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

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

WILPF has sections in 37 countries coordinated by an international office in Geneva. U.S. WILPF carries out its work through grassroots organizing by WILPF branches, coordinated by a national office in Philadelphia. WILPF supports the work of the United Nations and has NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) status.

Preface

Mary Day Kent

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

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

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

However, the strength of WILPF and the many actions of the past few months which are reported in these pages should give us heart to keep up our work to uncover truths, make connections, build a movement for justice and peace, and rejoice in change. As a still somewhat new executive director for WILPF, I had the very heartening opportunity to meet many members this April when I went to the West Coast to join in the Fresno, California celebration for the 85th anniversary. In Fresno, as in the celebrations in New York and Cleveland, the full range of WILPF's vitality and commitments could be seen: the urgency of disarmament, the need for racial justice, the rights of farmworkers, the Native American message to respect the earth, the practical networking and mutual support essential to building the community of peace-makers. All the gatherings were true celebrations, bringing us together, honoring our inspiring sponsors, and gathering our energy for the work ahead.

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

HONORING KAY CAMP

Kay Camp, former international and U.S. WILPF President, was honored in Philadelphia in March with the Fellowship of Reconciliation's Martin Luther King Jr. Award. On hand for the festivities were John Dear, left, Fellowship executive director, presenting the award, and, at right, Pamela Jones-Burnley, WILPF's administrative director.
shared her experiences as an activist during the wars in the former Yugoslavia. She talked about how the majority of the media accepted the “rules of the game,” and were unable to conceive of new or different strategies to obtain and disseminate information within the region. Jasna Bastic, a former journalist, now working for the Swiss-based organization Medienhilfe, also spoke of her experiences from these wars. Originally from Sarajevo, she saw the “siege of Sarajevo” through the eyes of both a journalist and a local. The reporting of the siege was a classic example of misleading journalism, she said. It became a rallying point for good copy and was reported like a natural disaster with constant reference to the difficulty of daily life and movement possible amidst the bitterly cold weather. Sarajevoons eventually came to refer to this zoo-like observation of their existence as “weather reporting” because that’s all it ever seemed to do, contributing little to any greater understanding of the issues influencing the war.

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

Francois Vinsot and Marco Domeniconi drew on their experiences in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. Vinsot, a former journalist who covered the region, referred to the challenges he faced in accurately reporting the horror of genocide. Domeniconi offered another perspective, informing participants of the work he performed at the Hronendelle Foundation, in particular, the establishment of Radio Agalashaya, which began transmitting from Bukavu, Zaire in 1994. This was a highly successful project to counter the use of radio as a medium to disseminate genocidal hatred. The project soon developed a reputation as “the radio station that doesn’t talk sides,” but it was fomma, the local newspaper Das Tageszeitung, provided a clear overview of the history of war reporting over the last 150 years. The Crimean War, World War II, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War marked radical moments in the evolution of war reporting. Profound changes were made with regard to investigatory approaches; the use of technology; the conceptions of objectivity; the influence of propaganda and changing relationships between the media, the military and other non-government actors.

Teodora Tabacki, from Women in Black, Belgrade,

News in War and Peace

Cate Richarz

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

- United Nations Association Bulletin, 3 September 1990

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

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

WILPF drew together a talented panel of partici-
pants to consider these issues, including journalists, peace activists and NGO workers. Diverse views and experiences were offered to the audience of diplomats, U.N. staff, human rights and peace activists. Andrea Zambo, correspondent for the German newspaper Das Tageszeitung, provided a clear overview of the history of war reporting over the last 150 years. The Crimean War, World War II, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War marked radical moments in the evolution of war report-
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“A community will evolve only when its people control their means of communication.” — Frantz Fanon

T he day Elian Gonzalez was removed by federal marshals from his Miami relatives’ home, between 150 and 200 Iraqi children died as a result of the U.S.-driven sanctions. Yet the media debate over Elian’s “seizure,” from news and talk shows to articles and letters to the editor, far exceeded the amount of corporate media ink and broadcasts devoted to coverage of the sanctions and their effects over the last nine years.

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

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

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

Only with the later addition of the Bill of Rights was the Constitution ratified. Over the past two centuries, over the news!

By the turn of this century, corporations’ annual advertising budget in all media approached several hundred billion dollars, an amount the Constitution surely would not have deemed constitutional.

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

Given the corporate media assault on our self-governance, what alternatives do we advocate? In contrast to the “marketplace of ideas” (the competitive language of “free trade”) we can demand, as the Knights of Labor did more than a century ago, that the “transportation of knowledge” be made genuinely public. Members of the Committee on Corporate Propaganda have affirmed that “the corporation’s declaration that corporations have legal personhood is the root of the problem.”

The resulting censorship can be as blatant as Boston Herald columnist Robin Washington’s suspension with- out pay, after he complained that the newspaper killed critical stories about Fleet-Boston Financial Corporation, a major advertiser and credit source. Or, it can be as insidious as the self-censorship that both journalists and citizens take part in as we regularly consume corporate culture.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I recently read an article entitled “The Military and CNN,” which appeared in the March 23 issue of The Nation, “A handful of military personnel from the 4th Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Group based at Fort Bragg in North Carolina has until recently been working in CNN’s headquarters in Atlanta.”

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

As the TV screens showed the latest and newest military aircraft dropping “smart bombs,” I wondered if it was comparable to showing off the latest fashions in ads and soap operas. The idea is to sell the merchandise and the mentality that certain products are not only acceptable, but also indispensable.

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

The media write about the government’s Missile Defense System as is already accepted deal, with some occasional quotes from critical physicists. If we limit our reading to the established media, it may therefore remain unclear as to why this form of defense is even used. According to Bruce Gagnon of Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, the reason for MDS is not the national defense issue. Instead, it renders the mentality that certain products are not only acceptable, but also indispensable.

At a WILPF Chapel Hill Branch International Women’s Day event, Chair Lori Hoyt (center) and Mary Ellen Prioty (right) led a chair discussion.

The media write about the government’s Missile Defense System as already accepted, to some extent based on the Chinese, and the reason for MDS is not the national defense issue. Instead, it renders the mentality that certain products are not only acceptable, but also indispensable.

At a WILPF Chapel Hill Branch International Women’s Day event, Chair Lori Hoyt (center) and Mary Ellen Prioty (right) led a chat discussion.

In the agreement, a new pledge on Nuclear Disarmament was brokering by the nuclear powers, which pledged an “unequivocal undertaking...to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.” The NPT parties underscored the necessity of enforcing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, as well as prompt negotiations on a fissile material production ban, presently deadlocked in the Conference on Disarmament. While supporting the full implementation of START II, recently ratified by the Russian Duma, the parties urged the United States and Russia to conclude START III.

Raising concerns that the nuclear powers have not been taking their disarmament obligations seriously enough and that progress had stalled since the end of the Cold War, the non-nuclear powers identified several important steps which must be pursued over the next five years in addition to the bilateral strategic arms reductions currently underway. According to the program of action contained in the agreement on next steps, the nuclear powers have promised:

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

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

Remember: August 6 is Hiroshima Day.
Democracy and the Media

Laura Pattridge

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

—The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language

The dictionary definitions above are included to allow us some flexibility in our use of language. Words mean so many different things to each of us. Today “democracy” and “media” are rarely used in the same sentence. Yet here we have an entire issue of Peace & Freedom devoted to these words. How does one write for the United Nations day? Where do the words begin and end when we begin to examine the media and entertainment industries to thank in part for the images that arise in the minds of a nation when they see us. Those visions have nurtured fear, separation and white superiority. Those pictures are of drug-infested, liquor-consuming communities and communities that are invading and harming signs of our life, is seldom represented in the press, on the radio or on television.

Images flicker across the stage Images flicker across the page Images flicker across the screen It is just a screen dream a visual conspiracy transmitting lies confusing minds enforcing false mysteries twisting and dishonouring history. We must learn to read the screen We must learn to read the stage We must look further than the poster or page We must decode these harmful signs that are invading and mashing up our minds. It’s a visual conspiracy it’s not a mystery. Some are not what they seem They seek to deceive in many ways this army is so well produced they take all their cues from the director of injustice and untruth. We must learn to read the screen We must learn to read the stage We must look further than the page. We have to decode these harmful signs that are invading and mashing up our minds. It is a visual conspiracy it’s not a mystery. Those visions have nurtured fear, separation and white superiority. Those pictures are of drug-infested, liquor-consuming communities and communities that are invading and harming signs of our life, is seldom represented in the press, on the radio or on television.

Modern Maturity (a publication of the American Association of Retired People) recently printed an interview with Kwesi Mfume, President of the NAACP and former Congressmen from Baltimore, Maryland. The interviewer, Claudia Dreifus said, “After last fall’s television lineup was announced you chastised the networks for having no people of color in lead roles... Why didn’t it?” Mfume responded, “Because the decision-makers at the networks are at least monolithic group. When you’re only talking to people who look like you, and live near you, you tend to think that’s how the rest of the world is. If we continue to repeat this stereotypical notion of what we think America looks like, or if people of color only appear on TV in supporting roles or on the news as lawbreakers, that suggests that is how everybody is. From the Appalachian Mountains to the Rocky Mountains, there is a vast area where people don’t have repeated contact with people of color, who get their opinions and beliefs from what they see on television. And that’s not the way of the world.” The “vast area” Mfume referred to is my home—Nebraska. Many of us call it the “heartbeat of heartland.” Mfume’s words brought to mind a conversation I had recently with a 13-year-old African American male. While preparing to use theatre techniques to address issues in students’ lives, he and I got to talking. With tears in his eyes, the young man shared his feelings with me. He spoke of watching white people cross the street when they saw him coming toward them. He spoke of the shame and guilt that he felt each time it happened. He knew he was doing all the right things. He was an honor student, a good athlete, a trustworthy person. His question was, “Why, why do people cross the street when they see me?” How do you answer that question? Do you tell a child that his country has set in motion an elaborate plan to keep him from succeeding? Do you tell a child that the cards were stacked against him thousands of years ago, in the name of greed and power? Do you tell him the television, which he enjoys so, teaches the rest of the world to fear him? Yes, you tell him all of that and expose the lies “that twist and dishonor history.” Perhaps the efforts to document racism in the U.S. by WILPF’s Uniting for Racial Justice campaign will assist in exposing the truth. Perhaps we will leap over barriers as we begin to examine our communities and ourselves. Perhaps, through our work, we will begin reshaping images by, as poet Merle Collins put it: “reshaping meaning, reshaping values, reshaping language, reshaping caring and working towards the vision of a sharing beauty.”

Laura Pattridge is a board member representing the UFORJE campaign.

Remembering our Foremothers...

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

Leave a Legacy for the Seventh Generation

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

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

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

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip:

Fyna Dowe’s poem opens the topic for discussion. People of color in the United States have always had and continue to have the media and entertainment industries to thank in part for the images that arise in the minds of a nation when they see us. Those visions have nurtured fear, separation and white superiority. Those pictures are of drug-infested, liquor-consuming communities and communities that are invading and harming signs of our life, is seldom represented in the press, on the radio or on television.

We must decode these harmful signs that are invading and mashing up our minds. It’s a visual conspiracy it’s not a mystery. This army is so well produced they take all their cues from the director of injustice and untruth. We must learn to read the stage We must learn to read the screen We must look further than the page. We have to decode these harmful signs that are invading and mashing up our minds. It is a visual conspiracy it’s not a mystery. This army is so well produced they take all their cues from the director of injustice and untruth.

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We must learn to read the stage We must learn to read the screen We must look further than the page. We have to decode these harmful signs that are invading and mashing up our minds. It is a visual conspiracy it’s not a mystery. This army is so well produced they take all their cues from the director of injustice and untruth.
Media and Democracy

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

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

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

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

Such overt intervention may be rare, but only because it isn’t usually necessary. For one thing, reporters know what happens to people who rock the boat. But also, advertisers more often attempt to restrict media content pre-emptively, by making it very clear to editors and programmers what kind of “climate” they expect their ads to appear in. To feel the chilling extent of this influence, listen to the stipulations in a letter sent by Coca-Cola (a major advertiser) to publications seeking their ads: “We consider the following subjects to be inappropriate and require that our ads are not placed adjacent to articles discussing the following issues: hard news; sex-related issues; drugs (prescription or illegal); medicine (chronic illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, AIDS); health (mental or physical); negative diet information (bulimia, anorexia); food; political issues; environmental issues; articles containing vulgar language; religion.”

More Celebrity Fashion Coverage, Anyone?

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

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

In radio also, sponsors frequently pay less for, or flat-out refuse to buy, ads on so-called “urban” or Hispanic stations, no matter how many listeners there are or how much disposable income they have. A recent FCC report collected some of the “explanations” offered: Ivory soap refused to purchase ads on stations with a predominantly African-American audience because “Ivory soap has never been used in the black community.”

Continued on page 15

Activists Seek to Re-establish Uncensored Reporting

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

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

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

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

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

One has been the Pacifica Foundation, which owns and operates five radio stations in Berkeley, Los Angeles, Houston, New York and Washington, D.C. Pacifica’s influence is much wider through the Pacifica Network News freelance reporters. The “stringers” are still protesting news censorship by Pacifica. They produce their own weekly alternative news broadcast, Free Speech Radio News. However, news coverage is costly, and they lack substantial funding.

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

The Pacifica founders declared their mission to be the only regular nationwide alternative and independent news service. At this time, Pacifica News is virtually the only nationwide alternative and independent news service.

The issue of control of the news and the airwaves led by making it very clear to editors and programmers what

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

Tackling the theme of media and democracy for Peace & Freedom has been harder for me in some ways than any other issue of the magazine I’ve produced so far at WILPF. As a journalist, I know the impact good reporting can have. Journalism can change laws and improve people’s lives, and inspire. But these days, we hear too much about the stories that don’t get covered. Each year, days, we hear too much about the stories that don’t get covered. News has become the norm. Corporate mergers have, as many of us know, concentrated media ownership in fewer and fewer hands, limiting the range of opinions. And the stories we can read about or see on television. At the same time, international coverage has been cut back, while “entertainment” news has become the norm.

BROADCASTERS GET A GIFT FROM CONGRESS

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

Why is this reality so remote? In large part because seven major corporations own or control almost all of the television, radio, Internet and print outlets in this country. Corporations own or control almost all of the television, radio, Internet and print outlets in this country. As “movement-building radio,” NRP covers and discusses current events without hostile opponents interrupting and disrupting the message. Activists can reach stations in thousands of towns and cities across the country.

In addition, WILPF members have learned to produce programs on public access TV to get their message out, and this summer members of the Alternative Radio Network set up shop during the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia at WILPF’s headquarters so they could broadcast their “Unconventional Coverage.” During our 85th anniversary celebrations this year, many wonderful news articles were written about WILPF’s work. During the IMF actions, mock newspapers were produced that used humor and wit to get the point across. For 85 years, WILPF’s work for peace and justice has helped mobilize and inform people about critical issues. Its message has often made an impact in the media, and I’m sure it will continue to in the future. —Theresa Pavis

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

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

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

According to WILPF member Elenita Muniz, the program reaches approximately half of Cape Cod’s 200,000-person population and provides a “great medium to discuss current freedom issues. Those avenues can also include alternative radio, which provides an effective method for activists to disseminate news and information. Thought WILPF’s national office does not produce a regular radio broadcast, it provided space for the National Radio Project (NRP!) to produce and distribute Unconventional Coverage in early August. The daily live program featured grassroots organizations assembled for Philadelphia’s Republican National Convention. As “movement-building radio,” NRP covers and discusses current events in order to “bring” compelling and progressive voices and analysis to national and international audiences. It provides a forum for people who have carefully crafted public policy models that reflect the interests of those who are left out of status quo politics.

NRP produces programs in association with other media groups in order to share skills, information and networking tools, and to join and support the mobilization efforts of other media groups.

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

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

Elizabeth Arend is the Peace & Freedom intern.

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

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


In short, many of the most pressing problems with mainstream media today — sensationalism, stereotyping, a narrow cast of “experts,” lack of historical and social context — stem directly from the pervasive U.S. vision of media as above all a business, rather than a service to the public and to the democratic process. This must change, and it will change. There are many ways to go about getting active for a truly democratic media — supporting non-commercial outlets, making your voice heard in letters to the editor, op-eds and radio call-ins, and above all, being a critical media consumer.

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

Looking the way it does because “that’s what the people want.”...
Who controls the media?

**General Electric**
- $100.5 billion revenues
- Fox News Channel
- CNN
- HBO

**Time Warner**
- $26.8 billion revenues
- CBS (
- ABC
- Turner Broadcasting

**The Walt Disney Co.**
- $24.6 billion revenues
- ABC
- ESPN
- Pixar

**Viacom**
- $23 billion revenues
- MTV
- VH1
- Nickelodeon

**News Corporation**
- $18 billion revenues
- Fox News Channel
- Fox

**Other Major Players:**
- Discovery Channel
- Turner Broadcasting
- ESPN

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**Cable Interests:**
- ESPN (20%)
- HBO
- Showtime

**Ownership:**
- Viacom
- News Corporation
- Disney

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**Turner Broadcasting**
- Includes CNN and TBS
- TBS, TNT, Cartoon Network

**Other Networks:**
- USA Network
- TCM
- Spike

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**UPN**
- Includes syndication and TV stations (30%)

**MTV**
- MTV
- Nickelodeon

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**Universal**
- Geophysical

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**Gannett**
- USA Today

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**CBS**
- Includes station, CBS, CBS Interactive, and CBS Network News

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**NBC**
- Includes programming and radio stations

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**Upfronts**
- Disney
- Viacom
- News Corporation

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**Regional Networks:**
- FOX Sports Net
- ESPN

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**Fox News Channel**
- Fox News Channel
- Fox

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**Other Networks:**
- USA Network
- TCM

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**Cable Networks:**
- CNN
- Showtime

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**News Corporation:**
- FOX
- FOX News Channel
- FOX News Network

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**Time Warner:**
- HBO
- CNN

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**General Electric:**
- NBC
- Turner Broadcasting

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**WILPF in Washington**

**Gillian Gilhool, WILPF Legislative Organizer**

**Little Known Bills and the Legislative Agenda**

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

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

**U.S. Senate Races and House Seats**

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

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

**Legislative Agenda**

(H.R. 3825) Humanitarian Exports Leading to Peace Act

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

(H.R. 40) Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act

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

**WILPF in Washington from 18**

H.R. 740 Income Equity Act of 1999

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

H.R. 906 Civic Participation & Rehabilitation Act of 1999

Restores federal voting rights of U.S. citizens disenfranchised as a result of a felony conviction who are not currently in prison, 3/4 of the estimated 3.9 million people who are currently deprived of the vote. Provides enforcement by the Attorney General and private cause of action. Thirty-seven co-sponsors.

H.R. 1063 International Military Training Transparency & Accountability Act

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

H.R. 1200 American Health Security Act of 1999

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

**News Outside the Closet**

Chris Moin

“Deviants,” “biological errors,” “special interest group,” “sinners,” “gay lifestyle” — these are all words we have heard used to refer to members of the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender (GLBT) community. Although homophobia is alive and well in the United States, how are attitudes changing? In particular, how are the lives of the GLBT community being reported in the mainstream media and portrayed in Hollywood? Planet Out, a website for the GLBT community, quoted The Washington Times before the Millennium March for Equality, which was held April 30, 2000 in Washington D.C. The newspaper published a plea that more attention be paid to the “realities and dangers” of the gay lifestyle. Meanwhile, the Daily News in New York stated, “Once on the fringe of society, gays and lesbians are more than ever, part of the mainstream. They are demanding their rightful place at the table of American opportunity and an end to discrimination.” Despite this positive coverage, however, Planet Out reported that outlets far beyond the D.C. area did not report the event. In the May 15, 2000 issue of U.S. News and World Report, John Leo wrote an editorial called “Coercion on Campus” praising Tufts University in Medford, MA, the Tufts Christian Fellowship club was banned for refusing to accept a bi-sexual member in a leadership role. Leo stated that “gays have great power on campus and Christians don’t, so the school’s policy of non-discrimination comes down on the fellowship. The fellowship welcomes all students. The issue isn’t sexual orientation but the right to select leaders that support the group’s core beliefs.”

Chris Moin is a member of WILPF’s Lesbian & Bi issues committee.

Continued on next page

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**From 18 Summer 2000 Peace & Freedom**

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**From 18 Summer 2000 Peace & Freedom**
WILPF Celebrates 85 Years

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

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

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

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

Cleveland, OH
Yoshiko Ikuta
Over 100 WILPF members celebrated the 85th anniversary at a special dinner event.

The day began with a demonstration at the old federal building for the cause of Mumia Abu Jamal. In the afternoon, WILPF presented a workshop on “Reaching Critical Will.” The video Banning the Bomb, which WILPF National Board member Yoshiko Ikuta, two Oberlin College students, Yoshiko Ikuta and Charmaine Sprengelmeyer in Cleveland, produced, was used to start the discussion. The dinner program featured national WILPF sponsors Vinie Burrows and Elizabeth McAllister, whom WILPF presented with the Jane Addams Peace Awards.

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

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

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

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

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

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

New York
From the NY Metro Branch June 2000 newsletter
On April 28, WILPF N.Y. Metro and the U.S. Section jointly celebrated WILPF’s 85th anniversary. The evening sparkled with the unexpected. The Brooklyn Women’s Chorus brought the crowd of about 150 people to their feet with rousing songs of struggle. Boy Grant, a remarkable lyricist and musician, added to the festivities by singing songs with two women back-up singers.

Animating the evening with timely comments was its remarkable lyricist and musician, added to the festivities to their feet with rousing songs of struggle. Bev Grant, a remarkable lyricist and musician, added to the festivities by singing songs with two women back-up singers. The evening at the U.N. Church Center was alive with history, especially when Robin Lloyd, granddaugh-}

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

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

Celebrations with a Cuban Flavor:
Below top: WILPF Cuba delegation members celebrate the 85th.
At left: Cuba delegation member Helaire Echovahow plays a Native American lullaby for the Cubans.
Below, right: Shad Reinstein with one of the many cakes at the anniversary in Cuba.

The funding WILPF provided for a staff member to organize the event was money well spent. Paula Miller, a young woman who is an outstanding local organizer, did a professional job of executing plans under the anniversary committee’s guidance. As president and the national disarmament chair, I also worked to bring the event together. The committee actually had fun planning it all! The Cleveland branch is eager to get ready for WILPF’s 90th anniversary.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

around the world with WILPF

Joyce McLean

I

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

Patricia Guerzono reported on the WILPF work in Colombia with forcibly displaced women. “These displaced women carry with them untold tales of horror, their silence [is] a condition of the politics of fear.” WILPF works so that these people can be alone in the process of personal healing while seeking the courage to continue the fight for peace and justice.

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

Yumi Lee (an international Vice President who lives in Australia) reminds us of all the scant progress made in the condition of the women in China, the UN Beijing Conference. Though women’s rights are proclaimed to be human rights, there are countries where women who have been raped need four witnesses before prosecution can proceed. Women con-
H ere are some ideas for getting your message through to the media:

• Utilize print media, including newspapers, branch newsletters and church bulletins. Develop contacts with interested local reporters, write press releases and letters to the editor. Advertise upcoming fundraisers, workshops, etc. with calendar listings, posters, flyers and postcards.

• Utilize community access television. Federal law mandates community access TV facilities, paid for by cable companies. Gather information about access in your area, take any available training courses and get in front of the camera. You can also investigate other producers’ programming and appear as a guest. Most community access channels also run bulletin boards.

• Utilize local and alternative radio stations. Volunteer to be a guest on a local show, and keep local radio reporters informed of upcoming events.

• Utilize the web. Many Internet servers have programs for non-profit groups.

When involved in media events, you should:

• Study the issues: choose and memorize a couple of informed of upcoming events.

• Know the opposing points of view.

• Maintain composure when a question is difficult. Just stick to your message, and keep in mind that when talking to a journalist, everything is “on the record.”

• Tell the reporter you have more to add if you think he or she overlooked an important point.

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

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

Getting the Word Out

**Elizabeth Arend**

*Elites and Dummies: The Hijacking of the American Mind* (John Grant, Peace & Freedom, Summer 2000)

Be disciplined: Most TV and radio “sound bites” are only seven seconds long, and print media rarely publish more than a few lines in one person’s quote.

• Know the opposing points of view.

• Maintain composure when a question is difficult. Just stick to your message, and keep in mind that when talking to a journalist, everything is “on the record.”

• Tell the reporter you have more to add if you think he or she overlooked an important point.

D o you know someone famous willing to help WILPF? In this ever-connected world, chances are you may know a celebrity — and if you don’t, someone in your family or circle of friends might. As part of an innovative fundraiser, WILPF members across the country have been racking their brains to come up with the names of celebrities they may know. Each famous person is being asked to do something very simple to help WILPF celebrate its 85th anniversary: Donate items to WILPF, such as books, artwork, posters or other objects. These items will be auctioned on the Internet as a fundraiser.

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

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

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

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

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

“The auction will begin on September 6, Jane Addams’ birthday, and go for several days. Late items may be added, or a second auction could be arranged. “You just have to be creative. There are all kinds of ways to raise money to further our work,” said Sandy. “This has brought people closer together.”

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

**Theta Pavis**

Thea Pavis is the editor of Peace & Freedom.

Around WILPF

**A GATHERING AT HEADQUARTERS FOR A GROUP PORTRAIT**

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

Pavis; and Elaine Jones.

** Theta Pavis is the editor of Peace & Freedom.**
I
stitutionalized racism is invisible within the domi-nant culture and frequently met with complacency or denial. Concurrently, the value of reading is being diminished by the immediate gratification the computer brings in this electronic age. Could we counter racism somehow with the power of the written word to influ-ence the open and eager minds of our young?

“Reading to End Racism” is a program that meets that challenge stimulated by the Anti-Racism Task Force of our WILPF Branch in Boulder, Colorado. Volunteers use the literary word in classrooms to promote discus-sions about racism. In 1990, Reading to End Racism was originated by WILPF as a high impact week of program-mings about racism. In 1990, Reading to End Racism was originated by WILPF as a high impact week of program-mings about racism. In 1990, Reading to End Racism was originated by WILPF as a high impact week of program-mings about racism. In 1990, Reading to End Racism was originated by WILPF as a high impact week of program-mings about racism.

Two years ago, interest was renewed in the project by a parent who had read in the original program. We now have a strong volunteer base in our revitalized pro-gram - more exposure to adults dealing with these issues is brought to life through the literary word. The tale of an abducted slave boy, a migrant fami-ly, a story about Rosa Parks or the Japanese-American internment is followed by a discussion of how it must have been and how racism persists in our lives today in Boulder. Then, most importantly, readers will move the students to consider ways to end racism, making it more visible by inducing recognition in others, empowering their own intervention and exercising self-awareness of their own attitudes in their daily lives. Often the students come up with their own ideas to share with their classmates. Some students may say they “learned the difference between prejudice and racism.” Others may learn to “Pay more attention to what you say.”

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

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

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

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

“This is the first time ever that we did not have to subsidize the book sales,” said Dilsy Purdy, JAPA’s out-going executive director. “We actually came out ahead $100!”

Income: $2,878.80
Expenses: $2,094.88
Books 692.15
Other ** $ 100.77
Excess -2,787.03
**Other includes postage, telephone, duplication, shipping supplies and UPS.

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

Milee Livingston
mllivar@ mindspring.com
Civil Liberties Committee

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

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

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

According to David Cole, a Georgetown University law professor, “Secret evidence is something we associate with totalitarian regimes, not with free democratic nations.” Many members of WILPF remember our efforts on behalf of Chilean prisoners who were routinely detained on secret evidence during the Pinochet dictatorship. "The use of secret evidence is one of the greatest threats to civil liberties in this country," Cole said.

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

ACTION: Urge your representative to sign on if he/she has not done so. Call Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3212 or write the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

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

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

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

Labor Committee

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

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

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

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

If you would like a copy of the last newsletter, please contact Kathleen Kelley at (802) 234-6649, email: kkpmrk.1998@aol.com, mailing address, P.O. Box 152, Gaysville, VT 05746.

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

Interns Work for Peace

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

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

Khailiah Canada, a senior at Kutztown University, PA is the new website intern. Her duties include maintaining and updating WILPF’s website, putting up action alerts, campaign materials and announcements of events. Padma Manchala, WILPF’s new development volunteer, is working toward her Ph.D. in International Relations. In addition to assisting Rosemary Burke, Padma works on fundraising, pledges and donations. She also searches and updates databases.

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

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

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

The spring development intern Wanda Jones

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

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

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

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

Maryam Bajoghi is a high school student who volunteered one day a week. She researched bills that pertain to, or are of interest to, WILPF— such as the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. In addition, she’s “70’s, super active in organizing for the A16 events. Among other things, she worked with the group No Sweat, which recently organized an A16 website. No Sweat aims to involve high school and college students in peace and justice activism.

For more information on any of the above, please contact Wanda Jones, the new outreach intern, at the above address.
essays by Michael Parenti, Ramsey Clark, Diana Johnstone, media, in turn, help the U.S. government shape the news, public address on “Creating a Culture of Peace in the Face of War, Lies, and Videotape,” edited by Lenora Foerstel, which stifled by management. media.”

Because “students desperately need exposure to alternative
in order to protect democracy. urges citizens to organize politically and restructure the media
debated the final blow to America’s participatory democracy. He

The keynoter at and justice for the local, national and international community.
War, Lies, and Videotape, was honored at
conference/teach-in entitled “Who Owns America: The People
campaign, as well as a speaker on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. It also advertised a conference/heath-en entitled “Who Owns America: The People
and Oaxaca; Bolivian president Hugo Banzer is another grad-
“Racial Justice: Detroit featured a speaker on “Racism and Immigration” at its annual membership meeting, Los Angeles co-sponsored a lecture on “International Human Rights and the Death Penalty” and a featured speaker on a “Nation Behind Bars” at its branch meeting. Portland urged passage of the Innocence Protection Act, SR 2073 and HR 3623, which ensures prisoners have access to DNA testing and better legal repre-

Challenging Corporate Power: Greater Lansing conducted two study sessions on globalization and the WTO, leading up to Bruna Nota’s well-attended public address on “Creating a Culture of Peace in the Face of Economic Globalization.” Los Angeles began a study group in March. They have since heard local members of the Alliance for Democracy speak on the “California’s “Three Strikes” law. Berkeley participated in a mass demonstration demanding a new trial for Mumia Abu-

POLITICAL ACTIONS:

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

GET YOUR BRANCH NEWS ON THESE PAGES

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

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

MEMPERSHIP:

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

RECOMMENDED BOOKS AND VIDEOS:

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

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

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

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

Name __________________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________
City ________________________ State _____ Zip Code __________________
Phone __________________________  email ___________________________
Branch Name _____________________________________________________

- New Member  ■ Renewal

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*More if you can, less if you can’t* $ __________
Contribution $ __________  Total $ __________

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

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

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
1213 Race Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-1691

**Time Value – Do Not Delay**

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

**INSIDE: DEMOCRACY AND THE MEDIA**

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