

# Peace & Freedom

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

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Jan Cate, left, Marlene Pedregosa, center, and Beverly Sims, right, dancing at Dulce Maria's in Havana during a delegation trip to Cuba.

Deborah James

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**Editor:** Theta Pavis  
**Typesetting:** Sigrid Berkner, Judy Mathe Foley/Penitentiary Printing  
**Editorial Assistance:** Elizabeth Arend, *Peace and Freedom* Intern; Marjorie Schier, Copyediting, Pamela Jones Burnley, Proofreading.

**U.S. Section WILPF:** 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107; phone: (215) 563 7110; fax (215) 563 5527; e mail: wilpf@wilpf.org; website: [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org)

**Legislative Office:** 110 Maryland Ave., NE, Ste. 102, Washington, D.C., 20002; phone: (202) 546 6727; fax: (202) 544 9613; email: ggilhool@ix.netcom.com

**President:** Phyllis Yingling  
**Executive Director:** Mary Day Kent  
**Legislative Organizer:** Gillian Gilhool

Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA): 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017; phone: (212) 682 8830. JAPA is WILPF's educational fund.

**President:** Linda Wasserman  
**Executive Director:** Isha Dyfan

International WILPF: 1 rue de Varembe, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland; phone: 41 22 733 6175; fax: 41 22 740 1063; e mail: wilpf@iprolink.ch

**President:** Bruna Nota  
**Secretary-General:** Michaela Told  
**WILPF U.N. Liaison:** Felicity Hill

Cover art by Eric Drooker

## 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.

## Preface

Mary Day Kent

As we prepared this issue on media and democracy, I was struck by the enormity of the gap between the deluge of media "news" on subjects of extreme triviality as compared to the overwhelming media silence on the information that could have been provided on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review. The review took place in April and May, with plenty of opportunity to report on the many aspects of nuclear abolition on which our futures depend.

WILPF can be proud, however, that our international and U.S. "Reaching Critical Will" project made a serious and innovative effort to break through this barricade. With trainings for disarmament organizers in California, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania, a video, a website, and an intense and effective presence at the United Nations during the NPT review, WILPF made a difference. Felicity Hill, WILPF's representative at the United Nations in New York, reported that we had more NGO delegates for the NPT conference than any other organization registered with the United Nations.

Yet, even as the world's delegates met to demand from the nuclear powers at least a commitment on paper to the goal of nuclear abolition, there were fires raging at the Los Alamos nuclear research labs in New Mexico, a most powerful reminder of the limits of human expertise and ability to rely on our own self-confidence in technical control over nature. In the ancient Greek play, *The Bacchae*, the city of Thebes was ultimately destroyed by the descendents of the dragon's teeth that had been planted to create soldiers. Likewise, we are sowing the earth with many dragon's teeth, not just nuclear ones, and the role of the commercial media (in the United States, therefore, essentially all media) is to distract us from noticing and to disempower us from acting.

However, the strength of WILPF and the many actions of the past few months which are reported in these pages should give us heart to keep up our work to uncover truths, make connections, build a movement for justice and peace, and rejoice in change.

As a still somewhat new executive director for WILPF, I had the very heartening opportunity to meet many members this April when I went to the West Coast to join in the Fresno, California celebration for the 85th anniversary. In Fresno, as in the celebrations in New York and Cleveland, the full range of WILPF's vitality and commitments could be seen: the urgency of disarmament, the need for racial justice, the rights of farmworkers, the Native American message to respect the earth,

the practical networking and mutual support essential to building the community of peace-makers. All the gatherings were true celebrations, bringing us together, honoring our inspiring sponsors, and gathering our energy for the work ahead.

While we think of the work to come, I hope this issue of *Peace & Freedom* will assist us as we critique and challenge the media that surround us, and also will give us some new tools and ideas. We are just beginning to explore the potential for WILPF and other democratic groups to create and control our own media, to send and receive the information and the perspectives otherwise denied us.



### HONORING KAY CAMP

Kay Camp, former international and U.S. WILPF President, was honored in Philadelphia in March with the Fellowship of Reconciliation's Martin Luther King Jr. Award.

On hand for the festivities were John Dear, left, Fellowship executive director, presenting the award, and, at right, Pamela Jones-Burnley, WILPF's administrative director.



# News in War and Peace

Cate Buchanan

“Why so little international media coverage of events in Burundi? How many Burundians have to be murdered before the story becomes newsworthy? It is difficult to believe in claims that we live in an era of global communications, when none of the major TV channels appears even to have sent a camera crew to Burundi.”

- United Nations Association Bulletin, 3 September 1996<sup>i</sup>

These questions typify the issues raised during a WILPF International Women’s Day Seminar on *The Reporting of War and Disarmament: The Role of the Media in Building a Culture of Peace*. The seminar was held at the United Nations in Geneva in early March. Considering the conditions in which cultures of peace can be created and sustained, it is critical to examine ways in which information, news and values are communicated into and across cultures. Journalists and the media are key actors in this process. While there are difficulties and dangers in generalizing “the media” as a homogenous mass, some clearly consistent patterns can be observed.

The highly competitive character of contemporary journalism lends a fickle approach to the work of many journalists and media companies. The decision to report on a particular conflict depends on a variety of considerations — editorial priorities, the identities of those fighting, who may intervene, assessing the interests of the audiences and the resources necessary to report the story. In this context of the rapacious easily distracted news cycle, issues such as peace-building and preventive diplomacy rarely make it onto the radar, as they are deemed “un-newsworthy.”

WILPF drew together a talented panel of participants to consider these issues, including journalists, peace activists and NGO workers. Diverse views and experiences were offered to the audience of diplomats, U.N. staff, human rights and peace activists. Andreas Zumach, correspondent for the German newspaper *Die Tageszeitung*, provided a clear overview of the history of war reporting over the last 150 years. The Crimean War, World War II, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War marked radical moments in the evolution of war reporting. Profound changes were made with regard to investigative approaches; the use of technology; the conceptions of objectivity; the influence of propaganda and changing relationships between the media, the military and other non-government actors.

Teodora Tabacki, from Women in Black, Belgrade,

shared her experiences as an activist during the wars in the former Yugoslavia. She talked about how the majority of the media accepted the “rules of the game,” and were unable to conceive of new or different strategies to obtain and disseminate information within the region. Jasna Bastic, a former journalist, now working for the Swiss-based organization Medienhilfe, also spoke of her experiences from these wars. Originally from Sarajevo, she saw the “siege of Sarajevo” through the eyes of both a journalist and a local. The reporting of the siege was a classic example of misleading journalism, she said. It became a rallying point for *good copy* and was reported like a natural disaster with constant reference to the difficulties of life: no food, water, and no movement possible amidst the bitterly cold weather. Sarajevons eventually came to refer to this zoo-like observation of their existence as “weather reporting” because that’s all it ever seemed to do, contributing little to any greater understanding of the issues influencing the war.

An interesting addition was made to the proceedings by the screening of *Out of Kosovo* by documentary maker and photojournalist Nick Danziger. The film highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of images and film to simultaneously generate empathy, connection and objectification.

Francois Vinsot and Marco Domeniconi drew on their experiences in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. Vinsot, a former journalist who covered the region, referred to the challenges he faced in accurately reporting the horror of genocide. Domeniconi offered another perspective, informing participants of the work he performs at the Hirondelle Foundation, in particular, the establishment of Radio Agatashya, which began transmitting from Bukavu, Zaire in 1994. This was a highly successful project to counter the use of radio as a medium to disseminate genocidal hatred. It soon developed a reputation as “the radio station that doesn’t take sides,” but it was forced to stop transmitting in 1996 after war broke out in East Zaire.

Edward Girardet specifically discussed the peace journalism projects that Media Action International<sup>ii</sup> undertakes in Afghanistan, including using radio as the medium to provide education for girls and women who are relegated to the home and denied access to education under Taliban rule.

Critical challenges were consistently raised about the very nature and virtue of journalism. Does the media influence conflict prevention/escalation? What is jour-

nalism for? How do journalists operate? David Hallin has observed that the world of journalists is divided into three concentric spheres. In the center are concepts and values that are accepted without question — the “sphere of consensus.” The second is the “sphere of legitimate controversy,” in which argument is contained within particular parameters. Legitimacy is decided by institutions and bodies who determine when and what “change” is approved. Outside of this is the “sphere of deviancy,” where people and issues unworthy of serious consideration are relegated.<sup>iii</sup> Good war reporting should place events into historical, political and cultural contexts and identify the issues at the heart of conflicts. If we apply Hallin’s thinking, it becomes obvious how critical issues either never or superficially receive consideration in the reporting of war and peace.

Journalists are often the first outside witnesses to early stages of a conflict, and their reports can act as the first alarm bell. Some analysts argue that it is difficult to find evidence that media coverage has explicitly led to pre-emptive diplomatic action designed to prevent a conflict from escalating.<sup>iv</sup> In fact, it seems the ubiquitous national interest profoundly influences conflict prevention/escalation with the state sizing up the costs and benefits of whether to intervene, feign a calculated ignorance or something in between. Journalists and media organizations are significant actors in legitimizing, conveying and interpreting these decisions and actions to the public. Media coverage of a conflict — potential or in progress — is not the same as forcing a government to act. The power of misperception often lulls us into believing otherwise; after all, if violent conflict is being reported it means someone somewhere is probably doing something about it. Just as the mantra of national interest dominates the imagination of governments, media organizations are similarly constrained with the imperative of maximizing profits - a powerful influence on what might eventually constitute “news.”

As campaigners and activists for human rights and peace, we also need to be strategic about utilizing the media as a tool for *communicating the peace*. Journalist Tom Gjelten suggests that four key criteria influence an editor’s judgment about whether an international politics



Cartoon compliments of Z Magazine

story “deserves” to be reported: *importance* - if it has broader values, interests or resources are a stake; *dynamism* - if the story has some suspense, with events changing and the outcome uncertain; *illustrativeness* - if the story has explanatory power, suggesting trends or patterns; its *interest* - if the story will hold the attention of readers, listeners or viewers.<sup>v</sup> We can take this into account when working with the media but not necessarily be limited by it. We can also push for more sensitive reporting of conflict and war by facilitating information exchange between journalists and campaigners, which provides timely and accurate analysis. The seminar was a contribution to the ongoing

debates and developments in this field. These efforts all assist in supporting accurate and comprehensive war and peace reporting that strives to understand and explain the causes of conflicts as well as the possibilities for peace. A report from the seminar was published in July. For copies, please contact the WILPF International Secretariat.

Cate Buchanan is the WILPF International Secretariat Disarmament and Development Intern for 2000.

<sup>i</sup> Nik Gowing, *Media Coverage: Help or Hindrance in Conflict Prevention?* p. 7, May 1997, A Report to the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict, Carnegie Corporation of New York, [www.ccpdc.org](http://www.ccpdc.org)

<sup>ii</sup> [www.mediaaction.org](http://www.mediaaction.org)

<sup>iii</sup> Daniel C Hallin, ‘Uncensored War’ in Jake Lynch, p. 25, *News and Change in The Peace Journalism Option 2: What are journalists for?* Conflict and Peace Forums, April 1999. Contact: [Conflict.Peace@poiesis.org](mailto:Conflict.Peace@poiesis.org)

<sup>iv</sup> See Nik Gowing report above for detailed argument on this point.

<sup>v</sup> Tom Gjelten, *Professionalism in War Reporting: A Correspondents View*, p. 23, June 1998, A Report to the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict, Carnegie Corporation of New York, [www.ccpdc.org](http://www.ccpdc.org)

# Media For the “Well-fed” Starves the Rest of Us

Ben Sher and Mary Zepernick

“A community will evolve  
only when its people control their means of communication.”

— Frantz Fanon<sup>i</sup>

The day Elian Gonzalez was removed by federal marshals from his Miami relatives’ home, between 150 and 200 Iraqi children died as a result of the U.S.-driven sanctions. Yet the media debate over Elian’s “seizure,” from news and talk shows to articles and letters to the editor, far exceeded the amount of corporate media ink and broadcasts devoted to coverage of the sanctions and their effects over the last nine years.

Who has the power to define the news? No matter the issue—trade and foreign policy, welfare, health care, environmental protection, military spending, institutional racism, sexism, or citizen protests—the root question is: who has the power to determine what gets covered?

In the oligarchic republic of the United States, a few people hiding behind their corporate shields hold the power to define, to set policies and priorities, without the meaningful involvement of the vast majority of people. It’s no surprise that their decisions benefit the already well served, lacking diverse input and participation. It’s no wonder that we struggle to achieve democracy, rather than practicing and honing it.

The few people who define our government, economy, institutions, values and culture, are the political heirs of those who established this republic. Some 55 white men, whom political scientist James McGregor Burns calls “the well-bred, the well-fed, the well-read and the well-wed,” met in Philadelphia in 1787, ostensibly to amend the Articles of Confederation governing the fledgling nation. Instead, they fashioned a new government and Congress obligingly sealed the records of their proceedings for over three decades—an early control over the news!

Only with the later addition of the Bill of Rights was the Constitution ratified. Over the past two centuries, people struggling to change policies and priorities have especially prized the First Amendment, and understandably so. However, freedom of the press, like all other freedoms, is protection *from* abridgement by Congress rather than access *to* the power to define our own governance, our material needs and provisions for our very selves.

Constitutional scholar Alexander Meikeljohn wrote in 1948 of the hope originally placed in radio. He wrote of “the possibility that, as a people living a common life

under a common agreement, we might communicate with one another freely with regard to the values, the opportunities, the difficulties, the joys and sorrows, the hopes and fears, the plans and purposes, of that common life. It seemed possible that, amid all our differences, we might become a community of mutual understanding and of shared interests.”

In other words, we might be a people sharing the power to define real democracy and build our capacity for self-governance.

Today, Meikeljohn would be appalled to see how little our publicly owned airwaves serve the public. Half a century ago, he lamented that “never was a human hope more bitterly disappointed. The radio as it now operates among us is not free. Nor is it entitled to the protection of the First Amendment. It is not engaged in the task of enlarging and enriching human communication. It is engaged in making money. And the First Amendment does not intend to guarantee men freedom to say what some private interest pays them to say for its own advantage. It intends only to make men free to say what, as citizens, they think, what they believe, about the general welfare.”

Whatever was intended by the First Amendment, however, today’s reality was set in motion in 1886 by the Supreme Court’s declaration that corporations have legal personhood. Since then, these so-called corporate “persons” have accumulated First Amendment protections. This is why, for example, the ACLU defends corporate advertising as free speech!

By the turn of this century, corporations’ annual advertising budget in all media approached several hundred billion dollars (and this doesn’t include contributions to candidates and lobbying expenses, media essential to corporate propaganda). Rather than “we the people” employing the media to facilitate our democratic discourse, we have become consumers of the media and the products that pay its bills. The CEO of the Westinghouse Corporation, former CBS owner, put it clearly: “We are here to serve the advertisers. That is our raison d’etre.”

The resulting censorship can be as blatant as *Boston Herald* columnist Robin Washington’s suspension without pay, after he complained that the newspaper killed

critical stories about Fleet-Boston Financial Corporation, a major advertiser and credit source. Or, it can be as insidious as the self-censorship that both journalists and citizens take part in as we regularly consume corporate culture.

In colonizing our minds, public relations is a close cousin to advertising—largely owned by ad agencies, operating outside public view, and serving interests from giant corporations to foreign governments. According to John Stauber, founder of PR Watch, “Half of everything in the news actually originates from a PR firm . . . it’s easy to simply regurgitate the dozens of press releases and stories that come in every day for free from PR firms.”<sup>ii</sup>

Many tout the Internet as a leveling factor, as though human beings and corporate “persons” are playing a game as equal opponents. Useful as e-mail and websites can be for exchanges of ideas and information, consider the global “net” effect of the following:

- less than 20 percent of the world’s population has electricity, much less the wherewithal to acquire computers;
- More people are using the Internet for e-commerce than for social activism;
- In 1996, Congress gave the digital spectrum, worth up to \$70 billion, to corporations in return for a broadcasters’ pledge to “serve the public interest.”

Given the corporate media assault on our self-governance, what alternatives do we advocate? In contrast to the “marketplace of ideas” (the competitive language of “free trade”) we can demand, as the Knights of Labor did more than a century ago, that the “transportation of knowledge” be made genuinely public. Members of the Committee on Corporations, Trade & Democracy identified the following principles shaping our vision of the media in a democracy:

- universal access to accurate information and the exchange of ideas via publicly funded media, free of commercial advertising;
- decentralized media, including micro and community radio and television, with interactive participation by all members of the community;
- universal and lifelong public education in media skills and democratic decision-making; and
- equal media access for issue advocates and candidates for public office.

The following mission statement from Nell Geiser, co-publisher of the youth activist zine *Co-Motion*<sup>iii</sup> and a member of WILPF’s Boulder branch study group, offers an alternative to the corporate media’s profit motive:

“*Co-Motion* is a political, activist newsletter developed at New Vista High School. Our goal is to create a medium that will inform youth and provide forums for collective action. The issues we address will include

global, local, and always political topics that aren’t discussed enough in mainstream media. The topics and perspectives of youth will always be integrated into our reporting. It is important to be fair in our portrayal of every issue. We must foster a large, diverse community in order to maintain a lively, vital exchange and flow of ideas.”

Committee members from the Campaign to Challenge Corporate Power, Assert the People’s Rights collaborated on this article. Call (508) 398 1023 or people@poclad.org, for information.

<sup>i</sup> Frantz Fanon, a black French psychoanalyst and social philosopher, best known among activists for authoring *Wretched of the Earth*. He was born in 1925, died in 1961.

<sup>ii</sup> PR Watch: 3318 Gregory St., Madison, WI, 53711; (608) 233-3346; [www.prwatch.org](http://www.prwatch.org).

<sup>iii</sup> *Co-Motion* may be reached through Nell Geiser: [nell-geiser@aol.com](mailto:nell-geiser@aol.com), Robin Feffer: [rfeffer@netscape.net](mailto:rfeffer@netscape.net), by phone at (303) 443-3391, or at 1017 Maxwell Ave., Boulder, CO 80304.

## WHO DEFINES PROTESTS?

If we examine mainstream broadcast and print media reports of the actions in Seattle last fall and in Washington, D.C. this April, we who have firsthand experience or other sources of information can see many failures in reporting the facts. Instead, what we often see is pseudo news analysis, as seen on the front page of my local paper, the *Sacramento Bee*. Leo Rennert, the Washington, D.C.-based reporter for the *Bee*, characterized the protestors as uninformed about the causes of poverty in the third world, despite his failure to interview any of them.

When reporters do choose to “report” the story, they often confine themselves to the language of the sports arena: who is “winning” or “losing,” for example, in the conflict in Seattle. In this way, they carry over to peoples’ demonstrations the same mentality we find in coverage of the presidential horse race. Protesters lost in Washington, according to much of the media coverage, because they failed to shut down the IMF meeting. But if these reporters had actually consulted the protestors themselves, they would have found that the men and women in the streets felt they’d had another resounding success in terms of bringing national attention to the twin evils of the IMF and the World Bank, and building the movement to reclaim power over corporations.

- Ben Sher

# The Media and the Military

Yoshiko Ikuta

Often times I think of Marshall McLuhan's famous words, "the medium is the message," as I examine how we are conditioned by the lack of objectivity in the commercial media.

Fifty years ago, my journalism professor at Japan's Doshisha University told me not to trust the media. His admonition reinforced my suspicion about Japanese media, which were controlled by the military during World War II.

At that time, the leading newspaper, *Asahi*, reported that the Japanese Air Force and Navy were winning the war and that U.S. forces were running scared in retreat from the Pacific Ocean. Later, I learned that the exact opposite was true, with Japanese soldiers becoming suicidal instead of finding a way out of a devastating situation.

Several decades later, I watched CNN graphically showing the "precision bombing" of Baghdad, intended to limit bombing damage to the military installations so the civilian population would be spared. A decade later, we've been told that situation had, in reality, been somewhat different. Many civilians were killed, residential homes were destroyed, and depleted uranium-coated bombs were used both in Baghdad and the former Yugoslavia.

I recently read an article entitled "The Military and CNN," which appeared in the March 23 issue of *Common Dreams* and reported how the Pentagon staff moved into the CNN office to orchestrate the news reporting. According to Alexander Cockburn of *The Nation*, "A handful of military personnel from the 4th Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Group based at Fort Bragg in North Carolina has until recently been working in CNN's headquarters in Atlanta."

CNN hosted five interns from U.S. Army PSYOPs, including two in television, two in radio and one in satellite operations. Though executives at CNN now describe the Army PSYOP intern tours as having been insignificant, "Col. St. John, the commanding officer of PSYOPs group, certainly thought them of sufficient significance to mention at that high-level Pentagon pow-wow in Arlington about propaganda and psychological warfare."

As the TV screens showed the latest and newest military aircrafts dropping "smart bombs," I wondered if it was comparable to showing off the latest fashions in ads and soap operas. The idea is to sell the merchandise and



At a WILPF Chapel Hill Branch International Women's Day event, Chair Lori Hoyt (center) and Mary Ellen Priestly (right) lead a chant.

The Herald Sun/Sara Davis

the mentality that certain products are not only acceptable, but also indispensable.

Even more recently, I looked for any update on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but found that the mainstream media gave the issue very little attention. The only places I could find information regarding NPT were WILPF's website and *Peace & Freedom*.

The media write about the government's Missile Defense System as an already accepted deal, with some occasional quotes from critical physicists. If we limit our reading to the established media, it may therefore remain unclear as to why this form of defense is even used. According to Bruce Gagnon of Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, the reason for MDS is not the national defense issue. Instead, it renders support to Transnational Corporations bent on securing the United States' domination of mineral resources in outer space. U.S. taxpayers are therefore expected to give mega-corporate welfare for mining exploration in outer space, all in the name of national defense!

So, what are we to do? You can begin by reading between the lines and watching who is writing in mainstream media. Join progressive organizations and read their newsletters. Attend meetings for peaceful activists to exchange information and communicate with their members.

Yoshiko Ikuta is chair of the Disarm! Dismantling the War Economy campaign.

**REMEMBER: AUGUST 6 IS HIROSHIMA DAY.**

## Agreement Reached on Non-Proliferation Treaty

Rebecca Johnson

During the recent review conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), several sessions extended deep into the night. There were many tense hours, when it looked as if the conference would fail due to a stand-off between the United States and Iraq over describing Iraq's non-compliance with the NPT.

More than 24 hours later than scheduled, the President of the conference, Ambassador Abdallah Baali of Algeria, brought his gavel down on the adoption of a final document which contained the consensus and objectives of representatives of the Treaty's 187 parties on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. There was applause and relief that the review conference—the first meeting since the Treaty had been indefinitely extended in 1995—was agreed upon in the end.

This successful conclusion was viewed as a triumph for the non-nuclear weapon states (especially the New Agenda Coalition of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden.) These nations had effectively pushed through an unequivocal undertaking, furthered steps on nuclear disarmament. It was also a triumph for the Conference President, whose determination to produce a success forced opposing sides to deal with each other and compromise — or miss their planes and another night's sleep!

In the agreement, a New Pledge on Nuclear Disarmament was brokered by the nuclear powers, who pledged an "unequivocal undertaking...to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals." The NPT parties underscored the necessity of enforcing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, as well as prompt negotiations on a fissile material production ban, presently deadlocked in the Conference on Disarmament. While supporting the full implementation of START II, recently ratified by the Russian Duma, the parties urged the United States and Russia to conclude START III. Raising concerns that the nuclear powers have not been taking their disarmament obligations seriously enough and that progress had stalled since the end of the Cold



War, the non-nuclear powers identified several important steps which must be pursued over the next five years in addition to the bilateral strategic arms reductions currently underway. According to the program of action contained in the agreement on next steps, the nuclear powers have promised:

- further unilateral efforts to reduce their nuclear arsenals — since 1991, Britain, France and the United States have taken important steps in unilateral nuclear disarmament, cutting tactical and obsolete nuclear systems. Unilateral efforts can be very important when bilateral or multilateral negotiations are stalled, and act as a useful complement to disarmament agreements;
- to provide more information on their nuclear capabilities and the implementation of disarmament agreements — Britain, Russia and the United States have already moved some way towards greater transparency, but France and particularly China have not wanted to reveal nuclear-related information, the first step towards accountability and effective verification;
- to reduce their non-strategic nuclear weapons — Russia continues to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in large numbers, and the United States retains them in its arsenals, including some 150 tactical bombs based in seven NATO countries in Europe;
- concrete measures to further reduce the operational status of nuclear weapon systems — the non-aligned and New Agenda had been pressing for nuclear weapons to be taken off alert, de-activated and for the warheads to be separated from their delivery vehicles. In their statement of May 1, the five nuclear powers had for the first time stated that none of their nuclear weapons remain targeted. They have now promised to go further;
- a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies — a concern raised over and over again by the non-nuclear countries during this Conference has been the fear that NATO and Russia retain policies of deterrence based on the potential first use of nuclear weapons and an extended role linking the use of nuclear weapons to the threat or use of biological or chemical weapons, both of which are banned;
- involvement by all five nuclear powers "as soon as appropriate" in nuclear reduction and disarmament negotiations — at present Britain, China and France are on the sidelines waiting for the United States and Russia to make much deeper cuts in the numbers of their nuclear weapons before they get involved in strategic arms reduction and elimination.

Rebecca Johnson is the director of the Acronym Institute.

The Acronym Institute: 24, Colvestone Crescent, London E8 2LH, England. Telephone: (UK+44) (0) 20 7503 8857. Fax: (0) 20 7503 915. Website: [www.acronym.org.uk](http://www.acronym.org.uk).

# Democracy and the Media

Laura Partridge

**Democracy:** 1. Government by the people, exercised either directly or through elected representatives. 2. A political or social unit based upon this kind of rule. 3. A social condition of equality and respect for the individual with the community. **Media:** 1. Plural of medium.... 2. An intervening substance through which something is transmitted or carried on.... 4. A means of mass communication, such as newspapers, magazines, or television. **Image:** 1. A reproduction of the appearance of someone or something.... 3. One that closely resembles another. 4a. The concept of someone or something that is held by the public. 4b. The character projected by someone or something to the public.

—The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language

The dictionary definitions above are included to allow us some common base of understanding. Words mean so many different things to each of us. Today “democracy” and “media” are rarely used in the same sentence. Yet here we have an entire issue of *Peace & Freedom* devoted to these words. How does one writing for the Uniting for Racial Justice campaign begin to address the lack of democracy in the media? Fyna Dowe’s poem opens the topic for discussion.

People of color in the United States have always had and continue to have the media and entertainment industries to thank in part for the images that arise in the minds of a nation when they see us. Those visions have nurtured fear, separation and white superiority. Those pictures are of drug-infested, liquor-consuming communities. The images of inept mothers and absent fathers raising vicious killers, robbers, rapists and future welfare recipients have totally enveloped the country.

The media continues to warp the character of our ancestors by producing images of weak-minded people incapable of governing themselves. The media have not stepped very far away from their portrayal of people of color as animalistic burdens on the white man. Native Americans, Africans, Mexicans and every other people of color to come to these shores have been, and continue to be, consistently shown as stupid, leaderless people who need the white man’s help to survive.

The history that created today’s dilemma is not often seen or heard through the media. Instead, the racism built into the institutions of the U. S. is ignored in the

**Editor’s Note: All three WILPF campaigns were presented at the National Women’s Studies Conference in Boston in June.**

name of sparing its citizens the shame of “white guilt.” So-called “white privilege,” so openly displayed in every facet of life, is seldom represented in the press, on the radio or on television.



## “Visual Conspiracy”

Images flicker across the stage	history.
Images flicker across the page	Who are these people that conspire against us?
Images flicker across the screen	And why do they seek to deceive us?
They are not what they say	The thieves of humanity!
Some are not what they mean	They all use the thing called the media
Some are not what they seem	The press, TV, radio...
It is just a screen dream	They seek to deceive in many ways
a visual conspiracy	this army is so well produced
transmitting lies	they take all their cues
confusing minds	from their directors of
enforcing false mysteries	injustice and untruth.
twisting and dishonouring history.	
We must learn to read the screen	We must learn to read the screen
learn to read the stage	We must learn to read the stage
We must look further than the poster or page	We must look further than the page.
We must decode these harmful signs	We have to decode these harmful signs
that are invading and mashing up our minds	that are invading and mashing up our minds.
It’s a visual conspiracy	
It’s not a mystery	It is a visual conspiracy not a mystery.
Transmitting lies	
confusing minds	
twisting and dishonouring	

Fyna Dowe

*Modern Maturity* (a publication of the American Association of Retired People) recently printed an interview with Kweisi Mfume, President of the NAACP and former Congressman from Baltimore, Maryland. The interviewer, Claudia Dreifus said, “After last fall’s television lineup was announced you chastised the networks for having no people of color in lead roles ... Why didn’t it?”

Mfume responded, “Because the decision-makers at the networks are an almost monolithic group. When you’re only talking to people who look like you, and live near you, you tend to think that’s how the rest of the world is. If we continue to repeat this stereotypical notion of what we think America looks like, or if people of color only appear on TV in supporting roles or on the news as lawbreakers, it suggests that is how everybody is. From the Appalachian Mountains to the Rocky Mountains, there is a vast area where people don’t have repeated contact with people of color, who get their opinions and beliefs from what they see on television. And that’s not the way of the world.”

The “vast area” Mfume referred to is my home—Nebraska. Many of us call it the “heartless heartland.” Mfume’s words brought to mind a conversation I had recently with a 13-year-old African American male. While preparing to use theatre techniques to address issues in students’ lives, he and I got to talking. With tears in his eyes, the young man shared his feelings with me. He spoke of watching white people cross the street when they saw him coming toward them. He spoke of the shame and guilt that he felt each time it happened. He knew he was doing all the right things. He was an honor student, a good athlete, a trustworthy person. His question was, “Why, why do people cross the street when they see me?” How do you answer that question? Do you tell a child that his country has set in motion an elaborate plan to keep him from succeeding? Do you tell a child that the cards were stacked against him thousands of years ago, in the name of greed and power? Do you tell him the television, which he enjoys so, teaches the rest of the world to fear him? Yes, you tell him all of that and expose the lies “that twist and dishonor history.”

Perhaps the efforts to document racism in the U.S. by WILPF’s Uniting for Racial Justice campaign will assist in exposing the truth. Perhaps we will leap over barriers as we begin to examine our communities and ourselves. Perhaps, through our work, we will begin reshaping images by, as poet Merle Collins put it:

*“reshaping meaning, reshaping values,  
reshaping language, reshaping caring  
and working towards the vision of a sharing beauty.”*

Laura Partridge is a board member representing the UFORJE campaign.

# Remembering Our Foremothers...

Lucy Perkins Carner was a pioneer for peace and civil liberties. Born in 1886, she joined WILPF in the 1940s. She was a member of the National Board and chair of the policy committee, as well as co-chair of the Germantown Branch. She worked tirelessly and bravely for social justice despite many obstacles, including being persecuted by the House Committee on un-American Activities during the McCarthy era. Lucy died several years ago, at the age of 96. During this year of celebrations marking WILPF’s extraordinary 85th anniversary, we honor members such as Lucy Perkins Carner.

## LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THE SEVENTH GENERATION

Remember the 7th Generation and leave a legacy of peace and justice for them. Native American people believe that decisions today must be made while keeping the next seven generations in mind. WILPF will be needed for a long time, given the present state of the world and our communities, which are being ripped apart by violence and greed. This year we celebrate our 85th anniversary - as we honor and remember our past, let us prepare for the future. In the words of Lucy Perkins Carner, an honored WILPF member for 40 years: “Sometimes I am not hopeful a bit, but I think you just have to keep on, whether you feel hopeful or not.”

If you would like information on leaving a legacy, a bequest or a gift in your will for the work of WILPF, please contact Rosemary Burke. She’ll be happy to explain the options. There are many tax-saving opportunities which can benefit you and your family. Call Rosemary at (215) 563-7110 or clip out the coupon below and send it to 1213 Race St., Philadelphia, PA. 19107.

- Yes, I would like information about making a gift through my estate for WILPF’s future work.
- I am particularly interested in tax saving opportunities.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

# Activists Seek to Re-establish Uncensored Reporting

Darien De Lu

People listening to the evening news on the Berkeley, CA radio station KPFA were shocked last summer to hear a real-time armed takeover of their listener-sponsored station. The assailants who forced the programming staff out of the studio were not bandits or government forces, but security guards hired by the owners of the station, the nonprofit Pacifica Foundation.

What had happened to the Pacifica Foundation, established 50 years earlier by a group of pacifists? What was it about KPFA — with its eclectic mix of alternative news, community affairs, information and music — that brought Pacifica to take this action? And why should people across the country be alarmed by these developments?

Much of the limited national coverage of the conflict between Pacifica and KPFA has discounted the situation as another example of nutty Californians and extremist Berkeleyites overreacting. Most disturbing is the casual treatment the progressive press gave the story. At issue here is reliable, independent and alternative news coverage.

Meaningful democracy depends on good news coverage. Unfortunately, such coverage is decreasingly available as print and broadcast media concentrate into fewer and fewer corporate hands. What alternatives are there?

One has been the Pacifica Foundation, which owns and operates five radio stations in Berkeley, Los Angeles, Houston, New York and Washington, D.C. Pacifica's influence is much wider through the Pacifica Network News, which is carried by some 30 to 40 affiliate stations across the country. At this time, Pacifica News is virtually the only regular nationwide alternative and independent news service.

The content of both Pacifica News and the news programming on Pacifica stations is key to the conflict at the organization. This conflict is broad and complex, since it involves important issues about the governance of non-profits, representation of the interests of listener/supporters, and the lack of racial diversity in radio station ownership/management. Indeed, all of these issues have a very direct impact on the content and perspective of news reporting, especially since many of these issues are frequently ignored in the corporate-owned and controlled media.

The issue of control of the news and the airwaves led Pacifica to pull the plug on the news that evening in July 1999, moments after the broadcast of sounds of argument

and struggle with the guards. That dead air was the climax of about six months of KPFA programmers intermittently defying a Pacifica ban on any on-air discussion or reporting of the details of the dispute between the station and the foundation. The conflict has resulted in the resignations and firings of both paid and volunteer staff.

The dispute moved to the national level when both the D.C. and Los Angeles Pacifica stations interrupted regular third-party programming that reported on the conflict. Even after other media, including the *San Francisco Chronicle*, National Public Radio,

and *The Nation* started covering the story, Pacifica news and stations were forbidden to do so.

May 2000 marked the fourth month of a strike led by Pacifica Network News freelance reporters. The "stringers" are still protesting news censorship by Pacifica. They produce their own weekly alternative news broadcast, Free Speech Radio News. However, news coverage is costly, and they lack substantial funding.

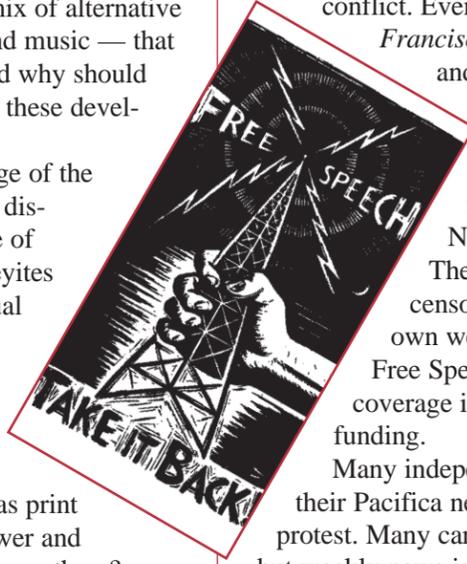
Many independent radio stations have cancelled their Pacifica news in support of the stringers' protest. Many carry the stringers' alternative reporting, but weekly news is not enough. Now they are asking themselves, where can they find a new source of independent alternative news coverage?

The Pacifica founders declared their mission to be providing a forum for diverse voices. But today the Pacifica national board includes a media mogul and a corporate lawyer. Perhaps Pacifica activists will be able to reclaim the Pacifica board; a lawsuit is working its way through the courts. But the political and economic pressures that reshaped the nature of the Pacifica Foundation are at work throughout the media.

For the moment, the supporters of KPFA have gained a victory, helping the station to resist censorship and continue the practice of democracy. KPFA is once again on the air, and unlike other Pacifica stations, is reporting on this continuing crisis.

For further information on the situation with Pacifica, visit: [www.savepacificanet.net](http://www.savepacificanet.net).

Darien De Lu lives in Oakland, California and is a member of the WILPF national board. She works as a fundraiser and volunteer organizer for the Mount Diablo Peace Center.



# Media and Democracy

Janine Jackson

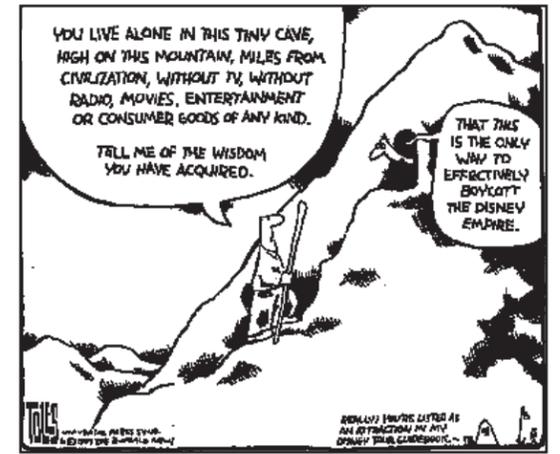
The United States has a media crisis. An informed citizenry and a free flow of ideas are fundamental requirements for democracy. But the vast majority of the media outlets we rely on to tell us about the world and one another are now controlled by a handful of large, powerful corporations—corporations that are required by law to place profit-making above all other considerations, including the public interest.

The problems for the public are obvious. General Electric, a huge company with a highly controversial record including numerous environmental violations, has no interest in having one of its subsidiaries—NBC News—call attention to the company's problems, or provide a platform for critics of the company's practices or policies. To do so would not make "business sense." But that information and those perspectives may be crucial for the public for making decisions that affect their lives. Likewise, the public may be interested to know about labor disputes in Disney factories in Honduras or Haiti, but we can't expect ABC News, owned by Disney, to bring us those stories.

Beyond suppressing negative stories about themselves, corporate media owners are also able to use their valuable holdings to promote positive images of themselves and their actions, and to cheerlead for corporate America in general. Consider the ritual proclamation of the Dow Jones average, for example, a figure with relatively little bearing on the economic well-being of most people, who, despite recent headlines to the contrary, still rely on wages—not stocks—for their income.

The conflicts of interest don't just involve media owners. Because newspapers, magazines and TV and radio broadcasts rely on corporate advertising, those advertisers also have tremendous influence. When CBS signed a deal with Nike to sponsor their coverage of the Nagano (Japan) Winter Olympics, the sneaker company got more than some well-placed TV commercials. CBS newscasters wore Nike hats and jackets on air, until some reporters balked at being used as walking billboards. While that fairly obvious transgression got some attention, few viewers realized that at the same time, CBS also killed a story by veteran consumer reporter Roberta Baskin about conditions in Nike sweatshops in Vietnam. When she complained, Baskin (an award-winning journalist) was demoted, sending a loud and clear message to every other reporter: stay away from these kinds of stories.

Such overt intervention may be rare, but only because it isn't usually necessary. For one thing, reporters know what happens to people who rock the boat. But also, advertisers more often attempt to restrict media content pre-emptively, by making it very clear to editors and programmers what



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kind of "climate" they expect their ads to appear in. To feel the chilling extent of this influence, listen to the stipulations in a letter sent by Coca-Cola (a major advertiser) to publications seeking their ads: "We consider the following subjects to be inappropriate and require that our ads are not placed adjacent to articles discussing the following issues: hard news; sex-related issues; drugs (prescription or illegal); medicine (chronic illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, AIDS); health (mental or physical); negative diet information (bulimia, anorexia); food; political issues; environmental issues; articles containing vulgar language; religion."

## MORE CELEBRITY FASHION COVERAGE, ANYONE?

Or think of *Time* magazine's recent "Earth Day" special issue. The issue, like *Time*'s ongoing "Heroes for the Planet" environmental series, had a single sponsor: Ford Motor company. No, a *Time* editor joked openly, the series would not likely be doing any coverage of auto pollution. After all, he explained, they don't run airline ads next to stories about plane crashes! Clearly, to his mind, not covering newsworthy issues because your sponsor doesn't want you to isn't censorship, it's just doing business.

Other advertiser biases are still more virulent. It's an open secret in broadcasting that corporate sponsors don't value non-white audiences, and that their racism must be accommodated. Therefore, in a process known as "discounting," TV shows that garner primarily people of color as viewers are routinely paid less for advertising, regardless of their ratings. In the first week of the last season, for example, the WB's largely African-American program the *Steve Harvey Show* pulled in 500,000 more viewers than the almost exclusively white *Dawson's Creek*; but *Dawson's Creek* got \$63,000 more for a 30-second ad. Which show do you think the network deems the bigger "success"?

In radio also, sponsors frequently pay less for, or flat-out refuse to buy, ads on so-called "urban" or Hispanic stations, no matter how many listeners there are or how much disposable income they have. A recent FCC report collected some of the "explanations" offered: Ivory soap refused to purchase

Continued on page 15 ➤

## Notes from the Editor



I sat down to write this note having just returned from an amazing conference in New York for investigative reporters and editors. Some 1,400 people attended the four-day conference, where I sat in on workshops that talked about tracking multinational corporations, probing the pharmaceutical industry, environmental reporting and plain old good writing. I came back inspired.

Tackling the theme of media and democracy for *Peace & Freedom* has been harder for me in some ways than any other issue of the magazine I've produced so far at WILPF. As a journalist, I know the impact good reporting can have. Journalism can change laws and improve people's lives. It can also entertain and inspire. But these days, we hear too much about the stories that don't get covered. Each year, *Project Censored*\* has plenty to write about. We frequently hear about real bias in U.S. press coverage, the lack of people of color employed in news rooms around the country, and the lack of diversity that is—of course—reflected in much of the media. Massive corporate mergers have, as many of us know, concentrated media ownership in fewer and fewer hands, limiting the range of opinions, ideas and stories we can read about, hear about, or see on television. At the same time, international coverage has been cut back, while “entertainment” news has become the norm.

Bias can easily creep into news coverage. During the weekend that thousands of activists (including many WILPF members) were in Washington, D.C. to protest the IMF and the World Bank, I was working in my home

### BROADCASTERS GET A GIFT FROM CONGRESS

Imagine turning on your television and seeing NOW activists discussing current events without hostile opponents interrupting and distorting the message. Imagine full coverage of feminist events, actions, press conferences and meetings.

Why is this reality so remote? In large part because seven major corporations own or control almost all of the television, radio, Internet and print outlets in this country.

This media monopoly recently tightened their grip by convincing Congress to give them the ability to broadcast even more channels on the public airwaves — and it won't cost them a dime. Use of the new digital spectrum, because it dramatically expands the capacity of current television stations, is estimated to be a \$40 to \$70 billion resource. This is the amount that could have been generated by a public auction of these channels.

In return for this gift from Congress, broadcasters are required to “serve the public interest.” But the Federal Communications

office and turned on the local television news. “Coming up,” the announcer said, “police have to use tear gas to disperse protestors of the IMF.”

“Have to?” I asked myself. “Who said they *have* to—the police? Why couldn't the reporters have simply said what the police did?”

Despite all of the problems, I see some reasons to be optimistic. The country is rich in alternative media, even if most publications, such as this one, survive on a shoestring budget. Many young people are working and learning at places such as Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (see FAIR's article on page 13 for more about their excellent work) and at *Peace & Freedom*, where we attract a steady stream of young women interested in learning about media, communication and writing. Online magazines are growing and activists are increasingly using the Internet.

In addition, WILPF members have learned to produce programs on public access TV to get their message out, and this summer members of the Alternative Radio Network set up shop during the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia at WILPF's headquarters so they could broadcast their “Unconventional Coverage.” During our 85th anniversary celebrations this year, many wonderful news articles were written about WILPF's work. During the IMF actions, mock newspapers were produced that used humor and wit to get the point across.

For 85 years, WILPF's work for peace and justice has helped mobilize and inform people about critical issues. Its message has often made an impact in the media, and I'm sure it will continue to in the future.

—Theta Pavis

\* *Project Censored: The News That Didn't Make the News* is an internationally-known project out of Sonoma State University. Annual book published by Seven Stories Press.

Commission has not even scheduled hearings to establish public interest obligations. Under existing voluntary guidelines, broadcasters consider shows like *Wheel of Fortune 2000* to be children's educational programming.

The National Organization for Women is a member of the steering committee of the People for a Better TV coalition ([www.bettertv.org](http://www.bettertv.org).) In addition, NOW has launched its own Broadcast Project, and has compiled some excellent resources— including the chart on media ownership reprinted on pages 16 - 17. More information can be found on [www.nowfoundation.org](http://www.nowfoundation.org), or call (202) 628-8669.

NOW points out that promises to serve the public interest ring hollow, when only about 13 percent of guests on weekend public affairs shows are women. NOW asks how women's interests are served when 87 percent of all sound bites from “experts” are provided by men and when 92 percent of those men are white.

Find out more about this campaign. NOW wants people to send letters to the FCC requesting hearings on public interest obligations.

## Taking Advantage of Alternative Media

Elizabeth Arend

In addition to print media, activists should also consider using public access television and alternative radio to get their message across.

For example, since 1990, WILPF's Cape Cod branch has produced *In Your Face*, a live, televised news program dedicated to peace and freedom issues. The crew also produced several documentaries, including a two-hour panel discussion and call-in about the Gulf War. A five-person crew now produces a live, monthly call-in program, which focuses on current news and WILPF activities.

According to WILPF member Elenita Muniz<sup>i</sup>, the program reaches approximately half of Cape Cod's 200,000-person population and provides a “great medium to reach out to people.” Since access to cable television studios is mandated by federal law, Muniz stressed the importance of confirming that one's city or town has a contract with the local cable company in order to ensure that activists may take advantage of as many avenues in the media as they can.

Those avenues can also include alternative radio, which provides an effective method for activists to disseminate news and information. Though WILPF's national office does not produce a regular radio broadcast, it provided space for the National Radio Project (NRP)<sup>ii</sup> to produce and distribute *Unconventional Coverage* in early August. The daily, live program featured grassroots organizations assembled for Philadelphia's Republican National Convention.

As “movement-building radio,” NRP covers and documents such mobilizations in order to “[bring] compelling and progressive voices and analysis to national and international audiences. It provides a forum for peo-

► **MEDIA & DEMOCRACY** continued from 14 time on a Hispanic station because, the buyer said, “Hispanics don't bathe as frequently as non-Hispanics.”

Other companies worried that advertising to non-white audiences would “increase pilferage” at their stores. This is plain old racism, of course, but the commercial structure of media allows it to be masked as just “economics.”

Whether it's TV shows aimed at non-white viewers or magazine stories about pollution, advertisers can decide they don't want certain kinds of media content, and media outlets, with rare exceptions, don't find it in their interest to produce them. The corporate sponsors are happy, so are the corporate owners. Only the public loses, unable to hear the fullest possible range of debate, to see controversial and challenging programming, or to read important stories that may be critical of corporate power. And all the while being told that media only

ple who have carefully crafted public policy models that reflect the interests of those who are left out of status-quo politics.”<sup>iii</sup>

NRP produces programs in association with other media groups in order to share skills, information and networking connections. However, the program also relies on the expertise of independent journalists, organizers and activists, with the hope of establishing a stronger relationship between grassroots mobilizations and alternative media.

The *Unconventional Coverage* team aimed to strengthen this relationship by reaching new audiences and giving local activist groups a national presence. Listeners not only benefited from the information that was broadcast, but learned how to join and support the mobilization groups featured on the program as well.

Taking advantage of both alternative radio and public access television, activists have the opportunity to convey critical messages that are often overlooked in mainstream media. Alliances may then be formed to not only strengthen independent media projects, but to provide substantial opportunities for future mobilization efforts as well.

Elizabeth Arend is the *Peace & Freedom* intern.

<sup>i</sup> Elenita is a member of Cape Cod WILPF and can be reached at (508) 430-2940.

<sup>ii</sup> The National Radio Project is a branch of the International Media Project. Contact: 830 Los Trancos Rd., Portola Valley, CA. 94028 (650) 851-7256

<sup>iii</sup> National Radio Project: *Unconventional Coverage* 2000. Draft prepared March 30, 2000.

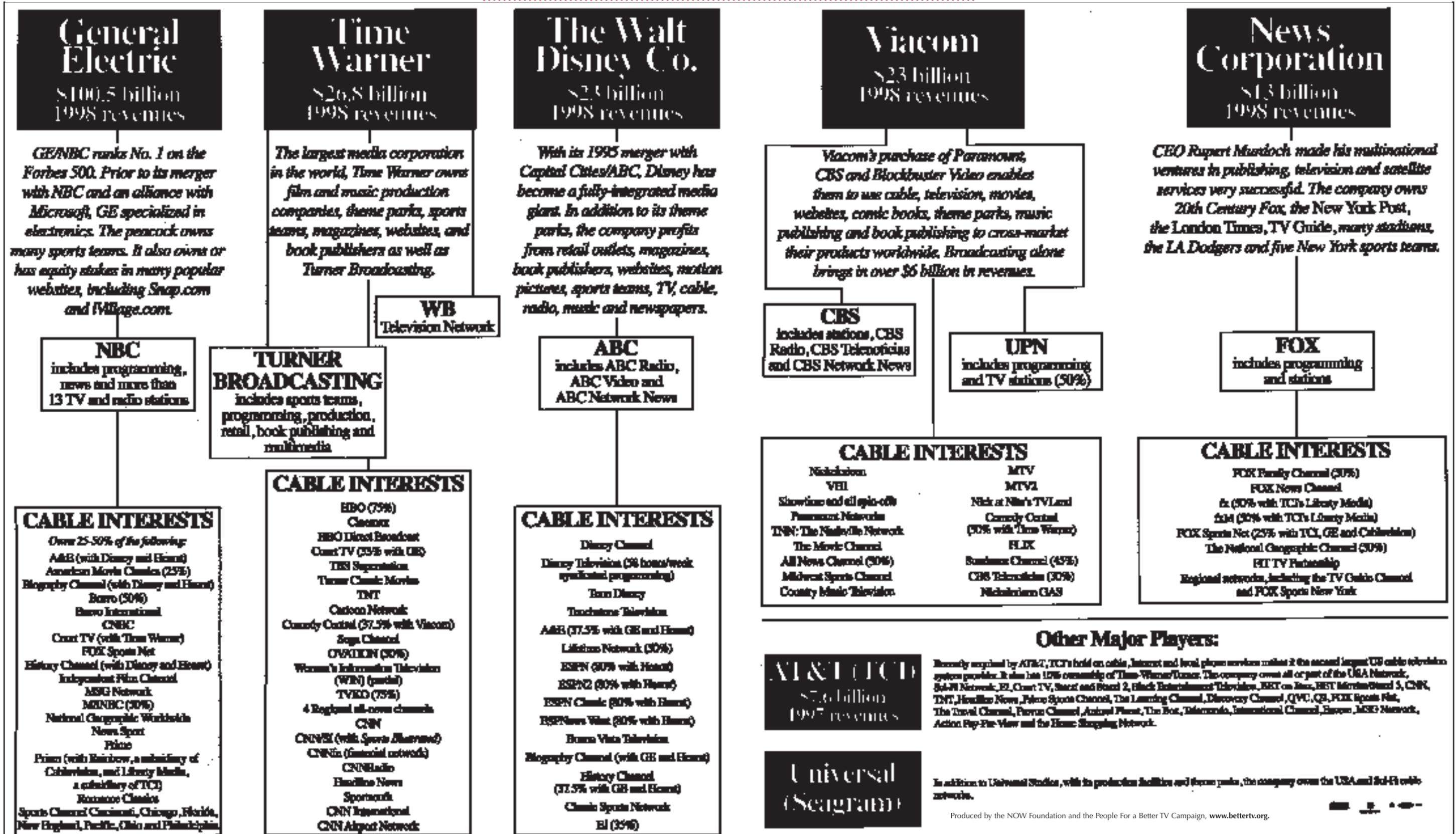
looks the way it does because “that's what the people want.”

In short, many of the most pressing problems with mainstream media today — sensationalism, stereotyping, a narrow cast of “experts,” lack of historical and social context — stem directly from the pervasive U.S. vision of media as above all a business, rather than a service to the public and to the democratic process. This must change. And it will change.

There are many ways to get active in fighting for a truly democratic media— supporting non-commercial outlets, making your voice heard in letters to the editor, op-eds and radio call-ins, and above all, being a critical media consumer. Information is not a commodity, but a public good. The airwaves do not belong to corporate behemoths like GE and Viacom: they belong to us.

Janine Jackson is program director for FAIR and producer/host for “CounterSpin.”

# Who controls the media?





Gillian Gilhool, WILPF Legislative Organizer

## Little Known Bills and the Legislative Agenda

There are plenty of bills in Congress that we don't hear much about in the mainstream media. You'll find several of these detailed on this page. All of them relate to WILPF's campaigns or issue committee work. For those with access to the Internet, links to more information about these bills and others can be found on WILPF's webpage, [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org). Many have links to statements or talking points you can use for writing letters urging your elected officials to actively support, co-sponsor, or vote for certain bills. Use them for letters to the editor, flyers to take to meetings and questions that can help you put incumbents and candidates on the spot and get them on the record concerning our issues. You can call the WILPF in Washington office to get printouts if you're not on the web, or your branch doesn't have an Internet rep.

The budget authorization and appropriations process for FY2001 may have been completed before Congress left Washington, D.C. for the party conventions in late July - "R2K" in Philadelphia and "D2K" two weeks later in Los Angeles. If not, watch for alerts on the WILPF's webpage, listserv or alerts sent via branch email reps for opportunities to affect spending priorities when Congress returns after Labor Day. Best of all, catch them while they're campaigning at home.

### U.S. SENATE RACES AND HOUSE SEATS

The Disarmament Committee's ImPEACEment 2000 materials are designed for key Senate races and House districts where WILPF members are working to have an impact. For the Senate, those states include Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. For key congressional districts where there are large numbers of WILPF members, check our website or call WILPF in Washington, (202) 546-6727.

ImPEACEment materials for these states and districts include information about peace-related votes by incumbents, what is known about opposing candidates, and sources of campaign financing for both, focusing on dollars from military PACs. You are urged to use them and strategize with other peace organizations active in your community. A tool kit of how-to tips, sample flyers and questions is included in the packet.

Members not living in focus districts can find these tools on WILPF's website, along with instructions for mining the wealth of online resources about candidates, voting records and campaign financing for all districts.

### S. 2463 NATIONAL DEATH PENALTY MORATORIUM ACT/2000

Senators Russell Feingold (D-IL) and Carl Levin (R-MI), who introduced a bill to abolish the death penalty for federal crimes earlier this year (S.1917), were joined by Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN) in proposing a new bill in April. The bill calls for the suspension of state and federal executions until Congress considers findings and enacts legislation implementing or rejecting recommendations from a National Commission on the Death Penalty created under the act. The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

### H.R. 3825 HUMANITARIAN EXPORTS LEADING TO PEACE ACT

Calls for removal of legal obstacles to U.S. sales of food, medicine, medical supplies and equipment and travel to Iraq. Introduced by WILPF sponsor John Conyers (D-MI) and Rep. Tom Campbell (R-CA), other original co-sponsors include Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Debbie Stabenow, now Senate candidate from Michigan. The bill appeals for broader support by citing benefits to U.S. business, farmers and workers by lifting the bans. Seventy members of Congress sent President Clinton a letter in early February urging him to de-link economic and military sanctions, but as of early June there were only 23 co-sponsors of the bill.

### H.R. 40 COMMISSION TO STUDY REPARATION PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS ACT

A legislative priority of WILPF's UFORJE campaign, the commission would investigate, hold hearings, report and recommend remedies to Congress within one year regarding the institution of slavery, extent of its support by federal and state governments, de jure and de facto discrimination from the Civil War to present, continuing negative effects of slavery and discrimination on African-Americans and U.S. society. Congressman Conyers (D-MI) has introduced this bill in every Congress since 1989. Has 40 co-sponsors. For readings on reparations go to the UFORJE section of WILPF's webpage [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org).

Continued on next page ➤

## News Outside the Closet

Chris Morin

"Deviants," "biological errors," "special interest group," "sinners," "gay lifestyle" — these are all words we have heard used to refer to members of the gay / lesbian / bisexual/ transgendered (GLBT) community. Although homophobia is alive and well in the United States, how are attitudes changing? In particular, how are the lives of the GLBT community being reported in the mainstream media and portrayed in Hollywood?

*Planet Out*, a website for the GLBT community, quoted *The Washington Times* before the Millennium March for Equality, which was held April 30, 2000 in Washington D.C. The newspaper published a plea that more attention be paid to the "realities and dangers" of the gay lifestyle. Meanwhile, the *Daily News* in New York stated, "Once on the fringe of society, gays and lesbians are more than ever, part of the mainstream. They are demanding their rightful place at the table of American opportunity and an end to discrimination." Despite this positive coverage, however, *Planet Out* reported that outlets far beyond the D.C. area did not report the event.

In the May 15, 2000 issue of *U.S. News and World Report*, John Leo wrote an editorial called "Coercion on Campus." At Tufts University in Medford, MA, the Tufts Christian Fellowship club was banned for refusing to accept a bi-sexual member in a leadership role. Leo stated that "gays have great power on campus and Christians don't, so the school's policy of non-discrimination comes down on the fellowship. The fellowship welcomes all students. The issue isn't sexual orientation but the right to select leaders that support the group's core beliefs." The

### ➤ WILPF IN WASHINGTON

from 18

#### H.R. 740 INCOME EQUITY ACT OF 1999

This bill addresses corporate CEO-to-worker pay gap by amending Section 162 of the Internal Revenue Code. It disallows deduction as an expense of doing business any compensation paid to a full-time employee exceeding the lowest compensation of any other full-time employee by more than 25 times. Fortune 500 companies' CEO to lowest paid employee ratio has now reached appalling levels. Introduced in 1999 by Martin Sabo (D-MN), the bill has 40 co-sponsors.

#### H.R. 906 CIVIC PARTICIPATION & REHABILITATION ACT OF 1999

Restores federal voting rights of U.S. citizens disenfranchised as a result of a felony conviction who are not currently in prison, 3/4 of the estimated 3.9 million people

editorial questioned the rights of the Fellowship's freedoms of speech and religion, but failed to address issues surrounding homophobia and campus discrimination.

The *Cape Cod Times*, in contrast, carried fair and thorough articles by the Associated Press on Vermont's civil union legislation, placing the issue clearly in terms of the legal benefits and responsibilities of partnership.

The coverage of Matthew Shepard's murder also brought a large number of people face-to-face with the reality of violence in a GLBT person's life. After the incident, in which Shepard was killed by his classmates due to his presumed homosexuality, even the righteous right changed their tune to "hate the sin, not the sinner." The breakthrough movie *Boys Don't Cry* shed further light on the dangers the GLBT community suffers. Hilary Swank also received an Academy award for her portrayal of the transgendered character Brandon Teena, without any publicized controversy.

Homophobia still exists in many quarters, evidenced by the voices of Sen. Trent Lott, Pat Robertson, Dr. Laura and Rev. Phelps. However, they are now challenged by Ellen DeGeneres, Rep. Barney Frank and Rep. Tammy Baldwin. Though Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush supports none of the GLBT agenda, his opponent, Al Gore, supports hate crimes legislation, domestic partnership, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and funding for AIDS research and care.

As more people have "come out of the closet," coverage of GLBT issues has been reported more objectively in mainstream media, with empathy focused on the GLBT side. Nonetheless, we still have substantial ground to cover and need better coverage as we continue to say, "No, we do not accept our lack of equal rights."

Chris Morin is a member of WILPF's Lesbian & Bi issues committee.

who are currently deprived of the vote. Provides enforcement by the Attorney General and private cause of action. Thirty-seven co-sponsors.

#### H.R. 1063 INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRAINING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Would curb the Pentagon from creating new programs to assist countries with oppressive militaries and egregious human rights violations. Such military assistance is already forbidden under existing arms transfer and training programs.

#### H.R. 1200 AMERICAN HEALTH SECURITY ACT OF 1999

Representative Jim McDermott's (D-WA) single-payer universal health care bill with 26 co-sponsors. To join the U2K Campaign working for this bill, go to their website at [www.u2kcampaign.org](http://www.u2kcampaign.org) or call (216) 902-5577.

# WILPF Celebrates 85 Years

In April, members and friends around the world celebrated WILPF's 85th anniversary. From New York City to Geneva, from Havana to Cleveland, members gathered to cut cakes, raise money, sing songs and hear inspirational speeches about our history and future work to create a more peaceful and just society.

## Chapel Hill, NC

Anne Ivey

On April 17, our branch hosted Phyllis Yingling at a fundraising dinner for 60 people. Phyllis spoke on the nuclear issues.

On April 25, Retired Admiral Eugene Carroll spoke at the University of North Carolina on "Confrontation or Cooperation." WILPF sponsored the gathering of 100 members, along with six other local organizations.

On April 27, we showed *Back from the Brink*, with two of us filling in commentary on the dangers we faced, as well as WILPF's role in disarmament issues over the past 85 years.

## Cleveland, OH

Yoshiko Ikuta

Over 100 WILPF members celebrated the 85th anniversary at a special dinner event.

The day began with a demonstration at the old federal building for the cause of Mumia Abu Jamal. In the afternoon, WILPF presented a workshop on "Reaching



Left to right: Kathleen Berrigan, Elizabeth McAllister, two Oberlin College students, Yoshiko Ikuta and Charmaine Sprengelmeyer in Cleveland.

Critical Will." The video *Banning the Bomb*, which WILPF produced, was used to start the discussion. The dinner program featured national WILPF sponsors Vinie Burrows and Elizabeth McAlister, whom WILPF presented with the Jane Addams Peace Awards.

Both women delivered wonderful speeches. Burrows spoke about the history of WILPF and about racism; McAlister talked about daily life at Jonah House, the community that makes radical protest actions possible.

A special thanks to everyone who contributed to WILPF's 85th celebrations! Don't forget: There's still time to make a contribution during this historic year.



Louise Lawler, Cleveland WILPF board member with one of the many anniversary cakes. Yoshiko Ikuta

Charmaine Sprengelmeyer from the national office also spoke about WILPF's national campaigns and committee work, reminding us that we are an integral part of the international and national organization.

## California, Oregon

Mary Day Kent, Executive Director

I went out to Portland, Oregon and California to combine an introduction to WILPF on the West Coast with a Fresno celebration dinner. Portland had also organized a dinner, a lunch and a radio interview. The Fresno dinner had well over 100 attendees with several tables of supporters from other organizations. Sissy Farenthold and Dolores Huerta were the honored sponsors. There was music, poetry, politics and good food. A tremendous amount of work had also gone into the program book, arranging home hospitality in Fresno for more than 30 visitors from out of town, and setting up brunch meetings the following morning. Board members at Fresno included Linda Wasserman, Sandy Silver, Joyce McLean, Kathleen Hughes and Darien De Lu.

After Fresno I went on to Berkeley where I met with Berkeley and Oakland members at a Sunday afternoon tea hosted by Dolores Taller, who also hosted me for my stay.

## California, Pennsylvania, Cape Cod

Leslie Reindl

The Northern California Cluster used one of its two yearly meetings to celebrate WILPF's 85th birthday and discuss the WILPF periodical *Pacific Vision* and its future. Individual California branches had their own celebrations—a tea (Peninsula), 85 Years of Protest Songs Hootenanny (Santa Cruz), and a dinner and evening program (Fresno).

The Germantown/Center City branch used the occasion to hear long-time members talk about some of the struggles its branch has been involved in. Cape Cod celebrated at its annual Jane Addams Dinner, and also donated \$100.85 to support the erection of a statue on the courthouse lawn, sending a cover letter explaining that the odd number is in honor of this anniversary. Other celebrations were also held around the globe marking the anniversary, including celebrations by WILPF delegations in Cuba and in Geneva.

## New York

From the NY Metro Branch June 2000 newsletter

On April 28, WILPF N.Y. Metro and the U.S. Section jointly celebrated WILPF's 85th anniversary. The evening sparkled with the unexpected. The Brooklyn Women's Chorus brought the crowd of about 150 people to their feet with rousing songs of struggle. Bev Grant, a remarkable lyricist and musician, added to the festivities by singing songs with two women back-up singers. Animating the evening with timely comments was its host, entertainer Judith Sloan.



Brooklyn Women's Chorus sings at the New York celebration.

The evening at the U.N. Church Center was alive with history, especially when Robin Lloyd, granddaughter of Lola Maverick — one of WILPF's original founders — spoke. Maverick knew Jane Addams during the critical years of World War I, when women from the United States and the warring countries of Europe met at The Hague to seek an end to the bloodshed. Lloyd, now a WILPF National Board member, reminisced briefly about her family's peace activities. In honor of WILPF's 85th anniversary, she collected \$85,000 from members of her family and offered it as a matching grant to WILPF. Phyllis Yingling, chair of the U.S. Section, later announced that WILPF members had met the match! Kay Camp also gave an excellent speech. The evening's events concluded with the presentation of the Jane Addams Peace Award to five distinguished women, each one a



Sonia Sanchez and Phyllis Yingling, NY

longtime peace activist: Elise Boulding, internationally known sociologist, honored worldwide for her pioneering work in peace research; Blanche Wiesen-Cook, distinguished professor of history, lecturer, and author of the award-winning and definitive biography of Eleanor Roosevelt; Betty Reardon, lecturer and director of the Peace Education Program, Teachers College, author of *Education for Peace*; Sonia Sanchez, award-winning poet who speaks out on people's issues; and Carmen Vasquez, activist in lesbian and gay organizations, director of public policy of the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center in New York City.

The evening ended in triumph with an increase in WILPF membership. The participants from the Brooklyn Women's Chorus and Judith Sloan were made honorary members of WILPF for one year.

Remembering Jane Addams on this celebratory evening, WILPF rededicated itself to the continued struggle for peace and justice. Board member Marilyn Clement was also present, as were staff members Gillian Gilhool, Rosemary Burke and Jody Dodd.

## CELEBRATIONS WITH A CUBAN FLAVOR:

Below top: WILPF Cuba delegation members celebrate the 85th.

At left: Cuba delegation member Helaire Echohawk plays a Native American lullaby for the Cubans.

Below, right: Shad Reinstein with one of the many cakes at the anniversary in Cuba.





## Around the World with WILPF

Joyce McLean

In an atmosphere where civil liberties and human rights are often ignored, our courageous sisters in Peru have publicly proclaimed their international WILPF (LIMPAL) membership. They described their work to create a culture of peace at home and abroad. These public statements by LIMPAL were made to protest the fraudulent practices surrounding the recent elections. A brave act!

Patricia Guerrero reported on the WILPF work in Colombia with forcibly displaced women. "These displaced women carry with them untold tales of horror, their silence [is] a condition of the politics of fear." WILPF works so that these women will not be alone in the process of personal healing while seeking the courage to continue the fight for peace and justice.

WILPF Norway supported the nation's only female bishop when she decided to employ a lesbian minister who had established a formal "partnership" with another woman. A large majority of bishops opposed this hiring. We are not alone in the need to counter homophobia.

Yumi Lee (an international Vice President who lives in Australia) reminds us all of the scant progress made in the condition of women since the U.N. Beijing Conference. Though women's rights are proclaimed to be human rights, there are countries where women who have been raped need four witnesses before prosecution can proceed. Women con-

tinue to be sexually tortured in all areas of armed conflict.

Bruna Nota, our international president, has reminded us that some of our 45 WILPF sections are situated in war-torn countries such as Colombia, Lebanon, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka.

Under the direction of Secretary General Michaela Told, representatives from our Geneva office, along with U.N. advisor Edith Ballantyne and our wonderful interns, testified in our name at U.N. conferences on disarmament, human rights, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

Another international vice-president, Rosario Cherry Padilla from the Philippines, brought her expertise on the effects of capitalist globalization to the conference on "Meeting the Challenges of Economic Globalization and Pursuing Alternative Development Strategies." This regional meeting was hosted and organized by the Japanese WILPF section and had participants from Japan, Sri Lanka, Canada, USA, Nepal, India, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines and Indonesia.

Multinational WILPF gatherings take place regularly in the Nordic Countries as well as all-Europe meetings. May we think about regional meetings for the Americas?

The International Executive meeting in Germany, July 31 to August 4, will be preceded by a Seminar on Eliminating Racism, July 26 to 29. All WILPF members are welcome.

International WILPF concerns or questions? Contact Joyce McLean, the U.S. representative to the international executive committee, at 25080 Skyland Rd. Los Gatos, CA 95033, or email: [jmclean@jps.net](mailto:jmclean@jps.net)

## Journalists Face Escalating Danger

Elizabeth Arend

Two reporters — Kurt Schork of the Reuters News Agency and Miguel Gil Moreno, a cameraman with the Associated Press, were killed in Sierra Leone in May by rebel forces, bringing the total to 31 reporters killed this year on assignment.

Ann Cooper, executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, said Schork and Moreno were victims of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). In a news release, Cooper said the RUF has "deliberately targeted local reporters and foreign correspondents covering the Sierra Leone conflict" for years. RUF rebels have killed 13 journalists, including several local reporters, in the last three years.

Statistics compiled by the International Federation of Journalists and the International Press Institute, however, show that reporters are under attack in other parts of the world as well. These groups have tracked deaths in 15 other

nations, including Spain, Russia, Haiti, Pakistan and Brazil.

Last year's death toll of 87 reporters made it one of the worst on record, second to the "horrifying toll" of 1994—when the International Federation of Journalists reported that conflicts (particularly in Bosnia and Algeria) claimed over 115 journalists.

Although many war correspondents are caught helplessly in crossfire, mafia and political terrorists are often responsible for the targeted harassment, silencing and killing of journalists. Most murders remain "unsolved mysteries" due to "the failure of governments and investigating authorities to give proper priority to finding and prosecuting" the assassins, according to the International Federation of Journalists. Despite "much talk of ethical principles and human rights," this reluctance to bring criminals to justice not only hinders the continuous struggle for press freedom, but also "gives comfort to the enemies of democracy."

Elizabeth Arend is the Peace & Freedom Intern.

## Feminist Expo 2000

Katie Murray

WILPF was in good company this spring when it co-sponsored the Feminist Expo 2000 along with the Feminist Majority Foundation. Nearly 600 organizations were involved in the event, which took place in Baltimore in early April.

The Expo drew over 6,000 feminists to a range of performances, general assemblies and workshops. Many people stopped by at WILPF's table—including some of our sponsors. Several sessions addressed the representation of women in the media.

During a panel about breaking down barriers for women in the media, Jenn Pozner, the Women's Desk director for Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), discussed her organization's efforts to raise awareness about media monopolies. Pozner said FAIR is working to increase people's "understanding that they can correspond with the media, that they can demand that the (Federal Communications Commission) ...enforce anti-trust legislation to break these kinds of media monopolies."

Gail Evans, executive vice president of CNN, said threatening to pull your support from a company through phone calls, faxes and emails makes executives listen.

Pozner also noted that the ever-increasing control of a handful of giant corporations over news content is damaging women's representation and influence in the media. Pozner's work includes raising awareness among journalists and the public that "women are invested in



Phyllis Yingling and Holly Near at the Expo.

issues not only related to abortion, child care and health care...but also equally invested in issues like the WTO, the protest in Seattle and economic stories."

Lisa Miya Jarvis, editor and publisher of *Bitch Magazine*, attributed much of the problem to insufficient funding. Women are continually forced to deal with "middle-aged men deciding what women want to read," she said, since many publishers and top editors continue to be male.

The presence of groups such as the Communications Consortium Media Center, the Women's International News Gathering Service, Feminist International Radio Endeavor and *Ms. Magazine* provided testimony to the continued and growing efforts to ensure fair and democratic information and representation in traditional media.

Many people praised the Internet's ability to provide a global place for women's voices to be heard. Others said they were wary of how little resistance advertisers meet online.

Narda Zacchino, associate editor of the *Los Angeles Times*, mentioned the website Oxygen Media. She warned that, "women's interest sites are increasingly becoming markets for advertisers." Advertisers often have a great deal of control over content in print media aimed at women, and Zacchino said the problem has moved online. She said online media has quickly become known as a place where the lines between content and commercialism are often blurred.

Katie Murray is a former Peace & Freedom intern.



WILPF Sponsor Dolores Huerta attended the Expo.

Photo by Phyllis Yingling

### SOME EXPO CONTACTS

*Bitch* / *Feminist Response to Pop Culture*.

Print magazine devoted to incisive commentary on our media-driven world.

2765 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

(415) 864-6671

[www.bitchmagazine.com](http://www.bitchmagazine.com)

The Communications Consortium Media Center  
Public interest media center dedicated to helping nonprofit organizations use media and new telecommunications technologies for public education and policy change.

1200 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005-1754  
(202) 326-8700

[www.ccmc.org](http://www.ccmc.org)

Women's International News Gathering Service.  
All-woman independent radio production company.

New Radio & Performing Arts/WINGS  
P.O. Box 33220, Austin TX 78764 USA  
(512) 416-9000

[www.wings.org](http://www.wings.org)

Feminist International Radio Endeavor

[www.fire.or.cr/histeng.htm](http://www.fire.or.cr/histeng.htm)

## Get the Word Out

Elizabeth Arend

Here are some ideas for getting your message through to the media:

- Utilize print media, including newspapers, branch newsletters and church bulletins. Develop contacts with interested local reporters, write press releases and letters to the editor. Advertise upcoming fundraisers, workshops, etc. with calendar listings, posters, flyers and postcards.
- Utilize community access television. Federal law mandates community access TV facilities, paid for by cable companies. Gather information about access in your area, take any available training courses and get in front of the camera. You can also investigate other producers' programming and appear as a guest. Most community access channels also run bulletin boards.
- Utilize local and alternative radio stations. Volunteer to be a guest on a local show, and keep local radio reporters informed of upcoming events.
- Utilize the web. Many Internet servers have programs for non-profit groups.

When involved in media events, you should:

- Study the issues: choose and memorize a couple of clear, short messages about why you are here and that you can repeat when you suddenly find yourself in front of a journalist or microphone

- Be disciplined: Most TV and radio "sound bites" are only seven seconds long, and print media rarely publishes more than a few lines in one person's quote.
- Know the opposing points of view.
- Maintain composure when a question is difficult. Just stick to your message, and keep in mind that when talking to a journalist, everything is "on the record."
- Tell the reporter you have more to add if you think he or she overlooked an important point.

In a recent survey published in the *Columbia Journalism Review* about how journalists self-censor the stories they write, over 40 percent of the reporters admitted to avoiding, reshaping or "softening" news stories. According to author Andrew Kohut, this self-censorship is due to "increased influence by corporate owners and advertisers in decisions on which stories to cover."

Robert McChesney, author of *Rich Media, Poor Democracy*, also reminds us that "professional journalism tends to demand 'news hooks' — some sort of news event — to justify publication. This means that long-term public issues, like racism and suburban sprawl, tend to fall by the wayside, and there is little emphasis on providing the historical and ideological context necessary to bring public issues to life for readers." Activists must therefore work together and take advantage of every opportunity for their message to be heard.

Elizabeth Arend is the Peace & Freedom intern.

## Around WILPF

### A GATHERING AT HEADQUARTERS FOR A GROUP PORTRAIT

Charmaine Sprengelmeyer; Minnie Jaffe, volunteer; Pamela Jones-Burnley; Katie Murray, intern; Mary Day Kent; Jody Dodd; Rosemary Burke; Theta Pavis; and Elaine Jones.



John Grant

## A STAR IS BORN:

# WILPF Celebrity Auction Raises Money and Awareness

Theta Pavis

Do you know someone famous willing to help WILPF? In this ever-connected world, chances are that you may know a celebrity— and if you don't, someone in your family or circle of friends might.

As part of an innovative fundraiser, WILPF members across the country have been racking their brains to come up with the names of celebrities they may know. Each famous person is being asked to do something very simple to help WILPF celebrate its 85th anniversary: Donate items to WILPF, such as books, artwork, posters or other objects. These items will be auctioned on the Internet as a fundraiser.

"I'm not very good at asking people for money," said Sandy Silver, WILPF board member, treasurer and one of the creators of the online auction. "I thought, there's got to be a way to have a fundraiser that could be fun, and a way to involve our wonderful sponsors."

The auction has energized many members to fundraise in a new way. "It was like biting into a whole spoonful of horseradish— wow!" said Sandy.

So far, a number of exciting donations have been collected, including some items from WILPF sponsors. Holly Near has given WILPF a poster and autographed promotional video; Sonia Sanchez has donated a book of poetry.

Other items donated include: a copy of a speech that Dorothy Healey gave during the time of the Vietnam war, a tour of the Mondavi Winery in California, an autographed book and lunch with Ronnie Gilbert (formerly of The Weavers), an autographed book from Jim Hightower, an autographed copy of the book *Wake Up! I'm Fat* by actress and television star Camryn Manheim (inscribed "Break all the rules and raise some hell.") and a signed baseball by San Francisco Giants pitcher Dave Dravecky.

Work is ongoing to secure other donations from Gloria Steinem, jazz musician Josh Redman, artist Ben Shahn, an item from the popular television show *Dawson's Creek* and a signed script from the DreamWorks film studio.

"There are hundreds of letters out there in the hinter-

lands. We're getting the word out," said Sandy.

"The nice part of doing this kind of fundraising is brainstorming with WILPF members about who might be contacted to donate something," Sandy said.

"This is the fun part. It's amazing to me, as I speak to different branches, the reaction is, 'It's a good idea, but I don't know any celebrities.'" Soon, however, she said people are thinking aloud and realizing that their cousin or someone else close to them knows a celeb.

"We're having a hell of a lot of fun doing it and we all get excited, sitting in groups doing this... We're getting contacts, agents, publishers. It's members who are doing the research. It's a whole network of WILPFers working on this. It's been so intergenerational. Some people aren't sure who Harry Belafonte is, and others don't know who (singer) Ani Defranco is."

Sandy first talked about the auction idea with other members of her branch in Santa Cruz after her cousin (who works with an environmental organization) ran a similar auction. Jennifer Pitino, who was instrumental in starting WILPF's UC Santa Cruz branch, volunteered to work on setting up the online aspects of the auction, along with help from her partner, Don Fredrickson.

WILPF members should send a letter to celebrities, asking them to donate something. The celebrity should also receive an authenticity card which they sign and date. The card and the item should be collected by the member, and then forwarded to the group arranging the auction.

The auction will begin on September 6, Jane Addams' birthday, and go for several days. Late items may be added, or a second auction could be arranged.

"You just have to be creative. There are all kinds of ways to raise money to further our work," said Sandy. "This has brought people closer together."

For more information on the auction, contact Sandy Silver at: 660 Granite Creek Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95065; (831) 458-1200; silver@cruzio.com.

Theta Pavis is the editor of Peace & Freedom.



## Reading to End Racism

Medoh Walker

Institutionalized racism is invisible within the dominant culture and frequently met with complacency or denial. Concurrently, the value of reading is being diminished by the immediate gratification the computer brings in this electronic age. Could we counter racism somehow with the power of the written word to influence the open and eager minds of our young?

"Reading to End Racism" is a program that meets that challenge stimulated by the Anti-Racism Task Force of our WILPF Branch in Boulder, Colorado. Volunteers use the literary word in classrooms to promote discussions about racism. In 1990, Reading to End Racism was originated by WILPF as a high impact week of programming in elementary and middle schools. Although it was a one-time program, teachers and librarians continued to request the materials we had developed.

Two years ago, interest was renewed in the project by a parent who had read in the original program. We now have a strong volunteer base in our revitalized project, providing readers to every classroom within a



school in one day. Coordinated by a small group of committed volunteers, our program supports the school district's goal of promoting and valuing diversity. It is a collaborative effort with the public library and the school district, as well as two multicultural community action groups.

Boulder County is a predominantly white, middle to upper-middle class community. Many schools have only a handful of African American or Native Americans, with a larger enrollment of Hispanic and Asian students. Many others may have higher ratios in the more diverse areas of the county. Our readers include members of the police department, school board, school administration, university staff, parents and others in the community.

Half of our readers going into a school are people of color who can describe their continued personal experiences with racism to the students. Perhaps the most significant impact is the role model the readers present in their concern and passion for ending racism. A sixth grader wrote on her evaluation, "I hope I can do great things to stop racism like you when I grow older."

In the course of a class period, readers share a personal story about themselves, and may describe their cul-

ture and ancestors and why this work is so important to them. Next, while reading a passage from a book they have selected that highlights stereotypes, prejudice or racism, the issues are brought to life through the literary word. The tale of an abducted slave boy, a migrant family, a story about Rosa Parks or the Japanese-American internment is followed by a discussion of how it must have been and how racism persists in our lives today in Boulder. Then, most importantly, readers will move the students to consider ways to end racism, making it more visible by inducing recognition in others, empowering their own intervention and exercising self-awareness of their own attitudes in their daily lives. Often the students come up with their own ideas to share with their classmates. Some students may say they "learned the difference between prejudice and racism." Others may learn to "Pay more attention to what you say."



Readers attend a short training session to become familiar with the recommended format for their visit, to go deeper in their own understanding of racism and to interpret or define terminology for the range of grade levels. To augment our visit, we offer "Tips for Teachers," which give suggestions and materials for the required preparation and follow up in their class. We ask teachers, students (third grade and up) and readers to fill out evaluations to keep us mindful and responsive to suggestions. Teachers welcome us enthusiastically, with comments such as "Please continue (this) program - more exposure to adults dealing with these issues is necessary for these students." A Native American reader was told: "Very nice presentation; loved background on family with pictures! The children loved you!"

During a recent day in an elementary school, four high school students eagerly read in classrooms while others observed the process as part of their training to become readers. We have been asked to bring in college students for the coming year. In fact, the program has exceeded our expectations. Beyond the impact on students, it has become a vehicle for a continuing dialogue bringing in adults and youth who would not otherwise be actively working against racism in Boulder.

## JAPA Makes Funds Available for WILPF Programs & Projects

The Jane Addams Peace Association has funds available for WILPF sections and U.S. branches for peace education, peace camps and leadership training. Each fund has guidelines that give specific information on purpose, eligibility, amounts, format and procedures. There is also an evaluation requirement specific to each fund.

These funds are:

### Greta Lynch Leadership Fund

Purpose: To increase membership, organizing, leadership training, etc.

Maximum Funding: Branches: \$500.00; Regions: \$1,000; Sections: \$1,500

Contact: Roz Hastings, 131 Echo, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

### Miami Education For Peace Fund

Purpose: For peace education activities; workshops, forums, seminars. Topics may include any priority of WILPF: racism, human rights, etc.

Maximum funding: \$2,500

Contact: Helen Kusman, 500 Fort Washington, New York, NY 10033

### Doris Jones Children's Education Fund

Purpose: For activities which promote children's education for peace; peace camps; parent-child workshops, programs related to Children's Book Award.

Maximum funding: \$2,500

Contact: Mary Ellen G. Clay, 1104 E. Bremer, Fresno, CA 93728

Complete guidelines are available from the listed contacts or from the Jane Addams Peace Association, Inc., 777 United Nations Plaza, 6th floor, New York, NY 10017, Attn: Executive Director

Fax: (212) 286-8211 E-mail: [japa@igc.apc.org](mailto:japa@igc.apc.org)

Grant deadlines: Grants will be administered twice a year.

Spring cycle: Deadline: January 31; Notification April 30.

Fall cycle: Deadline June 30; Notification September 30.

Eligibility: Requests for funds available to a section or branch every two years (not in two consecutive years) and not from two funds in a single calendar year.

The Jane Addams Peace Association would greatly appreciate any donations to a specific fund. Make donations to JAPA and please specify what fund.

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

Dear Editor:

The JAPA Book Award Project was a huge success! This has been the best recorded distribution of the books that we are aware of. Over 40 WILPF branches and at-large members from Brookfield, Vermont to Alea, Hawaii distributed books to their local libraries and schools.

JAPA pays for some of the books, sometimes full price and sometimes at a discount. The discounts range from 25 percent - 40 percent. There are times when a publisher sends us books at no charge. This is rare and not to be counted as a continued gift. But, we have to be prepared to cover our costs, no matter what.

"This is the first time ever that we did not have to subsidize the book sales," said Dilys Purdy, JAPA's outgoing executive director. "We actually came out ahead \$100!"

Income:		\$2887.80
Expenses:		
Books	\$2,094.88	
Other **	692.15	-\$2,787.03
Excess		\$ 100.77

\*\*Other includes postage, telephone, duplication, shipping supplies and UPS.

We look forward to the JAPA Book Awards for this year, which will be announced on September 6 and held on October 20, 2000. Stand by for details in the next issue of *Peace & Freedom*. We continue to receive a limited supply, so reserve your books early. They go fast!

— Millee Livingston  
[mlivin@mindspring.com](mailto:mlivin@mindspring.com)

# Committee Corner

Around and about WILPF



## Civil Liberties Committee

### Continuing the Struggle Against the Use of Secret Evidence to Detain Immigrants

The struggle continues against the use of secret evidence to detain and deport immigrants. Hearings on the Secret Evidence Repeal Act were held in the House Judiciary Committee in the spring. One of the cases brought to the attention of the Committee was that of Dr. Karim, a Kurdish doctor, who was held on secret evidence for three and a half years. He was finally able to see the charges against him and rebut them to the satisfaction of the immigration judge.

An editorial in *The Washington Post* in May summed up the situation: "The use of secret evidence has proven not only unfair but unreliable. How many more cases must the government lose before it radically curtails the use of secret evidence?"

According to David Cole, a Georgetown University law professor, "Secret evidence is something we associate with totalitarian regimes, not with free democratic nations." Many members of WILPF remember our efforts on behalf of Chilean prisoners who were routinely detained on secret evidence during the Pinochet dictatorship.

The National Coalition to Protect Political Freedom (NCPFF) continues to play a major role in the effort to free the remaining immigrants who are being held on secret evidence. Contact Kit Gage at [kgage@icg.org](mailto:kgage@icg.org) for more information.

The Secret Evidence Repeal Act of 1999, HR 2121, introduced by Reps. David Bonior (D) and Tom Campbell (R) now has 100 co-sponsors.

**ACTION:** Urge your representative to sign on if he/she has not done so. Call Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121 or write the House of Representatives, Washington, DC. 20515.

### COINTELPRO - Going Public with High Tech

COINTELPRO, the FBI's Counter-Intelligence Program of the '60s and '70s, was a covert program to disrupt, discredit, and neutralize dissent. Now, law enforcement has gone public with high tech overt collection of data about protesters, which can be stored in data banks, cross-referenced, and shared instantaneously around the country and around the world.

In 1996, Congress agreed to a FBI request to remove the restriction against investigating First Amendment activity. The FBI said it needed to be able to effectively pursue terrorist activity. Some of this FBI activity was visible in Washington in the days leading up to the IMF and World Bank meetings on April 16, when hundreds of demonstrators were arrested for merely being on the sidewalk and meeting places were closed for seemingly unjustifiable reasons.

The National Committee Against Repressive Legislation (NCARL) would like to gather support to reintroduce the FBI First Amendment Protection Act. Contact Vivian Schatz at [aschatz@unix.temple.edu](mailto:aschatz@unix.temple.edu).

## Labor Committee

Since our last labor committee meeting, we've sent out our newsletter in early 2000, with articles from Peg Knoeple on her upcoming Labor Rights trip to Nicaragua, Charlotte Dennett's "Why We Need The National Writers' Union," Marilyn Clement's "Prison Justice," Lyn Meza's "IUE AFL-CIO," Sandra Koritz's "Classism and Racism...American As Apple Pie," and Jason Winston's "What is a Workers' Center?"

We'll soon send all WILPF branches a copy of our outreach letter, which will go to unions and organizations connected to labor, describing WILPF and our history of union support work and declaring that WILPF must work side by side with our union sisters and brothers. The ongoing lowering of the wages and unbearable conditions on the job demonstrate the need to improve hours, wages and working conditions by increasing WILPF's work with labor, working people and unions.

By linking the local and the global, we are more likely to succeed in creating new and better alternatives to the U. S.-led imperialist corporate world order (WTO, NAFTA, APEC, NATO).

The number of members in the Labor Committee is increasing, which is exciting, so we are encouraging you to be in touch with us and tell us how you want to contribute. Will you send a labor-related article for the next newsletter? Would you like to help with graphics? Can you think of something else?

If you would like a copy of the last newsletter, please contact Kathleen Kelley at (802) 234-6649, email: [kfkpmk1998@aol.com](mailto:kfkpmk1998@aol.com), mailing address, P.O. Box 152, Gaysville, VT 05746.

Want to get your issue committee news in *Peace & Freedom*? Many committees are eligible to submit a short update to the magazine. The next deadline is September 5. Contact [peacefreedom@wilpf.org](mailto:peacefreedom@wilpf.org) for more information.

## Interns Work for Peace

**Elizabeth Harris** is a recent graduate of West Virginia University who is now working at WILPF's national office as the Dean Reed Program Intern. Her current projects have been associated with the Uniting for Racial Justice (UFORJE) and Challenging Corporate Power: Asserting the People's Rights (CCP: APR) campaigns. Her work has included organizing and compiling Study Group packets and updating databases for CCP: APR, in addition to developing surveys, creating mailings, and organizing a teleconference for UFORJE.

**Elizabeth Arend**, the new publications intern, is a Feminist and Gender Studies major at Bryn Mawr College. She is working with *Peace & Freedom* editor Theta Pavis writing and editing articles, researching, and assisting with the magazine's planning and design.

**Khailiah Canada**, a senior at Kutztown University, PA is the new website intern. Her duties include maintaining and updating WILPF's website, putting up action alerts, campaign materials and announcements of events.

**Padma Manchala**, WILPF's new development volunteer, is working toward her Ph.D. in International Relations. In addition to assisting Rosemary Burke, Padma works on fundraising, pledges and donations. She also researches grants and updates databases.

**Ta'Mora Jones** is the new Leadership/Outreach intern, working with Kate Kasper. She works mainly with WILPF branches and serves on a community outreach committee. Ta'Mora is also working to mobilize WILPF members for the protests and events surrounding the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia.

**Katie Murray**, the spring Publications intern, is a graduate of Villanova University. She worked with Theta Pavis on the spring and summer issues of *Peace & Freedom*. Her projects included writing and editing articles, researching, and assisting the editor with planning and design for the magazine. She was also involved in rewriting and updating WILPF's new membership/informational brochure. Katie is currently working as a product editor at VerticalNet.

**Terri Keeley**, the spring Leadership and Outreach intern, graduated from Colgate University in 1998. Terri's projects focused primarily on outreach to young women, especially to those on college campuses. She also maintained close contact with WILPF branches to ensure better lines of communication between individual branches and the national office, and assisted in coordinating WILPF's participation in the A16 events to protest the IMF and World Bank in Washington last April.

The spring development intern **Wanda Jones**



Maryam Bajoghi, Katie Murray, a friend, and Kate Kasper

received her master's degree in journalism from Temple University in June. Wanda updated and rewrote grants for the Disarm campaign and the UFORJE campaign, which received a \$15,000 grant from the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief of the Episcopal Church. Wanda assisted with fund appeals and requests. She also served as the event coordinator for the Kay Camp award dinner in Philadelphia, which honored Kay for receiving the Martin Luther King Jr. Award from the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

**Amy Junod**, the spring Web intern at the national office, is also a student at Temple University working toward a master's degree in journalism. Amy redesigned, restructured and took inventory of WILPF's U.S. Section website. In addition to constantly updating the site, Amy also created an Internet strategy report for the national office, which includes a syllabus of Internet development plans for the office and programs for implementation by future web interns.

Working in the Legislative Office in Washington D.C., **Emily Gallop** and **Maryam Bajoghi** focused on WILPF's campaigns, and prepared for and participated in national events in which WILPF has taken part.

As one of the Jeannette Rankin interns, **Emily Gallop**, a sophomore International Women's Studies major at Ohio State University, focused on WILPF's ImPEACE the Congress campaign. She worked to endorse mobilization for global justice to meet the goals of all three of WILPF's major campaigns, most notably Challenging Corporate Power. She was also heavily involved in the A16 events in D.C., such as attending meetings and working groups, writing service statements and fact sheets for distribution, and organizing a panel on the effects of globalization on women.

**Maryam Bajoghi** is a high school student who volunteered one day a week. She researched bills that pertain to, or are of interest to, WILPF— such as the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. In addition, she was very active in organizing for the A16 events. Among other things, she worked with the group No Sweat, which recently organized an A16 website. No Sweat aims to involve high school and college students in peace and justice activism.



Leslie Reindl, Branch Action Editor

## FIRST, SOME HUMOR:

A Santa Cruz Abolition 2000 Committee skit, which illustrated the public's response to their antinuclear petitions over a period of two years, was a huge success. People playing the role of "passersby" were approached by members running information tables. The tablers dealt with the public's comments and questions. One "passerby" started out with great skepticism, but kept coming back, finally signed the petition and then whipped off his purple T-shirt with a golden sunflower on it and handed it to the tabler. We need that sense of humor and ability to have fun in the midst of working on deadly serious issues.

## DEMOCRACY AND THE MEDIA

**Cape Cod's** membership coordinator sent a letter to the news editor of the *Cape Cod Times*, responding to the newspaper's disinterest in doing an interview with WILPF international president Bruna Nota and her activist husband Ian Russell. While the newspaper questioned the story's relevance to the Cape Cod area, her letter informed the paper of all the significant ways in which WILPF Cape Cod has worked for peace and justice for the local, national and international community. The keynoter at **Peninsula's** 85th anniversary tea talked about globalization and urged WILPFers to reach out to schools because "students desperately need exposure to alternative media." **Palo Alto** heard from a journalist who was fired from Pacifica Radio when he refused to let his voice and views be stifled by management. **MN Metro** recommends the book *War, Lies, and Videotape*, edited by Lenora Foerstel, which exposes how giant corporations have taken over the news. The media, in turn, help the U.S. government shape the news, which takes power away from the public. The book includes essays by Michael Parenti, Ramsey Clark, Diana Johnstone, and Nawal el Saadawi. **Monterey** recommends *Rich Media, Poor Democracy* by Robert McChesney. McChesney contends that the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 dealt the final blow to America's participatory democracy. He urges citizens to organize politically and restructure the media in order to protect democracy.

## CHALLENGING CORPORATE POWER:

**Greater Lansing** conducted two study sessions on globalization and the WTO, leading up to Bruna Nota's well-attended public address on "Creating a Culture of Peace in the Face of Economic Globalization." Los Angeles began a study group in March. They have since heard local members of the Alliance for Democracy speak on the "California Clean Money

Campaign," as well as a speaker on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. It also advertised a conference/teach-in entitled "Who Owns America: The People or Big Money?" which featured speakers Jim Hightower, Arianna Huffington, and David Korten. **Cape Cod** facilitated a discussion on the role of public education in a democracy. **Peninsula** discussed community-based currencies at a branch meeting. **Santa Cruz** is working on a Living Wage Campaign for their county and cosponsored an evening with the cofounder of Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County, a group that authored the first ballot initiative in U.S. history on the subject of dismantling corporate rule (it passed!). **Germantown** heard from two University of Pennsylvania students about their successful sit-in protesting sweatshops at the university president's office. **Berkeley** participated in a solidarity rally and "Tour of Shame" on April 17, coinciding with the protest of the IMF/World Bank in Washington, D.C. **Portland** concluded six study sessions on Challenging Corporate Power and then brought Virginia Rasmussen to keynote its "End Corporate Dominance Conference."

## RACIAL JUSTICE:

**Detroit** featured a speaker on "Racism and Immigration" at its annual membership meeting. **Los Angeles** co-sponsored a lecture on "International Human Rights and the Death Penalty" and featured a speaker on "A Nation Behind Bars" at its branch meeting. **Portland** urged passage of the Innocence Protection Act, SR 2073 and HR 3623, which ensures prisoners have access to DNA testing and better legal representation. **Monterey** wants a moratorium on the



Norma Jean Sawyer, center, was honored at a meeting in Lower Florida Keys where she was made an honorary WILPF member. She is shown with Dennis and Tina Herrize.

death penalty. **Cape Cod** will bring Laura Partridge to the Cape in September for a workshop on using Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed in its antiracism work. WILPFers in **Fresno** joined a coalition to deal with the issue of racial profiling in their city; **Santa Cruz** published the phone number of the ACLU, which sends a free pocket card telling people how to protect themselves from unfounded searches: 1-800-775-ACLU. Santa Cruz also had a meeting on the effects of

California's "Three Strikes" law. **Berkeley** participated in a mass demonstration demanding a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

## PEACE MOVEMENTS:

**Berkeley** reported on Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich's proposal for a Department of Peace with Cabinet status and his request for public input. Copy at Website [www.house.gov/Kucinich](http://www.house.gov/Kucinich) or phone (202) 225-5871. **MN Metro** published an article about a movement to create a new international peace force called Peaceworkers. It builds on procedures developed by groups like Witness for Peace, the Balkan Peace Team and Peace Brigades International. It is intended to increase the level of participation in, and the visibility of, nonviolent intervention. See website [www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org) for more information. **MN Metro** also participated in a March for Peace and Social Justice and included pledge sheets in its newsletter. **Monterey** joined other organizations in the Peace Coalition of Monterey County in a Fourth of July parade, helping the 11 members of the Coalition create new and colorful banners. The Peace Coalition changed its participation in the parade from a military hardware event to a more peaceful people-oriented event.

## POLITICAL ACTIONS:

Humanitarian Exports Leading to Peace Act (HELP) of 2000, HR 3825 (food and medicine bill for Iraq) (**MN Metro, Peninsula, Portland**); International Call-in Days to Oppose Star Wars and nuclear non-proliferation, with a WILPF-sponsored bus to the U.N. (**Catonsville**); an end to Star Wars (**Cape Cod, Fresno, Berkeley**) and to all nuclear weapons (**Santa Cruz**); opposition to the "Education Opportunities Act" (S2) that consolidates funding for education into block grants (**Los Angeles**); Iraq sanctions (**Fresno; Cape Cod, Santa Cruz; Germantown**); the Secret Evidence Repeal Act, HR 2121 (**Germantown**); a U.N. tribunal to punish the perpetrators of continuing violence in parts of Indonesia (**Fresno**); pressure on Washington against the "drug war" in Colombia (**Fresno, Santa Cruz; Portland**) published points to emphasize when contacting congress people); Universal Health Care 2000 Campaign (**Santa Cruz**); pressure on Washington to save Peru prisoner Lori Berenson's life (**Santa Cruz**). **Portland** reported that Mexico is now among the top clients of the School of the Americas and graduates are involved in the civilian-targeted warfare in Chiapas, Guerrero, and Oaxaca; Bolivian president Hugo Banzer is another graduate, now busy putting down demonstrations about privatization of the water system; the U.S. Department of Defense has

## GET YOUR BRANCH NEWS ON THESE PAGES

Send your newsletters or updates to Leslie Reindl, 1233 Ingerson Road, St. Paul, MN 55112-3714.

proposed an SOA-type curriculum for an African Center for Security Studies to be located in Dakar, Senegal.

## BEIJING + 5:

**MN Metro** published a report from a Minnesota lawyer with Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights who attended this meeting. She saw the benefits of participating as (1) the opportunity for activists to share information and strategies; (2) a forum for pressuring governments to step up their work to advance women's rights; and (3) an infusion of energy and vision so that participants can return home recommitted and reenergized for the ongoing work of social change. She lived in Uganda from 1997 to 1998 and recently returned for a visit. She says, "I saw more ... thoughtful and active women's organizing there as a result of Beijing. The women ... are doing work based on ideas and strategies they brought with them from Beijing."

## MEMBERSHIP:

**Catonsville** distributed its WILPF materials at an event sponsored by the National Art Honor Society of Catonsville High School and other groups. **Cape Cod**, reacting to the fact that newcomers to the WILPF circle are often puzzled and not connected to activities, decided to create an opening statement to be read at each meeting that will reflect the mission of the group. They will also make a handout that answers common questions about joining WILPF and assign a welcomer for each meeting. **Fresno** presented information about WILPF at a Peace and Conflict Studies class and nine class members joined. The teacher paid their initial memberships!

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS AND VIDEOS:

*Desert Queen, The Extraordinary Life of Gertrude Bell: Adventurer, Advisor to Kings, Ally of Lawrence of Arabia*, by Janet Wallach, and *Another Country: The Emotional Terrain of Our Elders*, by Mary Pipher (**Monterey**); *Yes, in My Backyard*, a film examining a farming community turned prison town in upstate New York (**Fresno**).



Cuba delegation members Marlene Pedregosa, Lily Wu and Beverly Sims learn new Cuban dances at Dulce Maria's in Havana.

## Join your sisters in WILPF to:

- **UNITE** in a worldwide sisterhood of peace and justice;
- **BUILD** a constructive peace through world disarmament;
- **WORK** for the equality of all people in a world free of sexism and racism;
- **CREATE** lasting social change and worldwide peace and justice.



*WILPF, one of the world's oldest, continuously active peace organizations, works in 37 countries, over 100 U.S. communities and on many campuses, and with the United Nations, where it has Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status.*

## Yes! I want to join WILPF to work for peace and freedom.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Member  Renewal

Annual dues include a subscription to *Peace and Freedom*

Individual \$35  Household \$40  Student \$15

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All dues and contributions are payable to WILPF and are not tax deductible. Make tax deductible contributions of \$50 or more to Jane Addams Peace Association Fund.

Mail to: WILPF  
1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
For information, call: (215) 563-7110

### Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

1213 Race Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-1691

### Time Value - Do Not Delay



**A mother and child visit with Kate Kasper, right, at the WILPF table at the Expo in Baltimore (see page 23.)**

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