

Peace & Freedom

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

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PROTECT THE PLANET
ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE



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

National Program: WILPF envisions a world free of violence, poverty, pollution and domination — a genuine new world order of peace and justice. WILPF's program stands firm for disarmament and against oppression. The 2000-2003 program cycle has four key campaign areas: Challenge Corporate Power; Assert the People's Rights; Disarmament; Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration and Reconciliation (UFORJE); and Women and Cuba. 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.

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The Fragile Planet

Phyllis Yingling

As I write this, daffodils are poking green spikes out of the ground, crocuses are presenting purple blossoms for us to admire, and forsythia bushes can barely contain the bright yellow buds that are bursting into flower. The thermometer reads 70 degrees in downtown Baltimore – and it's only February. Spring is in the air.

It's glorious . . . but also scary. There has been no measurable precipitation for weeks. No snow, no rain. Already the city is calling upon residents to conserve water. Reservoirs are low. The rivers have shrunk from their banks. In the countryside, farmers are worrying about their winter wheat. It seems global warming is, indeed, upon us.

Forty miles north of Baltimore, at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, the U.S. Army is still trying to find a safe way to destroy 1,621 tons of mustard gas (a blistering agent) that have been stockpiled there since WW II. Since the events of September 11, the destruction of this potentially lethal chemical weapon has been made a major priority by the Army, but for those who live in the surrounding communities where the testing of munitions has polluted the soil and ground water for years, the Army is too late in its clean-up operations.

No doubt each of you could list your own environmental threats, many of them related to weapons of mass destruction, corporate greed and racism.

As you read this issue of *Peace & Freedom* you will become better informed on environmental hazards that we all face and that unite our campaigns. You will also read of the efforts to alleviate some of these problems through the World Summit on Sustainable Development and other programs opposed to those strangling life on our fragile planet.

A Peace-full Environment

Now, let me shift gears and encourage you to visit an environment that is almost pristine in its natural beauty. Come with me to Goddard College, nestled among the hills of Vermont, in a setting that is both rustic and

breathhtaking. There, from June 26 - 30, we will gather for U.S. WILPF's 28th Triennial National Congress to celebrate our past, present, and future. We will re-evaluate our current campaigns and issue committees and discuss ways to make WILPF more effective. We will embrace old friends and welcome new members and international guests. We will dance and sing, listen and talk, laugh, and perhaps, weep. We will be WILPF women joined together in a memorable moment in time. If you haven't already registered, please use the form in this issue and send it and your check off immediately.



The End of a Cycle

This will be my last column as president of the U. S. Section of WILPF. When I accepted this position three years ago, as a former board member, I had some idea of the challenges and joys that would fill the three-year term. I have learned so much and met such delightful people, however, that the joys have far outweighed the challenges. I am grateful to each of you for your support of WILPF during this cycle.

I would like to offer a very special thanks to the hard-working staff and interns at our Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. offices, to the members of the National Board who volunteer hours and hours of time to guide our organization, and to those International officers and members who have broadened my vision and enriched my life these past three years. Thanks also to my husband, Carroll, who has been so supportive as I've worked with WILPF. These past three years have been exciting and fulfilling, but as always, I look forward to the future as I will continue to serve WILPF. ❖

WELCOME NEW STAFF

The Jane Addams Peace Association has hired a new executive director who began in March. Theresa Graham has held numerous positions as administrator of research, marketing, and editing over the last 15 years. She is dedicated to issues that affect women, such as reproductive freedom, access to education and equitable pay, and is a

longtime letter-writing activist for Equality Now, the ACLU and the Feminist Majority.

International WILPF's new Secretary General is Daria Michelle Cave. Daria has worked for years with a variety of NGOs on international issues. She's been an activist with different ethnic, humanitarian and political causes. Daria began working in the Geneva office this winter.

Environmental Regulation on the World Stage

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Gloria Bletter
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Environmental hazards and issues cannot be limited to local or even national political boundaries, so it is important to develop policies which will be in effect across nations and regions, and even across the earth when dealing with global resources such as climate, air, the seas and marine life.

In looking at these issues, the inter-relatedness of the environment, development, sustainability, and poverty needs to be understood, especially by citizens in wealthier countries. Links between poverty and the environment have been demonstrated by the poor themselves, through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working for environmental justice in local and regional areas.

A very brief overview of international environmental regulation begins in 1941, with a decision in a case between Canada and the United States. Canada was held responsible for air pollution damage caused by a smelting plant to a portion of Washington State. This case established the principle that although each country has sovereignty over its own resources, including the right to development, it may not cause significant environmental harm to the territory of another country. This principle was later restated in a document, the Rio Declaration, which came out of the Earth Summit convened by the United Nations in 1992.

In 1972 an important U.N. environmental conference was held, the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. This was the first time that most member states of the United Nations agreed to discuss national and international policy and law for the entire planet, and it resulted in the creation of the U.N. Environment Program (UNEP), the first international organization to focus solely on the environment. This conference also resulted in the Stockholm Declaration, which dealt with matters of concern to the less developed countries (77 out of the 114 members attending) and, in 26 principles, stated the rights and obligations of citizens and governments regarding preserving and improving the environment. These principles have been expanded upon in over 100 international treaties since 1972, dealing with acid rain, hazardous waste, ozone depletion, sea pollution, toxins, resource conservation, and global warming.

Poverty and Sustainable Development

A theme of concern to the less developed countries has persisted: how to reconcile needed economic and indus-

trial development and increased trade, with protective restrictions which might limit them from engaging freely in such activities. They argued (and still do) that it is their turn to reap the economic benefits of industrialization, and that they should not be told by wealthy nations to remain poor and, on top of that, to pay for the costs of cleaning up and restoring the earth. They saw their highest priority as alleviating poverty, and observed that environmental degradation had often been caused by the consumption habits and resource exploitation of the prosperous countries.

A compromise was stated in the Preamble to the Stockholm Declaration: that economic development could be compatible with environmental protection measures, and that both could proceed simultaneously. The effort to define how this can be done was later undertaken in a Report of the Brundtland Commission, *Our Common Future*, issued in 1987. The term “sustainable development” was an attempt to satisfy several concerns. As a statement of goals, it has environmental, economic, and social aspects: to address the great poverty in the less developed countries while protecting the environment for all life forms, both present and future (also called intergenerational equity) and to manage resources so that they remain at replaceable levels.

Enforcement

Although several legal principles were cited, including nations’ Duty to Cooperate in dealing with environmental conditions, implementation remains problematic in the following ways:

- No enforceable curbs were placed on unsustainable patterns of consumption and production;
- The areas of trade, finance, investment, technology, and sustainable development remain compartmentalized and subject to short-term considerations, rather than to a comprehensive, consistent policy on the use of natural resources;
- Poor countries are increasingly burdened by debt, and gaps between the few rich and the many poor – internally as well as globally – are increasing. International financial and investment institutions, as well as private global corporations, have failed both to monitor the actual results of investments and assistance within the recipient countries, and to adequately compensate those countries for profits made by using their human and natural resources;
- No mechanisms for corporate accountability, such as to an enforceable global system which can monitor and evaluate corporate adherence to an integrated set of standards, including “the polluter pays” principle. Some have suggested National Sustainable Development Councils; others propose a World Environmental Court

which would operate under a “rights-based approach”;

- Insufficient attention has been paid to upholding international human rights standards, including economic and social rights. While businesses, property owners, investors and government officials pursue profit-making projects, it is the local workers and residents who bear the burden of economic exploitation and displacement. They are the parties most vulnerable to human rights abuses.

In 1992, the Earth Summit was convened in Rio de Janeiro. It was heralded as a great achievement, but in retrospect, it undermined several goals of the Brundtland Commission Report regarding sustainable development, and even some from the prior 1972 Stockholm Declaration. The “Rio Declaration” included wording that favored states’ rights to economic development and to consumption over their duty to conserve the environment.

However, there were some firsts, including the historic and extensive role of women, who gained recognition as essential actors in sustainable development and as stewards of the environment, along with indigenous peoples. “Agenda 21” was also formulated, an ambitious document defining aspects of sustainability, but not binding. At the upcoming “Rio + 10” or World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg this September, Agenda 21 will be re-evaluated.

Since 1992, input about causes and effects of poverty has become more sophisticated, and now include functional limitations, rather than simply income poverty. Empowerment, the sense of self as an agent and source of change, is seen as essential for members of marginalized groups before household, community and social institutions will change. Also, it is well known that most environmental degradation is not caused by

poor people, but they are the ones to suffer the most from inequities imposed by globalization processes. In fact, the world’s poor population has dramatically increased, while the environment has deteriorated further. To date, globalization and the free-market demanded by corporate interests have been favored by governments over civil society and peoples’ movements.

The Future

I recently attended the U.N.’s second planning conference [CSD PrepComm] for the World Summit. In addition to participating in a panel discussion on the missing human rights perspective within current economic development practices, the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Process and the proposals of the Peace Caucus are worth mentioning. Both are NGO attempts to deal with the issues in a holistic manner and to engage in constructive critiques for implementing change and reducing unsustainable practices.

The Peace Caucus urged the CSD to take a stand against militarism, war, and military expenditures because of their devastating impact on the environment and the allocation of huge sums, which could be available for social and environmental needs.

Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues are now recognized in the environmental arena as an advance towards acknowledging the importance of NGOs by soliciting and disseminating their views and concerns; the statement produced will be considered by the World Summit on Sustainable Development from Aug. 26 - Sept. 4.

Gloria Bletter, along with Gloria Korecki, represents U.S. WILPF at the United Nations in New York.

PLANNING FOR CONGRESS

From left to right, (left photo) Robin Lloyd; Sarah Seeds, Ruckus trainer; (middle photo) Anne Ivey, Gillian Gilhool; Ellen Barfield; and (right photo) Jody Dodd gather in the Philadelphia office to work on Congress plans. (See registration form, page 17).

Photos by Theta Pavis



Collateral Damage, USA: Killing Our Own

Pat Birnie

The U.S. military is constantly telling us that it protects American citizens from harm, but the reality behind the rhetoric is not a pretty picture.

Consider these chilling examples:

- Hispanic teens in Tucson's South Side conduct car washes to pay funeral expenses for classmates, victims of TCE-contaminated ground water from the nearby Hughes (now Raytheon) Missile factory, one of the largest Superfund Sites in the United States.

- Children in Chino Hills, CA scavenge deadly grenades and machine gun ammunition souvenirs among the toxic ooze left behind by Aerojet General, which closed in 1995 after 40 years of producing bombs and munitions and toxic contamination. Residents are suing Aerojet because of chronic health problems in the wake of exploded depleted uranium-tipped projectiles, detonated mustard and tear-gas weapons and other such activities for our "national defense."



A portion of a mural at De Dana College, Cupertino, California.

- Hundreds of workers at Portsmouth, Ohio's gaseous diffusion plant and at the Oakridge, TN weapons labs are suffering and dying with numerous ailments, such as radiation poisoning.

- A recently published government study estimates that about 15,000 U.S. citizens died from cancer as a result of Cold War nuclear weapons testing fallout, and virtually every person living in the U.S. since 1951 has been exposed to nuclear fallout. Independent Canadian researcher Dr. Rosalie Bertell claims that up to 56 million people have been killed, maimed or diseased by nuclear power or nuclear weapons worldwide since the inception of the nuclear age.

- In Cape Cod, the Massachusetts Military Reservation contaminated the sole source of drinking water for nearly 425,000 permanent and seasonal residents of the area.

- Leukemia clusters near Fallon Air Force Base, NV and Ft. Huachuca, AZ point to jet fuel's toxicity.

The production and testing of weapons and delivery

systems, and the training of military personnel, results in hazardous waste generation. This waste also has to be transported and disposed of, which leads to legal and illegal toxic dumping, bombing and live fire training. In addition, there are many other toxic activities creating an environmental catastrophe that will last long into the future.

The damage is not always immediately visible, but it is real, measurable and long term. Corporate-military toxins impact large communities every day, including employees of military corporations or bases, active and retired military personnel, and those involved in mining and processing toxic materials used in military products. The damage is hard to track because the toxins invade our food chain, cause cancer or genetic mutations, destroy wildlife and their habitat, cause intolerable noise pollution and disrupt the natural cycle.

The nuclear industry has been effective in suppressing or discrediting criticism that proves the dangers of this technology. The full effects of the Chernobyl accident, for example, may never be known. Dr Bertell believes the human gene pool has been irreversibly damaged by the reckless expansion of this technology. Some scientists believe acid rain damage has been exacerbated by radiation released into our atmosphere.

It is criminally irresponsible for the Bush administration and the nuclear industry to continue to advocate expansion of nuclear power and to continue to tinker



Irene Edman and Betty Schroeder at the factory of Raytheon Missile Corporation in Tucson, AZ.

with nuclear weapon refinements, not only because there is no safe way to isolate the increasing quantities of deadly waste, but because "normal" emissions during all

stages of the nuclear cycle are adversely affecting our human environment.

Our service personnel are also victims of contamination. In the surgically “clean” Gulf War, the U.S. suffered over 300 casualties (most of which were from “friendly fire”). Yet now, 11 years later, more than 240,000 of our veterans have sought medical care, and 9,000 have died. Significant numbers have borne or fathered deformed children.

Meanwhile, disease, leukemia and birth defects plague southern Iraq where the U.S. bombs left 350 tons of depleted uranium (DU) fragments and particles. This DU dust is transported by dust and water and retains its lethal qualities for centuries (its half-life is 4.5 billion years). The factories in the United States making DU munitions (and mining, milling and handling the enrichment processes required to produce DU munitions and testing weapons) cause widespread contamination and health problems, again disproportionately affecting low-income communities and communities of color.

The aerospace industry is in the spotlight now, as the Bush administration is preparing for the U.S. domination of space and pouring billions of dollars into the troughs for the corporate pigs. It will take a concerted public effort to stop National Missile Defense. The untold story is the contamination of workers and communities of the aerospace corporations, and how social services suffer because of lack of monies.

The High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) is another super-weapon under development that has much potential for worldwide environmental harm. HAARP is located in Alaska, and would use North Slope natural gas to beam huge amounts of electromagnetic energy to the upper atmosphere, where it could be used as a beam weapon. It could disrupt the jet stream, change weather patterns and do catastrophic damage. It has been under development since 1994. We don't hear much about this one, but it may be connected with National Missile Defense.

Starting in the 1970s the U.S. public began to be aware of the importance of environmental protection and demanded (and got) strong laws protecting human health and the environment. The EPA has been helpful in identifying and remediating hundreds of toxic sites all over the United States. But unlike the civilian sector, the military is exempt from all or part of critical environmental, worker protection and public safety laws. The ways in which the military avoids compliance with most EPA regulations is by direct exemption, sovereign immunity, and the use of Executive Orders. Since the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy are our nation's leading polluters, these exemptions have enormous impact on public health and safety. Pending legis-

lation, H.R. 2154, addresses this inequity and should be strongly supported.

Even in cases where military facilities are covered with appropriate environmental laws, enforcement is often lacking. Cleanup of known toxic sites is painfully slow, far behind schedule, woefully underfunded, and tied up in political wrangling.

Yet even as inadequate as our present environmental regulations and the unconscionable exemptions of the military are, enforcement is another important part of the picture. On February 27, 2002, the EPA's chief of enforcement, Eric Schaeffer, resigned in protest. Schaeffer said he was tired of fighting “. . . a White House that seems determined to weaken the rules we are trying to enforce.” Schaeffer spoke of budget cuts requiring elimination of 200 enforcement staff plus undermining legal actions.

As with the civilian sector, indigenous communities and communities of color bear a disproportionate burden of adverse health impact from contamination from military corporations, bases or training exercises. These communities are poor and mostly voiceless. Uranium mining and weapons testing (Vieques, Nevada, and other sites) are two tragic examples. For a visual shock, access the Military Toxins Project (www.miltoxproj.org) map of the U.S., including Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands, to see the locations of known military toxic sites.

Following September 11, our situation is worse than ever. The Pentagon wants even more exemptions from the laws and standards that corporations must follow. A compliant Congress is allowing the Bush administration to expand military expenditures to “protect against terrorism.” One of the public's hard-won tools in protecting ourselves, the Right to Know Law, is being curbed to reduce access by potential terrorists. The chemical industry is trying to exploit this climate of fear and compromise this law, when in fact the law has proven a powerful tool in decreasing our vulnerability (by reducing



Pat Birnie at Raytheon Missile Corporation, Tucson, AZ.

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Making the Connection: Environmental and Racial Justice

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Adjoa A. Aiyetoro, Marge Van Cleef

WILPF has been involved in the environmental justice movement through much of its work. The Racial Justice Campaign (UFORJE) and the Disarmament Campaign (that addresses demilitarization) embrace issues that can be placed under the category of environmental/racial justice. Indeed, in uniting for racial justice it is clear that the manipulation of the environment, including poisoning of the air, water and land, frequently targets communities of color whether it be through the location of toxic waste dumps, the failure to control industrial emissions in densely populated areas, or the location of military bases and test sites.

These issues were particularly crystallized at the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) where WILPF had a strong presence throughout the preparatory process as well as during the WCAR Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Forum, and the government conference held Aug. 27 - Sept. 8, 2001 in Durban, South Africa. Some of this work has been described in previous columns. Through the insight of UFORJE, U.S. WILPF was an active participant with the International office at every preparatory meeting and working group meeting held in Geneva. WILPF was represented at the Americas Regional Preparatory meeting in Santiago, Chile and there was a strong delegation of WILPFers in Durban. The WCAR work revealed what many of us perhaps already knew: that environmental justice and demilitarization are linked and that ending racism in the ownership, use and destruction of land is critical to repairing and restoring the lives and communities of people of color. These acts serve as one basis for reconciliation.

Much of the NGOs' work during the preparatory phase of the WCAR as well as at the WCAR was done through caucuses. The issue of environmental justice was raised as a critical issue to address in the various caucuses, most particularly the Health Caucus, African and African Descendants Caucus and the Indigenous Peoples Caucus.

Environmental justice activists from around the world successfully integrated their work with that of these caucuses. The relationship of environmental justice to the concerns raised by virtually all the caucuses was



made clearer as we engaged in the meetings afforded by the preparatory process of collaborating and developing an appreciation of the depth of racism worldwide. Indeed, environmental justice was one of the many issues that showed us the similar faces of racism throughout the world – that although people of color came from varying cultures, spoke different languages and lived on different continents – there was a glaring similarity in our lives as sufferers of racism. These similarities included the taking of indigenous peoples' land, the desecration of the environment, the locating of toxic waste sites on lands inhabited largely by people of color, the toxic polluting of the air and water by industries in communities of color, the polluting of the environment in communities located near U.S. military bases, and the lack of resources to improve the environment and to implement projects for sustainable development.

Stealing of land from indigenous peoples, stripping of natural resources including trees, oil, and metals, creating highways, industries, military bases and toxic waste sites in communities leads to mounting poverty, exploitation of the labor and other rights of inhabitants of the land, and displacement of the inhabitants, often to densely populated cities where jobs are scarce, pollution is high, and where they can no longer control their food supply.

These concerns speak to the multiple forms that racial oppression takes and the complexity of the assault. The environmental justice issues of disproportionate toxicity from industrial, urban and rural wastes impact the quality of life on all fronts: the disproportionate rates of disease, the poverty that is maintained because of the devaluation of the lands owned by people of color, and the negative implications on their ability to thrive.

There are current examples of infringement on environmental rights of people of color that demonstrate the impact of this issue throughout the world, as well as show the connection between demilitarization and environmental justice.

- The United States government is proposing Yucca Mountain, Nevada, land owned by the Western Shoshone Nation pursuant to the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley, for a high-level radioactive waste dump.
- Corporate and government toxic waste sites created what is known as “Cancer Alley” between Baton Rouge and New Orleans in Louisiana, populated largely by African descendants.
- There is a proliferation of industries in Mexican towns along the border between Mexico and the United States called the “Maquiladoras” without adequate sanitation and infrastructure impinging on the labor rights, health and well-being of the residents.
- African descendants are primarily the residents of “the toxic donut,” Altgeld Gardens, in Chicago, an area marked by waste transfer stations, a rendering plant (where they take apart animals for pet food), other major industries and a major highway.
- Vieques, Puerto Rico is an example of how U.S. militarization contaminates the soil, increases noise and air pollution, and exposes communities to the dangers of weapon testing and radioactive waste.
- The United States has a long history of destroying the environment throughout Latin America. It has now developed “Plan Puebla Panama” that includes the entire region between Puebla, Mexico and Panama. This plan would open up the woodlands and natural resources to private investment, resulting in the destruction of natural resources and the displacement of the rights of indigenous peoples.
- Many extraction industries are in Africa, such as mines and pipelines that pollute the environment, create run-offs of the soil and water, and expose workers to high levels of danger as well as the surrounding communities. Activists are fighting a gold mine in Tanzania and a planned oil pipeline in Cameroon.
- The relationship of war and environmental justice is exemplified by Iraq, where the 1991 Gulf War and continued U.S. and U.N.-sanctions have resulted in environmental pollution and an increased rate of chronic diseases, including cancer (reportedly due to depleted uranium used in weapons).

Environmental justice activists are on the case and are raising these issues in forums that have led to advances in land rights and the right of people to live in

environments that are healthy and sustain life. These activists were successful in getting language in the NGO Declaration and Program of Action that addressed the need to end the toxic destruction of the land on which people of color live and to develop programs of sustainable development for communities of color worldwide. Unfortunately, the government Declaration and Program of Action did not contain explicit language concerning environmental justice. However, in the language of these documents the issue of the right of indigenous peoples to their land and the right to development were raised. These concepts can be used by this movement through educating the community that these rights necessarily include the right to sustainable development on arable land, free of toxins that endanger the health and well being of people.

In November 2001, NGOs from around the world met in Guatemala to strategize about Plan Puebla Panama. These NGOs developed a strategy to raise the consciousness of those directly impacted in the region, to lobby and pressure the governments to discontinue the plan, and to organize broader support for their opposition.

We all recall the major demonstrations at Vieques, the U.S. Naval training ground, which took place in the summer 2001. A number of activists were arrested and jailed. These activists included people who are nationally and internationally known for their activism around racial justice issues, including Coretta Scott King, Jackie Jackson and Reverend Al Sharpton.

As demonstrated most poignantly by the Vieques demonstrations and WCAR, environmental justice spans the issues of racial justice and demilitarization. Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration and Reconciliation means seeing that, although we must focus our work to be productive, in order to have a full understanding of our efforts we must ask and answer the questions: whether, and if so, how is this issue impacted by race? Asking and answering these questions will lead to a comprehensive understanding of the nature of our work and aid us in developing strategies and solutions that are meaningful and effective.

Adjoa A. Aiyetoro is a member of the UFORJE National Campaign. She is an attorney based in Washington, D.C., and represented WILPF at WCAR in Durban. Marge Van Cleef is WILPF's Board Program Chair.



Corporate Personhood and the “Right” to Harm the Environment

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Jan Edwards, Alis Valencia

Concerned with the environmental threat posed by factory hog farms, nine townships in Pennsylvania have passed ordinances banning corporate ownership of farms. Opponents have filed a lawsuit, however, claiming that such laws are unconstitutional because they violate a corporation’s rights under the First and 14th Amendments and the Commerce Clause of the Constitution.¹

Why is it that corporations can claim constitutional rights? Wasn’t our Constitution written in the name of “We the people”?

It was, of course, and the Constitution does not even mention corporations. But in 1886 the Supreme Court started down a treacherous path by viewing corporations as “people” with rights to equal protection under the 14th Amendment. Since that time the Court has granted “corporate persons” additional rights under the First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Amendments.

What we call “corporate personhood” has resulted. Rights originally meant to protect human beings from the potentially oppressive powers of our government now belong as well to the corporation, an artificial entity. Corporations claim these constitutional rights in Federal court as they attempt, often with success, to overturn, weaken, or get around laws designed to protect the environment.

The First Amendment

“ . . . no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech. . . ”
- First Amendment

The First Amendment right to free speech has been broadened by the courts to allow corporations to give campaign contributions, lobby legislators, run advertisements that support their interests, exercise the right not to speak, and paint their activities as “green.”

When President George W. Bush ran for governor of Texas, he received more than \$4 million in campaign donations from companies that have benefited greatly from the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, which he signed soon after taking office.² This law says that companies need not report their violations of environmental regulations to law enforcement officials or to the public. Nor can they be penalized for self-reported violations. Some 25 other states have passed similar audit privilege laws in the past decade.³

The Fourth Amendment

“The right of the people to be secure. . . against unreason-

able searches and seizures. . . ”
- Fourth Amendment

Under many circumstances, corporations have the right to “shut the door” on government inspectors who lack a search warrant. The resulting delay may be enough for a company to cover up signs of wrongdoing. Even if evidence is collected under a search warrant, there is no guarantee that it will hold up in court.

Riverdale Mills, a wire-mesh manufacturer, sits on the Blackstone River near Worcester, Mass. In 1997, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received an anonymous tip from an employee that the mill’s wastewater treatment system was not working. Agents got a search warrant to investigate what was going on and collected evidence that was used by the government to indict Riverdale’s owner on two counts of violating the Clean Water Act. The case fell apart, however, after the judge handling the case threw out key evidence (water test results) because the EPA took samples on the mill property without informing the owner.⁴ Apparently, having a search warrant is not even enough.

The Fifth Amendment

“ . . . nor shall any person. . . be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation. ”
- Fifth Amendment

Corporations have the right to challenge governmental actions that protect the environment by claiming they are “takings” of their property rights. Further, the government may be required to provide monetary compensation for any consequent reduction in property value, even intangible property value such as lost potential profits.

Florida Rock Industries applied for a permit to mine limestone from 1,500 acres of wetlands in the Florida Everglades in the early 1990s. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers denied the permit because the risks of pollution and habitat destruction were high. Florida Rock sued successfully to get compensation for a regulatory taking, even though the company had the opportunity to sell the property for more than twice as much as it paid.⁵ The government could end up paying Florida Rock tens of millions of dollars.⁶

In 1986, Monterey, CA rejected the application of Del Monte Dunes Corporation to build a residential complex on environmentally sensitive sand dunes. The state eventually purchased the property from the company for a public park,



At the Corporations Campaign camp retreat held in March.

paying more than the original purchase price. Nevertheless, Del Monte Dunes sued for a takings on the basis that the company would have made much more money if allowed to build. The jury hearing the case awarded the company \$1.45 million.⁷ Other “personhood rights” were claimed by Del Monte Dunes in this case as well: the 14th Amendment (due process and equal protection) and the Sixth and Seventh Amendments (right to trial by jury).

The 14th Amendment

“... nor shall any State . . . deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”
-14th Amendment

By using the cry of “equal protection” to open the courts to them, corporations can evade, if not overturn, regulations while conducting business as usual.

Gwaltney of Smithfield Ltd. operated a meatpacking plant on the Pagan River in Smithfield, Virginia. Between 1981 and 1984, the company repeatedly violated the conditions of its permit to pollute by discharging excessive quantities of five pollutants. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Natural Resources Defense Council sent notice of their intent to file a citizens suit under the Clean Water Act. But they got nowhere: the court ruled that citizens could sue a corporation only for an ongoing violation of the law.⁸ Because citizens must provide polluters with a 60-day notice of intent to sue, violators have the opportunity to do a “quick fix” and so avoid litigation.

By asserting their personhood rights, corporations are able to influence legislation and gain access to the courts. The total effect is devastating, with no part of our environment left untouched. Corporations not only find ways to avoid or minimize regulation but use their wealth and power to slow or halt enforcement.

We need to accept that there is no point in continuing to

play the same game. Corporations have shown that they are better at it. But if we abolish corporate personhood, they lose the constitutional rights that have permitted them to trump democratic processes. If we recognize that corporations are legal entities, created and defined by the authority of government – and extended privileges rather than rights, we will help lay the foundations for the creation of a true democracy.

The Campaign to Abolish Corporate Personhood, part of WILPF’s “Challenge Corporate Power; Assert the People’s Rights” campaign, has set out to do just this. Join us in this important and exciting work! Visit WILPF’s website (www.wilpf.org) to learn more or request our Action Packet, available by mail for \$10. And stay tuned for updates on the WILPF road to democracy!

Jan Edwards and Alis Valencia, members of WILPF and of the Campaign to Abolish Corporate Personhood, live on the Mendocino coast in Northern California.

- 1 Russell Mokhiber, “Interview with Richard Grossman, Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy.” *Corporate Crime Reporter*, February 8, 2002.
- 2 H. B. No. 2473 (1995)
- 3 Richard Caplan, *Polluter’s Playground: How the Government Permits Pollution*. U.S. PIRG Education Fund, May 2001.
- 4 David Armstrong, “EPA Agents Accused of Going Too Far.” *Boston Globe*, November 11, 1999.
- 5 Florida Rock Industries, Inc v. United States [18F. 3d 1560 (Fed. Cir. 1994)]
- 6 Sharon Buccino et al., *Hostile Environment: How Activist Judges Threaten Our Air, Water, and Land*. NRDC, July 2001.
- 7 Del Monte Dunes v. City of Monterey [U. S. 9th Cir. Court of Appeals No. 94-16248 (1996)] unpublished
- 8 Gwaltney v. Chesapeake Bay Foundation [484 U.S. 49 (1987)]

SIGNPOSTS ALONG A TREACHEROUS PATH

Corporations gained their constitutional “rights” to fight environmental regulation through a series of precedent setting Supreme Court decisions. Cases that yielded these decisions include:

- **14th Amendment**
Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad [118 U.S. 394 (1886)] Corporations are included in the word “person” in the 14th Amendment and given equal protection under the law.
- **Fifth Amendment**
Noble v. Union River Logging [147 U.S. 165 (1893)]
A corporation cannot be deprived of its property without due process.
Pennsylvania Coal Co. v. Mahon [260 U.S. 393, 415 (1922)]
Corporations have protection against the taking of private property without compensation. A regulation is a taking.
- **Fourth Amendment**
Hale v. Henkel [201 U.S. 43 (1906)] A corporation is entitled to protection against unreasonable searches and seizures.
Marshall v. Barlow [436 U.S. 307 (1978)] Corporations have the right to demand a search warrant for monitoring of regulatory compliance.
- **First Amendment**
Buckley v. Valeo [424 U.S. 1 (1976)] Political money is equivalent to speech.
Boston v. Bellotti [435 U.S. 765 (1978)] Corporations have the same rights to the First Amendment as people and can spend unlimited money to “speak” in ads to overturn referendums.

Real Environmental Justice: Lessons from Havana, Cuba

.....
Kim Early, Yalonda Sindé

The Community Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ) is a grassroots organization in Seattle led by people of color whose mission is to identify environmental injustice and advocate for and create environmental justice. We are part of a global movement to end environmental racism – the practice of targeting communities of color for the siting of hazardous waste sites and polluting industries, and the condoning of disparate environmental impacts in communities of color.

From June 16 - 24, 2001 both of us, Kim as CCEJ's board chair and Yalonda as executive director, attended the Third International Conference on the Environment and Sustainable Development in Havana, Cuba. The conference offered workshops on Cuban Environmental Policy, Sustainable Food and Agriculture, the Soy Yogurt Project, Renewable Energy and Natural, Traditional and Bioenergetic Medicine.

Tours led by the California-based group Global Exchange reinforced what we learned at the conference, and helped us learn first hand why Cuba has been recognized as a model for sustainable development for the world. Following are highlights from the trip:

ORGANIC FARMING: The urban agricultural movement in Cuba started in the early '90s. Due to a severe shortage of hard currency for the importation of chemical fertilizers and pesticides (a result of the U.S. embargo) Cuba was forced to convert to organic farming on a nationwide scale, and as a result, has created a world model for sustainabili-

ty. We visited a community-based Sustainable Organic Agriculture Project that provides training and lectures on organic farming. The co-op sustains itself by selling its produce to the community at an open market and at an affordable price. They also sell rabbits and seedlings. This is a far cry from the corporate agriculture practiced in the United States.

As an alternative to using pesticides to control pests, they use netting. They also plant a diverse group of plants in one plot and combine long and short cycle plants. A bug trap is used to see what types of bugs they are getting, and then they adjust farming techniques accordingly to control these pests.

To create fertilizer for the crops, rabbits are housed in roomy cages atop soil. Their droppings mix with the soil and are used as fertilizer. Some of the rabbits are also sold for food to help cover the costs of operating the farm.

NATURAL MEDICINE: The U.S. embargo against Cuba has had a devastating impact on the public health system, making it difficult for Cuba to purchase medicines and medical equipment from the U.S. or U.S. subsidiaries.

But this reality has not stopped Cuba from providing quality medical care to its people. Here, natural medicine is the norm, not the "alternative."

Clinics provide free medical care to all citizens. Alternative medicine is integrated into the entire public health care system. Doctors are trained to provide natural treatments along with western remedies. Every municipality has at least one natural and traditional medical clinic.



ACTIVITIES OF WILPF'S WOMEN AND CUBA CAMPAIGN

- Organization of our National Women's Leadership Summit at the Stonehaven Ranch outside of Austin, Texas, bringing together 40 diverse women leaders from Cuba solidarity, social and economic justice, public policy, media, philanthropy and women's rights organizations to collaborate, analyze and develop a three-year strategic plan to be announced at the U.S. Section WILPF Congress in June
- Coordination of a two-month, national tour in May and June of Cuban women here in the U.S. to address Women's Rights and Development in Cuba that will kick off the Leadership Summit. This will be followed by speaking and media events in about 10 cities, hosted by members of our National Advisory Committee
- Participation in the Association for Women's Rights

and Development Conference in Mexico, followed by a multi-racial women's delegation to Cuba to explore the theme of Women's Rights and Development, tentatively scheduled for October 3 - 13 (details in the next issue of *Peace & Freedom*)

- Continued outreach to women of color and young women at conferences such as Incite! The Color of Violence Against Women (March 14 - 16 in Chicago), coordinated with the Third Wave Fund and Sisters in Action for Power in Portland, OR
- Integration of our education and organizing activities for International Women's Day events, as well as ongoing peace and anti-war movements

To participate in our upcoming and ongoing activities, or to join the mailing list of the WILPF Cuba Action Campaign, please contact Jan Strout, project organizer, 1016 N. 45th St #1, Seattle, WA 98103 or via e-mail janstrout@msn.com or telephone (206) 547-0940.

Natural clinics use a wide variety of Cuban and Chinese traditional medicine. Chinese traditional medicine is widely practiced throughout Cuba's medical care system. Acupuncture, acupressure, Chinese herbology, and mind-body relaxation techniques are used to treat many illnesses.

Cuban flower therapy, AKA Cuban Rainbow Treatment, was created in 1920. It is a system of using the juices of 38 flowers to treat emotional problems. The essence of different flowers are captured and added to brandy and natural water. This mixture is then applied in drops under the tongue, four to six times per day. This treatment is coupled with music, color, laser and magnetic therapy to relieve stress.

EDUCATION: With just 2 percent of the population of Latin America, but 11 percent of the scientists, Cuba has the human talent necessary to achieve its sustainability goals. Education is the top priority in Cuba with everyone provided free quality education through high school as well as college. We visited two schools and were struck by

the quality of education young children received.

SOLAR ENERGY: Cuba has invested in solar energy as a renewable energy source. We witnessed a solar energy project used to dry fruits and plants.

The best part of Cuba is the people. Cuba is the type of place where people stop you on the street just to talk. It is inspiring to see a poor country able to provide safe food, free, quality education, and free health care for its people. Cuba is an example of what a country can become when the spirit of revolution and independence is celebrated. We deeply appreciate the donors who provided funds for our trip and hope to have the opportunity to attend future conferences in Cuba.

For more information about CCEJ, visit our website at <http://www.ccej.org> or call us at (206) 720-0285.

Kim Early is the chair of the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice in Seattle, WA. Yalonda Sindé is the executive director.

► **DISARM!**

continued from page 7

the stockpiles of inadequately stored toxins). Now the Bush administration is promoting the idea of having taxpayers pay for the cleanup of corporate pollution. What has happened to "The Polluter Pays"?

Military environmental damage is not just a U.S. phenomenon. It is worldwide, and gets more destructive each year as the technology gets more sophisticated, though there is still terrible damage by the pervasive use of land mines, cluster bombs and small arms. The U.S. has used recent military action to test and perfect its new high-tech systems for remote war making in Iraq, Bosnia, former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan. The targets have not only been military installations, but civilian infrastructure, oil refineries, water purification systems, bridges, highways and communications systems. In addition to huge numbers of refugees, there are reports of massive disruption of wildlife as habitats are being destroyed.

WILPF tried at the U.N. Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 to require that effects of military activity be included on the agenda, but the U.S. prevented it from being included. It needs to be on the top of the agenda for every Congress, every international conference, and especially at U.N. conferences.

We have no greater national security interest than the health and safety of our communities. We must act in our own interest before there is further erosion in regulations and enforcement, and before the damage is irreparable.

Remember, there is a link between militarism and patriarchy. Stepped-up militarism after September 11 does not address the reasons for terrorist acts, but in fact further exacerbates hatred of U.S. policies.

This issue is a dynamic topic uniting three WILPF Campaigns: UFORJE, Challenging Corporate Power; Asserting the Peoples Rights; and Disarmament.

Here are some sources for information on military toxins and environmental actions:

WILPF Disarmament page, MIL-TOX ConneXion:
www.wilpf.org/disarm/mil_corp.htm

Center for Health, Environment and Justice: www.chej.org

Dr. Bertell's article on nuclear victims:
www.geocities.com/mothersalert/victims.html

International Network on Disarmament and Globalization:
www.indg.org

Multinational Monitor:
www.essential.org/monitor/monitor.html

Rachel's Environmental and Health News:
www.rachel.org/bulletin/index.cfm?St=1

The Ecologist www.theecologist.org (access articles in archives under desired subject). The Nov. 1999 issue was devoted completely to "The Madness of Nuclear Energy"

Alliance for Nuclear Accountability: www.ananuclear.org

For those not chained to computers, please request addresses from Pat Birnie (520) 908-9269.

P.S. WILPF's Environment Committee needs to be revived. Any takers?

Pat Birnie is a Disarm! committee member, head of the former WILPF environment committee, and military corporations researcher.

Global Summit on Sustainable Development

Edel Havin Beukes

During the 2000 International Executive Conference (IEC) held in Berlin, WILPF established an Environmental Working Group (EWG). One of the tasks of the EWG is to take part in the Rio+10 process, culminating in the World Summit on Sustainable Development I (WSSD) in Johannesburg this August.

In preparation for this, Regina Birchem and I attended the January/February 2002 PrepCom II held in New York. Provided that financing is forthcoming, WILPF will also be represented at the third and fourth PrepCom, as well as at the WSSD.

The Norwegian section of WILPF has participated actively in the work of the “Peace Group,” part of The Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development, an NGO umbrella for 60 organizations. One of the position papers prepared for submission at the WSSD is on “Military Production and Consumption.” Several salient points are made in the paper.

We are concerned lest the final report of the WSSD should fail to carry a very strong text about the connection between militarism and the sustainability of the human endeavor on Earth. We found no reference to this in the provisional report of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

The collapse of the Soviet Union brought a decade of respite from the constant fear of instant annihilation to the developed nations that had been pitted against each other in the Cold War. Yet wars and preparations for war continue to bring untold sorrow to the world’s poor – who are powerless either to rid themselves of rule by despots, or to escape the bombs thrown at their lands by the airborne armadas of the world’s rich. The intellectual and material resources that could be applied to alleviating the suffering of the vast majority of mankind continue to be squandered on the production and consumption of armaments – now further boosted by the suicidal September 11 assaults on U.S. targets and the war that followed.

Contrasting military budgets with the sums of money asked for to provide adequate medical services to the world’s poorest people provides a measure of humankind’s destructive capability as compared to its capacity for healing. Assuming that the U.S. accounts for half the world’s military spending, the Pentagon’s budget of \$379 billion for 2002/3 would indicate total world spending on the military of at least \$760 billion. In 2000, total exports of arms amounted to a record \$36.9 billion, up 8 percent from the



The author at an anti-war demonstration in Oslo, Norway.

year before. Half of the sales came from the U.S. (\$18.6), followed by Russia (\$7.7) France (\$4.1) Germany (\$1.1) Britain (\$0.6) China (\$0.4) and Italy (\$0.1).

About two-thirds of those exports went to developing countries.

Referring to a study conducted by the Center for International Development at Harvard University, professor Jeffrey D. Sachs pointed out that the cost of fighting the killer diseases of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, vaccine-preventable diseases, respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases “in Sub-Saharan Africa would need total donor assistance for health of around \$18 billion per year as of 2007” and that “total worldwide donor spending on all types of health programs should be approximately \$27 billion per year by 2007.”

Sachs noted, “\$7 to 8 billion for global health needs (his plea for the size of the U.S. contribution, given its share of world income generation) would represent ...less than one penny out of every \$10 of our income.” (Source: <http://www.cid.harvard.edu>, Testimony submitted to the U.S. Senate by Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, February 14, 2002.)

We note that the export of arms to the developing world in 2000 (\$25.4 billion) just about matched the total amount projected if we were to provide adequate medical treatment to the poor. We also noted that the world would be spending close to \$800 billion to keep its destructive capability in shape, while failing to provide the \$25 billion needed to build up its capacity for healing the sick and the wounded in poor countries.

It is difficult to comprehend the rationality of a “security” or “international peace of mind” that is bought at such desperate cost when considering the millions of peo-

ple who will certainly die – leaving societies crippled worldwide as a consequence – whether opportunities arise for armaments to be used or not.

Given the volume of human and natural resources to which the production and consumption of military goods lay claim within our finite living space, there is reason for world public opinion to question the extent to which essential resources – fresh water, arable land, forest areas, minerals, the bio-diversity of regions, the very air that we breathe – are despoiled, exhausted, contaminated with all kinds of poisonous substances and otherwise rendered unsuitable for use by a growing civilian population.

A particularly contentious instance concerns the use of depleted uranium in the munitions used to destroy tanks during the Gulf War and in Yugoslavia, spreading radioactive dust over large areas to endanger the health of all inhabitants. The full consequences of this transformation and use of nuclear weapons for the biosphere, from bombs to near-conventional munitions, have yet to be comprehended by world public opinion.

No less contentious an issue is represented by the military experiments conducted in and on elements of the biosphere to explore, *inter alia*, how weather patterns and other ecological systems might be altered for warlike purposes, or as a consequence of recent wars. (For details, see Rosalie Bertell, *Planet Earth - The Latest Weapon of War*, Black Rose Books No.EE296, 2001.)

It is to be hoped that the World Summit on Sustainable Development I in Johannesburg will:

- Reaffirm Rio principles 24 and 25, emphasizing that the militarization of conflicts is incompatible with the sustainability of the human endeavor.
- Commit to monitoring progress towards clear and measurable targets for change, e.g., the ratio of military spending to human security goals – such as fighting killer diseases, providing shelter, fresh water and food, literacy, stabilizing populations, reclaiming the productivity of arable land worldwide, etc.
- Advocate research, discussion, and policy development, nationally and internationally, perhaps under the aegis of a unified structure within the U.N. family of organization, with a view to relating the sustainability of production and consumption patterns, civilian and military, to the security needs of both powerful and impoverished states.
- Give prominence to the issue of Corporate Responsibility as an ethical problem of no lesser gravity than observance of generally accepted accounting practices, having regard to the fact that to a large extent decisions to produce or refrain from the production of destructive capability rest with the world's business community.

Edel Havin Beukes of Norway is convenor of the International WILPF Working Group on the Environment.

Board Notes

The new WILPF National Board will begin its term at the Congress in Vermont, June 26-30.

This Board will serve until the following Congress in 2005. The positions, filled by unopposed nomination from the membership, were listed with brief biographical information in the winter 2002 *Peace & Freedom*. They are:

Past President: Phyllis Yingling (Maryland)
Treasurer: Jennifer L. Pitino (California)
Staff Concerns Chair: Marlene Krohn (California)
Development Chair: Robin Lloyd (Vermont)
Program Chair: Marjorie Van Cleef (Connecticut)
Membership Chair: Chris Morin (Virginia)
Membership Representative: Cynthia J. Minster (California)

Other Offices

President: The current Board is responsible for selecting the President of the U.S. Section to serve for the next term. At the April 19-21 meeting of the Board, the selection was confirmed of WILPF's first Co-Presidents, Sandy Silver and Darien De Lu, both from California. Sandy Silver has served two terms on the national Board as Treasurer and Darien De Lu has served one term as Chair of the Staff Concerns Committee. Sandy Silver is active in the Santa Cruz branch and Darien De Lu is active in the Berkeley-East Bay branch.

Campaign Members for Program and Membership

Each of the four national WILPF Campaigns selects two Board members. These members will be selected and announced before the Congress.

- U.S. Section Representative to the WILPF International Executive Committee: Joyce McLean of Los Gatos, CA, has been named to her second, three-year term (2002-2005) as the U.S. IEC representative.
- President of the Jane Addams Peace Association: Linda Wasserman of Boulder Creek, CA, will continue to serve on the U.S. Board during her second term as President of JAPA (2001-2004).

WILPF members Joanne Ceraso, Pat Sordill, and Barbara Langan joined a March for Minority Rights in Montclair, NJ, in June, 2001

Photo by Martin Bloom



Attend the WILPF Congress in Vermont

We're excited (and proud) to be hosting the 28th WILPF Congress,
to be held here at Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont, June 26 - 30, 2002.

We know there's something special about every state, but we like to think we're extra special. For starters: there are more WILPF members per capita in Vermont than any other state. Look at our Congressional delegation: we've elected Bernie Sanders, the only independent socialist in Congress; Senator Jeffords, the Republican senator who became an independent last summer and turned control of the Senate over to the Dems; and then Patrick Leahy, who single handedly is holding off the mad dogs out to chomp up the Constitution in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

In addition, the highest ranking, elected woman in Vermont state government is a lifetime WILPF member. We hope that Debbie Markowitz (Vermont's Secretary of State) will be with us at Goddard.

We've also passed some of the most progressive legislation signed into law by a state legislature: a gay right-to-marry act called Civil Unions; equality in education funding for the public schools (Act 60); a land-use bill that has preserved the quality of the rural landscape; stalwart support of organic farming and land trusts and recycling. We've also got Ben & Jerry's, a ban on billboards, active opposition to bioengineering, and more.

Our capital city of Montpelier is the only state capital in the nation that does not have a McDonald's! Mayors of the largest city (Burlington) have been independents or progressives for 20 out of the last 22 years.

And finally: the Best Maple Syrup in the World!

We are eager to welcome you to our wonderful state, and to hear from you what's been happening in WILPF branches around the country.

Goddard, our site for the Congress, is a small progressive college nestled in the hills of Plainfield, just 10 miles from Montpelier. This educational institution has played its part in influencing the above trends in Vermont contrariness. So, come visit with us, be surrounded by friendly politics and some of the prettiest landscape in the country, enjoy the Congress, and do the good work of building our wonderful organization!

– The Vermont site/host committee

SPECIAL GUESTS

WILPF-U.S. has invited **The Ruckus Society** to offer leadership and skills-building training during the upcoming Congress. Ruckus is an organization that provides training for non-violent civil disobedience to encourage human and/or environmental rights organizations to generate safe and effective demonstrations as well as grass-roots mobilizations. The Ruckus Society, founded in 1995, is an organization comprised of experienced and knowledgeable activists. They are based in Oakland, CA but travel all over the U.S. to give Action Camp Workshops on how to generate successful protests. These workshops focus on teaching, planning, and preparations for protests, as well as safety, non-violent tactics and working with media. Ruckus actions have been covered by such news media as CNN, and *The Washington Post*. More information at www.ruckus.org

WILPF-U.S. has also invited **Bread & Puppet Theatre** of Glover, Vermont, to show us how they have been doing political puppetry and street theatre for the

past 30 years. Famous for their large, multi-person puppets and even larger pageants, Bread & Puppet is nationally renowned for their work using theatre and puppetry for political education. Their presence at the Congress will provide opportunities to become inspired about what can be done with a little inspiration and some papier maché. Bread & Puppet will be giving a hands-on sampling of their work during the Congress.

AWOL! is a program of The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCCO) and the War Resisters League. The CCCC is a non-profit organization that works to promote resistance to war and preparation for war. AWOL! works to create youth consciousness on war issues such as the draft and U.S. militarism in foreign countries. AWOL! also publishes a self-titled magazine, promoting hip-hop culture, local artists, and outreach to youth on current military issues and recent acts of youth activism. WILPF is excited that AWOL! has accepted our invitation to work with us this summer at Congress, and beyond! More information about AWOL! is available at www.objector.org/awol

Other Congress Information

Site questions and special concerns:

Barbara Grant, (802) 454-1447, bgrant@together.net or Robin Lloyd, (802) 862-4929, robinlloyd@greenvalley-media.org.

Transportation questions: Val Mullen (802) 685-2214, vmullen@together.net.

Housing questions: Amy Hornblas (802) 426-3083, amyhornblas@hotmail.com or Clara Bruns, (802) 454-1033, clarab@sover.net.

WILPF/ U.S. Section Triennial Congress

Dedicated to WILPF's "Generations of Courage"

JUNE 26-30, 2002 • GODDARD COLLEGE, PLAINFIELD, VERMONT

REGISTRATION FORM

Space is limited! Please pre-register now!

Name

Branch/Organization

Address

City State Zip

Telephone ()

Email

If you wish to apply for a scholarship, please contact the National Office.

Registration Fees: includes all registration and event materials, attendance at all events, and use of facilities.

Member

All 5 Days \$75-100	Fri. \$20
Wed. \$15	Sat. \$20
Thurs. \$20	Sun. \$15

Non-Member

All 5 Days \$100-125	Fri. \$25
Wed. \$20	Sat. \$25
Thurs. \$25	Sun. \$20

If registering after May 15, 2002, additional \$25.

Housing: Only available for the four nights of the Congress.

Single (not shared) \$210
Double (shared with 1 other) \$90
Triple (shared with 2 others) \$45
I would like to room with

Limited camping option available. Please inquire.

Meal Plan: Meals served buffet style. Includes vegetarian/vegan options.

All 5 days \$115

Wed. *dinner only* \$15
Thurs. *three meals* \$30
Fri. *three meals* \$30
Sat. *three meals* \$30
Sun. *breakfast and lunch only* \$20

Scholarship Contribution: To enable women of diverse economic backgrounds to attend.

I am enclosing: \$

Please check: Child care Wheelchair Signing

Total enclosed: \$

Make checks payable to: WILPF Triennial Congress

Send check with completed form to: Elizabeth B. Gerlach,
101 Manchester Road., Newton, MA 02461.

Please send information on travel to Goddard.

Important deadlines:

Registration will be considered late if postmarked after May 15, 2002. (Late registration add \$25). Requests for refunds cannot be honored if postmarked after May 22, 2002.

Please note that Goddard College is wheelchair accessible and smoke free.





Chemical Warfare: Coming to a Protest Near You

Dawn Lonsinger

When protesters at the Summit of the Americas gathered last year in Quebec City, police in riot gear – armed with everything from submachine guns to batons – greeted them.

While the police seemed excessively armed, not all of their weapons were immediately visible.

“There’s so much show of force, but it’s what you can’t see that gets you,” says long-time protester Derek Jurdine.

As crowd control and chemical weaponry become increasingly synonymous in police response, more activists than ever are being exposed to a dangerous array of chemical agents.

During one of the rallies in Quebec, hundreds of canisters of gas were sprayed at activists. John Fyori, a three-year street medic, couldn’t keep up with the tears and hysteria that ensued.

“Within five or six minutes of the first wash of tear gas, I was coming across people who desperately needed my help,” he said.

The morning after, the streets were an ashen landscape with everything covered in a fine, white dust. The Quebec City Public Health Office issued a warning to residents concerning the residue, including suggestions to wear rubber gloves, discard exposed food, replace air conditioning filters, cover mouths and noses, burn clothing, and wash down the outside of their homes. In a two-day period, nearly 5,000 canisters of tear gas were used by the state against the public (“Chemical Warfare,” Ruckus Newsletter, Aimee van Drimmelen).

What occurred in Quebec is just one example of an growing trend – chemicals increasingly being used on civilians at mass demonstrations.

Domestic vs. International Use

In 1969, some 80 countries at the United Nations General Assembly voted to ban the use of any chemical in war under the Geneva Protocol. However, while tear gas and pepper sprays are banned from use in war by an international treaty, domestic use is legal and pervasive in the United States.

Amidst talk of a “New World Order,” protesters are

faced with a new type of police force, one that is not only trained and equipped like the military, but that feels publicly justified within the climate of imminent terrorism, and is not held accountable to standards of chemical weapon use.

“We [the demonstrators...] are the new domestic threat,” suggests Jurdine. Indeed, since the 1999 World Trade Organization protest in Seattle, the police have used everything in their power to ensure that this sort of event does not occur again. Their aggressive research “to identify alternate means of offensive operations” and the recent history involving riot control agents suggests that civilians are expected to accept chemical agents as a part of the “new normalcy.”

Lack of Research

Currently, protesters are being bombarded with tear gas, pepper spray, smoke bombs and other chemical agents. A particularly alarming aspect of domestic chemical agent use is that there has been no extensive research on the long-term or synergistic effects (when spraying with multiple chemicals occurs) of these chemical agents. Dr. Howard Hu, a Harvard University epidemiologist, says that the extent of ill effects from these chemicals is unknowable since there have been no rigorous, independent follow-up studies on exposed populations (“Chemical Cops: Tear Gas and Pepper Spray Can be Deadly,” *In These Times*, 3/9/00, Terry Allen).

Physicians for Human Rights urge that more laboratory research be done to illuminate the full health consequences of exposure to tear gas compounds; however, they simultaneously recognize that “the same social conditions that accompany political unrest and the use of tear gas make epidemiological research difficult, if not impossible.”

Another disquieting aspect of this “everyday” use of chemical agents is that police rely solely on the manufacturers’ claims for the safety of the chemical weapons themselves, and for the wide variety of solvents and propellants routinely added (National Institute For Justice, Raymond Downs, www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/). There is not a single federal agency currently responsible for regulation.

Also important to the discussion of chemical agent use

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

is that though touted as a safer form of crowd control, it is often used in addition to other forms of force, not in their place.

Controlling Citizens

Tear gas, an irritant chemical agent, has its origins in military use. It was originally developed by B.B. Corson and R.W. Stoughton in 1928, and thus named CS gas after them. The United States government used CS gas in the 1950s, but began to use it extensively in the 1960s to drive Vietcong soldiers out of foxholes and Vietnam War protesters into them. As inquiry and skepticism of chemical agents used in war arose, the name CS gas was changed to tear gas to insinuate that it does little more than make one cry. Its immediate effects can include temporary blindness, respiratory problems, vomiting, diarrhea, disorientation, stinging sensation on the skin, slowing heart rate, and rising blood pressure. The effects worsen for already vulnerable populations such as persons with HIV/AIDS, diabetes, asthma, allergies, heart problems, as well as pregnant women, children, and the elderly.

Though police agencies continue to promote the temporary effects of CS (and CN, or Mace) gas, there is substantial evidence that CS gas is far from benign. Military and industrial sources even point to the possibility of cancer, birth defects, and DNA damage. A batch used at Seattle's 1999 WTO protest contained methylene chloride (a possible carcinogen according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer) which can cause mental confusion, tingling limbs, rapid heartbeat, visual and auditory hallucinations, and spontaneous abortion. By the end of the first day of the WTO protest police had expended their entire week's supply of CS gas.

In trying to sell their pepper spray, chemical laboratories MP Laboratory, Inc. states, "CS and CN will both cause incredibly disabling burns and cause extensive tissue destruction, if left on the individual for an extended period of time . . . These irritant agents work on the neural pathways to the brain." The United Nations has documented dozens of deaths from exposure to CS in Northern Ireland and the West Bank.

Pepper spray, otherwise known as OC gas, is an inflammatory agent, with a wide range of physiological and psychological effects. OC gas was officially introduced into the United States in the 1980s by the Postal Service as a dog repellent. In 1987, the FBI adopted it as an official chemical agent. Pepper spray is six hundred times hotter than (and an extract of) cayenne pepper, and usually dispensed through aerosol containers, though it has been increasingly popular for police to swab OC directly into the eyes, nose, and mouth.

A manufacturer's brochure goes on to say, "This sounds terrible, but it is far less harsh than the active destruction of



Stinging clouds of gas greeted protesters in Quebec City.

tissue, which can be caused by its predecessors, CS or CN. OC is *potentially* less lethal than CS or CN..." The pain is so intense that the National Coalition on Police Accountability has called for monitoring pepper spray as a form of torture as defined by the U.N. Convention on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment signed by the United States last year. In one particularly gruesome incident reported by the National Institute of Justice, police sprayed a youth with so much pepper spray that his clothes were soaked. When police later shot him with an electric stun gun, his clothing caught on fire ("Pepper Spray Madness," *Covert Action Quarterly*, Lynne Wilson). Since 1990 the ACLU has recorded at least 60 deaths in the United States in which pepper spray was involved.

Smoke bombs come in many variations, and are mostly used as a carrier for chemical agents, and so, for their fear-inducing effects, causing disorientation, anxiety, and panic. For all of these chemical agents, manufacturer brochures warn that these are "inherently dangerous," and that overexposure can result in "blurred vision, dizziness, labored breathing, sickness and death."

In a 1995 report, the Army warned that in some cases "manufacturers refuse to disclose the components of [their] products." Indeed, Defense Technology declines to release information on the concentration of pepper and tearing chemicals used in Seattle. Army Holdings, the outfit that supplied tear gas to police in Quebec, would not respond to a request about what was in their CS canisters, because

Continued on page 29 ➤



Fighting for Environmental Controls on the Military

Gillian Gilhool, WILPF Legislative Organizer

“I marched with a crowd of very diverse persons holding signs that said, ‘Defend Our Health.’ They came from all corners of the U.S. and were very ethnically diverse, ranging from Native American tribes from Alaska, to people from the Southwest, and (from) poor black communities in Tennessee and Arkansas . . . The Southwest Workers Union rallied one day after the 85 year old Kelly Air Force Base [in San Antonio, TX] closed on July 13, 2001. The union was protesting the Air Force contamination of over 20,000 homes and the illnesses it caused. The Alaska natives cited similar contamination of fish and living areas. We also got a chance to hear the pleas of sickened Paducah (KY) and Piketon (OH) workers.”

— *Report on Military Toxics Project (MTP) training and lobby days from Sylvia Zisman, WILPF member from New Jersey. This event was also attended by Sheila Baker, Disarmament Committee member from California.*

CONGRESSIONAL BILLS TO APPLAUD AND ORGANIZE AROUND

People at the MTP gathering also lobbied, marched and thanked Rep. Cynthia McKinney (GA- 4) for introducing HR 3155, The Depleted Uranium (DU) Munitions Suspension and Study Act. Its findings recite a litany of the harms and objections to DU. The bill would suspend all use, sales and export of DU munitions until detailed studies demonstrate its safety to Congress. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would be required to issue contamination clean-up regulations and health studies of DU-exposed veterans and others at installations and production facilities. There are currently only five co-sponsors.

Another bill, HR 2154, the Military Environmental Responsibility Act (MERA) was introduced in June, 2001, by Congressman Bob Filner (CA-50) after an extraordinary People’s Congressional Hearing in San Diego organized by a coalition of community, environmental and peace activists.

MERA’s sweep on behalf of violated and threatened communities requires the Pentagon and all defense-related agencies to fully comply, at home and abroad, with federal and state environmental, public health and worker safety laws designed to protect the public, “particular-

ly those persons most vulnerable to the hazards related to military operations and installations, such as children, members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees, and



Jody Dodd, Molly Morgan and Virginia Rasmussen at the Challenge Corporate Power retreat.

persons living in the vicinity of military operations and installations.” The act would limit executive power to grant exemptions and waivers from existing laws. It authorizes citizen suits against defense agencies violating permits, regulations, standards, and orders and other agencies failing to perform mandatory duties under existing laws.

Urge your congressional representatives to swell the co-sponsor ranks, currently at 11. To express support for HR 2154, go to www.house.gov/filner/mera.htm where there’s a form to add your name to a nationwide list. The bill is lodged in myriad committees and subcommittees. For a list and to find out whether your representative is on one of them, look up the bill, and then the House committee pages on <http://thomas.loc.gov> or call the WILPF in Washington office, (202) 546-6727.

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WORKING TO SHUT DOWN CITIZEN SUCCESSES

The Pentagon is aggressively pressing Congress to roll-back the application of environmental, health and safety laws to military bases and maneuvers, calling their effect “encroachment” that intolerably threatens combat readiness and national security.

At a March 14 hearing of the Military Readiness

Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee on “encroachment,” environmental and citizen groups were shut out. In addition, the National Association of Attorneys General and Environmental Council of the States (seeking to express state and local concerns) were relegated to filing written submissions. Pentagon wit-

military readiness is given appropriate consideration during the regulatory and administrative processes managed by other agencies.”

He was referring to recommendations which will be sent to the President in late June. A few paragraphs that were inserted in the 2002 Defense Authorization Act

A pre-emptive and sustained public outcry is in order.

nesses took up the total two hours, with federal environmental agencies squeezed into overtime.

Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Raymond Dubois tried to portray the Department of Defense (DOD) as environmentally concerned when he said: “the long-term sustainment of DOD’s readiness capabilities is an ‘environmental investment’ because readiness is the best deterrent to war, and war is one of mankind’s most environmentally harmful activities.” <http://www.house.gov/hasc/>.

Dubois added, “[W]e will be suggesting to the President a variety of means to ensure that in the future

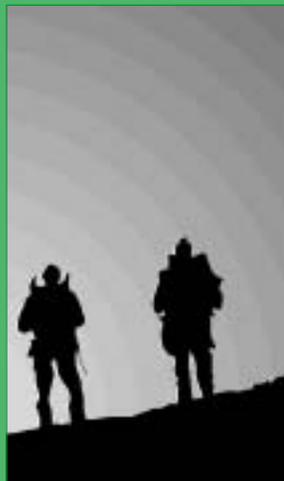
(passed in late December) invited the Secretary of Defense to recommend to the President by late June possible establishment of a “Defense Impact Review Process.” The DOD would review federal agency actions “to identify any reasonably foreseeable significant adverse impact of such action on national defense.” The Secretary would “make recommendations for means to eliminate or mitigate any such adverse impact” for the agency to “consider.”

A pre-emptive and sustained public outcry is in order. ❖

The father has been preparing a war for his son’s birthday. He started long ago. You have to, you know. People who decide on a war and expect it to happen the minute or week or month they want it to, are often disappointed. You also cannot do it alone.

The father has a few friends from his war who are willing to help out. They have sons too. There are quite simple ways to begin – probably in childhood. For instance: help the boy develop easy unbigoted dislike for your neighbor. Mild prejudice will then rest contentedly in his little breast. As time goes on it can appear as nothing worse than sleepy contempt for the daughter or disgust with that family’s cooking smells. The father remembers his war, how long it took his father to get it right. He was almost too old. He nearly married into that family but was luckily irritated by their accent – God knows where they came from.

The father and his friends are now called the Great Generation. This isn’t exactly fair. Their fathers had fought in an equally famous war, The First, and luckily survived to provide a war for the father and his friends.



Preparing *Grace Paley*

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*Grace Paley
is a writer/activist and
WILPF sponsor.*

This father does need more preparation and quickly.

His son is growing beautifully, but he’s reading too much. Some of his ideas seem to come from leftist media . . . the schools are also bad, even treacherous. But he’s sure, the father is sure that if he can – and he will – find that stack of old newspapers he’s kept, the right pages of the history book which is very clever about enumerating insults to our national soul and natural hegemony. The recollection of historical insult is important in the life of great nations as well as their stunning victories. Of course anxiety about civilian deaths – women and children – always undercuts the enthusiasm of sentimental citizens and tenderhearted boys, but he loves his boy and doesn’t want him left out. He’s talked to many other fathers. They’re nearly ready. They’ve begun their letters to newspapers, their attacks on the wimps in Congress and the administration. Most important, they’ve selected the enemy and are very clear about it. He has only one year left before his son’s eighteenth birthday. His son is not unaware of what is coming. He has that boyish excitement, that intensifying patriotism. His own war at last.

Arctic Drilling, the Labor Movement and the Environment

Alexis Buss

They couldn't have done it without the unions. That's the sentiment echoed across the environmental movement, as U.S. President George Bush's energy plan passed 240-189 in the House. Although few expect the plan to drill for domestic oil in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge to pass the Senate, many were left scratching their heads, wondering what the future will be, especially for a fledgling environmentalist-labor coalition dubbed "Teamsters and Turtles" during 1999s anti-WTO protests in Seattle.

Media pundits had long labeled the ANWR drilling plan as politically unviable because the Democrats control the Senate. A last-minute intervention by the Teamsters played a major part, however, in pushing the plan through the House, and Teamster President James Hoffa said he planned to help target the Senate when the bill hit the floor. The Teamsters came aboard as a lobby group for the plan after a closed-door meeting last May with Vice President Dick Cheney and Labor Secretary Elaine Chao. Leaders from over 20 labor organizations were present, mostly from construction and maritime. The AFL-CIO also endorsed the Bush plan late in the game. That came as an unexpected move as several power-hitters in the federation, including the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the Communication Workers of America, had stated their opposition to the scheme. (The AFL-CIOs 1993 convention

passed a resolution that, in part, called on the country to explore ANWR for oil, with safeguards to protect the environment.)

Set aside in 1960, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a 1.5 million-acre swath of land near the U.S.-Canadian border north of the Arctic Circle.

Bush's energy plan, supposedly instigated by the California energy crisis and unstable gasoline prices, calls for building almost 2,000 new power plants and 18,000 miles of fuel pipelines over the next two decades. The Bush team's figures indicated that each new power plant would create 1,000 construction jobs and 200 permanent jobs, while every 1,000 miles of pipeline would bring with it another 5,000 jobs. And there would be another job boom if nuclear power plants came back into the picture. All told, over 700,000 jobs would be created, according to a 1990 report of the Wharton Econometric Institute, paid for by the American Petroleum Institute. (Not to mention the plethora of jobs to be had cleaning up from environmental disasters, guarding radioactive wastes for tens of thousands of years, and such.)

Unions at the Cheney meeting have joined a business-led coalition called Job Power: Americans for Energy Employment. It's worth noting that Cheney earned more than \$20 million last year as CEO of Halliburton, an oil-field services company that would benefit greatly from loos-

WILPF on the Web

U.S. WILPF: www.wilpf.org

Works to create an environment of political, economic, social and psychological freedom for all members of the human community, so true peace can be enjoyed by all. The site offers a complete list of U.S. branches, contact information, data on current events, information on the Jane Addams Peace Association, WILPF statements and our Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia offices.

International WILPF: www.wilpf.int.ch/

Founded as an international organization to work globally, with sections in individual countries. Based in Geneva, International WILPF's website contains links to our sections around the world, as well as addresses and email contact information for offices at the United Nations and in Geneva. The site also has information on international internships. WILPF's aims and principles are available on the site in Spanish.

PeaceWomen: www.peacewomen.org

PeaceWomen.org seeks to nurture communication

among a diversity of women's organizations by providing an accessible and accurate information exchange between peace women around the world and the U.N. system. This website features information about women affected by and seeking to heal conflicts throughout the world. U.N. resolutions, news updates about regions of conflict, program/campaign and contact information for grassroots organizers and activists. PeaceWomen.org connects women throughout the world interested in achieving peace.

Reaching Critical Will: www.reachingcriticalwill.org

Reaching Critical Will addresses the information needs of nuclear neophytes as well as disarmament activists. The texts of major treaties, the positions (and arsenals) of nuclear states, and the major policy issues nuclear weapons raise can all be found at this site. Detailed information about defense contractors (and a list of the Dirty Dozen) as well as contact information for organizations involved in nuclear abolition, provide viewers with both the specifics needed to write a letter to members of Congress and a list of local organizations working on nuclear issues.

ening regulations on refineries and pipelines.

Bush's energy plan also included higher fuel-efficiency standards for SUVs and minivans, a provision vigorously lobbied against by the United Auto Workers, who argued that the policy would favor foreign imports and economically devastate American car manufacturers.

What the administration has announced is not an energy policy but an energy rip-off by big oil companies and utilities, said Andrew Stern, president of the SEIU. In addition, the World Wildlife Fund insists that more jobs can be created by investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency than by ANWR drilling.

Although the energy plan that passed the house says that no more than 2,000 acres of the ANWR plain will be disturbed for oil production, environmentalists say the limit is meaningless because the acres could be scattered across a broad area. Drilling is predicted to alter vast portions of the refuge.

According to an environmental impact statement by the U.S. Department of Interior, opening the area would require construction of hundreds of miles of roads, pipelines and air strips, drilling pads and other infrastructure to accommodate production. Riverbeds and streambeds would have to be stripped for gravel for roads and air strips. Reasons to oppose drilling are numerous, ranging from arguments that say the oil in ANWR is not enough to make any significant

impact on the domestic oil supply, to protecting the pristine habitat that is home to large populations of animals. The potential for oil spills is also high.

The attention lavished on labor to lobby for ANWR has been seen by many environmentalists and unionists as a ploy by the Bush camp to bust-up the AFL-CIO's Democratic Party vote-getting machine. Endorsements from labor now – the same votes that were aggressively mobilized to support Gore (and other oil-baron Democratic politicians) in 2000 – will strengthen Bush's position with union voters later.

When the AFL-CIO mobilized its members to march alongside environmental and other activist groups in Seattle and again at protests against the World Bank in Washington, D.C., and the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, many heralded it as the dawn of a new era of socially responsible unionism. But the rank and file do not control the business unions, and AFL-CIO officials evidently have no problem mortgaging the future of the planet in exchange for promises to create a handful of jobs.

The alliance forged in Seattle was captured in the slogan, "Teamsters and Turtles, Together at Last." Are the Teamsters now offering a new slogan, "Turtle Soup, Anyone?"

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Alexis Buss is the general secretary treasurer of the Industrial Workers of the World, www.iww.org.

Peace and Justice through Ecofeminism

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Sonja Boynton
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Ecofeminism evolved in the 1970s from a shared analysis of the women's and ecology movements. Longstanding forces of capital accumulation, called by bell hooks today "the white-supremacist-capitalist-patriarchy," oppress people and plunder the Earth. This system rests on the domination of women, "foreign" peoples and their land, and nature.

Ecofeminists view this oppression as rooted in millennia of patriarchal control. Female, body and nature have been equated, and considered of lesser value than male, mind and spirit. As this worldview has violated, subjugated and denied the feminine forces within people and in the world, so has it set about taming and exploiting nature.

In her book *Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge*, Vandana Shiva makes the connections between European colonization of the "diverse lands and cultures of the world" and its colonization of nature. "The West's fear of the wild and its associated diversity is closely linked to the imperative of human domination, and the control and mastery of the natural world." She points out that Robert Boyle, a scientist and governor of the New England Company in the 1760s, ridiculed the indigenous peoples' "perceptions of nature 'as a kind of goddess.'"

Those who fear and devalue sacred, feminine energy

and nature have hijacked our herstory. Like Boyle, anthropologists are generally not conscious of the patriarchal paradigm in which they are immersed. For example, a Western anthropologist studying a long-abandoned European village found an oval entrance to a mound and an undersized corridor leading to a room containing treasures and sacred tools.

Because of his cultural training he believed the populace to have been tiny. This explanation appeared in textbooks for decades before a woman anthropologist with knowledge of the ancient ways pointed out that this was a rebirthing area for reentering the womb of the Great Mother.

At Cape Cod's annual branch retreat last August, some of us began exploring the spiritual and political relationships between women and Earth, reclaiming the sacred embodied in both. We meet monthly around a fire to discuss writing and share poetry, to eat and sing. We envision an Earth justice that values all beings regardless of their color, gender or species. We renew our spirits, agitate in defense of Mother Earth and seek to preserve the diversity of all life as essential to the health and spiritual well-being of the whole.

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Sonja Boynton is a member of Cape Cod WILPF.

Committee Corner

Around and about WILPF



Middle East

Last summer, WILPF held an international seminar in Geneva on the Middle East called “Actions to Break the Barriers to Peace in the Middle East.” The proceedings from that seminar have been compiled into a booklet, which can now be ordered from the U.S. office in Philadelphia.

The seminar included several important speakers and was attended by WILPF women and activists from all over the world. Issues discussed included prospects for ending the conflict and peace education.

One of the speakers was Dr. Nurit Peled-Elhanan, a long-time Israeli peace activist who recently won a peace award from the European Parliament. Nurit was the mother of Smadar Elhanan, who was 13-years-old when she was killed in 1997 by a suicide bomber in Jerusalem.

Here is an excerpt of what Nurit said at the seminar: “My little girl was murdered because she was an Israeli. She was murdered by a young man who was humiliated, oppressed and desperate to the point of suicide and murder and inhumanity, just because he was a Palestinian. And now their bloods are mixed forever on the stones of Jerusalem, that have long grown indifferent to blood. The blood of children has become the cheapest merchandise in the murderous game. And the so-called leaders trade in it freely, easily, because for politicians and generals, children are abstract entities, and blood is a chip in the bargain. You kill one of mine, and I’ll kill one hundred of yours...When my little girl died, a reporter asked me how can I accept condolences from ‘the other side.’ I said to her very spontaneously, that I do not accept condolences for the other side. And when the mayor of Jerusalem came to offer his condolences, I went to my room because I didn’t want to speak to him or shake his hand. For me the ‘other side’ are the occupation people.”

Hanan Awwad, chair of the WILPF Palestine section also spoke at the seminar. Here is part of what Hanan said: “The first step is to end the occupation. When children can turn on the TV and see a panel discussion between Israeli and Palestinian intellectuals speaking about the future of Palestine and Israel, about the women in the Palestine and Israel, it will be a lesson in peace education for our children...Because peace is not an easy task, it is very beautiful, but how can it be implemented not only on the ground but also in the minds and hearts of everybody? I must tell you frankly that in our meet-

ings this year it is really difficult to talk about peace as we used to talk about it, because when we are in a meeting there is the news of another killing, another violent act, and they say what kind of peace are you talking about?... Peace is important for children and for all of us but we have to understand that there will be no peace without justice, no peace with ongoing humiliation, no peace under occupation.”

To order the entire proceedings (\$10, including postage) call WILPF at (215) 563-7110. – *Theta Pavis*

Organizing Against Homophobia

Homophobia is one of the last taboos. As an inclusive political organization, WILPF endorses Anti-Hate Crime legislation, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and equal opportunity, but do we, as members, feel safe in “coming out” to our sisters?

Some do and some don’t. To “come out” in the 21st Century is certainly safer than it has been over the past decades, but there is still too much fear attached to one’s sexual orientation.

The Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered committee has reorganized. Our goal is to be a resource for the organization, a support system for members and a vehicle to alert members of national legislation that is appropriate for WILPF. We are just in the beginning stages and will be developing literature. We will be giving a workshop at the National Congress. For those wanting to join the committee, either as an LGBT member or an ally, please contact Chris Morin or Heidi Trester at (757) 229-3384 or funforlife1@aol.com. – *Chris Morin*

Trampling on Civil Rights

Vivian Schatz

Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich (D. Ohio) sounded the alarm about the present state of civil liberties in this country in a speech he gave to the Southern California Americans for Democratic Action on February 17.

“We cannot justify widespread wiretaps and Internet surveillance without judicial supervision, let alone with it. We cannot justify secret searches without a warrant. We cannot justify giving the Attorney General the ability to designate domestic terror groups. We cannot justify giving the FBI total access to any type of data which may exist in any system anywhere such as medical records and financial records. We cannot justify giving the CIA the ability to target people in this country for intelligence surveillance. We cannot justify a government which takes from the people our right to privacy and then assumes for its own operations a right to total secrecy.”

Rep. Kucinich summed up some of the erosion of civil liberties which have taken place since the passage of the antiterrorism legislation (USA Patriot Act) and subsequent orders by the president and attorney general.

Teachers and professors have been removed from classes or have been fired as a result of their anti-war views. Journalists have been fired for daring to criticize the president's rush to war. Professor Sami Al-Arian, president of the National Coalition to Protect Political Freedom, was fired by the University of South Florida for being outspoken. He led the struggle for several years against the use of secret evidence in the cases of detained Middle Eastern immigrants long before September 11. It looked like this struggle had been won.

But now the detention of Middle Eastern immigrants is taking place on a much larger scale. Mazen Al-Najjar, Al-Arian's brother-in-law, spent three and a half years in jail, based on still secret evidence. He was released in December 2000 when an immigration judge declared the charges against him unfounded. Federal agents arrested him again last November. Since he cannot return to his country of origin, he faces indefinite detention.

Booksellers are alarmed because the antiterrorism legislation gave the federal government expanded authority to search their business records, including titles of books purchased by their customers. The American Booksellers Foundation for Free Enterprise warned booksellers that there is no opportunity for them or their lawyers to object in court.

States, inspired by the federal antiterrorism legislation, have begun passing anti-terrorism laws that parallel the national legislation. Utah became the first state to pass such legislation with the Utah bill defining "protesters as terrorists." Minnesota also passed antiterrorism legislation. New York State began restricting data on the Internet.

Middle Eastern men are being particularly targeted, detained and questioned. At present, an unknown number of immigrants of Middle Eastern origin are being held in prisons without being charged with terrorist activity. Their names and prison locations have not been released in spite of repeated lawsuits in state and federal courts filed by the ACLU, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and other organizations.

The ACLU warned about the efforts to establish a national ID and an unparalleled system of data sharing.

While the government wants more information about all of us, Attorney General Ashcroft, on October



Signe Wilkinson, Philadelphia Daily News

12, quietly put a stop to the government's release of information when he "vigorously urged federal agencies to resist most FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests made by American citizens." *San Francisco Chronicle* (1/6/02)

There has been strong opposition to President Bush's original executive order for military tribunals. Meanwhile, Congress has introduced several bills that significantly modify Bush's original order. It is important to write Bush to call for the U.S. to follow the Geneva Convention regarding prisoners of war. (White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.

Civil rights groups have also objected to the confinement of prisoners on the U.S. base at Guantanamo in 8-foot chain link enclosures topped with corrugated metal. In addition, they have raised concerns about the prospect that the prisoners face endless detention.

Write to your elected officials often to break through the media contention that everyone supports the president. Copy the excerpts of Rep. Kucinich's speech and send it to all your elected officials. Urge them to stop all attacks on our civil liberties by reversing the repressive legislation.

Both the ACLU and the National Lawyers Guild have brochures about what to do if FBI agents approach you. Get copies of the "Know Your Rights" brochure on the U.S. WILPF website at www.wilpf.org/statements/know_your_rights.htm or call the NLG national office (212) 627-2656 or from the ACLU national office (212) 549-2500.

Vivian Schatz is chair of WILPF's Civil Liberties Committee. Arlene Tyner provided much of the research for this article.

Rediscovering Jane Addams

Phyllis Yingling, U.S. WILPF President

In early February I attended the "Rediscovering Jane Addams Conference," held at Swarthmore College. The conference, sponsored by the Swarthmore College Peace Collection, provided fans of Addams and noted authorities on her life the opportunity to come together and celebrate one of the most outstanding women of late nineteenth and early twentieth century history.

Executive Director Mary Day Kent was invited to represent WILPF on the opening night of the conference. Jean Bethke Elshstain of the University of Chicago was the keynote speaker. She is the author of the recently published *Jane Addams and the Dream of American Democracy*, chronicling Addams' determination to include recent European immigrants in the democratic process.

On Saturday morning, 11 speakers presented papers on the work of Addams as a social activist who challenged the male, political establishment on behalf of the poor, the downtrodden, overworked laborers, and immigrants who poured into Chicago in search of jobs, freedom and a better life. Hearing about the Hull House museum, which is now part of the campus of the University of Illinois in Chicago, made me want to visit that shrine to social activism.

At the lunch hour, I was given the opportunity to recall Addams' role as chair of our founding conference at the Hague in 1915, and her outspoken demand for "bread, not bombs" which led to scathing comments by the media (just as peacemakers face today). I was pleased to assure the gathering that Jane Addams lives today through WILPF's actions and publications, through the Jane Addams Peace Association and its Book Awards, and invited them all to join WILPF in continuing the work that Addams and other WILPF founders initiated. ❖

JANE ADDAMS CHILDREN'S PEACE AWARD BOOKS

Since 1953, The Jane Addams Peace Association has selected books that most effectively promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community, and the equality of the sexes and all races. These books are distributed to WILPF branches around the country.

A limited inventory of this year's selections is now on hand for branches to order. This year there are six books, at a cost of \$10 each (total cost of \$60) which includes postage and insurance.

To place your order or receive a detailed list of this year's selection, please contact: WILPF West Resource Center, 11251 Tahoe Street, Auburn, CA 95602-9235 (530) 823-2224, Fax: (539) 888-0535. ❖

Another World is Possible

World Social
Forum II
January 31-
February 5

Nachilala
Nkombo

As an elite group of business and political leaders met this year at the World Economic Forum in Manhattan



The author, at right, with peace activists from Bolivia.

to decide how the global economy should be run, an alternative event was taking place in Brazil. This historic event, dubbed the World Social Forum (WSF), attracted almost 80,000 activists from 131 countries.

Activists met in the city of Porto Alegre to challenge the existing world order of free markets, free trade, pseudo-democracy and war.

A relatively new idea, WSF was initially proposed by a coalition of progressive Brazilian civil society organizations, and is supported by the Workers Party in Brazil and such organizations as the French monthly *Le Monde Diplomatique*, and ATTAC, an influential European organization which supports a tax on global financial transactions.

This Forum drew inspiration from anti-globalization protests in Seattle, Prague and at Davos. The WSF wants to improve on these previous mobilizations by not just engaging in the streets, but also articulating the alternatives we stand for to the World Economic Forum. This year's forum had 27 main events, and hundreds of seminars and afternoon workshops.

The WSF also had a youth encampment, which drew nearly 12,000 young people, and a children's forum attended by 2,000 children who received peace training. We also marched in solidarity with the people of Argentina, protested against free trade (FTAA) and the war on terror. Our inaugural march brought Porto Alegre to a halt as forum participants swarmed its streets.

Main issues at the forum were the IMF and World Bank policies (especially as seen in Argentina), the debt, the war on terror, the Arab/Palestinian cause, landless peoples, and globalization and women. At the forum's close, a Brazilian youth urged participants to act before the "cats of globalization eat all the mice of human rights."

Organizers plan to hold the forum annually to coincide with the World Economic Forum. The seeds of Porto Alegre may be the beginning of a revolution, a process of transcendence between theory and real life. For information about the forum, go to www.socialforummundial.org.

Nachilala Nkombo is a former WILPF program intern now working as a Field Program Associate with the American Friends Service Committee in Africa.

Alice Sachs Hamburg (1905-2001)

.....
Madeline Duckles
.....

At the memorial for Alice Hamburg we mourned our personal loss, but how could we grieve for a life so well lived? Alice Hamburg, who died November 12, at the age of 96, campaigned for peace and justice throughout her life, and in her last days was organizing protests against the war in Afghanistan.

Alice was born in North Dakota where her parents, immigrants from Lithuania, had come to homestead. Pioneer life was harsh, with dry, hot summers and freezing winters. The land was barren and unproductive. The Sachs family moved many times seeking a sustainable environment, and ultimately arrived in California, where Alice finished her education. She married rancher Sam Hamburg who developed innovative irrigation projects in the San Joaquin Valley and later, for Israel. Alice raised three children, taught school in the farming community, started a day care center and concerned herself with the conditions of farm laborers, the water problems of California and issues of the wider world. When taking her degree in economics at the University of California, she had contact with the San Francisco Labor School where she met artists and writers, labor leaders and WILPF members and encountered the nation's progressive issues.

In 1961, Alice became more active in WILPF after her move to San Francisco and then to Berkeley. She was on the National Board, attended triennial conferences and represented WILPF in Hiroshima, in the Soviet Union, and in her travels to Cuba and, not least, at the Nevada Test Site. At one point she took on the Berkeley Board of Education to demand that Paul Robeson be allowed to perform in the Berkeley Community Theatre. (He sang.)

For her "subversive work" she was called before California's own un-American activities committee where she gave a lesson in citizenship. The local PTA, of which she was president, was so alarmed they asked her to resign. She refused. Alice supported every peace and justice organization in the San Francisco Bay Area. That did not mean just writing a check — which she did so generously — but being directly involved in numer-

Please note: *Peace & Freedom* only publishes obituaries of past Board members. Information on other members can be sent to the WILPF archives at the Swarthmore College Peace Collection, 500 College Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081.

ous issues, such as working against atmospheric nuclear testing. She was there at the beginning of Women Strike For Peace. She also helped organize demonstrations, rallies and vigils during the Vietnam War for civil rights and for labor justice. She attended meetings and did lots of tedious chores.

At the end of her just published autobiography, *Grass*

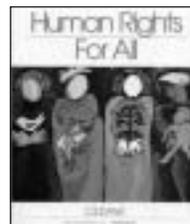
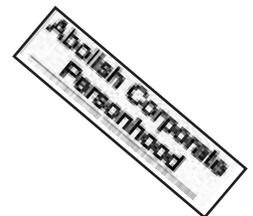
Roots: From Prairie to Politics (Creative Arts Book Company, 833 Bancroft Way. Berkeley, CA 94710) Alice lists 90 organizations where readers may find projects for work. There is not one in which she had not been involved. We in WILPF are so fortunate to have had Alice Hamburg in our lives!



.....
Madeline Duckles is a member of Berkeley WILPF.

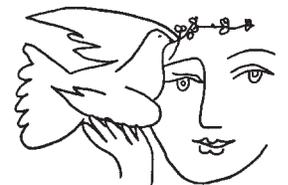
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WILPF Summer interns, left to right, Tara Rupa Das, Susan Whitehead, Mary Leisure, and Jessica Petocz.

Photo by Theta Pavis

► CHEMICAL WARFARE

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“they do not want to compromise or minimize its effectiveness” (*NOW Magazine*, 5/17/01, Enzo di Matteo).

Vomiting Agents, which cause a range of problems – including throwing up, rapid heartbeat and changed mental status – are also being used by police.

Taking Aim

The firm Army Holdings specifically warns that projectiles should not be shot at the head, chest or stomach because this could result in concussion, contusion, severe brain damage, a multitude of fractures, blindness, laceration of the liver, rupturing of the stomach, and bruising and tearing of the heart.

Despite such warnings, police often take direct aim at activists. At a protest last year against the company Stephens, Inc. (for its part in animal cruelty) seven-year activist Sam Ugly recalls seeing “a girl being fired upon by a paintball gun filled with tear gas pellets at almost point blank range to her face and the girl screamed in agony and fell back . . . The obviously amused cop obligingly unloaded another volley of pellets.”

Overseas

U.S. policies abroad are indicative of what we can expect at home. For example, the United States has been blocking international action to strengthen a ban on biological and chemical weapons. The U.S. military has also called for a renegotiation of the Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention to enable the development of new forms of bacteria. The United States continues to request lowering the political threshold for the use of biological and chemical weapons, even as they point the finger at new “terrorist” targets who possess “weapons of mass destruction,” including biological and chemical warfare.

The Future of Crowd Control

Beyond what is already being used on demonstrators, the current, extensive research being done on new forms of crowd control agents suggests there might be a lot more to worry about in the future. For each of the five human senses, there is concurrent research into a way to debilitate that sense. The Pentagon has allocated \$99 million this year alone for the research and development of non-lethal weapons. The Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Program has entertained proposals to use gastrointestinal convulsives, neural inhibitors, disassociative hallucinogens, sedatives and muscle relaxants, opioids and others.

They are also researching two major types of non-lethal weapons, calmatives and malodorant agents. Calmative agents include an array of psychoactive substances whose

effects range from inducing sleep to overpowering hallucinations.

Malodorant agents (stink bombs) have existed since WWII. Attempts, commissioned by U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and conducted by the Battelle Institute in Ohio, were made as late as 1966 to develop malodorants that target particular ethnic groups.

There is some evidence suggesting that ethnically-tuned malodorants are again being researched. Biological stink, human waste, rotting animal flesh, spoiled food, and standard bathroom odor have been researched (“Opportunities in Biotechnology for Future Army Applications,” National Research Council). Ecological Technologies Company, a small Texas firm run by a retired U.S. Navy Commander, has even patented the odor of human feces.

Though it has only recently been developed, the military is already investigating using new “directed” audio sound technology to confuse opponents or even inflict pain. American Technology recently signed an agreement with the Army to develop the technology for use as psychological warfare, with prototypes that could be mounted on a jeep and used for crowd control (“Point-’n’-Shoot Sound Makes Waves,” *Wired News* online, 2/21/02, John Gartner).

The biggest fear about new crowd control techniques that one hears amongst protesters is that of microwave guns. In a recent report in *Discover* magazine, U.S. Marine Corps held a mock battle bombarding their dummy enemies with microwave cannons which send out high-frequency waves, emitting just enough energy to raise the target’s body temperature to about 103 or 104 degrees (Scott Farrell, “The Non-Lethal Weapons Update,” June 1999).

Also tested by the Marine Corps are laser blasters and caulking guns. Not dissimilar from the sniper squadron red lights already used for crowd control, the pulsating beam of high intensity light of lasers is meant to dazzle and disorient, but unfortunately, a laser strong enough to stun is also strong enough to blind. The caulking gun is meant to debilitate a person by squirting super sticky glue onto them, however it was found that there is an equal chance of suffocating them.

“We were tear-gassed and concussion grenades were thrown at us and we were pepper-sprayed,” said Teresa Nunes, a protester at the Stephens, Inc. action. “Some police with rubber bullet guns said, ‘Aim for the face!’ Several protesters were shot in the face with rubber bullets. The more we screamed and shouted, the harsher the punishment.”

The use of chemical warfare on dissenting voices is becoming a mainstay of police protocol, and as more people around the world galvanize into concerted action and events against oppression of every sort, it is guaranteed that more ways to stultify those voices will be sought after and tried.

Dawn Lonsinger is the spring Peace & Freedom intern and a poet/activist living in Philadelphia.



Leslie Reindl, Branch Action Editor

A GREAT IDEA:

Madison is organizing a “media watch” to learn about, publicize, and analyze the effects of the USA Patriot Act. Call Dolores Grengg at (608) 233-8979 for more information.

AND MORE GOOD IDEAS:

According to Eric Sevareid: “I think I have discovered the cause of all our problems — it’s our solutions!” **Des Moines** WILPF President Ruth Anne Petrak uses this quote to suggest that we keep an eye on “our solutions.” From **Portland**: Choose a woman (Hanan Ashrawi, Mary Robinson, Rosa Parks) or a woman’s organization (WILPF, WAND, UNIFEM) for the next Nobel Peace Prize. It’s high time!

WILPFER HONORED:

Fresno member Margaret Hudson received Temple Beth Israel’s Social Action Award at a banquet in her honor in January.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT:

St. Louis WILPF participated in a series of four discussions about issues related to public transportation systems. **Cape Cod** has a new group called the Ecofeminists, which is focusing on “commitment to place” as a beginning. **Des Moines** urges protests against the use of Yucca Mountain as a nuclear waste repository, and letters of concern about any resumption of nuclear weapons testing. **Madison** is working to keep the Lisa Link Peace Park as a green space rather than having it commercialized.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY/WOMEN’S ISSUES:

Minnesota Metro’s Arts Committee organized a Women in Black vigil to open the day’s activities. **Los Angeles** joined a march in solidarity with women around the world, stopping along the way for cacerolazos (pots and pans) protests at corporate and government offices. They held a panel discussion on “Women and the New Wars,” with speakers from, or knowledgeable about, Iraq, Afghanistan, Philippines, and Somalia, and ran a program on “The Current State of Women and Homelessness in Los Angeles.” **Madison** attended a performance of the musical documentary “Most Dangerous Women” (women in the peace movement from 1915 to the present). **Palm Beach** had a luncheon where the keynote speaker was a civil rights activist. At its winter meeting, **Santa Cruz** was applauded for its work on

affordable housing, and speakers urged that organizations focus on the right to housing, as stated in the U.N.’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights, rather than simply on housing itself.

POST-SEPTEMBER 11 ACTIONS:

Chapel Hill called its members to participate in a statewide march and rally for peace with featured speakers Phil Berrigan and Sept. 11 Victims’ Families. **Palm Beach** devoted two monthly meetings to post-9/11 topics, one on “Political Realities in a Time of Crisis,” the other “September 11th: War or Peace?” **Palo Alto** has a table in a plaza once a week over the lunch hour in an outreach effort called “Listen for a Change,” inviting passersby to talk about issues of war and peace. **Monterey** had fundraisers called “Massage-a-Thons” to raise money for Afghan children. **Cape Cod** joined others in a daylong exploration of speaking truth in dialogue, rather than debate. Exercises, discussion, and role-play helped participants to explore their feelings about Sept. 11 and to try different responses to questions of U.S. policy, patriotism, and terrorism. **Des Moines** members took part in a draft and conscientious objector counselor-training workshop.

AND MORE:

Los Angeles heard from Somali Kolhatkar, vice president of Afghan Women’s Mission, which publicized the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan



Santa Cruz WILPF members, left to right, Marilyn Lucier, Alice Davis, Jennifer Pitino, and Sandy Silver.

(RAWA). **Peninsula** joined a mass rally to demand that Congress hold hearings on September 11, with questions such as, “Who created and funded Al Qaeda?”; “Why

were no fighter planes dispatched to intercept the hijacked planes?"; "Why are we bombing Afghanistan when none of the alleged bombers came from there?" It planned a meeting with a senator to discuss the possible connections among President Bush, the CIA, and the events of September 11. **Monterey** sponsored a workshop on building a new peace movement, led by the director of the Social Movement Empowerment Project in San Francisco. Ruth Hunter of **Santa Cruz** wrote a powerful article on the need for dissent, and urged attendance at protests. **Palo Alto** saw the film, "The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight," and had a member of Vets for Peace as a guest speaker. In **Madison**, about 50 people attended a March dinner to celebrate the branch's 80th birthday. Associate Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin Law School, Heinz Klug, spoke on "Globalization and Access to Health and Medicine: Where is the media?"

CIVIL LIBERTIES:

Des Moines co-sponsored a forum on "Civil Liberties Since 9/11." **Los Angeles** highlighted the forum "Our Democracy After 9/11: Can We Save It?" which included Jim Hightower. They also heard a speaker from the Civil Liberties Union on "Our Country After September 11th." **Madison** published National's four pages on "Know Your Rights!" **Monterey** had a workshop to discuss the USA Patriot Act.

CORPORATE POWER:

Fresno takes turns with other peace organizations in organizing a monthly demonstration against the GAP at a mall. **Madison** heard from a university professor originally from South Africa on the topic of "Globalization and Access to Health and Medicine." **Cape Cod** plans a program on abolishing corporate personhood for its "In Your Face" show on cable TV. It published an article entitled "Enron Corporation: a Problem of Democracy, Not Business," questioning why Enron's violations are legal, and how people should take authority over such entities, which were created to do *our* bidding. **Fresno** brought two young WILPF activists to town to conduct workshops on corporate power. **St. Louis** used the film "Life and Debt," about the effects of globalization on workers in developing countries, as the starting point for a discussion. **Portland** co-sponsored a "Globalization Summit" with several workshops, including keeping water supplies public, democratic control of utilities, avoiding genetically modified food, and civil disobedience as democracy. **Peninsula** had a literature table at the Junior State of America Northern California Political Fair, an event that attracted students. One member debat-

ed a libertarian on the issue of globalization.

ISRAEL/PALESTINE:

Santa Cruz heard a report from Jewish peace activist Penny Rosenwasser on current peace activism in Israel/Palestine.

Detroit participated in a press conference and discussion, "Eyewitness from Another Ground Zero," given by two local

delegations who recently returned from Israel and Palestine. **Portland** heard from a member recently returned from Palestine. **Palo Alto** members met with their representative to urge that the U.S. help Palestinians achieve a truly independent state with withdrawal by Israel from the occupied territories. **St. Louis** heard from Dr. Marc Ellis, Director of Center for American and Jewish Studies at Baylor University, and Dr. Julia Chaitin, research associate with Peace Research Institute in the Middle East, a Palestinian-Israeli research center. Also, at a brown bag lunch two people who lived in Jerusalem for six months in 2001 talked about "Women Who Witness for Peace," especially the Women in Black.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT:

Palo Alto heard from a professor of law at Santa Clara University who explained why the death penalty has been abolished in almost every civilized country in the world, and must be abolished in America. **Des Moines** had "problems of women in prison" as a program topic, and voted to become an associate member of the Justice Reform Consortium, which works for reasonable punishment of offenders, rehabilitation opportunities, and restitution and restorative justice opportunities for victims.

RACIAL RECONCILIATION:

Los Angeles presented a two-day Race Rave at UCLA. Berkeley had a workshop on "Racism, White Privilege and WILPF" to study how white WILPF members can become effective allies with people of color and enable work for racial justice. **Palm Beach** conducted a discussion series entitled "Can Discrimination, Intolerance and Racism Be Eradicated?"



WILPF members protested outside the Israeli Consulate in Philadelphia, calling for an end to the occupation and an end to the violence. Rachel Kamel

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Time Value - Do Not Delay



On International Women's Day, WILPF's Jody Dodd, Mary Day Kent, and member Mark Konrad (as the grim reaper) joined the Jewish Mobilization for a Just Peace outside the Israeli Consulate in Philadelphia.

Rachel Kamel

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Come to WILPF's Congress in Vermont in June. See Page 17.