

THE WREE-VIEW OF

# WOMEN

FOR RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

VOL. 13 NO. 3 & 4

\$1.00

MAY/AUGUST 1988

**Education:**

Teacher Shortage  
Class Size  
The Army in Schools  
Parents' Access  
Immigrant Children  
Math, Girls & Minorities  
Education Budget  
Laboring Kids at Risk

# PEACE

*for the children  
of the world*

**Also in this Issue:**

Visit to West Bank  
TMI Still With Us  
Repro Rights Attacked  
Female Circumcision  
Social Workers' View  
AIDS: How You Get It  
How You Don't  
Fictitious U.S. Budget  
Peace Tax/MX/Outer Space  
Child Care  
Housing

*...and much more.*



## A BUSY CHAPTER

by Lois McClendon

Pittsburgh WREE has been involved in some exciting activities in the last few months. One of the most rewarding has been our celebration of Women's History Month. We used the opportunity to honor "Our Grandmothers" with a dinner attended by some seventy guests. Barbara Weidner (California) was the main speaker. She was a member of the U.S. delegation to the World Congress held in Moscow last year, and is the founder and executive director of Grandmothers for Peace, an international group dedicated to bringing an end to nuclear arms. Barbara has participated in civil disobedience actions at nuclear bases and at the Nevada Test Site, and has led delegations to the Netherlands and to the Soviet Union.

Our dinner also paid tribute to three Pittsburgh women who have led generations to seek a better world: Anne McLemore, vice president of Pittsburgh Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW); Ann Sawyer Berkley, artist, teacher and activist in organizations such as ACORN, National Council of Senior Citizens, and Pittsburghers Against Apartheid; and Ellen Berliner, cofounder of the first women's shelter in the U.S.—Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh—and charter member of SHARE (South Hills Assoc. for Racial Equality).

We were pleased to give public recognition to women who have contributed so much to ending racism, sexism, poverty, agism, and unemployment, as well as providing us with role models in

Saturdays because so many of us work and raise families, attend school, or are active in other ways. We want our meetings to be relaxing sociable events—with childcare where women can share insight and energy.

We are a somewhat "new" type of the tradition of Fannie Lou Hamer and other "grandmothers" who "have shown us the way." The dinner organizing committee said that "as activists in the fight against racial, economic, and social injustice, we need to take time to reflect on those who have walked ahead of us, and honor them for their never ending struggle."

### Functioning of Chapter

Because our active membership is small, we have been building active participation by holding monthly meetings called the "Saturday Sisters Brunch." We have chosen to meet on

women's organization in Pittsburgh; our focus is different from the "traditional" feminist organization. Our first series of meetings, therefore, include informative films or speakers to attract a truly multi-racial women's group focusing on peace, economic justice, and equality issues, and planning for future strategies and activities.

In addition to monthly meetings, we are in the process of formulating a radio program focusing on such issues as the Women's Bill of Rights to air on a local public radio station, and we are making plans for a study group using Angela Davis's *Women, Race and Class*, as well as other books on women's issues.

### Coalition Building

We have also been active in building coalitions with other progressive organizations. The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU)—through its Affirmative Action/Fair Share Strategy-21 (AAFS-21)—has focused on the exclusion of women and minorities from employment in the construction industry. The coalition built around this

cont'd on p. 18

## How to Become a Star

*There are many ways to bring WREE's message to the public—we just have to be alert to the opportunities. One very good way is to get yourself invited to appear on television or radio. Most cities have a public access channel which airs local church and community programs and these people are always looking for guests with an interesting topic.*

*I was fortunate recently to be invited to appear on the Ziggy Gorson International Variety Show, a talk show hosted by a local resident who likes to invite people he thinks are "controversial." I decided to talk about the Women's Bill of Rights, so I followed WREE's explanation: although the Constitution's Bill of Rights is precious, we need an economic bill of rights. I pointed out that WREE had presented such a Women's Bill of Rights and mentioned a couple of points: jobs and housing particularly. The host, thinking I would take a feminist line, was surprised when I stressed that men also need these economic rights and that men and women have to work together to achieve them. The conversation turned to Nicaragua since I had recently traveled there and I had a chance to say something about the embargo and contra aid.*

*On the whole I enjoyed the show very much. The host created a very relaxed, friendly atmosphere that overcame my nervousness. I feel it was a very worthwhile experience personally and in terms of public relations for WREE. I'm looking forward to being on the show again late in the summer. I think that with a little initiative, anyone can probably arrange to be invited to appear on a radio or TV show. With a plan and a little preparation, anyone can be a WREE "star!"*

Sincerely,  
Lee Broughton  
Delaware WREE



International Women's  
Tribune Centre (IWTTC)

by Susan Bailey

The Women's Bill of Rights Campaign is going strong. Working through the Human Rights Commission in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the WREE chapter in our area has begun documenting the violations of human rights of women.

Throughout this election year, WREE is examining, researching, and documenting violations of the twelve planks of the Women's Bill of Rights. Violations of these rights prevent women from achieving full racial and economic equality. The documentation will be presented to the UN Conference on Human Rights in the spring of 1989. It will also be used to pressure and gain acknowledgement, endorsement, and commitment from politicians for the Women's Bill of Rights during the 1988 election campaigns, nationally and locally.

### Hearings on Racism

The Boston area WREE chapter conducted the first in a series of hearings, "Racism in Cambridge," sponsored by the Cambridge Human Rights Commission. (The Commission was created by the City Council to examine and report back on the status of human rights in the city.) WREE was the only community organization invited to participate in the planning of the hearing and to have an official presence.

The hearing, however, was neither as broad nor as well attended as WREE and the Commission hoped. Only one City Council member and none of the School Committee was present. Two minority individuals gave personal testimony, other testimony came from representatives of government bodies: Cambridge Economic Opportunity Council, Attorney General's Office, Cambridge Housing Authority, Affirmative Action offices of Cambridge Public Schools, and Cambridge City Hospital. Racism in the housing market and the programs designed to stop unfair treatment of minorities were the main presenta-

## Boston Hearings on Racism

tions.

To its credit, Cambridge is one of the most integrated cities in the country. And it has the only human rights commissions of its kind in the country.

### Discrimination Still Prevalent

Nevertheless, we must be careful not to fall into self-satisfaction. As Denise Simmons, director of the Cambridge Civic Unity Committee, pointed out at the hearing, discrimination in housing and employment today is still prevalent if "far more subtle." We must examine where opportunities for racism lie. At the Cambridge Housing Authority, for instance, the positions of General Counsel and Affirmative Action Officer are held by the same person. While the individual currently in those positions may be quite progressive, the functions of watchdog and defense are incompatible.

Moreover, we must force government bodies to do more than eliminate institutionalized racism. They must take an active role in reducing individual acts of racism. One of the hearing participants laid out the issue with particular eloquence. The current presidential campaign has uncovered a truth: multi-ethnic unity exists within the working class. The recent rise in racist violence is a clear backlash against this unity. When public leaders like William Bradford Reynolds dismiss the Howard Beach case, or when Mayor Koch indicates that racism is acceptable, the result is an increase in the incidents of death threats against Jackson and an increase in racism on the streets.

The experience of the hearing on racism has led the Boston area WREE chapter to think through their approach to future hearings. Among the suggestions were:

- 1) There should be government presence at the hearings, but government representatives should not give testimony. Rather, they should be held responsible for the elimination of human rights violations in their jurisdiction. They should also be asked to endorse the Women's Bill of Rights publicly at the hearing.
- 2) Individuals and community organizations should be targeted for testimony. This may require a bit of searching and contacting, but is necessary.
- 3) A panel of progressive people, knowledgeable about the areas of focus, may be helpful. This group can draw out the essence of the testimonies by questioning the participants and providing context.
- 4) The hearings should address the focus fully. An attempt should be made to include the following: documentation of the existence and forms of human rights violations, analysis of the causes and strategies for eliminating them. Strategies, which may include legislation, local programs and other means, are important to include to mobilize the hearing participants. But it is important that the strategies come out of the documentation and analysis, not the reverse.

The Boston area WREE chapter is moving on to hearings addressing all of the planks of the Women's Bill of Rights. We offer full support to the national Women's Bill of Rights Campaign.

# EDITORIAL

## ENOUGH! WE'VE HAD IT!

There is no road to peace. Peace is the road.

Our editorial for this issue of The WREE VIEW of WOMEN is not an editorial. It is a cry of outrage as we review the criminal waste of the world's resources and the cost in the lives and well being of women and children and men in our own country and in so many developing countries around the world.

The number of civilian victims of war in this century has risen at an astonishingly steady pace:

- First World War 1914-1918: 10 million dead, of which 75% were the troops of the fighting armies, and 25% civilians.
- Second World War 1939-1945: 60 million victims, 52% military, and 48% civilian.
- Korean War 1950-1953: 10 million dead, 16% military, and 84% civilian.
- Vietnam War 1964-1975: 13.3 million killed, 10% of them soldiers, and 90% civilians.

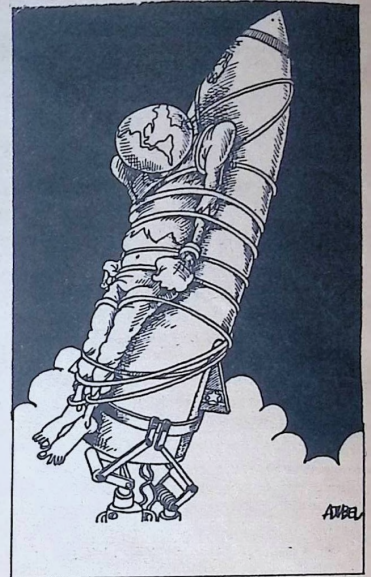
Disarmament must start with nuclear weapons, but it must eventually include "conventional" weapons:

- There are 124,000 tanks, 35,000 military planes, and some 18,000 warships ready for deployment.
- Over 100 local wars have been unleashed in the world since World War II, in which 22 million people have been killed.
- 60,000 nuclear warheads have been manufactured since the dropping of the A-bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- The annual expenditures on armaments in the world exceed \$900 billion.
- \$2 million is being spent on armaments every minute of every day, and every minute 30 people die in the world of malnutrition and disease.
- Every second, \$25,000 is spent worldwide on armaments; within that same one second, one child dies in the world as a result of malnutrition or disease.
- The cost of immunizing all the children on our planet would equal the military expenditures for two and one half hours.

- The world spends, on an average, \$450 to educate each of its children and \$25,600 to support each of its soldiers.

Disarmament would not only guarantee the security of this nation, it would also enable us to change our budget priorities and fund desperately needed programs to improve our lives.

- The cost of an up-to-date submarine is the equivalent of the cost of building 400,000 housing units for 2 million people.
- The money proposed for Star Wars research is 11 times greater than the government is now spending on AIDS research.
- The cost of 1 aircraft carrier would provide a solid meal every day for 6 months for 20 million Americans who do not get enough to eat.
- \$1 billion spent on the military creates 25,000 jobs. That same billion dollars spent on services would create from 43,000 to 123,000 jobs.
- We arm and support repressive governments in countries like South Korea, El Salvador and the Philippines and enable them to keep wages down and prevent workers from forming unions. U.S.-based multinational corporations move their U.S. factories to these countries. The results: "runaway shops," increased unemployment in the U.S.
- Military production is the fastest growing manufacturing sector in the economy. The salaries of one-third of the nation's scientists are paid by the military.
- Two-thirds of all federal research and development funds go to the military.
- There are 50,000 nuclear warhead missiles in the world waiting to be launched at everyone.
- They are equivalent to 6667 World War II's; sufficient to destroy the world 100 times over.



### WREE's Program of Activities and the Base of Our Work Is: THE WOMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

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

International Year of Peace - السنة الدولية للسلام - Année internationale de la paix 1986 - 1987 - Anni Internationalis de Pace

In recognition of a significant contribution to the programme and objectives of the International Year of Peace, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, the Secretary-General designates

*Women's International Democratic Federation*

as a  
**Peace Messenger**

*Nive alhier*  
Javier Pérez de Cuellar  
15 September 1987

International Year of Peace - السنة الدولية للسلام - Année internationale de la paix 1986 - 1987 - Anni Internationalis de Pace

Following the International Year of Peace, proclaimed by the United Nations for 1986, several international Non-Governmental Organizations were designated as "Peace Messengers" by the UN Secretary General. One of those organizations was the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF). This distinction was awarded in recognition of WIDF's activities in the interest of peace, and WREE is proud to be the U.S. affiliate of this international women's organization.

INNS0892-3116

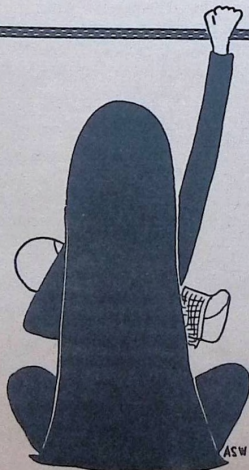
WREE: National and Editorial Office  
401 Broadway  
New York, NY 10013  
(212)941-1710

President: Cheryl Craig

WREE Int'l Secretary & WIDF permanent UN Representative: Vinie Burrows

Membership Secretary: Sally Chaffee Maron

The WREE-VIEW of WOMEN:  
Editor: Norma Spector  
Managing Editor: Margo Nikitas



International Women's  
Tribune Centre (IWTTC)

To the Editors:

I was very disappointed to read "Justice for Tawana Brawley" in your paper. The rest of the paper is exciting and wonderful. However, the Tawana Brawley affair has proven to be a bogus news story. Tawana and her family are being manipulated by three men who are acting on her behalf and playing with the press all in the interest of self-promotion. I agree with everything else you are calling for: justice, and pro-

ecution for racially motivated crimes. But, please, using Tawana Brawley's name almost ridicules your values. Please get wise and choose another victim of a racially motivated crime to publicize your cause. Don't jump on the bandwagon so fast. It's dangerous.

Sincerely,  
N. Greene  
Wallington, NJ

[Ed. Note: How do other readers feel about this sister's letter?]

# The United Nations Special Session on Disarmament 1988

by Vinie Burrows

In our U.S. culture, where important news is delivered on prime-time TV in two-minute slots interspersed with 30-second commercials for consumer goods or pharmaceuticals promising quick relief from halitosis or hemorrhoids, one becomes accustomed to quick fixes: instant relief, instant love, instant religion, instant popularity, etc. However, "instant peace" is not so easily achieved and that may be the lesson of the Special Session on Disarmament which ended on June 25th with the Member States unable to reach consensus on a Final Document.

Of the 159 government delegates entrusted to deliver official positions, only one was a woman—Dame Nita Barrow of Barbados.

The Fifteenth Special Session of the United Nations took place from May 31 to June 25 in New York City and was the third chapter in the history of multilateral negotiations. It opened in a politically favorable international climate created by the several summits and the signing of an Intermediate Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty which will rid Europe of hundreds of nuclear weapons within the next several years.

The level of participation was impressive. In the general debate 127 ranking diplomats, including 24 heads of state, spoke. Most mentioned the positive effects of the INF Treaty, even while hailing it as just one small step covering only 4% of the global stockpile of nuclear weapons. More than 900 Non-governmental Organizations, (NGOs) peace movements, and various national and international organizations registered as participants or observers to SSD III.

Among the 120 NGOs to speak to the Assembly was our Freda Brown, president of the WIDF. She proposed a 50% reduction in the strategic nuclear weapons of the USSR and the USA; prevention of the arms race into outer space; a moratorium on all nuclear tests; a ban on all implements of mass destruction; the establishment of nuclear free zones; an international security system achieved through promoting confidence and cooperation in military, political, economic, humanitarian, and ecological areas. Freda also stressed the need to reach settlement on regional conflicts.

Connecticut WREE women hold their banner in the June 11 March while two NY WREE sisters use shopping cart and luggage rack to tote the thousands of WREE VIEWS distributed at the Central Park Rally.

During the opening days of the extraordinary session, a coalition of peace organizations spearheaded a week of activities supporting the UN initiatives. On June 11 tens of thousands converged at the UN, and an estimated 100,000 marched to Central Park for a moving and exciting cultural/political program featuring Coretta Scott King, Midnight Oil (the rock group from Australia), Abdullah Ibrahim, Beba Sathima (from South Africa), Roy Brown (from Puerto Rico), and many other fine artists and committed activists. WREE members were there in force, selling pins and t-shirts, distributing WREE VIEWS,

SSD III focused on specific issues and areas. Procedurally, the Committee of the Whole met in plenary, but actual negotiating was done with informal consultations and in Three Working Groups which considered:

(I) assessment/evaluation of SSD I and SSD II plus implementation of those decisions; (II) technology and trends relevant to disarmament process, plus relationship between disarmament and development; and (III) role of UN and information and education activities related to disarmament.

Informed sources among the non-aligned, socialist, and NATO nations agree that the United States was the delegation that insisted on the most changes in the proposed Final Document and showed least willingness to compromise. U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters is quoted in the *Disarmament Times* as saying, "We're not going to throw away our policies for a piece of paper," an attitude that continues the truculence and arrogance the U.S. has displayed in the Security Council and as a constant negative voter on disarmament resolutions.

The majority of countries did want to deal positively with the issues. That they did not reach consensus on a final concluding statement, however, does not minimize what the Special Session represented and what its deliberation did produce.

The process of disarmament and the principle of multilateral negotiation have slowly gained momentum. On the complex issues of disarmament and international security, States and groups of States are moving closer to each other—a fundamental shift. As the dialog continues, we hope positions too will begin to converge. Bilateral negotiations are important but multilateral negotiations are indispensable if we are to solve the problems of disarmament, development, security, and the environment.

NGOs are an essential ingredient in arousing public opinion. The international peace movement, while still largely disorganized, has begun to realize the necessity for global mobilization, for a coalition of all peace forces to reach the goal of a peaceful and just society. NGOs must pressure and lobby their respective governments to implement agreed upon resolutions and to accept the principle of multilateralism even as bilateral negotiations are concluded.

In the U.S. as a new administration comes to power, our role is clear. A comprehensive test ban treaty, arms transfer register, arms in outer space, the concept of nuclear-weapon-free zones are the paragraphs the U.S. categorically refused to consider at SSD III in the concluding consensus document. We must bring these issues to the table; be prepared to lobby, our Congress and pressure our President; do our homework; be informed; make the connections. Our work continues. The struggle for peace remains.



"Women increasingly realize the inseparable link between social cutbacks, growing unemployment, which hits them first, and the decline in democratic rights and freedoms on the one hand and on the other the policy of super-armament, of wasting money taken away from social welfare on armament. They increasingly connect their demands for implementation of their social rights with the struggle for peace and disarmament.

"The WIDF and its affiliated national organizations will continue to work consistently to mobilize the women of the world in the struggle for peace and disarmament, to ensure that human and material resources are used not for war and destruction but to solve the global problems of our time, to eliminate hunger, misery and underdevelopment, which affect women and children in particular, to solve environmental and energy problems and to develop worldwide peaceful cooperation for the benefit of all peoples."—Freda Brown, Australia, President of the WIDF, speaking at the UN General Assembly SSD III.



Photo by Margo Nikitas

WREE steps out smartly with the banner and slogan that is becoming familiar at major peace demonstrations.



On June 4, New York WREE hosted a reception for WIDF President Freda Brown (right) and Natalya Bereshnaya, Secretary of the WIDF (left), who were in NY to attend the events around the UN 3rd Special Session on Disarmament. Vinie Burrows, WREE's International Vice-President and the WIDF Permanent rep to the United Nations was the mistress of ceremonies.

Sharing the platform at the reception with Freda Brown to speak on "Peace and the Human Rights of Children" was Dr. Sandra Shephard (center), a pediatrician who treats the homeless children of New York City's "welfare" hotels.



# TMI Still A Danger

by Harvey Wasserman

Nine years ago, beginning March 28, 1979—Three Mile Island suffered its partial meltdown.

As the accident happened, both utility and government officials repeatedly assured the public there was no serious danger of a major catastrophe, or to the health of those in the surrounding area.

But new evidence from both inside the stricken reactor and from the surrounding countryside indicates the accident may have been far worse than originally believed, with potentially devastating implications for the already crippled nuclear power industry.

For nine years, crack engineering teams have been using robotics and remote-controlled cameras to probe the destroyed reactor's lethal inner core. Last summer they discovered molten radioactive fuel had accumulated at the bottom of the reactor vessel, creating a pool of super-hot liquid.

In February, Edward E. Kintner, executive vice president of GPU Nuclear, which operates TMI, admitted that during the accident the molten fuel had "flowed like hot olive oil" and had penetrated all but the very last wall of the reactor containment. Had it broken through there, central Pennsylvania could have suffered a radioactive catastrophe on a Chernobyl scale.

Some 30 tons of radioactive debris now rests at the very bottom of the containment structure. GPU engineers still cannot explain why this lavalike mass did not breach the last line of environmental defense.

It may be years before they find out. GPU estimates it will take at least six more months to remove some 13 tons of melted fuel lodged within grids at the reactor bottom. Engineers must then plow their way through five more tons stuck on wall spaces. According to Kintner, debate over how to remove serious wall plates and penetrate the reactor floor has raged for a full year. At least one cleanup worker has already died from accidental overexposure.

## Aftereffects Appalling

Soon after the accident, when state statistics indicated a tripling of Harrisburg's infant death rates in the three months after the accident, GPU vehemently denied any responsibility. It blamed, among other things, heightened stress from the publicity generated by the accident.

But subsequent studies of local neighborhoods have unearthed an extremely high cancer rate among people living downwind from the reactor. One survey, conducted by Jane Lee, a farmer from the town of Etters, showed a wide range of abnormal health problems—including cancer—in a 500-home suburb 6.5 miles from the plant.

Utility and state officials dismiss Lee's conclusions out of hand. But her neighbors do not. Some 2400 of them have filed personal injury lawsuits against GPU for health problems ranging from cancer and leukemia to birth defects, stroke, heart attacks, and weakened immune systems. Some of the suits are based on psychological stress, but most have their roots in radiation exposure.

GPU strongly denies TMI releases could have harmed anyone. But the company has quietly paid at least \$15 million in out-of-court settlements, much of it to families of children born crippled after the accident.

A mass trial scheduled to deal with most of the claims has been hung up in the courts for almost a year. But widespread reports of soaring leukemia rates near the Pilgrim nuclear plant south of

Boston may not help the utility's case. The National Institutes of Health are now beginning a nationwide study of health effects around operating commercial reactors.

## Future of Reactors

The American public will also be debating what to do with more than 100 licensed reactors and another two dozen in the pipeline.

There have been no new reactor orders in the U.S. since TMI. Indeed, despite seven years of strong support from the Reagan administration, a \$250 billion investment in the Peaceful Atom is currently yielding the nation less than

6% of its total energy. Some experts now estimate the total cost of decommissioning the reactors now on line at roughly \$1 trillion.

That decommissioning process will ultimately raise as many technical and political questions as has the meltdown at Three Mile Island. But nine years after, one thing remains certain: Both inside the containment building and in the minds of central Pennsylvanians, the accident is far from over.

Harvey Wasserman is co-author of *Killing Our Own: The Disaster of America's Experience with Atomic Radiation*. 1988 Pacific News Service



## Health Care: A Catastrophe

The Catastrophic Health Care legislation remains stalled between House and Senate conferees. The bill provides catastrophic health coverage to many older Americans basing the insurance premiums on taxable income from primarily Social Security benefits (which are largely untaxed). Federal employees whose pensions are fully taxed, however, would pay a disproportionately higher premium for the same coverage under the current bill. Additionally federal retirees already have catastrophic health coverage under the federal health insurance. The bill differs on how to compensate for this inequity. The Senate version includes the Stevens/Pryor Amendment which would eliminate the double premium paid by federal employees for catastrophic health insurance. The House version includes the Pryor/Domenici Amendment which would eliminate the penalty on expanded Medicare coverage for federal retirees only and actually penalize Medicare eligible retirees. The House and Senate conferees are working to develop a compromise bill.

## Medical Help Offered

We encourage any woman who thinks that she might be eligible for help from the Feminist Health Fund to write to us and request an application form.

- Any person who is a woman by birth, who is at least 18 years of age and who has a catastrophic illness will be considered for our funds. Our goal is to help with funding when other agencies, companies or relatives do not cover some or all of what a woman needs financially.
- We are supportive of natural, alternative healing as well as standard medical treatments; we do not endorse any particular medical or self-healing methods of treatment.
- The decisions in choosing recipients are made by us, the Fund's advisory board members. Disbursement of funds is based on the number of applicants, total amount available in the Fund, the financial condition of each applicant and her anticipated health expenses.
- We do not cover treatments which are illegal by current state or federal laws, nor do we cover any type of elective surgery, for example abortion, sterilization, tubal ligation, cosmetic surgery or clitoridectomy.
- The Fund will pay bills directly to a health advisor or clinic, or will reimburse the applicant for bills for which she submits verification, such as receipts.
- Recipients are encouraged, when their financial situation permits, to repay the Feminist Health Fund what they are able, so that other women may also benefit from the Fund.

When requesting aid, an applicant needs to be responsible for two things: 1) completing the application form and mailing it in; 2) sending three references who can give information about the applicant's health and financial status, along with three release of information forms for those references. All information is kept in strictest confidence. The status of recipients is reviewed annually to determine eligibility.

If you need funds to cover health care costs for your catastrophic illness and can take responsibility for your application process, please write: Feminist Health Fund, P.O. Box 323, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387.



# REMEMBER HIROSHIMA

## Appeal from Hiroshima and Nagasaki For a Total Ban and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

*Forty years have passed since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the end of the Second World War.*

*In spite of the intense desire of the A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the people of all the world that such tragedies must never be repeated, nuclear weapons over one million times more destructive than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs are now stockpiled, the result of the on-going nuclear arms race.*

*The use of nuclear weapons will destroy the whole human race and civilization. It is therefore illegal, immoral and a crime against the human community.*

*Humans must not coexist with nuclear arms.*

*With effective activities for the prevention of nuclear war now developing throughout the world, the elimination of nuclear weapons, as a common international task, has become most urgent and crucial for the very survival of the whole of humanity.*

*Along with the survivors and on behalf of those who died and cannot now speak for themselves we appeal from Hiroshima and Nagasaki:*

*There must never be another Hiroshima anywhere on earth.*

*There must never be another Nagasaki anywhere on earth.*

*Now is the time to call for the complete prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. Let us work together urgently to achieve a total ban on the use, testing, development, production, deployment and stockpiling of nuclear weapons.*

# AIDS

## HOW YOU CAN'T GET IT HOW YOU CAN HOW YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF

by Natalie Jones

You may not be a drug addict, you may not be gay or lesbian, you may have sex with only one partner for whom you are the only partner. But there are hundreds, thousands, perhaps millions who will die painfully, prematurely, if they don't get some down-to-earth information. It may be better to offend with plain talk than to preserve our sensibilities.

To start with, not one of the approximately 61,000 cases of actual, full-blown AIDS in the U.S. has ever been traced back to transmission by saliva. The reason for this appears to be that when the virus is found in the saliva of persons infected with the HIV virus, it is present only in small concentrations. This particular virus must be present in large concentrations to be transmissible to another person. Additionally, only a small percentage of people with the HIV virus have been found to have it in their saliva.

This means that you can't get the virus from eating with or from the same utensils as someone who has it. You can't get it from kissing (unless the infected person is bleeding from the mouth and bleeds into open sores or cuts in your mouth.) You can't get it from shaking hands, hugging, or touching someone who has it. You can't get it from wearing clothes or using bed linen used by someone with the virus.

You can't get the virus from mosquitoes or other insects. Nor can you get it from pets, because it is a human virus and insects and animals cannot become infected and transmit it to humans.

### Yes, You Can

This virus is transmitted by getting infected blood, semen, or vaginal secretions directly into the blood system of another person through open cuts or sores—no matter how tiny—and possibly through mucous membranes.

Consequently, it is possible to transmit this virus during anal, vaginal, and oral sex. The person primarily at risk is the one taking blood, semen, or vaginal secretions into the rectum, vagina, mouth, digestive tract, or stomach. However, men have contracted the virus by performing anal and vaginal sex with men and women.

It is possible to get this virus by sharing I.V. drugs and works with HIV infected people. This can occur because when people shoot drugs, some of the blood (because of a process known as booting), ends up back in the needle and can then be transmitted to the next user.

An infected mother can transmit the virus to her child in utero, during birth, and possibly through breast milk.

Additionally, although not now likely (because the blood supply in the U.S. has been tested since March 1985), it is possible for a person to get

the HIV virus from a blood transfusion.

### Protecting Yourself

The only way to ensure that you will not get the virus sexually is to abstain from sex. However, if one chooses to be sexually active, the next best thing is to practice safe sex. To protect yourself and your partner, use a latex condom, preferably prelubricated with Nonoxonyl Nine, with a reservoir tip, every time you have sex (anal, vaginal, or oral), the entire time you are having sex (not just before orgasm). During anal and vaginal sex, use extra water-soluble lubrication such as K-Y Jelly on the outside of the condom to ensure that it does not break. Never use oil-based lubricants such as Vaseline, mineral oil, etc., because they can break, and have broken, latex condoms.

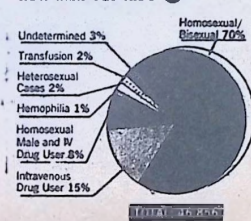
When performing oral sex on a woman, use a Dental Dam (a rectangular piece of latex) in conjunction with a water-based lubricant. Dental Dams can

be purchased at dental supply stores, some pharmacies, and some AIDS networks.

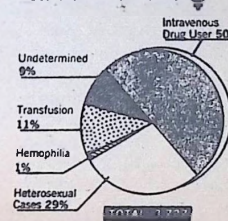
If you use I.V. drugs, the best way to protect yourself from the virus is to use your own needle and works and not allow anyone else to share them. However, if that is not possible, clean your needle and your works before and after each use: Place laundry bleach in a cup and draw the bleach into the syringe four times, expelling the bleach each time into a sink or toilet. Next, place clean water in a cup and draw the water into the syringe four times, again expelling the water into a sink or toilet each time. Rinse the remainder of the works first with bleach and then with water.

For clarification or more information, contact your local AIDS hotline, or the National AIDS Hotline at 1-800-342-AIDS. And, by all possible means, press and fight for a National Health Service that will be able to cope with all the health needs of the entire population.

### HOW MEN GET AIDS



### HOW WOMEN GET AIDS



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control

NOTE: Percentages are rounded

## CASHIERS WIN VICTORY

The Kroger Co., a major Midwest supermarket chain, has agreed to make significant design changes in its Englewood, Ohio, store in order to reduce cashier injuries caused by repetitive motions while working at new electronic scanning check-out equipment. In exchange, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has withdrawn its citations against the company for exposing workers to back strain, carpal tunnel syndrome and other musculoskeletal injuries. Most observers agree that the settlement can have major implications for the retail food industry.

Specifically, Kroger has agreed to:

- Limit cashier reaching distances to 17 inches by installing a guide bar at the counter;
- Improve and repeat training programs which teach cashiers about basic ergonomics and how to limit stressful work motions (unnecessary bending, reaching, pinching and twisting motions);
- Emphasize company policies which restrict lifting to less than 10 pounds; heavier packages should not be

lifted into and out of carts or across counters;

• Eliminate posting of comparative "scanning" speeds of different cashiers, which had effectively led to a "speedup" of the lines.

Local 1099 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Unions, which had brought the original OSHA complaint, did not contest the settlement. This settlement is the first one that addresses the issue of repetitive strain injuries from electronic scanning equipment.

The original OSHA citation charged that cashiers were exposed to physical strain from "constant and excessive twisting, stretching and lifting." No specific applicable standards exist in the U.S., so OSHA...cited Kroger under the Section 5(a)(1), the "general duty clause," which obligates an employer to provide a workplace free from recognized hazards.

### High Level Hearing

As oldest member, only woman in this group convened on discrimination, I have been told to act like an angel, advised to use discretion, warned to wait until called upon, seated in the back. With each passing hour I become subliminal, sans memory, hostage to time dismembered. You'd think we'd at least have a chance to rage in heaven. If the male angels continue to filibuster, Buster, we'll pass our own laws.

Elsen Lubetsky  
Highland Mills, N.Y.



## Children with AIDS

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the number of children under 13 who meet the strict definition of pediatric AIDS increased by over 60 percent between January and November 1987, from 420 to 691. The most current report from the CDC reveals that 932 cases of pediatric AIDS have been diagnosed as of April 11, 1988. The Public Health Service projects a 350 percent increase in pediatric AIDS cases by 1991. Most of these children will acquire the virus perinatally from an infected mother.

A recent conference in Washington

D.C. on AIDS, women, youth and children, sponsored by the D.C. chapter of the American Red Cross, focused on ways to target high-risk women and youth. Conferees stressed the need to reach out-of-school youths, promote positive behavior in adolescents and educate children about AIDS in a realistic, cognitively appropriate manner. Due to the high rate of maternal-fetal transmission, greater access to drug treatment centers and education of sexually active teens are central to combatting the spread of pediatric AIDS.

*In my capacity as an AIDS educator, I have come to realize that the people who desperately need information on AIDS are not being reached. And the reason is that Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, homosexuals, and I.V. drug users are disposable. The mainstream educational information, by its tone, content, and methods of distribution, has been geared toward panicking (not educating) straight white people. This includes the Surgeon General's new report (mailed to approximately 100 million homes on May 26th.)*

*I have read the report, and not only is it not culturally appropriate for the varied racial and ethnic populations that make up such a large part of the U.S.—it is not even age appropriate.*

*In addition, every page contains at least one inaccurate, poorly stated, and/or confusing statement regarding AIDS!*

*What do we do about it? We get honest with ourselves: if the government won't reach out to our communities with accurate, culturally appropriate, age-appropriate information, we are going to have to do it ourselves. Part of getting honest means admitting that "yes, there are people in our com-*

*munities (adolescents, teenagers, as well as adults) who engage in both straight and gay sex, and who share I.V. drugs.*

*Next, we must sort through the morass of information available on AIDS and, with the help of trustworthy people in the field of AIDS education, determine what information is accurate and what information is inaccurate. Then we must work with or form coalitions of organizations to get the accurate information to our people.*

*AIDS is not a problem that will go away by itself. We must wake up and realize that the AIDS crisis is not over. We must realize that we cannot wait for the government of the U.S. to respond adequately to this emergency.*

*For the past 7 years our communities and our people have been dying of neglect. Dying from inadequate health care, from a steadily rising infant mortality rate, from drug and alcohol addiction, from crime, and, yes, dying from AIDS.*

*If you need assistance to get accurate information on AIDS, or figuring out which organizations and agencies to contact in your community, write to me at National WREE office in New York, I may be able to help.*

—Natalie Jones

# Eye Witness in Occupied Lands

Two WREE sisters were part of a U.S. delegation that visited the Occupied Territories in February of this year. The last issue of *The WREE VIEW* carried the report of Jane Power. Below is the report of the second WREE delegate.

by Angela Gilliam

On February 27, 1988, 11 United States women returned home to New York from a trip to the West Bank and Gaza, where we were part of the first women's delegation from the United States to visit the region since the beginning of the "intifadah"—the name in Arabic of the current uprising among Palestinian people for their rights. Our delegation, sponsored by the Union of Palestinian Women in the U.S. was a pluralistic group including educators, writers, Catholic nuns, Jews, Jane Power and I (the only Afro-American delegate) witnessed beatings, visited

All sectors of the population are involved. In Israel, 600 professors and 210 soldiers, along with groups of psychologists, writers, and artists, have called for an end to occupation. Both the UN Security Council and Council of Foreign Ministers of the Common Market have called on Israel to end the deprivation of human rights in the occupied territories. Meanwhile the US Secretary of State presents a plan to stifle the Popular Uprising while ignoring human rights.

men, women, and children in hospitals who had had their limbs broken or been shot, and we met families of some of those killed since December.

We were horrified to learn that after our delegation had visited Al-Ittihad hospital in Nablus, it was raided by Israeli soldiers. They beat 30 doctors and nurses, and six patients and their families in apparent retaliation for our visit.

Sister Maric, one of the Sisters of Loreto in the delegation, at one point, said, "Being here is always feeling that you are doing something wrong when you're not."

This feeling followed us to the airport for departure, where the interrogation included questions such as, "Did anyone try to see you or give you messages?" "Did you meet any Arabs?"

What particularly horrified us was the obvious similarity between South African apartheid and some of the Israeli government policies. Palestinians cannot vote or choose their representatives, are arrested under administrative detention, and have had their land confiscated. Moreover, roughly 80% of the cheap labor force for Israel is provided by Palestinians from the Occupied Territories, who are not allowed to stay "inside the Green Line" (the pre-1967 borders) as permanent residents.

Just as in South Africa, funerals are banned in the Occupied Territories. Our delegation was turned away from two villages on February 22 as we tried to attend funerals. We visited a family whose young teen-aged daughter was one of the martyred; the body was returned to the family at midnight for immediate burial only, and no women were allowed to attend the funeral. Other religious services and attendance are also controlled and subject to army invasion.

The February 22, 1988, issue of the *Jerusalem Post* cites the right-wing Tehiya Party's call to the Israeli Defense Force to "cleanse the mosques of those who incite to rebellion." And, accord-

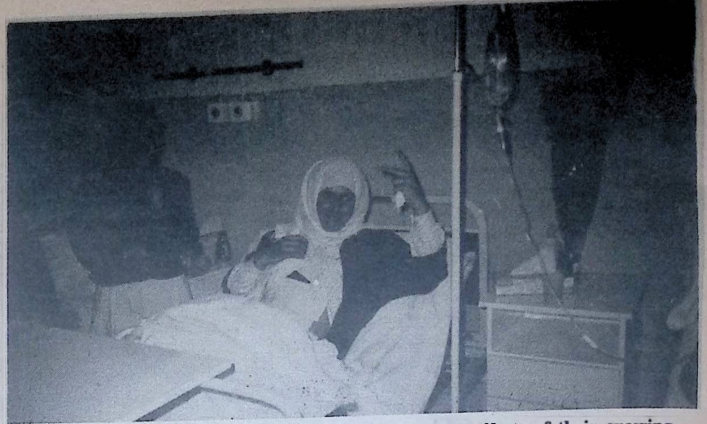
The Popular Uprising is well organized: commissions for different types of activity are acting as the arm of the PLO in the occupied territories. The Popular Uprising aims, not to achieve a state with stones and molotovs, but to take a first step, attacking the Israeli economy, the image of the Israeli army as invincible, and the image of Israel as an embattled democracy. Strikes have put a large number of Israeli factories out of production. The recent general strike cost the Israeli economy \$30 million. Other tactics are the boycott of Israeli goods, refusal to pay taxes, resignation of police and tax collectors, organizing of cottage industries and family gardens. Leaders are examining the potential of civil disobedience.

ing to an Israeli survivor of the Holocaust we spoke with, in Hitler's Germany the term "Judenein" (cleanse the place of Jews) was commonplace. He was concerned that in today's Israel, one can hear "Arabrein" (cleanse the place of Arabs) spoken frequently. And, according to reports we received, approximately 15% to 20% of the Israeli population is increasingly worried that the current events in Israel are leading inexorably toward a Nazification of that land.

As women, as mothers, we grieved upon learning that after being exposed to a CS 560 tear gas—produced in the United States by Federal Laboratories in Saltsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1988—pregnant women seem to be losing their babies at an alarming rate. In an interview, a woman who had lost her baby this way, told us that during a demonstration at the Red Cross in Hebron, a "tear gas" canister had been lobbed inside the building by Israeli soldiers, who locked the women inside and prevented them from leaving. Five weeks later, the medical check-up revealed that her baby had been dead for approximately five weeks. Doctors reported to



When your home has been bulldozed...



Women are increasingly among the wounded as the effects of their growing militancy make them targets. This young woman in the Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nablus was shot in the stomach. Though women rarely show parts of their body publicly, she agreed to pose for pictures. Both women can be seen giving the salute associated with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

One hour after the delegation of U.S. women left this hospital, the Israeli Army raided the hospital, beat 30 doctors and nurses, and also beat 6 patients and their families.

the delegation that within 25 hours after being exposed to this gas, intrauterine fetal deaths in the second and third trimester are common. Moreover, this gas appears to attack the circulatory systems of older people who have cardiac vulnerabilities.

In spite of this type of experience, women are more and more in the forefront of the struggle. It is common practice for women to call out, "My son!" to any Palestinian man who is being taken into police custody. Indeed, knowing of this practice emboldened the U.S. delegation to shout, "Leave that boy alone!" one day in a vain attempt to protect one of the Palestinian youth who were being randomly beaten in our very presence in Old Jerusalem.

Moreover, women have become organized into neighborhood committees

throughout the West Bank and Gaza. These committees are an integral part of The Union of Palestinian Women's Committees in the Occupied Land. This new militancy of women is matched by the commitment of the Palestinian communities as a whole throughout the West Bank and Gaza. Even the children of the refugee camps are aware that they are part of a historical movement of their people for dignity and justice.

As we talked with women leaders from all over the Occupied Territories and inside the Green Line on that last night before our departure, the delegation realized that we would forever have a responsibility to both the Palestinians and Israelis to tell our experience witnessing this struggle for equality for Palestinians and justice inside Israel.

## U.S.-Palestinian Women Meet

The Union of Palestinian Women's Associations in the U.S. held its Third Annual Conference early in June in New Jersey. The Union helps their members "maintain their Palestinian identity and link to the homeland...and struggles for the enhancement of their

social, educational, economic, and cultural conditions."

Vinie Burrows, representing the WIDF, addressed the conference, to bring greetings from the international organization and from WREE. Stating that the "WIDF is an active part of the worldwide mass movement in solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people for their legitimate cause," Burrows reported, "I have just returned from Basel, Switzerland, where 29 WIDF national affiliates from Europe, Canada, Iceland, and the USA held a regional consultative meeting describing our activities since the historic Moscow Congress of Women. Almost all have been working around the question of Palestine, Sweden, Great Britain, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, Switzerland, Iceland, Finland, Norway, the Netherlands, and of course, WREE in the U.S., have launched boycotts, postcard and letter-writing campaigns in addition to demonstrations, tours, and other solidarity efforts. All have pledged their continued concrete, propaganda and material aid. Our affiliates in Sweden, Great Britain, Iceland, Switzerland, Austria, and France, have raised funds for families involved in the uprising. It was proposed that an international meeting on the conditions of Palestinian children be convened.

In the interest of a just, durable, and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict the convening of a Middle East Peace conference with all the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, under the auspices of the United Nations, is a long overdue initiative that must be realized as soon as possible."

# THE MURDER OF DULCIE SEPTEMBER

The Botha-Malan regime yesterday revealed its terrorist face in the cold-blooded murder of the ANC's Luxembourg, Comrade Dulcie September.

This brazen act of terrorism is not an isolated incident. It is part of a larger pattern of terrorist attacks and criminal assaults perpetrated against members and leaders of the ANC in every country where we have an organized or diplomatic presence. On Monday, March 28th, a racist death squad attacked a house in Gaborone killing four people, three of whom were Botswana women, the fourth being a male South African refugee. A spokesman on behalf of the apartheid regime has already admitted their responsibility for this foul deed. What he neglected to acknowledge was that after killing their victims, they mutilated their bodies and burnt them beyond recognition.

It is self-evident that the permissive attitude adopted by certain Western governments towards Pretoria's terrorist tactics has encouraged the racists to ever bolder measures, with a callous disregard for either the sovereignty of these very Western states or the casualties such actions could entail among the citizens of those countries.

Comrade Dulcie September, a defenseless woman, was riddled with bullets at point-blank range, by what the French police describe as a professional, after she had made repeated appeals for protection to the French authorities.

The ANC once again appeals to the international community to take measures necessary to demonstrate its abhorrence of the continuing criminal activities of the apartheid regime—in South Africa, in Southern Africa and the world at large. We expect the authorities in France and Belgium to pursue the perpetrators of these crimes with the vigour that they demand and to prosecute the culprits to the full extent of the law.

On our part, the ANC pledges itself to continue to escalate the struggle inside South Africa until final victory.

Alfred Nzo  
Secretary General, African National Congress  
30th March, 1988

## What Sanctions Would Do

The South African economy is "highly vulnerable" to sanctions, and six industrialized countries could end apartheid, according to a report by a West German research institute.

By imposing and effectively applying a selective and comparatively small sanctions package, the U.S., U.K., West Germany, France, Switzerland, and Japan could exclude South Africa from the international economic system and cause apartheid to collapse.

This is the conclusion drawn by the Stamberger Institute, *Research into Global Structures, Development and Crises*. The study was commissioned by the Protestant Church in West Germany.

The analysis states that "the South African economy is highly vulnerable to targeted sanctions; that by wielding effective sanctions, a small group of only six countries has the power to chop through one of apartheid's most vital supports—its integration into the world economy; that, as far as these countries are concerned, effective sanctions would entail a fairly small package of measures with negligible overall effects on their own economies." Moreover, unlike previous assumptions, whites and not blacks would feel the impact most. Whites would experience "a deterioration of their former high standard of living," while "for the black majority, the negative effects of sanctions would, taken as a whole, be very minimal indeed."

"In fact, by impeding the apartheid system and ultimately rendering it unworkable, sanctions would open the door to a much more hopeful prospect for the black population."

The sanctions envisaged include a refusal to allow South Africa to roll over loans, banning new money and ensuring that this "would swiftly push South Africa into international insolvency and provoke massive capital flight, leading to a fiscal crisis of the state, a cessation of investment and an exodus of business people and experts—in all, to an irrecoverable weakening of the apartheid regime."

### UN Acts for Sanctions

The United Nations General Assembly made a strong plea by name to the

United Kingdom and the United States to cease their opposition to comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

The plea was made at the 42nd session of the UN General Assembly in one of the resolutions it adopted by voting on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of South Africa.

The U.S. voted against this resolution as it did against 6 other resolutions against the apartheid S. African regime.



## ASIAN SISTERS NEED HELP

by Committee for Human Rights in Malaysia

Four women are being held as political prisoners in Malaysia: Heng Leng Chee, Cecilia Ng, Theresa Lim Chin Chin, and Irene P. L. Xavier. They are

under 2-year-detention orders which may be renewed indefinitely without trial under the country's Internal Security Act. This harsh law, similar to the one in South Africa, permits preventive detention of anyone deemed to be, or likely to become, a threat to national security.

These women are activists in human and women's rights issues. Their involvement in the women's movement in Malaysia was among the "allegations" against them. Two, Heng Leng and Cecilia, were educated at colleges in the U.S.

Dr. Paul Wise of the Harvard School of Public Health, and Father Robert Drinan, on a recent fact-finding mission to Malaysia, were told by the Special Branch Police that Heng Leng is under "preventive detention" which means that she is not charged with violating any laws. They also learned that the police dossier on Heng Leng contains evidence that she studied with "left-leaning" professors in the U.S. and took courses related to helping the poor. This evidence was used to support the charge of "communism."

### Allegations "Absurd"

Allegations against detainees are often empty and absurd: "that you in 1986 and 1987 took active part in several demonstrations regarding several current issues in the country such as radioactive waste dumping in Papan [a village], the incidence of rape, squatter problems, and mass retrenchment of workers by factories."

The Committee for Human Rights in Malaysia points out that by equating the demand for human rights and particularly, women's rights, with "communism," the Malaysian government is trying to destroy the women's movement in its infancy. Second, Malaysia has the second largest number of foreign students in the U.S. These students risk imprisonment on their return to their country.

Father Drinan is pressing for congressional hearings on Malaysia, and Representatives Barney Frank and Chester Atkins of Massachusetts are supporting this demand. WREE has written to the Prime Minister and Ambassador of Malaysia expressing concern and asking for the unconditional release or open trial of the detainees; and requesting an explanation of the Internal Security Act or the charges against the accused.

The WREE VIEW urges its readers to write similar letters to the Malaysian Ambassador:

His Excellency Albert S. Talalla  
Embassy of Malaysia  
2401 Massachusetts Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20008

(and please send a copy to WREE.)



## WOMEN'S AFRICA FUND

by Cecilia McCall

In June 1987 at the World Congress of Women in Moscow, I had the honor of representing WREE as the mistress of ceremonies for the solidarity celebration in support of the struggles of the women of South Africa. It was a festive evening full of sisterly greetings and song as expressions of support for our sisters of ANC and SWAPO. More importantly, it was the occasion of the announcement of the launching of the Africa Fund. Freda Brown, President of the WIDF, pledged the efforts of the affiliate organizations of the WIDF to demonstrate their allegiance to the freedom of South Africa through monetary contributions. In other words, she promised that we would "put our money where our mouths are."

Now more than ever, support for the Fund is urgent. As a result of the silencing of the democratic organizations and leading individuals and increasing destabilization of the Frontline States by the racist apartheid regime, concrete aid is needed. It is viewed by the WIDF as part of the actions pledged to support the women of South Africa at its International Conference in Solidarity with

Women and the People of South Africa, Namibia, the Frontline States, and neighboring countries. This conference in London at the beginning of February 1987, like most of the international events, was attended by a member of WREE. As a result, we organized the national tour for the women of Southern Africa during June 1987. Then, in Moscow, the Africa Fund was launched. Even though WREE sisters have already been very generous, the need for material support continues.

The WIDF recently revealed that there has been a tremendous response to its appeal, and has extended the closing date of the campaign to December 31, 1988. This gives all of us additional time to arrange an event or to collect donations for the Africa Fund. The money received will be given to the Non-Aligned Movement. It is believed that the money will help strengthen the economies of the Frontline States in the face of South Africa's assaults against them. As mandatory sanctions are brought against that regime, it will retaliate in kind. So, even though you have already done so much, do a little more.

WREE  
401 B'way, 22 Floor  
New York City 10013

Here is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the Africa Fund. (Checks made out to "WREE," marked for "Africa Fund.")

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_



# Gang-up Against Abortion Rights

by Diane Jones

During the first week of May, a group of about 800 anti-abortionists from around the country concentrated on New York City to engage in what they called "Operation Rescue." Their stated purpose was to disrupt and close clinics providing abortions.

The action is not new. In November 1987, 211 people were arrested in Cherry Hill, N.J., where they closed a women's center. And, according to the New York Times, "plans are under way for protests in eight more cities."

NOW, the Pro-Choice Coalition, NARAL, and Refuse & Resist mounted counterdemonstrations and attempted to defend the clinics (i.e. keep them open and escort women in). The initial pro-choice demonstration on April 29 to alert people to the projected "Operation Rescue," attracted several thousand people who demanded that constitutional law be upheld and women's right to safe and legal abortions be honored.

Unfortunately, the clinics could not easily be defended when 300 to 500 people sat down in front of the building. Unless you want to physically assault them, it is not possible to move them. The police were the only ones who could realistically take action.

## Rightwing Takes Lead from Government

Given the fact that the anti-choice people now have the stated approval of the President of the United States and other elected officials, they are treated significantly differently from other people who participate in civil disobedience. Throughout the week, with the exception of one day when they made it difficult for business people to get to work, they were treated with "kid gloves."

Pro-choice people did not fare as well. On May 3, when they attempted to keep a clinic open, they were removed from the site roughly by the police. The anti-abortionists were then allowed to stage their sit-in. Later that same morning, when attempting to escort a clinic employee into the clinic, a pro-choice activist was assaulted by the police and later arrested, along with a man who tried to assist him.

The police also denied members of the Press free access, forcing them to stay in a barricaded area. One WBAI (Pacifica Radio) reporter was threatened with loss of her Press Card if she attempted to move outside the barricade.

In contrast, the anti-choicers had free rein of the area. Joe Scheidler, founder of the Pro-Life Action League, said that the police had been very "cooperative" with Operation Rescue. Throughout the week, pro-lifers were gently carried away on stretchers, removed to another site, charged with disorderly conduct, and released—this despite a judge's restraining order against their action. The order also requires that a \$25,000 fine be paid for every day they blocked clinics. No one expects these fines will ever be paid. The District Attorney of Nassau County said he wouldn't be able to prosecute them because "he feels" their cause is just.

## Lessons from Events

Two conclusions can be drawn from what happened in New York, said a WREE member who participated in the pro-choice demonstrations. "Although access to safe and legal abortion is a

## WIDF Wants Artists

Dear Friends,

This year's WIDF greeting card on International Women's Day has met with widespread approval.

We owe the motif (originally a wall plate) to our Greek friend Mary Di-aleti-Aravaninou. She made this wall plate at our request and we used the motif for World Congress of Women posters and the International Women's Day greeting card for 1988.

This experience has prompted us to make the following request: If there is someone in your organization or among the women you are in touch with who does artistic work as a painter, graphic artist or whatever and who is familiar with our objectives and views, please try to persuade her to provide the WIDF with sketches, drawings, pictures, graphics or something similar. We would then be in a position to use them for the journal, "Women of the Whole World," posters, stickers, and many other things besides.

Should there be a positive response to this request, the Secretariat of the WIDF could treat the works submitted as competition entries and award prizes for the best ones.

Yours sincerely,  
Mirjam Vire-Tuominen  
General Secretary



UNESCO/W. PAPES

## Older Women Press Congress

The Older Women's League (OWL), whose motto is "Organize, Don't Agonize," did just that: OWL gave members of Congress a report showing how and why elderly women become impoverished. It was hand-delivered with cards noting that "Motherhood is a two-way street. She listened to your problems. Now it's your turn."

Women's care-giving roles for their children as well as other family members (parents, spouses) and related occupational decisions are a big factor in women's plight; so are inequities in how both Social Security benefits and pensions are affected by current laws after divorce or death of a spouse. The effects of occupational segregation, pay inequities, inadequate health insurance, and lack of employment benefits for part-time work all have left their mark.

"The mere fact that you are a woman increases your chances of being poor by 60%," says the OWL report on the economic status of midlife and older women in the U.S. It provides 12 pages of graphic evidence, in text and data charts, that America has been enacting laws—and not enacting them—"based on fairy tales" of the "myth of the wealthy elderly." The "ugly truth is that 4 of every 10 older women are poor or near poor." There are over 23 million midlife women ages 45-64, plus 16 million over age 65, so OWL told Congress to ignore its '88 Mothers' Day card "at your peril." OWL might well have given the same message to younger women.

## Rep. Conyers Explains Voter Registration Act

In a letter to WREE, Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), explained the impact of HR 3950, the Universal Voter Registration Act, which he introduced, together with Reps. Hamilton Fish (R-NY), Frank Horton (R-NY), and Tony Coelho (D-CA). Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA) has introduced an identical bill in the Senate.

The WREE VIEW thinks this bill sufficiently important to reprint the Congressman's explanation and urge readers to press their representatives in Congress to support it.

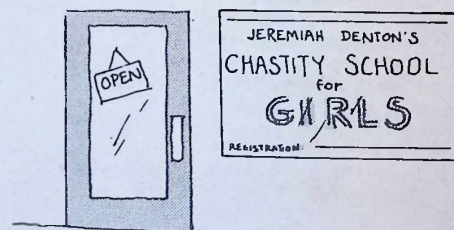
The Universal Voter Registration Act entitles any eligible individual to register for any federal election by mail, on election day and at public agencies that serve the public directly. Many states have already used many of these methods and have done so with great success. Conservative estimates show that these registration methods could bring over six million new voters into the democratic process.

One of the most important goals in

the American democratic process, and one both Democrats and Republicans should share, is increasing the level of voter participation in our federal elections, making America a more participatory and representative democracy.

While the theories may differ as to the low voter turnout in the U.S., the consensus of the studies and reports, including the one sponsored by Harvard/ABC, show consistently that simplifying and making more accessible the registration process is the key. The studies show also that mail-in and same-day registration are two of the best ways to increase voter participation without increasing the risk of voter fraud.

The notion behind the bill and the affirmative requirement it imposes on government is that without participation democracy increasingly loses its meaning, becoming detached from the people it serves. It is for this reason that I have no greater priority than to gather for this bill the support it needs and deserves.



Lee Miller/CPF

constitutional right, the police (at least in New York) will not do much to defend it; and the anti-abortionists, although a decided minority, are gathering momentum. They have found an effective tool to gain attention. People who believe women have the right to choose what happens to their own bodies need to develop more effective and empowering action strategies.

"Pro-choice activists must redouble their efforts to inform, politicize, and mobilize the people for whom legalized abortion is crucial—poor and minority women. I make this statement," she said, "because when I attended planning meetings and demonstrations, the people present were predominantly white and appeared to be middle class. I was sometimes the only Black woman present."

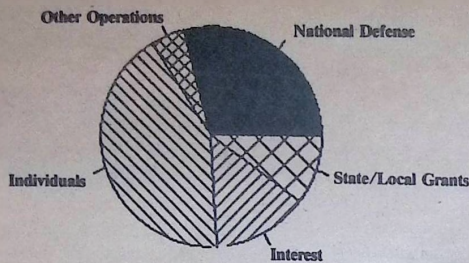
WREE chapters around the country have worked to remind people who have forgotten and inform people who never knew, that pro-life rhetoric has little to do with abortion. As the right-wing leaders themselves say, "The abortion issue is the door through which many people come into conservative politics, but they don't stop there." Their agenda is far removed from concern for human life. The political right is concerned with profits and power, not people.

WREE has called on its members to send the Supreme Court a resounding message: legalized abortion is here to stay because the majority of U.S. citizens firmly believe that the only person who has a right to determine what a woman does with her body is that woman.

## Investment of Worth

You value the earthen vase—  
each crack applauded  
for authenticity,  
a slave's Freedom Quilt—  
hand-pulled stitchery  
a rare tale relinquished  
Victorian silver hair pins  
with filigreed flowers  
delicate as unconscious.  
A collector of ancients  
quite proud of your tastes  
but scornful of  
curled brown leaves  
slight gray webs  
parched desert soil  
of a woman  
turned and tuned to her ripening,  
whose life is dear  
as a signed first edition,  
whose death as costly  
as a polished oak bed.

Terri L. Jewell  
Lausig, MI



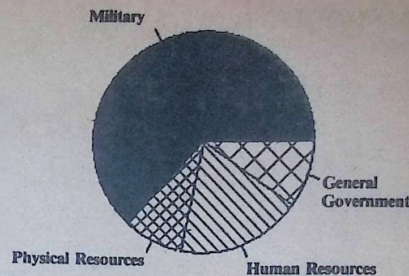
**THE FICTION**  
(Includes Trust Funds)

The above fictitious budget is arrived at by the Executive Branch by adding into it all the disbursements from Trust Funds, such as Social Security. These payments are simply the return of funds which had been paid in, and do not come out of our Income Tax.

Similarly, moneys spent by NASA, the Department of Energy, and other

agencies to satisfy military requirements are put into nonmilitary categories. All the interest on the federal debt is treated as "domestic," although almost all the deficit is traceable to the Vietnam War and Reagan's military spending spree. In this way, they get Defense spending to appear to be 29%. Then they make "domestic" spending a target for budget cuts.

# THE FICTITIOUS U.S. BUDGET



**THE REALITY**  
(Actual Federal Outlays)

That adds up to 63% of the national budget.

What's left is 9% for agriculture, commerce, energy, housing and urban development, interior, transportation, environment protection; 18% for education, health and human services, labor; and 10% for government, justice, interest on civilian part of the national debt.

## I'd Rather Be Taxed for Peace

Our government and the financial and political institutions that support it, remain committed to the arms race and the nuclear madness. There is, however, a growing group of concerned people here and around the world who are demanding an end to the planned destruction of the planet. It was this demand and pressure that brought about the signing of the INF Treaty.

More and more people are expressing frustration that their tax monies are used to support the military against their own desire and conscience. Thus, we have the introduction of the U.S. Peace Tax Fund Bills HR 2041 and S1018 now win Congress that would provide a legal alternative to the existing conflict between conscience and law.

An article in *Green Times* explains the law this way:

The U.S. Peace Tax Fund Bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide that a taxpayer with religious, moral, or ethical beliefs against participation in war could designate his or her income, estate and gift taxes to be used for nonmilitary purposes only. The tax percentage that equals the current military portion of the federal budget would be deposited into a special trust fund. Eleven trustees who have demonstrated a consistent commitment to

world peace, international friendship and the peaceful resolution of conflict would administer the fund. They would direct the resources of the fund to support such projects as:

- 1) The retraining of workers displaced by conversion from military production.
- 2) The improvement of international health, education, and welfare.
- 3) Research and study of nonmilitary and nonviolent solutions to international strife, including selected programs of the U.S. Peace Institute.

The effects of this U.S. Peace Tax Fund would be twofold. First, on a basic financial level, we could begin to chip away at the government's expenditures on weapons. Second, and probably more important, the projects it would support would create an official channel through which we as a nation could finally start applying nonviolent resolutions to conflict.

The Peace Tax Bill will become law only when our individual and united actions tell Congress how important this is to all of us opposed to the reckless waste of our resources. Adopt a member of Congress and apply strong pressure for the passage of HR2014 in the House and S1018 in the Senate. Let's try to get it passed this year so we can celebrate next April 15th.

## MX PLANS BY MADMEN

If you thought the MX missile issue had been settled, think again. In 1985 Congress limited to 50 the number of MX missiles to be deployed in silos. Last year the Pentagon received an initial \$350 million to pursue a new basing mode, called the "MX rail-garrison." This year the Administration has requested more than \$800 million to set this basing mode into place. Many view the rail-garrison proposal as the means by which the Administration will pressure Congress to repeal the numerical cap of 50 MX missiles.

Current Administration plans call for a rail-mobile system consisting of 25 trains, each carrying two missiles and twenty warheads, garrisoned at up to eleven Strategic Air Command bases. In a crisis, the trains would be dispersed around the country on the national rail system.

The Carter Administration proposed deploying the MX in Nevada and Utah in what was dubbed the "dense pack" basing mode. However, local opposition became so vociferous and involved such a surprising coalition of groups (e.g. the Mormon church and cattle ranchers) that the Pentagon discarded the idea. It is no coincidence that states being considered for rail-garrison do not include any of the previously proposed states slated for MX deployment.

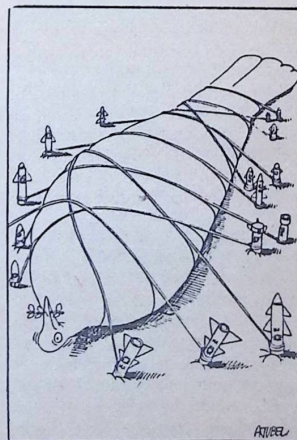
While the trains would be garrisoned only at a limited number of sites, they would be capable of traveling throughout the country once dispersed. Local foes of rail-garrison can raise a number of objections to the proposed basing mode. Here are some of the main problems with the system:

- The rail-garrison basing mode is extremely destabilizing. Dispersion of the missile-carrying trains could be perceived by the Soviets as provocative, thereby exacerbating the crisis.

- Deployment of additional MX missiles is a waste of taxpayers' money, since the U.S. already possesses sufficient nuclear deterrent capabilities.

The rail-garrison system is directly contrary to the U.S. negotiating position at the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) talks where the U.S. has proposed a ban on all mobile land-based missiles, as well as a 50% cut in long range nuclear arsenals.

—From *The Professional*, a newsletter of the Professionals' Coalition for Nuclear Arms Control.



to educate the public about the strategy and the alternatives while organizing. Space is the place to end the arms race. We can, we must, and we will."

At WREE's request Connie Van Praet has prepared a comprehensive analysis of space weaponry and the dangers we face. Copies are available from National WREE. Send \$2 to cover cost of reproducing and mailing.

## Space No Place for War Games

The Reagan administration's drive to escalate the arms race into outer space is now seriously challenged by a bill in the U.S. Congress, sponsored by Democrats and Republicans.

The Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), commonly known as Star wars, is a multibillion dollar, multilayered exotic weapons system, to which nearly \$13 billion of our taxes has already been allotted. Opponents of SDI have charged that it is an offensive first-strike system that would make nuclear war and annihilation inevitable, and the American Physics Association has officially reported its opposition on the grounds that the program would be impossible to complete successfully, impossible to test, and dangerous. SDI would also violate the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty signed by the U.S. and the Soviet Union in 1972.

Now, at last, comes a serious congressional challenge to the movement to escalate the arms race into outer space. The Outer Space Protection Act

(S.2346) is a binding bill introduced in April in the House and Senate that goes much farther than the current strategy, which seeks only to limit the funding within SDI. S.2346 would prohibit all funding for the development, testing, and deployment of space-based and space-directed weaponry, while calling on the U.S. to negotiate with the USSR for a comprehensive ban on space weaponry and calling on the United Nations to do the same with the agreement of all nations.

Until S.2346 was introduced, the most aggressive challenge to SDI was the Dellums and Boxer amendment, which calls for eliminating the SDI Organization (SDIO) and returning the programs to the different government agencies with a total price tag of \$1.2 billion the funding level for ballistic missile defenses prior to the establishment of SDIO.

The Institute for Security and Cooperation in Outer Space (ISCOS) is a nonprofit nonpartisan educational and

activist organization dedicated to promoting the benefits of international cooperation in the non-weapons research and development of outer space.

WREE VIEW asked Connie Van Praet, research director for the Institute, to give us her evaluation of the Senate bill. Connie, a WREE member, told WREE VIEW that "the Outer Space Protection Act needs the attention and support of the public to see that the (congressional) leadership will push it up for committee consideration, hearings, and a place on the legislative calendar for a formal vote in both houses.

"WREE and other organizations dedicated to peace and justice, must make this bill a reality and not a fantasy as some opponents like to characterize it. We do this the same way we do anything, write Congress, particularly Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Senator Mark Hatfield (R-OR) and Congressman Les AuCoin (D-OR), sponsors of the bill, encouraging them to take a strong leadership position and push. We must con-

# Working Cut off from



## The Army in Our Schools

The West Virginia Council of Churches set up a Task Force to participate in a national survey being conducted by Educators for Social Responsibility to document the extent and nature of armed forces recruitment practices in high schools. The Task Force learned that the West Virginia Board of Education has an agreement with the U.S. Army under which the Army is providing a high school curriculum entitled "The National Pre-Service Electronics Training" program

(NPET). The curriculum is written by the Army, and is being put in place in high schools across 10 states, mostly in the Southeast.

"Information from the state Education Department about how the NPET is being used in WV is very hard to come by," said Carol Shariip, director of the Office of Peace and Justice of the WV Council of Churches. "We may have to use the Freedom of Information Act to find out more about the WV aspect of the program. We do know that under the program teachers are being brought to Ft. Gordon, Georgia, to learn how to teach the courses, and that students are attending summer work camps at the base. Studies have shown that when this curriculum goes into schools, the number of students considering military enlistment increases."

### Training for Peace, Not War

Saying that the "time has come to train for peace as we have for war," Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD) introduced a bill in Congress to create an alternative to ROTC. A similar bill was introduced into the Senate by Sen. Claiborne Pell. The legislation, called the Voluntary National Services and Education Demonstration Act, proposes a 5-year, \$5 billion annual pilot program that would pay tuition and education costs for qualified college students willing to commit themselves to two years of community services in the Peace Corps.

Morella's bill, HR2632, has 56 cosponsors and hearings are expected in the Foreign Relations Committee this Spring. The Senate bill, which has 4 cosponsors, is S762.

Association, said in its report: "A total of \$1.7 billion should be added above the baseline to priority education programs that target educational aid and services to our most disadvantaged students." After all, \$1.7 billion is less than half what has been allocated for Star Wars in 1988.

The coalition called on Congress to allocate at least \$22.8 billion for education next year.

by Irene Johnson

The quality of the educational services children receive is their parents' greatest concern, second only to medical services. Parents, who are accustomed to assuming responsibility for their children's lives, must be ready when their children enter school, to give over part of this responsibility to the school system and to educators.

Parents may have less input into how school services are provided than in any other situation. This is because schools rarely function in a manner or on a schedule that encourages parent participation; the schoolhouse door closes at three. This time schedule is not acceptable in a world where most parents work. Working parents, whether from single- or two-parent families, find it almost impossible to become involved in their children's schooling. The school system has done little to accommodate to this change in our social system. Moreover, partnerships cannot be effected if parents are excluded from access to the schools.

Advocates for Children urges parents to attend school conferences and become involved in their PAs and PTAs. However, employers are not

usually sympathetic or flexible when parents must attend SBST and COH meetings, suspension hearings, impartial hearings, or school conferences, all held during the working day. Working parents are penalized by loss of pay, which they need to feed, house, and clothe their children. Sometimes parents who make continued trips to school lose their jobs. On the other hand, parents who do not come to invited conferences are often considered uncooperative by the school system.

The school system does hold open school nights several times a year. However, the average meeting with teachers at these times is 7 minutes per parent. Confidentiality and sensitivity are impossible, because there may be 30 other parents waiting to speak with the teacher. The average working parent has access to his/her child's teacher 14 minutes a year. How can any constructive educational planning be done under these circumstances? On the other hand, parents whose children attend private schools usually have ample time in the evening and on Saturdays to meet with their children's teachers.

All too often PAs and PTAs exclude working parents from the decision-making

## Education Budget Bad for Education

President Reagan's education budget will ensure that millions of needy students are denied critical aid and assistance. In a report given to members of Congress in March, a coalition of more than 100 organizations said that although the Reagan budget shows increases in education spending over the last year, the amount proposed for 1989 would, in fact, fall short of the money spent on education in 1980; inflation has eaten away the worth of the funds!

The Committee for Education Funding showed in its report, for example, that although the budget provides \$750 million more for the Pell grants program (which allots financial assistance to needy college students), it eliminates the low-interest National Direct Students Loans. In another example, the coalition showed that while the budget allocates \$238 million more for Chapter I (a program to aid low-achieving students in poor neighborhoods), it would still provide services for less than half of those eligible.

The administration asked for \$21.2 billion for education for fiscal year 1989, which starts October 1st. The coalition, representing nearly 10 million teachers, parents, students, counsellors, administrators, and librarians, and including the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education



## Special Problems of Immigrant Children

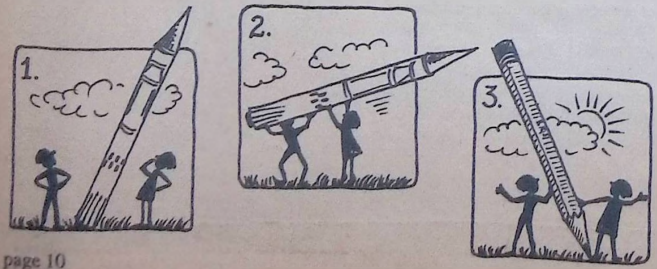
The school-age children of immigrants in the U.S. are, by and large, getting a raw deal concerning their education. This conclusion is obvious from the facts exposed in a recent study: "New Voices; Immigrant Students in the U.S. Public Schools," by the National Coalition of Advocates for Students. The coalition is based in Boston and funded mainly by the Ford Foundation.

Although the Supreme Court has ruled that all immigrant schoolage children, whether or not they are in this country legally, have the right to an education, the schools around the country are, for the most part, doing a poor job for them. Not only are they subjected to unfair placement practices and lack of bilingual education, they must also endure insensitivity and discrimination by many teachers and administrators, as well as harassment by other students. Many of the children are placed in classes for handicapped children or in inappropriate grades. Many try to cope with these difficulties while living in

fear of deportation. Some 6.6 million people migrated to the U.S. in the 1970s, and the migration is continuing, now mainly from Central and South America, the Caribbean, Mexico, and Asia. The children number about 2.7 million and are 6% of U.S. public school enrollment. Because of the difficulties faced by these children, dropout rates are high and suicide attempts are frighteningly frequent.

Advocates of "English only" and "English first" send a "clear message to the newcomers that their languages and cultures are unwelcome and inferior—a point of view that ill prepares this country for the realities of its domestic and international future," says the Coalition's report.

The study advocates enhancing the quality of bilingual education, restructuring schools to assess pupils for placement in appropriate grade levels, and providing counseling and support geared to immigrants and their problems.



## Parents Schools

ing process by holding their meetings during morning school hours. Notices to inform parents of school meetings are sent home through children and often get lost before the children get home, particularly if the children do not see their parents right after school ends.

Some thought must be given to restructuring the school system to include working parents.

This is not an easy problem to solve since teachers' hours and those of other school personnel would have to be extended or made more flexible. However, since teachers themselves are usually working parents at some time in their careers, it is probable they would be willing to move toward systems that allow the involvement of working parents in their children's schooling.

Here are some suggestions:

1) Open School Nights should be conducted over a two-week period with 1/2 hour appointments scheduled for each parent. The parents should be offered at least two appointments a year—one in the spring and one in the fall. In areas where transportation is difficult or the neighborhood is unsafe at night, the school should organize parent and tea-

chers groups to come and go together and could alert police so that parents and teachers feel protected.

2) Where it is not possible for parents to come to school, telephone conferences could be scheduled during evening hours for working parents. It should be noted, however, that many parents do not have telephones.

3) COH conferences, suspension hearings, and impartial hearings could be scheduled at night or on Saturdays.

4) PAs and PTAs should hold meetings evenings and Saturdays.

5) Important notices should be mailed home to parents.

These suggestions are not solutions. They are meant to initiate discussion by the parties involved, parents and school personnel, working together to improve the quality of children's education. This involves serious contractual and other adjustments for school personnel for the added hours, additional costs for keeping buildings open, etc. However, these are solvable problems. Working parents trying to improve the quality of life for themselves and their children should no longer be excluded from any school function or activity.

## Teacher Shortage Increasing

The U.S. teacher shortage that has been predicted for the 1990s is already a harsh reality in inner city school districts, where vacancies are 3 times greater than in suburban or rural districts. What's more, the shortage crisis will grow rapidly worse unless serious long-term remedies are applied.

A study commissioned by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education shows that although enrollment in teacher colleges is rising, the vast majority of trainees do not plan to work in urban schools where the need for more teachers is most critical. The study, "Teaching Teachers: Facts and Figures," found that 95% of teacher-trainees come from suburban or small rural towns, and that almost all of them will return to those districts after graduation.

There is a severe shortage, in particular, of minority students in teacher training. Only 5% of all trainees are Black and 3% are Hispanic; 89% are white.

Aggravating the situation is the widely publicized image of inner city schools as unsafe for teachers, unsupportive and bureaucratic. In addition teacher salaries in many large urban districts have become less competitive

compared with salaries in wealthy suburban districts. "There's no crisis in suburban schools," said Sam Yarger, dean of the School of Education of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. "The real crisis in education is in urban America."

Some urban school districts have taken steps to relieve their teacher shortages. In the Miami-Dade School District in Florida, a new teacher who takes a position in one of the subject areas that have the most critical shortages, gets a bonus of \$5000. An additional \$500 is given to a teacher who accepts a position in an inner city school, and \$500 for each year that he or she remains in that school.

The Houston Independent School District (Texas) is offering temporary housing to new teachers and their families, and makes serious efforts to help spouses of new teachers find jobs in the district.

Concerned educators and parents whose children are victims of inner city deficiencies and neglect, maintain that patchwork remedies in scattered school districts, as necessary and praiseworthy as they are, cannot begin to meet the desperately needed nationwide effort to turn the situation around.



## Literacy Corps Proposed for USA

Under a new program announced by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, college students in Boston will teach children and adults to read through a privately financed program.

Calling it the beginning of a "national literacy corps," Sen. Kennedy has sponsored legislation in Congress to underwrite similar tutoring programs with public funds at 1000 colleges and universities across the country.

Grants are awarded to participating institutions to cover administrative costs, and students will receive college credit for giving private reading lessons in prisons, schools, adult literacy centers, and agencies for handicapped children.

Americans are less literate now than 200 years ago when the Constitution was ratified. Twenty-three million Americans cannot read newspaper headlines or the warning on a pack of cigarettes, and 35 million others can barely read.

"If a thousand colleges participate, 165,000 students would join the literacy corps and ten million hours of tutoring would be generated in two years," Kennedy said. "Valued at \$20 an hour, the \$27.5 million investment in the program would generate \$200 million worth of tutoring services—over a seven-fold return."

## Useful Posters Available

A new *STAY IN SCHOOL—YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT* poster series has been developed by the Organization for Equal Education of the Sexes (OEES), Inc. On these 12 unique posters, real teenagers offer "peer counseling" to other at-risk young people, advising against dropping out and telling why they decided to complete their own education.

The young women featured on the posters represent many racial groups and regions of the country as well as a range of motivations for staying in school and reasons why some students leave school, including teenage pregnancy. On one poster, Minerva Diaz, who dropped out in eleventh grade and later returned, says, "Having a baby doesn't mean the end. Because of my child, I really went after my degree, my skills training, and my job." On another, Ursula Lowery, a seventeen-year-old high school student, credits her guidance counselor with giving her support she needed to stay in school and says, "I think there's always someone to help you if you give them a chance."

A free picture brochure on the 12 *STAY IN SCHOOL* posters is available from OEES Dropout Posters, 438 Fourth St., Brooklyn, NY 11215.

## Class Size "Not Important"

Although research has shown that elementary school class size must be reduced to a maximum of 15 pupils per classroom, a report by the Department of Education says that trying to raise students' test scores through smaller classes "will probably be a waste of money and effort."

The government report, issued on March 30, is titled "Class Size and Public Policy: Politics and Panaceas." It was not based on any new research and can be said to reflect accurately in this one aspect of the ongoing debate, the attitude of the Reagan administration regarding public education in general. The policy of the National Education Association, a teachers' union with almost 2 million members, states that "excellence in the classroom can best be attained by small class size." The NEA urges its local unions and members to "seek an optimum class size of 15 students."

William J. Bennett, the Secretary of Education, has announced that he will leave his post in September. Although he has frequently criticized the low standards in the nation's schools, he has clashed just as frequently with the teachers' unions regarding remedies for the problem.

About the efforts of unions, educators, and parents to reduce class size to 15, Bennett's Assistant Secretary of Education in charge of research said: "There are a lot of better and less costly things you can do and get results. There's no question that good teachers in tiny classes are one of the reasons people pay for expensive private schools. But it's not a very prudent investment strategy if you're trying to improve the vast enterprise of American education."

(The basic attitude of the administration toward public education, many in the field have said, was vividly projected in Reagan's first appointment of a Education Secretary when he also announced his intention of dissolving the Department altogether.)

Responding to the government report, a spokesman for NEA said, "It is very expensive to lower it to 15, but they continually use this rationale for doing nothing. We have elementary teachers out there...with 38, 40, 42 kids in their classes. That's the sad part."

Peace organizations, and others concerned with housing, equal rights, jobs, etc., including WREE, have long demanded that the government reduce its multibillion dollar expenditures on nuclear arms, bombers, aircraft carriers, and military bases around the world, and make these billions available for education and other needs of our population.

**I started skipping school like with my boyfriend.**

**I never thought being absent would get me dropped out—but it did, and I was shocked!**

**It wasn't easy, but I went back to school. I won't let anything get in the way of my education again.**

*Your life depends on it!*

**When I Found Out I Was Pregnant, I Was Still Determined To Graduate.**

**Your life depends on it! STAY IN SCHOOL**

## Another Unreal "Study" of Boys & Girls

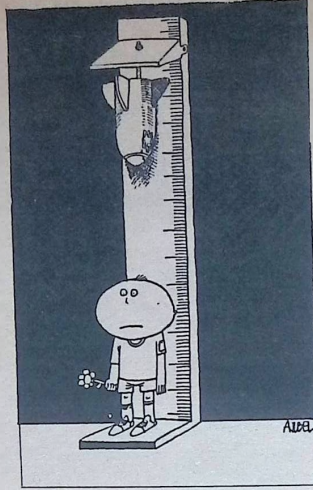
The way children perceive themselves and the personality characteristics that are related to high self-esteem differ significantly between boys and girls, according to Dr. Jack Block, professor of psychology at the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Block spoke recently at Radcliffe College on his research on sex differences and personality development. He, and his late wife, Jeanne Humphrey Block, conducted 'longitudinal studies' in which individuals were followed over many years, to relate early behavior and life conditions to later behavior.

According to Block, 11-year-old boys see themselves as more adventuresome, sensible, confident, and curious than do girls. In contrast, girls see themselves as more affectionate, reserved, and sociable. During middle adolescence, said Block, more boys than girls tended to view themselves as logical, calm, and competitive; the girls see themselves as more worried, generous, and sympathetic. At 18, he said, boys perceived themselves as relatively more rebellious, mischievous, and playful; girls describe themselves as more stubborn, more in need of approval, and more apt to be emotionally perturbed.

Block also found gender differences in the personality characteristics that were associated with high self-esteem. Girls who possessed high self-esteem were relatively gregarious, humorous, expressive, talkative, giving, sympathetic, warm, and socially perceptive. Boys who thought highly of themselves tended to be relatively introspective, to avoid close relationships, and to be skeptical, intelligent, ruminative, somewhat philosophical, fastidious, and not concerned with their bodies.

The WREE VIEW staff was concerned that this report seemed so vague and general, so we asked WREE member Cecelia Pollack, Ph.D., psychologist, and consultant on children, to assess Dr. Block's presentation. This is Dr. Pollack's response:

In a nutshell, I do not believe there is much psychological validity in studying "more than 100 boys and girls at 7 different ages" without differentiating the class or culture from which they come. It is generally recognized by progressive anthropologists that children's social and emotional development to a dominant degree depends upon the class and the culture under which they are reared. The environmental impact on the behavior of boys and girls growing up in a working-class environment and/or Black and/or Latino or Asian as



well as these varied cultures in an affluent environment moulds children differently. They would therefore perceive themselves differently and how they relate to each other in gender terms.

Further, even if the criteria of class and culture had been carefully accounted for in the study, the variable of measurement is non-existent. How does one measure "adventuresome" or "gregarious"? What kind of specific behavior delineates "logical" or "competitive" or dozens of other abstractions, which are, again, defined in a class or cultural context? Again, the choices of children of different classes and cultures (and proficiency in language) would also be a function of class and culture.

This study is, in my view, another example of unscientific research based on undefined "universal" traits, which simply do not exist. Such abstractions as "intelligence" have been studied in the same way with very destructive impact on minority children. In the end, the definitions of "universal" traits end up resembling those in the interests of the master class.

Is there any area in our decadent society that doesn't suffer from the same class brainwashing?

## WOMEN, MINORITIES AND MATH

Education in many inner city schools operates through entrenched systems of race, class, and gender discrimination. One of the results is disastrously low participation by female students in math and science. A new report, called *Discarded Minds: How Gender, Race, and Class Biases Prevent Young Women from Obtaining an Adequate Math and Science Education in New York City's Public High Schools*, has been issued by the Center For Public Advocacy Research. Its contents probably apply equally well to Chicago, Los Angeles, and other cities. Here are some of the report's findings:

Citywide, 35% of the senior classes of 1985 and 1986 in New York had never completed a high school level math course. In addition, race, class, and gender discrimination result in even lower rates of participation for young women of color.

Students at schools that are predominantly minority and lower income have significantly lower rates of participation than students at predominantly white and higher income schools. For example, for every 10 students at predominantly white schools who complete Math 11, only 3 students do so at predominantly minority schools.

### Minority Students Victimized

The lowest participation rates are among young women of color or from low-income families. Among schools with predominantly minority and low-income student populations, over 50% of the female seniors in 1985 and 1986

had never completed a high school level math course. These young women were allowed to fulfill the two-year math requirement for graduation by taking remedial math courses such as Fundamentals of Math or Recordkeeping.

According to the report's author, Lisa Syron, the basic structure of the city's high school programs contributes to racial, ethnic, class, and gender disparities in math and science course participation. Entering students are quickly placed in academic tracks leading toward either the local or state-endorsed high school diploma. Two years of math and science credit are required for both diplomas, but standards for the local diploma are extremely low. Support services, such as guidance counseling, often mirror these tracks with richer services available to students in higher level tracks. Inadequate remedial and tutorial services further ensure that the students move only downward into lower level tracks.

### Aftereffects of Discrimination

This educational design sets low horizons for many students, especially in math and science where participation eventually becomes elective and therefore requires greater student motivation and interest. These hurdles affect all students but have a harsher impact on young women, especially minority and low-income females, who must also overcome discrimination in the classroom and the legacy from the traditional exclusion of women and minorities from math and science.

In turn, low education horizons contribute to a host of broader problems for young women. As schooling becomes less promising and less appealing, other alternatives — such as pregnancy or dropping out of school — are likely to become more interesting. Later, when these young women join the workforce, inadequate educational preparation particularly in math will make it difficult for them to secure a livable wage or to become self-sufficient.

The report is available from the Center for Public Advocacy Research, 12 West 37th Street, 8th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10018. The price, which includes postage, is \$6.00.

## Child Labor = Child Injury and Deaths

In a recent issue of *UE News*, health reporter David Kotelchuck reported on a "new type of death and injury on the job in this country." Here are some of Kotelchuck's findings.

Two physicians from the renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, studied the cases of 87 farm children under 16 years of age hospitalized between 1974 and 1985. The two, Dr. Martin Sachs and Dr. Jill Swanson, are pediatricians.

They found that of the 87, two died of their injuries and 36 suffered long-term dis-

abilities. Fifteen had a body part amputated. While most reported broken bones and various cuts of the arms and legs, 11 of the children had to undergo surgery more than one time. All of the injuries were caused by farm machinery.

The greatest numbers of injuries occurred among children of three and 13 years old. The former age group who were often children being cared for in the fields, and the 13-year-olds, mostly children working to help out their hard-pressed parents.

Our child labor laws forbid young children from working in most industries, but children of any age are legally allowed to work for their parents on a family farm. Also children 12 year of age and older can work on other farms, if their parents consent.

Today, because of hard times on the farm, "the mother often works outside the home and children are left with the father, who takes them along to work," Dr. Sachs explained. The 12 and 13 year olds simply have to help their folks out, but as children they may not have the judgment or training to run the machinery properly. Also, as Dr. Sachs noted, "Many farmers can't afford to buy new machinery, and some of the older machinery doesn't have safeguards."

What are we coming to in late Twentieth Century America when children are working and being maimed for life or killed? What are we coming to when pediatricians—baby doctors, for heaven's sake—are treating and recording job injuries?

What's going on, as we all know, is that

farm families are being put up against the wall, financially and otherwise, by high interest payments, low farm prices, and federal government policy.

And when children work, they will have accidents, the more so because they have so little experience and are trying so hard to help. As for the smallest children, there is no network of child care centers available anywhere in this country, and usually no services at all in rural areas. What's more, even if a private center existed nearby, the families couldn't afford to pay.

Instead of trying to do away with child labor, the Reagan administration has consistently encouraged its spread to manufacturing and other industries. For years this administration has advocated the elimination of the minimum wage for working children under 17. This encourages the employment of children, at a time when millions of workers are unemployed or underemployed, when unionized manufacturing jobs are being replaced by nonunion service and light assembly jobs.

This administration actively supports the legalization of home work, where children and other family members would work long hours without outside supervision of their working conditions. In New York, Los Angeles and other large cities we already see the return of sweatshops and all of the abuses that go along with them—exploitation, child labor, disease.

Child labor brings with it childhood deaths and injuries, as certainly as it brings many other abuses. Have we had enough of this already? This year we will elect a new administration to govern this country. Will we make a break with the past? Or will we get more of the same? Let's work for a real change in direction—on child labor and jobs, and a whole host of other issues.



ter the 20th Century, is still making pronouncements about getting women back to where they belong: the kitchen, the church, the bedroom. Her latest was a speech blasting child care because it would "Sovietize the American family" and discriminate against mothers who care for their own children. She spoke at a brunch sponsored by the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, an organization founded to combat communism.

Schlafly opposes Sen. Christopher Dodd's day care bill because it would give the government a larger role in child care. In the Soviet Union, she said, infants and children are placed in government-operated centers eight weeks after birth.

Dorothy Haegele, WREE member, responded to Schlafly in an article printed in the "Commentary" column of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in May.

by Dorothy J. Haegele

The Act for Better Child Care (ABC), introduced by Democratic Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, is a federal-state grant program providing flexibility for both parents and state administrators.

Under the bill, Senate Bill 1885, 75% of the funds must go for needed child care, with each state choosing whether certificates will go to parents—who may then select any licensed facility—or directly to care providers or a combination of both. The other 25% may be used for other needs such as referral assistance, renovation of facili-

## Schlafly Attacks Child Care WREE Member Responds



ties, educational and advisory functions and provider recruitment. The legislation was carefully drafted to enable choices to be made at the local level.

Farcical claims by millionaire opponents of federally assisted care for America's poor children range from columnist William Buckley's twisted assertion that the bill would weaken the authority of parents to Phyllis Schlafly's pretensions that it will "Sovietize the American family." The bill has no specific relationship to the Soviet Union. Hence, that argument has no more validity than Schlafly's falsehood that "In the Soviet Union, infants and children are placed in government-operated

centers eight weeks after birth."

More than 2,800 delegates to the World Congress of Women met in Moscow last year and participated in discussions, workshops and seminars in which women from 154 nations examined family circumstances of our sisters around the globe. In the Soviet Union, a mother is given six months' leave with full pay, when a child is born. She may remain off work for another year at reduced pay and still another six months without pay if she chooses—with certainty that her job awaits her when she wants to return. Moreover, she will have available reliable child care, with medical professionals as part of the staff.

The Soviet Union has many challenges, but their children are cherished and cared for with dedication. Generous use of resources for the benefit of children is the norm. Perhaps the United States, which claims to have a higher standard of living, should do at least as much for its citizens.

Throughout the industrialized world, security for families is recognized as essential to national well-being. The United States lags far behind other developed countries in meeting needs such as day-care, adequate nutrition, healthcare, and shelter. Every 53 minutes an American child dies as a result of poverty-related causes. Over a five-year period, this exceeds the number of U.S. soldiers killed in combat during the Vietnam War.

Preschool years are the most formative of a child's life. More than 15 million U.S. children live in homes of alcoholics. Damaging indignities, impoverishment, confusion and abuse are commonly experienced by children of alcoholics. More than 25 million adult Americans are functional illiterates whose children may never hear a story or see reading material during preschool years. One-fourth of American children live in poverty. Tens—perhaps hundreds—of thousands are homeless,

A new Census Bureau study shows that 5% of working parents miss work each month because of child care problems. The study has been cited by sponsors of the Senate Child Care Bill (S 1885), which would authorize \$2.5 billion to help states make child care more affordable and to increase the number of facilities.

malnourished, never seen by a doctor and have little hope for the future. Literally millions more are victims of violence and sexual and psychological abuse.

Preschool child care could prevent malnutrition and offset some of the damage caused by other difficult home situations. Needs of children seen daily by responsible professionals in care facilities, could be detected and remedied. Often a troubled child just needs to hear that she or he is an OK person.

We send millions of culturally deprived and emotionally damaged children to the school doors and say to teachers, "Now, you repair the damage, and for that we will pay you less than any professionals in the country." It is time to end that folly.

American families need help in reducing damaging influences in their children's early life, and available—but not mandatory—preschool child care is a proven benefit. The 28-year track record of the Head Start program shows that program to have paid big dividends. Head Start children are more likely to stay in school, go on to higher education, become employed and avoid both welfare and crime.

A September 1984 *Post-Dispatch* editorial praised the Perry Preschool Project at Ypsilanti, Mich., and stated, "Helping children start on the right foot may be one of the most fiscally and socially responsible actions a government can take."

One more hearing will be held on SB 1885 before it goes to the subcommittee for a vote, so this is a good time to write or phone our senators to voice support for the bill. It is a step toward greater good for our children and greater security for our nation.

## MORE HOUSING DISAPPEARING

Two million apartments are currently made affordable by Federal rent supplements. Under existing law, as many as 500,000 of these will lose their supplements between now and 2005. Tenants in an additional 330,000 apartments, built with special low-cost mortgages, may also become vulnerable to higher rents, perhaps as much as twice what they can afford, as owners exercise their right to pay off the original mortgages and refinance with conventional borrowing.

As many as 80,000 such apartments are located in areas where owners could be expected to do so.

The Administration's astonishing proposal to sell public housing apartments, which now total 1.3 million, would make the crisis even worse. The prospects for selling them are dim, but even a 5% loss in this inventory would cost 65,000 more families their homes.

Hundreds of homeless advocates and the homeless themselves will soon face arrest for occupying abandoned buildings. The occupations will mark the start of a national campaign to force passage of major housing legislation.

The Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV), the National Coalition for the Homeless, and the Union of the Homeless are organizing the occupation of abandoned buildings in scores of cities across the country. The occupations will begin on July 14, four days before the Democratic convention in Atlanta. The occupations are intended to 1) highlight the absurdity of the existence of huge numbers of homeless people, and 2) more clearly focus public opinion and bring pressure to bear on Congress for the passage of substantial housing legislation.

### Epidemic of Homelessness

Homelessness in America has reached epidemic proportions. It is the near-disappearance of affordable housing that is most responsible for driving an estimated 3 million Americans to destitution, and that threatens to increase their number by as much as sixfold in the next 15 years. It is also the shortage of affordable housing that has changed the face of America's homeless: families with children have become the fastest growing sector of the homeless population.

The crisis is the logical consequence of the federal government's abdication of responsibility for creating or maintaining a sufficient stock of low-cost housing (since 1980, budget authority for all federal housing assistance programs has been cut 75%—from \$32 billion to \$7.5 billion a year), coupled with the private sector's predictable pursuit of maximum profits (there's money to be made in condos, co-ops, and office buildings, not in low-income housing).

A recent study, commissioned by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation ["At Risk: The Endangered Future of Low Income Rental Housing Resources"], puts the 1983 shortfall of low-income housing at about 3 million units.

The study predicts that if present trends in federal housing policy remain unchanged, the shortfall will grow to more than 7 million units by the turn of the century. This could result in the loss of housing for nearly 19 million Americans in the next 15 years!

CCNV has drawn up and proposes an Affordable Housing Act that will begin "to confront Reagan's legacy." A statement from CCNV says,

*By bloating the deficit and reducing revenues, the administration believes—not without justification—that it has locked the nation into its agenda for*

*many years to come, regardless of who is in the White House. As a result, Congress is convinced that it isn't possible to pass meaningful housing legislation, regardless of how badly it is needed.*

*However, recent polls make clear that public opinion clearly favors an end to homelessness and the creation of affordable housing. And most Americans understand that the answers won't come easily or cheaply.*

*The Affordable Housing Act will appropriate \$20 billion a year for the eventual construction of 7 1/2 million*

*units of publicly owned low-income housing. It will take at least 20 years to do this, even at \$20 billion a year. Funding will come from a modest increase in personal income tax (less than one percent) and the creation of two new higher brackets for upper-income earners.*

*The Affordable Housing Act isn't very modest. But neither are the dimensions of the problem we face, nor the damage that has been done by the administration. Congress will not pass this legislation without a fight.*



YWCA, So. Orange County, Santa Ana, Calif.

# SOCIAL WORKERS' VIEW OF THEIR JOB

by Gail Collins

Of all the cases of social worker burnout Lynn Obergfoll has seen, the most memorable was the dead-baby party, hosted by a city Human Resources Administration employee who had been handling child abuse cases one day too many. "A baby on his case list died overnight. He brought in a case of champagne for the staff," Obergfoll recalls. "But actually, he wasn't as burned-out as some of the others. He could still feel the pain."

Every day, some of New York's estimated 40,000 social workers of all types burn out, crack up or walk away from their profession. The figures are mind-boggling: from July 1986 to June 1987, 75% of NYC caseworkers—the shock troops of the profession—quit or transferred.

It is, of course, a tough job under the best of circumstances. "There is nothing like walking through the doors of the Martinique Hotel," says Susan Letteney, who has an M.S.W. in administration and who was once a social worker at the midtown welfare hotel. "At first, I didn't believe the smell. I walked upstairs—the paint was peeling, the garbage bags were piled up. There were mothers, kids, people crying, people hungry. When I got home at night, I couldn't eat."

## Depressing Jobs

But social workers like Susan Letteney want to work with the downtrodden. They are not dropping out of the system because their clients' lives are depressing. They are quitting because their jobs are depressing.

Before she quit in 1984, Lynn Obergfoll had lasted twenty years as a worker in the trenches, acquiring an M.S.W. but shunning all supervisory jobs. All around her, burnout victims were falling. Some people, she says, could no longer go out into the field: "Burnout is like having very raw nerves. You're sore all the time." Other veterans describe how some social workers, paralyzed by fear, hide on their "visiting days," filling out imaginary reports.

The clients themselves were never a problem for Obergfoll, although she has some amazing war stories to tell. Due to the shortage of foster homes, Obergfoll has been forced to separate brothers and sisters. She has removed children who clung, screaming, to their parents, clutching at the door frames as they were carried from their homes. But none of that, Obergfoll says, was the

## High Court Opens "Can of Worms"

The Supreme Court has asked for new arguments on whether a key civil rights ruling of 1976 should be overturned. This ruling had long been considered "settled" law and had grown in importance over the years in employment discrimination cases.

U.S.C. Sec. 1981 dates back to an 1866 Civil Rights Act that gives "all persons within the (U.S.)...the same right...to make and enforce contracts...as is enjoyed by white citizens..." The Supreme Court's 1976 *Runyan v. McCrary* decision gives nonwhites, in addition, the right to sue if they are barred from private schools, and this section of law has been used with success in employment disputes by Blacks and other minorities whenever legal action was the only recourse.

The Supreme Court's request for new arguments came in a case brought page 14

cause of her decision to leave the HRA. What sent her fleeing, she explains, was "the picayune, crazy regulations, the lack of supplies, the paperwork. Having an overwhelming amount of responsibility and no authority."

## Men Get the Best Jobs

A social worker's level of training has a direct bearing on her salary, although not necessarily on her job satisfaction. About half of the city's social workers have a master's degree—the entry ticket to the best-paying, most prestigious jobs. And though the vast majority of social workers are female, the choicest positions—the executive directorships, the deanships—still tend to go to men. Around 80-85% of the M.S.W. candidates at Columbia are women, but the university has never appointed a female dean.

Armed with an M.S.W., a social worker may start out in a hospital clinic, trying to evaluate the needs of a disturbed street person who insists on conducting conversations with a paper bag over his head. A mere B.A. (art history or music appreciation will do) will qualify her to join the city's 20,000-person welfare bureaucracy and to scurry down dark corridors in housing projects to interview parents suspected of beating their children.

At the very bottom of the totem pole are the city income maintenance workers—the people who took over all that paperwork from the caseworkers in the early Seventies. The only contact most poor people have with New York's vast welfare bureaucracy is through their income maintenance person. It is a tough connection. The relationship degenerates into one long wail: "Where's my check?" The clerks spend their days wrestling with endless forms and arguing with angry clients who are not known for their attention to detail. A city psychologist who treats stressed-out employees says the income maintenance workers are some of her best customers: "We see those people by the truckload."

## Drugs and Depression

Even the most committed social workers are confounded by the system. "It's the bureaucracy, man," moans Phyllis Gonzalez, an outreach worker at the Allerton Hotel, in Chelsea. A short, chunky woman who was once a welfare mom herself, Gonzalez now spends more hours inside the Allerton than most of the benumbed women who reside there. Every day her job re-creates

by Brenda Patterson, a Black woman, against the McLean Credit Union, involving remedies for racial harassment in the workplace, under Sec. 1981. With HR4132 awaiting action in Congress, and with a body of case law already developed under Sec. 1981, five rightwing Justices (Rehnquist, Kennedy, O'Connor, Scalia, and White) asked attorneys in the Patterson case to argue "Whether or not the interpretation of 42 USC Sec. 1981 adopted by this Court in *Runyan*...should be reconsidered?" Reagan's appointees provided enough votes to reopen the matter.

Dissents by Justices Blackman, Stevens, Brennan, and Marshall were sharp. Stevens called the majority's move "ill-considered," and concluded that the Court "has inflicted a serious—and unwise—wound upon itself today."

Blackman wrote that he is "at a loss to understand the motivation of Members of this Court to reconsider an interpretation of a civil rights statute that so clearly reflects our society's earnest commitment to ending racial discrimination."



Georgina Sanchez and her daughter share this room at the shelter with sixteen others.

itself. If a new resident arrives on a Sunday with no money and no food vouchers, Gonzalez will scrounge up emergency supplies. She reminds long-term residents when they have appointments to look at city-owned apartments and comforts children whose mothers have given in to drugs or depression. She also distributes privately donated money or clothes. Last Thanksgiving she fainted from exhaustion after cooking fifteen turkeys and three hams for the holiday dinner.

Gonzalez's salary is low enough to allow her and her daughter to live in a subsidized housing project. (Nobody understands the odds against the homeless better—it took sixteen years on the waiting list to get Gonzalez into her Chelsea apartment.) But she is proud of her position and devoted to her depressed, often defeated clientele. Her job, she says, is never boring.

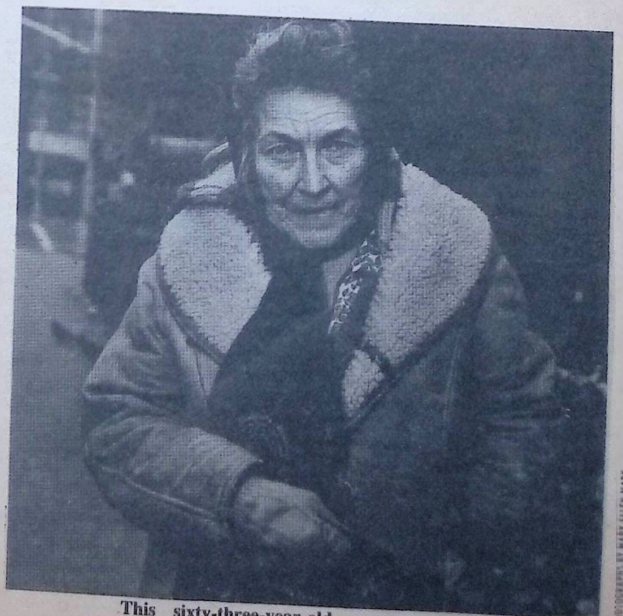
The Hudson Guild workers, whose turf includes the midtown welfare hotels, talk about their clients' triumphs—for example, the mother who gets up at dawn every day to escort her son by subway back to his old school in the Bronx so that he can stay with the classmates he knew in the days when the family had an apartment. There was a kid whose breakdancing brought down the house at the Hudson Guild talent show and eventually won him a scholarship to Dance Theatre of Harlem. A homeless mother at the Martinique passed her high school equivalency test and went on to college.

But the victories that keep them going are mainly very small—that

mother is educated now, but she is still homeless. "It took me six months to get a mothers' support program going at Martinique," says Susan Letteney, who used to direct Hudson Guild programs at the welfare hotels. "I had registration, and week after week nobody came. I started waking people up in the morning, saying, 'Come on down, I have coffee and fruit.' I brought in guest speakers—I exhausted all my friends. I gave out door prizes."

The moment Letteney holds especially close—the one that carries her past all the sadness and frustration—occurred in that mothers' group three summers ago. She describes the memory: "One of my clients OD'd. She died. The women in the group knew her well. It was a hot August night. Eventually they started talking—about the isolation, the fear, the drug use, the stress. People talked about loved ones they had lost. Then they talked about the apartments they had lost—they went through the same grieving process over those lost homes. Finally they decided to raise money for the children, to get them suits to wear to the funeral. I still have chills remembering that day—how it began and how it ended. After that the women trusted the group more. They knew they had a safe place."

Gail Collins is a columnist for the *New York Daily News*. These are excerpts from a much longer article written for *New York Woman*, May 1988, and reprinted with permission of the magazine and author. The names of clients have been changed to protect their privacy.



This sixty-three-year-old woman, who's been homeless for more than six years, gets food, a little money and an occasional shower at Project Reachout.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARY ELLEN MARK

# U.S. Trade Unions: A History of Struggle

## The Cold War Against Labor

Two volumes, edited by Ann Fagan Ginger and David Christiano  
Meikeljohn Civil Liberties Institute,  
1987, 916 pages.

by Ruth Callender

What are some facts and statistics regarding women working outside the home? What are Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) and Women for Racial and Economic Equality (WREE) doing to address problems and issues facing the women's equality movement? What were some historical precedents for the founding of such women's organizations as WREE and CLUW? These and a wealth of issues, questions, and hard answers may be found in this giant two-book anthology called *The Cold War Against Labor*.

Here are some random bits of information scattered through the book about women in the labor movement:

*Women are beginning to emerge in leadership positions in the labor movement, but not yet in proportion to their numbers in the workforce. They do fill high-level staff positions in the AFL-CIO, as well as in affiliated unions. The nation's largest local union (85,000-member Teachers Local 2 in New York City) is headed by a woman; and a woman was installed as president of the Connecticut AFL-CIO.*

*Male leaders of unions recognize that there is potential for organizing women, a prominent woman union leader points out. From 1973 to 1983, the proportion of females organized in the public sector more than doubled to attain near equality with the proportion of males. In the private sector during the same period, the decline in proportion of unionized women was less than among union men.*

*Women are as organized as men among white-collar workers, but are less organized than men among blue-collar workers. Because of female concentration in white-collar jobs, however, women constitute 58% of white-collar unionists.*

*A Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) survey showed that in 1985, women workers under union contract had median weekly earnings of \$347, compared with only \$262 for non-union women. The most common occupations for women were expanding, low-paying, deadend jobs—secretarial, book-keeping, nursing, and cashier work. Thus, despite collectively bargained contracts, unions have made limited progress in altering institutional wage differentials. The male-female wage differential was about the same for union and non-union workers. In organizing campaigns, unions are aware that bread and butter issues may not always be a strong enough motivating force for women in certain white collar sectors. They want more participation in decision-making, says a director from Cor-*

*nell University. The AFL-CIO's recent report, "The Changing Situation of Workers and Their Unions," acknowledges this point and encourages organizers to devote more resources to this challenge.*

And this is only one tiny part of this unusual anthology.

Ann Fagan Ginger (a long-time WREE member) and David Christiano have brought together articles and illustrations from more than 100 union leaders, historians, artists, and social activists who report first-hand labor's struggles and victories in its fight for survival against McCarthyism and the Cold War, its resiliency and the growing fightback against Reaganism and the ultra-right.

The authors constitute a Who's Who of the labor movement. Here is gathered a collection of oral histories, editorials in union newspapers, speeches to labor conferences, specially commissioned articles, excerpts from previously published books, charts, poetry, and illustrations. The volumes cover the period of virulent anti-communist hysteria that helped split the labor movement, and the attacks on progressive unions and militant workers and all the tragic consequences.

Also covered are: how the CIO was built; the impact of McCarthyism and how it was finally overcome; how the labor movement and its allies survived the Cold War; and how labor fought



back to become more united and progressive. Space is given to the struggle to win allies in the fight against nuclear destruction; for international labor solidarity; against the transnationals; for affirmative action and against racism, for the social needs of the people in the common fight against the monopolies—all this is reported in clarity and depth in its 916 pages.

The *Cold War Against Labor*, given the sheer enormity of the project and the wealth of information collected, will be a valuable resource for anyone with an interest in the period or curious about labor history.

After having laid out a documentary history of labor's victimization, the editors turn to a collection of forward looking writings, including a reprint of WREE's Women's Bill of Rights. *Cold War Against Labor* will help activists understand a crucial period in U.S. history; and it may also help avoid a rerun...rerun of the pitfalls and problems.

This anthology should become a basic reference work for trade union activists, for every union editor, research director, historian, indeed every local union officer. For students of the U.S. labor movement, it provides a rich lode of original source material indispensable to a true understanding of the period. People in the organizations of the movement for women's social outlooks, can benefit greatly from the rich materials included in this resource book. Peace activists, too, can learn from it.

*Cold War Against Labor* is available from the publisher, P.O. Box 673, Berkeley, Cal. 04701, for \$20 plus \$5 postage and handling—a very worthwhile investment indeed.

## SENATE SHOULD ACT ON CEDAW

Since 1980, the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has been languishing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. As "Women's History Month" ended for '88, Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA) took to the floor to remind his colleagues that the CEDAW still needs action.

Cranston's speech was the first time in the 100th Congress anyone has spoken of the document on international women's rights that calls for ratifying nations to "pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women."

A member of the Foreign Relations Committee that has yet to hold hearings on CEDAW, Cranston said he hopes that "despite this year's heavy work schedule, space on the agenda will be found for the scheduling of a hearing for this Convention," which has been endorsed by a large number of U.S. women's organizations and which had been officially ratified by 94 countries by January 31, 1987.

"It is important that we begin to build a hearing record and commence

the formal process necessary for ratification of the...Convention," Cranston said. Although the U.S. is a signatory nation and helped develop CEDAW, nothing has been done by the Foreign Relations Committee to move it since President Jimmy Carter sent it as "Executive R" to the U.S. Senate for advice and consent on November 1980.

Cranston cited an article by Riane Eisler in the *Human Rights Quarterly* ("Human Rights: Toward an Integrated Theory for Action," Summer '87) that refers to the CEDAW as a "potentially pivotal turning point in the human rights movement" and a "missing link" in human rights theory because it "expressly rejects the traditional exclusion of 'women's rights' from the purview of international rights activities." The CEDAW was the first time the U.N. "marked...the right of half of humanity to protection from oppressive practices

embedded in laws and customs...."

Cranston noted that CEDAW elements "provide for equal access for men and women in political and public life... as well as equal access in education and employment...underline the social services needed in order to combine participation in public life with family obligations."

Billie Heller, chair of the National Committee on the U.N. CEDAW, hopes Cranston's speech could be the "kick-off" for more action. The group is working on getting Senate CEDAW hearings and inclusion of CEDAW in the major political party platforms.

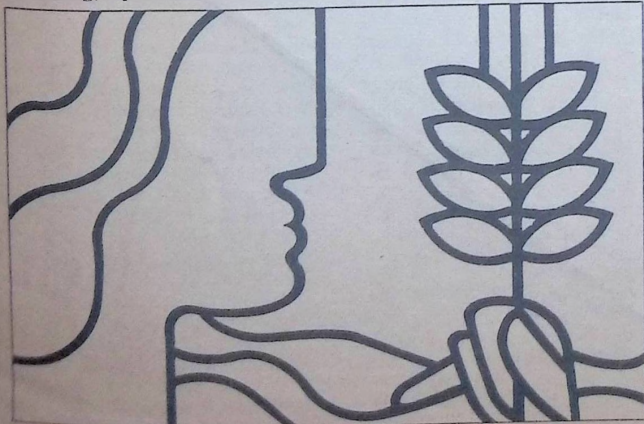
## Women Less Visible on New TV Shows

Wider Opportunities for Women released the sixth annual National Commission on Working Women critique of the fall television season of 1987. Entitled "Women out of View," the report analyzes the portrayal of women on new programs and compares their image to women in the real world.

### Findings from the report include:

- An alarmingly high percentage of new programs are maledominated. Of 43 leading roles, 36 belong to men and only 7 to women. Furthermore, one new show out of five has no women in it at all.
- Single men are raising over half of all children on the new programs. Single mothers are practically invisible.
- Those women who do appear on the new shows are more realistically drawn than in years past. More are middle class rather than wealthy, and more are working in nonprofessional occupations.

"Women Out of View" also contains comparisons of this season's female portrayals with those of ten and 20 years ago. In addition, the report lists names and addresses of shows and their production companies so that viewers can voice their opinions on the new programs.





# CHANGING TRADITIONS TO SAVE LIVES

The following article is based on information supplied to Action for Children by Ms. Berhane RasWork, coordinator of the NGO Working Group and President of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Health Practices Affecting Women and Children.

In Sierra Leone there exists a secret society known as the *Bundo* which is responsible for the traditional training of young girls. Four or five times a year, the *Bundo* takes young girls of the age of puberty to groups of huts in the bush and trains them in child care, traditional medicine, household instruction, aesthetics, and hairdressing. So instructed, young initiates are considered perfect future wives and are much in demand as marriage partners.

As part of their initiation, they are also circumcized.

The *Bundo* and the cultural complex of which it is a part provide an instructive example of the force exerted by tradition, secrecy, ritual, and social expectation that keeps female circumcision—despite the tremendous health risks—a prevalent practice throughout Africa today. It is always performed by elder women to younger women or girls, and researchers have noted that female circumcision exists only where male circumcision is also practiced.

Although the social details and physical form it may take varies, female circumcision is practiced in 26 African countries and affects 75 million women and children, according to both the World Health Organization and The Minority Rights Group.

## Tactful Sensitization

Female circumcision is not a problem that can be erased simply through government edict or external protest but only through gentle persuasion and gradual education, which is why the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children is proceeding in its work using "tactful sensitization." It is when there is a general consensus among concerned populations that legislation might become effective.

Particularly since 1984, the Inter-African Committee has been actively making inroads against the territory of female circumcision. Active national committees

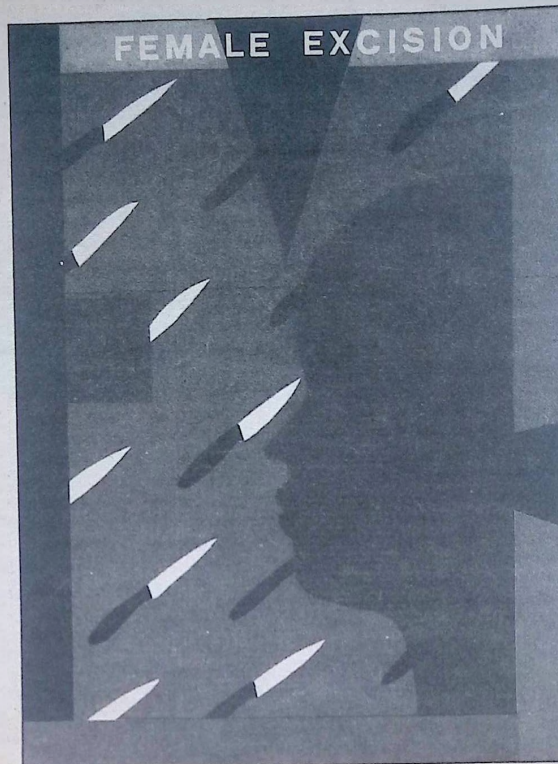
She was an African, and her blood runs in the veins of every human being in the world today—Europeans, Asians, Africans. The biologists who discovered her have aptly named this ancient ancestor Eve, although there is nothing religious or mystical in their findings.

To be precise, University of California scientists did not exactly "discover" Eve; rather, through a complicated process of gene-chasing, they determined that she *must* have existed. As published in the British journal *Nature*

Photo: Wallace



page 16



IF Illustration No. 74

WYATT

have been set up in eleven African nations, and they have sponsored educational programs in the form of workshops, training for nurses and traditional birth attendants, and media talks.

In Sierra Leone, for example, leaders of the *Bundo* secret society participated in a workshop in which they were exposed to medical knowledge about the ill-effects of female circumcision, and encouraged to help end the practice.

## Three Types

There are primarily three types of female circumcision. Infibulation is the most severe form in which the whole clitoris, the *labia minora*, and parts of the

*labia majora* are cut off. Subsequent stitching of the vulva leaves only a small opening for urination and menstruation. Excision, a somewhat milder form, refers to the removal of the prepuce and clitoris and all or part of the *labia minora*. Cir-

tearing of tissue and hemorrhaging during childbirth, a situation which midwives dread more than any other. Psychological effects include frigidity and insatiability both, anxiety, melancholy and depression.

## Education Rather Than Anathema

President Abdou Diouf of Senegal, however, cautioned against describing such cultural practices as barbarous. "In traditional Africa, sexual mutilation evolved out of a coherent system, with its own values, beliefs, cultural and ritual conduct. They were a necessary ordeal in life because they completed the process of incorporating the child in society," he said.

Nevertheless, he stressed what was needed were "measures to quicken the demise" of practices such as female circumcision. "The main part of this struggle will be waged by education rather than anathema and from the inside rather than from the outside."

The justifications for continuing female circumcision vary according to cultural context but are primarily moral and religious. It is argued that the practice protects women from debauchery and helps preserve their virginity until marriage, with the added advantage that such women of high moral values can command a larger dowry.

Others argue that the practice is prescribed by Islam, although female circumcision far precedes the era of Muslim conversion in the countries concerned.

## Social Pressures Powerful

Theoretical justifications aside, the fact remains that female circumcision assures social integration. Uncircumcized women are still considered as second class citizens—"bilekoro" or "impure" is a typical expression in Mali—and such women can neither marry nor prepare the family meal. Social pressures operate with such force that young women urge their own excision.

The Inter-African Committee has developed educational materials to combat the lack of knowledge about the health risks of female circumcision. It has developed an anatomical model of the lower part of the female body with six interchangeable parts that show the normal state of the genitalia, the results of excision and infibulation, scar formation, normal child delivery, and delivery through infibulation or severe excision. The committee has also developed similar materials in the form of flannelgraphs and slide sets.

The Inter-African Committee is also trying to have female circumcision treated in overall national policies of primary health care, and is urging the issue be seen in the light of the Alma Ata Declaration of "Health For All By The Year 2000."

# Eve Was Born in Africa

and later reported in *The Washington Post*, the method involved sampling 147 people from Africa, Asia, Australia, New Guinea, and Europe. The differences among the mitochondrial genes of the sample group were compared, and the number of possible combinations of every possible genetic pairing of the 147 subjects calculated. This led to the construction of a family tree, revealing a common ancestor at the center of the world's two major gene pool branches. Since one branch included only certain Africans, and the other branch included other Africans and all other groups of contemporary humans, the conclusion was obvious: Eve must have been an African. Counting backwards, the team determined that the amount of differences found in the human gene pool would have taken about 200,000 years to occur, thus giving away Eve's age.

Eve was not the only woman roaming ancient Africa, of course. Her group is thought to have been a large one, producing many babies, and her "sisters" are related to many twentieth-century people. Eve is special because, if each person alive today traced his family lineage back 200,000 years, Eve would

appear on every single chart; her contemporaries would not.

## The Collective Eve

How, then, could Eve have spawned such a wide variety of human types? Scientists believe that fully developed man, modern *homo sapiens*, evolved in one location—some place in Africa—later migrating throughout the world. As the wandering groups placed more and more distance between themselves, settling Europe and Asia, they could no longer mate with each other and exchange genes. These scattered groups, facing different conditions, developed what are now known as distinct racial characteristics. Eve would not have recognized her progeny.

This "breakout" from Africa is thought to have happened long after Eve's time, and experts say that, although she did belong to the *homo sapiens* family, Eve was somewhat, shall we say, primitive. Full-blown modern man, the African man who fanned out over the entire Eurasian Old World, did not arise until 100,000 years or so after Eve's child-bearing days were over.

Although there is a strong temptation to picture Eve strutting the savan-

nah, the spitting image of proud, modern Black womanhood, there is little reason to assume that she was dark-skinned or characteristically "African" in the present-day sense. Divergences in racial types occurred much later, and the modern African has had 200,000 years to assume his current form.

The theory that man—or at least his direct ancestors—arose in Africa has long been generally accepted, based on fossil and other physical evidence. Eve's significance lies in the new evidence that she is *personally* related to all of us, rather than simply an ancient comember of the species. The discovery of Eve gives depth and intimate meaning to the term "Mother Africa."

But what about Adam? Where is the biological trail leading to Eve's mate(s)? It seems the mitochondria gene, the biological footprint used to locate Eve, is not present in sperm. Embryos inherit the gene from the mother's egg, and only female babies can grow up to pass on its characteristics. Thus, scientists succeeded in tracing Eve and her daughters back through the millennia, but no man was to be found.

# Nestle Is At It Again!

## Save the Children—

Four years ago, an international boycott forced the multinational Nestle corporation to sign an agreement to stop dumping supplies of their infant formula on hospitals—particularly in Third World countries. It was a great victory for infants against one of the world's largest corporations.

But now the gains won then are at risk. Nestle sales representatives push supplies through hospitals and doctors because they know this is the key to establishing bottle feeding. The effect of indiscriminately handing out formula supplies in hospitals is a power marketing tool—it says, "try this, it's better." It leaves the impression of medical endorsement for artificial feeding, despite the agreement of the world's health authorities that breastfeeding is best and that giving formula samples in hospitals severely undermines it.

This practice of dumping supplies on hospitals is so dangerous to health that the 1986 World Health Assembly (WHA) passed a resolution banning it. But Nestle top management refuses to stop dumping supplies, in spite of their promise and in spite of the WHA ban. Indeed, the company has developed new and more aggressive ways to push supplies in some countries, like the Philippines. Nestle has taken the millions of dollars it used to spend on direct advertising (which the 1984 Agreement prohibits) and is pouring it into infant formula supplies.

Action for Corporate Accountability (which is continuing the work of IN-FACT, the sponsors of the International Nestle Boycott Committee) states that if "on October 4, 1988, Nestle has not complied with the terms of the agreement, we will reopen the Boycott, announcing to Nestle and the world that 4 years is long enough."

In 1977 when the Boycott began, Nestle and other manufacturers aggressively advertised infant formula in the Third World, in places where water was often not potable, to families who could not afford the high cost of breastmilk substitutes, and to mothers who were not able to read the label's instructions. Their irresponsible marketing persuaded mothers that bottle feeding was preferable to breastfeeding. The result was millions of infants dying from malnutrition and diarrhea—Bottle Baby Disease.

Today Nestle, still the world's largest formula company, pushes its products by dumping large quantities of free infant formula in hospital maternity wards creating a dependency of and unnecessary burden on our health care systems. Because of the Boycott, many of the most flagrant forms of promotion have been stopped, but the effect of this single continuing practice is that Nestle still endangers the lives of infants all over the world.

In 1984 Nestle executives pledged that they shared the concern of millions of people worldwide for the health of infants and that their corporate practices would be designed with rigid ethical standards. Today the government discovers that Nestle's U.S. company, Beech-Nut Foods, has been lying to consumers and endangering babies' health by selling what its own chemist called a "chemical cocktail," (composed exclusively of additives and sugar water) in containers labelled "100% Apple Juice." The concoction contains *no apple juice at all, but it earned a much higher profit for the company than apple juice would have.*

## DON'T WAIT— BOYCOTT NESTLE NOW!

An international boycott of Nestle products has been called by the International Union of Food Workers (Geneva) to support workers in Nestle plants in the Philippines.

Five months of strikes—with soldiers charging into striking workers with truncheons, shields and M-16 rifles, the firing and arrests of union leaders, blockades and picketlines being torn down on orders from the government, and the death of a passerby—has been carried on by workers since Sept. 1987.

The strike was launched over issues of union-busting, Nestle's contracting out of union jobs to nonunion casual workers, unequal pay in the Mindanao operations, and management's refusal to meet the union's wage demands which would raise the average \$190-a-year wage to \$390 a year—a \$17-a-month wage hike. The company has offered about half that over a 3-year period. The strikers are also asking that the \$120 a year Mindanao wage be made equal to wages paid elsewhere in the Philippines by Nestle.

Nestle earned \$50 million in profits in the Philippines between 1984 and 1986 alone, and supplies more than 50% of total milk demand in the country. It can afford to pay decent wages to its Philippine workers and to respect their union rights.

Read labels on food products. Don't buy Nestle!

Arise, then ... women of this day!  
Arise, all women who have hearts!  
Whether your baptism be that of water or of tears!  
Say firmly:  
"We will not have questions decided by irrelevant agencies,  
Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking of carnage,  
For caresses and applause.  
Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn  
All that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.  
We, women of one country,  
Will be too tender of those of another country  
To allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."  
From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with  
Our own. It says: "Disarm, disarm!  
The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."  
Blood does not wipe out dishonor.  
Nor violence indicate possession.  
As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war,  
Let women now leave all that may be left of home  
For a great and earnest day of counsel.  
Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.  
Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means  
Whereby the great human family can live in peace, ...  
Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar,  
But of God—  
In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask  
That a general congress of women without limit of nationality,  
May be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient  
And the earliest period consistent with its objects,  
To promote the alliance of the different nationalities,  
The amicable settlement of international questions,  
The great and general interests of peace.

—Mother's Day Proclamation  
Julia Ward Howe, Boston, September 1870

by Charon Asetoyer

Pregnancy demands maternal energy for the growing child. The moment your newborn enters into this new world, he or she needs the warmth of the mother's body for love and survival. After birth your newborn should be dried immediately in order to prevent heat loss from evaporation and given to mother for breast feeding. Skin to skin contact with Mother is the best start for human life.

Breastfeeding is the best way to provide nutrition for your child. When you nurse, make sure your diet is free from things like caffeine (pop, chocolate, coffee), alcoholic beverages, food high in sugar and salt. What you eat, your baby eats. If you find that your baby is

staying awake, crying, or is too fussy, check what you ate that day and remember the effects those foods had on your child.

Mother, your infinite compassion and  
Peace draws me toward you.  
You respond to my song,  
Your affection is boundless  
Wakanheja.  
The stars, the sun, the water,  
the moon, the earth are my  
legacy to you.

Charon Asetoyer, editor of WICO-ZANNI WOWAPI, Good health Newsletter of the Native American Community board in Lake Andes, SD., was also a member of the U.S. Delegation to the World Congress of Women in Moscow last year.

## THE "NATURAL SNACK" IS A NATURAL KILLER



by Cesar Chavez

Sulfur dioxide is a known killer. At least 16 people have died since 1983 from eating foods on which sulfur dioxide was used.

In July 1986, the federal Food and Drug Administration banned the use of sulfites as a preservative on fresh produce because it believes sulfur dioxide can kill those who are sensitive to its effects. Reactions range from nausea, rashes, and headaches, to death.

However, because the FDA ruling did not apply to sulfur dioxide as a post-harvest fumigant, the Environmental Protection Agency assumed control.

Last December, the EPA ordered grape growers to certify that 75% of their grapes contain sulfite residues of less than 10 parts per million.

Growers petitioned the EPA for a waiver of the regulation because table grapes are kept in cold storage for long periods of time and are gassed with sulfur dioxide every seven to 10 days. After two or three sprayings, the residue level exceeds 10 ppm. Practically all grapes sold at the market, therefore, contain excessively high sulfite residues.

The EPA gave in to the grape growers' demands. The agency granted grape growers permission to market their grapes with excessive sulfite residues as long as 40% of them—two out of every five bunches—carry labels saying: "Grapes Have Been Treated With Sulfites." The additional words, "To Ensure Freshness & Quality," were also allowed. And on the back side is printed the grape growers' advertising slogan: "Grapes, the Natural Snack."

### Unseen Danger

A spokesman at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, which has been trying to get a ban on sulfites for the last five years, said, "It is ridiculous to wait for a body count before some protective policy is put into effect."

When asked what it would take for the EPA to introduce proper protective legislation, the CSTPI representative said, "We will have to wait for confirmed sulfur dioxide deaths from grape consumption before we will see any action."

### Don't Buy Grapes

It seems clear that the EPA has no intention of protecting consumers against sulfur dioxide residues. The only way for consumers to protect themselves—and help farm workers at the same time—is not to buy contaminated table grapes.

Cesar Chavez is President of the United Farm Workers of America.



# TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

Don't Be Afraid, Gringo  
by Elvia Alvarado  
Institute for Food and  
Development Policy, 1988

by Sally Chaffee

Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Central America and the people of Honduras face a daily struggle to survive. In the 1980s, Honduras has become the nerve center for U.S. policy in the region and a base for the Nicaragua contras. U.S. military aid to Honduras increased 16-fold between 1980 and 1986. Military chiefs and politicians get rich off U.S. aid; the majority of Hondurans continue to get poorer.

As we review recent events in Central America—sending U.S. troops to Honduras, and now Panama, the growing audacity of the U.S. government as it contemplates overthrowing Noriega, and the approval of contra aid in the face of the Central American Peace Agreement—the personal experiences of Central Americans show us not only how their lives are disrupted, even destroyed, but also the strength of their continued struggles. Such is the story of Elvia Alvarado told in her autobiography, *Don't Be Afraid, Gringo*, edited by Medea Benjamin.

Elvia Alvarado is an Indian, a mother at fifteen, a grandmother of eleven in her late forties. She lived in a dirt-poor Honduran village right outside the gates of Palmerola Air Base, the largest U.S. military base. In the forward of the book, Elvia speaks of her fear of gringos, but how she couldn't "pass up a chance to tell the world our story. Because our struggle is not a secret one, it's an open one. The more people who know our story the better. Even if you are a gringa (speaking to Ms. Benjamin), I thought, once you understand why we're fighting, if you have any sense of humanity, you'll have to be on our side."

Elvia Alvarado works as a campesina organizer with the National Congress of Rural Workers, the CNTC. She travels throughout the backroads of her country, helping campesinos in their struggles to feed themselves. She has

## Pittsburgh Chapter

cont'd from p.1.

struggle includes WREE (represented by Lois McClendon), The Urban League, ACORN, CLUW, Rainbow Coalition, National Council of Senior Citizens, and others.

In another example of coalition building, Randa Shannon and Lois McClendon served on the Planning Committee of the Pittsburgh Presbytery Task Force on Women for the conference on "Women Seeking Justice." In addition to serving on the committee, and being a sponsor of the affair, Pittsburgh WREE was very active in the conference. Workshops covered topics such as feminization of power, rape and domestic violence, pay equity, teen pregnancy, hunger, AIDS, substance abuse, and poverty. WREE sister Maria Perez from Harrisburg joined Lois McClendon to facilitate a workshop in "Racism and Women's Equality," one of the largest workshops, while Randa Shannon and Shirley Cutrazulla facilitated the workshop on "Women and World Peace."

We organized a car caravan to the American Family Celebration in Washington, D.C., and worked closely with the local CLUW chapter to organize the contingent from Western Pennsylvania.

In May, Pittsburgh City Council member Michelle Madoff introduced into the City Council a Pay Equity Res-

olution to end pay discrimination against women and minorities. This resolution, passed unanimously, will be sent to Congress as House Bill 1182 and Senate Bill 588. The resolution was a result of the work of the Pay Equity Coalition of Southwestern Pennsylvania (PEC). PEC includes the Communications Workers of America Local 13,000, AFSCME Local 2578, NAACP, YWCA, Greater Pittsburgh Commission on Women, and CLUW. WREE, too, worked on the coalition although we are not yet an affiliated

### Women Together

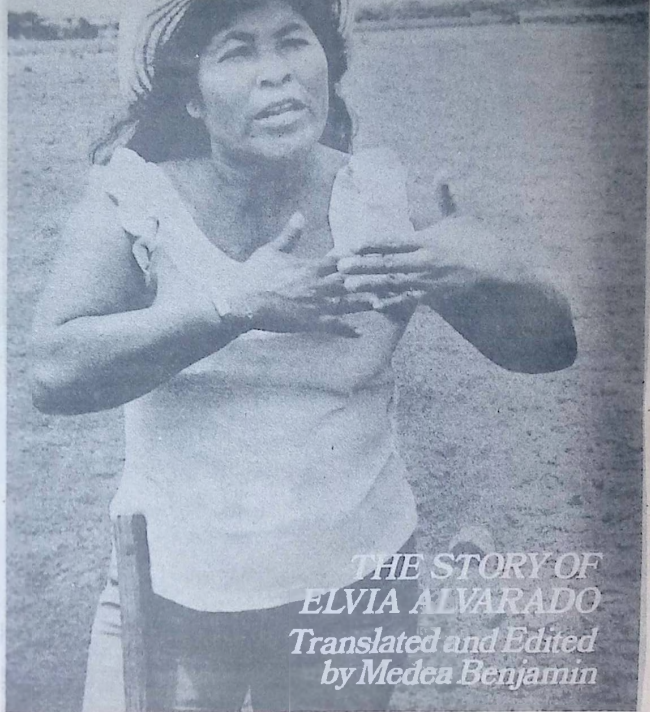
Elvia's story weaves from her early childhood and early motherhood, her work with the mothers' clubs organized by the Catholic church—how those meetings became the high point of her week, "a chance to get together with other women and talk about the problems we had in common—like how to keep our children fed and our husbands sober. We learned that we had rights just like men did. We learned that we had to stop being so passive and start sticking up for our rights."

Elvia speaks eloquently of the difficult lives of the campesinos in Honduras, who live on tortillas and beans, three times a day, every day, the story of the woman who left her house at 4 a.m. and carried her sick child for miles and miles to the nearest clinic. By the time she got to the clinic they told her all the appointments for the day were taken and she should come back tomorrow!

Elvia tells her story in vignettes of the development of her life and her views on the relationship between women and men, the customs of marriage, the need for an education for her children, the church and Christ as an organizer and how organizing brings change, the struggle for land reform, and the military build-up in her country. Her story is rich with her personal philosophical views on religion, "what's democracy? what's communism?" She has seen first hand that the rich are more equal than the poor, that the rich don't go to jail or get punished for their crimes since the "democratic law" only applies to the poor.

What is Elvia Alvarado telling us when she says, "Don't Be Afraid, Gringo?" She is telling us not to be afraid to be a part of the fight for equality, peace and, justice—"we need you to join the struggle, Don't be afraid, Gringos. Keep your spirits high. And remember, we're right there with you!"

## DON'T BE AFRAID, GRINGO A Honduran Woman Speaks from the Heart



THE STORY OF  
ELVIA ALVARADO  
Translated and Edited  
by Medea Benjamin

## Who Lies About Nicaragua

The Reagan administration and the State Department under Elliot Abrams continue to undermine the peace process in Nicaragua. From the beginning the U.S. urged the contras not to sign the Sapoa Accords calling for a 60-day truce and has continued to set the stage for continued military aid.

The \$47.9 million of supposedly "non-lethal" aid passed by the House March 30 calls for \$17.7 million of non-military aid to be delivered to the contras after they are in cease-fire zones. Already 150 tons of materials have been delivered to the contras in Honduras lessening their incentive to negotiate. OAS Ambassador Joao

Baena Soares, one of the members of the Verification Commission established to monitor compliance with the Accords, said in a letter to Secretary of State Schultz that these shipments are illegal. The Accords clearly call for the contras to be in designated zones before delivery.

The Agency for International Development (AID), chosen to deliver the aid, is not a neutral third party. AID has held up the \$10 million designated for the vitally important Verification Commission and answers to the Interagency Task Force made up of members of the State Dept. DOD, and the CIA (keeping the Reagan-Abrams agenda alive.)

The \$17.7 million of child-survival assistance has been politicized as well, preventing the aid from reaching the 14,000 orphans and 35,000 displaced children from the war. AID has refused to work with the Nicaraguan government which operates most of the child and health programs.

Although direct military aid has been stopped for now, the economic warfare continues. On May 25 Reagan renewed the economic embargo against Nicaragua. The embargo is harmful to both nations and violates international law, the OAS and the UN charters as well as World Bank agreements. Congress has the power at any time to overrule the embargo by a majority vote.

Congress members report not hearing from the grassroots on the embargo issue so a national campaign has begun. Write or call Maureen Fiedler, Quest for Congressional Education PO 5206 Hyattsville MD 200782 (301)699-0042 for an organizing kit, free brochures, postcards and posters on the embargo.

From the "Legislative Alert" published bimonthly by the National Legislative Office of Women Strike for Peace. An informative bulletin you may subscribe to: \$10 to 105 2nd St. NE DC 20002.

## The Right to Eat

I worked on the hacienda over there, and I would have to feed the dogs bowls of meat or bowls of milk every morning, and I could never put those on the table for my own children. When my children were ill, they died with a nod of sympathy from the landlord. But when those dogs were ill, I took them to the veterinarian in Suchitoto.

You will never understand violence or non-violence until you understand the violence to the spirit that happens from watching your children die of malnutrition.

A peasant in El Salvador

olution to end pay discrimination against women and minorities. This resolution, passed unanimously, will be sent to Congress as House Bill 1182 and Senate Bill 588. The resolution was a result of the work of the Pay Equity Coalition of Southwestern Pennsylvania (PEC). PEC includes the Communications Workers of America Local 13,000, AFSCME Local 2578, NAACP, YWCA, Greater Pittsburgh Commission on Women, and CLUW. WREE, too, worked on the coalition although we are not yet an affiliated

member.

The Pittsburgh chapter is in the process of formulating an organizing manual for WREE membership building and strategy. We are asking other chapters to forward to us any suggestions, strategies used, as well as examples of flyers, press releases, or other materials that would be useful for organizing:

Pittsburgh WREE

P.O. Box 90107

Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Attn: Organizing Packet Committee

# 'FATHER' OR 'CREATOR' DEBATED

The top governing body of the United Methodist Church May 6 made use of "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" language compulsory in the service of ordaining ministers.

In a related action, the 996 delegates to the 1988 General Conference defeated a move to change a reference to God from "Father" to "Creator" in the preamble to the church's Social Principles.

The body agreed 521-345 to ordain ministers using "the historic language of the Holy Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit." This move, supported by church conservatives, was obviously a reaction against "inclusive" language, used increasingly across the church.

The preamble change was defeated 465-435. Ray Goens, a Houston physician, was one who opposed the change, claiming that to remove the word *father* "is changing the basic tenet" of Christianity faith. The three-in-one understanding of God is a basic part of our faith."

The ordination service in the *Book of Discipline* (church law) currently has no stipulations about language.

Increasing pressure by feminists, the growing numbers of women in seminaries and in the ministry, and ongoing discussions about gender-inclusive language versus traditional male descriptors for God have prompted use by some bishops of alternate language in worship and other services.

But traditionalists—obviously the dominant force at the 1988 General Conference—rejected the change in the preamble and made the traditional language in the ordination service compulsory.

## To the Core

While eliminating day care centers, administrators passed new regulations requiring people on welfare to hold paying jobs. While slashing Social Security benefits, legislators decided that health care should be limited to the absolutely destitute and the people whose impairments would probably send them to their graves. While raising tuitions and limiting grants, schools hoped to weed out those they could not deal with in the first place

and fill the empty seats with a generation that would accept without question whatever information was fed to them. While paring down the nation to its core elite, no one noticed riot squads of elderly, minorities, and unemployed waiting on the outskirts for a chance to eliminate, slash, and raise a flag of liberation from a nation that had forgotten it was just a congeries of people.

Susan Packie  
Belleville, N.J.

## 1988 DIRECTORY OF WOMEN'S MEDIA

To Aid Networking and Increase Communication  
Among Women Nationally and Internationally

403 Women's Periodicals  
120 Women's Presses/Publishers  
11 Women's News Services  
2 Women's Columns  
8 Radio-TV Groups  
44 Regular Programs-Radio & TV  
27 Women's Video and Cable Groups  
17 Women's Film Groups  
8 Women's Multi-Media Groups  
41 Women's Music Groups  
30 Art/Graphic/Theater Groups  
9 Women Writers Groups  
6 Editorial & Public Relations  
19 Women's Speakers Bureaus  
11 Courses on Media and Women  
41 Media Organizations-Media Exchange  
10 Women's Distributors  
91 Women's Bookstores & Mail Order  
79 Library Collections on Women  
34 Selected Directories, Catalogs  
474 Individual Media Women and Media-Concerned Women

Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press  
3306 Ross Place, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20008

## "Fetal Alcohol Syndrome ... A Global Issue,"

is a video approximately 35 minutes long that explains the seriousness of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and also gives the viewer a look into the politics behind FAS.

This video is available for your group, library or school for \$38.00 by sending check or money order to:

NACB/FAS Video,  
P.O. Box 572  
Lake Andes, South Dakota 57356  
Or by calling: 605-487-7072

## Call for Papers WOMEN AND PEACE: AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

School of Social Work  
University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign

March 12-15, 1989  
Urbana, Illinois

To celebrate in the spirit of Jane Addams the 100th Anniversary of Hull House, proposals are invited in the categories of formal papers, roundtables and workshops in five areas: Historical perspective on women's work for international peace; Improving the human condition, women, peace and development; Women and peace, politics; Women and grassroots peace action; and Women and peace education. Please submit 4 copies of proposals (500 words) by August 15, 1988 or write for information to:

Golie Jansen, Secretary  
Conference Planning Committee  
School of Social Work  
University of Illinois  
1207 West Oregon  
Urbana, IL 61801

## Classified Ads

### Books for Prisoners

Books For Prisoners is a project of Left Bank Books, an anti-authoritarian workers' collective, and New Society Publishers Educational Foundation, a non-profit group promoting change worldwide. We offer free books to women in prison. If you are in prison, please send book requests. If you are not in prison, please donate books and/or money. Our address is Books for Prisoners, c/o Left Bank Books, Box A, 92 Pike Street, Seattle, WA 98101.

### Poor Speak for Themselves

The poor believe that a government does have a responsibility to help those in poverty. They recommend policy changes aimed at creating decent jobs, more effective training and educational programs, and a more adequate, humane welfare system. The study, funded by the Ford Foundation, also asked open-ended questions about respondents' families, health, education, past employment, and experience with 37 government social programs. It was based on interviews with 202 people in four economically and demographically diverse locations in the U.S.

*How the Poor Would Remedy Poverty*, Susan Rees, Carolyn Farrow-Garland, Deborah Freedman and Gary Itzkowitz, may be ordered from the Coalition on Human Needs, 1000 Wisconsin Ave. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20007. Please send \$10.95, plus \$1.00 for handling.

### Communities

**ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITIES**, established 10-21 years, invite visitors/residents. Opposing racism and sexism; cherishing equality and individual differences. Write for booklet (\$2 helps): Federation of Egalitarian Communities, Twin Oaks, WR83, Louisa, VA 23093. Ask about our women's gathering August 26-28: "Women: Celebrating Our Diversity."

### Reading List

Here's something new on the publishing scene—Aunt Edna's Reading List—a monthly review of feminist books. The format is different from other book reviews: It's brief—just four pages each month—so you can read it and still have time left to read books. And it's down-to-earth—simply tells you enough about the books so you can decide if you want to read them.

The emphasis is on books published by women's small presses, and Aunt Edna's purpose is to connect feminist readers with the works of authors who usually don't receive mainstream publicity. Included are books on feminist theory, social commentary, international affairs, and lots of novels and just good reads. Also includes ordering information for hard-to-find books.

Subscriptions are \$10/year; a free sample copy is available from Aunt Edna's Reading List, 2002-H-27 Hunnewell, Honolulu, HI 96822.

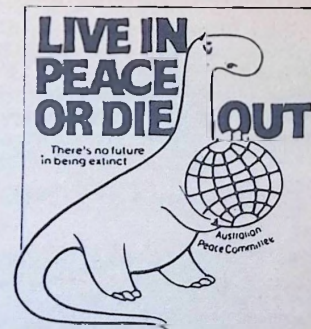
### Women & Organizations Conference

The Seventh Annual Conference on Women and Organizations, sponsored by the International Institute for Women and Organizations, will be held in Long Beach, California, August 3-5, 1988. The theme for this year's conference is Incorporating Diversity: Strategies that Work for Individuals and Organizations. Practicing managers, consultants, and academics with an interest in women's participation in organizations are invited to attend the conference to exchange ideas about strategies for understanding, developing, and managing diversity in organizations. This theme will be addressed through a variety of panels, workshops, papers, and informal discussions.

### Positions Available at I.C.E.

Join a dedicated staff that works for economic justice and integrates political values with personal lifestyle. The Institute for Community Economics assists community-based groups across the country to meet the needs of low-income people. Open positions include: Business Manager, Community Investment Specialist, Revolving Loan Fund Officer, Housing Technical Assistance Provider, and Secretary. We also have one-year internship positions. Salaries are modest and based on need.

Write: Coordinating Team, I.C.E.  
151 Montague City Road. Greenfield  
MA 01301



## GCA Campaign Against Smoking

Girls Clubs of America has initiated a campaign to publicize the health hazards of smoking among girls. Smoking has declined among all major age, race, and sex groups with the exception of young females. While only 20.5% of all young women smoked in 1976, today the percentage has risen to 28.8%.

"Tobacco advertising is aimed at a vulnerable population—the youth of America," said Margaret Gates, Girls Clubs of America national executive director. "We are trying to counteract the advertising message that smoking is a sophisticated and grown-up thing to do. It isn't. Smoking is the single most preventable cause of disease and death in the United States."

The organization has also published a booklet for girls entitled *Girls Against Smoking*, which is available from Girls Clubs of America, P.O. Box 35, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 for \$1.00.

# BOYCOTT KELLOGG'S! DIVEST NOW!



The WREE VIEW of WOMEN is the publication of  
WOMEN FOR RACIAL & ECONOMIC EQUALITY

Bundle rates are available on request. Membership in WREE is based on agreement with the principles embodied in the WREE National By-Laws. All memberships include a subscription to The WREE VIEW of WOMEN.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to join WREE. \$50. Sustaining Member  
\$20. Regular Member  
\$7. Low Income Member

Enclosed is \$6 for subscription only.  
Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Women's Bill of Rights Campaign.  
Please send me information on the Women's Bill of Rights Campaign.  
Please send me more information about WREE.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Women for Racial & Economic Equality  
(WREE) is the U.S. affiliate of

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL  
DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION (WIDF)

WIDF unites 131 organizations in 116 countries. It has Consultative Status (I) with ECOSOC, Consultative Status (B) with UNESCO, and Consultative Status with UNICEF and is on the H.O Special List.

WIDF organized the World Congress of Women (Prague, 8-13 October 1981), attended by 1,000 participants from 133 countries representing 275 national organizations and 96 international organizations, as well as 18 representatives of the UN system.

WIDF originally proposed International Women's Year, proclaimed unanimously by the UN General Assembly in 1972 that resulted in International Women's Year 1975, and then became the "UN Decade for Women 1976-85 Equality, Development & Peace."

Journal of the  
Women's International  
Democratic Federation



WOMEN OF THE WORLD  
is published quarterly.  
The price of one year's  
subscription is \$5.00

Payment should be made  
to WREE.

**Women for Racial & Economic Equality**  
401 Broadway, 22nd Floor  
New York, N.Y. 10013

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Belmawr, NJ  
Permit #346

Angelo D'Angelo  
172 Coventry Rd.  
Staten Island NY 10304