

Merle Woo's labor/civil rights case From campus to courtroom

BY KAREN BRODINE

More than a year ago, Merle Woo packed up and left her office in Asian American Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, chalking "I shall return" on the blackboard.

Woo was fired from her lecturer's position at the university in June 1982 because she's a unionist, a radical, a lesbian, and she speaks her mind. She is suing UC in federal and state court, charging race and sex discrimination and abridgement of her First Amendment rights.

In many ways, Woo never left UC. While she's not on the payroll, her case is as topical on campus and in the community as the day she was fired. And it continues to win wide support because of the issues it represents and because of the devotion and work of a cohesive and far-reaching defense team, the Merle Woo Defense Committee (MWDC).

The campus *Daily Californian* observed March 31, that Woo "has the audacity to speak out. . . We urge that Merle Woo be reinstated. . . and that in the future, regardless of race, creed or color, sexual or political preference, faculty be hired and fired on the basis of academic competence, not philosophical persuasion."

Rescinding the 4-year rule

Woo and her union, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), scored an initial victory last December when the California Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) ruled that UC's implementation of a 4-year rule—which reduced lecturers' maximum teaching term from eight to four years—constituted an unfair labor practice. UC had used the rule to get rid of Woo, even though she had been promised permanent employment when she was hired in 1978.

UC immediately appealed the PERB ruling. But on April 27, it agreed to rescind the 4-year rule and hereafter meet with the AFT before changing employment policy for lecturers, regardless of the outcome of its appeal.

This was certainly a well-earned victory for Woo and her union. But there is a twist: UC has told Woo that lecturers already fired will not be hired back. Only lecturers currently serving will benefit from rescission of the rule.

This move is intended by UC to pacify UC lecturers still on campus, thus undercutting support for Woo and sabotaging AFT's current efforts to organize them.

UC says that Woo will have to "negotiate" for reinstatement. Now that the 4-year rule has been scrapped, it will be interesting to see what new pretexts UC dredges up to try to keep her out.

A mixed victory

Woo is not about to bind her fortunes wholly to negotiations with UC.

She filed a suit in Federal Court on March 29 charging that UC interfered with her right to free speech and due process, and singled her out for firing because she was openly critical of management; because she supported students, staff, and other lecturers against a rightward-leaning Asian American Studies Department; and because she is a Chinese-Korean American woman and lesbian who teaches the connections between race, sex, sexual, and class oppression.



Cathy Cade

On June 3, Woo won a mixed victory in the court of Federal Judge Samuel Conti. UC had filed a motion to dismiss the case, saying that Woo's brief read like "an ideological tract." But Conti upheld Woo's right to trial on the free speech, due process, and discrimination issues. This cleared the decks for a court date early next year.

However, Conti upheld UC's argument that the university—as an "alter ego" of the State of California—possesses sovereign immunity from monetary damages under the 11th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

All Woo could hope for under Conti's ruling was the chance to win reinstatement. Yet the financial hardship she has suffered at UC's hands is enormous. So on June 29, the MWDC filed an additional suit in Alameda Superior Court charging the university's regents with breach of contract and retaliatory discrimination. Woo is asking for not less than \$100,000 in damages.

"If UC is allowed to escape monetary responsibility for violating workers' constitutional rights," Woo said, "no one will speak out. . . Workers will see that they have nothing to gain by undertaking the battle against management. We will proceed, using every method possible to force UC to rehire me, to pay damages, and to be accountable for its discriminatory practices."

High-profile organizing

A battle as complicated as Woo's would quickly overwhelm the faint-hearted. Woo, however, is undaunted. She's taking on the university, the courts, and entrenched corrupt elements in the Asian American communities that ally against outspoken critics. She's fighting openly, standing on her credentials as a teacher and as a radical; and her multi-issue political stance has earned her support from a vast spectrum of people, whose power is potentially greater by far than that of the forces arrayed against her.

A loyal cadre of supporters that make up Woo's Defense Committee ensure the high public profile essential

to her success.

Merle Woo Defense Committee members in cities across the country and in Australia are using every avenue to further Woo's case, attracting attention, gathering endorsements, and raising money at public forums, conferences, and through the media.

The New York City and Bay Area MWDC sent delegates, among them Woo's daughter, Emily Woo Yamasaki, to the "Common Differences: Third World Women and Feminist Perspectives" conference at the University of Illinois, April 9-13. There they won unanimous endorsement for a resolution supporting the case. Both Woo and Yamasaki have spoken to enthusiastic crowds at public forums in New York City.

Portland and Seattle backers have sponsored benefit film showings of "Mitsuye and Nellie"—a documentary about two Asian American feminist poets—and "Chan is Missing"—an engrossing film about San Francisco's Chinatown. The film features Yamasaki in a supporting role.

L.A. and San Francisco supporters have kept Woo busy on the campus and rally lecture circuit: she addressed the Asian/Pacific Lesbians and Gays meeting in L.A. on April 10 and the mammoth San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom March on June 26. She has spoken to receptive audiences at Stanford University, Sonoma State University, San Francisco State University, and—UC Berkeley!

Woo also addressed the National Women's Studies Association conference held in Ohio, June 26-30.

Endorsers galore

MWDC members have gathered many new endorsers for the Woo case, including the UC Association of Graduate Student Employees, Black and White Men Together, the National Coalition of Black Gays, the California Peace and Freedom Party, the Los Angeles Coalition to Fight the Family Protection Act, and Asian American gay activist Stanley Rebutlon.

Australian supporters have publi-

cized the case widely in Melbourne and Sydney. Recent endorsements there have come from the Gay Solidarity Group; the Ninth National Conference of Lesbians and Homosexual Men in Australia; and the Lesbian Line Collective in Sydney.

Other international endorsers include Martin McGill of Gays Against Imperialism, in Ireland; Na Kano Rie, a feminist editor in Tokyo; and the *Gay Studies Newsletter* at the University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada.

Meanwhile, the California AFT's statewide university council wrote a letter April 26, encouraging other unions to support Woo's fight against "violation of free speech at the workplace." An AFT-sponsored resolution supporting Woo had passed unanimously at the California Federation of Teachers conference in San Francisco on March 18.

Kindred spirits

Wherever Woo and the MWDC go, they gain support from other unionists, feminists, and radicals who are fighting similar censorship and discrimination.

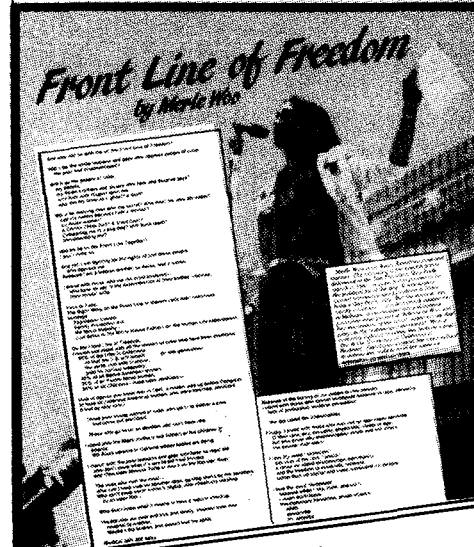
One such person is Katherine Van Wormer, a Quaker feminist who was denied tenure at Kent State for teaching "pro-Black" and feminist ideas. Another is James Hamilton, a Black man kicked out of UC's medical school in 1973 supposedly for bad grades. Hamilton was the only Black person in his class. Forty percent of his colleagues had lower grades, but were allowed to graduate.

Hamilton has been fighting this injustice for 10 years and he advised the MWDC that UC "doesn't like long-distance fighters" and may back down if Woo keeps up the pressure.

Long distance fighters

Woo and the MWDC are an inspiration to all those fighting intensified censorship and repression on the job. Woo puts her whole self on the line for free speech and the right to be who and what she is.

Beating the modern McCarthyites demands principle and persistence. And Woo has plenty of both. She means what she says when she swears she'll fight until she crosses the threshold of Asian American Studies at UC Berkeley—this time to stay. □



New Poster

Stirring and controversial poem delivered at San Francisco's 1981 Gay Freedom Day Parade.

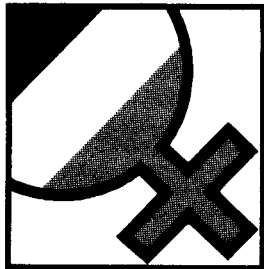
13" x 19," orange and brown on cream
Send \$3.00 to:
Merle Woo Defense Committee
3815-5th Avenue N.E.
Seattle, WA 98105

IN THIS ISSUE

Volume 8, Number 3

Summer 1983

A poet's perspective 8



Poet-feminist Nellie Wong highlights the triumphs and controversies that emerged at the "Common Differences: Third World Women and Feminist Perspectives" conference at the University of Illinois this April.

Noble victory 5

Labor wins a big one! Union activist and computer programmer Henry Noble regains fulltime status at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. Defense Committee coordinator Madelyn Elder reports.



Fiery words 9



The revolutionary fervor of Egyptian poet Salah Kornas gives wings to his poem "As long as there is." We are proud he has chosen to grace our pages with his eloquence.

Alive and well 4

Whoever thinks AIDS is a coffin for lesbian/gay rights should think again. Hundreds of thousands marched to commemorate Stonewall this June. And they're not going back to the closet.



Also

International		People of color	
East Timor	3	Rita Silk Nauni	2
Central America	6	Michael Zinzun	2
		Vincent Chin	3
Labor		Features	
Merle Woo	1	Clara Fraser	9
Simpson/Mazzoli	8	Cartoon	9
City Light	12	Ms. Tami	11

the freedom socialist

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LETTERS

We appreciate it

Thanks for sending the *Freedom Socialist* copy with the letter from my friend John Mohawk on the Miskito situation in Nicaragua. I am glad that the article I co-authored with John [which analyzed the Sandinistas' denial of the Indians' right to self-determination, in the Late Spring 1982 *Akwesasne Notes*] was useful. Our information on Nicaragua is spotty, difficult to assess, and usually from biased sources (the U.S. press or the Nicaraguan government). If we receive any good information, we will send it.

Shelton Davis
Boston, Massachusetts

opinions on the political content of "Revolutionary Integration: Yesterday and Today," we'd like to hear them.

FSP vs. SWP

Some months ago, to answer some of my questions about the FSP, one of your comrades sent me a few leaflets and a copy of the *Freedom Socialist* which covered your convention last summer (FS, Fall 1982, Vol 8, No. 1).

I'd like more information about the FSP. Of special interest are the differences between the FSP and the SWP.

Stormy Mullendore
Salt Lake City, Utah

Our differences with the SWP are legion. The FSP was originally the Seattle branch of the SWP. The Seattle branch split from the national organization because of irreconcilable differences on feminism, Black liberation, and internal party democracy, among other questions. We consider the SWP anti-feminist, homophobic, and so

bureaucratically and politically degenerated that it has thrown overboard the remaining vestiges of Trotskyism as it gravitates toward the Stalinists, labor skates, and opportunists of every stripe.

Pleased to meet you

Some time ago we came in contact with your paper, through the All Peoples Congress, which we no longer affiliate with.

SHIMO Underground is an anti-imperialist/internationalist collective attempting to organize/educate people about revolution in our lifetime. We maintain contact with a cross-section of organizations of the progressive/radical/or revolutionary left. We also put out a newsletter.

Hope to hear from you.

Jim Shiley
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, news stories, commentary, cartoons, graphics, photographs, and pertinent information on world and national affairs.

Defend Rita Silk Nauni

In 1980, Native American prisoner Rita Silk Nauni was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 150 years by an all-white jury in Oklahoma for the self-defense slaying of a policeman who had attacked her and her son.

Silk Nauni appealed, was temporarily freed on \$100,000 bail, and then reincarcerated when her public defender decided he didn't like the company she kept—a Black family—while free on bail. She currently awaits her appeal in "protective custody" at the Mabel Bassett Correctional Center in Oklahoma.

Silk Nauni has been stripped of every constitutional right. Her son, Derek, has been taken from her. She is confined to her cell, denied the same access that other prisoners have to MBCC's legal library, and

subjected daily to the violence of male guards who openly beat the women prisoners. In addition, she, like other Native American prisoners, is denied the right to practice her religion.

Your help is desperately needed to get Rita Silk Nauni released! She needs money, letters of support, and stamps for correspondence.

For further information, write:
Support and Defense Network
c/o Bobbi Alexander
Box 712
Wabash, IN 46992

Address all personal correspondence to:

Rita Silk Nauni #109100
Mabel Bassett Correctional
Center
Box 11492
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

Michael Zinzun

Free speech wins in L.A.

BY MONICA HILL

Pasadena Superior Court Judge George Xanthos dismissed charges on June 29 against Michael Zinzun, a lifelong community organizer and radical who faced years in prison for speaking and organizing against police abuse in Los Angeles.

Zinzun, a former Black Panther, had been charged with violating California Penal Code 69 (PC 69), an obscure law devised in 1872 during a period of militant labor protest. A chilling threat to free speech rights and organized dissent, PC 69 makes it a felony to use "any threat or violence to deter an executive officer from performing any duty imposed on him by law."

On February 13, 1982, in Pasadena, Zinzun and other witnesses observed five cops beating two young Black men whom they were arresting for "public drunkenness." Zinzun exhorted his neighbors to stay and witness the beatings. He was arrested a week

later, not for physically interfering, but for his verbal protest!

On the witness stand, one of the cops testified that Zinzun had not threatened him or prevented him from doing his "duty." Judge Xanthos had to dismiss the charges.

Watchdogging the cops

Zinzun was no accidental target. A prime mover in L.A.'s Coalition Against Police Abuse (CAPA) and in the fight for a Citizen's Police Review Board, he has relentlessly fought harassment, brutality, and murder by the infamous L.A. police.

CAPA especially incurred the wrath of the LAPD when it exposed the cops' extensive spying apparatus and filed a suit, which is still pending. Opening that can of police-state worms led to public outcry against police spying and resulted in the disbanding of the Public Disorder Intelligence Division. The LAPD is now fighting hard to stop enactment of a local Freedom of Information Act.

Clean-up for the cameras

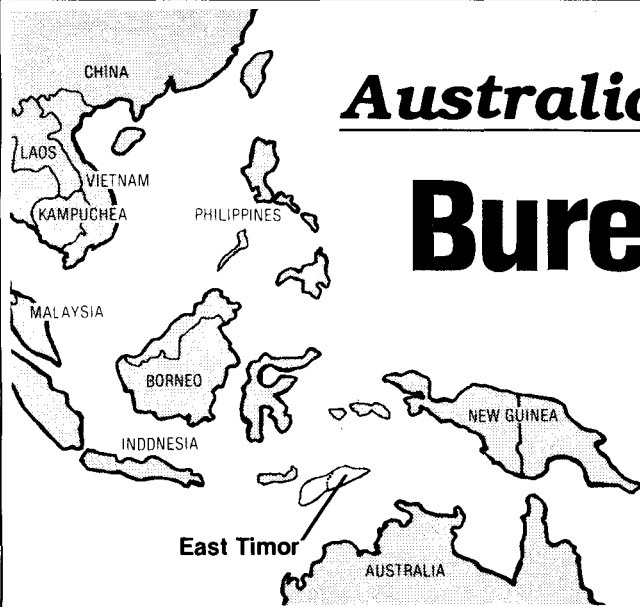
Zinzun was arrested in the heat of a clean-up campaign preceding the 1984 Olympic Games in L.A. The city's establishment is determined that no embarrassing protest shall expose the ugly reality of life for L.A.'s majority—people of color or hard-hit by unemployment and race discrimination.

"L.A. will be a world stage during the games," Zinzun explains. "They want to muzzle anyone who punctures the myth of 'America—Land of Freedom and Plenty.'"

One more battle won

Because Zinzun's fight revolved around the explosive issues of free speech, police abuse and spying, and repressive legislation, his defense committee gained wide support from people of color, feminists, youth, lesbians and gays, and ex-Black Panthers—all traditional cop victims.

Together they have won a major battle—the right to protest—in the war to change society. □



Australian Labor Party divided

Bureaucrats betray East Timorese resistance

BY ALISON THORNE

When the Australian Labor Party (ALP) swept to power in March 1983, rank-and-file members understandably assumed that ALP political policies would finally become official Australian government policy. But Bob Hawke, the ALP leader who assumed the post of prime minister, quickly demonstrated utter contempt for the ALP membership's decisions on key foreign policy questions.

Hawke has publicly opposed the withdrawal of Australian troops from the Middle East, the resumption of aid to Vietnam, and is sabotaging ALP commitment to phasing out the Australian uranium industry. All these were key ALP policies while the ALP was the opposition party. They remain official policies today, Hawke's defiance notwithstanding.

The worst policy reversal was Hawke's unceremonious ditching of the ALP's support for independence for East Timor—the eastern half of the island of Timor in the Indonesian archipelago, 300 miles north of Australia—which was brutally invaded and occupied by Indonesia in 1975.

Genocide in East Timor

In 1974, East Timor gained its independence from Portugal, in the wake of the Portuguese revolution. A three-way civil war ensued among forces fighting for complete independence, those wanting integration into Indonesia, and those advocating continued Portuguese control. Fretilin (Revolutionary Front of Independent East Timor) came to power in 1975 with wide support, declared East Timor independent, and instituted social and agrarian reform and mass education—programs which the Indonesian military dictatorship viewed with alarm as “communist.”

Suddenly, in December 1975, Indonesian troops invaded East Timor, less than 24 hours after then-President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger had left Jakarta.

Since then, over 200,000 East Timorese—one of every three—have died as a result of the invasion and occupation. Indonesia's campaign of wholesale slaughter and the destruction of agriculture and villages has driven well over 90% of the surviving East Timorese from their homes and caused famine throughout the country.

The U.S. role

Ninety percent of the arms used by the Indonesian invaders in 1975 were U.S.-supplied. American helicopters, counter-insurgency aircraft, bombs, and chemicals made it possible for the Indonesians to bombard the East Timorese and destroy their crops to starve them into submission.

The U.S. fears that an independent East Timor could become the Cuba of Southeast Asia. And an unfriendly nation in the Indonesian archipelago is intolerable to U.S. strategic planners. The deep-water straits of Ombai-Wetar are directly north of Timor and

are the fastest, most secure route between the Pacific and Indian Oceans for U.S. nuclear submarines.

Australian treachery

Australia is of course a U.S. ally, with imperialist interests of its own, prime among them cushy trade and strategic relations with its populous Indonesian neighbor.

After the invasion of East Timor, the Liberal Party government of Malcolm Fraser provided millions in aid to Indonesia. Australian military advisors were sent to Indonesia, and well over a thousand Indonesian officers were trained in Australia in interrogation techniques and jungle warfare. Most of these officers were then posted in East Timor.

With the Australian government providing maritime surveillance capability in the form of aircraft and patrol boats, Indonesia can maintain a naval blockade around East Timor.

Bureaucratic betrayal

Unlike the Liberal Party, the ALP is supposed to stand for the interests of labor, not capital, in Australia. But Hawke's betrayal of ALP policy illustrates perfectly how labor's misleaders sell out their constituency.

Since 1975, the ALP has stood for self-determination for East Timor. All ALP national conferences since the invasion have adopted strong resolutions supporting East Timor, and in recent years the resolutions have carried unanimously. When the Labor government came to power, Australia's support for Indonesia against the East Timorese should have become history. But almost immediately, Bob Hawke's government began its policy reversal.

In April 1983, Labor's foreign minister, Bill Hayden, visited Jakarta for talks with the Indonesian government. In a press release issued after the visit, Hayden stressed the need to maintain friendly and cooperative relations with Indonesia and merely

“noted with concern” that East Timor had been incorporated into the Republic of Indonesia.

Press reports claiming Hayden and Prime Minister Hawke told the Indonesian ambassador to Australia that the ALP East Timor policy was “an embarrassment” have not been denied by any official government sources.

During an early June visit to Indonesia, Hawke was feted by President Suharto. After a weekend of talks with Suharto and other Indonesian leaders, Hawke announced that a \$10 million defense aid package begun

of self-determination for East Timor.

Conference delegates also passed an emergency motion calling on the foreign affairs minister to instruct Australian delegates to the United Nations to vote consistently against the Indonesian invasion of East Timor.

On May 31, Bill Hayden's visit to Melbourne to address the ALP Foreign Affairs Policy Committee sparked angry protest outside ALP headquarters. The protest, called by the Australia-East Timor Association, drew the support of the Timorese community in Australia as well as rank-and-file ALP members. When Hayden refused to stop and answer protesters' questions, they decided to enter the meeting. But the Labor Party bureaucrats bolted the doors, locking card-carrying ALP members out of their own headquarters.

The Association has scheduled a giant East Timor support rally in Melbourne on July 31.

Fretilin fights on

In spite of Indonesia's war of genocide against the East Timorese and the vacuum of international support (except limited support from Vietnam and Algeria), Fretilin fights on. Letters smuggled to East Timorese in Australia reveal that the Fretilins are becoming better armed and orga-



under the Liberal government would continue under the Labor government.

Resistance from the ranks

The Labor Party leadership's sellout of the East Timorese has sparked uproar within the party's ranks.

At an April 17 Victoria State ALP conference, members rallied outside the hall, demanding that the party's East Timor policy be immediately implemented. In spite of Hawke, the conference reaffirmed the ALP policy

nized and have captured weapons and equipment from the Indonesians.

If the ALP rank and file can force government support of independence for East Timor, the Fretilins could gain a powerful ally—the Australian working class—and East Timor could move a giant step toward freedom. □

Alison Thorne, Melbourne Radical Women organizer and Australian Labor Party member, is involved in the Australia-East Timor Association.

Vincent Chin

Racist slaying in Detroit

BY JANET SUTHERLAND

Vincent Chin was murdered in Detroit on June 19, 1982, a victim of the U.S. auto industry's “Buy American” campaign, which scapegoats Japanese imports for U.S. unemployment, and divides American workers by focusing race hatred against Asian Americans.

Ronald Ebens, a Chrysler foreman, and his stepson Michael Nitz don't like the Japanese. They accosted the Chinese American Chin in a bar—all Asian Americans look alike to the racists—and showered him with racial invective, blaming him for auto industry losses. Ejected from the bar, they later waylaid Chin and beat him to death with a baseball bat.

A Wayne County prosecutor

charged Ebens and Nitz with manslaughter, and on March 16, 1983, Judge Charles Kaufman fined each \$3,780 and freed them on probation. Kaufman turned down a motion to reconsider the ruling on June 2.

American Citizens for Justice (ACJ) has spearheaded a public protest against this racist miscarriage of justice, including demonstrations in Detroit and New York and a national letter-writing campaign to pressure the federal government to investigate. Flooded with letters, the Justice Department undertook a preliminary investigation in May.

ACJ also met with United Auto Workers (UAW) officials, who are helping to boost the “Buy American” campaign. ACJ told UAW that it had contributed to Chin's killing through

its promotion of Buy Americanism, that it should repudiate the campaign and its racism, and that it should speak out for justice for Chin.

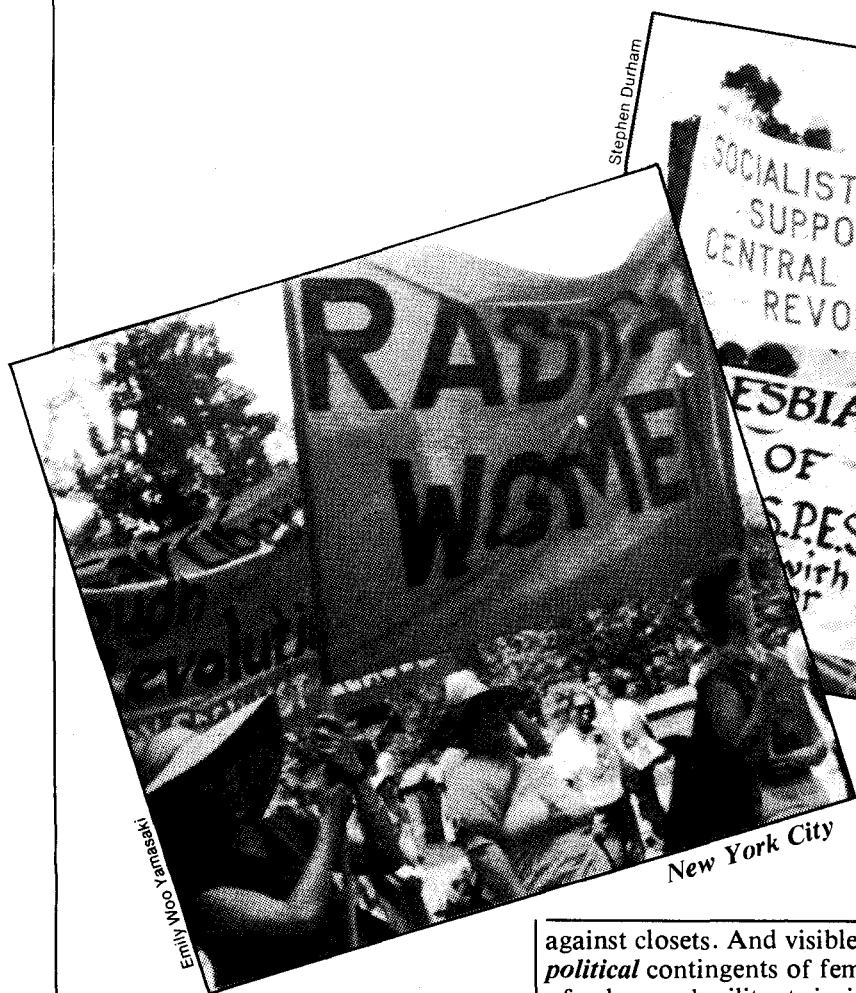
A subsequent UAW statement called for a review of Kaufman's sentence. But it also praised Kaufman as a jurist, while admitting that, in Chin's case, he might have slipped up!

UAW also refused to disavow the “Buy American” campaign. The bureaucrats prefer racist scapegoating to fighting the real cause of unemployment—profit-hungry bosses who are cutting jobs to save labor costs.

Justice for Vincent Chin can't wait on the bureaucrats. Please send inquiries, contributions, and messages of support either to the Vincent Chin Fund or the ACJ Legal Defense, at 17726 Denby, Detroit, MI 48240. □

Lesbian/Gay Pride '83

Defiant and on the march



Ethan Yarnoff

New York City

BY ROBERT CRISMAN

Neither AIDS, nor rightwing hysteria, nor conservative gay businessmen can kill the lesbian/gay movement. All three have tried, yet the movement is flourishing. This was the heartening news provided at Gay Freedom marches around the world this June.

Marchers commemorated the 14th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion, which started the modern lesbian/gay movement. 350,000 marched in San Francisco. 100,000 New Yorkers and 90,000 Los Angelenos did the same. Chicago and Boston marches brought out 30,000 and 18,000 respectively. 2,500 marched in Seattle, 2,000 in Portland, Oregon and Atlanta, 1,500 in Minneapolis, and 1,000 in Columbus, Ohio. Berkeley and Burlington, Vermont held their first marches ever.

More than 1,000 demonstrated in Mexico City, and 300 took gay pride out of the ghetto and into the suburbs of Sydney, Australia.

The sheer number of participants alone was significant. This is the year of AIDS and an upsurge of anti-gay hate-mongering, including calls for the removal of gays from jobs, proposed quarantine in concentration camps, evictions, and stepped-up physical attacks. A smell of pogroms is in the air. Increasingly, the message to gays is: run for your closets or face the consequences.

Accordingly, white gay male businessmen, whose aim—as ever—is to achieve innocuous “respectability” and prosperity within the existing heterosexist system, redoubled their efforts to turn the marches into carefree carnivals devoid of challenge to straight white male supremacy.

But lesbians and gays came out strong against the AIDS hysteria and

against closets. And visible, vocal, *political* contingents of feminists, gays of color, and militants insisted again that gay pride be protest against continuing oppression as well as celebration of movement victories. They called for solidarity with all the oppressed. And they kept the legacy of Stonewall alive.

Victory in diversity

Nowhere was this truer than in Seattle, where the 1983 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee made “Diversity in Action” its theme as well as an operative symbol of lesbian/gay unity, militance, and strength.

The issues addressed were certainly diverse and to the point: an end to homophobia, ageism, racism, and sexism; defense of abortion rights and an end to forced sterilization; immediate government funding for AIDS research; custody rights for lesbian mothers and gay fathers; passage of state and federal gay rights bills.

The event's success was due to the Stonewall Committee for Lesbian/Gay Rights, which initiated the call for a Freedom Day Committee. They were joined by a sizeable number of feminists, gays of color, and other independents who realize that liberation is something to be fought for.

Gay Democrats and businessmen on the committee wrangled interminably for an “apolitical” parade. Thankfully, Stonewall and the independents worked for a compromise combining politics and celebration in an officially designated parade/march.

This was an eminently workable solution. Yet when it became clear that this parade/march would include political demands, several gay businesses organized a last-minute “street fair” along the route to try and siphon off participants. This pitiful attempt at sabotage backfired; few, if any, marchers dropped out, while many fairgoers joined the march.

Rally speakers excoriated the sex-

ism, racism, and ageism personified by gay conservatives, who denigrate the concerns of non-male, non-white, and elder members of the community, and ignore movement diversity.

A planned debate over a proposed police precinct in the heart of the lesbian/gay and people of color communities highlighted the division between the conservatives and the rest of the movement. The former stated the precinct could be an “asset” if police were “sensitized” to community needs. Radicals opposed it, citing the sure-to-be-increased harassment, surveillance, and brutality against racial and sexual minorities. They called instead for a civilian review board and community control over police.

California gays

Lesbians and gays in San Francisco defied panicked warnings of mass AIDS contamination to march 350,000 strong in the nation's largest demonstration.

The “moderate” majority on San Francisco's Freedom Day Committee, however, throttled controversial debate by focusing on gay culture and by prioritizing movement “stars” as speakers.

Nevertheless, an international contingent, including Irish and Salvadoran freedom fighters, joined the march and drew cheers, as did labor, feminist, and radical groups. Asian American lesbian and feminist Merle



Stephen Durham

Los Angeles

Seattle

San Francisco

Woo won heavy applause when she stated “We are fighting for our lives and the future of humanity: Let us revolt together, now!”

The L.A. march drew a record 90,000 despite the fact that the Christopher Street West Committee gagged the community by refusing to schedule a rally. A contingent of socialists, feminists, and anti-war activists protesting Reagan's war drive was loudly cheered, however, as they chanted “Money for AIDS, not for war! U.S. out of El Salvador!”

New York, New York

The conservatives ruled on New York's Christopher Street Liberation Day Committee, primarily by bureaucratic voting maneuvers. They too wanted only “big name” speakers. And they voted to rally in a men's leather bar area, insulting lesbians and feminists.

The conservatives represented Democratic Party and business interests and the Catholic Church—a disgraceful irony considering that virulent opposition to this year's march came from New York's bitterly homophobic Catholic hierarchy. More than 100 cops ringed St. Patrick's Cathedral to prevent Dignity, a gay Catholic group, from standing on cathedral steps like they have in years past. And close by, Catholic war veterans, who had tried to have the march re-routed, heckled the marchers.

A four-block-long Militant Stonewall Contingent, demanded an end to police violence and attacks on repro-

to page 11

WHERE TO FIND THE



CALIFORNIA
 Los Angeles: 1918 W. 7th St., #204, Los Angeles, CA 90057. 213-413-1350.
 San Francisco Bay Area: 2661 - 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94110. 415-550-1020.

NEW YORK
 New York City: 32 Union Square East, Rm. 307, New York, NY 10003. 212-677-7002.

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 Portland: 2831 N.E. Union, Portland, OR 97212. 503-249-8067.

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 Melbourne: P.O. Box 334, Fitzroy, VIC 3065. 03-386-3452.

A new victory for cancer research workers

Henry Noble's job restored at Hutchinson Cancer Center

BY MADELYN ELDER

Henry Noble is working fulltime again at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle! This is tremendous news for Seattle's labor and social change movements. Earlier this year, Hutchinson administrators had cut Noble's job hours to 25% in an effort to demoralize and destroy the union he helped organize there in 1979. The restoration went through on July 1 and will last one year.

Management had said that they "couldn't find the funds" to retain Noble fulltime as Hutchinson's Coordinator of Computer Services. Now they say new grant monies have made it possible to keep him on. They neglect to mention that relentless public pressure organized by the Hutchinson Center Staff Association (HCSA) and the union's Henry Noble Defense Committee (HNDC) forced management to allocate these monies to Noble's job.

The value of public pressure was underscored on July 18, when the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) dismissed HCSA's charge that the cutback was retaliatory discrimination for Noble's union activities. A purely legal effort, wholly dependent on the Reaganite NLRB, would have left Noble out in the cold.

HCSA and HNDC are investigating the most effective way of protesting NLRB's decision. Noble has been cheated out of back pay for hours lost. And management could fire Noble tomorrow, confident the NLRB would do nothing. Most importantly, the decision signals that the NLRB will not support other unions battling management, and that unions must be prepared to go to the community, as well as into the legal arena.

Sweet victory

Despite the NLRB ruling, the restoration is a triumph for Noble and for the HCSA, which is currently embroiled in a contract dispute with the Hutchinson Center. It gives HCSA redoubled credit and authority as an effective representative of Hutchinson workers and as an example to the labor movement. The union has also gained enormous leverage in the contract talks. Management realizes that community pressure can again be brought to bear on them.

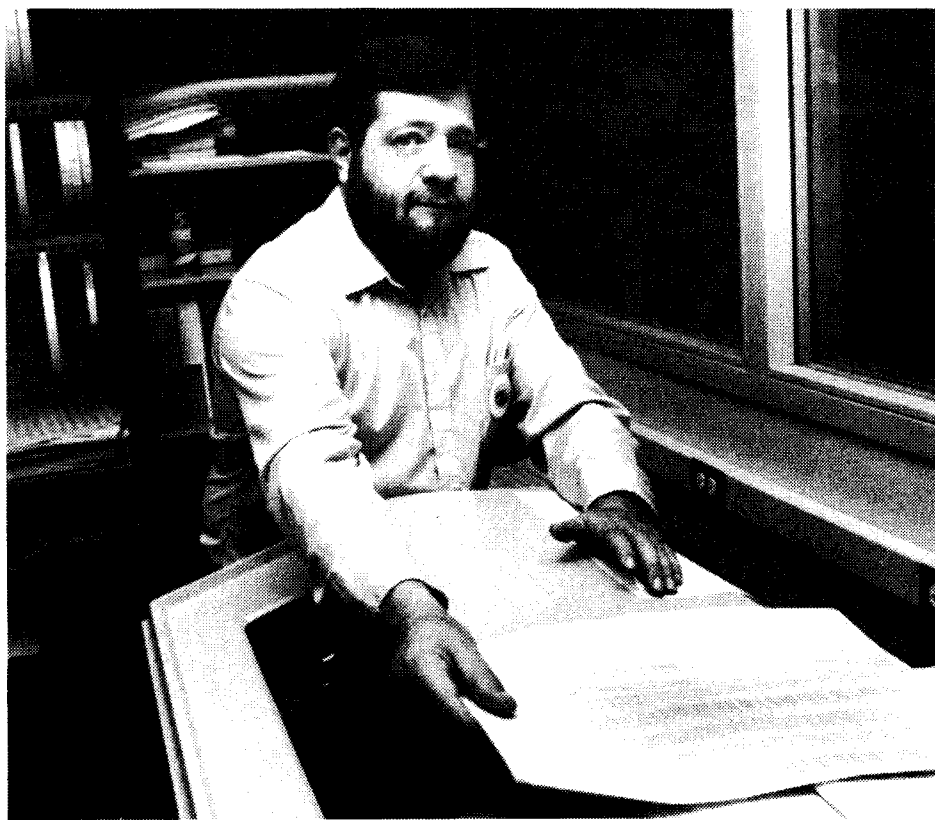
Victory is also sweet for the feminists, unionists, people of color, radicals, free speech enthusiasts, and those concerned about quality health care who supported Noble in the HNDC and who share a common interest in ending management privilege and abuse at Hutchinson.

Formed and financed to fight cancer, the Center mismanages its human resources, disregards the safety of its workers, keeps non-white and non-male employees on the bottom, and tries to oust those who challenge management. Employees and cancer research suffer as a result.

Noble's win is a giant step toward ending that suffering.

High stakes and solidarity

Noble knew the stakes were high when he joined the effort to organize the low-paid Hutchinson clerical and



lab personnel. HCSA is battling for workers' rights to organize and bargain collectively, for free speech and association on the job, and for affirmative action for the women and minorities who are the majority of the workers the union represents.

Management has stalled the contract talks since they began in July 1981. HCSA has vigorously fought the stalling, weathering two decertification attempts in the process. In December 1982, the union established the Quality Cancer Research Fund to divert public donations from the Center and that same month persuaded the AFL-CIO King County Labor Council to withdraw all financial support until HCSA gets a contract.

Noble is a prime mover in the union, an executive board member, and a negotiator in the contract talks. From the beginning, he's been closely watched by bigoted, union-busting management.

As a white man, and a skilled and highly-paid employee, he could have allowed himself to be bought off by the administrators who know that race and sex privilege is a handy way to divide and defeat the workforce.

But Noble is also a dedicated unionist, socialist, and feminist. He realizes that his interests lie in solidarity with his co-workers, and that the HCSA fight and his case are vehicles for bringing workers of both sexes and all races together against unfair management practices.

A strong case

HCSA filed discrimination charges against Hutchinson on Noble's behalf in January 1983. The regional NLRB denied the charges, claiming that "Noble was the only union leader affected" and therefore the cutback could "not be considered a union-busting move." The NLRB also accepted the Center's claim that it had searched for funds to retain Noble. This acceptance is amazing, given that Hutchinson has an annual budget of \$22 million and that the "no funds" excuse is universally recognized as every management's favorite way to get rid of "troublemakers."

The union appealed the NLRB turn-down in April, on the basis that the NLRB investigator had failed to interview union witnesses. HCSA also raised the Center's proven past unfair labor practices against Noble—the NLRB found management guilty of harassing Noble because of his labor activities in 1978—and related them to current Center hostility against him.

The brief also noted Noble's extensive socialist and labor activities, which make him a particular threat to management.

The NLRB Office of Appeals denied the union's appeal on April 29. Like the regional NLRB, Appeals based its denial on the pretext that the Center lacked funds. On June 6, HCSA sent a motion for reconsideration to NLRB General Counsel William Lubbers, calling on the agency to examine the Center's books in light of evidence that management had hidden monies available for Noble's job.

The Noble Defense Committee meanwhile launched a letter-writing campaign to General Counsel Lubbers in June supporting the HCSA's motion. Among those who wrote were labor unions like the Communications Workers of America Local 9102, the

Hotel Employees Restaurant Employees Local 8, and the Washington Federation of State Employees Local 435; Washington state senators Henry Jackson and Slade Gorton, and Representative Mike Lowry; and the Labor and Justice Task Force of the Seattle Council of Churches.

Anytime a unionist's case attracts the attention of Jackson and Gorton, that case must be a strong one—a fact not lost on Hutchinson Center management.

Reaganites rule the roost

Nevertheless, the NLRB said no to Noble on July 18. Reagan appointees to the agency like Chairman Donald Dotson and Solicitor Hugh Reilly, formerly a lawyer for the union-busting National Right to Work Foundation, are anything but willing to give the unions an even break. And on May 4, Reilly was given the authority to approve whether or not Lubbers could file NLRB matters in court. This is an ominous development because the NLRB must depend on the federal courts to enforce its decisions.

Since 1982, the agency has dismissed for "lack of merit" or "lack of funds to investigate" a high percentage of charges filed by unions against management; conversely, the Board has agreed to hear an increased number of charges by management against unions.

Reaching out for support

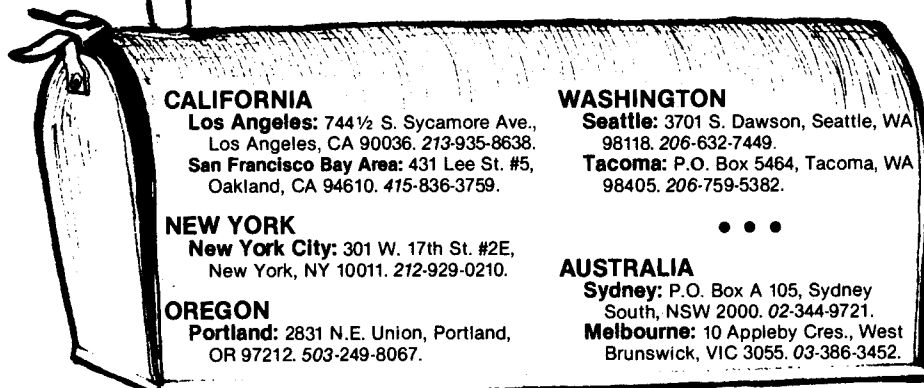
The HNDC recognized early the importance of connecting Noble's fight with the broader labor movement's struggle to force the NLRB to investigate unfair labor practice charges. This will stand the Committee in good stead in the ensuing battle against the Reaganites.

Support garnered by the Defense Committee and the HCSA included a number of unions with a majority membership of women and people of color, such as the Seattle Ship Scalpers Local 541 and the Office and Professional Employees Local 8. Cesar Chavez of the United Farmworkers and William Winpinger of the International Association of Machinists signed support petitions, and the Clara Fraser Defense Committee donated \$500 to help defray legal costs. The Citizens Party and the King

to page 11

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Dedicated to the regroupment of world Trotskyists. The workingclass women, gays, people of color, and white male radicals who compose the Committee for a Revolutionary Socialist Party engage in freewheeling discussion and social actions on a widespread front.



For information, contact Dr. Susan Williams, National Coordinator, 301 W. 17th St. #2E, New York, NY 10011. 212-929-0210.

BY SAM DEADERICK
AND STEPHEN DURHAM

The United States is at war in Central America. It's not a cold war, a covert war, or an imminent war. It is *open* war, in all its stark and bloody reality.

Two irreconcilable forces are engaged in a military showdown. And the war won't be over until one side or the other wins a military victory.

On the one side stand the United States and its client regimes, the Central American oligarchies who administer ruthless political and economic control for the benefit of U.S. banks and industry. On the other side stand the guerrilla armies, representing Central America's workers and peasants, through whose labor the wealth of the region has been funneled to the northern Goliath for generations.

President Reagan assures us that U.S. arms are being used to protect "democracy" in Central America and to forestall "foreign," i.e., Soviet and Cuban, intervention. But the U.S. has always been the greatest enemy of democracy there, basing its stranglehold on the most ruthless dictatorships. Its own intervention has amounted to virtual *occupation* for over a century.

Reagan has resolved not to "lose" Central America. He reasons that, as Central America goes, so goes Latin America, and with it the future of capitalism. Reagan is right. That is why there is no possible "peaceful" solution. This is war to the end.

The U.S. is currently embroiled most deeply in the *contra* war against the revolutionary Sandinista government in Nicaragua, and with shoring up the tottering military overlords in civil-war-torn El Salvador. On July 19, Reagan sent eight warships steaming toward Nicaragua and probable blockade of the country. Meanwhile, 4,000 U.S. troops are gearing up for August "war maneuvers" in Honduras. Soon they will likely be fighting and dying on Nicaraguan soil.

As conflagration spreads throughout the region, the wholesale commitment of U.S. money, munitions, and troops is imminent.

Contras and co.

Nicaragua was the first country in Central America to throw off U.S. control when the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) overthrew puppet dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979. Since then, the shrill U.S. denunciations of the Sandinistas have escalated into full-fledged counter-revolutionary war. Over 5,000 *contra* (counterrevolutionary) troops—trained, led, armed, and equipped by the CIA—are fighting the Sandinistas on Nicaraguan soil. Based primarily in Honduras with a smaller number fighting out of Costa Rica, the *contras*



Military bunker for the U.S.

The most poverty-ridden and underdeveloped country in Central America, Honduras shares borders with Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador. It is consequently the kingpin for U.S. military strategy in the entire region, as well as the staging ground for the *contras*.

The civilian government has no power to make foreign policy; that prerogative falls to the military, which is controlled by the U.S.

Opposition, however, is growing against the escalating U.S. military presence, particularly against a planned base where U.S. "advisors" will train Salvadoran government troops against the insurgents in that country.

Reagan is doing everything possible to provoke war between Honduras and the Sandinistas in order to justify a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua to stamp out "communism." Said U.S. Army Chief of Staff E.C. Meyer in a June 20 *Washington Post* interview: "I don't see how we could not go" if Nicaragua "were to invade" Honduras.

Rebel gains in El Salvador

Meanwhile, administration officials say they will do "whatever is necessary" to "save" El Salvador.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) is gaining steadily. They now control approximately half the country and several large cities of over 10,000 people. Popular support, already widespread, is growing swiftly.

Frantic infusions of U.S. military hardware and personnel are unable to stem the tide of popular revolt, despite a new U.S.-sponsored, Vietnam-style,

jungle, into Honduras, into Mexico.

Guerrilla resistance, however, remains strong, and is primarily composed of, and *led* by, Indians.

Guatemala has been called the most important country in Central America. U.S. economic investment is heaviest there. And Guatemala is the eminently possible springboard for revolution into Mexico, its neighbor to the north.

Costa Rica—into the vortex

Costa Rica, the only country in the region without a standing army, is being increasingly drawn into the regional war because it is a base for the second army of *contras* fighting Nicaragua. Costa Rica is openly collaborating with the U.S., receiving U.S. aid for anti-Sandinista intelligence operations, and sending civil guards to be trained at the U.S. army school of the Americas in Panama. Its reward is more U.S. dollars to stave off domestic social unrest.

Loyal Democratic "opposition"

The American people have registered time and again their opposition to Reagan's war in Central America. And Reagan has registered his utter contempt for their wishes.

The Democratic Party "opposes" Reagan's war moves—through token reductions in arms appropriations to El Salvador and sterile debates over the legality of U.S. attempts to overthrow the Sandinistas. Liberal opposition is limited to debate over *tactics*, on whether Reagan's bellicose *strategy* is workable. But on the need to somehow *stop* "Marxist subversion" in the region, the liberals are in accord with the most militaristic rightwingers. Democratic presidential hopeful Mondale, for example, prattles about the danger of Soviet and Cuban military bases.

Not one voice in Congress advocates the sovereign right of Central Americans to decide their own destiny, construct a social system that meets their needs, and form international alliances with whomever they wish.

The foquistas

While the revolutionary movement in each country arises out of particular conditions, they struggle in common to break the made-in-USA chains that encircle the region.

Current resistance was lit by the Cuban revolution. Inspired by the Fidelistas, guerrillas throughout Latin America developed a *foquist* strategy—attacks on selected targets by small groups of guerrillas which were calculated to spark popular revolt. But the *foquistas'* emphasis on military/tactical considerations to the neglect of political/programmatic ones failed to educate, organize, and prepare the

peasant and worker masses for all-out *class war*. The military regimes methodically hunted down and exterminated the isolated rebels.

By the end of the 1960s, *foquista* resistance had been largely wiped out.

Vietnam in the Americas

The victory of the Vietnamese over the vastly superior U.S. military machine in the mid-70s sparked renewed struggle in Latin America and demonstrated that guerrillas can defeat a conventional army *if a multi-sided military and political war is fought*.



The guerrillas must be rooted among the workers and peasants, drawing their forces from those classes, and fighting in their interests. In addition, war in the countryside must be *combined* with urban labor struggles to cement the worker/peasant alliance against the imperialists and oligarchs.

This "prolonged peoples' war" can draw virtually the entire population into struggle against the U.S.-backed regimes. And government forces can never win final victory against the rebels, short of utter genocide.

Vietnam's victory exposed U.S. vulnerability. And the guerrillas gained an additional edge when recession and the current anti-war movement made it harder for the U.S. to deploy troops.

The Soviet/Cuba connection

Despite U.S. propaganda, Central American guerrillas have never received vast supplies of Cuban and Soviet arms. In El Salvador, for example, most rebel arms are U.S.-made—captured from the regular army, or bought through corrupt generals or on the international black market.

Would that Cuba and the Soviets were more willing to arm the guerrillas! The war would be shorter, with

Reagan reasons that as Central America goes, so goes Latin America and the future of capitalism. Reagan is right.

are composed of former Somocistas and other pro-capitalist Nicaraguans who have fled since the revolution.

The *contras'* invasions of Nicaragua are being covered by stepped-up gunfire and mortar shellings from the Honduran army. But the Sandinistas have full support from the overwhelming majority of Nicaragua's people. Noting the lack of anti-Sandinista "unrest" inside Nicaragua, a June 26 *New York Times* editorial concluded reluctantly that the *contras*, alone, "cannot succeed" in overthrowing the government.

Thus, the Honduran connection.

rural pacification program.

In early June, 5,000 government troops prepared to launch what one U.S. military "advisor" called a "last chance" offensive.

Guatemala—the Indian nation

In Guatemala, a succession of U.S.-armed rightwing military regimes has conducted a genocidal campaign against the indigenous people, who are the majority of the population. Indiscriminate slaughter by government troops and wholesale destruction of Indian villages have driven more than one million from their homes into the

fewer lives lost. Unfortunately, Reagan's threats are more intimidating to the existing workers' states than to the insurgents themselves.

Women in arms

The development of the prolonged war strategy, the extreme poverty and super-exploitation of Central American women, and the impact of the international feminist movement combined to propel women into the forefront of the revolution in the 1970s.

Women's entry into all levels of struggle and their assumption of unprecedented leadership responsibilities have in turn given the revolution an all-embracing social, economic, and political scope. Women lead in the military struggle for state power and in fighting for the complete overhaul of socio-economic relations that must take place if the revolution is to be carried through to the end.

In Nicaragua, Somoza would not have been overthrown without women commanders and fighters, who comprised 30% of the armed resistance. Women commanded small units and large battalions alike. Four out of the seven commanders in the crucial final battle of Leon were women.

Currently, women are almost half of the people's militia guarding Nicaragua against the *contra* invasions. And they are the backbone of the mass organizations carrying out the cultural, educational, and political work of the revolution.

The Luisa Amanda Espinoza Association of Nicaraguan Women (AMNLAE)—formerly known as

paper, insisting on the inseparability of revolution and feminism, stated:

We think that in a revolutionary organization there can be no contradiction between professed ideas and behavior.

...revolutionary feminism locates itself within a context of total transformation of society. The liberation of women...requires a new ideology which must be the result of a new structuring of society—a society without private property and without exploitation.

Women lead in the military struggle and in fighting for the complete overhaul of socio-economic relations.

We would add that the converse is equally true, *that without feminism—the liberation and concomitant initiative and leadership of women—no total transformation of society can ever take place.*

The best demonstration of this is the continuing political, military, and social leadership of the Central American women themselves. They push the revolution to grapple with *all* the interrelated aspects of the oppression that must be overcome.

Dangerous differences

Within the Central American liberation movements boil differences in strategy, tactics, and class orientations. Not all insurgents share the revolutionary feminist vision. Nor are all of them anti-capitalist.

In El Salvador, Guillermo Ungo, president of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR—the umbrella political organization of the rebel forces) stated to the press, "The United States has a right to stop the spread of communism."

Ungo's incredible sellout of the Marxists who are leading the guerrilla war can only aid the U.S. government and the rightwing death squads, who are Reagan's effective proxies in El Salvador. Similarly, FMLN factions' support for rebel/government negotiations and for meetings with the U.S.—even as the rebels are winning militarily—could help bring forth a new bourgeois government, and renewed repression.

In Nicaragua, the Sandinistas' failure to expropriate the capitalists after the ouster of Somoza and their formation of a government containing bourgeois representatives has borne bitter fruit in the war with the *contras*. Some anti-Sandinista capitalists have joined the *contras*. Others act as a fifth column, offering the *contras* both overt and covert support.

Adding fuel to the counterrevolutionary fire in Nicaragua is the Sandinistas' refusal to recognize the right to national self-determination for the Miskitu Indians there. This has driven many Miskitus into the arms of the *contras*, caused many to flee to Honduras, and given the U.S. ideological weaponry against Nicaragua. Ultimately, the Nicaraguan revolution itself is jeopardized, along with Marxist credibility in the eyes of the hemisphere's indigenous people.

Which class shall lead?

The Nicaraguan insurrection succeeded without resolving the question of whether the capitalists should have power in a revolutionary government. Imperialism and Somoza devastated *all* classes there, including the national bourgeoisie, and all rose up in revolt. But in other Central American coun-

tries, the capitalists are much more firmly allied with imperialism, which places the question of worker/peasant and bourgeois relations foremost on the revolutionary agenda. In Nicaragua, too—*after* the insurrection—this question demands resolution.

Many Central American rebels now realize that class collaborationism, i.e., bourgeois leadership, in revolutionary fronts is suicide; also that, because of the social and economic structure of imperialism, democratic bourgeois governments in Central America—or anywhere—are historically obsolete. Central American capi-

and government security forces persecute and murder Catholic priests and nuns while Protestant clergy co-sponsor Guatemalan President Gen. Efraim Rios Montt's "guns and beans" program of rural, anti-communist "pacification."

Other denominations are eroding the Catholic stranglehold in Central America. In Honduras, the ultrarightwing, reputedly CIA-connected Unification Church of Rev. Sun Myung Moon has gained a substantial foothold. Gen. Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, Honduras' effective military/political leader, is a Moonie.

The introduction of rightwing sects into Central America is a strategic ideological component of imperialism's drive to maintain control there. The Catholic Church, with its unpredictable priests and nuns, can no longer be trusted to preach the virtues of poverty, a lifetime's labor without reward, and unquestioning loyalty.

Return of the domino theory

Neither guns nor God will stop the resistance in Central America.

The fears of the White House and Congress that a U.S. pullout would mean swift rebel victory are well-founded. If the Salvadoran guerrillas win, the Guatemalan rebels will not be far behind, along with the Hondurans and Costa Ricans. How long then before Mexico explodes?

The revolution *must* be regional to survive. A single country like Nicaragua cannot hold out alone forever against U.S. counter-insurgency. As long as imperialism has even a foothold in Central America, there is danger it will again develop a stranglehold.

Bringing it all back home

In the last analysis, revolution in the U.S. itself is the only guarantee of final guerrilla victory. As long as the U.S. government is run by the banks, the U.S. military will protect the bankers' investments in Central America. The bankers will run things until American workers depose them.

Like workers in all North and South America, U.S. workers have a tremendous vested interest in aiding the rebels. Reagan is gutting social welfare and civilian industry—thus jobs—at home to pay for the war against them. Thousands of American youth may yet have to go and die so the bankers can keep their investments.

The imperialist war against Central America is also war against the people of the U.S.

U.S. workers can end this war, hasten the guerrilla victory, and liberate themselves by bringing the liberation struggle home.

**U.S. out of Central America!
Military Victory to the Sandinista Government and the Salvadoran Rebels!**

Victory to the Central American Revolution!

Bring the Revolution to the U.S.! □

talists are so tied to U.S. imperialism that their survival inevitably beckons U.S. control. Their continued existence, in the final analysis, can only be maintained through mass repression.

Clearly, the *workers* must take the leadership of the Central American revolution.

Industry owned by foreign and domestic capitalists must be socialized, and land held by foreign companies and domestic oligarchs must be collectivized, before there can be economic equality—and political democracy—in Central America.

The Catholic dilemma

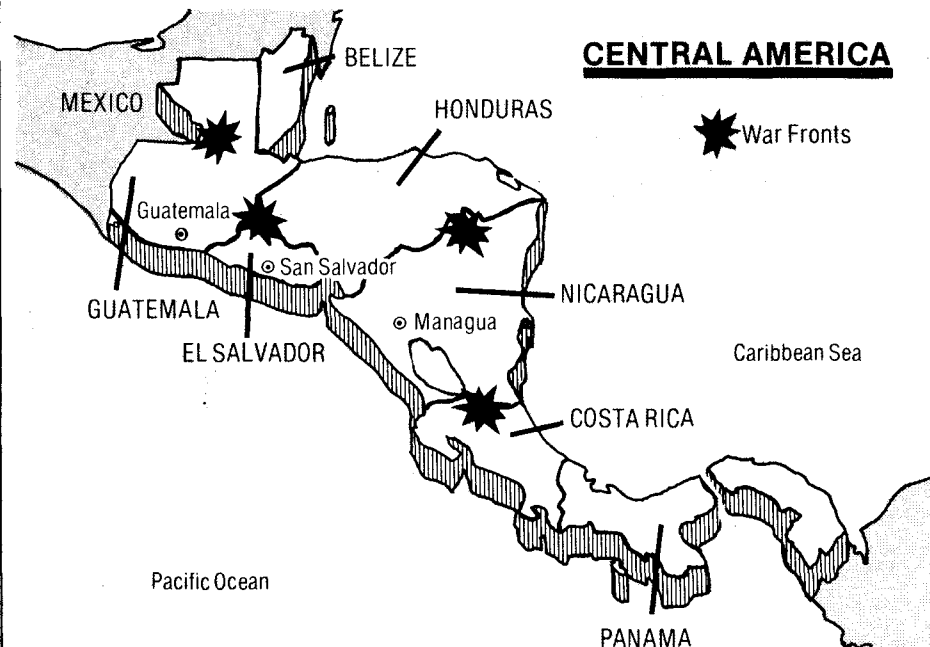
Revolution in Central America has even come to the Catholic Church.

Imported from Europe with the Spanish invaders, the Catholic hierarchy has always played a role of pacification, and in turn received its share of the wealth from the oligarchies. But the lower orders of the church, those most removed from the Vatican, the oligarchies, and the wealth, those who ministered to the peasants and the slum-dwellers, came to the popular movement in the 1970s, in opposition to the traditional church hierarchy.

Pope John Paul's 1983 visit was an attempt to restore authority to the reactionary bishops and discredit the radicalized priests and nuns.

In Nicaragua, John Paul attacked the Sandinistas, who had called on him to push for an end to the *contras*' attacks. The Pope, instead, pointedly called for "Miskitu power" in his speech. This was clearly calculated provocation against Nicaragua; the Pope had never before shown concern for the Miskitus.

The Pope did strike out at the rightwing, government-supported Protestant evangelist movement in Guatemala—not out of concern for human rights, but as a competitor. Guatemala is now 20% Protestant,



AMPRONAC, and now named for the first Sandinista woman to fall in battle—has taken the lead in political education, the elimination of judicial sexism, organization of trade unions, construction of child care centers, and the formation of mobile health brigades. An AMNLAE representative sits on the Council of State. In addition, women currently head two of the five FSLN Secretariats and a woman directs the Sandinistas' political work in Managua.

Machismo, however, is far from dead in Nicaragua, and women have yet to win full equality. While Nicaragua is the only Central American country where women are leaping ahead legally, they realize that the revolution has only begun.

A total transformation

Women form the backbone of Salvadoran resistance as well, comprising one-third of the fighting forces. One of the most important urban organizations, the National Association of Salvadoran Educators, is 80% women.

The Association of Salvadoran Women (AMES) was formed in 1979 to integrate women fully into the revolutionary process. A 1981 AMES

EDITORIAL

Big Brother at the Border

Hell-bent to blame undocumented workers and political refugees for the unemployment crisis, U.S. capitalism is currently pushing "immigration reform"—and preparing a police state in the process.

The vehicle is the insidious Simpson/Mazzoli Immigration Reform and Control Act—the most sweeping and oppressive immigration proposal since the despised Bracero program of 1942-1964, which institutionalized the legal exploitation of Mexican farmworkers in the U.S.

On June 23, demonstrators in cities around the country massed to oppose the bill. 3,000 Los Angeles protested on June 11.

The protest has only started to boil.

Something for everyone

The bill, approved by the U.S. Senate on May 18 and currently working its way through the House, is a vicious attack on undocumented workers and refugees, and a back-door assault on the entire working class. If passed it would:

- Resurrect the Bracero program by allowing business to hire "guest" workers at dirt wages, without benefits, and without constitutional rights, especially the right to unionize. This would cripple efforts to organize the rest of the workforce; under the original Bracero program, "guest" workers were continually exploited as strikebreakers. Under Simpson/Mazzoli, these workers would be automatically deported after a specified time.

- Virtually eliminate the legal rights of American citizens suspected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), a.k.a. *la migra*, of being undocumented workers. Chicanos and Puerto-

queños especially would be vulnerable to deportation if unable *immediately* to prove U.S. citizenship.

- Drastically reduce the right to political asylum for refugees fleeing murderous governments propped up by U.S. aid—Haiti, El Salvador, etc.

Simpson/Mazzoli would also require *all* Americans to carry national ID cards in order to work. This Orwellian provision would mean stepped-up harassment and surveillance of all workers, especially the dark-skinned and dissident.

Quotas and "amnesty"

Simpson/Mazzoli sets an annual ceiling of 425,000 immigrants, with 100,000 slots reserved for highly-skilled professionals. Relatives of present immigrants, who were formerly exempt from quotas, would have to compete with other immigrants for the rest of the slots, which would obstruct the reunification of families.

The bill offers "amnesty" to some undocumented workers: permanent resident status to those who can prove they came here before January 1, 1978, and temporary status to those who prove they arrived before January 1, 1980.

But amnesty merely legalizes the super-exploitation of these workers, who moreover would be required to pay taxes while being denied most social services. And amnesty would apply only to those who pass *la migra's* "good conduct" test. Radicals, lesbians and gays, and union activists are very unlikely to pass.

Who pays the penalties?

While the bill penalizes anyone caught hiring or

referring undocumented workers for employment, protest from agribusiness prompted Congress to amend the bill, easing and postponing penalties. In any event, it's the unions, temporary help agencies, and single mothers hiring babysitters—not the large growers—who will be prosecuted for violations. Also, racist bosses will use the law as an excuse not to hire people of color with "foreign" accents.

A split in the house of labor

The labor movement is divided on the bill.

AFL-CIO bureaucrats support it, joining business and politicians in blaming immigrants and undocumented workers for unemployment. Meanwhile these same bureaucrats are shamelessly urging American workers to make contract concessions these days as the bosses cut back jobs in industry after industry!

The bureaucrats are obviously more interested in scapegoating the undocumented and perpetuating racism than in attacking the *capitalist* source of joblessness and misery.

Other unions, especially those built by people of color and immigrants, like the International Ladies Garment Union, oppose the bill's racism and jingoism. They realize that the super-exploitation of immigrants means a concomitant lowering of standards for the entire working class. Also, many workers see that it is the U.S.'s vampire-like despoilment of Third World economies which has generated the tide of immigrants desperate for work.

An antidote to the poison

Though capitalism respects no boundaries in its quest for foreign markets and cheap labor, immigration laws are designed to maintain boundaries that deny all workers the right to work where they choose. These laws specifically violate the open border provision of the U.S./Mexico Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, enacted in 1848 after the U.S. theft of one-half of Mexico's territory. Simpson/Mazzoli is designed to perpetuate and intensify this injustice.

American workers of all colors must denounce this bill and defend its proposed victims, in the unions and in all our communities. Simpson/Mazzoli is racist, anti-labor poison. The only antidote is absolute unity against it.

Anyone seeking further information on the Simpson/Mazzoli bill, or who wishes to participate in the national campaign that has been launched against it, should contact the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF), 28 Geary St., San Francisco, CA 94108, 415-981-5800.

VOICES OF COLOR

—BY NELLIE WONG—

I can just hear my mother now. "What do you mean, *you're* going to a conference of international women of color? You mean *you're* going to speak—and read poetry, too?"

Unfortunately, my mother's gone and doesn't know I've become a poet and socialist feminist activist. If she were here, you can bet our conversations would be peppered with excitement. Our mouths would taste the curry of talk among women of color. And I'd have a heck of a time explaining in Cantonese American English just what I'd be saying at this conference called "Common Differences: Third World Women and Feminist Perspectives."

To explore the complex similarities and differences among 600 women from diverse groups and cultures! To read, to write, and speak out. Just up my alley. The conference was a whirlwind. Who slept? Not this long steam lady, this *cheong hay poa*, loquacious woman.

The conference was held from April 9-13 at the University of Illinois. Agenda topics ranged from cross-cultural perspectives on feminism, to women in revolutionary movements, to the politics of women's health and reproductive rights, to racism and sexism in popular culture. Panelists and participants included Native American, Asian/Pacific, Chicana/Latina, and Black women of the U.S., and women from Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. We met and heard keynotes Isabel Letelier from Chile, Dr. Nawal el Sadaawi from Egypt, and Ntozake Shange and Cherríe Moraga of the U.S.

EXPLORING COMMON DIFFERENCES

The world's women spoke on the world of problems and oppression we face—the growing poverty of women, hungry children, the plight of refugees. But hardly anyone named our common enemy: international capitalism, which maintains racism, sexism, and heterosexism to keep women down.

Academic excellence and scholarship were the cuisine at this conference. But we in Radical Women had a spicy dish to serve—worldwide socialist feminism, the theory and action that flow from our lives. We stressed solidarity among all the exploited; the political leadership of women of color, lesbians, workers, and feminist men; building a socialist feminist revolution on U.S. soil.

Out of the shadows

Even at this gathering, the myth of Asian American invisibility shrouded us. Very few Asian/Pacific women from the U.S. or other countries attended. There were no workshops or panels to deal with our issues. We had to fight to be seen and heard.

We organized our own workshop to address this invisibility, this racism. Our speakers included Susie Ling from L.A., Emily Woo Yamasaki and Christine Choy of New York City, Lola Wing from Chicago, and myself, from Oakland, California.

Over 50 people came, many of us Asian/Pacific Americans. Where did everybody suddenly come from? We talked about stereotyped images of Asian/Pacific women, prostitution, lesbianism, feminism, and free speech.

My comrade, Emily Woo Yamasaki, hit hard at the problem of invis-

bility which, she said, "extends into politics, too." At Isabel Letelier's keynote address, Emily had said that "the best way we in the U.S. can support struggles abroad is to have a revolution here." Some people laughed! "People looked at me as a young Asian woman and didn't take me seriously—I needed to 'grow out of it.' To these people I say *you* are the ones who have to come to terms with reality."

Emily, who represented New York Radical Women and the Merle Woo Defense Committee at the conference, also got a resolution passed at this workshop supporting Merle Woo, who was fired from her job at the University of California at Berkeley because of her feminism, lesbianism, and radical politics.

Ma, I wish you could have seen us carrying out the lessons you taught about being prepared, speaking out, and fighting to win.

The artist and politics

If my mother had been at the conference, she would have heard me speak on the unity of poetry and principled activism at a panel about women and language.

"If we choose to write about women's work and

to page 11

As long as there is

As long as there is one "political" in prison—
 one who is innocent in prison—
 as long as there are bars and dark,
 and as long as there are dogs wagging their tails
 at the foot of the throne,
 as long as there is a fat pig,
 and a beggar starving,
 write with fiery letters
 my name at the front of names
 on the revolutionary list.

As long as someone has
 and someone has not
 even a dream,
 as long as there is one half-human
 and one half-animal,
 as long as there is a beast
 devouring the spirits of justice
 and making from fear
 laws and books,
 as long as there are bats
 frightened of the dawn,
 then write with fiery letters
 my name on the first grave
 you dig.

"Rockets" is the title of the song
 and its music is the masses,
 blood is tomorrow's fashion
 and the revolution is the hungry volcano,
 its lava, the victory flags.
 Write, history, that the revolutionaries—
 even if theirs is a long, long journey—
 are the makers of the future,
 are the bridge of justice,
 and those martyrs
 are the first names
 on the revolutionary list.

- by Salah Kornas

Translated by Peggy Shafer and Joanne Ward

Salah Kornas is a former Egyptian diplomat who lost his job after his poem about Anwar Sadat, "A Traitor and his Pipe," was shown to an Egyptian Ambassador. Salah currently lives and works in Seattle.



Clara Fraser

Plaudits for a publicist

MY VERY OWN, my priceless press agent—Fraser Defense Committee Coordinator Mary Ann Curtis—is taking New York City by storm. Madison Avenue, move over; Mary Ann has gone around you, behind you, and through you to spread the word.

Against formidable odds, MAC managed to broadcast the news in Manhattan that it is possible for workers to fight back and win against bosses, bureaucrats, government, and McCarthyite hatchet jobs. She broke into the media by displaying all the tenacity, organizational savvy, and undaunted optimism which sparked my defense committee and shepherded my sex-and-political ideology discrimination case to victory against Seattle City Light after eight long years.

In her public appearances, MAC explained how my case was won in the community, the courts, and the press. And she publicized the similar battles now being waged by Merle Woo in San Francisco and Henry Noble in Seattle against job reprisals and firing of labor activists, radicals, and minority and female workers who won't stand for harassment.

We provincials in Puget Sound are awed by MAC's impact on Gotham. But for her it was just one more challenge, one more cherished opportunity to plunge into the maelstrom of that terrible, roaring, rude, congested, infested, and infernally ugly city which makes me cringe, but which she adores.



MAC WENT EAST with five missions: to negotiate with interested filmmakers, to get articles published in the feminist and Left press, to speak to organizations, to appear on radio and television public affairs programs, and to tackle the mainstream press.

She launched her campaign from the NY Public Library. She compiled lists of publishers, writers, publications, and producers. After studying the newspapers, she selected the best writers on labor and social issues. Then she switched operations to the telephone and contacted them, assisted by our trusty supporters in the New York Defense Committee.

With her contagious enthusiasm and sparkling intelligence, MAC quickly made contacts and friends. She sent material to scores of writers and got positive responses from the working staff at the *Guardian*, the *Nation*, the *New York Times*, the *Village Voice*, and from the editor of *Jewish Currents*.

On July 23, she spoke on a panel entitled "Job Discrimination: Fight Back and Win," which was sponsored by New York Radical Women. The news release on the forum was published in the *Amsterdam News* and was translated into Chinese and printed in New York's *China Daily News*.

MAC was interviewed on Black radio station WLIB, on WBAI's "Talking Union," and WHBI's "Community Close-up." She met with a film producer at Third World Newsreel and wrote a proposal for funding a movie on my case and Merle Woo's case.

She reached many feminist publications. *New Women's Times*, *CARASA News*, *Big Apple Dyke News*, and *Newsreport* promised stories. But she couldn't get past the front desk at *Ms.* And the *Militant*, *Workers World*, *Workers Vanguard*, and the *Torch* were typically sectarian or sexist or competitive.



MARY ANN TOOK TWO side trips. She went to Columbus, Ohio for the National Women's Studies Association conference. She traveled with members of Radical Women from New York and met up with Bay Area Radical Women in Columbus. She spoke on a panel entitled "Free Speech and Feminism—Censorship in Education" along with Emily Woo Yamasaki and free speech fighters Merle Woo, Karen Brodine, and Mitsuye Yamada.

MAC, Emily, and New York FSP organizer Dr. Susan Williams went next to Philadelphia, where Emily spoke at the International House on her role as Jenny in the movie "Chan is Missing." Emily was also interviewed about the film and the Woo case by Daniel Tsang, editor of *Gay Insurgent*.

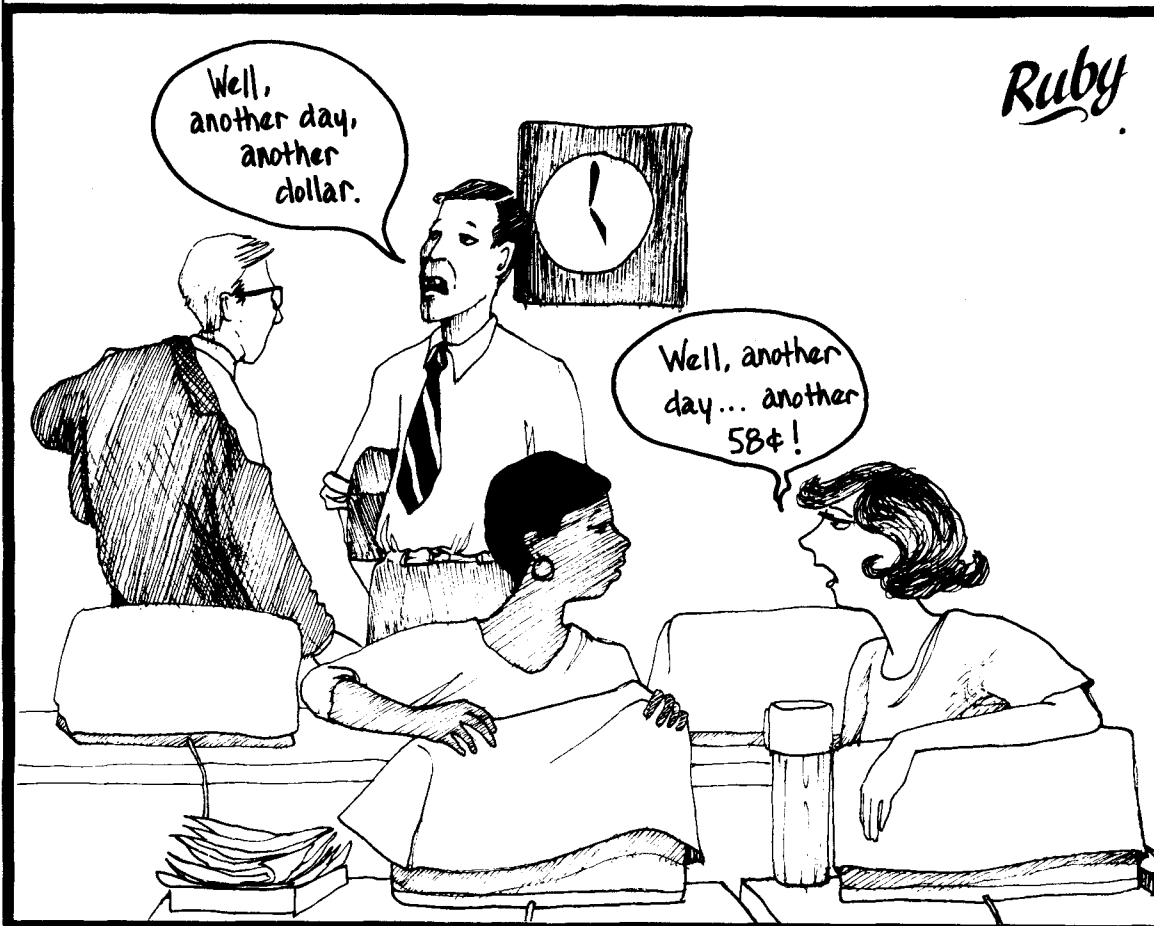
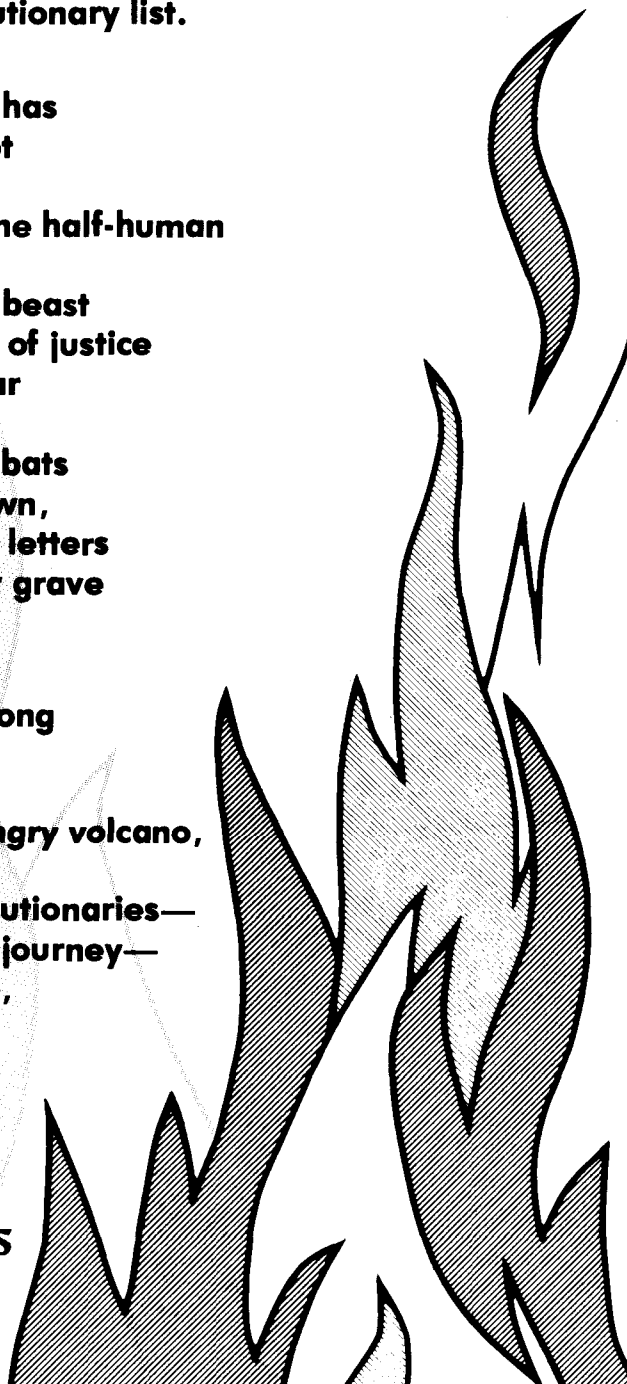


EN ROUTE TO NEW YORK, MAC traveled to Chicago to speak at a meeting organized for her by the Industrial Workers of the World. The event was spearheaded by longtime case supporter George LaForest. MAC's discussion of my case, and of the labor solidarity found in such groups as CERCL at City Light and the national Merle Woo and Henry Noble defense committees, impressed and excited her audience. An article about CERCL later appeared in the *Industrial Worker*.



IN SEVEN WEEKS, MAC melted a crucial section of the eastern iceberg. Scores of media reps are now aware of the good fight for workers' rights we waged (and are waging still) at Seattle City Light. Eventually, thanks to the Big MACs of this world, the vital lessons of our struggle for free speech at the workplace will break through the public information barriers and reach the millions of people who seek examples of how to resist on-the-job tyranny and thought control.

LET US SING THE PRAISES of the messengers who do our political PR work. Their talent and revolutionary drive are central to our cause and decisive for our victories.



Ruby

...CERCL

from page 12

nouncing this scapegoating: "As women in the trades, we are opposed to this complaint being turned into an excuse to conduct a witch hunt on the crews. Indeed, we'll be the victims of any witch hunt."

CERCL charges that the unwritten policy of every superintendent—from Gordon Vickery to current top-dog Joe Recchi—has been to keep women out of the trades. Were discriminatory practices *not* the policy, management would long ago have stepped in against the harassment. Management must demonstrate a firm commitment to wiping out the barriers that exist. Only then will conditions improve.

A sane and sensible remedy

At the initial press conference, CERCL presented 10 proposals to end discrimination at City Light. Among them was the demand for full representation in negotiations on the HRD complaint held between HRD, the Mayor's Office, and City Light.

Other proposals stipulated that City Light hire an advocate to represent the workplace needs of women and minorities; that the EEO officer report directly to the Superintendent, to give that position more autonomy and access; and that a permanent human relations council, composed of women, minority, and disabled field workers, be created to effect a discrimination-free environment for all workers.

CERCL called on City Light to commit itself to affirmative action in training and advancement, and to sponsor human relations training for managers, supervisors, and crew members. They said that a woman with field experience should be assigned to City Light's Safety Division to work on eliminating job hazards caused by bigotry and harassment.

The task force

City Light wanted nothing to do with CERCL's proposals. Instead, they appointed a "task force" to "study" the problem.

CERCL labelled the task force a farce and refused to be members. Said Heidi Durham in a March *Public Ser-*



Doug Barnes

vice *Journal* interview: "It's a white-wash." She pointed to the pro-management bias of most of the task force members, noting that no unions were represented. Superintendent Recchi, she said, "has empowered the committee only to *recommend* changes—to the same management that has *perpetuated* the discrimination."

On May 27, after spending \$27,000, the task force emerged with a document that vindicated CERCL's position on the nature and depth of the problem and that adopted many CERCL demands. But the report served up 50 mostly vague and diluted recommendations. Management has yet to act on any of them; work plans are being developed which will take considerable time to implement.

Management strikes back

Since the task force report was issued, management has stepped up a reign of retaliatory terror against CERCL members and supporters.

On May 23, Letha Neal, a Black woman electrical helper, was suspended for one day without pay. Neal had said "Heil Hitler" in the course of a conversation with a co-worker, and her supervisor, overhearing, assumed she was referring to him! No investigation was carried out before the suspension. Her fellow and sister workers staged a two-hour stop-work protest meeting the next day, telling

Neal's boss of their objections.

Local 77, which represents all City Light electrical workers, agreed to pursue Neal's grievance against her supervisor and management. Now, however, the union is trying to back off and bury the matter. This is not unexpected. IBEW bureaucrats, long-time beneficiaries of white male privilege at City Light, have so far refused to support CERCL's demands. (On June 21, Public Service and Industrial Local 1239, the laborers' and gardeners' union, became the *first union at City Light* to pass a resolution in support of CERCL.)

At least five other CERCL members are being threatened with or have received "disciplinary action" on trumped-up charges. On June 28, office worker Gerry Parks was suspended for "aggressive behavior" and for refusing to meet with two supervisors without a union representative present. Her supervisor had refused to specify the nature of the meeting beforehand, and Parks rightly feared harassment for her CERCL activities.

Power Dispatcher Megan Cornish was issued a written reprimand for working overtime to restore a power outage!

Obviously, management feels that if they can harass, suspend, and demoralize, they can break CERCL. But they're dealing with dissidents who are wise to management terror tactics, and

not so easily broken.

Live wires in the grassroots

CERCL has gathered wholehearted support from unionists, civil rights groups, and angry consumers.

About 50 people from more than a dozen unions and community organizations, including a ratepayer advocate group, the Light Brigade, picketed the City Light building on February 14 to support the HRD complaint.

On May 10, CERCL and the Light Brigade co-sponsored a community rally attended by over 200 people at the ILWU Local 37 Cannery Workers Hall in Seattle. The rally demanded an immediate settlement of the HRD complaint, direct negotiations with affected employees, implementation of CERCL's 10 proposals, an end to management retaliation, and recruitment of more women and minorities to the skilled trades.

Endorsers of the event included dozens of individuals and organizations representing the labor and feminist movements, the Chicano, Asian American, Native American, and Black communities, and the lesbian/gay movement. While IBEW Local 77 remained conspicuously "neutral" on the complaint, many other union endorsers demanded solidarity from the entire labor movement.

Labor's best fighters

George Starkovich, executive board member of the Washington Federation of State Employees, chastised IBEW bureaucrats for their non-support. "You will have to be more than neutral tomorrow. The bosses are out for all our hides, and the labor movement's best fighters are the women, minorities, and other workers who've been discriminated against."

Clara Fraser told the rally, "The labor/management issue, the internal struggle in the unions, the civil rights issue, civil liberties, and politics come together here. If you haven't got civil rights on the job, you haven't got *any* rights." Fraser also extolled the courage of CERCL members, most of whom are new to activism.

The City Light situation reflects the political mood of the nation, said Myrna Bumanlog, executive board member of the Cannery Workers. "The Moral Majority, anti-immigration bills, and the cutting back of affirmative action are just a few examples of a way of life being implemented by the Reagan administration."

The Light Brigade's Carol Dobyns blasted that way of life, in which contemptuous bureaucrats ride roughshod over those who consume and those who produce electric power.

The meeting sent a powerful message that labor activism is heating up and that City Light dissidents are in the forefront of the battle. Said

to next page

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...CERCL

from page 10

CERCL member Lori Garret, "With your continued support we will forge ahead until City Light meets the needs of the people of Seattle and those who work there. The employee CERCL will not be broken!"

A renaissance of resistance

City Light is rapidly heating to a boil. And the upsurge of radical people of color, women, and disabled

workers there heralds renewed resistance and activism throughout the entire working class.

That these workers are the leaders of the unfolding conflict is natural: they are the hardest hit by management-inflicted evils at the workplace, and their demands most sharply express the needs of all workers.

By exposing and uprooting the medieval attitudes and practices at their workplace, the women and men at City Light are preparing the day when keeping a job will no longer depend on how much torment, danger, and abuse a worker can endure. □

...Common Differences

from page 8

struggles in non-personal terms, we are being rhetorical, not universal—boring, unfeminine, whatever. And if we write personally, about having to be on welfare, or being afraid our husbands will take our children because we're lesbians or revolutionaries, or if we write other than 'standard' American English—whatever that is—then indeed we have violated the 'acceptable' code of literature.

"But I seek the words and the language of the most militant fighters for freedom. I seek the beauty of human struggle, to sing out what our foremothers and forefathers fought for, to give inspiration, love and support to those people who are still fighting for bread and roses."

A heated and healthy debate

A hidden dispute raged throughout the conference between cultural feminists who advocated lesbianism as a single-issue solution to women's oppression and homophobic Stalinist academics who pushed class and race as the primary issues, defining lesbianism as a personal, secondary issue.

This debate burst into the open near the end of the conference, after a keynote address by Chicana lesbian writer Cherrie Moraga. Her exclusive emphasis on lesbianism started a heated—and healthy—debate on the floor. But Moraga's response was to halt the discussion, turn off the mike, and leave the room! Our ideas as women of color were thus censored. Those of

us who saw the synthesis of race, class, sex, and sexual oppression—with none "secondary"—had no chance to speak.

Yet this explosion prompted those who had been pushing for political action at the conference to go to the mikes in the wake of Moraga's departure and organize on the spot for preparing and passing resolutions. As a result, the final plenary *did* take political stands, against the intentions of the conference organizers. The vote was unanimous for a resolution supporting Merle Woo, and for another which called for making lesbianism and sexuality central issues for discussion at future conferences.

Heads and tails

What can I say about this conference as a whole?

My father would have criticized it as *yew how, mo mee*. Have head, no tail. We must extend feminist politics to *yew how, yew mee*. Have head, have tail. The *whole* body, mind *and* action. Militant politics which embrace the personal and art.

Our political commitment to women internationally must not be left to chance, to abstract intellectualization, to single-issue politics, to elevating the struggle against racism over the fight against sexism, to opportunism.

We must learn the wisdom of survival which our parents knew. My parents who raised seven children in Oakland Chinatown, three of us born in China, had to pay attention to details, plan for tomorrow.

I, the first-born daughter, know that among our common differences we must find a common understanding, a unity that will lead us to liberation. □

M·A·L·I·C·E · A · F·O·R·E · T·H·O·U·G·H·T

by Ms. Tami

From coast to coast, from border to border, in every cafe, gas station, tavern, and spare corner of retail America, a phenomenal variety of video games can be found winking, beeping, and guzzling the attention and loose change of the populace.

Most of these games are excruciatingly simple; get them before they get you. "Them" consist of a multitude of bright blobs, all the same shape; "you" are one equally bright, though differently colored, blob.

As long as your wrists, fingers, and quarters hold out, you are attacked by constantly moving hordes of blobs. You fight back with everything from lasers to photon torpedoes.

Promoters of this computerized mayhem swear that the games have educational value, and it may be true. Take the game called "Viet Cong," not to be confused with "Donkey Kong." In this one, no matter how many times you score a hit on "them," their numbers keep growing until "you" are crowded off the screen. This game was inspired by the

long-running TV epic "Vietnam," seen during the news hour every night from around 1962 until the mid-'70s. Its final moments were quite exhilarating. And certainly educational.

"Guerrilla War Zone" is pretty much a plagiarization of "Viet Cong." Set on a faraway planet amazingly similar to Central America, "you" are again pitted against a sea of blobs. You have fabulous weapons at your command, and there's even an extra button to summon your "advisors" who, though they appear not to be armed, somehow manage to fire weapons, too. Yet no matter how many times "you" hit the multitudes, their numbers keep growing until "you" are wiped off the screen.

Most educational would be an entirely new game, where "you" and "them" trade places. "You" are now the multitudes—a sea of tiny red blobs being attacked by a big red-white-and-blue blob. You score a giant collective hit and—*voilà!*—game over, at a fraction of the usual cost. This one sounds like *real* fun. Anybody got a quarter?

...Gay

from page 4

ductive rights and sexual freedom. Another coalition advocated boycotting the *New York Times* for its suspected complicity in the brutal police raid last September on Blue's, a Black gay bar, and for its refusal to cover gay community news.

Not so rosy in Portland

Portland, Oregon turned out big for the Lesbian/Gay Pride Steering Committee's call to "Come out, come out, whoever you are," but found little inspiration to stay out and fight for their rights.

Speakers emphasized the importance of coming out sexually, but not politically, though they paid lip service to movement founders and to the leadership of gays of color.

About 75 people joined the Stonewall Contingent, and many more politically-starved marchers scooped up Stonewall leaflets, which enjoined them to fight rightwing attacks.

Dynamism Down Under

Angered by zealous Christian demonstrators, lesbians and gays marched proudly through the populous, multi-ethnic Parrametta district of Sydney, marking the first time in the 10-year history of Australia's lesbian/gay rights movement that marchers ventured outside the gay ghetto.

Lesbian feminists in Sydney's Stonewall Committee recognized that the movement's strength depends on outreach to other communities. A brilliant strategic stroke was the decision to print Stonewall literature in various community languages.

Out to stay

Stonewall 1983 showed convincingly that lesbians and gays are not about to be made lepers by AIDS hysterics or more traditional rightwing bigotry.

Marches in some cities were dominated by anti-radical gay Democrats and businessmen. But the defiantly large turnouts and the insistent presence of militant, multi-issue contingents signalled renewed determination in the fight for lesbian/gay liberation.

The 14th anniversary of Stonewall was truly something to celebrate. □

...Noble

from page 5

County (Washington) Democrats endorsed the case.

This support was gathered amazingly quickly and indicates the strength that labor can muster when faced with attack.

The meaning of victory

Noble's triumph, like Clara Fraser's free speech victory against Seattle City Light earlier this year, couldn't have come at a better time. Both show that militance, persistence, and mutual solidarity can bring victory over anti-labor, anti-woman, anti-minority, and anti-democratic reactionaries.

They show too that workers' safety, free speech on the job, affirmative action, and the right to unionize are the issues upon which labor solidarity can and must be built.

Meanwhile, the HCSA's struggle

with Hutchinson management continues. The future of cancer research at the Center and the conditions under which it is conducted depend on the success of Hutchinson workers' fight to be recognized.

Defeating the union-busters at the Center will aid other health care and clerical workers, as yet unorganized, as will winning the fight for a safe and healthy working environment.

HCSA's battle to maintain and extend affirmative action will strengthen protection for all employees by attacking job and pay-scale inequities that divide workers by gender and race.

Most of all, victory for the HCSA will vindicate workers' right to organize and to exercise free speech, rights which are increasingly jeopardized in today's anti-labor climate.

For these reasons, Henry Noble placed his socialist feminist principles—and his livelihood—on the line. And for these reasons, he and the Hutchinson Center Staff Association merit our continuing support. □

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CERCL zeroes in on management abuses at SEATTLE CITY LIGHT

BY SANDY WELSTED

The ink was barely dry on the documents ending Clara Fraser's free speech fight against Seattle City Light when a Seattle Human Rights Department (HRD) Director's Complaint revealed that discrimination was still alive and kicking at the utility.

Fraser's victory had sparked the complaint by focusing national attention on City Light management abuses.

HRD acted on February 3, charging City Light with seven years of harassment and discrimination against women electrical workers. Hostility was so pervasive, the agency said, that only one woman had ever completed the City Light electrical apprenticeship program.

Women, minority, and disabled workers quickly verified the charges, which were already backed up by years of documentation and testimony. And a group of City Light women and men created the Employee Committee for Equal Rights at City Light (CERCL), and drafted proposals to remedy sexist and racist prejudices and deteriorating job safety, training, and working conditions.

A long history

More discrimination complaints have been filed against City Light than all other city departments combined.

One was a 1974 class action suit by women Electrical Trades Trainees (ETTs) protesting Superintendent Gordon Vickery's dismantling of the ETT program—the nation's first affirmative action program designed to help women enter male-dominated electrical trades.

The women returned to work victorious in 1976. Yet, despite a mandate to hire more women immediately, the utility stalled until 1978, when it was finally forced to do so by the Seattle Office of

Women's Rights.

Nine years later, only one woman, Teri Bach, had become a journey-level lineworker. Now a cable-splicer, Bach is again the only journeywoman in her craft.

The ETT case provided hard-fought lessons in labor-management relations and strengthened the already-radical convictions of several of the women involved. These stalwarts helped found CERCL and they offer continuity of experience to the newest City Light dissidents.

Deadly harassment

CERCL was formed following a February 16 press conference called by women in non-traditional trades at City Light.

At the press conference, the women painted an ugly picture of life on the job. They told of being given deliberately improper instructions for performing dangerous tasks and of being subjected to mental and physical abuse.

Karen Meadows recounted finding human feces covering the shower stall in the women's locker room. Jody Olvera told of receiving obscene pamphlets, being set up for electric shocks, and getting hit with a hammer and a chain saw. Heidi Durham fell from a pole and broke her back in 1977 as a result of pressure following an unnecessarily harsh and subjective performance evaluation. The evaluation was part of the anti-woman atmosphere created by management to drive women out of the lineworker apprenticeship program.

At no time did management ever step in to halt or investigate the abuse, though the women demanded they do so.

Seattle was shaken by the press conference revelations. And many workers applauded the formation of CERCL and

the start of an organized fight to end the horror.

Crowded in the back of the bus

Discrimination pervades City Light. In 1981, Doris Harris, a Black garden-er, won a hellish four-year fight against sexual harassment and racial insult. She was "constantly told how terrible the Black race is."

Clara Fraser spent *eight* years fighting to win her job back after being fired in 1975 for her outspoken feminist, socialist, pro-labor views. Fraser was the coordinator of the ETT program for women. After winning back pay, damages, and attorneys' fees totaling almost \$188,000, she is back in her previous job as Training and Education Coordinator in the Training Unit.

The Chicano community, calling City Light "a snakepit" of racism and sexism, exploded this spring over management's plan to fire Juan Bocanegra from his temporary job as an Equal Employment Opportunity aide. His position was to have become permanent in fiscal 1983 and his work was considered "exemplary" by the Personnel Department, but he was transferred to another short-term job.

Women with sex discrimination cases pending include Marilyn Dessauer, Karen Cantu, and Nina Firey, who was the last female lineworker apprentice before she was hounded out of City Light.

Scapegoating the crews

Management has been unable to deny the record. So they have attempted to foist the blame onto the male crews.

But CERCL emphasizes that it is *management* that is responsible.

At the February 16 press conference, the women presented a statement de-

to page 10

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Challenging the U.S. Goliath

page 6