, proscrita y detenida con el menor pretexto; la mujer

que tiene derecho al voto en este país puede ser golpeada, asesinada o detenida por capricho de la "Ley." El asesinato de Eleanor Bumpurs por los "Refinados" de Nueva York y el creciente número de casos de maltrato policial en todo el país demuestran que hay muy poca protección para la mujer negra en los Estados Unidos.

Del mismo modo que la mujer sudafricana está separada de su cónyuge que abandona el bantustán en busca de empleo, la experiencia histórica de la mujer negra aquí fue análoga durante la esclavitud y posteriormente. Del mismo modo que las madres presencian la muerte de sus malnutridos bebotes africanos, las mujeres afroamericanas pierden a sus hijos por enfermedades que antes estaban confinadas al continente africano. El hambre ha alcanzado proporciones epidémicas en algunos de los ghettos de este país de la abundancia. La edición del 27 de febrero de The New York Times cita el marasmo y el kwashiorkor, enfermedades producidas por la malnutrición avanzada, como enfermedades que se tratan en los dispensarios de las zonas de pobres. En el mismo artículo se señala que la tasa de mortalidad de lactantes de los Estados Unidos es peor que la de otras naciones industrializadas; y en el centro de Harlem, la tasa alcanza altas cifras de 25,6 por mil nacidos vivos.

Al expresar nuestra solidaridad y apoyo a nuestras hermanas sudafricanas, afirmamos nuestra preocupación por todas las mujeres que se encuentran en circunstancias análogas. Esperamos que dando a conocer la difícil situación de todas las mujeres, fundiremos un movimiento de acción consciente contra los gobiernos de este país y del extranjero que se niegan a iniciar leyes, asignar fondos suficientes y promulgar una legislación que garantice ingresos, alimento, vivienda y educación. Falseando los ideales de derechos, justicia, libertad y democracia, esos gobiernos promueven actividades contrarrevolucionarias, desestabilizan gobiernos, intimidan a la prensa e incrementan los gastos en armas nucleares. Mientras Reagan guardaba silencio, el régimen de Botha asesinaba a más de 200 personas el mes pasado en poblados de Sudáfrica, encarcelaba a dirigentes sindicales y del Frente Unido Democrático y continuaba el desalojo forzado hacia los bantustanes. Reagan ha promovido una política de "compromiso constructivo," haciendo caso omiso de que las Naciones Unidas declararon un boicot contra ese país.

Al igual que hicimos hace veinte años, tenemos que marchar en una manifestación por las calles hasta que Reagan y Botha oigan el tumulto y atiendan sus demandas. Debemos detener los ataques contra los programas de seguridad social, atención de la salud y nutrición y la educación en el hogar, y descalabrar al régimen de Botha retirando los fondos de los bancos que conceden préstamos a Sudáfrica, instando al Congreso a que apruebe una legislación contra el apartheid y poniendo fin a la venta de oro acuñado sudafricano.

### Our Sisters Say (Cont'd):

Dear Sisters,

The January-February issue of WREE-VIEW had so many articles of interest to me that I have clipped about half of it either for further reference or to send articles to others. I was glad to see that the "Women's Bill of Rights" includes "An environment free from toxic wastes and industrial pollution." The League of Women Voters is working continuously on the problems of toxic and hazardous wastes, at the local, state, and national levels.

I want to make a comment on the difficulty you had when cosponsoring a meeting with AAUW and others in October with Jeanne Kirkpatrick as speaker. From experience I have developed a policy for the local League of Women Voters, when asked to cosponsor a meeting, that we be part of the planning. Otherwise, we are not interested in cosponsoring. We have been "burnt" same as you were when asked to cosponsor a pre-planned conference. It isn't worth sponsoring if it isn't our style. You should consider a similar policy, as these problems will continue to arise. Even if we can't completely determine the direction a meeting will take, we can offer helpful suggestions to the planners to improve the meeting. One thing I always do is make sure at least half of the speakers or panelists are women!

Sincerely yours,  
Leah R. Karpen, President  
League of Women Voters  
of Asheville-Buncombe County  
Asheville, NC

The international participants now live in Memphis, and they briefly shared the problems . . . and progress of women in their native lands. Meiko Von Heinengen is a third-generation American who dedicated her comments to the Japanese-American women who struggled so hard to maintain the family under the inhumanity of the concentration camps in our country. She, as a very small child, was in such a camp.

Dr. Bonnie Dill is African-American, currently doing research on the effects of racial and economic oppression on Black, Latino, and Asian women.

The Mid-South Peace and Justice Center here initiated the celebration and other local groups (listed on the back of program) cosponsored the event. We were very pleased with the attendance.

Please let me know if WREE has a series of posters of women in different racial backgrounds who have contributed much to the struggle, and if they may be purchased from the organization. I would also like to know how I could get on the mailing list for your paper.

I am enclosing a small contribution to help defray the mailing cost of the posters and a copy of the program. Thank you again.

Sincerely yours,  
Mary Ruth Robinson  
(member of the Board of the  
Mid-South Peace & Justice Center)  
Memphis, TN

(Ed. Note: We suggest you contact TABS, 744 Carroll St., Brooklyn, NY 11215. They have some 47 posters of women in the struggle. Ask them for their catalog. WREE rents an exhibit created by the Smithsonian Institute, called "Black Women: Achievements Against the Odds.")



### May Day: Made in the U.S.A.

Watching TV news coverage of May Day demonstrations, or reading about them in newspapers, nobody would ever know that May Day was born in the United States of America.

It originated on May 1, 1886, as part of a major organizing drive by the American Federation of Labor for the eight-hour day. The call for the eight-hour day, which was also born in the U.S., dates back to 1866 and the National Labor Union.

More than half a million workers responded to the call to strike that first May Day in 1886. The strongest union drive had been taking place in Chicago where the meatpacking workers had already won the eight-hour day. A giant parade was held and the city was shut down. But that day strikers at McCormick Reaper Works (which is now International Harvester) were gunned down by police when they tried to stop scabs from taking their jobs. An emergency rally was called for May 4 at Haymarket Square to protest the murderous police brutality.

The rally was peaceful until somebody threw a bomb that killed a police sergeant. Police opened fire on the crowd

killing seven police and four workers. Four leaders of the Chicago labor movement, including Albert Parsons, were tried and hanged following a shameful "conspiracy trial." These are the Haymarket Martyrs who are honored in many parts of the world today.

Following that struggle, the international labor movement adopted May 1st as the workers' day. President Grover Cleveland, alarmed at the international attention to the brutality of U.S. corporations and government, proclaimed the 1st Monday in September as Labor Day. In later years, the AFL leadership, grown crusty and contented, went along with the watering down of the importance of May Day.

It should not be forgotten, however, that May Day was born in the U.S. in the struggle and commitment, sacrifice and bloodshed of U.S. working people, fighting for a better life for themselves and their families. Today, when we know that one of the answers to our vast unemployment is a shorter workweek with no reduction in pay, we would do well to remember that the foundation for our struggle was laid by the militant labor movement many years ago.



# FANNIE LOU HAMER AWARDS — 1985



Jamila Colón presents the award posthumously to Brad Chambers, founder and for years the guiding spirit of the Council on Interracial Books for Children. Accepting the award is Beryl Banfield, president of the Council, who expressed the gratitude of her organization and pledged its continued and intensified striving for justice.



The Third Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Award Luncheon was held on March 16 at "The Door." Sponsored by the Harlem WREE branch, this year's awards went to four people who have proved their dedication to freedom and equality in the spirit of Fannie Lou Hamer. The gala enjoyed the exquisite soprano of Lisa Harrigan, the moving poetry of Loretta Benjamin, and the exciting music of Trio America India. Cheryl Craig, WREE President, in her keynote speech attacked the cruelty of the Reagan administration that is degrading and killing poor people, intensifying racism and reaction, and endangering the very existence of humanity.

photos by Stan Maran and David Tuley



Vinie Burrows hands plaque to awardee Josie Anderson McMillian, president of the NY Metro Area Postal Workers Union, who spoke of the parallels in her life and Fannie Lou's: e.g., both came from large families of sharecroppers in the rural south, "There are more members in my union than the population of my home town."



Bernadine, whose beautiful poems have inspired WREE women with her courage and faith in the future, accepted the plaque from Sally Chaffee. Sara Sanchez, a sister poet from the Cuban Women's Federation, read her own translation of Bernadine's "Twenty-first Tomorrow," which appears in one of the 2 books WREE has published of Bernadine's poetry.



Mississippi Freedom Fighter, Sharecropper, Hero and Example.



Alva Buxenbaum leans across the dais table to bestow the award and a kiss on Mary Gale, 85, a lifelong fighter for trade unionism, peace and justice. Mary's spirit and unswerving energy in the people's struggle has never flagged since she joined the workforce more than 65 years ago.

## Apartheid hits 'a rock,' women rally, arrested

by Margo Nikitas

In a spirited solidarity action with South African women fighting apartheid, a multiracial group of hundreds of New York women representing a wide range of political opinion, celebrated the 75th IWD by picketing and blockading the Park Avenue offices of the South African Consulate. Over sixty women were arrested in the mass civil disobedience action, along with one outstanding African American man who put himself on the line to be arrested with the women. WREE member Vicki Erenstein of the National Lawyers Guild represented the protesters.

Among the participants were Children for Worldwide Peace, one of whose members, Maisha, 14, explained that "fighting apartheid is part of trying to get peace in the world." Asked what "Star Wars" and apartheid have in common, Peter, 14, asserted "the same people support both."

Speaking at the rally were Nomazizi Sokudela, chair of the Women's Committee of the African National Congress (ANC), Annie Ellman of the Brooklyn Women's Martial Arts, and Cecelia

New York WREE Rallies Against Apartheid

McCall, chair of WREE's Peace and Solidarity Committee.

"Once Reagan-Botha have touched U.S. women," said Nomazizi Sokudela, "they have touched a rock. South African women know it is a long struggle, but we are not alone."

"We will show with our bodies, our minds and our whole persons, our opposition to South African apartheid and to U.S. policy there," said Annie Ellman.



photos by Margo Nikitas

### U.S. and S. African Women

"The situation of minority women in this country and in South Africa is quite similar," said Cecelia McCall. "It must be a united struggle because people everywhere are in danger from computerized control of information and nuclear weapons technology that is in the hands of the same greedy enterprises that put profits before people."

The rally, sponsored by the Free South Africa Movement (FSAM), was organized by a coalition led by WREE and a number of other women's groups.

Coalition organizers dedicated the March 8th action to the memory of Eleanor Bumpurs, the 69-year old African American woman killed by NYC police who were attempting to evict her from city housing, and to South African women, who have long been leaders in the fight to end pass laws, in the growing



Cecelia McCall (center) and Vicki Erenstein discuss arrest with police.

trade union movement and against forced removal to the desolate Bantustans. The Coalition called for an end to the U.S. government's policy of "constructive engagement" and its illegal arms sales including the supplying of nuclear technology to the apartheid state.

U.S. women were urged to support their South African sisters by demanding an end to all U.S. trade and investments in South Africa and to the sale in this country of the blood-soaked Krugerrands, by supporting majority rule, an end to forced removals, and freedom for all political prisoners — in particular the recently attacked leaders of the United Democratic Front, the ANC leader Nelson Mandela, and the banned women leaders, Winnie Mandela, Albertina Sisulu and many more.







## Star Wars Geneva & Survival

Mientras los Estados Unidos y la Unión Soviética se disponían a iniciar nuevas conversaciones sobre control de armamentos en Ginebra, Tom Downey, eminente experto en esta materia, escribía en su boletín:

"Lo decisivo del control de armamentos no está simplemente en reducir el número de armas nucleares. Ambas partes podrían hacer algo de eso y no quedar muy seguros ni parejos. El objeto de las conversaciones sobre armamentos debe ser reducir al amenaza a nuestra seguridad — a nuestra existencia — que representa la guerra nuclear. . . Sólo mediante un proceso de reducción de las tensiones internacionales, poniendo un seguro al gatillo nuclear de los Estados Unidos y de la Unión Soviética y, a la larga, desmantelando los propios instrumentos de destrucción, podremos avanzar hacia un mundo más seguro, más estable."

Los planes de guerra de Presidente Reagan (a un costo inicial de 26.000 millones de dólares para investigaciones) han alarmado a los soviéticos. Consideraron la Guerra de las Galaxias — conocida oficialmente como Iniciativa de Defensa Estratégica o IDE — una medida agresiva y no defensiva. Oyen a los portavoces norteamericanos decir que nuestro gobierno planea seguir fabricando armas nucleares ofensivas, incluso después de levantar las defensas contra los proyectiles soviéticos. Temen que con esas defensas instaladas, los Estados Unidos sientan la tentación de iniciar un ataque nuclear contra su país.

Es un autoengaño que los gobernantes norteamericanos consideren que los soviéticos negociarán reducciones drásticas de sus proyectiles estratégicos mientras los Estados Unidos insistan en continuar su Guerra de las Galaxias. Las conversaciones sobre los acontecimientos en el espacio ultraterrestre constituyen la clave del progreso en Ginebra. Mientras nuestro gobierno insista en que la Guerra de las Galaxias no es negociable, los arsenales nucleares continuarán creciendo y persistirá el peligro de extinción del mundo.

### Los Aliados Europeos Temen el Plan de la Guerra de las Galaxias

El Senador William Proxmire dio a conocer los resultados de un estudio realizado durante seis meses por el Servicio de Investigaciones del Congreso sobre las reacciones de nuestros aliados de Europa occidental y el Japón ante el plan de la Guerra de las Galaxias del Presidente. El plan ha sido acogido con tibieza por las autoridades europeas. En privado, según informes de prensa, estas autoridades expresan gran desconfianza y temen especialmente que el despliegue norteamericano en el espacio ultraterrestre deje indefensos a sus países.

Los investigadores del Congreso encuentran las mismas reacciones en las entrevistas que realizan. Entre sus conclusiones, según Proxmire, están la de que los gobernantes europeos consideran que por muy amplias que puedan ser lklas defensas en la Guerra de las Galaxias, Europa quedaría destruída. Consideran también que producirá una crisis política en Europa que dejará pálida a la conmoción que se produjo cuando se emplazaron los proyectiles Pershing II y crucero en los países de la OTAN.

Para contrarrestar esos temores, los funcionarios del gobierno libran una campaña de apoyo a la Guerra de las Galaxias en Europa, e incluso sugieren que se concederán algunos de los contratos de investigaciones a laboratorios o empresas de Europa occidental.



# PREPARACION DE LA CONFERENCIA DE NAIROBI

por Joy James y Patricia Brady

El 31 de mayo y el 1º de junio, la Coalición de Mujeres pro Nairobi patrocinará un seminario titulado "Los efectos del racismo y la militarización en la igualdad de la mujer." Anoten esa fecha.

Las mujeres que participarán en la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas para el Examen y la Evaluación de los Logros del Decenio para la Mujer y en el Foro que se celebrará en Nairobi (Kenya) el próximo mes de julio y las que no participarán pero que desean hacer oír su voz, se reunirán para sostener un diálogo y elaborar estrategias. El seminario analizará un documento sobre la situación de la mujer estadounidense y de otras partes del mundo en el que figurarán cuestiones, análisis y propuestas de las participantes. El documento se distribuirá a miles de mujeres estadounidenses y a nuestras hermanas en todo el mundo que asistirán a la Conferencia de Nairobi.

La Coalición de Mujeres pro Nairobi continúa la tradición iniciada por las hermanas de WREE que ejercieron su influencia en la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas por el Adelanto de la Mujer, celebrada a mediados del Decenio en Copenhague. Las mujeres de WREE representaron a sus hermanas de los Estados Unidos y del mundo impidiendo que la delegación oficial estadounidense enviada por Carter pasara por alto las cuestiones del racismo, el sionismo y el *apartheid*. WREE fue a Copenhague armada de su documento titulado "Los efectos del racismo en los derechos económicos de la mujer." La delegación de WREE logró ganar apoyo suficiente de las participantes en la Conferencia para presionar a la delegación oficial de los Estados Unidos a fin de que presentará una resolución sobre el racismo a las Naciones Unidas. Y aunque la delegación de los Estados Unidos retiró su apoyo a la resolución apenas unas horas después de haberla presentado, la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas aceptó la resolución patrocinada por WREE.

### Delegación no representativa de Reagan

Ahora en 1985 la situación de la mujer y de las personas de color ha empeorado bajo el Gobierno actual. Conscientes de



que la delegación de los Estados Unidos a la Conferencia de Nairobi, presidida por Maureen, la hija del Presidente Reagan, e integrada por la ex Representante de los Estados Unidos ante las Naciones Unidas, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, presentará una imagen distorsionada de la realidad, WREE contribuyó a organizar a las mujeres pertenecientes a organizaciones por la paz, sindicales, religiosas y políticas para que formaran la Coalición de Mujeres pro Nairobi. El Seminario que celebrará la Coalición presentará en Nairobi su documento titulado "Los efectos del racismo y la militarización en la igualdad de la mujer", en el que se detallan las condiciones reales de la opresión de la mujer de los Estados Unidos y de la mujer de todo el mundo y las relaciones que existen entre ambas opresiones.

Las estrategias del Gobierno de Reagan para limitar el papel de la mujer progresista en Nairobi se describen en un documento interno (25 de febrero de 1985) de la Fundación Heritage, grupo de "cerebros" del Gobierno de Reagan, titulado "Política de los Estados Unidos para la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Mujer". El estudio de Heritage recomienda estrategias que permitan a los Estados Unidos determinar (o debilitar si no puede determinar) el contenido de la conferencia de Nairobi. Heritage cita el Plan de Acción de 1980 adoptado en Copenhague como el motivo para tener que desempeñar una función activa a fin de "influir" en la Conferencia de Nairobi.

El Plan de Acción de 1980: 1) demandó la eliminación del sionismo; 2) hizo suyo el Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional; 3) apoyó la Conferencia de Países No Alineados y en Desarrollo sobre el papel de la mujer en el desarrollo, celebrada en 1979; 4) pidió a las organizaciones internacionales y a los gobiernos que prestara asistencia a la mujer palestina; 5) instó a la "total eliminación del *apartheid* en Sudáfrica y Namibia"; 6) condenó los casos de violación de los derechos humanos en Chile y El Salvador y encomió a Nicaragua, al tiempo que pidió asistencia financiera para los sandinistas.

### Influencia de la Fundación Heritage

El Plan de Acción de 1980 de las mu-

## Pre-Nairobi Seminar The Effects of Racism & Militarization on Women's Equality

Plenary Session: Friday, May 31; Speakers and Registration  
Workshops, Saturday, June 1: Education and Literacy  
Employment, Poverty & Transnationals  
Culture and Control of the Media  
Health and Housing  
Young & Older Women  
Responsibility of U.S. Women to  
Women of the World

For information:

Women's Coalition for Nairobi  
130 East 16 Street  
New York City 10003

jes promueve la independencia y la posibilidad de gobernar de los pueblos oprimidos del mundo, desafía la legitimidad de la política exterior estadounidense, y no es sorprendente que entre en conflicto directo con el historial de votación de los Estados Unidos en las Naciones Unidas.

Para responder al Plan de Acción de 1980, Nancy Kassebaum (congresista de Kansas por el Partido Republicano) patrocinó una ley, la P.L. 98-164: "el Presidente utilizará todos los medios disponibles para asegurar que la conferencia de 1985, que marcará la conclusión del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer, no sea dominada por cuestiones políticas que no tienen nada que ver con ella y que pondrían en peligro la participación y el apoyo de los Estados Unidos en la Conferencia. . . ."

"Todos los medios disponibles" se traduce en las propuestas de Heritage de que los Estados Unidos: adopten la regla de consenso que le dé poder de veto; utilice la votación secreta en cuestiones de procedimiento para "desvirtuar esfuerzos radicales de última hora"; de pura documentación básica con la Secretaría de las organizaciones no gubernamentales (que aprueba Heritage); depurar proyectos de resolución por medio de un comité especial antes de la Conferencia de Nairobi. Heritage sugiere también que los Estados Unidos influyan sobre el Gobierno de Kenya con sus palancas económicas "amenazándolo con interrumpir su cuota de contribución del 25% al presupuesto ordinario de la conferencia u ofreciéndole compensar el déficit previsto de 500.000 dólares".

### Por qué es necesaria la unidad

Una última recomendación de Heritage es que los visados para Nairobi se concedan de forma selectiva para "excluir a las posibles delegadas y observadoras más radicales". No se sabe el nombre de quién está en qué lista ni lo que traerá consigo el proceso de identificación y exclusión. En Nairobi se notará la ausencia de algunas mujeres políticamente activas y militantes debido a estrategias que atacan la unidad de las mujeres progresistas y desvían nuestra atención del racismo y la militarización. (Una de las medidas de versiónistas tal vez sea una decisión del Gobierno de Kenya de negarse a admitir lesbianas).

La Coalición de Mujeres pro Nairobi exhorta a todas las mujeres a luchar para establecer los objetivos de igualdad, desarrollo y paz del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas. Qué se puede hacer: 1) influir en el Seminario del 31 mayo al 1º de junio y asistir; 2) celebrar un seminario propio, organizar grupos de debate, actividades interinstitucionales (póngase en contacto con Coalición o con WREE para proponer sugerencias, estrategias o asistencia); 3) pida el documento de Coalición y distribúyalo; 4) póngase en contacto con la prensa local, con grupos políticos, cívicos o religiosos e instrúyales acerca de la importancia de que se nos escuche en Nairobi. Contribuya a organizar la lucha por nuestra paz, nuestra igualdad y nuestro desarrollo, para nuestra supervivencia.

## CLARA ZETKIN 1857-1933 PIONERA DE LA LUCHA POR LA PAZ Y LOS DERECHOS DE LA MUJER

La Vida y la obra de Clara Zetkin estuvieron dedicadas a la lucha por la paz y los derechos de la mujer.

ENSENO A LAS MUJERES a tomar las riendas de la lucha por la emancipación en pie de igualdad en la vida económica, política, social y cultural de la sociedad, ya a unirse para trabajar de conjunto a esos fines en los planos nacional e internacional.

ENSENO A LAS MUJERES a penetrar los misterios del origen de las guerras, a determinar quienes son los responsables del guerrerismo y de los preparativos de guerra, y a aliarse con quienes se dedican a la lucha por una paz duradera, contra el militarismo y la guerra.

ENSENO A LAS MUJERES a utilizar formas concretas de lucha para expresar sus demandas en favor de sus derechos, del bienestar de la infancia y de la paz y con ello a movilizar a la mujer para aumentar su participación.



# Preparing for Nairobi

by Joy James & Patricia Brady

On May 31-June 1 the Women's Coalition for Nairobi (WCN) will sponsor a seminar: **The Effects of Racism and Militarization on Women's Equality.** Save that date!

Women attending the UN End of Decade Conference/Forum in Nairobi, Kenya, this July and women who are not going but want to have a voice there will gather to develop dialogue and strategies. The seminar will work on a document on the status of U.S. and world women, and will incorporate the issues, analyses, and proposals of the participants. The document will be distributed to thousands of U.S. women and our sisters from around the world who attend the Nairobi Conference.

The Women's Coalition for Nairobi follows in the footsteps of WREE sisters who made an impact at the 1980 UN Mid-Decade Conference for the Progress of Women, in Copenhagen. WREE women represented their U.S. and world sisters by refusing to allow the official U.S. Carter delegation to ignore the issues of racism, zionism, and apartheid. WREE came to Copenhagen armed with their document: "The Effects of Racism on the Economic Rights of Women." The WREE delegation garnered enough support from conference participants to pressure the official U.S. delegation into submitting a resolution on racism to the UN. Although the U.S. delegation withdrew its support from the resolution only a few hours after submitting it, the WREE resolution was accepted at the UN Conference.

## Reagan Delegation Not Representative

Now in 1985, conditions of women

and people of color have worsened under the current administration. Aware that the U.S. delegation to Nairobi, headed by Ronald Reagan's daughter Maureen and including former U.S. Ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirkpatrick, will present a very distorted view of reality, WREE helped to organize women from peace, labor, church, and political organizations to form the Women's Coalition for Nairobi. The WCN Seminar will present its document, "The Effects of Racism & Militarization on Women's Equality," at Nairobi, detailing the real conditions of and connections between the oppression of U.S. women and women throughout the world.

Reagan administration strategies for limiting the role of progressive women in Nairobi are outlined in an internal paper (Feb. 25, 1985) of the Heritage Foundation, a "think-tank" of the Reagan Administration, titled, "A U.S. Policy for the U.N. Conference on Women." The Heritage study recommends strategies to enable the U.S. to determine (or undermine if unable to determine) the content of the Nairobi Conference. Heritage cites the 1980 Copenhagen Plan of Action as cause for taking an active role in "influencing" the Nairobi Conference.

The 1980 Plan of Action: (1) called for the elimination of zionism; (2) endorsed the New Intern'l. Economic Order (3) endorsed the 1979 Conference of the Non-Aligned and Developing Countries on the Role of Women in Development; (4) requested international organizations and governments to provide assistance to Palestinian women; (5) urged "The complete eradication of Apartheid in South Africa and Namibia;" (6) condemned the human rights records of Chile and El Salvador & praised Nicaragua, recommend-



ing financial assistance to the Sandinistas.

The Women's 1980 Plan of Action advocates the independence and empowerment of oppressed peoples around the world, challenges the legitimacy of American foreign policy and, not surprisingly, is in direct conflict with the U.S. voting record at the UN.

In response to the 1980 Plan of Action, Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-KA) sponsored a law, P.L. 98-164: "The President shall use every available means to ensure that the 1985 conference commemorating the conclusion of the U.N. Decade for Women is not dominated by unrelated political issues which would jeopardize U.S. participation and support for the conference . . ." "Every available means" translates into the Heritage proposals that the U.S.: adopt a consensus rule that would give it veto power; use secret balloting on procedural issues to "derail last-minute radical efforts"; clear basic documentation with the NGO Secretariat (of whom Heritage approves); clear draft resolutions through a special committee prior to Nairobi. Heritage also suggests that the U.S. influence the Kenyan government with its economic leverage, by "threaten[ing] to withhold its 25 percent share of the regular conference budget; (or) offer to make up the antic-

ipated shortfall of \$500,000"

## Need for Unity

Finally, Heritage recommends that visas to Nairobi be selectively granted to "exclude the most radical of prospective delegates and observers." It is not known whose name is on what list or what the process for identification and exclusion entails. A number of politically active and militant women will be missed in Nairobi through strategies that attack the unity of progressive women and divert our attention from racism and militarization. (One of the diversions may be a decision of the Kenya government to refuse to admit lesbians.)

The Women's Coalition for Nairobi calls upon all women to fight to establish the UN Decade goals of peace, equality and development. Here's what you can do: (1) impact on/attend the May 31-June 1 Seminar; (2) hold your own seminar, discussion groups, network activities (contact WCN, c/o WREE for suggestions/strategies/assistance); (3) request the WCN document and put it out!; (4) contact your local press, political, civic, or church groups and educate them on the importance of being heard in Nairobi. Help organize and struggle for our peace, equality and development, for our survival.

April 20th, 1985  
WASHINGTON D.C.  
WREE Marches for  
PEACE  
JOBS  
JUSTICE



Photo by Joy Portugal

## SIGN UP!

A worldwide signature campaign is being conducted by the WIDF under the slogan "For the Peoples' Right to Peace." The campaign will run until June when the petitions will be taken to Nairobi to the UN World Conference on the Decade for Women in July.

The signatures will be presented to government representatives, the UN, and to the General Secretary of the World Conference. The petitions will express

the common and uniting interest of women all over the world for peace, even as each country carries out the petition campaign in its own words.

We urge our readers to reproduce the petition below (or send \$1. for 10 petitions, each with space for 10 signatures), collect signatures wherever you go in the next few months, and send them to WREE by June so that they can be added to the names being collected around the world.

PETITION  
FOR THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO PEACE, SECURITY,  
AND FREEDOM FROM RACIST AND SEXIST  
VIOLENCE  
(WREE's WOMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS)

WE DEMAND THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO:

- 1) FREEZE AND REVERSE THE ARMS RACE
- 2) END U.S. INTERVENTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA
- 3) CUT THE MILITARY BUDGET TO CREATE JOBS AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS
- 4) END SOUTH AFRICAN APARTHEID AND RACISM AT HOME  
(DEMANDS OF THE APRIL 20TH NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION)

NAME

ADDRESS



# Demand Freedom for Filipina Poet

Dear WREE Sisters:

I had spent some days with my sister in Manila last summer. Unknown to me and our family in the Philippines, she was arrested the day before my departure. Learning about it shortly after my return to Connecticut was a terrible shock which has not been easy to get over.

What has been most encouraging is the support that has poured in from all over the United States. Because the stability of the Marcos regime depends upon infusions of aid from the U.S. government, voices of protest from here can not be entirely ignored. If readers of WREE-VIEW can write letters to President Marcos demanding Mila's release, and also urge Congresspersons to write Marcos directly (not the State Department which so far has issued a packaged response) protesting Mila's continued incarceration it will be a tremendous help. Support extended by the democratic opposition and the citation of her case by the International Commission of Jurists might be mentioned in the letters.

Again, thank you. My sister will be strengthened by your solidarity and support.

In sisterhood and struggle,  
Delia D. Aguilar

Mila D. Aguilar, Filipina poet, teacher and journalist who was arrested with two companions in August 1984, remains in jail while awaiting judgment from the Supreme Court after several hearings in January.

Her lawyers petitioned for a restraining order against two military commissions that have filed charges of rebellion and subversion against Mila. The Supreme Court granted a temporary restraining order. At issue is the military commission's right to try civilians after the supposed lifting of martial law in January 1981. Mila has been brought to these commissions, but has consistently refused to recognize their legitimacy.

On their arrest in August Mila, Cynthia Nolasco, and Willy Tolentino were charged with "possession of subversive documents," for which a Quezon City Trial Court ordered their release on bail of P600 each. But the military presented the Court with Preventive Detention Action, a presidential decree that allows President Marcos to hold detainees without charges. Early in January, Cynthia and Willy were released upon order of the Supreme Court.

Opposition leaders have protested the continued detention of Mila Aguilar as "a classic example of injustice under the

Marcos regime" and demanded her release on just and humanitarian grounds.

A statement signed by Mrs. Cory Aquino, widow of former Senator Benigno Aquino, and other leading democrats accused the government of making a show of its inability to release Mila because hers is a "difficult case."

At the recently concluded meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists referred to Mila's case as an example of how preventive detention is used for circumventing the judicial process.

On International Women's Week last March, one day was dedicated to launching a book of poetry Mila had written in prison. 600 people representing various sectors of the population attended.

The Committee to Free Mila Aguilar enlists WREE-VIEW readers' help in writing letters to President Ferdinand Marcos, Malacanang Palace, Manila, Philippines urging Mila's immediate and unconditional release.

The Committee is also asking for donation of any amount to help set Mila Aguilar free. These may be sent to: Committee to Free Mila Aguilar, P.O. Box 1726, Cambridge, Ma. 02238.

## UNDERSTANDING PRISON

One can always not understand. The croaking of a hundred toads can muffle even the silence, and the hum of steady, unending rain can silence even my croak. One chooses what to hear and then again what one hears one can silence because one has chosen —

Prison is a double wall one of adobe the other so many layers of barbed wire both formidable. The outer wall is guarded from watchtowers. The other is the prison within, where they will hammer you into the image of their own likeness, whoever they are.



Mila D. Aguilar

## PIGEONS FOR MY SON

I gave the boy a pair of pigeons born and bred in my harsh prison. They had taped wings, and the instructions were specifically to keep them on for weeks until they'd gotten used to their new cages. He never liked the thought of me in prison, his own mother, and would not

stay for long on visits. So perhaps I thought of souvenirs. But the tape from his pigeons he removed one day, and set them free. You'd think that would have angered me, or made me sad at least but I guess we're of one mind. Why cage pigeons who prefer free flight in the vaster, bluer skies?

## Death Stalks Uranium Mines

by Janet O'Crowley

On the Indian Reservation at Four Corners of Utah-Colorado-New Mexico-Arizona hundreds of men who worked the uranium mines are dying of lung cancer. Now it is striking the children. From a study of 13,000 birth records at Shiprock, N. Mexico, severe birth defects are two to eight times more prevalent than the national level. No results of the study will be announced until a positive link to uranium mining can be established, says Dr. Laura Shields.

In the vicinity of Shiprock 200 abandoned uranium mines are casually used by sheep-herders to escape heat and cold. Animal and human tracks, as well as pop cans and toys attest to their use. Rain and snow runoff carry contamination from radioactive waste piles into streams and wells where it enters food and into irrigation water. Windblown dust from tailing piles is carried three miles up and falls over a wide area. Curiously, there was a dramatic shift toward normal birth rates in 1975. Coincidental environmental changes in 1974 were: covering of the tailings pile in Shiprock that reduced airborne emission by 90%, closing of the Fairchild semi-conductor plant which employed 1200 Navajo women, installation of electrostatic precipitators in the stacks of a coal-fired power plant nearby, which had previously kept Shiprock in a continuous brown pall, and the decline of the uranium market. The March of Dimes is underwriting the study.

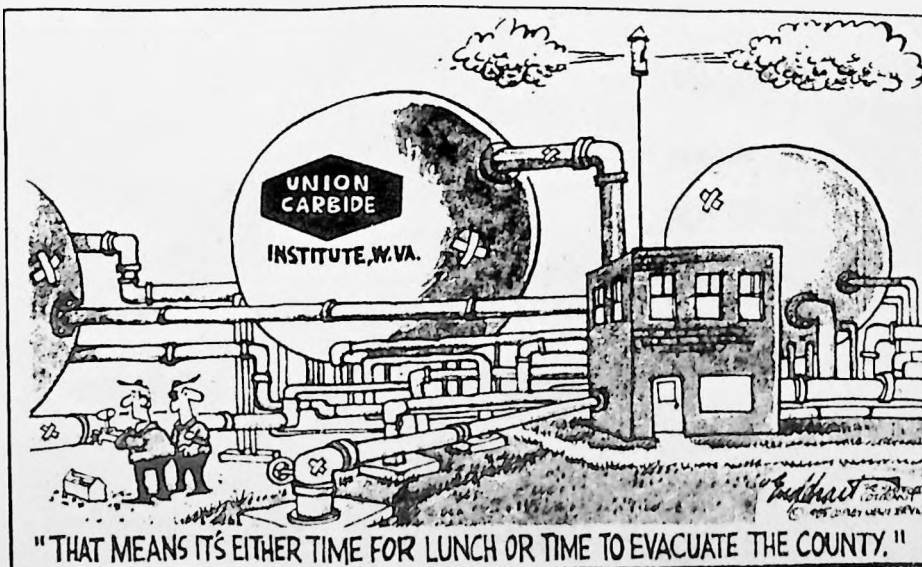


*Indian Country*, by Peter Matthiessen (Viking Press), exposes the effects on the lives of Indian people when huge energy consortiums invade their lands . . . from Florida to California. Dee Brown (author of *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*), in a review of Matthiessen's book, says of the section dealing with the Southwest:

For centuries the Four Corners area, where four states of the Southwest come together, has been known to the Indians as the sacred center of the universe. Only a generation ago the region's atmosphere was so pure and transparent that objects scores of miles in the distance could be seen with perfect clarity. During recent years, however, construction of an enormous power grid on Indian land in the area has created what is probably the greatest single source of pollution in the country, "the ugliest ecological disaster of our time." The smoke plume of Four Corners and the Great Wall of China were the only man-made objects on earth observed by astronauts of the 1960s. By 1979, Matthiessen notes, the land was shrouded by a haze of ash misted with "lead, mercury, dioxides, sulfuric acid, and other dangerous pollutants that all dwellers in one of the most dramatic regions of the earth are doomed to breathe."

## MULTINATIONAL SEX

Why do multinational corporations love Taiwan, South Korea, the Philippines, and Thailand? Mainly for the cheap labor, eager workers and governments willing to look the other way. The sex industry likewise. In the Philippines, according to a church survey, 80% of foreign tourists were men who didn't come to study history. The economics of sin are ties to the depression, the typhoons that ruined thousands of farmers, the declining sugar market and the devalued peso. Flesh importers in Manila will pay \$11 to \$22 per child, and many a child supports a whole family back home. As a country rises in economic self-sufficiency the sex trade tends to dwindle and shift to another sphere. Even in this field, however, the profits tend to flee abroad, as a church survey revealed that 90% of Manila's discos are foreign owned.

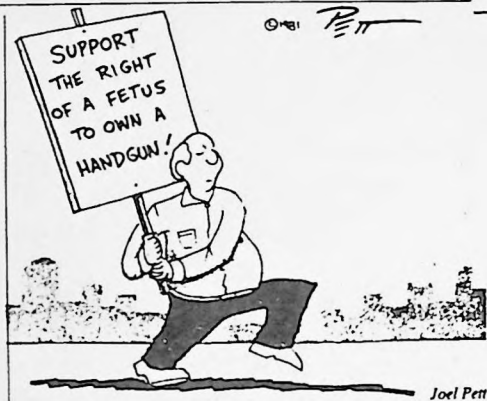


## Union Carbide — Again

by Janet O'Crowley

Union Carbide, now forever synonymous with its defective offspring, Bhopal, and Institute, West Virginia, where toxic leaks are as common as information leaks, also operates a public nuisance in western Colorado, called Uravan. This company town has since 1915 been the site of radioactive mining and milling, and has seen the accumulation of millions of tons of toxic wastes. Even the town clinic is built on radioactive tailings. The sides of the valley wrap the mill and townspeople in a tight embrace and radon particles are inhaled with every breath, yet workers fear for their jobs if Umetco, the Union Carbide subsidiary, is compelled to undertake a reclamation program it says it cannot afford in an unstable market period.

Meanwhile state health officials negotiate with Union Carbide over permissible intake of picocuries, and a temporary shutdown of the mill has reduced employment to a small corps of maintenance workers, and environmentalists would not be "wise to walk into the Naturita bar on Saturday night and say, 'Uravan has to be closed.'"



# Mandatory affirmative action works in the coal mines

The "Canadian Human Rights Advocate" studied the effects of mandatory affirmative action in U.S. coal mines, and found it a proven, effective means of breaking down discriminatory barriers in the workplace that deny women and minority groups a fair chance at jobs.

Coal mining in the United States provides strong proof. A decade ago the mines were a male domain. The few jobs open to women in the isolated coal mining towns were low-paying work in offices and restaurants.

Entry level jobs required no previous work experience or special training. All those jobs went to men.

## Sample Agreement

Sample mandatory affirmative action agreement between a coal mining company and the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights:

(The employer) will maintain an applicant file for females which will insure that all females who apply will be encouraged to fill out an application for any or all positions they desire. This file will then be used to assist (the employer) in fulfilling its goals and timetables established herein. (The employer) agrees that its affirmative action program shall consist of hiring one (1) qualified female into a non-clerical entry level bargaining unit position for every three (3) males hired into a non-clerical level bargaining unit position until the number of females has reached 20% of (the employers) bargaining unit workforce. The Commission and (the employer) agree that (the employer) shall not be in violation of the foregoing undertaking so long as it can demonstrate a good faith effort to comply. (The employer) agrees that its minimum standards for prospective employees for such entry level laborer's position will be equally applied to all, will be job related, and no standard will be used if it has a demonstrated disparate impact on women as compared to men unless a business reason to use it can be established.

This often used agreement between employers and the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is mandatory because it is enforceable by the courts. It is affirmative because it sets procedures needed to overcome the effects of past negative action directed at women (and minorities). Most of all, it is a plan for action which is measured and monitored.

Through mandatory affirmative action, guided by state human rights commissions with the power of courts behind them, the break came less than 10 years ago. The focus has been on creating job opportunities for women though there have been significant payments ordered for wages lost through discriminatory hiring practices.

## What A.A. Accomplished

A look at what happened in Kentucky's coal mines in the '70s illustrates what mandatory affirmative action is — and what it accomplishes.

In the first five years under mandatory affirmative action plans in Kentucky the total of women in the mines reached more than 750, back pay settlements were near the \$150,000 mark. Only a small percentage of those jobs are actually in mines covered by the mandatory affirmative action plans. Rather the example provides other employers with the necessary stimulus and criteria needed to break down past barriers to women.

Improved safety and working conditions are among the spinoffs. A mine safety researcher in Kentucky noted that women miners lose half the number of work days as men as a result of injuries.

"Coal mining has got to be about the most nontraditional work that a woman could undertake," he said. "Society will be forced to realize that women can do . . . any kind of work for which they are qualified."

## Women Report Problems in the Mines

"You have to face the fact that some of the men hate you and don't want you in there," an Alabama miner said. "There is real antagonism at times."

Betty Jean Hall, director of the Coal Employment Project, says some women miners are pressured to date their bosses or to give sexual favors in exchange for promotion. The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights has settled claims involving sexual harassment which have helped management become aware of the problem and reasonable solutions.

Hall said: "If women can be miners, what can't they be?"



## Portrait of a Woman Miner

Oh, brother, why's that woman there working next to you?  
'Cause you know you wouldn't be here if you didn't have to.  
Why don't you go ask her? Maybe there's a reason.  
Be polite about it so she won't think you're teasin'.  
Isn't there usually a man behind every woman that acts tough?  
Hers gave up when the going got too rough.  
It's alright for a man to take to six-point alcohol.  
But a real woman is supposed to give in, not give up at all.  
She might tell you women miners are made, not born.  
'Cause she had to brave it to fill the employment application form.  
She might tell you how she used to raise flowers, bake and sew and such.  
And now even her children are cared for by someone else who can't care as much.  
That's why she wears a hard hat for a bonnet, hard toes instead of sneaks.  
Her hands once soft and smooth are calloused, scratched with grease.  
She carries a beat-up dinner bucket, not a dainty straw purse.  
Instead of scented powder, coal dust covers her face, and it's worse.  
Maybe she'd tell you she looks so tired because she is.  
Tired of giving in, tired of holding up, tired of missing the kids.  
Tired of picking up tin cans, empty spools and scrapwood that are their toys.  
And tired of waiting until men will grow into men, instead of growing into old boys.

Doris Magan  
L.U. 2271, Dist. 17  
Dry Creek, W.Va.

## Just ask Ms Williams

One of the Kentucky coal miners, Mavis Williams, had worked in a bank. Now, at 42 and a mother of four, she's underground at 7 a.m. in Harlan County where the isolation of mountain terrain puts very real limits on job opportunities.

"In this town," she said, "most of the women (who can get jobs) either work in

a department store, as a waitress or as a baby sitter, so I get a lot of envy. The big questions they always have are, 'Is it hard,' and 'where do you go to the bathroom.' Several of them have said that they wish they had the guts to go to work at the mine or that they wish their husbands would let them work the mine."

## VDT Safety Campaign

Since its kickoff in December 1984, the 9 to 5 Service Employees Union "Campaign for VDT Safety" is going strong with activity reported in 20 states. In Oregon, a "right-to-know" and ergonomics VDT bill passed the Senate last month just one vote short of unanimous. Thirteen other states have introduced legislation to date. In addition to the 20 states where the Campaign is concentrating its work, efforts are also under way in seven other states.

Many Union contracts now contain specific language on VDTs, including the right to transfer to other jobs, when available, if an operator is pregnant. Potential risks for pregnant operators from VDTs is a highly controversial subject with many scientists denying such effects.

Several Unions have successfully negotiated contract clauses which include agreement that VDTs will have non-glare screens and brightness and contrast controls and that machines will be routinely maintained and serviced, including the availability to workers of cleaning solutions for dust removal.

Eye glasses and eye examinations are provided free of cost to VDT workers in several contracts.

Both Unions and activist groups working closely with unions and unorganized workers have developed materials, run conferences and held educational programs.

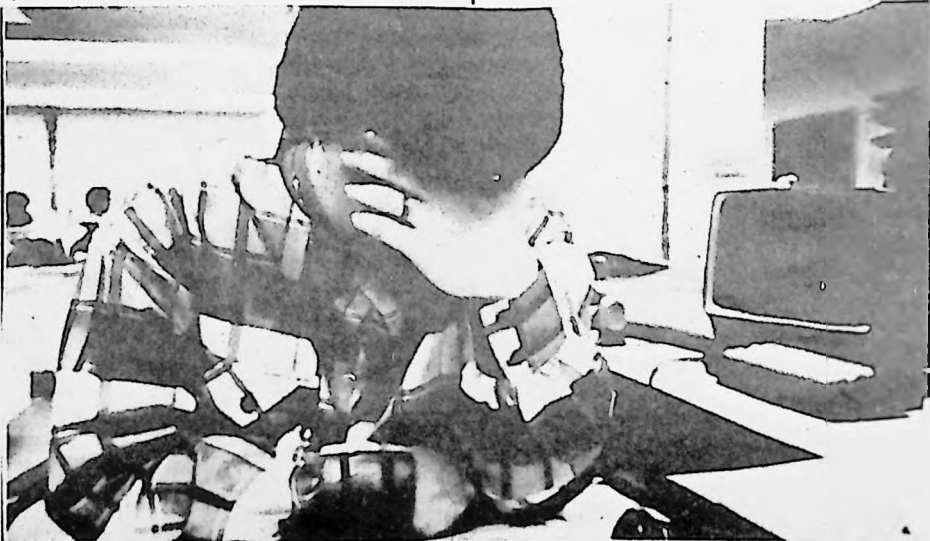
## New Study of Angina and VDT Operators

In related health matters, a study of female telephone company workers in North Carolina reveals that workers studied who use VDTs 50% of their work day or more suffer angina almost four times more often than the general population.

The study, conducted between late 1983 and August 1984, involved Southern Bell telephone operators, service personnel, and clerical workers who were required to use VDTs for the major portion of their work duties.

While the results have yet to be "clinically verified," they do indicate elevated risk for "any person engaged in intense VDT use on a regular basis," according to co-author Dr. Adrea LeCroix.

The study was conducted with the assistance of the Communications Workers of America and the North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Project.



WOCHR Calendar

## Film on Women Steelworkers

"Women of Steel" is a 30-minute documentary film that traces the lives of three former women steelworkers. It shows the effects of the loss of industrial jobs on women workers, the erosion of affirmative action programs, and the return to the nonunion service sector of many women who once had worked in steel. Allyn Stewart, one of the three producers of the project, was codirector of the McKeesport, Pa. Oral History Project in 1983.

USWA Vice President for Human Affairs Leon Lynch, who has supported the project and secured USWA funding for it, says that the film "shows not only what happens when women are forced out of the industrial sector but also the results when government abandons the affirmative action concept."

## How Women Work in Mill

Stewart says that the film "takes the viewer into the mill, and describes the world of work of women Steelworkers — their mental and physical adjustments to the job; their relationships to the forman, male co-workers, and union; and how they viewed the personal changes they experienced." Expecting to stay, they began to work through their union for the things they needed at work; bathrooms, apprenticeships, training and responsive leadership. This led them to issues beyond the millgates, such as the struggles for the ERA and for civil rights.

The three women in the film have been single heads of households, in traditional women's jobs; Patty Turnell was a waitress, Sheryl Johnson a low-level case worker, and Sherrie Ortallona drove a school bus. After entering the mills, they were able to support their families. Now they have come full circle. Once again, they are employed in the "pink collar ghetto": Turnell as a waitress and Johnson as a receptionist. "Sheryl was still working in the mill at the time of our filming. She has just been laid off again," says co-producer Steffi Domike, a former electrician apprentice at the Clairton, Pa. Works of U.S. Steel and a member of Local 1557.

The other producers are Beth Destler and Linny Stovall, former Local 1256 members at U.S. Steel in Duquesne, Pa.

Nov/Dec 84 Steellabor





# "ABUSIVE POLICIES"

## DENOUNCED AT SEMINAR

An International NGO Seminar on Women and Children under Apartheid was held in Geneva in October 1984. The Seminar was organized by the NGO sub-committee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization (part of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid).

The Seminar called on the international community to bring pressure on the Pretoria regime to end its "abusive family planning policies applied to Black women." It urged the World Health Organization to help in protecting the women from abuses of contraceptive drugs and other methods of fertility control.

### Health Conditions

The health situation is particularly alarming. Under regulations in force since 1981, women must carry a family planning card to obtain work, find housing, and enroll their children in school. They are subject to forced sterilization and injections of the health-endangering depopovera as part of the government program to determine how many children a Black woman should have.

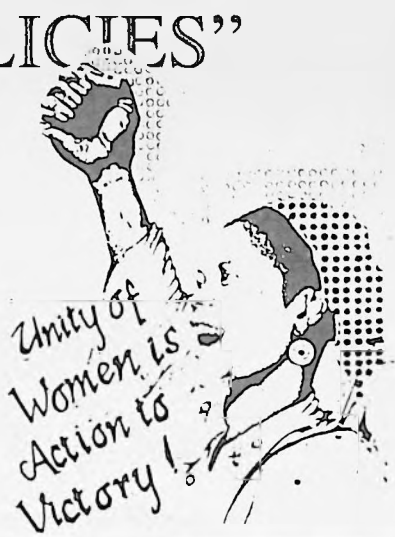
The conditions of women prisoners, said the Seminar, remains miserable. Some 970 children under 18 and 3415 infants are in prison and hundreds of schoolchildren have been arrested since the study.

### Education

The conditions for Black school children is desperate and the education of thousands has been disrupted. S. Africa spends more than seven times as much for every white student as for every Black child. Millions of children living in the bantustans have little or no possibility for education.

The use of the military in Black townships and military personnel as school teachers in Black schools are examples of the increased militarization of South African society.

The Seminar appealed to women everywhere to express solidarity with their sisters in South Africa and Namibia struggling for freedom by giving material assistance to the liberation movements and by actions aimed at abolishing the apartheid system for all time.



# Vinie Speaks at U.N. on So. Africa

"The tragic events of Sharpeville, Soweto, and Sobekeng are continuing proof that apartheid is founded on violence and can only be maintained through violence. The violent policies of South Africa have created an explosive situation throughout southern Africa . . . .

"South Africa has the highest prison population in the world with 444 people jailed for every 100,000 of the population; 40% of the prison population consists of those who have violated the pass laws . . . .

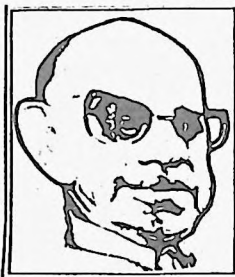
"When the Ciskei regime increased bus fares, the people launched a bus boycott, opting to use the trains or walk. But they were forced into the buses at gunpoint and more than 90 bus boycotters have been murdered in the past 16 months . . . ."

excerpts from statement by Vinie Burrows, Permanent Representative to the United Nations for the WIDF, at UN Center Against Apartheid, 22 March 1985, Commemoration of Anniversary of Sharpeville. The text of the speech is available from WREE. Send \$3 to cover the cost of reproduction and mailing to: 130 E. 16 St., NYC 10003.

## AID TO ETHIOPIA

WREE is still sending your contributions to help fight the famine in Ethiopia. There are no monies skimmed off for "administration expenses" or salaries or anything else. There are no doubts about where the money goes. It all goes to REWA (Revolutionary Ethiopian Women's Association) whose 5 million members are working daily to relieve the sufferings of their people.

Send your checks to WREE, earmarked REWA. We will send it immediately to our sisters in Ethiopia.



## South Africa Chile Mutual Interests



Chile and South Africa, as strongholds of reaction in the Southern Hemisphere, have sharply increased the solidarity between the two regimes.

This solidarity finds its material expression in close economic links between Chile and South Africa. Chilean exports to South Africa have risen from less than R. 2 million in 1978 to R. 23.8 million in 1983. Chilean imports from South Africa have also grown from around R. 7 million in 1977 to a peak of R. 32 million in 1980. South Africa sold gold worth R. 17.7 million last year.

It is not surprising that governments isolated by progressive world opinion should collaborate to break arms embargoes and other blockades. South African-Israeli collaboration is now well documented; so is the Israeli role in arming and training the forces of Guatemala and other countries that even the U.S. and Britain are reluctant to be seen to arm.

When Pinochet came to power in the

bloodbath of the 1973 coup, his government developed a natural affinity for SA, and this was reciprocated.

SA state corporations offered special terms to Chile to buy their products; and encouraged SA investment in Chile's mineral wealth. This was part of a conscious SA strategy, which goes beyond short-term trade. Abdul Minty of the ANC of SA at a UN special conference in Caracas declared, "The SA regime has decided to seek out a 'heartland' in Latin America, to penetrate it economically and to create a military and economic alliance with whomever was disposed to make such an arrangement." Open military collaboration with Chile, he said, was "symbolized by the fact that they appointed as Ambassador to Santiago, Lieut. General Dutton, ex-commander of the General Staff of the SA Army."

This collaboration has shown itself by the reported presence of Chilean military personnel in counterinsurgency operations in Namibia. Chilean officers have been awarded SA military decorations.

At the 'FIDA 84' arms exhibition in Santiago in March, SA was the biggest exhibitor, with 23 private companies represented.

Apart from such direct contacts, Chile has also been able to evade arms bans by buying arms built under license in Brazil, largely by SA-owned companies. This includes security and riot-control equipment.

So confident has Chile become about its ability to procure arms (with Britain and West Germany also supplying major weapons) that then Foreign Minister Miguel Schweitzer indiscreetly declared that Chile "was not interested" in obtaining human rights certification from the US Congress.

Economic ties between Chile and SA have grown rapidly — trade has grown more than ten times since 1979, and SA has become the second biggest holder of foreign investments in Chile.

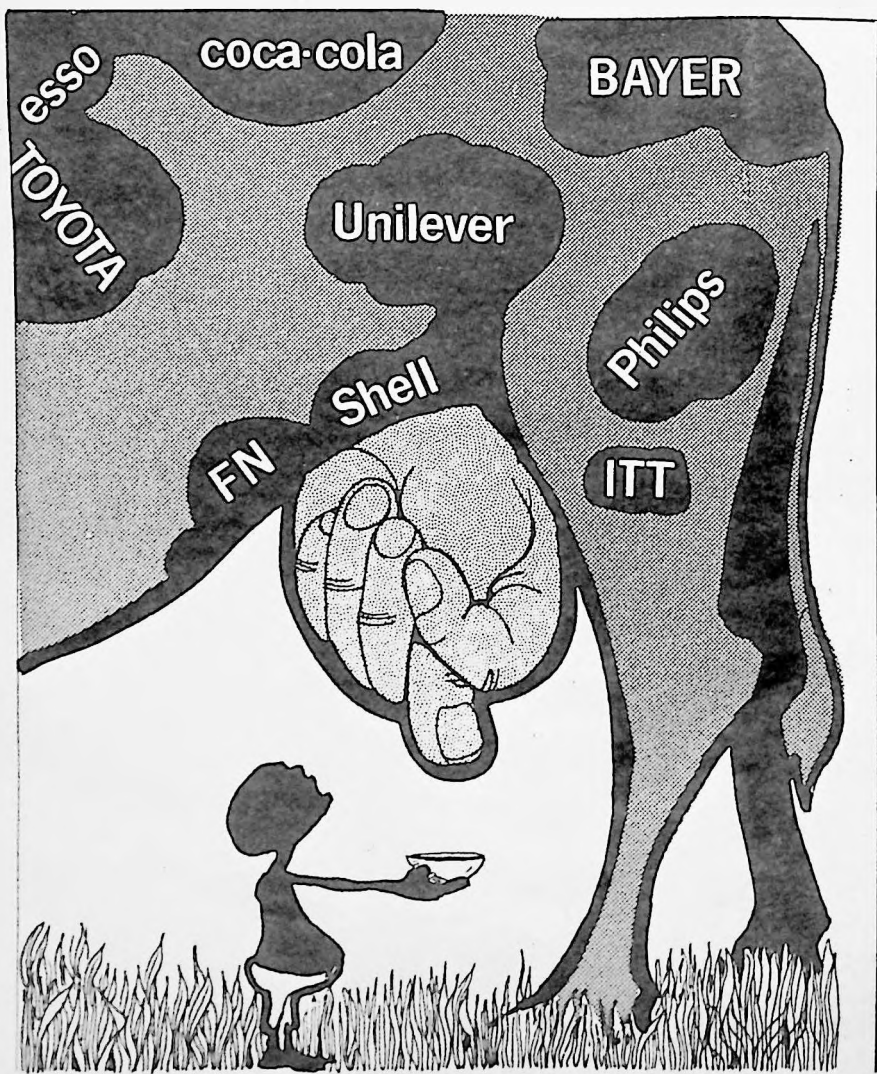
Clearly such alliances strengthen these repressive regimes, and represent a danger to liberation struggles and world peace. But no amount of armed might can protect them from their own people. Popular opposition brought down the juntas in Argentina and Bolivia, and mass mobilizations have wrested the political initiative from Pinochet, cracking the facade of invincibility and wringing out concessions.

South Africa's new ally may prove a short and unstable investment.

## Boycott Called Against Banks Supporting Apartheid

The United Nations Center Against Apartheid is calling for a boycott of banks which continue to collaborate economically with the racist South African regime. Here is a partial listing of banking institutions to boycott:

- ABD Securities
- Aetna Life & Casualty Co.
- Arnold and S. Bleichroeder, Inc.
- Bache Group
- BankAmerica Corp.
- Bank of Boston Corp.
- Barclays Bank Group
- Bear Stearns & Company
- Chase Manhattan Corp.
- Chemical New York Corp.
- Citicorp Continental Illinois Corp.
- Corestates Financial Corp.
- Crocker National Corp.
- Dean Witter Reynolds Org. Inc.
- Dillon Reed & Co.
- Dow Chemical Corp.
- Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc.
- Europartners Securities Corp.
- European Banking Co. Ltd.
- First Boston Inc.
- First National Boston Corp.
- Goldman Sachs & Co.
- INA Corp.
- International Commercial Banking Ltd.
- Irving Bank Corp.
- J.P. Morgan & Co. Inc.
- Kidder, Peabody & Co. Inc.
- Lazard Freres & Co.
- Lloyds Bank PLC
- Manufacturers Hanover Corp.
- Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc.
- Morgan Stanley & Co. Inc.
- North Carolina Nat. Bank Corp.
- N.M. Rothschild & Sons Ltd.
- Orion Bank Ltd.
- Paine Webber Inc.
- Philbro-Salomon Inc.
- Philadelphia National Bank
- Prudential Insurance Co. of America
- Royal Bank Ltd.
- Sears Roebuck & Company
- Samuel Montagu & Co. Ltd.
- Smith Barney, Harris Upham & Co. Inc.
- Standard Chartered Bank Ltd.



**Don't Buy Krugerrands!**

—WPC



# Star Wars Geneva & Survival

"The whole point of arms control is not simply to reduce the number of nuclear weapons. Both sides could do a little of that and not be much more secure or settled. The goal of arms talks must be to reduce the threat to our security — and our existence — that nuclear war poses . . . Only through a process of reducing international tensions, putting a safety on the nuclear hairtrigger of both the U.S. and U.S.S.R., and eventually dismantling the tools of destruction themselves, can we move toward a safer, more secure world."

Rep. Tom Downey, in his newsletter to his constituents as the U.S. and Soviet Union opened new arms control talks in Geneva.

Reagan's Star Wars plan (at an initial cost of \$26 billion for research) has alarmed the Soviets. They recognize the plan as an aggressive and not a defensive move. They hear our spokespeople say that our government plans to keep building offensive nuclear weapons; they see Congress allot billions for the MX; and they recognize, as do many Americans, that a nuclear attack could be launched by the trigger-happy cowboy in the White House.

It is self-delusion for U.S. leaders to believe the Soviet Union will negotiate deep reductions in their strategic missiles while the U.S. insists on pursuing Star Wars. Even the latest proposal of the Soviet Union for a moratorium on missile deployment in Europe is brushed aside by the administration. So long as our government insists that Star Wars is nonnegotia-



ble, the nuclear stockpiles will continue to grow and the danger of global extinction will persist.

### Europe Allies Unconvinced

Sen. William Proxmire has released the results of a six-month study by the Congressional Research Service of reactions by the U.S. allies to Star Wars: The plan has only lukewarm support from European leaders. Privately, according to press reports, these leaders have misgivings, fearing especially that U.S. weapons in space might leave their own countries defenseless.

The researchers found the same reac-

tion in interviews they conducted. Among their conclusions, according to Proxmire, were that European leaders believe that no matter how comprehensive Star Wars "defenses" are, Europe could still be destroyed. They also feel that the plan will produce a political crisis in Europe that will make the uproar over deploying Pershing II and cruise missiles in NATO countries pale in comparison.

To counter these fears, administration officials are campaigning for support of Star Wars in Europe, even suggesting that some of the research contracts will be awarded to Western European and Israeli laboratories or companies.

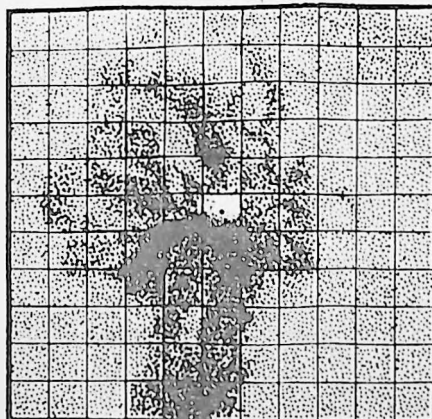
U.S. foreign aid is when poor people in a rich country support the rich people in a poor country.

### HOW DO WE LOVE THEE — LET US COUNT . . .

We stand in a traffic circle holding lighted candles five women and one man attracting those returning from West Point's direction. Our signs proclaim a weekly peace vigil; our minds race dangerous currents spilling out over a shared flickering landscape. Counting smiles friendly waves and honks that warm us like forsythia above. A good day we rejoice — best so far. Perhaps . . . the mild spring weather reminds people of an almost forgotten deposit for life beginning to identify knowing they are not alone. Trying to discount a mad tarantula spewing poison — nuke 'em all — or a large ape half evolved from a car window features hazy gestures intonations unmistakable: if you don't love America . . .

Elsen Lubetsky  
Highland Mills, NY

### To the point



This diagram which has been published by the US journal "Physics and Society" shows the dangerous worsening of the international situation as a result of the arms race. The point in the central square represents the total amount of ammunition used during the Second World War. The points in the other 120 areas illustrate, according to "Physics and Society," the aggregate power of nuclear arsenals all over the world at the beginning of 1984.

# MX Protest Continues

Seventy-three national organizations, including WREE, announced a campaign against any funding of MX programs in the FY 1986 budget. They issued the following statement to the press:

We strongly applaud those Representatives and Senators who over the past week have shown the wisdom and political courage to vote against expansion of the MX missile program.

The fight over the MX is a fight to stop the U.S. from wasting billions of dollars on a destabilizing, vulnerable weapons system that makes no sense at all. It makes no sense from a standpoint of national security, no sense in terms of nuclear arms control, and no sense in light of our huge budget deficits.

For these reasons, we will continue to fight against the MX program, which we believe is a grave mistake. The FY 1986 budget calls for 48 new MX missiles and \$4 billion for the MX program. Congress should fully reject this request: No new missiles and no new money. A statutory restriction must also be enacted by Congress to assure that no more MX missiles are authorized in the future for deployment purposes.

Our country cannot afford to waste one more dollar on the fundamentally flawed and discredited MX weapons program.

### Reactionary "Colloquium" in Paris

The Newsletter of the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ) reports that a "virulent" colloquium was held in Paris in February. According to the IOJ, generals and many active and "deserving" top brass from the U.S., West Germany, South Korea, Argentina, Brazil and other countries had a chance to pour out their hatred for everything progressive. The hundred participants called for a merciless fight against "the emergence of Marxist regimes" in Central and South America, a blockade of Cuba and Nicaragua, and demanded the murder of Fidel Castro. They appealed to western nations to give even more support to Reagan.

Appeals such as these are not really surprising, considering the sources, says IOJ. What is interesting is the fact that the organizer of the "get-together of fighting mad" generals, was the so-called organization Causa set up by Sun Myung Moon, ill-famed head and founder of the Universalist Church, who is trying to lead a world-wide anti-communist crusade.

According to the French daily *L'Humanite*, the Moon organization intends to create their center in Paris as a base for West Europe operations.

### FOCUS

I don't want to stop the world  
just feed clothe keep it  
in one piece  
moving tight locus  
carefully  
toward a new horizon  
no fast shake and  
conclusion.

# Grenadian Journalism Now

by Keith Jeremiah  
Grenada Journalist

In the name of a return to a "free and independent press," a pro-American business elite in Grenada has once again reasserted its influence and monopoly of the radio and print media there.

Most, if not all, journalists employed by Radio Free Grenada — the Voice of the Revolution, and the national newspaper — "Free West Indian" — were dismissed.

In the first two or three weeks after the invasion, Radio Spice Isle, operating from a U.S. Navy stand-by transmitter, was set up, which simply echoed the Voice of America. Its name was soon changed to Radio Grenada, but to this day it still continues to operate on a stand-by transmitter. The Americans have refused to rebuild the former radio station bombed out during the invasion. However, with most of the country's experienced radio staff dismissed, the station has been unable to offer an adequate radio service.

The "Grenadian Voice," a weekly reactionary newspaper owned by businessman Leslie Pierre, has replaced "Free West Indian." Pierre's "Voice" received financial support from the CIA and the right-wing Caribbean Broadcasters and Publishers Association. Its main focus is discrediting all the achievements of the Grenada revolution and the government of the late Prime Minister Bishop. The "Voice" has openly called for the "deprogramming" of Grenadian youth, a term which means using the media to wipe out progressive consciousness from the minds of the Grenadian people.

Serious issues affecting the Grenadian masses, such as unemployment, denial of trade union rights, political victimization and harassment by occupation forces are seldom reported on the pages of the "Voice." Both Radio Grenada and the "Voice" have also been put at the disposal of business interests and private sector groups in the country.



### A Reminder . . .

If just a single megaton bomb detonated over a city like Detroit:

- Over 900,000 people would be killed outright.

- Over one million others would be gravely injured and in need of immediate medical care. Their chances for survival would be minimal.

- Most of the city's hospitals, emergency equipment, ambulances, and medical personnel would be obliterated. But even if standard services were available, there would be little hope. The number of third-degree burn victims, for instance, would likely exceed 200,000 . . . 100 times more than all the intensive-care burn beds in all the hospitals of the United States.

- Hundreds of thousands of other would perish or suffer lingering pain from radiation sickness, epidemics, and the absence of ordinary health services.

The world now has bombs with more than 10,000 times the destructive power of that one megaton blast.

In a world where overpopulation, undernourishment, with more refugees than ever seen in history, where corporations are exporting jobs while hordes of job-seekers are bending down the fence on our borders, what is the President's nomination for Three Most Important issues for the year? MX, Star Wars, and revolution in Nicaragua. You have to understand: "MX is Arms Control," "Star Wars is Peace," and revolution in Nicaragua will allow us to sleep well at night.



# International Women's Day

## 75 Years



El surgimiento del Día Internacional de la mujer está vinculado indisolublemente al desarrollo de la lucha de las trabajadoras contra la explotación a lo que esta sometida por su doble condición de trabajadora y mujer, en favor de la justicia social, contra el militarismo y la guerra imperialista, por la democracia, la paz y el progreso social y por su igualdad.

El Día Internacional de la Mujer se creó el 26/27 de agosto de 1910. Basándose en la experiencia ganada en las primeras grandes luchas femeninas, por ejemplo

- la primera manifestación femenina realizada el 8 de marzo de 1857, cuando las costureras demandaron mejores condiciones de trabajo y el derecho al voto en las calles de Nueva York;

- la participación de decenas de miles de mujeres francesas en la lucha desde las barricadas durante los días de la Comuna de París en 1871;

- la primera Conferencia Internacional de Mujeres en contra de la guerra celebrada en Den Haag, 1899;

- el creciente número de mujeres en los sindicatos de Alemania (en 1907 había 120,000 mujeres sindicalizadas y 10,000 organizadas en sociedades educativas);

- la participación de decenas de miles de trabajadoras rusas en las huelgas contra el zarismo en 1905 y 1907

La Segunda Conferencia Internacional de Mujeres Socialistas, celebrada en Copenhague en 1910, resolvió aprobar una propuesta de Clara Zetkin de "celebrar un día anual como actividad internacional regular", nuevo medio de luchar para incorporar a las masas de trabajadoras a la lucha internacional en favor de los derechos democráticos, la paz, la independencia nacional y el progreso social.

En la primavera de 1921, a propuesta de las mujeres búlgaras, la Secretaría Internacional Femenina de la Internacional Socialista presidida por Clara Zetkin resolvió celebrar el "Día Internacional de la Mujer" a partir de entonces todos los días 8 de marzo.

Se ha logrado el objetivo de Clara Zetkin y de otras fundadoras, atraer a grandes cantidades de mujeres mediante un intenso trabajo cotidiano a la lucha por sus derechos que está estrechamente vinculada a la lucha de sus pueblos por el progreso social y la paz mundial.

Lo que comenzó como un día de lucha de la mujer en sólo unos países europeos unió a las mujeres de otros países de Europa, Asia, África, América del Norte, Central y del Sur y Australia año tras año.

Los millones de mujeres y madres de muchos países que habían luchado contra el fascismo y la guerra, se reunieron el 1ro de diciembre de 1945 en la Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres para trabajar en conjunto y de manera organizada en favor de la protección de la infancia, de sus derechos, en defensa de la paz, la democracia, la independencia nacional y el progreso social han seguido la tradición del Día Internacional de la Mujer y difundir los ideales de ese día en toda la tierra.

75 años después

Hoy, 75 años después, los millones y

The emergence of International Women's Day is inseparably linked with the development of the struggle of women workers against the dual exploitation to which they were subjected as workers and as women.

International Women's Day was born on August 26/27 1910, on the basis of the experience of the first big women's struggles. For instance:

- the first women's demonstration in the streets of New York on 8 March 1857, when women of the needle trades demanded better working conditions and the right to vote;

- the participation of tens of thousands of French women in the fighting on the barricades during the days of the Paris Commune in 1871;

- the first International Women's Conference against war in the Hague, 1899;

- the growing number of women in the trade unions in Germany (in 1907 there were 120,000 women in the trade unions and 10,000 women were organized in 94 educational societies);

- the participation of tens of thousands of Russian women workers in the strikes against Tsarism in 1905/07.

The Second International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen in 1910, on a motion from Clara Zetkin, resolved to "observe an annual women's day as a uniform international action" as a new way of struggling to incorporate masses of working women in the international struggle for fundamental democratic rights, peace, national independence, and social progress.

In the spring of 1921, on a motion from Bulgarian women, the International Women's Secretariat of the Communist International chaired by Clara Zetkin resolved to celebrate International Women's Day from then on uniformly on March 8.

The goal of Clara Zetkin and the other founders — to draw large numbers of women through intensive day-to-day work — into the struggle for their rights, which is closely linked with the general struggle of their peoples for social pro-

gress and world peace, has been achieved.

What started as a women's day of struggle in only a few European countries unites women from ever more countries of Europe as well as Asia, Africa, North, Central and South America and Australia from year to year.

The millions of women and mothers from many countries who had fought against fascism and war and came together in the Women's International Democratic Federation in Paris on December 1, 1945, to work together in an organized manner for the protection of children, for their rights, in defense of peace, for democracy, national independence and social progress have carried on the tradition of International Women's Day and spread its ideals around the Earth.

Today, 75 years later, the many millions of women who unite in the most diverse ways in powerful demonstrations on March 8 are countless.

On International Women's Day they all jointly proclaim their determination to take into their own hands the cause of preserving peace and averting a nuclear catastrophe, ensuring social progress and achieving equality.

They know that solidarity contributes to victory!

March 8, 1985, was a historic day for the international women's movement in the year in which the peace-loving peoples are observing the 40th anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite fascism and Japanese militarism and the end of the Second World War; and women of all continents are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Women's International Democratic Federation. Millions and millions of women on five continents will add new, splendid pages to the history of International Women's Day.

### CLARA ZETKIN 1857-1933

#### Pioneer in the Struggle for Peace and Women's Rights

Clara Zetkin's life work was dedicated to the struggle for peace and women's rights. She taught women to take the struggle for women's emancipation and equal partnership in the economic, political, social and cultural life of society into their own hands and to unite and work together nationally and internationally for that purpose. She taught women to penetrate the mystery of how wars come about, to see who is responsible for warmongering and war preparations, and to side with those who have dedicated themselves to the struggle for a lasting peace, against militarism and war.

She taught women to use specific forms of struggle to express their demands for their rights, child welfare, and peace and thereby to mobilize and involve more and more women.

### Pioneers for Women's Equality

#### Two Books Recommended

*Alexandra Kollontai, Selected Writings and Speeches*  
*Clara Zetkin, Selected Articles and Speeches*

Our Canadian sisters recommend two books to women who are fighting for equality today. From the newsletter of the Congress of Canadian Women:

Timed with the closing of the United Nations Decade of Women, International Publishers in New York has released these two works by two renowned theoreticians of women's liberation. These books not only give the women's movement an essential part of its history but provide the strategic framework for achieving its goals. Both women were in attendance at the 1910 International Conference of Women Socialists held in Copenhagen, which called for an International Women's Day. In addition to writing vociferously on women's concerns and the role women must play in the fight for fundamental social change, Zetkin and Kollontai were recognized leaders in the early socialist movement. They were also leaders of the new Soviet socialist government established after the 1917 revolution. Kollontai in 1923 became history's first woman ambassador representing the Soviet Union in Norway, Mexico, and Sweden.

Zetkin's book is prefaced with a lengthy introduction by one of her contemporaries today, Angela Davis. Davis, author of the recently published *Women, Race and Class* skillfully intertwines Zetkin's contributions to today's situation.

The publications contain a rich collection of historical photos; combined with in depth analysis by these stateswomen, organizers, journalists and impassioned orators, they provide an indispensable link to the birth of women's revolutionary struggles.



Alexandra Kollontai (right) and next to her, Clara Zetkin, at an international women's conference in 1921.

millones de mujeres que se reúnen en poderosas manifestaciones el 8 de marzo de las mas diversas maneras, son incontables.

Mujeres de todos los continentes y de casi todos los países del mundo;

Mujeres de todos los sectores de la población, trabajadoras y amas de casa; maestras, investigadoras y artistas activas;

Mujeres de la industria y la agricultura;

Mujeres de todas las tendencias políticas y afiliaciones religiosas;

Mujeres organizadas en organizaciones femeninas, sindicatos y partidos políticos, así como las no organizadas;

proclaman al unísono este Día Internacional de la mujer su determinación de tomar las riendas de la causa de la conservación de la paz y la prevención de una catástrofe nuclear, asegurar el progreso social y lograr la igualdad.

la solidaridad contribuye a la victoria

Este 8 de marzo de 1985, día histórico para el movimiento femenino internacional, el año en que los pueblos amantes de la paz celebran el cuadragésimo aniversario de la victoria sobre el fascismo hitleriano y el militarismo japonés y el fin de la Segunda Guerra Mundial y las mujeres de todos los continentes celebran el cuadragésimo aniversario de la fundación de la Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres, millones y millones de mujeres de los cinco continentes añadirán nuevas y luminosas páginas en la historia del Día Internacional de la Mujer.



# Cuban Women Celebrate Gains

by Norma Spector

Singing, dancing, chanting, shouting slogans! Two thousand women at the Fourth Congress of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) were demonstrating an enthusiasm so contagious that the 165 foreign guests were soon singing and dancing, too.

Nevertheless, when women rose to speak of their concerns, problems, and demands, they were serious and specific. While the main report (141 pages) reviewed all the achievements since the last FMC congress, the delegates dwelt on what was still to be achieved. They told of specific cases of discrimination against women that prevented them from getting certain jobs or deserved promotions. They condemned a law that denied them full equality with men, even as they recognized that the law or regulation had been enacted originally as protection for women or simply because it was an advance then for women's rights or needs.

## Minister Explains

For example, hospital regulations some years ago established the "acompañante" code whereby a woman was able to accompany and stay with her child or other relative in hospital. Men are not permitted to be acompañantes. Part of the reason, said the Minister of Public Health at the Congress, when called on to explain the regulation, was the benefit to the patient, especially the children, of having the mother there through a difficult or frightening experience. "We thought we were showing great respect and sensitivity to women when we adopted this procedure," he said. "But our Revolution changes people, and what was good ten years ago may not be valid today. Women's demands are different and we must change to meet the new demands."

The women's complaints about the law involved the "discrimination against men" who also felt the anguish of a child's illness, or a mother's dying. They spoke of the fact that they were not paid for the time off for this and the many other chores for which they were responsible. They pointed out that the regulation took no account of the cases where the wife's job was more important than the husband's. And in a society in which im-

proving production and services means improving everyone's living standards, such a consideration is of urgent importance to all working people.

There was no doubt in anyone's mind that this particular law is on its way out.

## Castro at Congress

All the issues raised were discussed in the same free-wheeling, thorough, and sometimes hot-tempered way. And perhaps the most unusual feature of this Congress (at least for this *Norteamericana*) was that the women were not talking only to each other: they were putting their ideas and demands directly to the government ministers and leaders who were there. They were also talking directly to Fidel Castro who attended the Congress, listened to every speaker, responded directly to the discussion, participated and argued with the women and with the government representatives.

It was, for an American observer, a totally new phenomenon to see the head of the government come, not as a figurehead, not to make a speech of promises and clichés, but to listen, learn, express his agreement, disagreement, and sincere concern. It was also, for this cynic, a revelation about Castro's relationship to his people, to note the total lack of inhibition or reticence exhibited by the Cuban women by the presence of the "Comandante." They love him, they trust him, they clearly regard him as their very close friend.

The Reagan administration ought to take that into account when they are trying to figure out how to "get rid" of that thorn in their side, Fidel and his people, who are building a new society with no help from this nearby dangerous giant.

In 1959 there were fewer than 200,000 Cuban women in the workforce. In 1985 there are over one million; 38% of adult women.

In 1959 there were no child care centers. There are now 838 serving 96,000 working mothers (still not nearly enough).

There is also a maternity law benefiting women workers that is one of the most generous in the world.



Congress participants, 2000 strong, filled the beautiful new Convention Hall. All the delegates arrived for each session of the four days early (!) and spent the waiting time singing, playing drums, maraccas, bells, and dancing in the aisles. Each province delegation had its own color of bandana to wave; and they pinned their banners all over the hall.



Photos by Maxine Ortis

## BOYCOTT GRAPES — AGAIN!

The United Farm Workers are again calling for a boycott of all California table grapes (except for the small number that are produced under union contract). Many of us remember the UFW grape boycott of the 60s and 70s. By 1975 it was estimated that 17 million Americans were boycotting table grapes; and the boycott was effective in spite of the support to the growers by the U.S. Army which bought huge quantities of the fruit during the boycott.

In 1975 California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA) became law and the boycott ended. The UFW now charges that this law is not being enforced. Farmworkers are owed more than \$72 million in back pay. More than 36,000 are waiting for growers to sign contracts. Between December 1982 and December 1983, the number of uninvestigated charges filed against growers more than doubled.

WREE members and friends are urged to stop buying California table grapes until further word from the UFW, and to write to Gov. George Deukmejian, State Capital, Sacramento, CA 95814, urging enforcement of the ALRA.

Nearly 100 midwestern farmworkers and more than 200 supporters demonstrated in November at the annual shareholders' meeting of Campbell Soup in Cherry Hill, NJ, in an action planned by FLOC. Some 75 of the demonstrators attended the meeting, where they spoke in support of a resolution requiring Campbell to enter into contract negotiations between farmworkers and growers who raise tomatoes and other produce for the cannery and its subsidiaries.

The overwhelming majority of shareholders responded with boredom and derision to the farmworkers. Some 263,000 shares, or about 1% of the total, however, were voted in favor of the resolution — a considerable accomplishment, according to FLOC staff Cruz Phillips, since at most 50,000 of those votes were directly organized by FLOC.

When an unemployed Willoughby, Ohio, couple couldn't pay a \$702 electric bill recently, county officials took away their children. The electric company had shut off the heat and refused to turn it back on until the bill was paid. Welfare workers said that Lawrence and Peggy Geis's kerosene heater and fireplace wouldn't keep the house warm enough for their kids. Because of cut-backs in government heating programs, there was no money available to help Geis pay the bill. Eventually, private contributors came up with the money, and the Geises got their kids back.

## Campbells Is Bad For You

Thousands of migrant farmworkers in Ohio are living and working under the most atrocious conditions, including child labor, malnutrition, exposure to dangerous pesticides, subminimum wages, and more.

The archaic and unfair system called "crop contracting" or "sharecropping" is at the root of the problem. Major food processors like Campbell dictate the terms of annual contracts with farmers long before the crop is planted. They tell the farmer how much per pound he'll re-

ceive on delivery, and based on that price, the farmer hires workers for harvesting.

The processing giants plainly enjoy what a 1981 Ohio State Senate investigation called a "controlling voice" in the marketplace and the fields, but the system insulates them from any responsibility for easing the burdens of migrant and seasonal workers — men, women and children — who desperately need help. Campbell calls all the shots, but shrugs off its critics with the sham excuse, "We aren't

the employer."

Since 1968, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) has sought to challenge and change this system. In 1978, FLOC launched the largest agricultural strike in the history of the Midwest when 2000 farmworkers walked off the fields, demanding a guaranteed minimum wage, an end to pesticide spraying while workers were in the fields, outdoor plumbing at the shacks they lived in, and work-site toilets. Some growers were willing to negotiate, but the big canneries, including Campbell's, refused.

## FLOC Challenges Corporation

Two key members of the Board of Directors of Campbell Soup Co. are Andrew "Drew" Lewis, a director of Equitable Life, and Robert A. Beck, Chairman of the Board of Prudential Insurance. They symbolize the powerful interests behind the plight of migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Corporate Campaign, Inc. directors Ray Rogers and E.I. Allen said, "The powerful banking and insurance interests they [Lewis and Beck] exemplify are the main backers and beneficiaries of the status quo. We stand with FLOC in its struggle to hold them accountable, and we urge every fair-minded person to do likewise."

If you or anyone you know holds an insurance policy with Prudential or Equitable, let FLOC know by writing to them at 714 1/2 S. St. Clair Street, Toledo, OH 43609. FLOC needs this information in its campaign against Campbells.



photo by Ken Light



## Do You Pay for Israeli Aggression?

There has never been an open debate in Congress or the press on the whole question of aid to Israel: how much? for what purpose? in return for what? We'd like to see hearings in Congress about the proposed increase in aid to Israel. Some facts you should know as you raise this question with your representative:

Israel now receives about \$3.5 billion a year. That is \$10 million a day, and a total of \$32 billion since Israel's creation.

This allocation is largely in grant form, and the U.S. government does not expect Israel to pay it back.

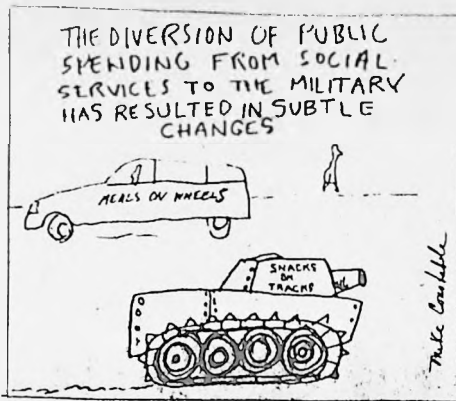
Aid to Israel is given unconditionally. U.S. aid to all other countries is project-oriented and closely supervised; Israel can spend its U.S. dollars with no restrictions, and accounts to no one for how it is spent. Israel is spending \$200 million a year on illegal settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. This would not be possible without U.S. taxpayer assistance.

Israel is asking for \$5 billion for the next fiscal year. This amounts to nearly \$1,100 a year for each Israel citizen, and that's almost \$14 million every day.

Israel has repeatedly violated the terms of the Foreign Military Sales Agreement by using military equipment produced in the U.S. for aggression. Weapons used in the invasion of Lebanon were produced in the U.S. and given to Israel under the terms of this agreement.

Compare these figures with the half-hearted, small-change aid being given to relieve the starvation in Ethiopia and other countries. Compare these figures with the amounts cut from health, housing, education, food for the hungry, homeless, and elderly in the U.S.

The peace community in Israeli — by the tens of thousands — rallied on March 16 to demand the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon. This event received virtually no press coverage from the major U.S. media. It was organized by Peace Now, and Yesh-Gvul, an organization of people refusing to serve in Lebanon. Speaking at the rally, Yuval Neriya (Reserve Battalion Commander), holder of Israel's highest military decorations for valor, singled out former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon as an "official terrorist."



A report by the U.S. Department of Commerce exposes "right-to-work" laws for what they really are — a scheme by bosses to keep wages low.

In twenty states with "right-to-work" laws on the books, average wages were \$10,708 per person. But in the rest of the country, where the union shop is permitted, and workers must sign up if a majority of employees bargain for a union shop, the average wage is almost \$1500 more — \$12,186. Which goes to show something that we've known for a long time: workers do better when their unions are stronger.

## 12th World Festival for dialogue and cooperation



by Cookie Bonano  
Festival Committee

The World Festival of Youth and Students has occurred every 3 or 4 years since 1947. Today we organize around the importance of peace and prevention of a nuclear war. The Soviet Union and our country must make vital decisions, and it's up to us, the future generation, to help them decide correctly. All young people should participate: from capitalist, socialist, and developing countries. This trip to Moscow gives us a chance to build friendship and understanding — bridges of peace among young people.

Like busy bees, the Soviet youth are working to make the 12th Festival a success. They are working on selecting representatives through various competitions. In Moscow, the youth are constructing the Moscow Youth Palace

which will have a 2,000-seat auditorium, a rotating stage, another large hall for dances, and the Young Communist League Museum. It will be quite a "site" during the Festival.

### Committees Being Set Up

Over 70 representatives from student, youth, peace, cultural, religious, and other organizations are planning U.S. participation. There are 15 Preparatory Committees in 14 states and Washington, D.C. already established.

The U.S. National Preparatory Committee helps coordinate activities of local Festival committees — which can be established in any neighborhood, school, union local, church, etc. Events were held to publicize the Festival in many areas on International Women's Day and during African American History Month, and to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the defeat of fascism. In June, both International Children's Day and Peace Day will be celebrated. In July, picnics and parties will mark Independence Day.

### Seek More Endorsements

We are also seeking more group and individual endorsers to add to the list that includes: James Bernard, founder, American Youth Movement; Gene Carroll, Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign; Dr. Lawrence Carter, Dean of King Chapel, Morehouse College; Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General; Congressmen George Crockett, Ronald Dellums, Major Owens; Bernard Demczuk, national political director, American Federation of Government Employees; Henry Foner, president Local 1-FLM; Sandra Graham, Cambridge City Council; Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Detroit Diocese; Richie Havens, singer, songwriter; Rev. Jesse Jackson; Rev. Joseph Lowery, president, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Gus Newport, Mayor, Berkeley, CA; Dr. Linus Pauling, Nobel Laureate; John Randolph, actor; Pete Seeger; Sue Wray, president, Student Association of SUNY.

This year, the program of the 12th Youth Festival will focus on the most important issues of the day: averting the danger of nuclear war, the rights of working youth, the liberation movements, the rights of women, protection of the environment, and more.

We are calling on all people to help bring peace among nations. For information, write to World Youth Festival, 130 East 16 Street, NYC 10003.



## "Breaking the Silence" For a Just Peace In the Middle East

by Nancy Greenberg

For three days in February, 130 organizers, well over half of them women, met outside Hackettstown, NJ, at a seminar on the Middle East, called "Breaking the Silence." They were meeting to discuss organizing and to design strategies for Middle East peace work in the U.S.

Representatives from National Mobilization for Survival, American Friends Service Committee, Clergy and Laity Concerned, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, New Jewish Agenda, YWCA, November 29th Committee on Palestine, International Jewish Union for Peace, Committee in Solidarity with the People of Iran, Arab-American Institute, and the Presbyterian Church were among the participants.

Organizers came to gather factual data, to express views, exchange ideas, share organizing experiences, and to plan for building a more visible and increasingly effective U.S. movement for peace in the Middle East. A diversity of speakers presented information, documented U.S. involvement in the region, and explained some of the reasons why "Breaking the Silence" was an appropriate title.

The dominant subject for discussion at the seminar was the right of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples to a homeland and self-determination. The participants also strongly condemned Israeli aggression on the West Bank and in Lebanon. The Iran-Iraq war, and its potential es-

calation into a nuclear war was described; U.S. involvement in each of the Middle East conflicts was discussed. Seminar participants all spoke of the need for a new U.S. foreign policy concerning the Middle East, and the need for accelerated peace work at home to increase awareness of these important issues.

### Middle East Source of Danger

A number of speakers explained why the Middle East was the most likely place for a nuclear war to begin. Stuart Scharr, professor at Brooklyn College, revealed that conflicts there are now fought at the highest level of sophisticated conventional warfare, and that nuclear weapons might very well come into use to "cut down" on the number of casualties. Joseph Gerson, from AFSC, agreed and pointed out that Star Wars plans include preparations for the Middle East. The silence of the peace movement on the Middle East, he said, is one of our darkest moments.

Melinda Fine, Freeze Campaign Coordinator, informed the seminar that two-thirds of all U.S. weapons go to the Middle East, and that many of the U.S. weapons in Europe are targeted for the area. She was one of many who indicated that there is much misunderstanding

in the U.S. of the region's conflicts and that a solution to this would include ongoing education, and solidarity with Middle East peace groups and their activities.

Another AFSC member, historian Everett Mendelsohn, emphasized that for a just foreign policy concerning the Middle East, we would have to pressure for a reduction in violence.

Raleigh Hedgwood of the Presbytery of Chicago verbalized the feelings of many when he insisted, "We as peacemakers have been too timid on the issue of peace in the Middle East."

### Visibility Needed

Presburg, AFSC, urged conference participants to pressure the National Coalition for the April Days of Action to bring the issue of peace in the Middle East out into the streets. She stressed the need for greater visibility for Middle East peace work with banners, buttons, and T-shirts. Jackie Gelb, Mobilization for Survival, summarized the discussions of many at the seminar when she said that we must increase Middle East visibility with more speakers at peace activities such as our Hiroshima-Nagasaki events. She added that we must be able to transfer our support for self-determination and non-intervention in other areas of the world to the Middle East. She insisted that we write to organizers of peace events and let them know that we want the Middle East included in their activities.

Many of the seminar participants chose to set aside the week of October 24th for national organizing on the issues of peace in the Middle East.

## REAGAN HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES AFFECT MINORITIES DISPROPORTIONATELY

Ronald Reagan's health and safety policies violate the civil rights of minorities and help to maintain inequality in the U.S. This is the conclusion of a report on "Reagan, Toxics and Minorities" published by the Urban Environment Conference, a coalition of labor, minority, and environmental organizations. The report found:

- Reagan's cutbacks on OSHA enforcement and standard setting has had a disproportionate effect on minority workers. This is partly because these workers tend to have the dirtiest, least safe jobs; partly because OSHA cut funding for 80% of its "New Directions" Training and Education Grants, which mainly address minority workers.
- Toxic waste dumpsites are often located in minority communities.
- The administration is ignoring the problem of lead poisoning, which endangers large numbers of inner-city children.
- Seasonal farm workers — who are mostly Mexican-American and Black — face serious health hazards from pesticides and poor sanitation.
- Many Native Americans are exposed to radiation from abandoned uranium tailings piled on their reservations.

## POISONS IN OUR FOODS

"People are ingesting or rubbing their skin with millions and millions of pounds of cancer-causing substances each year," warns Sidney Wolfe, M.D. who heads Public Citizen, a public-interest group that has sued the Food & Drug Administration to remove from sale 10 dyes that cause tumors in laboratory animals.

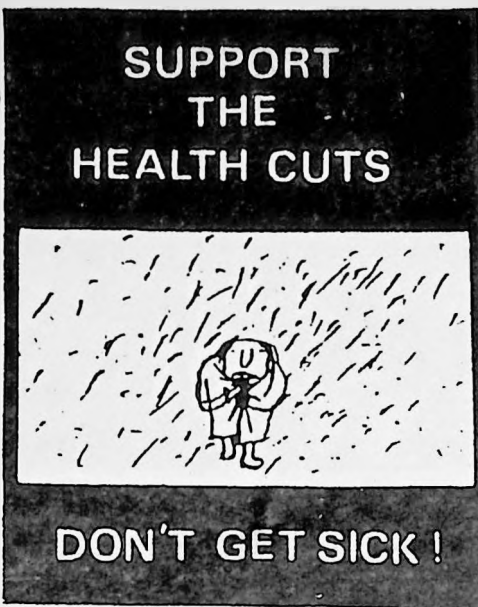
All the dyes — including some linked to birth defects and allergic reactions — have petroleum, or coal-tar bases. Among them are Yellow 5 and 6, and Red 3, used for candy and soft drinks. These dyes account for more than half the volume of all food colors. According to Wolfe, children are the major "target/victims of food dyes...over 1 million children will have consumed a total of more than one pound of coal-tar food dyes by the time they are 12."

Many of these dyes have been banned in other countries. But in the U.S., the FDA has been delaying action for years, a fact that led to the Public Citizen lawsuit.

Industry argues that food dyes are important to maintain identities of certain processed items. Consumers, it's claimed, expect red things to be red, orange things to be orange, etc. That argument cuts no ice with Public Citizen. It asserts, "Products such as Dannon yogurt ('no artificial anything'), General Mills' Cheerios (no Yellow 5, as in the past), and many other show, by their extraordinary success, that we can all do very well without these dyes."

— Solidarity 3/85

"It Turns Out To Be More Horn Than Plenty"



Mike Constable/Union Art Service

## SURPLUS CHEESE

Strands of barbed wire and a chain-link fence  
Are keeping out the hungry masses  
Who stand in the cold for government surpluses.  
Tall gates open as cars and bodies merge to be "first"  
In a line of thousands.  
Not everyone can be number one but still the mob moves on  
To "hurry up and wait."  
Children run wildly through the crowd  
Oblivious to the cold, their cheeks blushing from the icy air.  
Hours of sitting, standing, moving back and forth  
As we attempt to ward off the chill of an early winter morning.  
I see the eyes of poor women, the hands of feeble women,  
And all who must wait patiently for their meager hand-outs.  
The poor are old. The poor are young. Poverty does not discriminate —  
Only people do.

Katherine Owen  
Fayetteville, AK



Children's Defense Fund

## An Example of Hunger

In Boston, which has a total population of 570,000, there are 200,000 residents living at or below the poverty line. Project Bread Hunger Hotline monitors 300 food pantries and soup kitchens, all run by church-affiliated nonprofit groups in greater Boston, and has found that in 1984 the numbers being fed nearly doubled: 44 soup kitchens served 114,500 a week in 1984, up from 72,000 in 1983. In some cases there is a seven-year wait for public housing, so people who must

choose pay their rent before buying food. The figures are horrifying and the bare numbers represent only one city. According to Rep. Mickey Leland (D-TX), reporting for the House Select Committee on Hunger, these figures are increasing all over the country. In San Francisco, for example, Glide Memorial Church is currently feeding 3000 people each day.

— Boston Mobilizer,  
Feb./Mar. 1985

## Black Men & Poverty

A study conducted by the Center for the Study of Social Policy states that rapid rise in the number of Black families headed by single women is due to the unemployment problems of Black men.

Entitled **The Flip Side of Black Families Headed by Women: The Economic Status of Black Men**, the study discounts current research that suggests that teenage pregnancy and income-assistance programs are the cause for the rise in families headed by Black women. It points out that 46% of the 8.8 million Black men of

working age are not in the work force. This compares to 22% of white men of working age.

The study's authors, Tom Joe and Peter Yu, state that without jobs, Black men are unlikely to head families. Since 1960, the number of Black families headed by women has nearly tripled from 889,000 to 2.7 million, accounting for 41.9% of all Black families in 1983. In 1960, 75% of all Black men were working, while only 54% were working in 1982.

# Cheating Poor Kids

by Joy Portugal

Two recent reports show that poor children in the U.S. are being cheated of an equal education.

Emily Feistrizer, an education analyst, concluded that student achievement rises with family income levels and the level of parents' education — and she said children from poor families "consistently fail to achieve in school at the level of children from affluent families."

The report is called "Cheating Our Children: Why We Need School Reform." It shows that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of poor children in the last 15 years. One in five children now lives in poverty, and 23% of the children under six are poor. One in

five children is being raised by a mother with no father in the home, and the number of households headed by women has doubled since 1970 and tripled since 1960. One-third of all households headed by women are poor.

This report was published just a few weeks after the National Coalition of Advocates for Students issued a report charging that "state and local financing of schools adds up to a conspiracy to spend more money on rich kids and less money on poor kids."

The report says discrimination by race, class, and sex, as well as inequitable financing and lack of early childhood education, are major problems that haven't been dealt with in earlier studies of the U.S. education system.

Racial discrimination continues to be a barrier to quality education, the report said. Sixty-three percent of Black students attend predominantly Black schools, and only 8.5% of the nation's teachers are members of minority groups. Dropout rates are higher for minority students than for whites.

The average child from a family in the bottom quarter of income groups receives four fewer years of education than a child from the top quarter of income groups.

## RADIATED HOUSING?

In this wealthiest of nations, Congress finally allotted funds to put thousands of the homeless in renovated army bases throughout the country. According to *Madness Network News* (vo. 7 no. 5), the bases are in remote, rural, predominantly white areas, and are more fit for concentration camps than housing for urban poor, largely people of color.

MNN cites Camp Parks in Alameda County, CA., a former army base surrounded by high fences and barbed wire. The isolated camp houses a prison, from whose kitchen meals may be served to the shelter.

Camp Parks was used for radioactive experiments for over 2 years. Soil, water, and buildings were contaminated with radioactive particles to simulate nuclear fallout. The county claims to have tested the camp and found "safe" radiation levels. Plutonium, poisonous for 500,000 years, was one of the particles used in the experiments, and can cause cancer.

Many physicians believe there is no "safe" level of radiation. Besides, says MNN, if the camp is so "safe," why have they started bringing in bottled water to the prison, and why has the Salvation Army insisted that the only way it will administer the project is if the county and state bear the legal liability?

## Vacation at a Hospital!

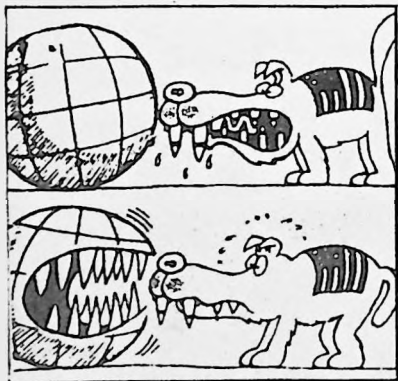
While the administration is cutting health care for the poor, the nation's hospitals are making things better for the rich. They're installing luxury suites — with things like decorative fireplaces, gilt-framed mirrors, and gourmet meals served on fine china — all at a price that only the wealthy can afford. Why? "The underlying reason," reports *Newsweek*, "is money, pure and simple." By charging more for a hospital stay, hospital income goes up. At St. Luke's in New York, one official says, "You have to keep reminding yourself it's a hospital and not the Waldorf-Astoria." Meanwhile, the number of people who lack adequate health insurance in the U.S. today has risen to 25 million.



# Women and Smoking



- According to recent figures released by the American Cancer Society, the number of female smokers has almost caught up with men, largely because more men have given up the habit. While 31% of the men in a recent Gallup poll were smokers, an additional 29% of those polled said they had given up smoking. The percentage of women smoking was 28%, but only 17% said they had kicked the habit.
- In 1963, 6588 American women died of lung cancer; in 1985 the disease will kill an estimated 38,600.
- Factoring in the state's population increase, California's lung cancer death rate for women has more than doubled from 14 per 100,000 in 1970 to a predicted 30 per 100,000 in 1983. By contrast, the state's death rate for breast cancer has remained virtually constant over the same period at 28 per 100,000.
- For a woman between the ages of 35 and 44 who smokes more than two packs a day, cigarette-related medical bills and lost work will add up to an average of \$20,152 over her lifetime.
- Between 1950 and 1979, the lung cancer death rate rose 199% for white women and 188% for nonwhite women. If lung cancer statistics are excluded, death rates for all other cancers fell 12% for white women and 13% for nonwhite women.
- If a woman smokes, her chances of developing lung cancer are 2-3 times greater than that of a nonsmoking woman.
- Though the percentage of women smokers is declining, more women are smoking and smoking more heavily than they have in the past, causing lung cancer death rates for women to rise. By 1986 it is expected that lung cancer will surpass breast cancer as the nation's number one cancer killer among women.
- Pregnant women who smoke have a higher rate of miscarriage, stillbirths, premature births, and complications of pregnancy. More of their babies die soon after birth than the newborn of nonsmoking mothers.
- Women who smoke heavily have nearly three times as much bronchitis and emphysema, about 75% more chronic sinusitis, and 50% more peptic ulcers than women who do not smoke.
- After stopping cigarettes, the risk of a woman developing lung and laryngeal cancer drops steadily, equalling that of non-smokers within 10-15 years.
- According to a study conducted in Denmark, cigarette smoking may impair a woman's ability to breast feed. Women who smoke tend to stop breast feeding their infants at a much earlier stage than do non-smokers. Researchers attribute this to the fact that heavy smokers have lower levels of prolactin (a pituitary hormone that stimulates the production of milk), probably a result of the nicotine they inhale.
- The risk of sudden infant death syndrome is increased for infants whose mothers or fathers smoke.



According to a survey of 200 federal bureaucrats, the best-organized managers are women. Women are more likely to keep a daily log of projects to be done, to rank tasks by priority, and to schedule important business for peak energy periods. Just how did women get to be so efficient? Psychologist Lynn Offermann says the skill comes from having to combine household and child-rearing duties.

# TOXIC "SOLUTIONS"

The Action Bulletin of the Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes is always packed with interesting information. If you are concerned about the corruption of our environment, you might subscribe (CCHW, P.O. Box 926, Arlington, VA 22216). In the meantime, we have picked out a few items of interest from a recent issue:

## Chamber of Commerce Gave Reagan EPA "Hit List"

U.S. Chamber of Commerce president Richard Leshner met with Reagan's Personnel Director E. Pendleton James right after the 1980 election to give him a list of 8 EPA officials the Chamber wanted fired. James said he couldn't recall such a list and Anne Gorsuch says she threw the list away. The eight officials on the list are gone.

## Fox in the Chicken Coop

Roger Mazulla, who used to sue EPA to block enforcement of environmental laws, when he worked for the Mountain States Legal Foundation has been named acting Assistant Attorney General in charge of lands and natural resources for the U.S. Justice Department. "I am proud of what I did at Mountain States, and I agree with the perspective of that organization."

## EPA Administers "Pollution Stamps"

With the approval of the conservative U.S. Supreme Court, EPA may allow corporations to accumulate "ERC's" (Emission Control Credits) when they operate plants below clean air standards. Companies can use their ERC's to cover other plants that pollute above legal standards. Soon, under a rule about to be re-

leased, companies can SELL their ERCs to other polluters and a new company, AER\*X, has been formed by a former EPA official to serve as a "commodity broker" to trade ERCs.

AER\*X is a division of Residuals Management Technology, a wholly owned subsidiary of Wisconsin Power and Light. AER\*X chief, John Palmisano worked on regulatory reform at EPA. He says that now, "you don't have to jeopardize" finances for the environment.

The ERC program is part of EPA's "Bubble Concept" where EPA looks an entire area or industry, rather than a single pollution source and averages out the pollution count.

## Granny Fined \$1000, Dumper \$25

The prize for the most unusual crime-and-punishment story goes to the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona. Tombstone Explorations, Inc. dumped 100,000 gallons of cyanide into the soil (and drew a \$25 fine). The following day, trucks hauling the tainted material were zipping along the road splashing school children with mud and making them jump off the road. The air was filled with a strong cyanide smell. Gabe Brett, a 62-year old Tombstone grandmother, decided this had to stop, so she, her husband and three neighbors linked arms and made a human chain to block the trucks. When one of the truck drivers got angry and started waving his arms at Gabe, she slapped him. Well, this was good for a \$1000 fine from local Magistrate Alfred Pickett. The fine was overturned on appeal on the condition that Gabe would shake the trucker's hand. She did, but the judge commented that the look on her face was like she had just been made to swallow something awful. That's the truth!

## A SHORT, SIMPLE ANSWER TO THE WORLD PROBLEMS AND A COMMENTARY THEREON

Drown all the women, screw all the men and the Lord will have to start choosing again.

Women have drowned in blood and tears for endless years and men have been screwed by the systems they've brewed regardless of peers. The Lord, I have heard on the highest word, pleads age, has given up the gavel and refuses to work or travel. So it's left after all to us to mark a new reverence for all life by building a sturdy, omniferous Ark leaving out only room for strife.

Elsen Lubetsky

## DEATH BY GOVERNMENT EDICT

The Federal/State bureaucracy recently condemned Carolyn Grey to death, leaving her six-year old daughter motherless.

What crime had Carolyn Grey committed? Only the crime of being poor in a rich state where, President Reagan says, we're all better off than we were four years ago!

Carolyn Grey is not better off . . . her problems are over forever, but her daughter must live with the memory that her mother died because the government denied her medical care.

While the bureaucrats were using the excuse that a liver transplant for the 40-year old Grey would be "experimental," Wm. Schroeder in another state was receiving a highly experimental artificial heart. His surgery, however, will lay the basis for huge returns to the "for profit" Humana hospital chain. Carolyn Grey would return no profit to anyone. Her physician, however humane and sympathetic, was also entangled in a medical system which distributes life or death on the basis of rich or poor.

When will Americans demand a medical care system to provide the best care equally to all who need it? We will have a comprehensive national health service when we force the government to put people's welfare first.

—Feb. Newsletter, Delaware WREE.

## Women in Congress

### House (22)

**California:** Sala Burton, D; Barbara Boxer, D; Bobbi Fiedler, R.  
**Colorado:** Patricia Schroeder, D.  
**Connecticut:** Barbara B. Kennelly, D; Nancy L. Johnson, R.  
**Illinois:** Cardiss Collins, D; Lynn Martin, R.  
**Kansas:** Jan Meyers, R.  
**Louisiana:** Lindy (Mrs. Hale) Boggs, D.  
**Maine:** Olympia J. Snowe, R.  
**Maryland:** Helen Delich Bentley, R; Barbara A. Mikulski, D; Marjorie S. Holt, R; Beverly B. Byron, D.  
**Nebraska:** Virginia Smith, R.  
**Nevada:** Barbara F. Vucanovich, R.  
**New Jersey:** Marge Roukema, R.  
**Ohio:** March Kaptur, D; Mary Rose O'Keefe, D.  
**Rhode Island:** Claudine Schneider, R.  
**Tennessee:** Marilyn Lloyd, D.

### Senate: (2)

**Florida:** Paula Hawkins, R.  
**Kansas:** Nancy Landon Kassebaum, R.

## Blacks in Congress

### House (20)

**California:** Ronald V. Dellums, D; Julian C. Dixon, D; Augustus F. Hawkins, D; Mervyn M. Dymally, D.  
**District of Columbia:** Walter E. Fauntroy, D.\*  
**Illinois:** Charles A. Hayes, D; Gus Savage, D; Cardiss Collins, D.  
**Maryland:** Parren J. Mitchell, D.  
**Michigan:** John Conyers Jr., D; George W. Crockett Jr., D.  
**Missouri:** William Clay, D; Alan Wheat, D.  
**New York:** Edolphus Towns, D; Major R. Owens, D; Charles B. Rangel, D.  
**Ohio:** Louis Stokes, D.  
**Pennsylvania:** William H. Gray III, D.  
**Tennessee:** Harold E. Ford, D.  
**Texas:** Mickey Leland, D.  
 \*non-voting delegate

## Hispanics in Congress

### House (12)

**California:** Edward R. Roybal, D; Matthew G. Martinez, D; Esteban Edward Torres, D.  
**New Mexico:** Manuel Lujan Jr., R; Bill Richardson, D.  
**New York:** Robert Garcia, D.  
**Puerto Rico:** Jaime Fuster, Popular Dem.\*  
**Texas:** E. "Kika" de la Garza, D; Henry B. Gonzalez, D; Albert G. Bustamante, D; Solomon P. Ortiz, D.  
**Virgin Islands:** Ron de Lugo, D.\*  
 \*non-voting delegate

The lives of 72 women of color are to be recorded and preserved at Radcliffe Library by this summer.

Radcliffe's Schlesinger Library in Massachusetts began its "Black Women Oral History Project" in 1976 and is now winding up the program, which features interviews with 72 older Black women who have made substantial contributions to their professions or communities.

Radcliffe has also arranged to distribute copies of the transcripts to 13 libraries around the U.S.

# Pay Equity: The Facts

Women of color earn less than either White men, men of color or White women. To an even greater extent than women overall, women of color hold the lowest paying jobs.

Women of color are concentrated in a small number of occupational categories, as are White women. 59 1/2% of Black women work in only two of twelve major occupations — clerical and service work — compared to 53.3% of White women who work in those two occupations.

Clerical work now accounts for almost one-third of women workers in nearly every racial and ethnic group;

The jobs held by Black women have shifted significantly from blue-collar, operative work to white-collar work: clerical, professional, technical, managerial and sales.

Mexican American and Puerto Rican women remain concentrated in operative occupations, although this occupational category is second for both of these populations to clerical work.

- It takes a woman 9 days of full-time labor, on the average, to earn what a man makes in 5 days.
- 4 out of 5 women work in traditionally female occupations — clerical retail sales and service — which are paid 20% less than men's jobs requiring similar levels of complexity and responsibility.
- If wives and female heads of households were paid the wages that similarly qualified men earn, half the families now living in poverty would not be poor.
- Minority women are most likely to work in the lowest paid of all women's occupations and experience the most extreme poverty of all.
- In 1979, 1 out of every 3 households headed by women lived in poverty, compared to 1 out of every 18 male-headed households.

## American Love Story

"I don't wanna be up to my ass in mortgages," he said. So she inserted a hanger up into her uterus and quietly lay down. And quietly bled.

Molly Woulfe  
Chicago, IL

- The number of female-headed families with children increased 81% during the 1970s: in 1979 5.3 million women supported their children without husbands present.
- It takes \$25,047 a year to maintain a family of 4 at an "intermediate" standard of living — \$15,000 more than the average earning for women.
- Women in unions earn more than 30% more than non-union women but only 12% of working women are organized as compared with 33% of men.
- In 1870, 97.5% of all clerical workers were men; they earned twice as much as blue collar workers. Today, 80% of clerical workers are women—they earn considerably less.

Comparable Work Project  
488 41st Street, No. 5  
Oakland, CA 94609

## Some Background Data

Industrial countries around the world have witnessed the steady increase in the number of married women in the labor force for the past century. In the U.S., the employment rate of wives under age 60 has jumped dramatically from 4.6% in 1890 to over 50% today, signaling the replacement of the inherently flawed "breadwinner system" of sex roles with the new "egalitarian system."

Kingsley Davis, Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of South California and Senior Research Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, estimates that if the current trend continues, married women will match the labor force participation rate of married men by the year 2000. This trend is particularly pronounced among wives under age 35.

The breadwinner system, says Davis in the September issue of *Population and Development Review*, published by the Population Council, was triggered by the Industrial Revolution, which shifted the locus of work from the home to outside and caused an actual physical division of labor between husband and wife. When this happened, economic production and familial regeneration were split apart for the first time in history. The author thus asserts that the novel "division of labor between husband and wife that arose historically from the separation of the workplace from the home is not the 'normal' or 'traditional' pattern. Rather, it is a recent aberration that arose in a particular stage of development and tends to recur in countries now undergoing development."

The breadwinner system seemed "natural" because it was characterized by two features intrinsic to the age-old household economy: the husband remained dominant and the wife continued to be devoted to childrearing. It was further protected by social and legal controls that sprang up



Oh, that explains the difference in our salaries!

## Presents Both Sides

Before the debate over Medicaid funding for abortion in the New York State legislature, the controversial anti-choice film, *The Silent Scream* was being shown for four weeks running in the Legislative Office Building. Assemblywoman May W. Newburger felt compelled to "make sure both sides of the issue were raised." She brought in two videotape presentations of medical and professional experts who answered the allegations made about the abortion procedure in the film.

"There is great omission of fact as well as distortion and misrepresentation in *The Silent Scream*. My intent is merely to set the record straight."

The first film was a 23-minute video produced by Washington State Planned Parenthood featuring doctors and professors from the University of Washington-Seattle, School of Medicine. This video was shown for two weeks at the same time *The Silent Scream* was presented. Viewers were able to see one film and then the other.

When the anti-choice film was shown again, Newburger also showed her second videotape presentation — a ten-minute segment from the March 4 CBS Morning News in which a number of different medical experts from around the country were interviewed.

"Each film appeared to come up with

the same conclusion," said Newburger. "*The Silent Scream* misrepresents too many facts. The pro-choice movement has worked long and hard to insure access to safe and legal abortions.

"It is estimated that perhaps as much as 50% of the women who were forced to have illegal abortions before the procedure became legal died from ensuing complications. It would be tragic if distortions and gross misrepresentations of fact sent women back to coat-hanger abortions in alleys.

"Abortion is not cosmetic surgery; it is not something women opt for on a whim. The anti-choice backers of *The Silent Scream* should take a few history lessons before they continue to distort our past and further complicate our future."

To make sure his students see the world from the patient's point of view, Doctor David Hemsell, the Chief of Gynecology at the Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, urges his male class members to hoist themselves onto the examining table, slide their feet into the metal stirrups at the table's end, and then spread their legs.

Says Hemsell: "The only way to understand women's feelings is to be there." Most of the male students, he adds, "get real embarrassed" when confronted with their new-found perspective. "You can see the impact of being in that position hit them in the face like a two by four."

Just think what would happen if Hemsell duplicated examining room conditions even more faithfully, because his male students keep their clothes on.

# SILENT NO MORE

"WE ARE YOUR MOTHERS, YOUR DAUGHTERS, YOUR SISTERS, YOUR FRIENDS, AND ABORTION IS A CHOICE THAT WE HAVE MADE."

From coast to coast, women who have never shared their personal decisions to have an abortion are stepping forward to tell their stories. Women of all ages and all walks of life are determined that their voices shall be heard in state Capitols, in halls of Congress, and at the White House.

Join us today by writing a letter telling why you (or your friend or relative) made the abortion decision, the reason your decision was right for you, and how your life has been affected.

WRITE:

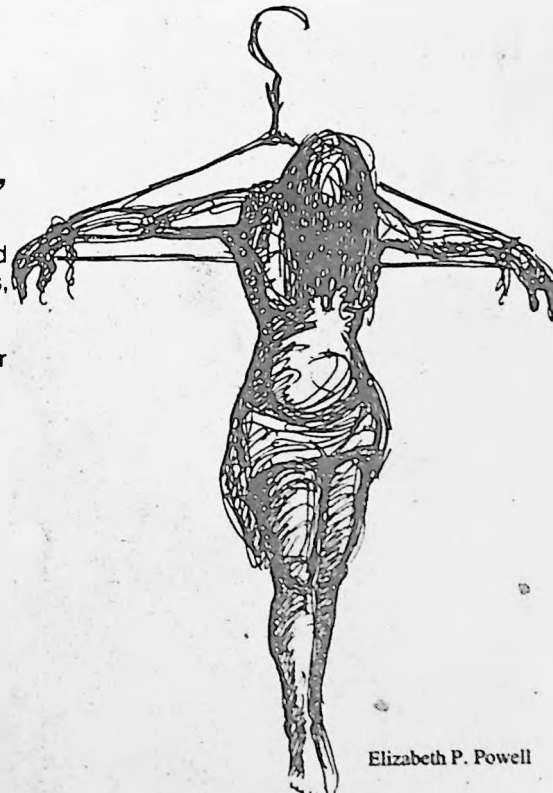
Dear President Reagan OR Dear Member of Congress OR whatever salutation you prefer

SIGN:

Your Full Name OR First Name Only OR Jane Roe  
Address OR City, State OR City, State  
City, State, Zip Code OR Zip Code OR City, State, Zip Code

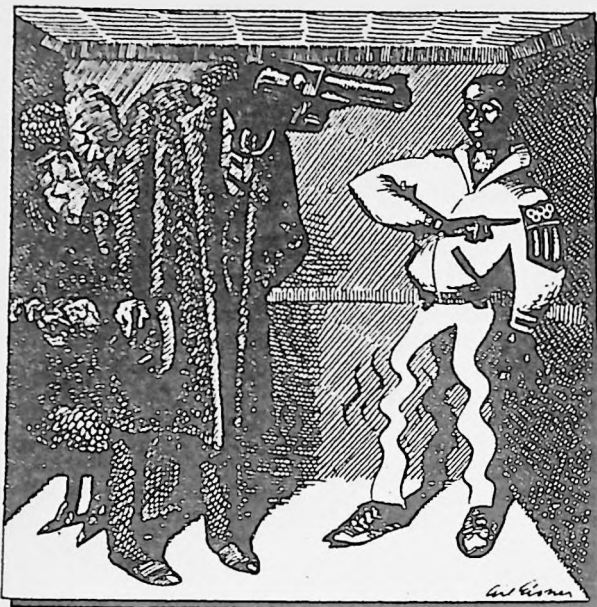
SEND Your Letters to:

Abortion Rights: Silent No More  
National Abortion Rights Action League  
1424 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005



Elizabeth P. Powell





THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1983

### A Confrontation

He had been acclaimed a national hero when he won a gold medal at the 1984 Summer Games, and when he went to visit his manager the night after a professional triumph early last month, Mark Breland proudly wore his Olympic team emblem on his jacket.

But when he followed two men and a woman onto the elevator of his manager's East Side apartment building, one of the men did not see the Olympic patch. He saw a young black man wearing a dungaree jacket, and according to Breland, the man did not hesitate in pulling a pistol from his hip pocket.

"If I had sneezed, he would have shot me," Breland said the other day, still bothered by the incident he said occurred the evening of Jan. 6, the day after the Olympic welterweight champion and five-time New York Golden Gloves champion had won his second pro bout.

Breland, noting that the confrontation occurred just two weeks after Bernhard Goetz had become a hero to

some New Yorkers after he shot four black youths on a subway train, explained the man's actions in the elevator as follows:

"It was simply because I'm young and black."

"I didn't know whether to leave or not, but I thought if I left, the guy would shoot me in the back," he said. "I was scared to move."

Finally, he said, he pushed the elevator button for the 11th floor, where his manager, Shelly Finkel, lived. When the elevator started with a lurch, Breland recalled, the man who had pulled the gun spoke the only words uttered by anyone during the entire incident: "I guess when you press 11, the elevator gets nervous."

Breland said the man still had the gun out, holding it at his side, next to Breland's leg, and kept it there until Breland got off at Finkel's floor.

Finkel called the police, and three officers, one of whom was a woman, arrived. Breland was confronted with a drawn pistol for the second time, and, he is convinced, for the same reason.

"A lady officer came up, and she had her gun out, her finger on the trigger," he said, "and she was looking dead at me, as if I had done something wrong."

While waiting for the police, Finkel had learned from the doorman that one of the men on the elevator — not the one with the gun — was a tenant who lived on the 33d floor. Finkel called the tenant, Breland said, and was told that the man with the gun was a friend who worked as a detective and had a permit for it.

The police later questioned the tenant, Breland said, and they told Breland that the tenant denied that his friend, who had since left with the woman, had a gun. Breland said he was angry at the police reaction to his complaint.

"They acted like nothing had happened," he said. "They told us we might as well drop it. I bet if I was a white kid, it would have been different."

The police said Breland's complaint was on file, but they provided no details of the investigation.

## WREE Woman's Initiatives

Dear Cheryl Craig:

It has been my intention to be a more active force in the organizing of a WREE group in the Portland area, but that just wasn't possible—for many reasons. However, I do believe that if you send letters and/or other information about WREE and what is happening to the enclosed list of women, hopefully there will be much better results!!! Some of these women might just send money; others might be really interested in knowing more about an organization such as WREE... and they might be really into setting up a WREE group in Portland.

In March, I was invited to have a WREE table, for the third year, at the very wonderful and exciting Women's Festival held at the local YWCA. Many women took the newspaper and other information which I prepared for distribution and were quite interested in the Women's Bill of Rights.

These are difficult times for me right now as I am doing as much as I can with the amount of energy I seem to have. I am the director-teacher of a small pre-school which will be starting up in a short time. Besides there being so much to do, our enrollment is down—even with our small size—and I must work on that. This is another activity which I must do alone because of the size and because I am the only teacher. And, our daughter and her husband, who has been unemployed for a very long time, and her family are about to become partners in our household in a very short time—which means combining two households. This is our first time that we are re-united under one roof since she left home many years ago, but I do not

think this is at all unusual for these pressing times. The realization of that will make us all work much harder to achieve our goals of peace, justice, unity, equality. Many of our young people are now learning the meaning of struggle the hard way. My greatest hope is that they will put it all together and channel their energies and concerns into positive activities to make the world a better place for themselves and the new generation they are bringing into it! Education, awareness, knowledge are powerful tools and, I hope the people will use them well, particularly in November at the polls.

Keep up the good work! And, continue doing such a fine job! We all need that kind of leadership. If some of your activities are focused on this area/region, do let me know. Warmest regards to all those sisters, whom I have never met, who work so dedicatedly and lovingly and who have so persistently/insistently pricked at my conscience by continuing to keep in touch with me.

Our contribution, although small, is also to welcome Ashna Sophia Charlotte Brock, our first granddaughter, who is one month old today, to the Sisterhood, so that she might grow up strong and healthy, having good reason to smile that lovely smile just budding forth, and so that she might live happily, along with her brothers and all the other people, in a great world which is safe and healthful and where there is peace and justice and equality and economic security for all!!!

In Peace and Sisterhood... and all the struggles which go along with it!

Gerri Peck  
Portland, OR

American Airlines is exporting clerical work to underpaid laborers in the Caribbean. A quarter ton of used tickets are shipped to Barbados on a daily basis, where Barbadians are paid as little as \$1.75 an hour to enter data into American's computers. The information is then relayed back to U.S. offices by satellite.

"We could be pioneering a major trend," says one company official. Barbados was one of the Caribbean countries to back the U.S. invasion of Grenada, where U.S. business also is looking at investments to take advantage of high unemployment and cheap labor.

### A SUMMARY OF REAGAN FAILURES

- Real Weekly Earnings (adjusted for inflation) averaged \$269.82 for the three years 1981 to 1983 as compared to \$292.07 from 1960 to 1980.
- Poverty increased an average of 7.4 percent per year between 1980 and 1982 (the latest available data) as compared to a 2.6 percent per year decrease from 1960 to 1980.
- Inflation increased an average of 6.5 percent per year during 1981 to 1983 as compared to an average rate of 5.2 percent from 1960 to 1980.
- Mortgage Interest rates averaged around 14 percent for the three-year period 1981-1983 as compared to an 8 percent annual average from 1960 to 1980.
- Family Income adjusted for inflation dropped by 3.4 percent in 1981 and 1.4 percent in 1982 (the latest available data) as compared to an annual average increase of 1.5 percent between 1960 and 1980.
- Real Gross National Product grew only 1.3 percent per year on average during 1981 to 1983 as compared to a 3.5 percent average during the years from 1960 to 1980.
- Investment in plant and equipment fell by an average annual rate of 2.6 percent during 1981 to 1983 as compared to an average increase of 4.4 percent per year from 1960 to 1980.
- Industrial Production grew an average of two-tenths of one percent during 1981 to 1983 as compared to an average yearly growth rate of 4.1 percent from 1960 to 1980.

## Why Farmers Go Bankrupt while Supermarket Prices Soar

95% of all farms account for only 16% of net farm income. The other 5% control 57% of the market and 84% of net farm income.

Who are these giant agribusinesses? ITT, Dow Chemical, Tenneco, Boeing, Occidental Petroleum, Coca-Cola, Greyhound, Del Monte, Gulf & Western.

These corporations are also into weapons production, aircraft, communications, oil, chemicals, transportation. In other words, they're into making huge profits.

They force the independent farmer to sell his crops for unfair, low prices, and then process the food and sell it to us for equally unfair, high prices.

Farmer-worker unity could force these agribusinesses to pay higher prices to the farmer and charge us lower prices at the counter.

• Write your senator and representative and demand federal aid to the independent farmer.

Occidental Petroleum owns Iowa Beef Co. It buys cattle at below cost from farmers and sells to consumers at premium prices. But it also broke a strike at Iowa Beef in 1983 and forced the workers to take a wage cut.

Del Monte is closing down canneries in the U.S. because it's more profitable to pay Mexican cannery workers 23¢ an hour and Filipino workers 15¢ an hour.

200,000 mainly independent farmers are in danger of going bankrupt this year. In 1984, farmers paid \$32 billion to the banks in interest on their debt, which totals \$223 billion. The rate of foreclosure of farms has increased 11-fold in the last four years. In one area of Minnesota last winter, 10 farmers faced with bankruptcy committed suicide.

In spite of this, President Reagan recently vetoed emergency legislation that would have aided those farmers on the brink of disaster. But he fought long and hard to get \$1.5 billion for 21 MX missiles.

The independent farmer is being ground under by billion-dollar corporations. These same corporations are among those which are breaking strikes, cutting wages, and destroying whole industrial communities.



U.N. photo

# STRAWS in the WIND

by Janet O'Crowley

AS THE WORLD TURNS: Spanish Parliament passes abortion rights law . . . Saudi women given right to check into hotel room (without husband or guardian consent) . . . Seventh-grader in Missouri wondering why the new priest at St. Michael's will not allow girls to serve as "alterboys": "If it hadn't been for Mary, who would have had Jesus?"

And where is Marietta Kuntz, the 30-year-old blond Swiss actress, linguist, Ph.D. with honors in Literature, turned seaman, now? Associated Press said this versatile young woman who made brilliant grades in high school and college cherished a secret dream of going to sea; chose Oslo Seaman's School because they accepted females; studied Norwegian for 14 weeks, and put in a year as the only woman deckhand on a freighter. Back on land, she qualified for a Master's license, doing the whole curriculum from meteorology to medicine to radiotelephony, and when last heard from, was building up seniority on a tanker. Marietta, wherever you are, good luck!

Jackie Smith (female) and Andrew Boswell of the Georgia College newspaper, the *Colonnade*, hackled at rules of a scholarship pageant, which sounded more like "Miss America." So they entered a beef roast, along with \$30 fee, seven black and white photos, and affidavits that *the roast had not been married*, had not cohabited with another roast, never had an abortion, nor plans to marry during its reign. Who was the winner? Are they keeping this on ice?

Ann Simonton, fashion mannequin who became a role model (saying, "Models are glamorized prostitutes. You go in and sell your body.") inspired Univ. of Calif. at Davis students to perpetrate violence against *Playboy* and *Penthouse* magazines in the campus bookstore. Simonton, who said she had earned \$20,000 for a single Camay ad, was not repentant after arrest. "Civil disobedience is empowering and useful." She mentioned the Boston Tea Party and the suffragettes.

Conservative spokesperson Phyllis Schlafly is leading a campaign by parents' groups in 20 states to demand that public schools get parents' written permission before holding classroom discussions on such topics as abortion; homosexuality; pre- or extramarital sex; nuclear war; witchcraft; suicide; and evolution. The groups say those subjects — along with 27 others — could "undermine their child's beliefs and moral values."

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced in February that its emphasis will shift from broad complaints against large companies and entire industries to more limited cases involving specific people. Clarence Thomas, who chairs the Commission of five Reagan appointees, said the change restored the EEOC's original function. But a spokesperson for Women Employed said, "If the government only pursues discrimination in individual cases, it will not make progress in eliminating discrimination overall."

Since Ronald Reagan took office and began slashing social spending, the poor and disadvantaged have had to rely more and more on private charity. And guess who's helping out most? According to the

IRS, people with low and moderate incomes are more generous than those at the upper end of the economic scale. Between 1981 and 1982, workers earning between \$10,000 and \$50,000 increased their charitable contributions by 1.1% — but those taking in \$100,000 or more cut their gifts by up to 30%.

Workers may not have noticed any "economic recovery" in their paycheck but their bosses sure have.

A consulting firm's study showed that the average total pay increase for senior executives was 12.6% in 1984 — up from 5.6% in 1983. Total pay includes salary and bonuses.

The survey by Sibson & Co. of Princeton, N.J., showed that 90% of all executives got pay raises in 1984, compared to 78% the year before. The biggest bosses got the biggest hikes: chief executive officers averaged 17.8% raises in 1984, and chief operating officers raked in 18.5% more.

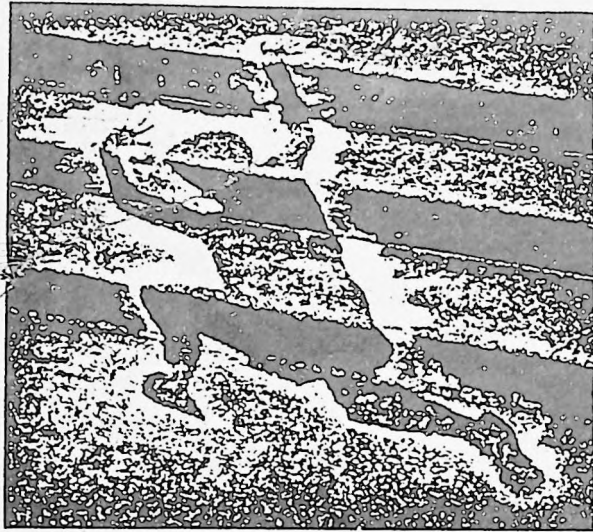
## Women and work: the fertility connection

As more and more married women play a bigger role in the economic life of developed countries, a trend to smaller families has emerged which is creating population problems in several industrialized states. In Western Europe, for example, the current total fertility rate is an average of only 1.7 births per woman while it should be at least two births to maintain the population status quo.

One group of countries with long experience in tackling the problem of raising fertility and female employment rates simultaneously are those in Eastern Europe, where well over 70 percent of the working-age women have jobs, an extremely high proportion by world standards. Fertility rates in these countries average 2.2 births per woman of child-bearing age.

The commercialization of outer space continues apace. The Reagan administration has authorized a firm called Space Services, Inc. to put its clients to eternal rest among the stars. By 1986, the business hopes to launch cremated human remains in orbit using the nation's first commercial spacecraft.

According to the UCLA Law Review, after one year of divorce, a woman's standard of living decreases by 73%, a man's increases by 42%. For median-income families (\$20,000-\$29,000), after divorce the woman's income is less than half what it was in marriage; the man's is 97%.



## THE INTERNATIONAL SHADOW PROJECT

### Contest for Law Students

Any law student attending law school in 1984-1985 is eligible to participate in the second annual Corliss Lamont Law Student Essay Contest on THE NEW TECHNOLOGY, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT, sponsored by Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute. First prize is \$1000, second prize is \$750, and third prize is \$500.

Judges of the essay contest will be Thomas I. Emerson, Lines Professor of Law Emeritus, Yale Law School; Prof. John Brittain of Connecticut Law School, member of the ACLU Academic Freedom Committee and Board member of National Conference of Black Lawyers; and Ann Fagan Ginger, President of Meiklejohn Institute.

Submit up to 5000 words, by August 1, 1985, typed, with footnotes, double-spaced on white paper. Contestants are encouraged to include discussion of specific current cases, statutes, and administrative proceedings. Essays should cover the problem, the existing law, and proposals for solutions.

The Institute initiated this contest to heighten interest in First Amendment thinking and research. Since 1964 the Institute has worked to defend, strengthen, and extend civil and political rights and liberties, economic rights, and the right to peace.

This contest is made possible by a grant from Dr. Corliss Lamont, philosopher, teacher, humanist, and defender of human rights. Dr. Lamont is Chair of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, author of numerous books on civil liberties, most notably FREEDOM IS AS FREEDOM DOES.

All entries should be submitted to Meiklejohn Institute, Box 673, Berkeley, CA 94701.

AUGUST 6, 1985

When the first atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima forty years ago, human beings who were within three hundred yards of ground zero were instantly vaporized by the searing heat, leaving behind only their shadow.

The remnants of these innocent victims provide the image for the **International Shadow Project**, a solemn memorial with a single purpose: to help people understand and imagine the disappearance of all life through nuclear war.

Participants in the project will work through the night of August 5, 1985, painting human silhouettes on the streets and sidewalks of their communities. On August 6, the fortieth anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, the world will wake up to a compelling warning: thousands and thousands of shadows splashed across the face of the Earth.

It is our expectation that people seeing for themselves what will be left after nuclear war will act to preserve not only their own lives, but will work to continue all life on Earth.

If you would like to participate in the **International Shadow Project** by organizing a project in your community, please contact:

The International Shadow Project  
Portland PAND  
PO Box 40223  
Portland, OR 97240 USA

### CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS. . .

. . . for an anthology on the everyday experiences of women in the U.S.; one of a series about women around the world being published by Express Edition in West Berlin (West Germany).

Seeking essays, short fiction, oral histories, interviews, humor, poems, artwork and photographs (reproducible B/W) evoking the variety of women's experiences — including career women and full-time housewives, in nontraditional jobs and in pink-collar ghetto, in two-career marriages and single mothers on

welfare, teenagers and elderly, women who have chosen abortion or been sterilized against their will, women-identified women and "total women," country and suburban women, and Black, Latina, Native American and Asian-American women.

To acquaint international audience with dreams and realities of women from different ethnic, national and cultural backgrounds in the United States.

Contributions up to 2500 words. Include stamped, self-addressed envelope. Deadline August 31, 1985, to either editor: Barbara Armentrout, 4235 1/2 N. Hermitage, Apt. 1A, Chicago, IL 60613 or Viktoria Hertling, 3330 Wilma Drive, Sparks, NV 89431.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### Kalliope, Women's Art Journal

Seeking work for special issue by women writers and artists who are "differently-abled." Poetry, fiction, interviews, photographs, and visual art. Emphasize poems and short stories. Payment in copies. Deadline June 1, 1985, to: Kalliope Writers Collective, 3939 Roosevelt Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32205.

### Peace Booklist for Children

Free, annotated list of peace books for children 3 - 6 available. Books for parents and teachers included. Send SASE: Peace Book List, Gryphon House, P.O. Box 275, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712. Gryphon House is publisher and distributor of books for preschool children, parents and teachers.

### Drinking Too Much?

If you are one of 5 million U.S. women with a drinking problem, help is available. "New Life" program has helped 10,000 to recover. End days of feeling lonely, isolated, depressed; combat guilt feelings. Write today: Box 618, Quakertown, PA. Send 44¢ stamped envelope. Requests kept confidential.

### 1985 Index/Directory of Women's Media

462 Women's periodicals, 116 presses and publishers, 18 other media categories, 80 bookstores, and much more. Invaluable to women's organizations, public relations and writers. Send \$8 to WIPF (Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press), 3306 Ross Place, N.W., Washington DC 20008.

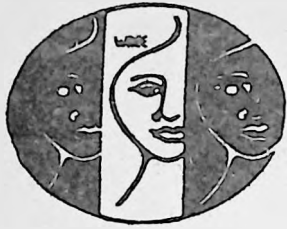
### Curriculum Guide for Teachers

750-page book provides 100 course syllabi and outlines for peace education from political science, literature, anthropology, sociology, international law, engineering, physics and natural sciences disciplines. Includes annotated list of sources for seed money for peace and social justice programs, case study selection, bibliography, lists of organizations, journals and periodicals. Send \$16 to World Policy Institute, 777 UN Plaza, New York City 10017 for Peace and World Order Studies.

### Help the Shattered: America's Battered

Sponsor a battered woman and her children for just a few dollars a month. Providence House provides emergency shelter, food, clothing, and counseling. All donations are tax deductible. Send your donation to: Providence House III, 159-23 89 Ave., Jamaica, NY 11432.





The WREE-VIEW is the publication of  
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Bundle rates are available on request. Membership in WREE is based on agreement with the principles embodied in the WREE National By-Laws. Membership includes a subscription to the WREE-VIEW.

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DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION (WIDF)

WIDF unites 131 organizations in 116 countries. It has Consultative Status (1) with ECOSOC, Consultative Status (B) with UNESCO, and Consultative Status with UNICEF and is on the HLO Special List.

WIDF organized the World Congress of Women (Prague, 8-13 October 1981), attended by 1,000 participants from 133 countries representing 275 national organizations and 96 international organizations, as well as 18 representatives of the UN system.

WIDF originally proposed International Women's Year, proclaimed unanimously by the UN General Assembly in 1972 that resulted in International Women's Year 1975, and then became the "UN Decade for Women 1976-85 Equality, Development & Peace."

Journal of the  
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