

Peace & Freedom

MAGAZINE OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

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*Twenty percent
of the world's population
consumes
80 percent of its
resources.*



Many of the things we take for granted (tomatoes in winter or cheap electrical goods) are produced in the Third World by those who gain little from their labor.

WILPF members were very active this summer organizing around the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia and the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles. At right, WILPF members marched with the Kensington Welfare Rights Union in Philadelphia. WILPF's national headquarters were used by the International Media Project and for meetings of direct action organizers which attracted the attention of the local police. After initial denials, the police admitted they had photographed people at WILPF's offices. In Los Angeles, WILPF members worked at the local Independent Media Center, and attended the Shadow Convention as well as marching in demonstrations against the DNC.



See also the cartoon on page 18.

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The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

has been working since 1915 to unite women worldwide who oppose oppression and exploitation. WILPF stands for equality of all people in a world free of racism, sexism and homophobia; the building of a constructive peace through world disarmament; and the changing of government priorities to meet human needs.

National Program: WILPF envisions a world free of violence, poverty, pollution and domination — a genuine new world order of peace and justice. WILPF's program stands firm for disarmament and against oppression. The 2000-2003 program cycle has three key campaign areas: Challenging Corporate Power, Asserting the People's Rights; Disarmament; and Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration and Reconciliation (UFORJE). Each campaign area focuses on local and national effectiveness in creating lasting social change.

WILPF has sections in 37 countries

coordinated by an international office in Geneva. U.S. WILPF carries out its work through grassroots organizing by WILPF branches, coordinated by a national office in Philadelphia. WILPF supports the work of the United Nations and has NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) status.

Cover Art compliments of The Activists Resource Network

Shop 'Til You Drop?

.....
Phyllis Yingling, President
.....

Shop 'Til You Drop! How many times have you seen that on bumper stickers and T-shirts? It's supposed to be funny. It's supposed to bring to mind the typical woman who loves to spend hours cruising the malls. And, sometimes, especially around the holidays, we are all guilty of that kind of consumerism. *Mea culpa* — once in awhile.

What do we mean by consumerism? Why should we be concerned about it? Isn't it good for the economy? I think we will find this issue of *Peace & Freedom* to be an especially meaningful one as we seek to define the term and explore the effect that consumerism has on each one of us.

I was thinking about writing this column as I sat stranded for two hours in Heathrow Airport in transit from the International Executive Committee (IEC) in Berlin back home to Baltimore. There we were, surrounded by dozens of airport shops from McDonald's to Harrod's, not to mention all the Duty Free shops. Fortunately, I didn't have any U.K. money on me, so I wasn't too tempted and didn't buy anything, though I knew my credit card would have been welcomed. At the IEC, I served as a member of the finance committee and I was all too aware of the massive economic gap between those WILPF sections above the equator, and those in the nations south of the equator where many people live in abject poverty. These sections are often financially unable to send representatives to international meetings without scholarship assistance.

One of the many things we were reminded of during a seminar on racism preceding the IEC was that most of the consuming nations of the world (the United States and many of the nations north of the equator) exploit the workers in the producing nations of the world — those nations whose citizens work for a pittance to sew our clothing, assemble our appliances, manufacture our cars, and provide lumber from their rain forests to build our homes and furniture.

A large majority of the people who produce goods and services for us are people of color who earn pennies — just one more aspect of racism. Further, many of the workers laid off from mills and factories in this country when corporations move south are people of color and/or people who are already living in poverty. Many of the migrant workers paid pitiful wages by employers in the north are people of color.

There is no doubt that consumerism and racism are closely linked. It is equally obvious that consumerism and militarism are even more closely linked. Ironically,

the producers of military weapons and equipment are primarily nations in the North who shamelessly hawk their wares to nations in the South, where conflicts are fanned into hot wars by the purveyors of death and destruction.

I hasten to say that the racism seminar and IEC meeting were not all doom and gloom. Even as Laura Partridge eloquently led the workshop on Negationism and Denial: Historical and Personal Approach," she helped us laugh with each other and at ourselves using the techniques of Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed.

At mealtime, laughter, which is the same in every language, peeled from the tables as we ate with new friends from faraway places. One of the most memorable evenings of the week for me was the night we danced to the music of a Polish band, twirling and swirling, Germans and Israelis, Netherlanders and Colombians, Russians and U.S. Americans, Finns and French, Australians and Nepalese. It was a joyful reminder that it is possible to enjoy life together with no thought for race or nationality.

WILPF women are indeed everywhere, working together for a more equitable society. Those of us in the WILPF sections that are enjoying booming economies must become more aware of the plight of our sisters from those nations that make our booming economy possible. Perhaps we should borrow the thought from another bumper sticker: Live Simply That Others May Simply Live. ❖



PEACE & FREEDOM - 2001

The themes and deadlines have been set for next year's magazine. Submissions are encouraged, but please first get in touch with Theta Pavis, editor, at (215) 563-7110 or by email at peacefreedom@wilpf.org. Note that dates listed below are tentative.

Winter: Disarmament and the post-election outlook
Deadline: November 17, 2000

Spring: Books by and for WILPF members
Deadline: March 16, 2001

Summer: Previewing WILPF's International Congress
Deadline: June 16, 2001

Fall: UN World Conference on Racism
Deadline: early September



Reader's Forum

Thanks for article on KPFA

First, thank you for your article about our beloved station, KPFA. I am a listener sponsor and it was good to read about our struggle to hold onto free speech radio. Second, I am a cartoonist and would be happy to contribute to your magazine. Please continue your lively magazine. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

*Bulbul
Mountain View, CA*

What Do We Not Know About Colombian Drugs?

Will our tax money sail through a larger Canal? To determine whether our tax money is being spent in a way that will benefit the needs of Americans, perhaps we can sort out recent information on Colombia:

The Panama Canal is too narrow to handle passage of aircraft carriers, but a canal is needed to transport about 100 million tons of U.S. cargo per year. Is this why the U.S. plans to construct a much larger canal in northern Colombia, which can accommodate our military and corporate Atlantic/Pacific travel? Is this your

Send letters to Peace & Freedom, Editor, 1213 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19107-1691 or email peacefreedom@wilpf.org. We reserve the right to choose and edit letters.

tax money at work?

Could our tax money, recently assigned to Colombia by President Clinton for drug control, be used in the U.S. for drug prevention and rehabilitation?

Are the President and Congress investigating? Perhaps they need encouragement.

Write to:

President Bill Clinton: White House,
Washington, D.C. 20500
Senator _____, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.
20510
Congressman _____, U.S. House of
Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515
White House: (202) 456-1111
House/Senate: (202) 224-3121

*June Krebs
Philadelphia, PA*

Miami Peace Fund Correction

JAPA's Miami Education for Peace Fund has a maximum funding level of \$500. The figure was incorrect in the Summer issue of *Peace & Freedom*.

WILPF ARCHIVES

All members are welcome to donate WILPF memorabilia and documents to the Swarthmore Peace Collection, which houses the WILPF archives. Simply contact Wendy Chmielewski, curator, before sending your donation.

Swarthmore Peace Collection
500 College Ave.
Swarthmore, PA 19081-1399
Telephone: (610) 328-8557, Fax: (610) 690-5728,
Email: wchmiel1@swarthmore.edu

WILPF International Congress - 2001

The next International WILPF Congress will be held in East Jerusalem/Palestine, from July 28 to August 4.

The Congress will be followed by a traveling seminar, hosted by the Israeli Section.

Please put money aside to participate, raise money for someone from your branch to go, reach out to women from the Middle East living in your area, and organize "a count down to Jerusalem" the way we did for Beijing!

Subjects that will be part of our Congress will include: globalization and the impact on the Middle East, moving from militarism to a culture of peace, and alternatives to violence and solving conflicts.

For more information, phone International WILPF at 41-22-733-6175, fax 41-22-740-1063, or email: wilpf@iprolink.ch.



Gillian Gilhool, WILPF Legislative Organizer

The Credit Industry and Bankruptcy Reform

Banks and finance companies that promote and profit from the expansion of consumer debt have been working overtime in Washington, D. C.

Congress is poised to undermine federal bankruptcy law, which sets up the legal process for debt relief in our country. This legal process, which helps economically vulnerable citizens and families get access to new beginnings, has served the country well since the New Deal.

Although temporarily stalled, the conference version of the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 2000 (HR 833) may finally pass in the rush of bills closing out the 106th Congress. Under this act, debtors who turn to the judicial process for help will face harsh new obstacles. The lives of people and families driven into debt by hard circumstances, or the predatory marketing practices of the credit industry, can only become more stressful and hopeless if this bill passes.

Women will be especially hurt by a provision that will eliminate the preference for people owed child support, and by stricter conditions imposed on people seeking to declare bankruptcy. Elizabeth Warren, a Harvard law bankruptcy expert, says that nearly half of the more than a million people who file each year for bankruptcy protection do so because of uninsured medical debt. Poor families headed by women are most affected. (1)

The credit industry blames abuse of the bankruptcy process to justify its campaign to limit the number of people discharged under Chapter 7. Yet according to Gary Klein of the National Consumer Law Center, the rise in the number of bankruptcy filings is a consequence of new patterns of financial insecurity built into our consumption-based economy. (2)

It's also a consequence of rising debt-to-income ratios promoted by aggressive credit card marketing. These tactics are followed by "aggressive creditor collection practices" which leave many debtors with no options. Furthermore, studies cited by Klein document that the higher volume of consumer petitions for bankruptcy matches — rather than exceeds — the swollen expansion of consumer debt currently burdening the public.

CONGRESS INDEBTED

Years of aggressive marketing by the credit industry assured passage of what even Henry Hyde (R-IL 6) called a "Draconian" House bill and Senate version. According to Common Cause, the credit industry gave \$7.5 million in campaign contributions to members of both parties in 1999. (3)

MBNA, the top contributor at \$668,500, gave \$150,000 to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee six weeks before the bill passed the Senate in early February (the vote was 83 to 14). Between 1997 and 1999, contributions

amounted to \$24,907 per House member, \$40,497 per Senator — for a total of \$23.4 million. In the last decade, the industry spent \$72.6 million on campaign contributions. As Rep. Hyde also said in 1998, "Let me pay my respects to the creditor lobby. They are awesome."

President Clinton has twice promised to veto the conference bill, which emerged from a "shadow" conference process behind closed doors. It embodies the worst aspects of both versions, according to Joan Entmacher, vice president of the National Women's Law Center, who is actively opposed to the bill. But with this level of corporate investment across the board, Congressional leadership may bury this major piece of legislation in the now-typical, veto-proof omnibus appropriations bill that often gets passed at the end of the year.

Several bills introduced in the 106th Congress address some of the most egregiously irresponsible lending practices of the credit industry. Working together, WILPF constituents could give these bills life during the next session of Congress.

1. Testimony before House Judiciary Committee, April 14, 1998, www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/warren.htm.
2. Testimony before Senate Banking Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, March 25, 1999, www.consumerlaw.org/testcom/banking.html.
3. "Bankruptcy Legislation Enters Final Stages," report issued April 20, 2000, www.commoncause.org/publications/april00/bankruptcy01.htm.

Consuming Desires: Consumption, Culture, and the Pursuit of Happiness (ed. Roger Rosenblatt, Island Press, 1999) is a collection of essays analyzing the history and causes of the manic consumerism devouring our planet.

William Greider, Edward Luttwak, Molly Haskell, David Orr and others describe how we came to where we are and express hope that ways out of this mess are emerging around the globe.

This enlightening book also includes an essay by Juliet Schor, who identifies spending patterns of the "new consumerism" which both reflect the structure of social inequality in the United States and reproduce it. She notes that the "aspirational gap" widens as more people compare their possessions and status to unreal TV norms, rather than to real people they used to mix with in their neighborhoods and communities. An undermined sense of self-worth generates the yearning to buy more. Studies show that more TV-watching correlates with spending more, saving less, and unmanageable household debt.

Consumers First, Citizens Second

Activists in Asheville, NC were alarmed to learn that the mission statement of their municipality says the city seeks to “enhance the quality of life for its customers (citizens, employees, visitors) by providing professional and efficient services. The city of Asheville will respond to customers’ needs, provide employee development, serve as a partner in the community and be a leader in North Carolina.”

This has left people in Asheville asking, “When did we become customers instead of citizens?”

As more of us explore this question, we are beginning to understand why the language of this mission statement offends us. Being called customers gives us the feeling that the city is more interested in attracting industry to the area than in facilitating the work of self-governing citizens. The language in such mission statements can easily give the impression — often true — that municipalities are valuing corporate agendas over the needs of the people.

If we mean to create a society where citizens are really in charge of making the decisions that affect our lives and community, we need to analyze and rewrite such mission statements to reflect our collective authority.

Why have so many people become raging consumers? And why has the role of consumer replaced that of citizen? The U.S. political economy needs us to buy, buy, buy in order to feed the U.S. profit-driven economy and imperialist foreign policy.

So long as we’re busy consuming (and earning enough money to support our habit) we’ll have less time and energy to be active citizens. Busy with our consumption, we’ll spend less time questioning the status quo, and less time seeking to be in charge.

Author and journalist Patrick Gordon points this out when he talks about the shift “from the high-savings, low-consumption economy that got us through World War II, to a high-consumption, low-savings alternative geared to . . . our cold war economic policy.”

But how has this shift in roles taken place? Is it due to the fact that we are constantly bombarded with advertisements and pressure to buy more stuff?

Is it also due to the fact that corporations, further reducing our already limited self-governance, have hijacked our political process?

Corporations increasingly define our culture, and not only through advertising. Corporate-owned television, films, music, magazines, and newspapers feature the



powerful, successful, happy, sexually fulfilled “beautiful people” — those who have “earned” the most expensive cars and luxurious houses, the designer clothes, and fashionable vacations. The American Dream, ever a propaganda tool, has become a materialistic nightmare, a yardstick by which all too many people judge their own and others’ worth.

Consumer propaganda is hardly subtle. Take a recent jewelry store ad in a big-city paper. Below a photo of a ring with three large diamonds is the question: “Who says money can’t buy love?” And who doesn’t want love? For many people whose incomes lag behind their desires, there’s always the seductive credit card. A major bank, servicing one of the “socially responsible” credit cards, recently advised its customers to “Make having fun this summer simple!” The message is that you can just charge your plane tickets and go anywhere you want. Some banks even offer vacation loans.

Then there’s so-called smart consuming. Though useful for buying necessities (and who defines what these are?) on a limited income, smart consuming can also be a trap. We may think that shopping at discount stores or flea markets, buying used products, using coupons, or joining a club such as BJ’s Wholesale or Sam’s Club outfoxes corporations, or even capitalism. While these strategies might help our individual budgets, they don’t challenge the way our economy works. We’re often buying more than we need, and still spending a lot of time and thought in our consumer role—supporting the economy and the corporate power it feeds.

In questioning our consuming patterns, we inevitably come up against issues of class and income. What do activists resisting a bulk store’s coming into their com-

munity say to families, especially single mothers, who save money buying in bulk at lower prices? Can we imagine building an economic system that meets everyone's basic needs, without being divided and exploited by giant corporations and often complicit public officials? In the meantime, how do we include in our organizations and campaigns people who have a range of perspectives and circumstances?

One model is provided by a broad-based grassroots coalition in Asheville that organized to stop a Wal-Mart from building a super center on the Swannanoa River. Darcel Eddins and Scot Quaranda, organizers who attended WILPF's campaign design workshop in June, later reported that as a result of mobilizing the citizens, the developer withdrew the plans. According to the *Asheville Citizen Times*, September 7, "The project has prompted widespread debate among city residents, and City Council had made preparations for what was expected to be a marathon public hearing on the project Sept. 19."

Inherent in the consumerism of our culture is the growth imperative—the prevailing assumption that economic growth and prosperity are inseparable. In fact, the obsession with quantity at the expense of quality and equity is fouling our body politic and destroying our planetary nest.

In the name of growth, consuming becomes synonymous with economic health as well as individual happiness.

In *World Hunger: 10 Myths*, authors Frances Moore Lappé and Joseph Collins take agribusiness to task: "We must come to understand that a strategy emphasizing increased production, while ignoring who is in control of that production, is not a neutral strategy.... Such a strategy is taking us backward, itself creating even greater impoverishment and hunger." Growth, and the language of growth, have become a "smokescreen for usurpation of resources by a few for a few."

Ultimately, we can only exercise our fundamental responsibility by taking democratic control of decisions affecting production, investment and work—and the way these affect human beings and our life support systems the world over.

In taking action, ask yourself: Is this strategy framed in the language of a sovereign people? Are its demands directed only toward corporate behavior or toward righting the relationship between us and the corporate form? Are we acting as consumers of products and mythology or as citizens? And is our community organizing as inclusive as we can make it?

Since we are inevitably consumers to some degree and since corporate interests increasingly dominate our lives, we citizens need to be alert to such language as

Asheville's mission statement and to challenge public officials about such assumptions. Our future depends on the population identifying common goals and working toward creating healthy communities, instead of allowing ourselves to be divided in competition for supposedly scarce resources.

This—not shopping—is the real work of citizens in a true democracy.

This article was jointly written by Darcel Eddins, Amy Pett, Lea Zelden and Mary Zepernick. The authors were at the June workshop of the campaign to Challenge Corporate Power, Assert the People's Rights. For a workshop packet on designing local campaigns, contact Charmaine Sprengelmeyer at the national office.

Corporations Workshop in Cape Cod

In June, WILPF's Campaign to Challenge Corporate Power, Assert the People's Rights, held a workshop in Cape Cod. At right, Molly Morgan, left, and Jacqueline Maloney. Bottom, left to right: Alice Davis, Mary Zepernick (seated), Carolyn Bninski and Ben Sher.

Inset: Virginia Rasmussen



Buy Nothing Day

Sarah Hampton

“But there is no question that the consumer culture had begun to crowd out all other cultural possibilities by the years following World War II. The growth of the highway system promoted suburbanization: suburbanization necessitated a more expensive way of life than people had known in modest urban apartments; television told people what they needed to buy; and in the empty leisure left by equally empty work, buying itself became a way of life.” — Barbara Ehrenreich

The day after Thanksgiving is called Black Friday by retail clerks far and wide. While business owners see it as a great opportunity to ring up sales and be in “the black,” it is actually a grim day. People come out in massive, frenzied cowherds looking for the ultimate shopping bargain. If you slow them down or steal their deal you will be trampled.

If we, as WILPFers, are going to try to help disassemble the dominant corporate power structure then we need to deal with America’s consumer crisis. First we need to look at ourselves and examine our own ingrained habits of “affluenza” — a disease stemming from humans being inundated with an overload of advertising propaganda. We need to investigate what corporations we support through our shopping. Ask, how far does our shopping extend beyond basic needs?

Black Friday sounds like a day everyone dreads yet accepts. Buy Nothing Day, on the other hand, was created because people didn’t want to accept their roles as consumers anymore. Buy Nothing Day (also the day after Thanksgiving) is a 24-hour moratorium on consumer spending, which was launched eight years ago in the Pacific Northwest. We need to get WILPF chapters around the world to organize a “Buy Nothing Day” team for their local area. Let’s use our power as consumers to change the economic environment. Let’s protest and educate others on the biggest shopping day of the year.

Buy Nothing Day demonstrations have been diverse and creative to highlight how conformist shoppers can be:

- In Europe, activists rented a store space for one day to set up a “No Shop.” The storefront has all the same gimmicks: half off, clearance, new items — but you

walk in to find an empty store. How refreshing is it to just buy nothing. Shoppers often don’t know what they want. They just know they are supposed to want stuff.

- The Raging Grannies have performed inside the West Lake Center mall in Seattle, singing “Down by the Riverside” which goes: “I ain’t going to run up debt no more.” While the Grannies are singing, other activists provide shoppers with a service that cuts up their credit cards for free.
- In 1998, a 600-square-foot banner was hung 100 feet above the ground in the Mall of America in Minneapolis, MN. The banner displayed a cartoon of the earth falling through a shopping bag and the title read, “Shop ‘til we drop?” This stunt was planned and executed by Adbusters and Ruckus Society (Ruckus is a group whose mandate is to provide “technical training in nonviolent forms of civil disobedience to groups promoting social justice.”)
- Activists have closed malls down by linking arms across the entrances and not allowing customers in. Others handed out gift vouchers to shoppers that they could give to family and friends instead of spending money on them. Performance skits have included consumers trapped in cages and lots of music.
- Fiona Jack of New Zealand started a whole ad campaign for a product called “Nothing.” She got funding for 27 billboards, which got widespread interest from the public. They all wanted to know where they could buy the product. “I think the Nothing™ campaign proved the point that you can market anything if there’s enough money behind it, that money is basically the main thing that’s required to convince the public of something these days,” Jack said. People thought Nothing was such an original name for a product, but they wouldn’t believe it was actually nothing.

In Los Angeles, we haven’t had a Buy Nothing Day yet, but I know we are capable of doing one. For May Day, hundreds of protestors filled the streets of Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills. We chanted to shoppers that “capitalism stole our lives” and then we bowed down to huge, golden dollar signs in the middle of intersections.

These demonstrations took place all over the world, but we need more people to be involved.

People who have become shopping zombies shop to impress each other, to fill a void



or to kill time. We need to hold demonstrations in malls that will show people their need for less distraction and more time to think about what their dreams, desires and goals are. Teach the human need for more time with loved ones, and less time spending money on acquiring more merchandise.

Working should give you the means to survive and enjoy your life. The average American works three times more than they need to because they spend money well beyond their means. Corporations don't want people to spend time without consumer distractions. It is good business to keep people obsessed with owning. If they are constantly moving, working, and spending then when they slow down for a short bit they are too exhausted for thoughts of "why?" Why do I live like I do? Are there more important things to life than owning more to feel more status and security?

In the weeks leading up to Buy Nothing Day, you can help saturate the airwaves with a spot done by Adbusters that features a "burping pig." Donated money will go towards buying airtime on *CNN Headline News*. The commercial is an animated pig superimposed on a map of North America, the pig smacks its lips and says: "The average North American consumes five times more than a Mexican, 10 times more than a Chinese person, and 30 times more than a person from India... Give it a rest." CNN is the only network that has accepted this ad, but it is expensive. If you would like to help with a contribution, please contact Campaign Manager Tom Liacas at 1-800-663-1243, or 604-736-9401. You can also email buynothingday@adbusters.org.

Both CBS and NBC will not air this commercial. Their reasoning is that it is inimical to their legitimate business interests and to clients who purchase time on their networks. Their refusal to air the commercial isn't surprising, since Westinghouse Electric Corp. owns CBS and NBC is owned by General Electric. If you would like to comment on this refusal, you can call Mr. Lowary of CBS at (212) 975-3300 or call Mr. Gitter of NBC at (212) 664-3115.

What comes next is "TV Turn Off Day," but that's another story!

Sarah Hampton is a WILPF member in Los Angeles.

Resources on Consumerism

- Never Enough Anti-Consumerism Campaign: www.environweb.org/issues/enough
- How to Save Resources and Money: www.hookednet/users/verdant/index.html
- Consumerism and Happiness: ccwf.cc.utexas.edu/~cmorris/archive/012098
- Rethinking Schools: www.rethinkingschools.org
- Also www.adbusters.org
www.newdream.org
www.culturejammers.org

Committee Corner

Around and about WILPF



Death Penalty

Conditions for Texas inmates on death row are so horrendous they demand immediate attention, even as we continue to work against the death penalty.

All Texas death row prisoners live in Terrell, a small town about two hours from Houston. They are in what are called "sensory deprivation units." This is a small cell with a cot and a toilet, which also doubles as a sink. Inmates stay in their cells behind a windowless steel door for 23 hours every day. For one hour, they are allowed to walk in a small courtyard alone, or shower.

Many inmates are dropping their appeals. Appeals are often the only thing that keeps them going - a chance to prove their innocence or win a lesser sentence. This is the equivalent of "throwing in the towel." Rates of mental illness and depression are climbing.

In 1983, Stuart Grassian, M.D., published a paper called the "Psychopathological Effects of Solitary Confinement." This study observed 15 inmates at the Institution at Wapole, a maximum-security state prison in Massachusetts. In addition to the Massachusetts study, Grassian includes some information from German studies from 1854 through 1909.

Grassian reports on the psychopathological syndromes among prisoners in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During this time, solitary confinement was often the only method of incarceration. As early as the 1830s, there was evidence of increased "physical morbidity and mortality," as well as insanity. Charles Dickens, for example, observed inmates "dead to everything but torturing anxieties and horrible despair." By 1890, the United States Supreme Court condemned solitary confinement because of the effect it had on the inmates. Despite some evidence, there has not been much clinical evidence written on this topic.

The Walpole Study, the most current, shows many similarities in the symptoms people in solitary confinement experience, including: hypersensitivity to external stimuli (even plumbing noises get on their nerves) perceptual distortions, paranoia, hallucinations, panic attacks, including shortness of breath, and fear of death.

What can we do about the sensory deprivation units? We can check in our own states to see if these units exist and then object to them. Texas is not the only place where there are sensory deprivation units. Visit an

Continued on page 18 ➤

Military “Fashion” Shows and Consumerism

Yoshiko Ikuta

My grandson is engrossed in *Star Trek* videos and toys. Naively, I thought this obsession was good for his scientific imagination and would help him to do well in physics and science classes. But as he accumulated all the *Star Trek* paraphernalia and continued to ask for more, it occurred to me that he was being sensitized to the idea of warfare. The image of the future is one of outer-space battles, with a rogue enemy just waiting to be destroyed by the righteous — usually the United States.

No wonder we don’t hear more protest over the National Ballistic Missile Defense system. *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* movies have hypnotized the people who can no longer separate facts from science fiction. My message is: “Don’t be fooled by public relations image makers!”

When I walked into the headquarters of TRW recently, I saw a schematic skeleton of a car illustrating how the company is producing lifesaving air bags. What they don’t show is how TRW is making billions of dollars of profit by the star wars boondoggles. (Makers of ballistic missile components such as TRW, Lockheed Martin and General Motors are the recipients of mega

corporate welfare, totaling billions of dollars at a time.)

Ten years ago, I watched in horror as CNN reported the “surgical precision” bombing of Baghdad. Later, it dawned on me that the war was being used to showcase the state-of-the-art U.S. military hardware to world leaders in order to create more weapons markets.

The weapons shows at G7 and G8 meetings, and the noise polluting Air Shows where people pay to see weapons displayed, all fall into the category of military fashion shows. It is heartbreaking when we think how the national resources are being squandered, depriving children and their parents of much-needed programs. The many small countries suffering from the carnage of wars do not need more weapons. They need resources to rebuild their countries and meet basic human needs.

During the 1990s, I heard economics professors and corporate leaders speak passionately about the virtues of privatization, restructuring, downsizing and open markets. Before that, in Japan, I heard about structural adjustment programs.

Obviously, the countries at the receiving end of these programs know the negative impact they can have — exacerbating the problems of poverty and widening

DISMANTLING THE WAR ECONOMY PROPOSAL

The original proposal for Dismantling the War Economy Campaign written in early 1999 states that the long-term goals of this campaign are to:

- Generate demand for dismantling the U.S. War economy and promote the election of peace agenda-oriented representatives in Washington.
- Affirm the commitment to a new definition of national security based on adequate investment in social spending at home and abroad.
- Promote abolition of nuclear weapons and reduction of conventional arms manufacture and export by exposing actions of corporations.
- Eliminate war-corporate domination of the national and state budget and bring about significant changes in foreign policy decision-making in the federal government.

We’ve been working on these goals through our three subgroups, including the Military-Corporate connection (Mil-Corp ConneXion) Legislative Watch (ImPEACEment), and Weapons Abolition.

The campaign activities of 1999 and 2000 so far

have been consistent with the above statement. Action around the NPT Review (Reaching Critical Will), WILPF’s 85th Anniversary, a Women in Black Wailing vigil in Washington, D.C. on August 1, and production of a voting guide for the November general elections — accompanied by detailed analysis of their track records of the Congressional and Senatorial candidates in seven key states — are some of the highlights of the past campaign accomplishments.

The projected plan for the next year will utilize our experiences of this year and expand our work with the branches even farther.



the gaps between the haves and the have-nots.

Meanwhile, terrible things are happening in our own back yard. The illusion of abundance the U.S. media broadcast all over the world, with pictures of Wal-Mart stores and supermarkets overlaid with foods and commodities, hide the reality of children going to bed hungry. I was also horrified when I heard about a case in which military scrap iron containing radioactive depleted uranium waste was being recycled to make innocent-looking tableware! Think of the well-meaning holiday gifts of sparkling flatware given to our most beloved ones to grace the holiday dinner table.

Indeed, there is a direct connection between Pentagon spending and our every day safety.

We must wake up from corporate-induced illusions and remember that our precious resources are being squandered for short-term maximum profit, mortgaging our future. At our dinner tables and kitchen counters we need to become more vocal to our friends and relatives who are not activists. Increased consciousness raising is a step in the right direction. Let us mobilize more people to join us when anti-WTO demonstrations take place and let our voice be heard loud and clear.

Consumerism At Home and Abroad

I recently participated in a vigil on behalf of several expelled union leaders from Nicaragua. Two women leaders at the event tearfully told us that they only make 20 cents for each pair of jeans they sew. In the United States, we buy those jeans from Kmart for \$20. Meanwhile, U.S. CEOs, like the man who heads up Kohl Department Stores, make \$29 million a year.

Because I had just finished a back-to-school shopping trip in several malls with my 12-year-old granddaughter, I felt even more aware of the dilemma the Nicaraguan women were talking about.

During the vigil, we also heard about a Taiwanese-owned factory in Nicaragua, where employees are being ruthlessly exposed to inhumane working conditions, including poor sanitation, bad air ventilation and forced overtime — to name just a few violations.

We must become more aware of the connections between what we buy, and what it truly costs.



Poster by Free Democracy Network.

On August 1, WILPF women gathered in Washington, D. C. to participate in the Fellowship of Reconciliation's 40 days of non-violent actions. WILPF women were "women in black," (photo) and held a



women's wailing at the Pentagon, White House and the Capitol. At each location, signs, panels and fliers gave information on current wars worldwide and U.S. defense policy. An ImPEACE the Congress workshop was held in the afternoon and the evening program featured speakers Bill Hartung of the World Policy Institute, and longtime peace activist and WILPF Sponsor Elizabeth McAlister. The next day WILPF participated in an American Friends Service Committee Listening Project in which we joined a group of women from the local community to improve our listening and communication skills.



Left to right: Lizzy Poole, WILPF Sponsor Elizabeth McAlister, Yoshiko Ikuta, and Ellen Barfield at an August 1 program on non-violent action in Washington, D.C.

Jody Dodd Named Coordinator for Leadership/Outreach

Many WILPF members have worked with Jody Dodd during preparations for the NPT review conference at the U.N. last April. Jody organized the training and outreach for the U.S. part of the "Reaching Critical Will" project, as well as assisting New York WILPF in creating the April 28 celebration of WILPF's 85th anniversary, held in conjunction with our presence at the U.N. during the NPT. In November, Jody will be starting full time at the WILPF office in Philadelphia as Leadership / Outreach Coordinator, picking up the work of Kate Kasper. With a background in grassroots peace organizing, Jody worked as the assistant to the director of Multicultural & Gender Studies, Southwest Texas University. She is currently a volunteer national board member of American Friends Service Committee.

Seminar on Racism Opens Doors

Laura Partridge

Nestled in the woods just outside the German village of Bernau, Europahaus Helenenau served as the meeting site for WILPF's recent seminar on racism. "Eliminating Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance - Essential for a Culture of Peace" was held just prior to WILPF's International Executive Committee meeting at the end of July.

Helenenau is about a 40-minute drive from Berlin. Leaving the city, the surroundings gradually change from skyscrapers and palaces to quaint villages and barns.

The village of Bernau seemed an unlikely setting for a discussion of the world's number one divider — racism. The environment, naturally blending all the elements of life, seemed to highlight the divisions human beings have created. The horses, porcupines, bees, white spiders and huge brown jackrabbits each went about the business of life, in harmony. The serene pond at the edge of our camp supported the many life forms in the area, and all appeared content and as it should be.

Yet despite her glorious surroundings, Helenenau has seen her share of human beings at their worst. In another life, it was one of the training sites for Germany's notorious secret police. Now, following a full facelift, Helenenau was hosting women from around the globe. Here we gathered with hopes of creating a culture of peace, structured by eliminating racism.

By late July, women representing more than 30 countries had made this spot their temporary home. The seminar officially opened with welcomes from Eleonore Romberg, leader of WILPF Germany, and Dr. Juergen Prang, Helenenau's director. Bruna Nota, WILPF's international president, greeted participants and reemphasized the magnitude of the seminar's goals.

In a moving moment of silence, those WILPF members who are no longer operating on this plane of life were recalled and remembered. Fresh orange blossoms stood symbolizing these women's contributions toward peace on earth. U.S. WILPF's own Joan Patchen was remembered at this time. Joan's enthusiasm, zest for life and undaunted organizing of the 1998 WILPF International Congress in Baltimore had placed her prominently in the hearts and minds of these women representing the world.

Our second day began with Edith Ballantyne's presentation entitled, "Together Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance." Edith's words set the tone for the work awaiting us. Her involvement and leadership in all three of the United

Nation's Decades Against Racism thoroughly prepared her to outline the tasks and problems in the preparations for the U.N. World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (herein referred to as WCAR).

Ballantyne deftly outlined some history of racism, and reminded listeners that the United Nations was created "on the ashes of World War II." She noted the United Nation's initial efforts to combat racism had addressed apartheid and the colonization of the continent of Africa.

When Edith asked, "Why is the audience (of people against racism) disappearing?" eyes lowered, heads bowed and an uneasy hush crushed the room. We knew, we too, were part of the disappearing. We knew, we too, had made other priorities. We knew, we too, were part of the worldwide system accepting racism as our way of life.

Manjima Bhattacharya, a young woman from India serving as the human rights intern in WILPF's international office in Geneva, spoke next. Manjima clearly and concisely addressed three areas. She talked about the United Nation's conceptual obstacles to WCAR, its practical obstacles to WCAR (money is the number one issue; as the richest country in the world, the United States has made no financial commitment to WCAR) and the practical obstacles to WCAR from the position of Non-Governmental Organizations, such as WILPF.

Two more presentations were made on the following topics:

- Europe and Women (the European Charter Against Racism and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights)
- Racism in Different Countries, including Roma and Sinti (Gypsies), Central and Eastern Europe, Minorities in Northern Europe, Black Women in the United States (a panel on which I spoke) and Indigenous Women.

At the core of the seminar were the working groups, listed below. Each woman selected a group to work with for the following two days. The groups were:

- Racism and The Economy: Globalization/Economic Factors



- Racism and the Media: Information Society/Political Lobbying
- Racism and Education: Violence Against Women/Discrimination
- Racism and The Environment: Indigenous People/Resources
- Racism-Ideologies, Ethnicity, Nationalism: Armed Conflicts
- Racism and Migration: Xenophobia
- Negationism and Denial: Historical and Personal Approach

The Working Groups each developed recommendations, demands, actions and strategies required to address racism in their particular subject. A formal report on these demands is being prepared by the WILPF section in Germany. Common threads for action running through all the working groups were: making governments accountable for the existence and eradication of racism, preparing for a strong and effective international WILPF presence at WCAR, rewriting and teaching the true history of the world and highlighting the contributions of all people.

Other presentations addressed topics such as:

- Racism As Cause, Starting Point and Consequence of Wars and Violent Conflicts, with Gloriosa Neinhora of Burundi, Africa.
- Racism and Migration-Results, Problems and Projects of the East/West Germany Network, with Katrin Wolf of Berlin, Germany.
- Intercultural Education in Anti-Racist and Anti-Violent Projects as a Basis for a Culture of Peace, with Mary Day Kent, U.S. WILPF Section executive director.

The five days of work on this ultra-sensitive topic seemed to fuel the resolve of the women present to forge ahead and tackle the issue of racism in its many varied forms. That is not to say there were not disagreements and struggles to reach consensus — there were. Yet a sense of unity prevailed. The women realized that our efforts would change the world for those here today, and those yet to come, and kept their eyes on the prize.

Although the work ahead appeared overwhelming and relentless, the attitude of the WILPF women was that of comrades, enthusiastic, determined, ready, willing and fully capable of successfully meeting the challenges.

In reporting on the findings and recommendations of the working groups, the following quote from Randall Robinson, president of TransAfrica and author of the must-read book, *The Debt — What America Owes Blacks*, was shared. Robinson has said, “I have come to know race as a sealed dwelling with windows but no

doors. One can look out but never leave.”

WILPF’s seminar on racism began the construction of doors for all to open.

Laura Partridge is a WILPF board member representing the UFORJE campaign. She facilitated the panel on Negationism and Denial: Historical and Personal Approach, during WILPF’s racism seminar.



International Interns Cate Buchanan and Manjima Bhattacharya.



Lohes Rajeswaran a member of the international staff in Geneva, and Laura Partridge at the IEC meetings.

In October, about 60 women came to Philadelphia from across the United States to participate in the UFORJE National Training 2000. This two-day program was designed for branches and examined the concept of reparations, Theater of the Oppressed techniques and how to organize a race rave. Sonia Sanchez and many others spoke during the training.



International WILPF News

More than 100 women from nearly 40 countries attended the racism seminar and International Executive Committee (IEC) meeting that took place in July outside of Berlin.

A full agenda covered substantive issues, intermingled with essential organizational business. There were many panels and discussions, including one on “WILPF Women in Armed Conflict Zones.” “Conflict zones” is surely a euphemism for the torture, rape, destruction and murder that is happening in these places. Our members reported from Burundi, Russia, Chechnya, Sierra Leone, The Philippines, and Colombia. The latter conflict with its two million forcibly displaced people pained me the most, as the United States is so overtly involved and threatens even more devastation with its “Plan Colombia.”

WILPF’s work with the various United Nations agencies, UNESCO, WHO, ILO, etc., vigorously contin-

going to Jerusalem, Palestine, WILPF members at Congress will consider constitutional and by-law changes, as well as elect officers. The Congress will be followed by a traveling seminar hosted by the Israeli Section.

Internally, our crucial challenges include financial stability and membership growth. As long as our numbers don’t match our aspirations, we risk bankruptcy. We have much work to do in the coming year.

Consideration of the impediments to the peaceful, just world that WILPF works toward achieving can leave one feeling frustrated and daunted. It is in working with our unbowed and determined international sisters that we can renew our energy and be reminded of the crucial opportunity WILPF offers.

During the IEC, a circle at the regional meeting for the Americas was unforgettable. One of our U.S. members had come to recover the property her mother had lost to the Nazis. (The camp where we met in Bernau, interestingly, was once the estate of the Mendelssohn-Bartholdy family, then a Gestapo headquarters, then a Stasi camp and now a campground and meeting place for groups fostering international understanding.) A Canadian WILPF member had been in a slave labor camp in Estonia. A young Bolivian attorney described her human rights cases. Two Colombian sisters facing possible self-exile (if the political situation worsens) told tales of traumatized women refugees. An African descendent living in the U.S. talked about working on reparations. Many

others were plugging away at resolving local injustices. The meeting reaffirmed WILPF’s historical perspective, coupled with present day actions, and the work of the wonderful women involved.

All of us play important roles in this worldwide work as we join campaigns, donate funds and lobby our government. Just as we support our international sisters, they work on issues that affect US women as well.

.....
Joyce McLean, the U.S. representative to the IEC, welcomes comments and questions. She can be reached at 25080 Skyland Rd. Los Gatos, CA 95033 or jmclean@jps.net.



Mary Day Kent talks with Patricia Guerrero and Amparo Guerrero, Colombia, at the IEC meetings.

ues. Preparations for next year’s South African U.N. Conference on Racism is a program priority for sections and the international. Our campaigns on Claiming Economic Justice in a World of Limited Resources and Dismantling the Permanent War Economy continue, with plans for studies, publications, testimony and national lobbying efforts. Our superb staff in Geneva and New York are busy with all of the above and serve us very well under difficult conditions.

Next year’s WILPF Congress plans are especially exciting. The Congress is scheduled to be held in Jerusalem and will be hosted by the Palestine Section. In addition to the important political statement made by

WILPF Meets in Germany

They Came



The Albanian delegation to the Racism Seminar: Lefteri Hoxhaj; left; President Fatiana Kirtigui, center; and Elfrida Lopciu.



Michaela Told, ED, Secretary-General, Geneva; Marion Boker,

They Saw



Natalie Berezhnaya, Russia, and Anne Ivey, US.



Monika Nur, Germany, and Robin Lloyd, US.

They Danced Their Hearts Out!



Bruna Nota, International WILPF President, and Mans van Zandbergen, The Netherlands. US.

AT LEFT; Laura Partridge and Audley Green.

Photos by Phyllis Yingling

Consumerism in the Classroom

.....
Elizabeth Arend
.....

Though I have few outstanding memories of my middle school education, several impressions have been indelibly etched in my mind — running for the 7 a.m. school bus, cramming for exams in study hall, and an occasional commercial for Skittles or Mountain Dew in between.

Like the gray lockers and red floor tiling, commercials and ads became a typical component of my junior high landscape. Ads hung in the cafeteria, cluttered our book covers and blared from every homeroom's television for 12 of the longest minutes of the day. In the eight years since, commercialism has only increased in the classroom, as ads are now plastered on school buses and scoreboards, telephone kiosks and school radio programs.

Given the alarming abundance of advertisements within almost every aspect of the media, it seems that school should be an inviolable atmosphere, reserved solely for learning and free of any corporate influence. However, countless corporations are taking increasing advantage of poorly funded public school systems, in order to promote their products through ads, free samples, contests and incentive programs.

Corporate America has more than one reason to target their audience in the classroom. The nation's school population, which is already estimated at 43 million children, is expected to grow significantly in the next decade and promises a profitable, expanding market. Elementary-aged children have enormous spending power — about \$15 billion a year — most of which is spent on food, clothing, toys and games. Teenagers have even greater economic power, spending almost \$100 billion. Longer hours spent in school therefore lead corporations to see school-based marketing as “the most compelling, memorable and cost-effective way to build share of mind and market into the 21st century.”¹

Marketers look to “build brand loyalty while children are young and impressionable,”¹ opening “emotional vulnerabilities”² and fostering insecurity by projecting products, such as designer clothing, as essential items that kids can't live without. Marketers also take advantage of “financial pressure on schools [that] may make them more dependent on corporate handouts and willing to open their doors to commercialism.”¹ School, according to Lifetime Learning Systems, is therefore “the ideal time to influence attitudes, build long-term loyalties, introduce new products, test market, promote sampling and trial usage, and — above all — to generate immediate sales.”¹

A Captive Audience

Providing schools with free audio-visual equipment in exchange for guaranteed, uninterrupted student attention, Channel One began producing a teen-oriented daily news program in 1989. Since its introduction, however, each program's 10 minute long news coverage has also incorporated at least two minutes of advertisements, all of which continue to hit a captive audience of over eight million students in 12,000 schools nationwide.

Though the Primedia program, which broadcasts 700 commercials a year, is promoted as “education,” former Channel One president Joel Babbit admits, “the biggest selling point to advertisers [is] forcing kids to watch two minutes of commercials.”³ Paying twice the advertising fee charged by prime-time network news, a Channel One advertiser gets a truly “captive” audience, “a group of kids who cannot go to the bathroom, who cannot change the station...who cannot be playing Nintendo, who cannot have their headsets on.”

Therefore, opponents not only claim that Channel One wastes precious tax dollars and classroom time, but also endangers children's health, as thousands of impressionable children are bombarded by its advertisements for high-calorie, caffeinated, high-sugar foods and soft drinks. At a time when the incidence of childhood diabetes is on the rise, these ads may also “contribute to skyrocketing levels of childhood obesity.”²

There is additional concern that messages conveyed by Channel One commercials may undermine parental authority by conveying negative values to children without their knowledge or consent.

Trendy Textbook Covers, Free Trips, Cash Prizes!

Similar concerns have been raised over advertising in schools by the infiltration of corporations such as Cover Concepts Marketing Services. The Massachusetts-based company began distributing free textbook covers to public elementary, junior and senior high schools in 1989, with ads for McDonald's, Nike and Chuck E. Cheese on them. It has since become a multi-million dollar company, reaching 30,000 schools and 25 million students — half the nation's student population and an age group responsible for \$95 billion in annual consumer purchases. Its advertisers have found that 74 percent of the students remember the brands they are being exposed to. This is not surprising, as books are often seen and carried around every day, creating countless impressions and helping students to absorb advertisers' messages.

Cover Concepts also ensures high brand recall by collecting students' demographic data directly from the schools so it may target specific groups of students with ads from businesses located in their area.

Cover Concepts' founder and director of operations, Steve Shulman, claims his "trendy, glossy covers," plastered with celebrity photographs, are in high demand among students since it's "cool, and it saves them from having to make their own covers, which is time consuming."⁴ Claiming the covers "save taxpayers money," Shulman insists that there is nothing controversial about book cover advertising since "at every stage there's a choice. Before it gets into the hands of a child, first the principal, then the teachers make their own decisions about whether to use the covers in their classroom."⁴ Teachers, however, may feel pressure not to oppose their administration's decision to accept classroom advertising. Strained budgets may also force schools to accept advertising they would normally prohibit in the classroom.

Further controversy surrounds the use of "Sponsored Educational Materials" (SEM's), which are usually free or inexpensive multimedia teaching kits including videos, software, books, posters and activity sheets. Such materials often contain "outright plugs for a company or its product, or worse, biased information."¹ Those distributed by Lifetime Learning Systems, the self-declared "leader in the creation and dissemination of corporate-sponsored educational materials,"¹ reach over 63 million students every year. Corporate-sponsored incentive programs and contests project additional company logos and brand names into the classroom, with the lure of free trips, food, or cash prizes.

Private Contracts, Public Schools

Desperate for funds, countless schools have also entered into contracts with food companies, agreeing to sell their product from vending machines throughout most of the school day. Both Coca-Cola and Pepsi arrange such contracts with public schools, providing some with more than twice the earnings accrued through individual soda vending contracts. According to David F. Stofa, principal of the District of Columbia's Oxon Hill High School, his "wonderful partnership with Pepsi" has "helped finance school landscaping, purchased jackets for the security staff, sponsored academic and multicultural events, and supplied a scoreboard, too."⁵

But at what cost? Advocates stress that soda is "hardly a health food" and "it may have negative consequences if children dose up on empty calories and caffeine."¹ Though supporters claim the increased availability of soda in schools doesn't necessarily lead to an increase in soda consumption, it has been found that Americans now drink twice as much soda per person as

Reach him at the office.



His first day job is kindergarten. Modern can put your sponsored educational materials in the lesson plan. If he's in your target market, call us at (800) 237-7114.

 Modern

515 Madison Avenue, Suite 500 • New York, NY 10022

This is an actual advertisement.

they did 25 years ago, and in-school access has exacerbated the problem. Vending machines are also being placed in schools with younger and younger children. These findings are particularly alarming as a growing number of American children are found to be overweight and dangerously out of shape.

A Curriculum of Materialism

In addition, classroom advertising on the whole has raised concerns about children's values. Advertising is "a type of curriculum," which teaches kids "that buying is good and will make them happy. [Ads] teach that the solution to life's problems lies not in good values, hard work, or education, but materialism"³ and the endless purchasing of material things. Ads for designer fashions and beauty products may "[play] on kids' insecurities about themselves and [foster] them in order to make the sale."⁴

Advertisements also produce images and slogans that "incorporate increasing violence, sex and superficial-

Continued on page 26 ►

► COMMITTEE CORNER

Continued from page 9

inmate. Complain to legislators. Inform churches.

Please send your ideas to Death Penalty Abolition, WILPF 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107, C/O Lynn Furay.

A Letter From the Labor Committee

Solidarity Greetings from the Labor committee of the U.S. Section of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

WILPF is celebrating its 85th year. Founded in 1915 by Chicagoan Jane Addams of Hull House, WILPF is based on internationalism, peacemaking, gender equality and labor solidarity. Even before WILPF was officially established, Hull House was a meeting place for union organizers who were engaged in the great struggles for the 40-hour week. Nearly 100 years later the same injustices that WILPF struggled against, side by side with the growing union movement, still need to be won by the peace movement and working people in the U.S. and the world.

WILPF's national priorities are three:

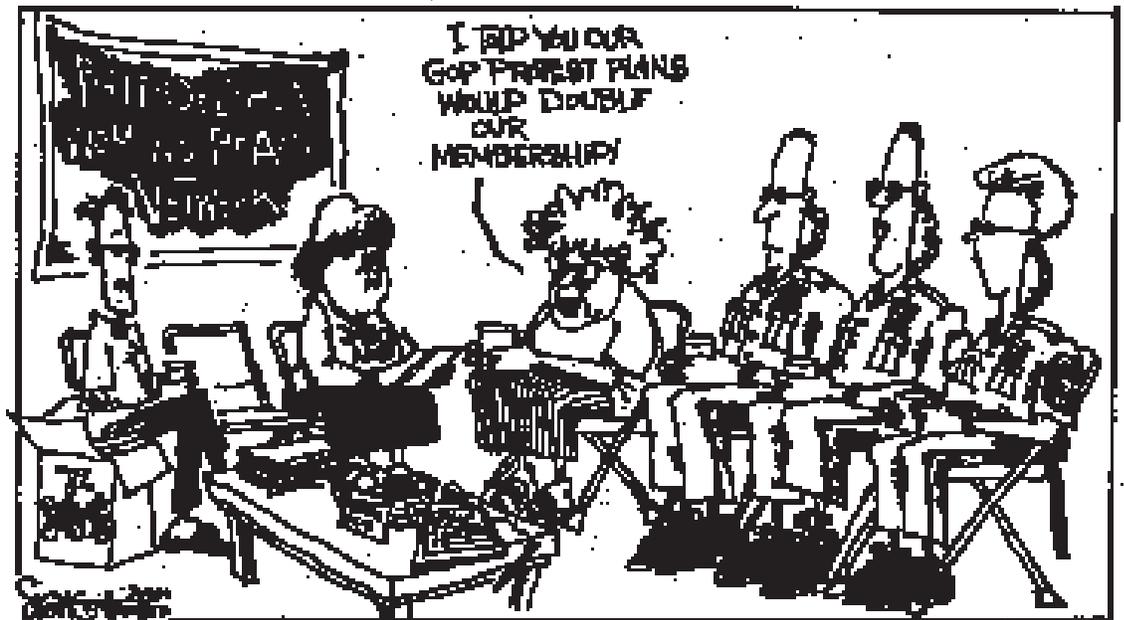
1. Challenging Corporate Power: Asserting the People's Rights.
2. Disarm! Dismantling the War Economy.
3. Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration and Reconciliation.

We cannot address these priorities unless we work side by side with our union sisters and brothers. Low wages and unbearable working conditions in the U.S. corporations, here in the United States and abroad, are women's issues (as well as men's). We hope to learn from you about the situations facing working people and will join with you in order to deepen and strengthen the broadest coalition the world has ever seen. This movement for workers' rights, including civil, economic and

women's, and the protection of the environment, came of age in 1999 in the battle of Seattle.

We have much to contribute through our established local, regional, national and international networks. WILPF has sections in 37 countries and NGO status with the United Nations. Because our contracts and concerns encompass the local and the global, our strategy must be to link the local and the global if we are to succeed in creating new and better alternatives to the U.S.-led imperialist corporate world order (WTO, NAFTA, APEC, NATO).

Please call on us for support on picket lines, boycotts, at demonstrations and in letters of support.



When the Republican Convention met in Philadelphia and the WILPF offices were used by demonstration organizers, the local police showed great interest in the activities there. Local cartoonist Signe Wilkerson commented on the situation on the editorial pages of the Philadelphia *Daily News*.

Provide us with information on the U.S. corporations that you are attempting to organize and negotiate with, that violate human and labor rights on hours, wages and working conditions.

We unite with you in opposing U.S. corporations in the Maquilladoras in Mexico and the Export Processing Zones in the Philippines, Guatemala, Nicaragua and many other countries, including their sweatshop and union busting tactics in the United States.

In Solidarity,
The U.S. WILPF Labor Committee

Middle East

Where we are with the peace process?

In September 1978, Jimmy Carter, Anwar Al Sadat and Menachem Begin needed 12 days in the green hills

of Camp David to make peace between Israel and Egypt. Some 22 years later Bill Clinton, Yasser Arafat and Ehoud Barak met over 10 days to advance a peace process that was, and seems still to be, slowly collapsing.

The main questions on the table are: sharing Jerusalem as a capital for two states; the right of return for the 3.6 million refugees; the date of declaration and the borders of the new Palestinian State.

The problem is that both Barak and Arafat are in precarious positions at home. Neither has a lot of slack for the give and take needed to bridge the gap between their different positions. They both have lines they cannot cross.

Barak has the support of the majority of the population but no longer has benefit of a majority in the Knesset, since the three parties of the right (Shas, the National Religious Party and the Russian party-Israel Be'Aliya) left his coalition in early July, protesting the concessions he was reportedly willing to make.

Arafat has been under a lot of criticism since meetings in Oslo for giving things up without getting anything. Israeli settlements continue to grow, while Palestinian living standards decrease.

The Peace process has not delivered Arafat's earlier promises. He is under the critical eye of Hamas, which is praising Lebanon's Hezbollah for getting rid of their Israeli occupation through armed struggle.

Barak will also not give up exclusive control over East Jerusalem, as International law requires (United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338) and the Moslem world will not relinquish the territory of its holy sites, such as the mosque Al Aqsa. Palestinian Christians, while a small minority, seek an international status for Jerusalem to protect holy places such as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Seven years after Oslo it does not seem that we are closer to an agreement.

While the Women in Black and Four Mothers (an Israeli women's movement involving mothers who lost sons in Lebanon) were crucial in moving Barak to withdraw from Lebanon, it is very discouraging that local women are generally left out of the peace process and not invited to the peace table. This includes WILPF member Hannan Ashrawi who was previously participating with the Palestinian delegation.

We are encouraging branches to have discussions and watch videotapes on the Middle East Peace Process. There are also two WILPF documents available for study:

Breaking the Barriers to Peace in the Middle East (A women's dialogue). Ay Napa, Cyprus 25-28, March 1997.

Search for Peace in the Middle East. A brief record of efforts by WILPF to further peaceful solutions of the conflict in the Middle East. Missions and Meetings. Policies and Actions 1930-1996.

To join the Middle East committee or report on activities, please contact Odile Hugonot Haber, 531 Third Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, (734) 761-7967, fax (734) 769-2971, email, od4life@aol.com.

WILPF MEMBER CREATES NEW VIDEO ON COLOMBIA

Patricia Guerrero has recently completed a video of the stories of terror and displacement told by women who have crowded into refugee camps surrounding Cartagena. Clinton did not visit this area during his recent visit to the country. Guerrero, who is from Cartagena, is a WILPF member, human rights activist and lawyer. Now available with an English voiceover, the video *Testimony from the Displaced Women of Colombia: May their Names not Fall into the Void* gives a chilling preview of the plight of millions of poor Colombians once "Plan Colombia" is put into effect. Available for \$10 from Green Valley Media, 300 Maple St., Burlington, VT 05401 or by email: rlloyd@together.net. One half hour in length.



The Case for Universal Health Care

Carol Schreter

Shortly after I visited Cuba in 1999 on a WILPF-sponsored delegation, my friend Christine Mason died from a lack of health insurance.

A performing artist and part-time chef, Christine did not have health insurance and couldn't seek preventative care. She was one of the estimated 16 percent of U.S. citizens who have no health insurance. Christine died of cervical cancer which, if detected early, can be treated. By the time Christine found out she was sick it was too late.

Contrasted against this horrible situation, Cuba's low-tech, prevention-oriented healthcare system seemed even more impressive. Other countries also have universal health care. South Africa, for example, got universal health care just three years after apartheid fell. Of 27 industrialized nations, only three do not guarantee health care for all citizens: Turkey, Mexico and the United States.

Many people believe that Hillary Clinton's 1994 national health care plan failed because it was a "top down" process. The plan was complicated, crafted behind closed doors. It lacked the public support needed to counter opposition by the insurance industry and big business.

So, many U.S. activists are now seeking health insurance state-by-state. Separate projects have been stimulated by the national Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN!) based in Cleveland, Ohio. Four states, Massachusetts, Vermont,

Washington and Maryland are leading the pack. Historically, states have often been the laboratory for change. For example, before Social Security, old age pensions were already available in all or part of 29 states.

The Strategy in Maryland

"This can't just be a lobbying effort from grassroots groups. The backing of the public health community has brought some credibility to the issue," says Dr. Peter Beilenson, Baltimore City Health Commission and president of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative. "The support of the medical community, the mainstream faith communities and the League of Women Voters is making this work."

Maryland's coalition is working to get widespread support via organizational, not individual, backers. They

seek 2,000 supporting organizations willing to sign on to a "Declaration of Health Care Independence." Signers will help craft the plan and then educate their members. By July 2000 they had 700 organizational signers, including two chapters of WILPF.

Politically Viable?

The idea is to make universal health care the major issue of the 2002 state elections. A remarkable 78 percent of Marylanders say that every Maryland resident is entitled to comprehensive health care coverage — without reference to employment, according to a poll done last year of 1,500 Maryland households which was conducted by Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates. This poll also suggests that Marylanders may be influenced by the candidates' stand on universal health care.

When faced with a choice between a Democratic candidate for governor who favors health care for all Marylanders, and a

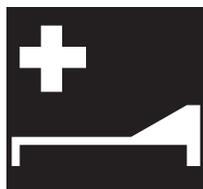
Republican candidate who does not, residents overwhelmingly prefer the Democratic candidate.

Voters also seem willing to cross party lines. Of the registered Democrats surveyed, a greater percentage would vote for the Republican candidate for governor if he, not the Democrat, supported health care for all Marylanders.

Economically Viable?

"We are now spending \$17 billion a year on health care in Maryland, not including nursing homes or long-term care. At least 15 percent is going to insurance companies — for administration and profits. We want to plow this into medical services, providing a benefit package that is good on prevention," says Dr. Beilenson. With a centralized system instead of competition between insurers, it may be possible to lower administrative costs to just 3 percent as Medicare has done.

With a single-payer system covering all, run by the state, Marylanders could even save money — an estimated 1.7 percent of their total health care bill, according to a recent study conducted by the Lewin



Continued on page 26 ➤

A Letter from Sister Helen Prejean

Dear Friends,

I am writing to enlist your help and support with an exciting project called Moratorium 2000. Join us as we collect U.S. signatures on a petition calling for a moratorium on the death penalty. We will deliver them to the United Nations in honor of Human Rights Day, December 10, 2000. We will also use the petitions to help state groups educate their residents about the death penalty and convince state legislators that now is the time for a moratorium.

Peace always comes in steps and the first step is to cease and desist from killing, which, of course, is a moratorium. A suspension of executions will provide room for education about the injustice of the death penalty, from both a practical and a moral point of view. It is too costly — both financially and politically — for the U.S. to continue upholding the death penalty.

We were filled with hope when Illinois governor George Ryan instituted a moratorium in his state in January, saying, “There’s a problem in this system and it needs to be studied and we need to have some answers.” Since Illinois’ death penalty was reinstated in 1977, some 13 death row inmates have been released from death row, one more than the 12 actually executed in that time period.

Legislatures in at least 14 of the 38 states with death penalty laws have considered or are now considering stopping executions with a moratorium — or abolishing the death penalty outright. Twenty-three local and city governments across the U.S. have passed resolutions in support of a moratorium, including Philadelphia, Atlanta, and San Francisco. In addition to these state efforts, several bills have been introduced in Congress to place a moratorium on the federal death penalty. More and more, governments and citizens alike are acknowledging the overwhelming cruelty and inhumane nature of this type of punishment.

The Moratorium 2000 campaign offers an opportunity for each individual to become involved — from adamant abolitionists to death penalty supporters who are just beginning to rethink their views. The Moratorium 2000 campaign is not limited to the United



States. Over two million signatures have been gathered worldwide, and the number is growing.

What can you do to help? Here are some suggestions:

- Add your signature to the Moratorium 2000 petition.
- Enlist the support of friends, family, and community in signing the petition.
- Post petition sheets in churches and synagogues, on campuses and on bulletin boards.
- Set up signature-gathering tables at speaking events, rallies, concerts, and conferences.
- Convince a public figure or religious leader to endorse Moratorium 2000.

- Send a tax-deductible financial contribution to support the Moratorium 2000 effort.
- You can sign the petition and donate online at www.moratorium2000.org.

Feel free to make copies of the petition or contact Moratorium 2000 for more materials. And thank you so much for your willingness to give of yourself for this most important task. We have hard work ahead of us, but it is not hopeless work. I look forward to your enthusiastic support and participation — and to all the signatures you’ll be sending my way!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Prejean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Blessings on your work,
Sister Helen Prejean

Sister Helen Prejean is the author of Dead Man Walking. The address for Organizing Against the Death Penalty is P.O. Box 13727, New Orleans, LA 70185 3727 or phone (504) 864 1071 or email: info@moratorium2000.org.

A WILPF Gathering in Vermont

Robin Lloyd

Our first gathering was a wonderful experience. The site, the “Wing Farm” near the village of Rochester in Vermont, abounded with flowers, sun, a pond and forests — all conducive to relaxation and good conversation. Some 42 women took part; one woman each from New York, Massachusetts, Maine, New Jersey and Missouri. Many Vermont WILPFers attended, along with members of the Rochester community.

We weren’t sure how to structure our nine days but knew it would be fun to do. WILPF women needed an opportunity to get together, especially during the summer of 2000, as no Congresses were taking place. The financial support of the Greta Lynch Leadership Development Fund (a Jane Addams Peace Association Fund available to all branches and sections) galvanized our determination to make it a success. Cards were sent out to members in the northeastern states and recipients sent back notes asking, “I want to come, but what will be happening?” We realized we had to create a calendar of events, so at the last moment we did.

The best attended event was “Why Are We Involved in the Social Justice Movement?” with WILPF sponsor Grace Paley, Marion Leonard, Valerie Mullens and Lucy Nichols, all Vermont WILPF members. Lucy and Grace had gone to the same high school in the Bronx and then to Hunter College, in the 1940s. This was a time when The Movement was really moving, in all directions — socialist, anarchist, communist. We heard wonderful stories of struggle and commitment and conflict.

Other highlights included sessions on: “Racism in America,” with three Vermont presenters and Marilyn Clement, program director on the National WILPF board, who lead a discussion on reparations; “Star Wars is for Real!” with Karl Grossman (this took place the day after the most recent failure of the National Missile Defense test); “The Ongoing Struggle Over Nuclear Power,” with Deborah Katz, founder of the Citizen’s Awareness Network. Deborah comes from Deerfield, Mass., site of the Yankee Rowe Nuclear plant and one of many “sacrifice communities” across the country. This was a new term for many of us, but as Deborah described the cancer rates and miscarriages that plague her community, we began to understand its ominous significance; “The Rebirth of Mayan Culture,” with Felipe and Elena Ixcot, Guatemalan-Vermonters who recently traveled back to their homeland after almost two decades of sanctuary with the Brothers of the

Weston Priory in Weston, Vermont; “Stories of War and Peace,” from the former Yugoslavia with Barbara Soros; “After Seattle: How to Globalize the Solidarity Movement,” with Ann Petermann, co-director of Native Forest Network; “World Citizenship and You” with Garry Davis; “Racism, Globalization and Genocide,” with Gerard Colby and Charlotte Dennett, authors of, *Thy Will Be Done: The Conquest of the Amazon*.

We also enjoyed events such as a “Cosmic Walk: A journey through the mystery and beauty of our Creation Story,” and finally a beautiful and spontaneous closing ceremony around the pond with numerous enlightening and enjoyable conversations around the dinner table, the hot tub, etc.

A special thanks must be given to Alisa Farina, who performed cooking on the fly, Charlotte Dennett, co-conspirator and program organizer, and to the Greta Lynch Fund, a wonderful resource enabling WILPFers to reach out to new constituencies.

A group of us plan to meet in late fall or early spring to plan next year’s gathering. Anyone with suggestions or ideas, please send them to: Robin Lloyd at rlloyd@together.net, or 300 Maple St., Burlington, VT 05401.

Robin Lloyd chairs the Drug Policy issues committee and the Development committee. She is a member of the WILPF National Board.



Taking time out from a busy schedule to create a promotional image for next summer’s gathering. Check out the feet! *Left to right: Robin Lloyd, Karen Bercovici, Gloria Torrice and Barbara Soros.*

WILPF attends the Republican Convention in Philadelphia!!

Evelyn Alloy was one of many WILPF members involved in demonstrations and other activities that took place in Philadelphia this summer around the Republican National Convention.

Below is part of a letter to the editor she wrote to the weekly *Press/Review*, a local paper. She also addresses the mass arrests police made before and after several events, citing in particular the arrests of more than 400 people (70 of whom were picked up while making signs and puppets in a warehouse) and the fact that many people were charged with felonies rather than misdemeanors.

“On Saturday (July 29) I walked with medical practitioners and unionized health care workers on behalf of a Universal Single Payer health plan. On Sunday, I carried an anti-war sign while a heterogeneous group expressed opposition to other concerns. On Monday, I walked with the banner of the Women’s

International League for Peace and Freedom, in support of the Kensington Welfare Rights Union’s work on behalf of the homeless and poor. My personal intent on Monday was to help secure the physical safety of the KWRU marchers, who have often been targeted by city agencies and the police.

I also attended several sessions of the Shadow Convention, and learned more about the impact of our draconian drug laws on the families of those jailed for simple possession or minor infractions. Furthermore, I went to the park opposite the Round House (jail in Philadelphia) ...to express solidarity with those in jail, unable in many cases to post bail.”



Top, right: WILPF Interns Elizabeth Arend and Ta’Mora Jones hold signs during a march in Philadelphia. The signs were made by Joseph Church.

Above, left: Charmaine Sprengelmeyer, WILPF program coordinator, and Elizabeth Arend.

Above, right, top: Lisa Difiano, *left*, and WILPF Intern Beth Harris at the Unity 2000 march in Philadelphia.

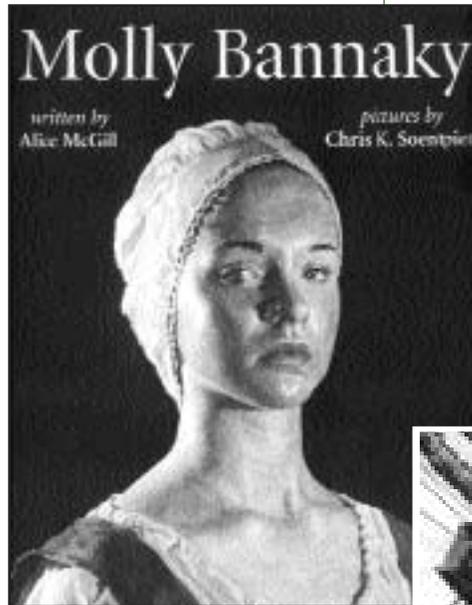
Bottom right: Evelyn Alloy, *center*, holds WILPF banner.



Children's Book Awards Announced

Five winners of the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards were recently announced.

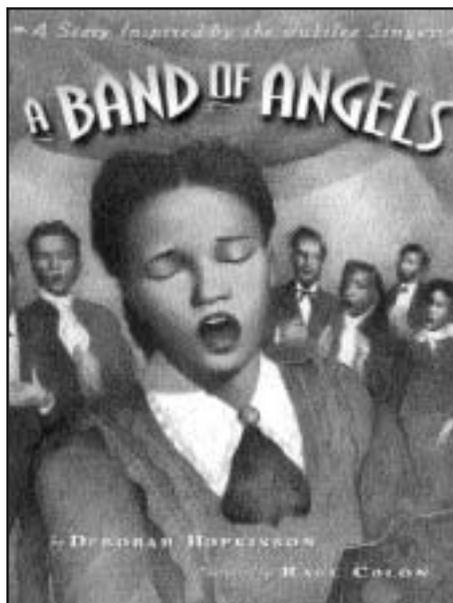
Through My Eyes, written by Ruby Bridges and published by Scholastic Press, was the winner in the Writing category. Bridges' powerful, first-person account documents her experiences as a six-year-old African American child escorted to school by federal marshals in order to integrate Louisiana's public schools in 1960.



The winner in the Picture Book category is *Molly Bannaky*, a 32-page picture and storybook written by Alice McGill, who relates the fictionalized history of a previously obscure indentured English servant during the late 17th century. Chris Soentpiet illustrated the story, published by Houghton Mifflin Children's Books. Bannaky's grandson, Benjamin Banneker, became a

highly regarded African American scientist and mathematician.

The Birchbark House, a novel about an Ojibwa family in 1847 written by Louise Erdrich, was one of the



“honor books” in the Writing category. It was published by Hyperion Books for Children. The other award in this category went to *Kids on Strike!* a history of children's working conditions in the United States. It was written by Susan Campbell Bartoletti and published by Houghton Mifflin Children's Books.

A Band of Angels: A Story Inspired by the Jubilee Singers was written by Deborah Hopkinson and illustrated by Raúl Colón. It won in the category of Picture Book. It is an Anne Schwartz Book, published by Atheneum



Books for Young Readers. The other honor book in this category was *When Sophia Gets Angry - Really, Really Angry ...* a contemporary story about a little girl who manages her anger without hitting anyone, written and

illustrated by Molly Bang and published by The Blue Sky Press.

The Jane Addams Children's Book Awards are given to books published during the previous year which, as well as meeting conventional standards for excellence, most effectively address themes or topics promoting

This Peace Education section is funded by the Jane Addams Peace Association.

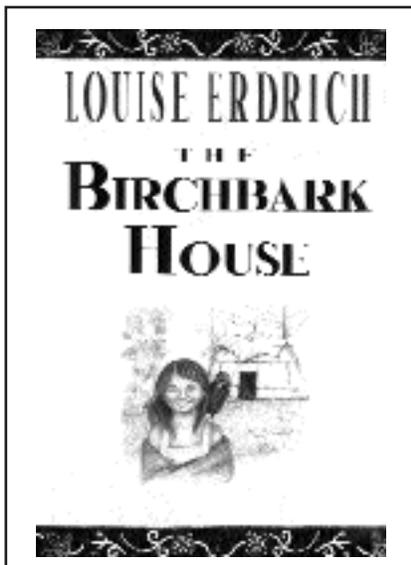
peace, social justice, world community, and/or equality of the sexes and all races.

The awards were presented to each winning author and artist on October 20, in an event held at the United Nations Plaza in New York City.

Seals for Winners and Honor Books awarded in all years can be purchased from the Jane Addams Peace Association, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 777 United Nations Plaza, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10017-3521. Phone (212) 682-8830, or email japa@igc.apc.org.

A complete list of books honored through the Jane Addams Children's Book

Awards process since 1953 is available on the Internet at www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/public/jaddams.htm.



WILPF MEMBER PRODUCES TELEVISION SERIES

As a documentary filmmaker I have worked since 1989 with young adults on preventing tobacco and marijuana abuse, binge drinking, relationship violence and acquaintance rape.

Through work with an alternatives to violence program in Colorado, tobacco prevention and peer counseling in California, an adolescent substance abuse program in Minnesota, and a teen parenting program in Vermont, I began to discover young people turning to alcohol and drugs to medicate their pain — pain that often comes from witnessing violence in their homes.

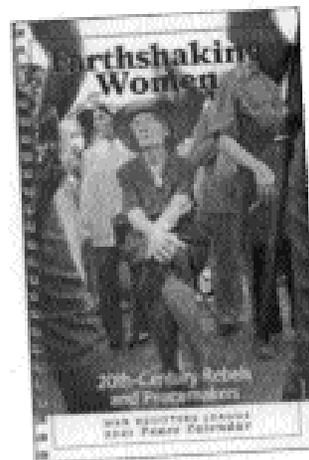
I've worked with adolescent girls who became easy victims of relationship violence and sexual assault. I've spent time with teenage boys who imitate the behavior of their tyrannical fathers. I've seen ill-equipped young couples become parents prematurely. I've come to believe that if young people aren't helped by someone, they are likely to abuse their own children, and unwittingly produce the next generation of batterers.

Since 1995, I have been gathering material for a special project. With help from people who share my commitment to "enlightened witnessing" — letting kids know it's not their fault — and with help from brave victims of violence now speaking out, this material is being shaped into *Violence Begins at Home*, a television series still in production.

For more information (504) 314-8285.

— Angelique LaCour, WILPF member in New Orleans

Earthshaking Women 20th-Century Rebels & Peacemakers



WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE 2001 PEACE CALENDAR

Profiles of 57 women from some of the 20th century's greatest struggles for human rights, peace and justice, including Dorothy Day (on cover), Ngo Ba Thanh, Jane Addams, Vera Brittain, Aung San Suu Kyi, Lillian Wald, Hannah Arendt, Rosa Parks and Vandana Shiva. Edited by Phyllis Eckhouse. Cover photo by Bob Fish.

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► CONSUMERISM IN THE CLASSROOM

Continued from page 17

ty,”³ prompting the additional concern that messages projected by classroom ads undermine the integrity and moral authority of parents and school administrators.

The U.S. Congress passed Public Law 96-252 in 1980, prohibiting the Federal Trade Commission from “enacting rules that would protect the nation’s children from commercial advertising that exploits their vulnerable and trusting natures.”² Thanks to such pieces of legislation, experts say it is up to parents and families to defend their children from the detriments of classroom consumerism. In addition to monitoring the amount and type of television programming their children view at home, parents should unite with school boards to enact policies against commercialism in the classroom.⁶

School systems should include media literacy education programs, which help children develop critical and analytical viewing skills so they will be less likely to succumb to the perils of our media-dominated culture. Parents can also get active in politics, asking candidates for elective office what they plan to do to shield children from marketing and media executives.

Children are virtually defenseless against the increasingly aggressive onslaught of advertising and marketing companies, and their alarming disregard for children’s physical and moral health. A combined effort on behalf of school administrators, parents, and politicians is therefore essential in order to provide the support that public schools need and return the classroom to its intended status as a safe, inviolable learning environment.

Elizabeth Arend served as the Peace & Freedom intern this summer.

- 1 “Captive Kids: A Report on Commercial Pressures on Kids at School.” Consumer Union: www.consunion.org
- 2 Nader, Ralph. “Why is the Government Protecting Corporations that Prey on Kids?” September, 1999.
- 3 Ruskin, Gary. “Why They Whine: How Corporations Prey on our Children.”
- 4 Morman, Todd. “Hittin’ the Books” Stay Free! Spring, 1997.
- 5 Kaufman, Marc. “Fighting the Cola Wars in Schools.” March, 1999.
- 6 For more information, contact the Center for Commercial-Free Public Education or Commercial Alert.

► HEALTH CARE

Continued from page 20

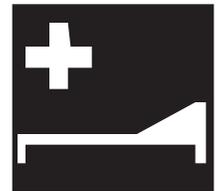
Group, well respected economic forecasters. If a new plan allowed companies to opt out and continue to cover their employees through private insurers, Maryland’s total health care bill might be just 1.1 percent more than now.

International Encouragement

Maryland’s health care activists have been busy selling tickets to a November benefit performance of the “Nutcracker Suite” by the Moscow Ballet. “The Moscow Ballet people approached us. It was quite a surprise,” says Vincent DeMarco, Executive Director of the Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative. Apparently, Russians too appreciate universal health care. What a match!

For More Information:

Universal Health Care Action
Network
2800 Euclid Ave #520
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(800) 634-4442
www.uhcan.org



Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative
2600 St. Paul St.
Baltimore, MD 21218
(410) 235-9000
www.healthcareforall.com

Carol Schreter, MSW., PhD, is a WILPF member, social worker, freelance writer and volunteer for Health Care for All. She lives in Baltimore.

Join WILPF • Subscribe to Peace and Freedom
See back page

Remembering Joan Patchen

A wonderful artist and dedicated WILPF member, Joan Patchen recently died at her home in Wellfleet, Cape Cod.

Joan died as she lived, with confidence and grace, surrounded by her loving community and survived by her three sons, a daughter-in-law, four grandchildren, her sister, her partner Betty Burkes, and Emily Burkes-Nossiter. Many people may remember meeting Joan at WILPF's International Congress in Baltimore in 1998, which she organized.

Joan was born in New York City in 1936 and had her first taste of the Midwest when she attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. In 1969 she began farming in Kentucky after years of traveling back and forth between the East and West coasts, making art and costumes, writing, illustrating and inspiring those whose paths she crossed.

Joan has been described as an outrageous woman of vision — an artist, teacher, musician, short-story writer, journalist, costume designer, playwright, actress, peace activist and witch.

“(Becoming a witch) brought me closer to the ecofeminist world, a real exploration of the seasons and the cycle of life and death,” Joan once said. “All (of these) surface in my artwork.” Her life was her art and so her art was everywhere. (Joan even had a license to practice the artificial insemination of cows!) Joan's paintings have been represented in collections and exhibits across the country and abroad; her illustrations have appeared in books and magazines and she also designed costumes for several theaters.

In recent years, Joan co-convoked the Cape Cod branch of WILPF, acted as treasurer for the Northeast Region and was involved in setting up an international resource center for Peace Education within WILPF. She was a member of FREED (Fighting Racism and Educating for Ethnic Diversity), an organization that works in the Cape Cod public school system to promote understanding of difference. Joan also co-directed, with Betty Burkes, a Montessori preschool program in Wellfleet.

Joan described her political work as informing her personal and spiritual journey. She was inspired by the daily changes and intricacies of the natural world and expressed this in her paintings and sculptural papermaking.

“I think of my work as living, breathing organisms not only composed of organic matter (leaves, reeds, bark, etc.) but also evolving organically from the natural world and the mystery of the unknowable. Therefore, everything from driftwood to moonrise surfaces in my work although not in a conscious way. Often, after a piece is finished, I will recognize in it a hidden memory like a recollection of secrets dis-

covered in a tidal pool when I was twelve...

My paper pieces evolve with my life but my true art is how I live my life.”

Joan's crossing over was celebrated with a

clambake, a ceremony in the Wampanoag tradition that honors an important person in the tribe. Some 125 friends and loved ones gathered on the beach at sunset to steam the seafood and sing together of their gratitude and loss. At the end of the ceremony, Joan's sons launched a small boat made of scraps from her studio, which held some of her ashes.

A fund is being established in Joan Patchen's name, to commemorate her life and work. Tax-deductible contributions can be written to the Jane Addams Peace Association, Inc., and sent to: Cape Cod WILPF, 38 Dusty Miller Lane, South Chatham, MA 02659. For more information, contact Betty Burkes at (508) 349-7988.



The Conference of Women for Responsible National Security will be held in Washington, D.C., December 2 - 3. This conference will initiate a two-year public education campaign aimed at ending our dependence on nuclear weapons for national security. By means of becoming more informed and mobilized, women from all over the country will challenge the national security policy that is based on mutually assured destruction through the immoral threat of using nuclear weapons. Plenary sessions and skill-building workshops, featuring international and national activists and speakers, will address a variety of issues dealing with “national security” and will focus on what we can do to make our voices heard at the national level. Women, unite for this historic event! For more information and to register for the conference, contact the Women for Responsible National Security Campaign c/o Peace Links: 666 Eleventh Street NW, Suite 202, Washington, D.C., 20001; www.peacelinks.org; peacelinks1@erols.com.

Thanks to Everyone Who Donated to WILPF's 85th Anniversary Campaign

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BranchAction News

Leslie Reindl, Branch Action Editor

FROM THE EDITOR

We are all thankful that Lori Berenson, convicted of terrorism by a hooded tribunal and held for almost five years under bitter conditions in a Peruvian prison, has had the conviction overturned and been awarded a civil trial, where the evidence against her will be publicly stated and she will be able to present a defense.

CONSUMERISM

Monterey advertised the book *Deadly Persuasion* by Jean Kilbourne. It illustrates how ads concoct a virtual reality in which addictive behavior (alcohol, tobacco, sex, food) is presented as normal and problem-solving behavior. She gives tips for evaluating sales pitches and warns consumers to beware of ads that encourage buyers to lavish affection on products rather than people. *Free Press*, 1999, \$26.00.

GOOD IDEAS

Santa Cruz held its own "Shadow Convention" at its September general meeting. Members who attended the Shadow Conventions during the Republican and Democratic national conventions this summer shared their information and helped to connect the dots between vital issues not addressed by either party. In its coverage of the protest events planned for the Democratic National Convention 2000, **Los Angeles** included the fact that legal training was being provided for lawyers and community members who wished to observe and help protect the legal rights of demonstrators. Could such training be set up elsewhere, for future events? **Minnesota Metro** set up a meeting with high school journalism students to emphasize to them the importance of journalism in educating people about the world. The fact that many issues are not covered by the mainstream media was also discussed, as was the work of WILPF.

MEMBERS HONORED

Michigan State University gave Marge Fishman (**Detroit**) the Glen Taggart Award for her community involvement to improve international relations. Lucille Wheaton (**Fresno**) received the Humanitarian Award from the NAACP. Mille Rosenstein (**Los Angeles**), chair of Santa Monica's Commission on Older Americans, was named "Woman of the Year" and honored by the California State Legislature in Sacramento.

ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES

Rockaway invited a state representative to its September

meeting to discuss the upcoming election and election issues. **Los Angeles** heard about the major issues facing the nation in Election 2000 at its September branch meeting. **Detroit** reported on the Impeace Congress! movement being called for by WILPF members, to move tax money from spending on the military to spending on social programs. The movement is aimed at ousting members of Congress supported by the military-industrial complex. **Detroit** published an insert about Social Security and Medicare, one side containing questions to ask your congressperson, especially about Bush's and Gore's plans, the other side containing a pledge to be signed by incumbents and candidates. You can get a copy of *Social Security & Medicare: Myths, Lies and Realities* by calling (313) 874-1615.

STAR WARS

President Clinton said in September that he will not authorize deployment of the National Missile Defense (NMD) system. Will Bush or Gore (or Nader) do so? **Palo Alto** participated in the "First and Last Annual Dr. Strangelove Missile Defense Organization" and discussed a "secret" letter being classified by the White House. The letter is written by Ted Postol, Prof. of Science, Technology, and National Security Policy at MIT and details his findings that the results of the National Missile Defense Experiment were misinterpreted and tampered with. In August, over 50 representatives urged the FBI to investigate his allegations. Call Janet Reno and ask her to conduct this investigation: (202) 514-2000 and ask for the AG's comment line. **Berkeley, Monterey, Palo Alto, and Santa Cruz** were part of the International Day of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space action at Vandenberg Air Force Base. **Berkeley** also had a program led by Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space (www.globenet.free-online.co.uk). **Santa Cruz** has been informing people about the NMD at its downtown table each Saturday. **Cape Cod** co-sponsored a Star Wars rally that featured two inflatable nuclear missiles carrying the message "Here We Go Again! More Nukes, More Star Wars, More \$\$ Wasted." Groups in **Des Moines** used the same inflatable in the State Fair Parade.

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1233 Ingerson Road, St. Paul, MN 55112-3714.

ANTI-NUCLEAR ORGANIZING

For Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemoration activities, **Detroit** co-sponsored an event featuring two “hibakusha” (people who have been A-bombed). The two women were part of a larger delegation traveling throughout the U.S. sponsored by Hidankyo, a Japanese A-bomb survivors group. They presented a 40-panel series of photos and artwork to the Swords into Plowshares Peace Museum. **Peninsula** members heard two Indian activists, founders of MIND (Movement in India for Nuclear Disarmament) talk about India’s nuclear program and the widespread opposition to it. They urged Americans to rekindle the antinuclear movement and demand a worldwide nuclear freeze and to move toward a START III treaty.

Berkeley participated in an October event called “Fallout:



Raging Grannies sing to protestors during A16 IMF-World Bank event in Washington, D.C.

Complicated Lies and Simple Acts of Heroism,” a cultural political festival during which artists, scholars, and nuclear survivors explored the idea of lies and omission and commission that permeate governmental policies around nuclear weapons. Betty Burkes, past president of WILPF, was present. **Des Moines** participated in a workshop about the transportation of high-level radioactive waste through the United States to Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CULTURE OF PEACE, AND OTHER PEACE INITIATIVES

Los Angeles had its June meeting at an all-day event centered on this U.N. declaration. The day included two round tables of adolescents and NGO representatives discussing the principles of a culture of peace, entertainment, and signing of the UNESCO Manifesto 2000, and looking ahead to the International Decade of the Culture of Peace and Nonviolence. **Minnesota Metro** held “Creating a Culture of Peace” with speakers from six local organizations discussing how their groups work for peace. A report was then sent to UNESCO headquarters to be added to the International Data Base of Local Projects for a Culture of Peace. **Los Angeles**

presented two weeklong peace camps, one for children ages 6-12 and the other for junior counselors ages 13-18. Paula Tasso, for 16 years a WILPF representative to the United Nations covering the Commission on Disarmament, led **Sacramento’s** 14th annual celebration of the August Women’s Peace event and then traveled to other branches in **California, Portland, and Seattle.**

ECONOMIC ISSUES AND CORPORATIZATION

Des Moines advertised the Iowa Faith and Labor Committee and participation in the Labor Day Parade. **Los Angeles** heard a speaker on “A Living Wage” report on the current struggle in Santa Monica by workers in the tourist industry against the luxury hotels, and published a petition to the U.S. government called “Pay Equity Now!” **Cape Cod’s** Working Group on Democracy and Corporations has decided to focus on the new tests being required for graduation that are being imposed in most states: “Lesson plans and corporate-produced textbooks are increasingly directed toward passing tests rather than toward the kind of critical thinking that helps create engaged citizens... We are finding allies among teachers, parents, and students.” **Des Moines’** Challenging Corporate Power group is looking at plans for a mega-mall in a suburb. **Peninsula** heard a speaker on “The Truth Behind the Hype” about the true organization of Lockheed Martin and its impact on the economy and people’s lives. **Portland** heard from a labor organizer in a maquiladora in Mexico, who is a member of Enlace (“joining of hands”), which includes local unions from the U.S., autonomous unions from Mexico and community-based labor organizations from both countries. Since workers in Maquiladoras are not allowed to speak while they work, the woman organized through singing. Here are words to one of the songs she sang: “Stand up, look at the mountain/Source of the wind, the sun, the water/You who change the course of the rivers/Who with the seed sows the flight of your soul/Stand up, look at your hands/Take your brother’s hand so that you can grow/We’ll go together united by blood/The future can begin today/Deliver us from the master who keeps us in misery.”

IRAQ

Palo Alto and Peninsula women participated in a demonstration to greet U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, who was a speaker at Stanford University commencement exercises. His response was a smile and a wave. For Hiroshima Day, **Fresno** cosponsored a protest in conjunction with the Campaign of Conscience for the Iraqi People, a nonviolent initiative of the American Friends Service Committee and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Churches were invited to take part. **Monterey** advertised the free FOR film, “Killing the Children of Iraq” (copies available from FOR, Box 271, Nyack NY, 10960). **Cape Cod** participated in demonstrations against use of the Massachusetts Air National Guard to enforce the “no-fly” zones in Iraq.

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- **UNITE** in a worldwide sisterhood of peace and justice;
- **BUILD** a constructive peace through world disarmament;
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