

THE WREE-VIEW OF

WOMEN

FOR RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

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from design by Mary Tooley (thanks to Sally Sweet)

CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

From a speech at a WILPF/WREE Human Rights Day Observance

by Vinie Burrows

It is fitting and appropriate to launch the WREE Human Rights Violations Campaign on this day, December 10th, which marks the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That monumental document, an international instrument of profound significance, owes much of its being to the vision and political wisdom of Eleanor Roosevelt. As chairperson of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, she supplied the skill and determination necessary to produce the Declaration and to take the first steps toward its programmatic realization with the covenants. (It is also interesting to note that in the solemn commemorative celebration at the General Assembly a few days ago, no one even mentioned Eleanor Roosevelt in a two-hour ceremony in which many men were extolled. But then again, what else is new?)

It is also an honor to attend the presentation of a special award to Senator Howard Proxmire for his work to pass into law the Genocide Implementation Act, a long name for the US finally joining the human race by making genocide a crime in the United States.

WREE believes that our initiative in launching this campaign on Human Rights Violations is an important measure to promote international and universal observance of basic human rights.

Concentrating on the negation of fundamental rights by the racist nature of all the institutions that impact on our lives in these United States, we are actually insisting and affirming the righteousness of our struggle. That struggle is a positive force. Moreover, because the campaign is rooted in our Women's Bill of Rights it is an international initiative which will in the coming years be proven an innovation in linking the question of women and human rights.

Let us look at the twelve articles of our Women's Bill of Rights, a unique document that asserts our right to live in peace, redirecting the military budget to a budget for human needs; affirming the right to a job at a decent wage; the right to trade union organization; to decent standards of living through social security benefits, pensions, a guaranteed income; provisions for the rights of the child; reproductive freedom; quality health care; affordable housing; a safe environment; an education.

WREE as the US affiliate of the Women's International Democratic Federation is using the campaign on human rights violations aggressively to reveal that although the Declaration of Independence talks about the inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—as a matter of fact those rights are being violated every day. We intend to take the voluminous evidence we are gathering to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and at their upcoming 45th session will ad-

dress these gross and mass violations of the human rights of women in the United States as evidenced by the statistics on unemployment, homelessness, infant mortality, female life expectancy at birth, and much more. This government is not responding to the needs of the people; is not addressing the human rights of its people, particularly its women of color and its poor women.

On the legislative side, the Campaign will work for state and federal laws that will protect, fund, enforce the rights to which every human being is entitled. Each of the twelve articles in WREE's Bill of Rights is the basis for legislation to guarantee those rights—or to eliminate their violation.

In conclusion, I invite all of you to make the WREE Campaign on Human Rights Violations part of your ongoing work on your job, in your union, in your religious institution, at your laundromat, your local grocery store, your civic or political organizations, etc. In one true sense, this campaign is the embodiment of all the struggles that we have been engaged in for most of our lives.

REACH OUT

The National Council of WREE, meeting in Pittsburgh for two days in November, made plans for our next Convention, detailed the Human Rights Violations Campaign, and dealt with the urgent problem of financing our work.

One of the most important decisions taken was that WREE must double its membership in 1989. This means that every member is to bring a new member into WREE.

1989 EACH ONE REACH ONE

If WREE is to carry out its Human Rights Violations Campaign effectively, print the educational brochures, research and document violations for presentation to the United Nations, organize the hearings and forums needed, lobby legislators for the bills and funding to begin to meet our needs and demands—in short, if WREE is to continue to expand our work—then we must draw many more people into our work. Doubling our membership will not only provide some of the financial support needed, it will guarantee that our outreach extends and expands constantly.

1989 EACH ONE REACH ONE

We urge every reader to join WREE NOW if you are not a member. If you are a member, RENEW NOW and sign up a new member at the special EACH ONE REACH ONE rate. When you sign up a new member and renew your own, you can do so at the "combination" rate. When you sign up a two-peo-



Eleanor Roosevelt, a US delegate, confers with colleagues at the first UN General Assembly in 1946. Mrs. Roosevelt also served for several years as the Chair of the UN Human Rights Commission.

March for Women's Equality Women's Lives

WREE has endorsed, and our members are being urged to participate in, the NOW-sponsored March on Washington on April 9. Within the first 100 days of the new administration, Bush needs to read our lips and know that women have no intention of allowing the gains we have won to be reversed. Instead, we will demand new and better legislation until we have won all our rights as women, as human beings.

The first WREE chapter to report on its April 9 plans is our newest chapter in Pennsylvania:

The Montgomery County WREE chapter reports that plans to support the April 9 WOMEN'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON are well under way. The chapter has formed a coalition with the Norristown Area Branch of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and Montgomery County National Organization for Women to begin raising funds for one or more buses to leave directly from Montgomery County, which is a suburb of Philadelphia. Judi Talbot, president of Montgomery County NOW, said, "We must show the incoming administration that women and men have just begun to fight for women's and minorities' rights.

Those of us in NOW are eager to be a part of showing the strength of all human rights organizations working together."

Lorraine Atkeison, coordinator of Montgomery County WREE, stated, "We are pleased that plans are under way at this early date. We are hopeful that more women's, peace, and human rights groups will join with us in this critically important demonstration. We need to show the new administration that we mean business, the peoples' business." Interested people can call 215-277-1076 for more information on the bus trip, the coalition, or WREE in Montgomery County.

ple "combination" of mother/daughter, husband/wife, sisters, co-workers, they, too, can each join at the special combination rate.

1989 EACH ONE REACH ONE

And, all through 1989, remember to give a gift of WREE membership or a

gift subscription to the WREE VIEW of WOMEN for a birthday, for Valentine's Day, International Women's Day, Mother's Day, or just because you believe in WREE. (WREE will send the recipient a gift card.)

Don't just React to issues—WREE-Act: work for equality, justice, and do it with WREE!

1989 EACH ONE REACH ONE JOIN — REJOIN MAKE WREE GROW

	Individual each	Combination each
Sustaining Member	\$50	\$40
Regular Member	\$20	\$15
Low-Income	\$7	\$5

Fill out coupon on back cover.

EDITORIAL

NO BLIND EYE TO RACISM

WREE chapters and members initiate, sponsor, endorse and participate in the struggles and actions against racism in every city they can. Our editorial is from the statement presented to the City Council by Dayton, Ohio, WREE, and tells why WREE women are determined to act against racism on every level.

The Dayton chapter of WREE is unconditionally committed to the attainment of full equality, economic security, and dignity for all women, men, and children. As a women's organization we see these as the conditions for a healthy future for our children. We have consistently striven to build multiracial unity on the basis of the common interest working people share in the struggle for equality. We have consistently taken the position that racism hurts all members of our community and prevents real solutions to the very real problems of jobs, housing, education that affect our families. We are submitting this statement as part of that struggle and search for solutions.

Dayton has been recognized as one of the most residentially segregated cities in the country. Indeed, a recent article in *US News and World Report* placed our city at 16th of the 20 most segregated metropolitan areas of our nation. Our city has also faced particular issues of racism in our police department and our residential communities.

At a local level we have presented frequent testimony to the Dayton City Commission regarding these issues. In the summer of 1986 Alice Anderson testified following the racist attack on the Afro-American residents of Warren Street, and urged the City Commission to pass an ordinance making racist harassment a crime. We urged the City Manager to expedite a report from the Internal Affairs Office of the Dayton police force regarding the racist character of this incident and to insure the punishment of the officers who were derelict in their duty. We urged the City Manager to launch a full-scale investigation of racism in the police department and to develop a pre-

ventive program to combat racism. We urged a strong and immediate public response by our elected officials to make absolutely clear that our city will not tolerate racist attacks by individuals or groups on any member of the community. We also urged a preventive program of multicultural and multiracial education in the school system, an issue we have likewise presented in testimony to the school board.

In conjunction with the Martin Luther King Celebration in January 1987, Margaret Peters presented our testimony urging the City Commission to move in concert with the Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 316. This bill, passed and approved by the Ohio Legislature and Ohio Governor at the end of 1986, increased the penalties for desecration and vandalism; created the offense of ethnic intimidation for committing specified criminal acts by reason of the victim's race, color, religion, or national origin; permitted victims of desecration, vandalism, or intimidation to bring a civil action; and held parents liable for up to \$5000 in compensatory damages, costs, and attorney's fees in a civil suit brought as a result of the committing of these acts by their minor child.

On June 1, 1988, Jana Schroeder testified regarding the appearance within the Dayton police department of a piece of vicious racist material posing as an "application form for the Jesse Jackson campaign." Again, we urged full investigation, a strong and immediate public response by our community leaders, and a movement by the City Commission to enact a local ordinance in concert with the bill passed by the state legislature to help move toward the criminalization of racism and its unacceptability in our community.

Since then there has been a cross burning in our city, a display of racist violence and terror associated with the threat of bodily harm. This highlights the serious problems we still must resolve if our city is to move forward to create an atmosphere that condemns rather than condones racist violence.

We must move toward legislation to stop racist hate activity. We must also move toward mandatory in-service programs within the police department for all employees. A department of our city which has the responsibility to deliver a service to our racially diverse community needs to exemplify appropriate behavior and attitudes for work in a pluralistic and diverse urban community. In an urban environment in which many factors of race, class, and socioeconomic status are daily a part of each and every law enforcement agent's tasks we cannot afford to have individuals held captive by archaic and nonproductive attitudes of racism. Mandatory educational and counseling programs can assist employees of the police department in acquiring the necessary skills to enable them to confront the negative racial attitudes displayed both through individual actions and lack of departmental action.

Thus Dayton WREE calls for and supports preventive programs to combat racism in our police department and our community. In this context we also urge full progress toward affirmative action in hiring and promotion as one of the most effective means of reversing past discrimination. We reject attempts to portray affirmative action as a struggle of black against white, race against gender, or women against men. The current move toward affirmative action for police and firefighters needs broad support to create working conditions that will better serve both employees and residents and help us move forward as a diverse multiracial city. Affirmative action in the police department is an important part of eliminating the increased climate of racism in our city.

Our City Commission has the opportunity to communicate to the employees and residents of this city its commitment to the progressive growth and development of our city. We urge our City Commission, through official and deliberate preventive action, to make clear to all city employees and citizens that the cancerous scourge of racism will not be tolerated among residents or employees of this city.

SOLIDARITY

Dear Armenian, Georgian,
and all Soviet Sisters,

We grieve with you in the tragic destruction that has befallen you families and your people.

In response to your call for all possible assistance, we are urging our members to contribute to the Armenian Relief Fund established by your government through the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C.*

May the sympathy of the U.S. and other

peoples of the world help to comfort and strengthen you.

In Solidarity,
WOMEN FOR RACIAL
& ECONOMIC EQUALITY

Send contributions to:

* Armenian Relief Fund
c/o Riggs National Bank
Account No. 04-08-572-564
Dupont Circle Branch,
1913 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20036

To meet the devastating effects of the hurricane that leveled whole areas of Nicaragua, Pastors for Peace has called for contributions for medicines, supplies, food, etc. The Nicaraguan government, economically battered by the U.S. blockade, and using so much of its resources to fight off the contras armed and supported by the U.S. government, has been facing a crisis of profound proportion.

Those of us who have supported the right of the Nicaraguan people to choose and support their own government, also feel a need to "lend a hand" to the people who are bearing the added burden of the hurricane's effects. Please, help by contributing to the Powdered Milk Fund of Pastors for Peace.

Send contributions earmarked "Powdered Milk Fund" to:

Chelsea-El Jicaral
Sister City Project
P.O. Box 1574, Old Chelsea Sta.
New York, NY 10013

INNS 0892-3116

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

THE WOMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

1. The right to live in peace means nuclear disarmament, nonintervention by the U.S. in other countries, and an end to militarization of our economy and society.
2. The right to live in a peace-oriented society, redirecting the military budget to a budget for human needs and converting military production to civilian production.
3. The right to employment at a living wage, including affirmative action to end discrimination, equal pay for equal or comparable work; paid parental leave and safe working conditions.
4. The right to organize without interference into trade unions to enable the labor movement to represent the interest of all workers.
5. The right to a decent standard of living through Social Security benefits, pensions and a guaranteed income.
6. The right of every child to nurturing and full development including federally funded, nonracist, nonsexist childcare and public education from preschool through college.
7. The right to a federally funded national health care system, based on preventive medicine to include pre- and post-natal care, geriatrics, and industrial medicine.
8. The right to reproductive freedom including federally funded birth control and abortion upon demand, sex education, and an end to experimentation and sterilization abuse.
9. The right to live in decent affordable housing including government-funded construction and subsidies.
10. The right to a safe environment, free from toxic wastes and industrial pollution.
11. The right to a culture that reflects our multinational history and multilingual character and to a society free from racist and sexist violence and degrading images of women.
12. The right to participate fully in the democratic process guaranteed by the Constitution, especially the right to vote.



CLUW Convention Sets Program/Demands

by Margo Nikitas
Labor Editor

Seattle's skies were drizzly and gray, but union spirits were bright among the over 1200 delegates, observers, and guests at the fifth biennial convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) as they met in November to chart a course through the coming storms of the Bush administration.

Pres. Joyce Miller described the challenge in her opening report as one in which the Republican administration and the corporations would make every effort "to extend Reaganomics...and marginalize unions." The key to change she told the convention was the mobilization of labor to enact a national family policy.

Delegates passed a comprehensive "Family Bill of Rights" resolution, calling for national legislation to ensure the basic needs of working women and their families. The Convention urged chapters to build broad local coalitions, educate their members, and work with their unions on these issues.

"We must organize women in large numbers if we are to remain a bargaining force in American life," said keynote Jay Mazur, President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), who described himself proudly as a "card-carrying member of CLUW."

Lenore Miller, President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) and one of three women members of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, saw the problem facing U.S. working women as "a global one, requiring a global solution. Speaking of the runaway shops and the super-exploited workers in the cheap-wage areas, she cautioned, "Let us not be pitted worker against worker," and stressed the need to strengthen the bonds of international solidarity.

This theme was adopted as a resolution calling for contact and exchange of ideas between unionists of the U.S. and all other, including the socialist, countries.

International solidarity was also the theme of an evening concert of labor songs and poems the first night of the convention. Seattle CLUW unveiled a lovely poster its artist-members had designed in solidarity with the Nicaraguan people. Seattle CLUW member and WREE sister Lonnie Nelson read her poetry, including the poster-poem, "A U.S. Mother's Answer."

Nancy Riche, Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Labor Council, spoke forcefully for a women's agenda that emphasizes reproductive rights, including maternity leave and universally accessible, publicly funded childcare.

"Despite the vote on November 8,

the labor movement is not dead, and women are leading the struggle," said William Lucy, President of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, to great applause. Lucy condemned the racist and sexist campaign that had been waged by Bush, and urged participants to "make those Democrats we elected" work for a people's agenda.

Lucy commented that "the real threat to this country is not the Soviet Union but the continued alliance of our government with those who would deny rights to their own people." He called for "an end to the scandal of military spending," citing the fact that the cost of "one battleship would provide health care for all who need it."

Hundreds of participants attended a moving "prayer breakfast" in honor of Executive Vice-President Addie Wyatt who announced that she was not retiring from her work in CLUW, but just "pausing for station identification." Wyatt was later elected Executive Vice-President Emerita, with both voice and vote on the Officers' Council. A founding member of CLUW, she summed up the organization as "a great movement within the labor movement that came into being at the right time. I believe in the organized labor movement," Wyatt said. "It is the strongest force that working women have."

Another huge turnout took place during a lunch hour break in front of the Seattle-First National Bank (Seafirst). Denied a union contract for eleven years, Seafirst workers have seen a 40% erosion of their mainly female and minority membership. Despite rulings by the Reagan NLRB and even by the Supreme Court, Seafirst refuses to negotiate. Speakers declared Seafirst an out-law corporation and revealed plans for a nationwide boycott of Seafirst's parent company, the Bank of America.

Delegates adopted several constitutional amendments, including the scheduling of all future conventions in off-election years. The entire present national leadership was re-elected for a three-year term. Elected to succeed Addie Wyatt as Executive Vice-President was Clara Day of the Teamsters Union; and Patricia Scarcelli of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) was elected one of eight vice-presidents on the National Officers' Council.

For a copy of Seattle CLUW's Nicaraguan solidarity poster and Lonnie Nelson's poems, "Roots and Circumstances," send \$8 plus \$2 shipping and handling charges to WREE, 198 Broadway, Rm 606, NY, NY 10038.

Why Boycott G.E.?

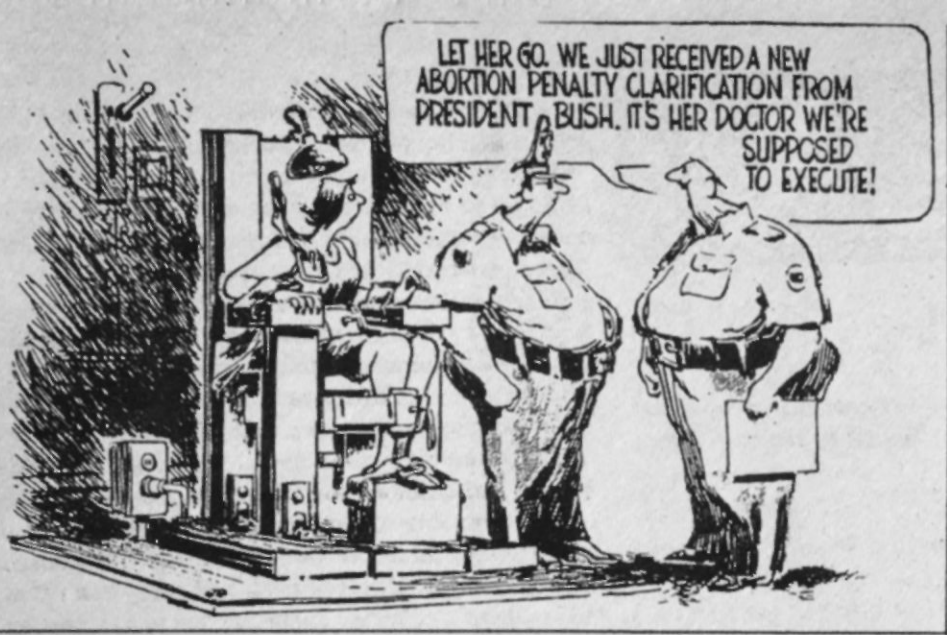
—GE has a long history of government fraud, price fixing, and violations of anti-trust laws. In 1985 GE became the first weapons contractor to be indicted and found guilty of defrauding the government for overcharging on military contracts.

—GE is one of the largest environmental polluters. Cited in 1985 for the greatest number of toxic waste sites in the country.

—GE has a long uneasy history of labor relations. The company has engaged in union busting, runaway shops, and moving factories out of the country.

—GE makes critical components for more nuclear weapons systems than any other company, including virtually every first-strike system, from the MX missile and the Trident submarine to the Stealth and B-I bombers.

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Freedom of Choice Facing Attack

Two days after the election of George Bush, the Justice Department on November 10 filed a friend-of-the-court brief urging the Supreme Court to accept an appeal in a Missouri abortion case that it said "presents an appropriate opportunity" to overturn the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision giving women a constitutional right to abortion. The move is in line with the position adopted by the Republican Party's '88 platform, the Reagan/Bush administration, and recently appointed Attorney General Richard Thornburgh.

Kate Michelman of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) says the "unusual" filing by Solicitor General Charles Fried reflects the "beginning of the Bush years, and not the last gasp" of President Reagan, who had engaged in a series of moves to limit access to abortion. NARAL will file a brief in the *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* case and is preparing to launch an "emergency action mobilization" to alert American women that the election "created a political climate where their rights to privacy and reproductive choice can no longer be taken for granted."

The Court has not yet indicated whether it will hear the Missouri case in which that state asked the Court to reverse *Roe* and uphold the state's law that declared human life starts at conception, barred employees of the state from performing or aiding in abortions, and banned the use of public funds for counseling women to have an abortion unless their lives were threatened. The counseling portion is similar to the family planning program regulations issued by the administration in 1988 and were blocked by federal courts.

Dangers to Come

Friend-of-the-court briefs usually are filed once the Supreme Court decides to hear a case. By filing beforehand, the Justice Department signalled its high interest in the Missouri case and left no doubt about where it will stand if the Court decides to act.

The decision to hear the case may be made in January, which could mean the scheduling of oral arguments for October '89. By then the three Justices now turning 80 who favor *Roe* may have retired, and the Bush-Quayle administration will then appoint replacements.

Kate Michelman of NARAL thinks the connection between the presidency and the Court did not register in most women's minds before the election. She charged that "the Bush managers succeeded in drowning out any debate on how the next President would shape the Supreme Court."

Charging that "the Justice Department and the Bush campaign knowingly waited until after the election to declare war on women," NOW President Molly Yard outlined battle plans to safeguard the right to safe, legal birth control and

Nearly 3 out of every 100 women 15 to 44 years old had an abortion last year, a figure that has remained constant for a decade.*

Women who said they were Roman Catholic had an abortion rate that was about the same as the American average (3 per 100). Among women who said they were Protestant or Jewish, the rates were 30% below the national average.*

*from surveys conducted by the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

abortion.

Planned actions include "immediate phone banks, and vigils and pickets. Yard says a march on the Supreme Court is possible, and the April 9 March being coordinated by NOW will focus on reproductive issues.

Yard called the November 10 filing to overturn *Roe* "a cynical, despicable trick. Clearly this plot was hatched weeks ago, the minute the Missouri case was sent to the high court. The Justice Department and the Bush campaign knew they had 30 days to file a brief...that the 30th day would fall 2 days after the election. If they truly believed the voters were with them on the abortion issue they would have filed...before the election and let the women of America know their real intentions. But they know that a majority of Americans don't share their views. That's why they waited until the election was over to declare their war on women....Reversal of *Roe*...would create a total disregard of the law by millions of Americans and will cost the lives of thousands of young women and girls. They really can't believe the women of this nation will docilely return to compulsory pregnancy and to secret rooms where they would be blindfolded to risk their lives in order to save their futures....There aren't enough jails in America to hold the women who will defy a law that takes away their right to abortion. Neither will they stand by and see their doctors jailed...."



(from left to right) Pat Stell, president, Seattle CLUW; Seattle Councilwoman Delores Sibonga, and Seattle CLUW and WREE member Lonnie Nelson pose proudly with the beautiful Nicaragua solidarity poster designed by Seattle CLUW members. Sister Lonnie's poem "A U.S. Mother's Answer" is the text of the poster.

Photo by Margo Nikitas

Domestics and Employers:

Analyzing Relationships

Between Women: Domestics and Their Employers, by Judith Rollins, Philadelphia: Temple University, 1985, pp. 261.

Issei, Nisei, War Bride: Three Generations of Japanese American Women in Domestic Service, by Evelyn Glenn, Philadelphia: Temple University, 1986, pp. 290.

by Patricia Hill Collins

Between Women: Domestics and Their Employers and *Issei, Nisei, War Bride* provide distinctive yet complementary analyses of how subordinate groups simultaneously acquiesce to, yet struggle against, structures that oppress them. By examining the asymmetrical power relationships between Black female domestics in Boston and their white female employers, Judith Rollins reveals the connectedness of race, class, and gender ideologies in structuring their daily interaction. Similarly, Evelyn Glenn's rigorous historical overview of how domestic service was central to the work and family roles of three cohorts of Japanese American women investigates the workings of race, gender, and social class in shaping the lives of racial/ethnic women.

First, both authors use the centrality of domestic work as their focal point in addressing broader issues. Second, both authors deliberately place the voices of racial/ethnic women in the center of analysis. Third, neither author attempts to prioritize the relative weight of race, gender, or class oppression and, thus, both works provide a clearer view of the interaction among these systems. Finally, by accepting the multiple contradictions inherent in racial/ethnic women's lives, neither author reshapes her findings to fit the confines of a preconceived theoretical model.

While sharing these key features, the books do vary significantly. Rollins meticulously examines one specific relationship, that of low-income Black domestics and their white employers, and thus sheds considerable light on the intricate ties that bind women of different races and social classes. The relationship is at its essence one of economic and psychological exploitation. Especially revealing are her two chapters describing the many rituals shaping the relationship between these women of unequal power. Requiring deference from domestics, treating domestics as invisible or nonhumans, using them as 'windows to exotica,' maternalistic gift-giving and tolerance for irresponsibility are all thoroughly examined as the essential psychological underpinnings for the exploitation of Black women's labor.

The vastly different accounts of the relationships offered by employers and domestics are eye-opening. Employers demand certain behaviors from their domestics to validate their superior racial and social class position. Recognizing that the quality of their performance is central to the evaluation of their roles as domestics, the Black women are proficient in playing their publicly expected roles while carefully concealing their fully human selves from their employers. In doing so, they retain a psychological space that allows them to resist the dehumanization and psychological exploitation.

Between Women's attention to detail gives a sense of the here and now, of how domination occurs in particular settings, and contends that the economic and psychological exploitation of domestic work has long been central to vastly different systems of inequality. Rollins successfully manages the diffi-

cult task of showing how domestic service is both unique in its manifestations in a specific political economy yet universal in its applicability to a variety of systems of inequality.

Missing from *Between Women* is a comprehensive analysis of the mid-ground—the specifics of how the race and gender politics of the American class system produce this specific relationship of domination and subordination. Evelyn Glenn's work, *Issei, Nisei, War Bride*, skillfully provides this key piece. Glenn also sees domestic work as a core relationship in structuring inequality but her approach is quite different.

In Part I, Glenn provides a comprehensive yet succinct overview of the wider political economy shaping Japanese American women's lives.

Part II supplies rich data on Japanese American women's experiences in domestic service. It provides an overview of domestic service in the U.S., summarizing competing explanations of the meaning of domestic service itself, and includes an adept portrayal of its contradictory nature for Japanese American women. Glenn also describes the working conditions and ritualistic structures of the employer/domestic relationship and concludes that the feature that makes domestic service demeaning is the worker's personal subordination. Unlike Rollins, however, Glenn places greater emphasis on the various resources domestic workers use to protect themselves from the demeaning nature

Bloodied Brave Unbowed

Assata: An Autobiography, Assata Shakur, Westport, Conn.: Lawrence Hill, 1987

by Dorothy Burnham

Assata: An Autobiography is a moving history of Assata Shakur, the young African American woman who was arrested in 1973 on a New Jersey highway. A target of the FBI cointelpro strategy, Assata was held in prison from 1973-1977. During that period she was brought to trial four times for bank robbery, kidnapping, and murder of a drug dealer. She was acquitted three times and charges against her for some of the crimes on which she was framed were dismissed.

Finally in 1977, she was brought to trial for the murder of a New Jersey state trooper, before a jury which had been exposed to all of the racist garbage of the media. (The National Jury Project had done a study of Middlesex County and had found that 83% of the people had heard about the case and 70% had already formulated an opinion about her guilt.) On flimsy evidence she was convicted as an accomplice and sentenced to life imprisonment. She escaped from prison in 1979 and was granted asylum in Cuba where she now lives.

The book is a stirring personal account of her growing up years, her introduction to American racism in the schools and neighborhoods of New York City and Wilmington, South Carolina. As she learned, her hatred of racism grew and she sought out others whose oppression led them to join in the



of their work.

Part III discusses the family as the second major arena of women's work. Again, Glenn demonstrates her grasp of dialectical relationships by examining the family as both an instrument of survival for Japanese Americans and an internal arena for gender struggle. The chapters on gender politics in the family are especially well-crafted. By comparing the family settings of Issei women with those of their Nisei daughters and with war brides, Glenn demonstrates how women's work outside the home represented a form of economic organization in which the individual, rather than the family, became the unit of production, thereby separating work from family life. The employment of wives outside the home violated the principle that husbands had exclusive rights to and control over their wives' labor. Where traditional division of labor and male privilege persisted, wage work for

women added to their burdens. But to the extent that wage work reduced women's economic dependence and male control over their labor, it helped women transcend traditional gender roles in the family.

In all, both books offer trenchant analyses of how systems of race, gender, and class interlock to constrain racial/ethnic women's choices. But the women are not portrayed as social problems or victims, but who use instead the multiple strategies employed by women of color to take charge of their own lives within the confines of race, gender, and class oppression. Examining the dialectical process itself lies at the heart of both works and the result in both cases is a clearer view of multiple levels of struggle.

Patricia Hill Collins, WREE sister, teaches at the U. of Cincinnati, Dept. of Afro-American Studies.



... Let a free it. What's hurtin' the Black folk that's without, it hurtin' the white folk that's without. If the white folk... fight for the Black folk for the Black folk, we gonna crumble apart. These are things that we gonna have to fight together. We got to fight in America for ALL the people... and I'm perfectly willing to make this country what it have to be.

Black History / Women's History Project

POSTER: Historic quote on 15" x 20" brown and burnt orange on beige\$3.



struggle for freedom. She tells us about her work with the Black Liberation Army and the Black Panthers. She skillfully weaves the chapters of these growing up years into the fabric of the story of the horrifying six years of imprisonment.

Her description of the conditions under which she was held in jail before she was convicted of any crime documents the continuing violation of human rights that African American men and women face in the U.S. prison system. Assata was placed in solitary confinement for 20 months in two men's prisons and for many months in women's prisons and mixed prisons. Her descriptions of her experiences while suffering from wounds inflicted by state police is horrifying. She was shackled to the bed and denied adequate medical care. She was harassed by the prison guards and witnessed the brutal treatment given other men and women in their cells.

Her continuing political growth during the period of her incarceration is gratifying. She acted as co-counsel in one trial and her speech to the court is a classic. At one point she observes, "While awaiting trial, I have earned a PH.D. in justice or rather the lack of it."

The sister's dedication to the cause of African American liberation shines through. Under conditions designed to break her will, dim her mind, and cripple her body, she has emerged stronger and more committed. Living with her child in exile, she continues her political growth and continues to be a leader in our freedom struggles. In a recent interview in the *City Sun* newspaper, she says, "Any liberation effort in the United States must be a broad-based one involving coalitions with Chicanos, Asians, Native Americans, Puerto Ricans, and oppressed whites as well as with women's and environmental movements. But Black people have to organize ourselves. We need our own organizations. We need our own movement."

With this book, Assata makes an outstanding contribution to the contemporary history of the freedom struggle. She uses her literary skills as well as her political understanding to illuminate what happened to her and others as they pressed forward for justice and equality. As she narrates so vividly her experiences, she reminds us all of our responsibility to join our brothers and sisters in the continuing fight for political, social, and economic freedom, justice, equality.

Defense Is Killing Us

Deadly Defense:

Military Radioactive Landfills

by Radioactive Waste Campaign
625 Broadway, NY 10012. 1988

by Janet O'Crowley

"Defense: Resistance to or protection from attack"

"Deadly: Likely to cause death"

"In the name of protecting our national security and well-being, we are poisoning ourselves. Every day, government facilities (19 primary nuclear weapons plants, plus 4 labs, 3 gaseous diffusion plants, 1 test site, and 1 final assembly plant) spew toxic pollutants into our environment."

This reader-friendly, 167-page book will make you anything but easy in heart as the researchers from the Rad-Waste Campaign lead you through the labyrinth of how and where N-bombs are made and assembled and shipped. And how the noxious, indiscriminately deadly waste products are mishandled.

Tons of infernal byproducts are spawned in the process of making genocidal bombs: chemical residues from extracting, purifying and concentrating processes; clothing and tools: old waste containers. In all, the military generates twice as much "low level" waste as the civilian nuclear energy program. Of high level waste the military has produced 40 times as much. Goodness knows we've been worried about the civilian nuclear plants since Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. In case you thought military money and efficiency were handling the making of bombs as though people mattered, you will either be scared sleepless or you deserve the contempt the military have for mere living, taxpaying creatures.

Neither division of the nuclear nightmare industry, civilian power nor military, has ever found a practical solution of what to do with the waste produced as a byproduct. At Hanford, Washington, some is stored in 149 single-walled giant liquid waste tanks. Fifty-eight are already leaky — half a million gallons worth. Now a tank farm of million-gallon double-walled tanks is growing above ground. And still no permanent storage place and no process to make the brew harmless. And still the military-industrials go on making more.

Hanford, on the banks of the Columbia River, is just one of the Department of Energy's 25 bomb-building installations. There are also Lawrence Livermore Lab, Idaho National Engineering Lab, Rocky Flats, Sandia, Los Alamos, Bendix, Paducah, Mound and Fernald, Portsmouth Oak Ridge, Pinellas and the hopelessly contaminated Savannah River Plant. There is Pantex final assembly plant in Texas, and the Nevada Test Site where the bowels of the earth are frequently broken and shaken by bombs being tested.

The Savannah River DOE Plant, operated by DuPont Corp., leaks some 30 million gallons of radioactive waste water annually into seepage basins which communicate with 6 natural streams of the Aiken Plateau feeding into the Savannah River. When Ban-the-Bomb protesters were brought to trial they called as witnesses plant workers who revealed under oath that DuPont had kept a double set of books on off-site contamination, that 51 underground tanks contained more than 50 bombs' worth of plutonium. Workers were getting 50 times the radiation doses DuPont figured safe. A National Academy of Science study stated about Savannah: all the reactors are subject to corrosion, cracks and acute aging. The doomsday L Reactor bomb plant just up the river from Savannah, Georgia, has been shut down due to severe safety

problems. But 35 million gallons of highly radioactive waste liquid are still waiting for that permanent, SAFE disposal process that has been promised.

At this time not one but three weapons reactors are shut down — at Savannah, at Rocky Flats in Colorado, and at Hanford, Washington — not only for aging and gross contamination, but for serious safety violations by the operators, just now coming to light. This panics the military. Top Pentagon official, Robert B. Barker, said: "It is very important that we restore the reactors to operation. If we don't there will be very serious consequences for our ability to maintain our nuclear deterrent." In a world running over with bombs, the thought of a stoppage in production make DuPont, G.E., Westinghouse and the rest of the "defense" contractors turn pale with fear.

Atomic bombs are built to kill, to burn, to vaporize. The waste products of manufacture are more of the same. They are being leaked into our air, our water and our soil to cause cancers, diseases and genetic effects, on people and animals. Body cells cannot distinguish between a radioactive molecule and its normal counterpart. Radioactive iodine lodges in the lung, strontium in the bone and remains a lifetime, cesium 137 in the muscle.

In low levels radiation causes lung, bone and other kinds of cancer, leukemia, premature aging, birth defects, sterility, blood composition changes and cataracts of the eye... young children and fetuses are most readily affected: by spontaneous abortions, underweight births, and severe abnormalities. Genetic effects may extend out to several generations. As the Canadian epidemiologist, Dr. Rosalie Bertell, who specializes in health and radiation, puts it: "All future generations are on Earth today." Radiation seems to interact with smoking (or air pollution?) to increase the cancer rate and shorten the latency period (the interval before cancer can be detected).

Radionuclides are released into the air by the ton every year from weapons facilities and into underground water by millions of gallons. At Savannah River plant 30 million gallons per year are deliberately so dumped EVERY year.

Nine fine Radioactive Waste Campaign authors have combined to compress this wealth of information about the Bomb Site Near You for under \$10. What your government will never tell you about the injection well leaching into the underground water, the strontium-laden dust scattered by the wind, and the fearful cargoes traveling by train and truck is all here. What you need to know to protest and survive are here: *Deadly Defense — Military Radioactive Landfills* produced by the Radioactive Waste Campaign.



Mina Hamilton in the offices of the Radioactive Waste Campaign.

"In addition to these hazards, the DOE moves extremely toxic and radioactive chemicals by truck and train. Uranium hexafluoride is shipped in 10- and 14-ton tanks under pressure. If combined with moisture it forms a powerful acid, which could kill people within a halfmile. In January 1986, a tank containing uranium hexafluoride

exploded at Kerr McGee's Sequoyah plant in Gore, Oklahoma, contaminating people downwind. In addition, a large number of extremely hazardous non-radioactive chemicals are shipped between facilities. Chemicals needed for the production of high energy explosives, moving by truck and train to the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, are particularly toxic."

World Fear Re Environment

by Mirjam Vire-Tuominen

More and more people are raising their voices to draw attention to the constantly worsening condition of our environment and condemn irresponsible practices that put nature, the environment, and human health in jeopardy.

The WIDF shares the growing concern over the destruction of our natural habitat, for the ecological balance on our planet has been so seriously upset in recent years that there is no predicting the consequences for humanity and its development, indeed for its very survival. These consequences can already be glimpsed in such phenomena as the increasing pollution of the oceans, rivers, and lakes, the dying forests, the high degree of air pollution from emission of harmful substances and especially sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, the increase in the carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere, leading to the so-called greenhouse effect, the deterioration of the soil, desertification, climatic changes that result in more frequent natural disasters such as floods and droughts, and the disappearance of entire biological species. It is becoming evident that no country can stop this negative trend on its own. Ecological processes are no respecters of state frontiers, and disregarding environmental factors in one country can have devastating effects in another part of the world.

Environmental pollution has become a global problem, and it calls for national and international action on a larger scale.

Since the First UN Environment Conference in Stockholm in 1972 there has been worldwide discussion. In addition to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), there are now over twenty specialized agencies and other bodies dealing with threats to the Earth's ecological system.

A large number of international and national environmentalist groups and organizations have been set up. International agreements have been proposed and concrete environmental protection programs have been worked out. Prominent scientists and experts are increasingly concerned themselves with the environmental problem.

The activities to protect the environment in which women, including our national women's organizations, are playing an ever greater part, are increasing in scope and intensity all over the world, from the powerful movements to prevent nuclear war, which would inevitably mean total ecological disaster, through the struggle to keep the air and water clean and protect the forests, all the way to actions such as those against the unsupervised disposal of waste, against noise pollution, for health protection and labor safety, for a

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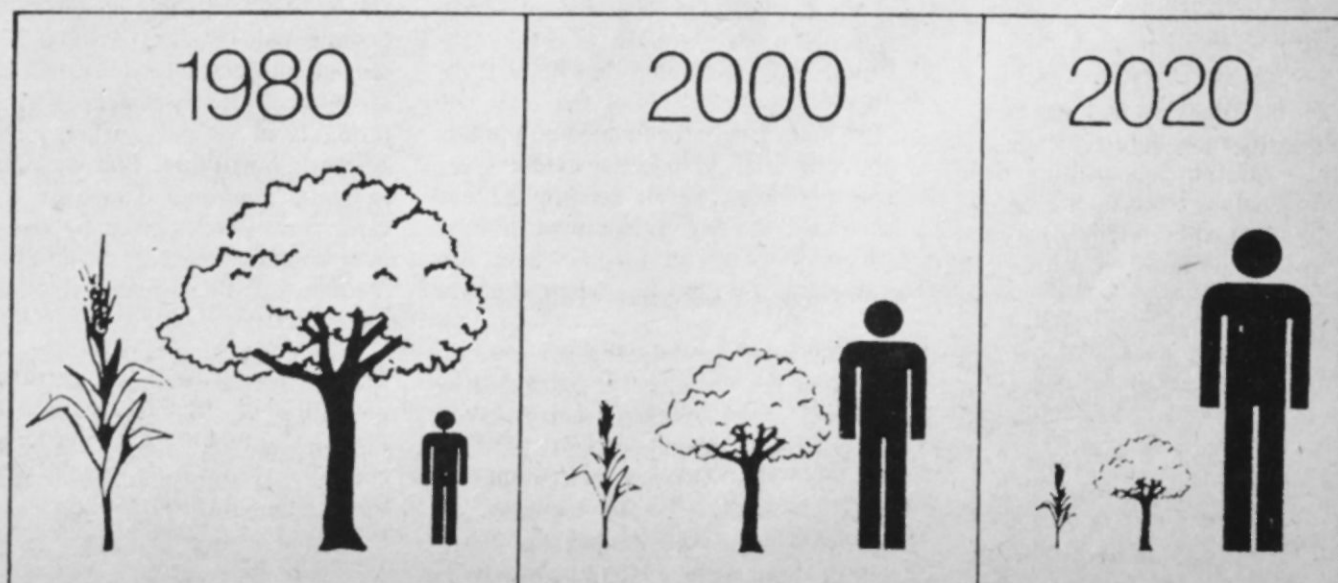


Chart indicating the proportion of forests and population if the present rate of decrease/growth continues.

HOUSING IS A WOMEN'S ISSUE

Contrary to the stereotype of the homeless as male derelicts, women and their dependent children comprise most of the homeless, not only worldwide but also in the United States. Women who are elderly, single parents, the poor, single women workers on moderate incomes are the majority of the poorly housed—those in unsafe, unsanitary, overcrowded and otherwise substandard housing.

The reasons are not far to find: the extreme economic disparity between men and women in the labor market; the failure of men to pay their fair share of child support; the inadequate and punitive character of the welfare system; and the underlying relations. Women's lack of access to safe, decent housing is a direct measure of economic inequality.

Women and children are the predominant users of housing—woman's place is in the home, cry the conservatives—but women have little or no voice in how property is used or how housing is designed.

Impressed both by the urgency of the needs and the sexism underlying current attitudes and practices, an ad hoc group calling itself "Action for Women's Housing," formed in 1986 and organized a national conference, "Sheltering Ourselves, Developing Housing for Women," in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1987.

A Basic Human Right

Since 1948 the UN has proclaimed housing as a basic human right, and hence a national responsibility. For women, this means that every community must provide publicly supported shelters for women who are victims of violence, for those discharged from institutions, for the homeless. Shelters by their nature are temporary, emergency solutions. A long term housing program must include transitional housing for women who need six months, or a year or two or more to become self-supporting. And communities must make provision for permanent housing which is safe and affordable.

Adequate shelter begins with well-designed physical space, space that takes account of child and elderly care; baby carriage, wheel chair, and shopping cart mobility; safe and easily supervised play spaces for children of different ages.

Adequate shelter takes into account the necessary support services: child care and schools, shopping, health services, transportation, laundry, recreational facilities. How many public housing projects have been situated in areas remote from these necessary services! It is highly desirable that the plans for shelter include an economic development component by providing in the design space for income-producing enterprises e.g. a day care center for children or adults, a carry-out food service, a laundromat, etc. And adequate shelter should include community space, some focal points for interaction among the residents. The built landscape shapes social relationships; good design can help to foster interdependent community, the neighborliness that enables residents to improve quality of life through sharing services.

Practical Projects

The "Sheltering Ourselves" Conference did not leave participants in the realm of theory. A number of women presented success stories of completed projects. Participants heard from architect and developer Joan Sprague, who described the work of the Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development in Boston. Their projects include shelters, single parent housing with child care and economic development components, and a town-house development that combines transitional, low income and market rate



Photo by Roland Freeman

housing.

Sister Loretta Schulte told of her "unique but replicable experience" in turning a downtown Cleveland Travelodge into transitional housing for 100 single women. Her creative financing combined bank loans, private loans, foundation and HUD support.

Gay Alexander of the Ontario Ministry of Housing described the planning

and completion of the Constance Hamilton Co-op, an all-women co-op of 32 town-house units and a six-bed transitional hostel.

The present system of private development for profit, with all the complications of capital gains and return on investments, banking practices, tax structures, city planning and zoning

required by these jobs are often refined and complex, wages are invariably low.

At a time when opportunities for women in the South are shrinking, their responsibilities are growing. They raise children, care for families, and work as unpaid cooks, nurses, maids, and counselors to others. More and more of them are struggling alone to support dependent children—the South's next generation. An estimated 75% of the Southern poor are women, their children, and members of female-headed households. And when they must turn to public as-

regulations, is not designed to meet women's needs for decent, affordable housing. We need to pool our resources and to work on several different levels at once:

1. organizing for alternative models of housing development, e.g. through coops, land trusts, nonprofit development corporations;
2. pushing for a voice in housing design and community planning; (at present, planning and zoning boards are male-dominated, but more and more women are acquiring the necessary expertise to insist on changes in the rules);
3. advocating for legislative changes at federal, state and local levels;
4. developing means for women to become and remain home owners, e.g. through lower real estate taxes and subsidies for repairs;
5. enlisting the efforts of financially successful women in investing in women's housing alternatives.

Women have begun exciting new initiatives in housing development: it has been done, it can be done, and who knows how far-reaching the changes will be as women continue to bring a fresh vision to the problems of sheltering ourselves.

Janet Kalven is an advocate for housing in Cincinnati, Ohio. She's an author, educator, and activist on women's issues. Kalven prepared this article for RNEW Update.

Fighting Stereotypes and Poverty

Women of the South still struggle against persistent stereotypes, images of petulant "Scarletts," subservient "Mammies," and dimwitted "Daisy Maes." They struggle to be treated with dignity, to be paid a fair wage, and to gain access to new opportunities.

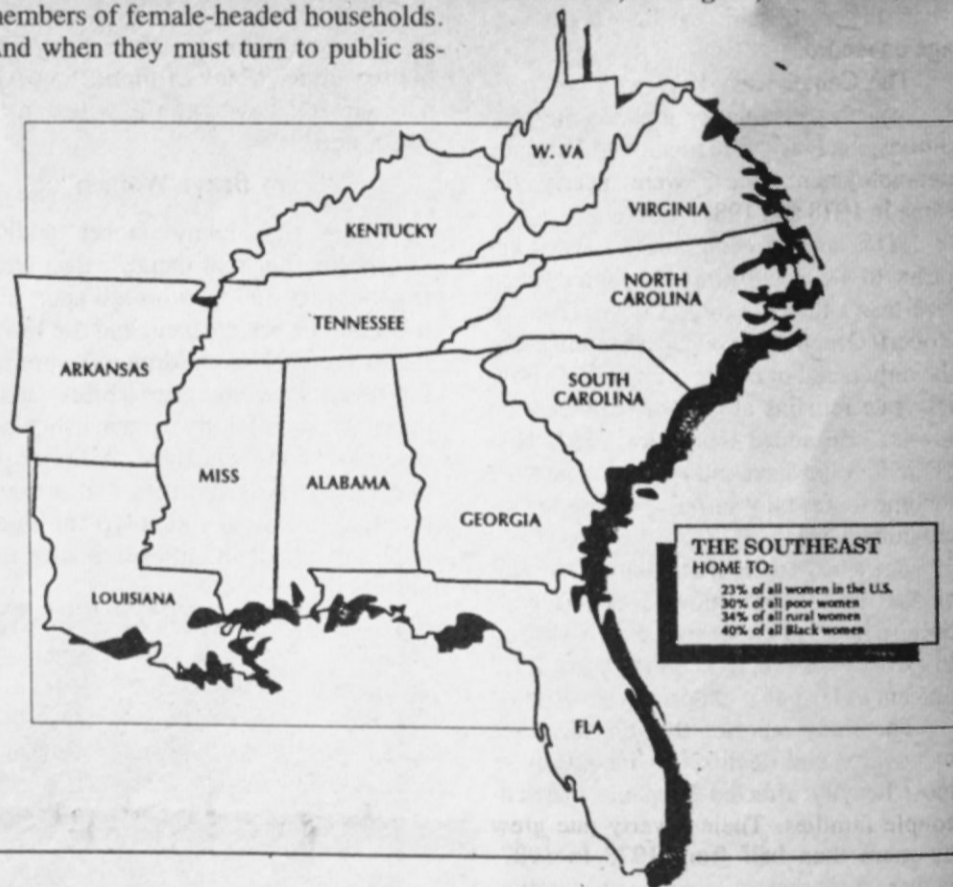
Still, they remain poor. Though just 23% of the nation's women live in the 12 states that comprise the Southeast, they represent 30% of poor women in the U.S. For black women, the plight of poverty is intensified by the ugliness of racism. Compared to Southern whites, there are more than 3 times as many black people living behind the poverty line. An estimated two-thirds of these poor black families are headed by women.

Black or white, women of the South find little cause for hope in a job. Few of them earn a living wage. The overwhelming majority of Southern working women are trapped in one of three vast job ghettos: manufacturing, services, and office work. Though the skills

sistance for support, Southern women find the nation's most punitive and inadequate welfare systems.

— Southeast Women's Employment Coalition (SWEC)

(SWEC publishes a newsletter devoted to the voices and vision of women throughout the South, *Generations*, as well as fact sheets and studies. Write for information to: SWEC, 382 Longview Drive, Lexington, KY 40503.)



World Environment

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healthy home environment, and many more.

We only have this one Earth. All of us who are alive today are responsible to our children and all future generations for preserving nature as the source and stronghold of life.

Comprehensive Report Available

This idea is central to the report submitted by the World Commission on Environment and Development to the Forty-second Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Autumn 1987, entitled "Our Common Future." This comprehensive study, prepared by an international group of experts headed by Ms. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime

Minister of Norway, gave a new and important stimulus to common international action in the sphere of environment protection.

A synopsis of the Report and other related UN documents is available from WREE. Send \$3 to cover cost.

The report makes it emphatically clear that a new type of thinking is needed to solve the global problems of the safety of our environment. The problems of protecting and preserving the environment cannot be seen and dealt with in isolation but only in their indissoluble connection with questions of peace and war, disarmament and development, of abolishing backwardness and poverty and ensuring that life on Earth is healthy, secure, and fit for hu-

man beings.

Therefore the WIDF attaches great significance to all environmental protection activities. Questions of protection of the environment and the role women can and must play in it were taken up in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and were also discussed at the 1987 World Congress of Women in Moscow. The WIDF and its Secretariat are giving a great deal of attention to these questions, in order to provide the national organizations with suggestions and stimuli for the struggle against the threat to the environment.

Mirjam Vire-Tuomenin is General Secretary of the Women's Int'l Democratic Federation (WIDF), of which WREE is the U.S. affiliate.

Latina AIDS Victims

by Augusta Del Zotto

Juanita Quintero sits at a cafe in San Francisco's Mission district. It is late afternoon. Dozens of women with children pass by as Juanita looks out the window. So many of these passing Latinas remind Juanita of women she has worked with in recent months. Juanita Quintero is an AIDS education worker at the Instituto Familiar de la Raza, a bicultural clinic in San Francisco. She has helped set up one of the West Coast's first support groups for Latinas diagnosed with AIDS.

"People have so many stereotypes," says Quintero, "about ignorant, careless women who are easily victimized. People need to realize that the reasons they got AIDS are so complicated...and they have so much courage, so much strength in the face of all this."

"There are certain things that go on within our community," says Quintero, "and things that go on within families that could contribute to the spread of this epidemic here. Our role is to prevent this from happening. Society is kind of smug about poor people and people of color with AIDS, as if they were asking for it. 'Oh, these Latinas have AIDS because they are junkies or prostitutes'...as if it's OK for women with these lifestyles to get the disease."

Not all Latinas who contract AIDS are addicts or prostitutes. But, Quintero concedes, addiction and prostitution exacerbate the spread of AIDS. Extreme poverty in Central America has driven thousands of women to work in brothels throughout the region's capital cities, many servicing U.S. GIs. No Central American nation has any sort of comprehensive AIDS prevention program for people in high risk groups. Some of these former prostitutes eventually find their way north to the U.S., some to resume normal domestic lives away from the sex trade. Many of these, however, may already have been exposed to the AIDS virus.

"Very Brave Women"

There are many closet addicts. Gloria (not her real name) was a working-class housewife who fell apart after the death of her husband and the loss of her property. Her children too were facing severe problems. For a brief but significant time, Gloria began using heroin. She contracted the AIDS virus. Gloria, now in her fifties and a grandmother, still looks like a typical housewife and maintains the semblance of a normal life.



The report noted that earnings losses in the United States have been large in recent years among young workers and workers without a college education and that Hispanics constitute the youngest racial or ethnic group in the country, as well as the group with the lowest education levels.

The Center also found that Hispanics have been adversely affected by a sharp erosion in the value of the minimum wage, which at \$3.35 per hour has remained unchanged since January 1981 while consumer prices have risen 38%.



"They are very brave women," says Quintero. "I never see anger."

"This is the irony among Latinas," observes Quintero, "they are diagnosed and then their life goes on 'as usual.' There is denial, it's true. But a lot of what is interpreted as denial by outside observers really is not. It is more a matter of practicality. You still have to take care of your family, the house, even go to work."

According to Quintero, even the contemplation of death becomes a luxury for women like Gloria. Most PWAs (persons with AIDS) in these communities cannot afford to change their lives until the very end. Because of this, the average life expectancy among Latinas with AIDS, both female and male, is less than three months. There is literally no time for rest.

Among Latinos especially, who often make up the working poor and therefore do not qualify for government assistance, compromised health becomes the daily norm.

According to the Latino AIDS Project, many Latinos discover they have AIDS only when they get sick, through an emergency situation such as pneumocystis pneumonia. For women, there is another factor that contributes to the rapid breaking down of the immune system: pregnancy.

Pregnancy and AIDS

Approximately 50% of Latinas who have contracted AIDS were already pregnant or became pregnant after contracting the virus. Even normal pregnancy tends to lower a woman's immune system, but when the AIDS virus is involved, the process accelerates. Many of these women are faced with a heartbreaking dilemma. Juanita Quintero says that an overwhelming number of Latinas choose not to have abortions, thus risking the 50-50 possibility of passing on the virus to their offspring.

"At first glance you may think they do not want to abort for religious reasons," says Quintero. "But the real reason is often this: a new baby is a sign of hope. You hope the child does not have AIDS; you see you've made a final contribution to the world before you die—making plans for the relatives to care for the baby, as Latino families often do. It is a way for these women to say: 'I am taking charge of the situation despite the odds.' An abortion for a termi-

The study reported that federal and state budget reductions in programs for low income families have also contributed to the increase in poverty among Hispanics.

In 1979, federal, state and local assistance programs lifted out of poverty more than one of every eight poor Hispanic families with children. In 1987, after cutbacks at both federal and state levels, only one of every 14 poor Hispanic families was raised from poverty by government assistance, the Center found.

nally ill woman is like a double death." Sexual mores, or what Latina feminists call "the politics of the bedroom," contribute greatly to the spread of AIDS among Latinas and their children.

"You ask a man to use a condom...he slaps your face." This is a line heard many times by Quintero and other health professionals. "Machismo exists among all poor people," says Quintero. "It's not just Latinos. If you have three or four kids, chances are you will not ask your man to wear a condom. He will walk out on you and you will be on welfare."

Quintero looks out the window again, then leans over the table confidentially. "By asking him to use a condom, it means you know that he is, at best, sleeping around with other ladies; at worst, he's sleeping around with other men."

Communication Among Latinos

Communication tends to be the great barrier in the Latino community. Communication between individuals about sexuality and high risk behavior is virtually nonexistent. "In our community, it is the women who have the most knowledge about AIDS," says Quintero. "The women go to clinics, they go to community functions where clinicians like ourselves do outreach. They watch information television and listen to informational radio in not one but two languages. All this outreach has educated them the most."

"Men on the other hand watch TV only to look at soccer or wrestling...don't go to community events....They hang out in bars and don't care to listen to what their women have to say....Because women share their lives and their beds with these men...all the information in the world won't help, unless that information works both ways."

Quintero believes there isn't time to try to improve the dialogue between Latino men and women. This is why projects such as the Latino AIDS Project and Mano A Mano (an AIDS outreach service in the S.F. Latino community) are creating new methods of outreach, specifically designed for the "macho" sector. Both Juanita Quintero and Martin Ornela of the Mano a Mano project believe that there needs to be more outreach for Latino males who are at risk, but who are not gay identified. "This means working at the bars and streets, the prisons and among gangs," says Ornela.

In the meantime, AIDS among Latinas is a delicate issue, affecting all aspects of Latino family life and requiring special, culturally sensitive treatment and counseling.

Augusta Del Zotto, correspondent for Pacific News Service, is a former California Tomorrow fellow and San Francisco-based writer and radio documentary reporter. This article is excerpted from one prepared for PNS.

The AIDS Action Pledge, a San Francisco-based activist group, has called for a national boycott of several products made by Burroughs Wellcome Company (all of which have comparable substitutes produced by other companies). The products are: Neosporin, Sudafed, Actifed, Polysporin, Actidil, Borofaz, Emprin, Fedrazil, and Marezine.

By pressuring the company, AIDS Action Pledge hopes it will disclose the costs and profits involving AZT, the only federally licensed drug used in the treatment of AIDS. The drug now costs \$8,000 to \$12,000 a year per patient, and it is felt that the cost goes primarily to profit Burroughs Wellcome. You can tell them you are joining the boycott: Burroughs Wellcome Co., 3030 Cornwallis Rd., Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Hispanic Poverty Rising

Poverty among Hispanics has risen by almost a third since the late 1970s, outstripping increases in poverty among whites and blacks, according to a new study by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Hispanic income has declined, the study found, and the income of the typical Hispanic family fell further below the income of the typical white family in 1987 than in any other year since these data were first collected in 1973.

The study said that between 1978 and 1987, the poverty rate for Hispanics climbed from 21.6% to 28.2%, while the poverty rate increased by much smaller amounts for whites and blacks—from 8.7% to 10.5% for whites and 30.6% to 33.1% for Blacks. From 1978 to 1987, the income of the typical Hispanic family fell nearly \$1,600, while the income of the typical white family edged up \$276 and the typical black family lost \$854. As a result, median family income for Hispanics equalled only 62.9% of median family income for white Americans last year, the study said, the lowest percentage on record.

The Center used 1978 as a comparison year because national economic conditions, such as the national and Hispanic unemployment rates, were nearly the same in 1978 and 1987.

"The current economic recovery appears to be benefitting Hispanics much less than other groups," Center Director Robert Greenstein said. "Hispanics are the only racial or ethnic group whose poverty rate remains at or close to recession levels." He added that since 1982, Hispanic families have made up only half the income losses they suffered during the recession years.

The study found particularly sharp increases in poverty among Hispanic children, with 39.6%—or two in five—living in poverty last year. In 1978, some 27.2 percent of Hispanic children were poor.

The study reported that the increases in poverty and declines in income have most heavily affected Hispanic married-couple families. Their poverty rate grew by more than half from 1978 to 1987. Fewer than one in eight such families were poor in 1978 but 18.1%—nearly one in five—lived in poverty last year. The income of the typical Hispanic married-couple family fell more than \$1,000 from 1978 to 1987, the study noted.

Wage Declines

According to the Center's study, *Shortchanged: Recent Developments in Hispanic Poverty, Income and Employment*, the poverty of Hispanics cannot be attributed to lack of work effort or to increases in the number of female-headed families. The proportion of adults working or looking for work is higher among Hispanics than among blacks or whites, the Center reported, while the proportion of Hispanic families headed by a single woman grew less since 1982 than did the proportion of white families headed by a single woman.



WREE sisters Joy James (right) and Cecelia McCall (center) from New York, with another delegate (and WREE sister!) from California, Pat Schroeder.

Politics Workshop

by Joy James

The Commission on Women and Politics reported in the closing plenary that although the 80s in the region have been characterized by an increasing awareness of women's role in society, women's participation in policy-making positions remains low and women are still discriminated against by political parties. The commission also took note of the women "who are members of political decision-making bodies who only answer to the class or political party they represent and not to the struggle of all women."

The diversity of the women in the region was discussed: indigenous women, who "with a woman's perspective, struggle together with their people to maintain their identity and culture"; "the militant spirit of peasant and working women"; and housewives' "gaining consciousness" of their own isolation and exploitation and of common problems among women.

Underdevelopment of the region exacerbated by the foreign debt has led to austerity programs, the loss of jobs and/or wages for most women. Unemployment in general has meant that more and more women are becoming heads of families which in turn adversely affects their participation in social and political organizations.

The Problem of Family Democracy

The overall lack of democracy in family life, in male-dominated households, or in female-headed households without community/state support services, adds to the burden of house/domestic work and again undermines participation at policy-making levels in social and political groups. Women's time and availability constraints means some degree of isolation from liberation struggles. The commission found that the lack of family democracy works to the "benefit of capitalism and imperialism and strengthens traditional roles." Another deterrent for women who enter public life is the ridicule or slander they face for failing to conform to stereotyped sex roles.

Nevertheless, the commission stated, "Women's political work in the 1980s is characterized by its multiplicity and creativity; the struggle of the women's organizations has earned greater respect; the fear of repression

has disappeared and in many cases women have taken on nontraditional roles that constitute examples of rebelliousness . . ."

The commission also noted the increase of women in the region in the ranks and leadership of armed struggle for national liberation.

With the understanding that the private world is also political, women have organized against U.S. occupation troops, "capitalist exploitation, the burden of the foreign debt, . . . dictatorial regimes, colonial enclaves, the trampling of popular will." Women have also organized for child care, health care, women's schools, trade unions, education, and amnesty and peace movements.

Triple Exploitation

While defining future "prospects" as transformation of women's public and private roles through their struggle for a revolutionary society free from double exploitation, the commission, in general, failed to refer to racism and racist exploitation in Latin America and the Caribbean and the concomitant triple exploitation of indigenous women or Afro-Latin/Caribbean women.

Final proposals included development of an executive body for the Women's Continental Front, the expansion of its duties to coordinate "the struggle for women's rights, for peace and against imperialist intervention." The executive body and expanded duties of the Front would lead to increased communication and cooperation among the hundreds of women's organizations that participated in the Third Encuentro. Although the formal head of the Women's Front has been based with the FMLN women in El Salvador, because of state repression and liberation struggles in El Salvador, the Front will most likely be based with the FMC in Havana in the near future.

The formation of a Documentation and Information Center "to collect and distribute the theoretical and practical experience of the women of the Continent and to promote opportunities for the specific training of women" was also proposed. The final recommendation was for national and regional preparatory meetings to be held in the following years until the Fourth Encuentro, scheduled for 1992.

Economics Workshop

by Cecelia McCall

The huge debt imposed on the Latin countries was the main topic of the Third Encuentro. The previous two Encuentros laid the groundwork for a united women's strategy for the region and had focused on military aggression, especially against Nicaragua. The Third Frente was no longer alarmed only about military destabilization, but economic as well. The women of Latin countries from Mexico to the tip of Tierra Del Fuego expressed opposition to foreign economic exploitation of their nations.

The final report from the Commission on the Debt stated that it is the most serious and profound crisis facing the region. Servicing the debt has imposed high rates of unemployment and underdevelopment so that more women are taking jobs in the informal sector to add to their husbands' reduced wages. The increased prices for basic foods, along with salary freezes, have made it difficult for the majority of the populations in debtor countries to secure basic necessities.

Conference Proposals

The commission proposed many continental initiatives for development:

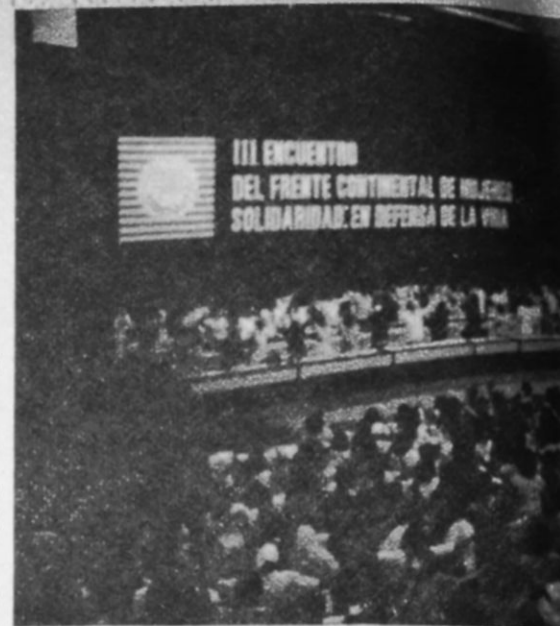
1. To promote the establishment of a permanent Regional Front for Non-Payment of the Foreign debt.
2. To raise the banners of the New International Economic Order and promote the drafting of a theoretical framework to find a true development alternative, based on the principles of equity, solidarity, and social justice.
3. To ask UNICEF and other competent international organizations to investigate and report on child trafficking and sale of their organs.
4. To promote broad communication between its national women's organizations and the women's organizations or movements of Asia and Africa, recognizing the community of problems that they face.
5. To launch, from now through 1992, a huge regional campaign against colonialism, slavery, genocide, and cultural invasion, and for the peoples' right to self-determination and the preservation of the autonomous and indigenous cultures of each nation.
6. To celebrate the five-hundredth anniversary in a spirit of the unity and struggle of all the people of our continent; to stop the savagery that started with conquest and the colonization that has persisted for five hundred years and is still present today.

The Price of Civilization

The last two points were directed toward the forthcoming celebration of what Columbus wrought. Latin women, mindful of the destruction of indigenous cultures, support the efforts of indigenous people to make 1992 not an exultation of their demise, but a remembrance of the price paid for "civilization."

Speaking to the conference, Castro said that the Latin people were worthy of the right to a better destiny than the one that the U.S. has determined for them. They have the will to move out of the centuries of plunder and underdevelopment. They will not pay the debt, but will eradicate the debt. He ended by saying that there are no leaders who are wise enough to stop classical revolution. The structural systemic crisis cannot be solved so that conditions are building in the Latin countries that led to great revolutions in the past. And in reference to the blockade against Cuba, Castro said, you can block a country, but not the consciousness of a people.

In view of the fact that Reaganom-



Photos by Colleen Aho

The main conference hall

HAVE THE ENC

More than 1200 women from 38 countries of the Americas and the Caribbean met in Havana last October, for the Third Continental Women's Meeting (Encuentro).

Gathered under the broad umbrella of the Continental Women's Front Against Intervention, delegates to the meeting represented diverse organizations and interests. But the common themes of anti-intervention and support for self-determination united all who attended the Havana conference, which was capped off by a colorful and moving solidarity rally on the final day.

WREE was represented among the more than 50 women present from the U.S. Joy James and Cecelia McCall from New York WREE, and Colleen Aho from Twin Cities WREE attended the week-long meeting, and covered each of the three Working Commissions of the conference.

The general theme of the meeting was "Latin American Women in the 1980s: Evaluation, Perspectives, and Challenges." The three Working Commissions were: "Women and the Political Dimension," "Women Facing the Economic Crisis," and "Women and Mass Media and Communication." A special seminar, Cuban Women Today, was presented for the U.S. delegation, focusing on general achievements and ongoing challenges for women in Cuban society.

As hosts of the Encuentro, the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), WREE's sister organization in the WIDF, put together a well-organized and intensive week of meetings, cultural and social activities, and nonstop dialogue and exchange of opinions.

Doris Tijerino of Nicaragua, who is the current Continental Front president, told the delegates at the opening plenary that ever since the Front was formed and had its first conference in Managua in 1982, it has maintained its flexible and broadly representative

ics has succeeded in reducing the U.S. to the status of a Third World debtor nation, U.S. people and women especially will be experiencing the same kind of deterioration in the standard of living and a general decline in the quality of life. It is time to unite with our sisters of other Third World countries and demand that the U.S. debt not be repaid by our sweat nor should we allow it to undermine our children's future. As Castro said, "The people did not create the debt; the people should not have to pay the debt."

The article above is excerpted from a comprehensive report/analysis of the Encuentro prepared by Cecelia McCall for WREE. This important, unabridged paper is available to our readers. Send \$3 to WREE to cover reproduction and mailing costs.



U.S. women with Jose Viera of the Cuba Foreign Ministry.

Photo by Patricia Schroeder



Plenary session — 1200 delegates!

ANA ENCUENTRO

character. Since women are 52% of Latin America's population, she noted, their role is key in the Front's continuing work to oppose economic and military intervention in the region, while seeking solutions for regional problems such as the external debt.

For women from the U.S., the conference was a chance to see our own country from a different perspective, while learning about the oftentimes harsher realities of Latin American and Caribbean sisters' lives. It was also a chance to explore the diversity represented among the U.S. women attending, while seeking out common interests and goals.

As Freda Brown, President of the WIDF, noted in her solidarity message at the final session, "Women in all their diversity must unite—whether they are feminists, or trade unionists, or communists or democratic socialists" in order to fight against oppression in Latin America, Southern Africa, and the Middle East.

This fighting and spirited tone of optimism prevailed throughout the Encuentro as delegates held many impromptu meetings in hallways, song sessions on buses, and formed new friendships across cultural and political borders throughout the week of activities.

Looking Toward 1992

The Women's Workshop in the Americas, headquartered in New York, was instrumental in enabling a number of indigenous women from several South American countries to attend the Encuentro. WREE asked the Women's Workshop to comment on the Encuentro and tell our readers why this important organization made the extraordinary effort it did to guarantee that special representation in the Havana Conference.

by Lourdes B. Garcia

In 1992 Spain will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the conquest of our regions. Special events will focus on the legacy bequeathed to us by Spain, the Catholic Church in particular, and Europe in general. The cruel and barbaric history of gold lust, slavery, genocide, and iron-fisted Christianity will be served up to us as civilization in the making. But it is time to take a closer look at this so-called civilization and its manifestations throughout our region.

While the privileged, ruling elite frolic on private beach resorts and country clubs, millions of men, women, and children languish in ghettos, "favelas," and shantytowns that were once productive lands. While the rich pam-

per and protect their children and offer them the best health care money can buy, the children of the poor succumb to violence, ignorance, disease, and hunger. The rich see nothing wrong in throwing out food, but become incensed by beggars accosting "decent" citizens or wealthy tourists. When the poor rebel against this vicious and evil "legacy" of misery and death, the rich respond with more violence.

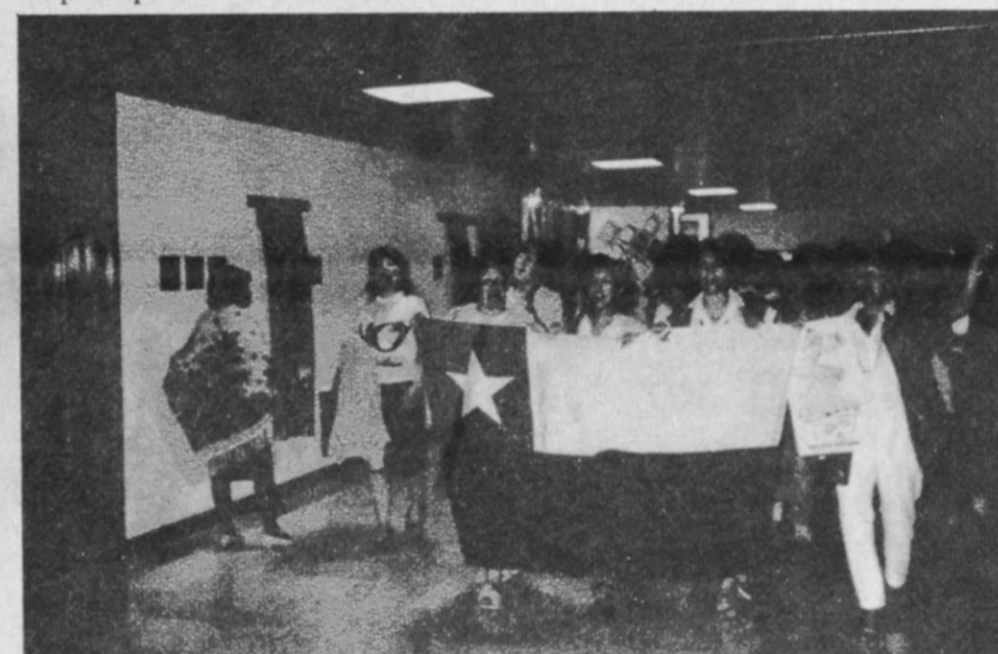
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The Chilean women marched through the conference halls singing, before attending the unveiling ceremony at the Salvador Allende Hospital in Havana. This was on the same day as the "No" vote against Pinochet in Chile, October 5th.

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In his introduction to the "Open Veins of Latin America," Eduardo Galeano asks, "Is everything forbidden us except to fold our arms?" The answer coming first from Europe and more recently the U.S. is Yes! The "civilization" built by Europe and controlled now by the U.S. legally and morally forbids us to covet our birthright. It is illegal to take back the lands that were illegally seized from our ancestors; it is illegal to plot to overthrow bloody and corrupt dictatorships that massacre and "disappear" hundreds of thousands of people; it is a sacrilege to loathe decadent and corrupt churches that have historically blessed the rich and condemned the poor. The demands for justice, for economic, social, political, racial, and sexual equality have historically been viewed as the work of subversive elements in league with either

Communications Workshop

by Colleen Aho

Women journalists, writers, actresses, social scientists, and researchers, women communicators of all kinds took part in the "Women and Mass Media" workshop at the Havana Encuentro. For three days, delegates shared experiences and ideas centering around three main areas of discussion:

1) Women as communication workers, their involvement in the women's movement as such, and working as women to expand consciousness of the issues;

2) The manipulation of mass media via foreign ownership and distortion of information; the role and importance of developing alternative modes of communication and influencing mass media through other means such as theater, graphics, the New Song Movement, etc.;

3) Confronting images of women in the media, especially pornography and violence, and gaining a rightful place in existing professional structures (such as unions and associations, at both a national and international level.

Testimonies from many countries showed that the experience of women journalists in Latin America often mirror those of newswomen in the U.S.: women are paid less than men in what is generally a low-paid profession; women reporters are restricted to working on so-called women's pages which focus on fashion, beauty, and homemaking. But other, more basic, issues also affect the participation of women in mass me-

dia in the region—in Nicaragua, for example, the lack of technology and resources restricts news coverage. With no videotape or cameras available, a woman television reporter pointed out, there are many stories that simply don't get covered.

Example: Bolivia

In Bolivia, a radio reporter noted, censorship is a key problem, and so is economic control of the broadcast media. She lost her job for criticizing the government in a radio broadcast. As a result, graffiti and "palomitas" (flyers) are an important means of communication in Bolivia, where journalists are blacklisted for being too critical.

Example: Panama

A common theme emphasized by the delegates was foreign control over the mass media, and the resulting control over the content of information. In Panama, for example, of 143 radio stations only 3 are nationally controlled; of the 5 TV channels, one is U.S. Armed Forces TV and 15 cable channels are U.S. TV. Of the 35 hours per week of TV programming on local channels, 50% of the programs are soap operas, or shows focused on fashion, cooking, and beauty.

All of this is reinforced by mass marketing techniques and heavy advertising. Women and children (60% of Panama's population) are most affected, since they often are at home to see the programming and commercials. In an effort to counteract this consum-

erist and traditionalist propaganda, the Panamanian Women's Front Against Intervention has started a national campaign to promote popular culture and expose the content of such propaganda. One feature of the campaign are "tallerres" or workshops held in neighborhoods around the country, where women and their families gather together to discuss the hidden and overt messages in foreign-dominated programming, while promoting authentic, Panamanian popular culture.

Example: Guatemala

In Guatemala, a representative of "Voz Popular," the underground radio station of the Revolutionary Movement, pointed out that women in Guatemala must work on a clandestine basis or face government repression. Since 70% of the country's people are indigenous, speak many different languages, and have no access to formal schooling, radio is the most important mass medium. Women are active in the underground movement, she said, because they suffer the highest degree of unemployment and face discrimination at every level. They support the movement's call for a national dialogue with government representatives in order to arrive at a political solution for the country's problems. So far, the government has not responded to this call.

Alternative communication came up repeatedly as a basic and fundamental means of spreading information: whether through direct testimonies, and person-to-person "radio"; or whether through flyers, graffiti, neighborhood workshops and panels, theater in the streets, or other means.

Women's political role was also tied to their role as communicators. In Mexico, 66% of the voters in last July's national elections were women and that, according to a Mexican reporter, accounted for the shift from the traditional ruling party to an upset victory by the challenger.

In Jamaica, said another delegate, the local press constantly crows about women in token positions of power, while the reality is that most Jamaican women are unemployed or earn low wages and are disenfranchised from the political process. Although 60% of the total population, she said, only 10% of women have come forward to take part in the upcoming elections.

Fighting Stereotypes

Fighting against traditional images of women as sex objects or mere bystanders to political and social concerns is an important task for all women communicators, the workshop emphasized. Examples abounded of such images in the press and broadcast media—ironic, given the absolutely essential role women have played and continue to play in the political realities of their countries. For example, in Argentina the Madres de la Plaza de Mayo have bravely demonstrated against official oppression for years, a constant symbol and reminder of their children and family members who were tortured, killed, or remain imprisoned. In Nicaragua, women played a key role in bringing about the revolution and today continue to lead, while fighting to erase all vestiges of "machismo" the role of peasants in general—and peasant women in particular—was emphasized repeatedly, as the solid base for political movement and as communicators who use word-of-mouth to clandestinely spread vital information to the general population.

Probably the most noteworthy aspect of the three-day workshop, which wrapped up with a final statement and goals for the plenary, was the clarity, vivid conviction, and common sense of purpose that came out of so diverse and large a group. It was a confirmation of something every woman knows—that we are natural communicators, and that we have never let stereotypes or discrimination stand in our way.

continued on page 11

Blue Collar Latinas Fight for Union

A grassroots union, founded and staffed entirely by volunteers, is making history organizing Latina blue collar workers in Sonoma County, California. At stake is the future of thousands of production workers in light manufacturing industries that subject them to racist and sexist exploitation.

Calliope Designs: La Lucha Empieza

Calliope Designs started on its owners' kitchen table in 1971; today, it is the world's largest manufacturer of dough ornaments. For the past two years, its annual sales have exceeded \$1 million. Calliope workers, predominantly Latina women, were earning minimum wage or piece-rate pay. They ate lunch at their work stations, in order not to lose pay. To survive, some boosted their earnings by working at home on ornaments; the company benefited, and blinked at the blatant violation of homework laws.

Last January, for the second time in two years, the company cut the piece rates on its most popular items. On Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, the workers spontaneously walked off the job in protest; later they complained to the Labor Law Enforcement Center,

"What exists here is racism! The civil rights issues of the 80's are in the workplace. When labor and community forces unite, we all win." —Newman Strawbridge, organizer, Sonoma County Industrial Union.

founded and staffed by Sanchez and Strawbridge in June 1987. They decided the long-range solution to their problem lay in forming a union, the first of its kind in Sonoma County. In an NLRB election held in March, they won the right to union representation by a margin of 21 to 10. The Sonoma County Industrial Union was born.

For months, Calliope management stalled. First, they objected to the participation of rank-and-file members on the union's negotiating committee, demanding the workers' representatives number no more than six and refused to put forward any proposal until it had received the union's entire set. The first bargaining session was scheduled three months after the union's election victory, but the employer summarily cancelled it when the union filed an unfair labor practice charge protesting the layoff of three employees. Exasperated by the lack of progress, the workers went out on strike the next day.

A week later the company presented its first "proposals"; they were calculated to defeat any prospect of an agreement: an open shop clause, compulsory overtime, less health insurance at higher cost to the workers, and no recognition of seniority. The employer refused to present any wage proposals, and stated it would be unavailable for further talks for the next three weeks.

The strike went on, gathering strength from the Latino community, other trade unions, and progressive organizations and individuals. The county's largest union (Sonoma County Organization of Public/Private Employees, Local 707, SEIU), the Carpenters Union, and many others contributed repeatedly to the strike fund. Every Friday, the picketers were spurred on by a rally of community supporters of all colors and classes.

The employer recruited scabs from temporary employment agencies, hoping to train them quickly enough to fill its orders for Christmas ornaments. Confronted by the picketers daily, the scabs soon required the "protection" of private security guards. The owner of

"Before the strike, the workers didn't know or care about each other. They were like machines, making money. Now they're going back united, as powerful members of the community who are committed to other struggles as well as the one in their own workplace." — Alicia Sanchez, organizer, Sonoma County Industrial Union.

the guard company accused Paulina Martinez, a leading union militant, of hitting her on the head with a picket sign and fired her. But the NLRB believed Martinez and her witnesses and issued a complaint, demanding that Calliope reinstate her with back pay.

A federal mediator was called in, but the employer never substantially improved its offer, so little progress could be made. After three months on the picket line, the Calliope workers decided to return to work without a contract—angrily rejecting the company's "final offer"—in order to prevent the company from busting the union altogether. The 21 strikers went back on October 5, heartened by the community's continuing support and determined to win a decent contract by publicizing their just demands.

Point St. George Fisheries: La Lucha Continua

SCIU has also organized a much larger workforce at Point St. George Fisheries, one of several West Coast seafood processing plants. These workers, overwhelmingly Mexican women, make even less than their Calliope companions, from minimum wage

A LETTER FROM TUCSON: TEATRO EL SOL: Authentic Voice of the Chicano Community

by Elizabeth Siqueiros

I attended an international Chicano/Latino Theatre Festival in San Antonio; it was sponsored by TENAZ (Teatro Nacional de Chicanos en Aztlan).

TENAZ, founded in 1971 by Luis Valdez and others, has its headquarters in Santa Barbara, California. Chicano theater is a political form that began with all the protests of the 60s and came out of what we still refer to as the "Chicano Movement."

At that time, the people who wrote, directed, and acted did so because they saw that theater was the best way to inform and inspire people to take direct action against discrimination and racism in schools, in the workplace, and in government. Some were campesinos (farmworkers), and others were students who had no theater training. Since then, many have acquired college degrees and better jobs, so we now have a large pool of directors, actors, writers, and playwrights, all called "Hispanics" and written up in the Chicano history books.

Who We Are

Chicanos are persons who are at least 2nd generation Mexican/Americans and whose perspective is from working-class or welfare families. They are also persons who don't fit into the country of their roots because they've not retained the language and customs, nor have they fully assimilated into the "American" way.

With that background in mind, I hope you can understand why we have a problem with always being overlooked and not validated by traditional theater institutions. Chicano theater is still considered unprofessional and unscholarly.



"I may not be going back, but I'm not leaving the struggle. I'll be here to lend my help to others fighting for justice in this country." — Paulina Martinez, Calliope Designs for worker fired for strike activity.

(\$4.25/hour) to about \$8/hour for the fastest piece-rate workers. Though many have been there over 10 years, they have no health insurance, no paid vacation, no fringe benefits of any kind. Relatives of the bosses, after much less time on the job, get fringe benefits and promotions.

The company has even forced the Latino employees to pay for protective equipment—aprons, gloves, boots—it requires them to wear, deducting the cost from their meager paychecks. Their work, filleting and packing fish, is difficult and dangerous. Cuts from knives, skin rashes from bacteria, and arthritis from prolonged exposure to icy salt water, are inevitable. One supervisor has hit several workers with a knife sharpener; another habitually curses and insults workers, in English and Spanish.

When 85% of the workers donned handmade "Queremos Sindicato" (We Want a Union) buttons in late March, the company retaliated by laying off and then reducing the work hours of most of the employees for the two months before the NLRB election—asserting lack of fresh fish as a pretext. But the union organized layoff relief, collecting money, food, and other staples from churches and community sources. Again, the union mobilized extensive trade union and community support: a June march/rally brought out 400 spirited activists, in addition to the em-

ployees. When the votes were counted, the election tally was 137 to 20, in favor of representation by SCIU.

Many employees believed the company would accept the verdict, and sit down and bargain with the union for a fair contract. Instead, the company directed its lawyers, notorious high-priced union busters from San Francisco, to try to steal the election by filing 60 "objections" to the conduct of the union's supporters and the NLRB agents who had conducted the election; and flatly refused even to recognize the union as the employee's collective bargaining representative. After having listened to the company's evidence in a 12-day hearing, NLRB hearing officer Barbara Davison will soon issue a decision, upholding or overturning the election results.

The legal battle for certification could take as long as 2-3 years. Meanwhile, organizing in the plant continues, and eventually the workers will have to take economic action to win a fair contract.

SCIU's Future

SCIU has no paid staff. It has yet to collect dues from its members, most of whom have been under tremendous financial pressure during the organizing campaign. If you can contribute to the union's efforts, please send your check to: SCIU, 1700 Corby Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95407

We are still a bilingual company because we believe that theater should reflect the community, and the Tucson community is full of Mexican/Americans who mix Spanish with English. We play a lot to people who don't see themselves represented in traditional theater or movies unless as bumbling stereotypes. We do plays written by Chicanos because they write about what they know for those who don't exist in the mainstream media and traditional theater. Our big risk is having the courage to acknowledge this population, which sometimes holds us back from getting money from big foundations.

Discovering Chicana Women Playwrights

We recently held a playwrights' contest to find and encourage Chicano writers, and came up with several from women which pleases me very much. We ended up doing a play by a woman from Texas who had never written a play before! (about women going to college and NOT getting married). The playwright project that I went to in California also had a great Chicano play by a 20-year-old girl from Los Angeles, about women being partners with their husbands instead of silent slaves. Another very good one was by a 24-year-old Puerto Rican from the Bronx, about abortion and religion.

The hottest play in Chicano theater circles right now is "Roosters," a play by Milcha Sanchez-Scott from Bali, by way of California. "Roosters" is about the unity and love women have for each other with and without men in their lives, and about how the Chicana/Latina women are taking steps to get stronger and smarter, by always nurturing each

other, and how the men are stubbornly staying the same by fighting each other.

We also hope to produce a play that we will have workshopped with Robert Aros, a local actor and writer, "El Rio del Hueso Seco" (The Dry Bone River). It's a story about a man leading a difficult union strike at the same time that his childless marriage is falling apart. The setting is Tucson with our very dry Santa Cruz River suddenly flooding all over the place after a heavy monsoon season.

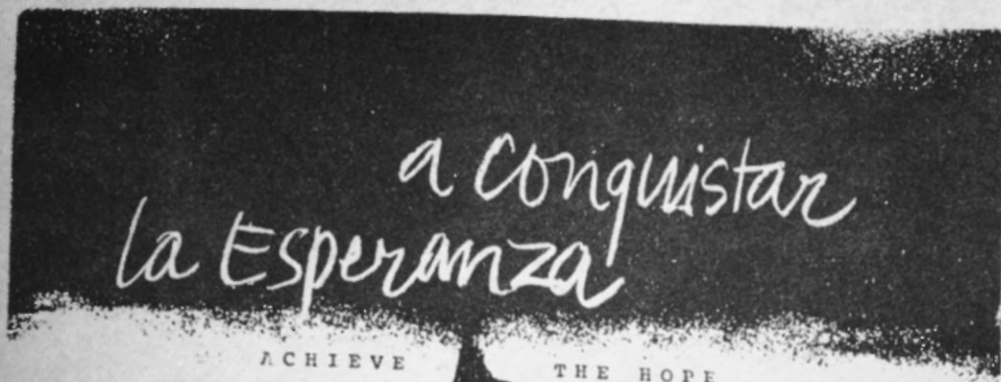
Our present play, called "Anhelos por Oaxaca" (Yearnings for Oaxaca), is a bilingual play written by Tucsonan Silvia Wood. (Yes, she's a Chicana from Barrio Anita). The theme is the conflict of cultural differences that a Mexican/American suffers daily in the outside world and with relatives at home.

By the way, I thought I would mention that the 1980 TENAZ festival amended their bylaws to include the support and encouragement of women in theater. That is one way to stop the machismo and disrespect that they saw was defeating their efforts to create and grow. It has worked, because I have seen the difference in the behavior of the older groups from the newer ones when we're all together at a festival. But by the end of the festival some of that air of equality and trust towards everybody is over all of us. It's wonderful!

I wish you all well in the work you are doing in New York.

Elizabeth Siqueiros is Director of Teatro el Sol in Tucson, Az. These are excerpts from a letter/report.

CHILEANS SAY "NO"



ACHIEVE THE HOPE



WOMEN FOR LIFE - CHILE

mujeres por la vida
CHILE

The heart-warming news from Chile that the people had risen in the October referendum and voted a resounding "NO" to the continued rule of Pinochet brought tears of joy to millions here and throughout the world.

WREE sisters and all other advocates of democracy and peace hailed the good news, even while remembering that it was our government that helped bring the dictator to power, and with him the long years of repression, torture, and murder.

In the 1970 election, the socialist

Allende won by plurality and proceeded, against vicious foreign-assisted resistance, to try to ease the plight of the people and to return to democracy. But, by 1973 the democratically elected government had been destroyed, Allende was murdered, and Pinochet installed as dictator. The CIA had a bloody hand in that coup (documented by the congressional Church Committee) as did the ITT and other U.S. corporations.

It is therefore with great joy that WREE received the following message from our sisters in Chile.

We women have opted for Change.

In demonstrations and street actions we have proved that we are more.

Our vote was decisive in the victory of the NO in the plebiscite.

Despite blatant pressure, threats and the million-dollar ideological offensive directed towards women, we obtained 52% of the vote in the country.

This important victory is no accident, it is the result of fifteen years of organization, struggle, and mobilization of Chilean women.

It is the result of the united constant work of women's organizations to transform women into a leading and decisive factor in achieving democracy.

We have the moral authority to demand that the dictator go.

We want an end to the crimes, the torture, and the disappearances.

We want freedom for all men and women political prisoners.

We want respect for the whole range of human rights and an end to freedom from punishment for the guilty.

We want full sovereignty for our nation and the restoration of its right to freely determine its own fate.

We want a constitution with democratic origins that speaks for the whole of the Chilean nation and grants women the equality they are entitled to. We want the resources of our homeland to be developed for the benefit of all Chileans.

We want a better future for ourselves and our children; without hunger, without drug addiction; and without uncertainty.

Our urgent claims cannot wait.

Pinochet is the main obstacle to their satisfaction. We therefore call on all women, organized or not, to rise up as one to demand that Pinochet go.

MEMCH has started a campaign all over Chile to collect signatures in favour of Pinochet's resignation.

We call on all Chilean women to take an active part in this signature campaign, and through their action to express their firm resolve to turn hope into reality.

DEMOCRACY NOW!

Co-ordinating Committee of Women's Organizations MEMCH '83
Santiago, October 18, 1988

Looking Toward 1992

continued from page 9

"subversives" who roam this hemisphere. What new barriers will be drawn up throughout this hemisphere to protect the ruling minority from the dispossessed majority? What new forms of "democracy" will the have-nots be subjected to?

The Women's Workshop in the Americas is dedicated to struggling for the true legacy of justice, freedom, and peace bequeathed to us by our ancestors. We condemn not only the celebration of the 500th anniversary of Europe's conquest of the Americas, but the legacy of that conquest which is visible today despite the many disguises it assumes. We stand with all those exploited, oppressed women who have stood up in angry defiance and shouted "Enough, no more" and those who will stand up in anger in the years to come.

Our network not only struggles against machismo, sexism, and racism but against all forms of violence and intervention that rob our peoples of dignity and continue to deny them their birth-right. We ask all progressive women and men to not only join us in condemning the 500th anniversary celebration scheduled for 1992, but to join us in our search for a better future for all our children. As Eduardo Galeano states, "Poverty is not written in the stars; underdevelopment is not one of God's mysterious designs." One day, tomorrow's children will make that statement a reality.



Las Posadas (A Day in the Life of a Farm Worker)

Again, winter. And
I am of the land of dead horse,
soil, red.
I come to dry a meager meal on my one-lined
scare-crow
and proceed to wither with the clouds.
You do not know me
and never will you see me
dance in stars
far brighter than Vesper
through a wind of perpetual decay.

My son is an explorer of stark wasted suns,
and when complaints roll in
like battered cows in a slaughter house,
when the box has spilled
and bruised a pale tender peach or more,
when my husband's hands are tattered with sores,
boils down his spine—
we grind the hoe, splice the fields,
all day long
we labor for hunger
in the dusty nights, a moon's husk
tumbles over with every bead of my rosary.

What prayer is left to me but a drying field
re-used and lacking
like my child's eyes in the light
last seen through the branching juniper,
I know it well. It gives me love
and shade. It heals our children.

Look for us from the corner of your eye.
We are the shadows of sun scorched mountains,
we dip and fold like gulls gusting
in thorn-lashed gullies.
Squalid rows. We align ourselves
in perfect formation
on view from the solid road.

But you never notice
this brightly colored wheat,
the bread of earth,
diced and doused with a twist
of a long wheezy breath,
the too-late dust from the skies
which smothered our still-born,
preserved and protected now.

My baby sings in soft green pastures
rides the waves of sea-turtles
and a winged moon
lulls her
down
to sleep

such a small death
no one will notice

over the tired streets
and the hard fields
the foul stalls
and the bells
from below
the
churchyard.

Sing, child. Do you not hear the chimes on Las Posadas?

Jacqueline Marcus
Los Osos, CA

During the holidays, one wonders how many people think about the hard labor that goes into plowing the fields for the food on our tables. This poem is dedicated to the farm workers who come to California and think of Paradise, only to fall back again into an inescapable hell—the hours are long, the spraying continues and the housing is unspeakable. In some cases, the tragedies of South America exist right in front of us every day—down the road—and along the so-called "landscape."

*Give me all the sorrow
of everyone*

*I am going to transform it
into hope.*

pablo neruda

Nat'l Security Council Runs Government!

by Frances Farenthold

In the 40 years since passage of the National Security Act, it has become the controlling feature of our public life and has contributed substantially to the United States of today, beset with problems both domestic and foreign, and with a crisis wherein our credibility is at stake among nations of the world.

A stunning television production of Bill Moyers, "The Secret Government," Bob Woodward's book, "Veil," and, now, the Select Committee report all focus on aspects of this invisible government that has grown since the inception of the act. They should stimulate, for the first time, popular attention to this subject.

Briefly, the National Security Act of 1947 established a Department of Defense, unified the armed services, and created the National Security Council and the Central Intelligence Agency. In addition to its intelligence function, the CIA was empowered "...to perform such other functions and duties related to intelligence affecting the national security as the National Security Council may from time to time direct." And in 1948, since there was no specific provision for covert political operations in the statute, the NSC authorized special operations by its own regulations.

The two critical features of the regulations were that the operations were to be secret, and they were to be plausibly deniable by the government—thus authorizing official lying. These provisions are the foundation the worldwide operations activities of the CIA along with the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, which exempted the CIA from the usual financial accountability of government agencies.

There were sporadic disclosures and hearings, but attempted controls achieved no long-lasting effect. After forty years of living under the National Security Act, thousands upon thousands of Third World people have been killed and tortured, and millions of dollars have been spent, wasted, and stolen. This havoc has been done not only to others; the effect of the pre-eminence of the National Security State has worked alarming and harmful effects on our society and our constitutional form of government. It has devoured our

material resources. It has operated in a lawless vacuum to an extent never before perpetrated on a democratic society. It has succeeded in these schemes because it has intentionally misled us by molding public opinion through disinformation.

The most immediate dirty war of the National Security State, in time and locale, is the war in Central America. The wars against the Nicaraguan people and their government and the war against the Salvadorean people are not unique. They follow a recurring pattern around the world that time does not permit to detail. In this hemisphere alone in the past three decades, Guatemala, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Chile have been subjected to U.S. intervention.

We cannot sustain a healthy democracy with its representative, nosy institutions while at the same time fostering the imperial military system which has intruded itself into the lives of our neighbors and exceeded all bounds of honor and decency.

The critical problem is to distinguish between covert activities to gather intelligence and covert activities to launch military actions or other violent intrusions into the lives of other people. A modern democracy requires continuous dialog and re-examination of policies and institutions, and now is the time to consider how far the NSC or the CIA should be allowed to go.

For many of us, military might is not synonymous with national security. Neither covert nor overt military and economic aggression in the Third World is tolerable. It is not naive, but the reality of the world that requires these shifts.

Frances Farenthold, a Houston, Texas, attorney, is chair of the Board of Directors of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C.

Although the recent Tower Report repeated the conventional wisdom that every president uses the NSC differently, in fact there has been a clear direction to the evolutionary change from the NSC of Truman to that of Reagan. Gradually, the NSC has moved from a planning and coordinating agency to a policy oriented "little state department" and finally to the president's private band of "zealots."

Each administration that followed increased the policy staff, and the visibility of the national security adviser. Kissinger and Brzezinski met with foreign leaders, negotiated abroad, appeared on the Sunday talk shows, were profiled in the news magazines. They acted like cabinet officials, looked like cabinet officials, were treated like cabinet officials, except for one detail: they were not accountable to Congress.

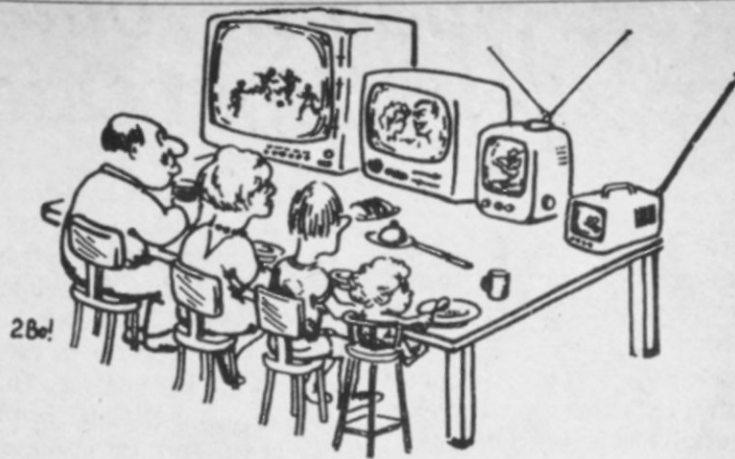
— Anna Nelson, professor of History, American University, Wash. D.C.

The rule of law seems to me to include *not* engaging in violations of the United Nations Charter, not engaging in attacks upon other countries, and in obeying the decisions of the International Court of Justice. It is appalling that Congress has never taken on the president with respect (1) to his withdrawal from the Nicaraguan International Court of Justice proceedings, (2) the withdrawal from the International Court of Justice's jurisdiction, (3) the violation of the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation — somewhat ludicrous with respect to Nicaragua — and finally disobedience to a decision of the International Court of Justice. Such disobedience is not unknown among great powers but this is *our* country and the Congress has a responsibility to make the president obey the decision of the International Court of Justice.

— Leonard Boudin, general counsel of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee

There is nothing more subversive of a democratic society than a belief on the part of elected and appointed officials that they have a right, and indeed an obligation, to lie not only to the public, not only in public to Congress, but in secret to the Congress because that lying is necessary to carry on the function that they were created to do. Yet the agency's authority to conduct covert operations in the National Security Act was created based on a lie. The agency continues to function on the assumption that it has the right and the duty to lie to the American public about what it was doing. We saw again the same thing in the Iran-Contra affair and many episodes in between.

— Morton Halperin, legislative director, American Civil Liberties Union



Reagan's Last Anti-Child Act

In June of this year the House passed H.R. 3966, the Children's Television Act of 1988, a bi-partisan compromise that sets commercial limits on children's programs at 10½ minutes per hour on weekends and 12 minutes on weekdays and requires the FCC to take into consideration at license renewal time whether or not stations have served the educational and informational needs of children. In October, the bill was approved by the U.S. Senate in a unanimous voice vote. And in November President Reagan vetoed the bill! Before the veto, Action for Children's Television (ACT) president Peggy Charren, characterized the "legislation as a landmark victory for parents and children. Its historic importance is that it puts the first programming requirement into the Communications Act and properly focuses on the needs of children as a unique audience. It turns around Reagan's 'let-them-eat-cable' attitude towards children's programs."

Her reference to cable was the position of the Administration that the proliferation of cable would increase competition and assure that all kinds of children's programming would be available. Ms. Charren said this did not take into account the fact that the poor cannot afford cable.

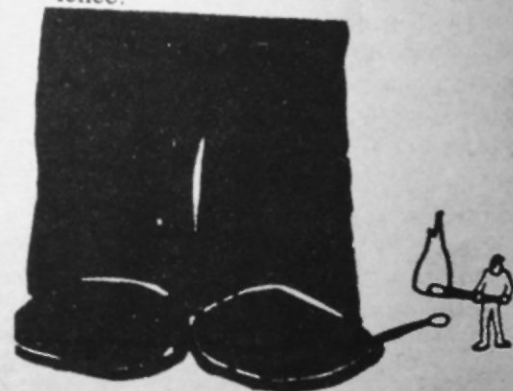
The bill reversed the 1984 FCC Report which deemphasized the educational aspects of public service to young viewers. The legislation also reversed the 1986 FCC decision which stated that there is no need for an advertising limit in children's television programming. The FCC claimed that the marketplace would work to control overcommercialization. In 1987, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that the Commission had "failed sufficiently to justify this action" and remanded the case to the FCC for reconsideration. WREE and other people's organizations felt that even the 10½ minutes per hour on weekends and 12 minutes on weekdays is too much, "especially since the commercials are usually for junk foods or toys of violence." Nevertheless, WREE hailed the bill as a necessary step toward protection of the rights of children. Peggy Charren pointed out that HR 3966 was overwhelmingly approved by Congress, by educators, by parents' organizations and "even the television industry said they could live with it." Reagan's veto was thus an arrogant and vicious disservice to children. The bill must be and will be reintroduced into the new Congress in January 1989.

By the time an average child in the U.S. reaches the age of 18, he or she has witnessed 26,000 murders on television, and 32,000 murders if the child also watches pay cable programs according to the National Coalition on Television Violence. TV is now averaging 12 acts of violence per hour, including 1.1 murders and 1.1 attempted murders.

NCTV claims that the current generation of young Americans, numbering about 50 million, is being raised on far more sadistic and violent material than any other previous generation, and this constant exposure to graphic violence will lead to a more aggressive, desensitized population.

In a recently released report on the film industry worldwide, the same organization found that Hong Kong, the U.S., and Mexico produced the highest percentage of violent films in 1987 and the U.S. was by far the leading exporter of violent entertainment.

The report is based on a study of 1,000 films selected at random from 20 countries. About 72% of the films from Hong Kong were considered violent—focused on gruesome horror and satanic violence. The two out of three films considered violent from Mexico dealt with gangster themes and sexual violence.



Anti-Woman "Men's" Magazine

A petition asking *Sports Illustrated* to eliminate its "swimsuit issue" and increase its coverage of women's sports is currently being circulated. Athletes for Equality, an organization working to obtain equitable coverage for women athletes, is also targeting *Sports Illustrated's* corporate sponsors with its appeal.

Said one SI subscriber, "I am insulted by what I see as sleazy economics. While their sports coverage seems generally fair to me, the swimsuit issue is an annual money-making habit that is a sign of kicking. In a choice between money and morals, SI goes with the bucks."

For more info: Beverly Smith, 98 Spring St., Amherst, MA 01002.

Heroic Filipina Women Struggle Against Odds

by Steve Graw

One of the Filipino people's most beloved leaders in the struggle against foreign domination is Gabriela Silang. Gabriela achieved immortality by assuming leadership of the fight against the Spanish after her husband, a revolutionary general, had perished in battle.

Today in the midst of "Low Intensity Conflict" and human rights abuses surpassing those under deposed President Marcos, two extraordinarily brave women are holding high the banners of liberation. In Manila WREE recently was privileged to interview Prof. Zenaida Uy, General Secretary of the New Nationalist Alliance (Bayan) and Mrs. Josie Salas, Chair of the Free Rodolfo Salas Committee (FRSC).

Zenny Uy has taken over Bayan's reigns from Lean Alejandro, the former student leader brutally assassinated by a paramilitary death squad in September 1987. Amid the current climate of political violence and repression, these women are undaunted despite the murders of many of their closest associates.

Cory Gov't Moves Right

The three-million-strong Bayan, the largest above-ground component of the Philippine Left, first became significant in the fight against the Marcos dictatorship. When the February 1986 uprising brought Cory Aquino to power, most people believed the new regime would provide the populist, reform program that Bayan had long advocated. But the subsequent brutal murders of the alliance's President Rolando Olalia and of Alejandro only punctuated the sharp rightward thrust the new government was taking as it sought stability under the umbrella of U.S. and reactionary Filipino political power.

"After Lean's assassination last year, fear engulfed our membership," recounted Zenny Uy. "If they could strike at our Secretary General in the home office, the worst was still to come. They'd already killed our President and other provincial leaders. When I was nominated, I tried to reconcile things, considering I have six children, and that many friends were saying 'enough is enough. Don't you see the futility of street marches which ousted Marcos but ultimately brought no real change, just a new leader amongst the elite?'"

Earlier in the year Uy herself had been cheated out of a congressional seat in her home district of Cebu City in a clear case of electoral fraud.

But Zenny accepted the position, which also meant moving to Manila. "At first I thought that if Lean was always thinking of the future of the 60% of our population who are under 20 years old and of his one child, then so much the more I should think of my six children," she recalled. "But then I decided that if a young man had to offer his life for the principles he stood for, there's no reason for a woman like me to even think twice. It was a hard decision, but since death comes only once, and if it's bound to happen to anyone who questions the existing system and who articulates proposals for new ways of doing things, then let it be."

Uy, a professor of sociology and anthropology, also explained that after many years, "the meaning of a neocolonial, semifeudal society only became clear when students started explaining it to me in the early 1970s." But then those students and their organizations began to vanish when Marcos declared their political work illegal. So Uy began her serious commitment to teaching and articulating the need for change in society.

"Since Lean Alejandro represented the youth, I told myself that it's time a parent continue the efforts he had started," she continued. "While we grieve for the loss of a comrade, his death has brought an even stronger resolve to continue what he died for. The call is to stop crying and change fear to courage. When we work for change, those who benefit from the present structure will definitely try to cut us off. We accept that and realize there'll be a corresponding sacrifice so the humanity of our people can be restored."

Illegal Detention

Josie Salas is working to build mass support and pressure to free her husband Rudy, one of the most effective organizers in the Philippines, and to gain fair treatment for other political detainees. Rudy's been illegally detained for the last two years by the Philippine military which claims he's the chairman of the Philippine Communist Party.

Josie Salas has been married 17 years to Rudy. Rudy is one of many Philippine university students who left a promising academic career in the 60s to become activists. Josie, a factory worker, met her husband while he was organizing for the union. With the onset of Marcos' martial law, Rudy began a life marked by detention, torture, and clandestine activism—danger became everpresent.

Despite his work in organizing mass boycotts of Marcos' staged elections as well as spontaneous protests at the murder of Ninoy Aquino, Rudy was targeted as an enemy of the Aquino regime. Called to Manila in September 1986 to help sign the Ceasefire Agreement between the government and the New People's Army, Rudy and Josie were arrested without warrants and thrown into a military dungeon at Camp Crame, site of the EDSA Uprising the year before. As part of a legal compromise, Josie was released a week later in exchange for dropping further appeals to the Supreme Court about the illegal arrests. The Ceasefire ultimately proved a failure by year's end, but Rudy was charged with rebellion against the discredited Marcos regime! That made him the new regime's first political prisoner.

Undaunted Struggle

So began Josie's struggle to obtain release of her husband, a struggle punctuated by 18 months of solitary confinement (outlawed under the new Constitution) for her husband, the murder of their attorney Ramos Cura, most likely by anti-communist vigilantes operating in the vicinity of the U.S. Clark Air Force Base, and death threats to the President of the FRSC.

Undaunted, Josie has maintained a high profile from the start. During her husband's confinement inside a polluted weapons magazine at the base, Jo-



Josie Salas speaking at organizing meeting in Angeles City, Pampanga, Philippines.

sie led delegations to Malacanang Palace (the Philippine White House), picketing at the trial courts, and meetings with members of the Philippine Congress. Working with Rudy's sisters who also helped start the Committee, she was able to raise sufficient bail money for Rudy, though the military still refuses to grant his release. Now that the detention of political prisoners is at a level comparable to that at the end of Marcos' rule, Josie has been busy directing her committee's efforts toward defense of the rights of all detainees. This past June, Josie testified before the congress about the deplorable conditions of political detention, as part of a campaign demanding the release of nursing mothers, of family breadwinners, and of those seriously ill.

WREE traveled to Angeles City to observe Josie leading a FRSC-sponsored workshop on community organizing. With the objective of empowering people, the session featured Josie speaking on organizing techniques and issues beyond just that of her husband's

Words of encouragement and financial support may be sent to: Free Rodolfo Salas Movement, 44 Banahaw St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines.

release. Josie's ability to generate wide-based support was apparent from the well-to-do neighborhood where the meeting was held and by the attendance of the local Congressman Oscar Rodriguez, himself a victim of redbaiting and vigilante threats. The presence of Rodriguez's watchful bodyguard just outside the gate was a reminder of the sinister threat haunting Filipino voices of freedom.

The efforts of the FRSC and Josie Salas have also resulted in international support. Human rights delegations from Japan and Australia have recently tried to visit Rudy, not always successfully, and last December Josie and daughter Regina traveled to Japan as guests of the railway workers' union there. Regina's description of the plight of detainees' children moved the workers to tears.

The commitment of Josie Salas, Zenaida Uy, and countless other progressive women of the Philippines ensure that the beloved spirit of Gabriela Silang lives on!

PROTESTS AND FLIGHT OF NAMIBIAN STUDENTS

Because Namibia has a severe shortage of teachers, South African soldiers and their wives have been able easily to take over the teaching in many schools in Namibia. According to *African Concord*, armed and plainclothes soldiers lead classes in Namibia and fill breaks between schools subjects with political speeches, rhetoric, and a steady stream of propaganda against SWAPO, the Namibian liberation movement that has been fighting for independence from S. Africa since 1960.

Koevoet, South Africa's paramilitary unit, maintains a presence on school grounds, and barracks are often set up close to schools. Reports say that students are also recruited as spies and threatened with torture if they refuse.

As a result, tens of thousands of Namibian students have staged boycotts of classes and thousands of them are fleeing to Angola to seek refuge. The protests have involved more than 50,000 students.

Most who cross into Angola are between 13 and 18 years and want to join SWAPO. SWAPO officials say these children are sent to schools in Angola or other countries when arrangements can be made for them. Nevertheless, whether at home or as refugees, these teenagers are being schooled in violence and being left ill-equipped to meet life in conditions of the independence and peace to come.

South Africa has been in control of Namibia, a huge and sparsely populated country half the size of Western Europe, since 1920, when the League of Nations gave South Africa administrative authority over Namibia, which was then called South West Africa. According to the mandate, South Africa was to administer the country "in the best interests of the indigenous population."

In 1966, the UN General Assembly terminated the mandate, but South Africa has refused to comply with the decision and withdraw from Namibia despite subsequent demands by the UN Security Council (1969) and the International Court of Justice (1971).

The already bleak conditions faced by black school children in Namibia are not being helped by this schooling in an atmosphere of violence and growing confrontation. Estimates show that annual education expenditure is approximately 30 pounds per black child, as opposed to 286 pounds per white child. Few black children successfully complete eight years of schooling, and the illiteracy rate among black Namibians is 60%. All state schools are racially segregated, and school attendance is compulsory only for white students.

(information from Action for Children, UN)



Zenaida Uy, at Bayan Office, Quezon City, R.P.

Photos by Steve Graw

Parenting for Peace

by Steve Skidmore

In the past, little effort has been made to relate the issues of peace and justice to family concerns. Many social change people ignored the family, considering it the preserve of "those who know best." Now, many are realizing that unless peace and justice can become integral to daily concerns—family, neighborhood, faith—the number of new activists will remain small. Numbers alone are not the most important thing, but peace and justice are too important to leave to the same few activists. Besides, even those activists now have families of their own.

The dilemma, then, is involving the whole family as active participants in peace and justice activities; which can be difficult to do, to say the least. An answer is "Parenting for Peace and Justice." Formed in the spring of 1981, with national headquarters in St. Louis, the Parenting for Peace and Justice Network (PPJN) is designed to aid parents and others concerned with the family to integrate family life and social concerns. We became involved with PPJN shortly after the birth of our first child,

when we knew that "carrying on" the old activist lifestyle was going to be very difficult to do. Three children later, we can only look back on such a statement and laugh; carrying on the old lifestyle wasn't difficult, it simply ceased to exist!

Purely by accident, I happened to be home one morning and turned on a television talk show. Much to my surprise, it wasn't about some frivolous subject, but about the PPJN. Intrigued, we contacted this group because they seemed to be espousing the answers to everything that we were struggling with. We believe very strongly that Parenting for Peace and Justice is the best way to integrate family life into social activism.

"Parenting for Peace and Justice" is the shorthand expression for discovering, and helping other families discover, how materialism, violence, racism, sexism, and other social forces affect family life. In addition to these considerations, it is also essential that families promote a sense of connection with the global family. Therefore, the "mission" of PPJN revolves around five basic themes:



1. Helping children deal with materialism and taking steps as a whole family to live as good stewards of talents, possessions, and the earth's resources;

2. Learning nonviolent ways to resolve family conflicts and build a more cooperative family environment;

3. Developing healthy racial attitudes in children;

4. Countering sex role stereotypes as a family;

5. Involving children in social action and integrating action with prayer.

For one of the few times in my life, television accomplished something positive; it hooked us up with the gift of the people and ideas of PPJN. We wish to share that gift with you in a variety of ways:

- By networking with you by telephone or mail;

- Through in-person training and

workshops at your church, peace group, or other organization, or even one on one with you and your family;

- By putting you in touch with others in your area who share similar concerns and interests in PPJN.

We can be reached by writing Diane and Steve Skidmore, Rt. 2, Box 210, Whittier, North Carolina 28789; or by telephone at (704) 586-8084. You may also find out more about Parenting for Peace and Justice Network by writing Jim and Kathy McGinnis, the founders of PPJN, at the national office (associated with the Institute for Peace and Justice), 4144 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108, or by calling (314) 522-4445. We hope to hear from you. Shalom!

Steve Skidmore is a member of the National Advisory Board of the PPJN.



FAILURE OF LANGUAGE TEACHING

by Martha Stephens

It is natural for us to want our children to learn foreign languages. We know the importance of such a skill. And in internationalist organizations like WREE we also know how important it is for society that we bring up children who can communicate with their sisters and brothers in other countries.

And yet our children are not learning languages in school.

Language teaching in the U.S. is generally so elitist and so ridden with old dogma and superstition that a) students who do take languages dread and dislike them and do not learn, and b) most students are de-selected to begin with: "School records indicate that your child should not enroll in a foreign language."

Is this why only 2% of Americans speak another language? and why (even according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) fewer than a third of high school students take a language course?

Many schools say it takes a special "talent" to learn a foreign language, and that this is a talent most children don't have and, "If you haven't made A's and B's in English, don't try Spanish." Those general "ability tests" that serve so many damaging purposes are of course also used against children who want to study a language. I recall a French teacher in a junior high school

that selects only a fourth of its students to take a language, saying my daughter should not learn French because she was not good in *math*.

"A foreign language is a very difficult subject," teachers say. "There's so much to memorize and you have to be good at grammar."

These typical beliefs of language teachers are false, and have been known to be false for at least thirty years by people studying language acquisition.

Scholars agree that language learning does not require a special "talent," it need not be difficult, it definitely should not be tense, and we do not have to memorize long lists of new words, verb endings, and grammar rules.

This last point may need a little explanation.

Grammar teaching as such was abandoned in our better language programs some years ago, but in many colleges, and in most public schools today, people still believe in it. Day by day and week by week, students learn an ever-lengthening series of grammar rules and then practise applying those rules in "exercises," filling in the blanks, usually, in long sets of more or less unconnected sentences whose mean-

ing is unimportant. At the same time they are also set to memorizing, along with the "rules," long columns of verb endings and other inflections, and almost daily lists of "vocabulary words."

The lists pile up, and it all becomes exhausting. Students are tested frequently—not to see if they are learning to speak and read, but to see if they are learning to state and apply the rules of grammar and to repeat the lists.

And yet it has been shown in study after study that this old-fashioned grammar-memorization method does not produce students who can speak or read a language and that, instead, most people taught this way become convinced that they cannot learn actually to use a language.

What can we do to stop this savage cycle that is blocking an important route of development for our people—and a crucial pathway to dialogue with friends and co-workers abroad?

First we must simply inform ourselves and try to keep our own children from being victims of these old superstitions. Then protest however we can and in the name of all children the general failure of American adults to help youngsters gain this all-important skill.

Each one of us who has learned to speak and read our own language can learn to speak and read another one. This simple fact ceased to be a matter of dispute many years ago in the pages of *Modern Language Journal* the major research publication in the U.S. on language learning.

There are methods that do work. T.D. Terrell, a researcher and teacher at the University of California at Irvine, has had wide acceptance of what he terms the "natural approach" to learning a language. Terrell says that most grammar exercises "are boring to all but the most dedicated of students," and that "their failure as a basis for a language course is painfully obvious." He has designed a large variety of lessons to ease students into a spontaneous use of a new language.

Terrell points out that small children learning their first language comprehend what others say long before they begin to speak: classroom teaching, he feels, should emulate the natural situation as closely as possible. When speakers make mistakes they should not be corrected; if they can be understood at all, the group conversation simply goes on, and in this way they forget to be afraid.

Of major importance for Terrell, and for the many other teachers who are now following a natural program, is that students become interested in communication and forget about grammar and form. People cannot learn language, he feels, except in a "low-anxiety environment."

When children of any age are told they cannot learn a language, parents should present themselves at school and demand an explanation.

If a child is taking a language and seems to want to learn but is failing, those failing grades should perhaps be challenged—in fact, maybe the teacher should put all the tests away for a while. Sometimes a committee of parents can make quite a difference in the way teachers teach.

Schools can be asked to experiment with the natural methods (Terrell's and others) and to provide beginners with little illustrated readers and comics and newspapers, interesting records and tapes. Songs and poems and plays are excellent and should not be just recreation after anxious tests, but primary activities. If the situation seems hopeless, it might be possible to have the principal or the PTA bring in applied linguists from nearby universities to help teachers learn about the new methods. Of course we have some language teachers who are excellent and already teaching relaxed 'learner-friendly' courses, but there are many more who are not yet familiar with modern research, which shows that all people can learn a language.

Martha Stephens is a specialist in language and literature at the University of Cincinnati, and editor of the *Cincinnati Review*.

BLACK WOMEN CONFER ON AIDS

by Nkenge Toure

Some 100 Black women gathered in Washington DC for 2 days in October for a National Strategy Development Think Tank to explore the development of a national network of Black women working collaboratively to influence the development of policy and programs in support of Black women affected by the AIDS epidemic. The goals included encouraging the development of appropriate community-based education, prevention, and support programs.

While participants came from every part of the country, the majority were from the East coast. They interacted in groups and subgroups, identified similar issues, concerns, problems and needs: education, political and organizational accountability, support services and funding.

Current education efforts, they said, were not sufficient or significant enough to change behaviors in the Black community; what is needed is a multistructured, multidirected campaign that would target the entire community to bring information to various groups in varying ways.

The women also felt that courage and accountability on the part of politicians and organizations at the local, state, and national level is critical. Politicians must speak out; organizations must utilize some of their resources to educate and serve.

Participants felt support systems and services for persons with AIDS (PWA), and for HIV-infected individuals and their families and friends are too few, with not enough follow-up, counseling for PWA's, or training to sensitize institutional personnel who work with them. Finally, the women spoke of a compelling need for some type of national uniform medical protocol, a broader, more wholistic approach.

Of course, the issue of funding was dealt with: there are few AIDS projects for people of color, or national programs with a significant focus on communities of color. And, without such programs developed, controlled, and staffed by people of color, these communities will always be disproportionately affected.

The conference strongly recommended, therefore, that the Center for Disease Control make funds available immediately for such programs. The 100 women present were deeply committed to working in at least one of the areas outlined.

The "Think Tank," convened by the National Black Women's Health Project (NBWHP) placed its emphasis on that which is doable, rather than upon a wish list approach of "Wouldn't it be great if . . ." Doable implies strategies that can be worked on by an organization, a department, or section, or individual. It implies strategies that provide immediate ways of joining the fight.

Participants applauded the NBWHP for convening Think Tank, and urged other groups to convene regional Think Tanks which, they felt, would be a realistic way of building an AIDS network among Black women.

The two-day session was viewed as a major step for Black women to move from cries and whispers to action. We, as Black women, are empowering ourselves to fight the spread of AIDS in our own communities.

Ms. Toure served on the planning committee for the Think Tank. She is a member of NBWHP and coordinator of the International Council of African Women (ICAW). She also hosts a weekly radio program, on D.C. WPFW, called "In Our Voices."

Teen Pregnancy Laws Needed

Late in the 100th Congress, there were some important developments for organizations concerned with teenage pregnancy:

- The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee reported out the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, Care and Research Grants (S. 1950) which, if enacted, would provide up to \$60 million a year to support educational services related to sexuality and family life; health education and social services for pregnant teens, young parents and their infants; and research related to adolescent pregnancy, childbearing and childrearing.

- Reps. Mickey Leland (D-Texas), Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Nancy Johnson (R-Conn.) introduced the Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenthood Act of 1988 (H.R. 5206). This bill focuses on services to pregnant teens, young parents and their families, making available up to \$60 million in the first year, with increases in subsequent years. While Rep. Leland has introduced and won considerable support among House members for similar measures ever since 1984, this was the first

time that Rep. Waxman, chairman of the House health subcommittee, had thrown his support behind this bill.

"These actions could pave the way for real progress in 1989," according to the National Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting. "Senator Kennedy's staff has informed us that action is planned early in the next Congress and that the help and support of interested organizations will be needed. It will be important to press for action on the House bill, too."

WREE has joined the Ad Hoc Coalition on Teen Pregnancy to help mobilize support for the bills needed in the 101st Congress.

Black Clergywomen Meet

by M. Garlinda Burton

The first churchwide gathering of black United Methodist clergywomen, held in Freeport, Bahamas, in June, was an emotional homecoming for the 125 women attending. Many renewed

Civil Rights Booklet Out

A new publication from the National Interreligious Commission on Civil Rights documents the testimony, findings, and recommendations of regional hearings held from 1984 to 1986, in Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Kansas City, and Montgomery. The commissioners presiding at these hearings included national religious and civil rights leaders and local counterparts.

This 40-page booklet, "Dangerous Waters," chronicles the resurgence of racism, the emergence of a plethora of groups committed to racial hatred, violence, and the demoralization of the human rights environment nationwide.

This publication is a "must" for all persons who are active and concerned about the protection of civil rights, full equality, and the elimination of racism; particularly given the backdrop of ultra-conservatism and the retreat on civil rights/affirmative action that has been sanctioned by the national administration.

The very real "dangers" that face all Americans as a result of this trend are well-documented in "Dangerous Waters."

Copies may be ordered by sending \$7.50 to NICCR, 1442 North Farwell Av. 210, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

old acquaintances, while others, used to being the sole black woman ministers in their communities or states, were staggered by the number of participants.

Common stories of stress and isolation were balanced by participants' affirmations of one another's call to impart the gospel and their definition of roles as mentor for future women clerics.

"Only the Lord could make this happen," said retired United Methodist Bishop Leontine T.C. Kelly, of San Francisco and the first black woman bishop in mainline Christian history.

Her words, "A few years ago we could have held this consultation in a phone booth. And now here we are!" were met with applause.

More than 200 ordained black women deacons, elders, and local pastors are in the United Methodist Church in the United States and Puerto Rico, according to the Rev. Kathy Nickerson of the denomination's Division of Ordained Ministry in Nashville, Tenn. The division sponsored the consultation here.

United Methodist conferences in Africa have another 60-80 clergywomen, including the Rev. Mary Johnston, Sierra Leone, and the Rev. Marie Smith Eastman, Liberia, the denomination's only black women district superintendents. The African women had their first continental meeting in 1986, Ms. Nickerson said.

Preachers for the meeting here stressed unity—between black ministers, both male and female, and among blacks in the United States, Africa and the Caribbean—self-esteem, and increased political action by black church women to bring about justice and equality in church and societal structures.

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ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITIES invite visitors/residents. Opposing racism and sexism; supporting equality and individual differences. Write for booklet (\$2 helps): Federation of Egalitarian Communities, Twin Oaks, WR86, Louisa, VA 23093.

The WREE VIEW page 15



Nina Hutchison

Marines Love Kids?

by Dorothy Haegle

The military-industrial complex, about which President Eisenhower warned us more than thirty years ago, is totally out of control. It now includes the grotesque marketing techniques that make children view as appealing toys which glorify violence, and gimmicks that delude children into thinking of the Marines as kindly. In fact, the Marines are one of the world's most dehumanizing organizations.

If we kept a record of the percentage of crimes committed by military, or ex-military men, we would take steps to remove ROTC and recruitment activities from schools. We would, instead, follow the lead of several European nations in development of peace studies and observation of school and commu-

nity "Peace Days."

Education is supposed to be about the search for truth. Militarism is the exact opposite: it teaches deceit, treachery, and killing—too often for the benefit of multinational corporations, which have no loyalty to any nation. Our bulging prisons are dramatic testimony to the destructive effects of an increasingly militaristic society.

Neither militarism nor words will ever make us "one nation under God." Peace could.

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THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION (WIDF)

WIDF united 138 national organizations of women in 124 countries. It has Consultative Status (1) with ECOSOC, Consultative Status (B) with UNESCO, and Consultative Status with UNICEF, and is on the ILO Special List.

WIDF organized the World Congress of Women in Moscow in June 1987, attended by almost 3000 women from 154 countries.

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 1976-1985 Equality, Development, and Peace."

Journal of the Women's International Democratic Federation



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