

"All the news that's finally printed"

Guest editors: Robin Candace, Sally Thomas

REPORTS

EVENTS

Canvass for Nicaragua

On Sept. 16, 18 people canvassed Noe Valley to raise money for women in Nicaragua. We raised \$1100 and had a pretty ok time doing it. Jesse and Lynn were an award-winning team. In the spring it will be time to do it again for women in El Salvador. Thanks to everyone who helped!

Solidarity with Women Political Prisoners

Nov. 2nd—a packed hall at ATA. What a successful and moving evening! Organizers of the event feel that the success of the event creates new possibilities for other great events about political prisoners.

Dykes to Step Out For. A Lesbian Dance

Our November 10 lesbian dance at La Peña was a huge success! Maria Cora and Different Touch are a hot dance band and over 200 lesbians came to dance and party in a lesbian-positive atmosphere. I heard 3 or 4 different people comment that there has not been a lesbian dance in the East Bay for a long time, implying a need. We made some money and the band got paid some, too. From the door, we made \$250. The auction was also successful—if everyone pays up we will have made \$286. Lisa was our auctioneer, and in the face of a crowd that really wanted to dance and party and really did not want to play the auction game, she did a *great* job. With hindsight we can see that we probably should have had the whole auction silent, since the live auction sort of interrupted the party mode. But how were we to know the event would be such a success?! Thanks to everybody for your hard work.

Page 2

Also, happily, there were no major hassles by rude men, and anyone coming to the dance expecting to find a straight scene, went merrily on their way when they found out it was intended for lesbians. And La Peña was very helpful and respectful of us on the evening of the event, so despite the fact that they were rather unconscious (and homophobic) about the significance of editing the words "lesbian" and "dyke" from all calendar announcements, the energy that night was so up-beat that we didn't feel a need to announce La Peña's faux-pas from the stage. (Though we *do* intend to follow up the issue of lesbian invisibility with the board at a later date!)

REPORT FROM THE 10/16/90 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Submitted by Jennifer

Agenda: • Larry Lea demo • Advances • Nov. 2nd event
• Lesbian Dance • Take Back the Night

Larry Lea demo: Demo on Halloween. These are the fundamentalists who follow a man who declares that it is a Christian Duty to kill the enemies of God..Watch Out folks! [Editor's Note: Talk to anyone who was there if you couldn't go...it was scary. Some of us went inside. This guy is rather sophisticated--he got the support of a lot of local christians, and a lot of Black churches. Lots of people of color attended the meeting. The event was introduced by a black minister who has been preaching in SF for 20 years.]

Advances: Nov. 18 and January 26 & 27. Rachel reserved Point Reyes for Jan 26 & 27. We debated whether to spend the \$200 for all day at Rodeo Beach and keep the advantage of getting out of town and relaxing more. We compromised on trying to get the Sausalito AYH because it's cheaper and pretty. The disadvantage is that it cuts out some time, but such is life!

Agenda for November Advance, 5 hour meeting:

1. What do we want to get out of the Feminist movement in general, and WAI specifically.
 2. What does the Feminist Movement need from us (IWD).
-

Karin and Rachel will be definite steering committee people working on getting this advance together and we really want other people to join them. [Editor's question: Did you get enough help?]

Lesbian Dance: We discussed the reasons we are doing this: having a lesbian dance which is open to all women who choose to go. We talked about having a rap to talk about our politics around that, but we decided not to since we did not know how much unity the organization had on these questions, i.e. lesbian only/bisexual movement/separatism, etc. These are important discussions that need to happen more in the lesbian community. We need to have a strong lesbian community to discuss them.

Palestine trip, December 15-30. Cost: \$1,700 per person. Rachel, Terri and Noelle had a discussion with Penny Rosenwasser about applying—she said we should not apply as an organization. [At this point, the only people who are at all able to go are Terri and Noelle.] We need to discuss with entire organization whether we should send someone. Is this the right time? What kind of political energy can we put into it? Do we need to make a commitment to do work on Palestine when "we" get back? What kind of commitment are we talking about? [Ed Note: This discussion took place at the WAI meeting. Looks like Terri and Noelle will go, unless the whole trip is cancelled due to war breaking out. We also raised about \$700 when we passed a hat at the meeting, which will support Terri and Noelle's travel costs.]

GENERAL MEETINGS/DISCUSSIONS

Sept. 23 meeting: (notes by Leona) Discussion on international focus of Take Back the Night: Some women felt like women's issues always need to be linked to other issues to be valid, and come to TBTN with that feeling/sensitivity. We want to do everything, make all connections possible. Extremely strong focus on women, other events cover other issues, we are operating in context of weak women's movement. International issues have been covered before and still maintained very strong focus on women. Conflict between TBTN and International Day Against Violence Against Women. Concern about focus being on male body parts, anger focussed on men, vs. patriarchy. Need a banner on Women in the Military. [Ed.

Note: I think though we had different feelings about this issue, we all agreed that the international focus should be maintained for TBTN, and that women's focus should be strong.]

We brainstormed on future studies/discussions:

studies: • reproductive technology • genocide in US
• substance abuse/12 step • ageism
• psychiatry • feminism and porn • boy children

discussions: • healthcare • queer nation • Cut it Out or Cut it Off

There was also encouragement of straight women doing concrete work to support lesbian dance.

Nov. 4th meeting: "Cut it Out or Cut it Off!" We had a very thoughtful and provocative discussion of this slogan/sentiment and how it fits into our politics, our organizing and our lives. The point was made that this implies that men/men's bodies are the problem and this does not fit in with an anti-imperialist analysis. It also is not supportive to our boy children growing up with positive self-esteem. However, several people also stated that they felt that as graffiti or as a spontaneous chant, this is an expression of women's righteous anger and intention to defend ourselves and fight back, and we don't want to squelch those feelings. A related slogan is "Dead Men Don't Rape." This was a lively discussion—and it's clear we don't all agree, though we all thought we should have more of these discussions in the future!

Various short business items were also discussed. Anyone who wants to help with posting for Take Back the Night should contact Linda or Terri. The East Bay particularly needs to get a schedule together for evening outings!

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Women and El Salvador Discussion (submitted by Leona)

On November 3, women from CISPES, the Pledge, WAI, PFOC, and CRECE met with Gladis Sifrian of the FMLN for a discussion and exchange of ideas. Gladis and Linda started the day off talking about the political and personal changes they have gone through in the process of fighting for the liberation of El Salvador as well as their own liberation as women. Then we all brainstormed about things that oppress us and things that liberate us (which had problematic dynamic, since English-speaking women dominated the first part of the discussion until we realized the problem...)

Then there were two presentations, one on the role of women in the struggle for liberation of El Salvador, and the other on the necessity of women's liberation in building a just society. Cecilia talked about the struggle for the FMLN to supply women's necessities like tampons, etc.; about having to juggle several things, all of which are priorities. AMNLAE went to the mountains with other guerillas. Women civilians are having to take on male roles because the men are gone. CONAMUS (a national coalition of feminist groups) extremely radical. FMLN has created forums for discussion about the place of women and men. There are many women in leadership but the media doesn't show this. Rural communes developing, everyone does all kinds of work in teams. Women are just as fierce or more in combat than men.

Mirk talked about the feminist movement in the U.S., and described how you can't have democracy without women's liberation, nor can you legislate change, and said that we have to have higher standards for political men.

Next was a general discussion about all that we need to change. We talked about the distortion in the meaning and understanding of feminism. Some controversy about women-only groups/organizing. Gladis explained that El Salvadoran women think of feminism as bourgeois, we all need to learn from simultaneity of fight like CONAMUS. Women-only groups are areas to create different ways of relating, which we then take into the world. We replicate sexist values in our own groups, need El Salvadoran women = personal lives threatened by political organizing.

Page 6

Evaluation: different way of brainstorming—not to exclude, had good flow of discussion; may next time specific objectives and not day-long; cultural child care; more exchange...

Women's Sub-Committee (submitted by Christine)

We had two meetings of the women's sub-committee. Attending both were Sally, Terri, Arl, Karin and Christine.

At the first meeting we spent the time talking about all the areas of women's work WAI is involved in or would like to be involved in (i.e. Lesbian Liberation, Repro Freedom, Violence against Women, Health Care, Women and Aids, etc.). Each one of us talked about where we were as individuals within the work (i.e. our personal goals, our limitations, conflicts, etc.). We all felt overwhelmed at the contrast between what we wanted to accomplish and the resources that we have.

At the second meeting we had a discussion about clinic defense. We have to figure out if we want to continue to organize and lead the weekly clinic defense at P.C.C., Oakland. It's clear that we will not be able to initiate any other projects as the reproductive rights core while we're still doing the clinic defense work. If we did stop doing clinic defense organizing, what project would we move into and how would we stay connected to the abortion rights movement? We feel that this is an issue for the general body of WAI to discuss and hopefully resolve.

Reproductive Freedom Core (submitted by Christine)

We continue to organize weekly clinic defense for P.C.C., Oakland. Many thanks to everyone who has responded to our call and "pitched-in". We have refined the information pamphlet that we use to counter the O.R. propaganda and will be sharing it with BACORR so that they can use it at P.C.C., San Francisco.

At last report, Randall Terry announced, at a recent speech in D.C., that O.R. will be going "underground" to avoid the costly law-suits and long jail sentences. They will be closing their national office but independent local branches may opt to retain the name and use it to set up activities such as chains-of-life and picketing.

According to R.T. clinic blockades are not in the cards...but we shall see. (See Women's Sub-Committee Report)

Update from BARA (Bay Area Anti-Racist Action) (submitted by Leona)
There was a national conference of ARA groups and SHARP groups (SkinHeads Against Racial Prejudice), on the weekend of Oct. 6-7 in Portland, Oregon right before the jury selection for the trial of Tom and John Metzger, who are charged with inciting boneheads (racist skins) to the murder of the Ethiopian ex-patriot about 2 years ago.

Conference participants discussed the principles of unity of ARA groups, which are that we are anti-sexist, anti-homophobic and anti-racist. The sexism discussion was the most interesting, since people were confronted on stuff; the heterosexual discussion was a beginning, but not very sincere—people felt too afraid to say anything, and so mostly mouthed platitudes that were politically correct. Some SHARP groups go out gay bashing...The racism discussion was mostly about the institutionalized racism in the U.S. and in U.S. history, since some SHARP members also wear U.S. flags on their jackets (and want to be cops, etc.). ARA and SHARP groups have an on-going struggle about reformism.

Meanwhile, the FBI (?) was doing the most blatant surveillance that I have ever seen with men waiting outside the windows of the conference to take pictures of people entering the building, and men in cars videotaping people.

The next day there was a diverse demonstration against racism, planned by many groups in Portland, attended by *at least* 2,000 people (including the mayor, who did not, however, get to speak).

Announcements:

Demo to demand Alan Berkman's release will take place Nov. 28th at 4 pm at the Federal Building. Stay tuned for more info.

Tita Lubi will be speaking at Ohana Cultural Center on Monday, Nov. 19th, 7:30 pm. She's an ex-political prisoner from the Philippines, and Director of GABRIELLA Commission on Women's Human Rights. Listen to her on KPFA on Monday morning!

Nov. 30th, noon, City Hall Rotunda: Speak-Out sponsored by the Women Against AIDS Network (WAND) to promote visibility and access. Afterwards, CD will take place. Talk to Arl for more info.

On Dec. 5th, at the Castro Theatre, the German film "November Moon" will be playing. It is a story of lesbians in France during WW II. A discussion about the film will take place at Lesbian Uprising! member Laura McCamy's house afterwards. Check with Christine or Terri for Laura's address if you'd like to attend.

Dec. 8th: Take Back the Night! (of course)

Dec. 8th: After TBTN, LAGAI benefit for Nicaragua at New College (at the old Valencia Rose site).

And Take Note: Planning is in the works for a Dykes & Gay Guys Emergency Response (DAGGER) demo, to take place 3 days after war happens in the Middle East. Will probably meet at Fed. Bldg. and march to the Castro. Talk to Arl for more info.

Tips to the next guest editors:

Make sure someone is taking notes during the WAI meetings!

STILL AIN'T SATISFIED

Well they got women on TV, but I still ain't satisfied,
'Cause co-optation's all I see, but I still ain't satisfied.
They call me Ms., they sell me blue jeans,
They call it "Women's Lib," they make it sound obscene.

Chorus

And I still ain't--Woa they lied,
Woa they lied, woa they lied,
And I still ain't satisfied.

Well they got women prison guards, but I still ain't satisfied.
With so many still behind bars, I still ain't satisfied.
I don't plead guilt, I don't want no bum deal,
I ain't askin' for crumbs, I want the whole meal.

They liberalized abortion, but I still ain't satisfied.
'Cause it still costs a fortune, and I still ain't satisfied.
I'm singin' about control of my own womb,
And no reform is gonna change my tune.

They give out pennies here and there, but I still ain't satisfied.
To set up centers for childcare, and I still ain't satisfied.
And while we work at slave wages
They brainwash our kids at tender ages.

(like second part of verse)
I got some pride, and I won't be lied to.
I did decide that half way won't do.

--by Bonnie Lockhart

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 1991 TOUR GUIDE

We have come to downtown San Francisco to celebrate International Women's Day in protest and solidarity with women around the world.

Women are angry at the violence, abuse, and exploitation of women. **Women are furious** about the war the U S has waged in the Middle East and the militarization of the whole society. **Women are outraged** at the systematic racism and genocide against people of color in the U.S. **Women demand** control over our bodies' reproduction and health and the right to love whomever we want. **Women are fighting** for health care, childcare, education, housing and more. **We are here** to expose the responsibility that the U.S. government and multi-national corporations have in destroying the lives of women and whole peoples. Here are some places we'll go:

Federal Reserve Bank 101 Market St.

"Federal Reserve Equals Greed, No Regard for Women's Needs"

People in "the Fed" are mostly from large banks and corporations and are appointed by the President. They control the money supply and interest rates which in turn influence the whole economy, inflation and unemployment. They manipulate the economy for their priorities, securing the wealth of the rich, insulated from the real human effects of unemployment. However long the recession lasts, we know that women and particularly women of color, will continue to swell the ranks of the poor. As the Super-Rich get richer, (0.5% of households controlling over 35% of the wealth) women and children get poorer.

General Electric 2 Embarcadero Center

"GE Brings Their Death To Light"

One of the largest military contractors and producers of nuclear reactors. GE owns NBC, making the term "Pentagon TV" concrete. We saw how the media cheered for war in the gulf, contributing to the blind patriotic fervor and war mentality. Boycott GE.

Eli Lilly and Co. 100 California

"No More Profits Off Women's Bodies, Stop Eli Lilly"

Lilly is one of the seven largest U.S. pharmaceutical companies, with factories in South Africa, Puerto Rico and other countries. They've made billions of dollars producing drugs like Darvon, Seconal, Tuinal, and Methadone, and remember DES? These drugs are used to addict, pacify, cancerize and control women, rather than dealing with our real health needs.

Pacific Stock Exchange 301 Pine

"You Buy, You Sell, You Make Our Lives A Living Hell!"

West Coast Wall Street. Member owned marketplace for trading stocks and options. Bastion of war profiting companies trading in our lives. Here multinational corporations trade millions of dollars that their workers will never see. Their profits soar as wages and work conditions get worse. Their greed sucks the life out of people here and around the world.

Israeli Consulate 220 Bush

"Intifada Yes! Occupation No"

"Bush, Shamir, You Should Know We Support the PLO"

We join with Palestinian women here in protest of the U.S. backed Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. There has been a 24-hour "shoot-on-site" curfew in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the start of the gulf war. In Gaza only women are allowed out for the hours the curfew is rarely lifted, and food is rotting in the fields while people are starving. Palestinian women political prisoners are raped and tortured as a systematic technique. On International Women's Day last year, women who marched in East Jerusalem were viciously attacked. We want to struggle against Zionism *and* anti-semitism; we call for peace and *justice* for the Palestinians!

Health and Human Services 525 Market

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Health and Human Services 525 Market

"Childcare, Healthcare, Education, Women fight for Liberation!"

"Infant Mortality: We Say No! Racism Has Got To Go!"

With approximately 46 billion dollars having gone to the War more cuts are expected in the already piddling budget of this federal agency. Only two day's war expenses would have provided housing for one year for half a million homeless people, or could have been used to add 4 million people to WIC (Women Infants & Children) Supplemental Food Program. The impact of war priorities is being felt here at home with women of color especially bearing the brunt of cuts in basic human services. We demand that the government pour resources into programs combatting infant mortality and AIDS instead of funding the military. Ironically located next door to:

Chevron International Oil and World of Oil Museum 555 Market St.

"Built on Blood, Built on War, We Know What This Place Is For"

Reaping billions in profits as the U.S. battles and occupies for control of the Middle East region and its resources. Also a top producer of nuclear materials, staggering amounts of toxic waste, huge oil spills, and household products containing hazardous materials. Chevron is responsible for strip mining of land in over 80 nations, including South Africa --where they have a multi-million dollar investment--and Puerto Rico and the Hopi-Navajo Indian lands at Big Mountain. We hold Chevron responsible for the rape of Mother Earth.

DietCenter 323 Geary

"We're Fat! We're Mean! We Won't Eat Lean Cuisine!"

Women are held in check by a complex cage of attitudes about how we look and behave. In the U.S. today 50% of women are being told that we are "overweight" and are on a diet "most of the time." An \$11 billion weight-reducing industry teaches us to hate our bodies; to saturate ourselves with diet foods and pills; to mutilate our bodies with surgeries like stapling and suctioning. 20-30% of women between the ages of 12 and 25 are diagnosed as having anorexia, bulimia and bulimirexia-- diseases almost entirely specific to women.

Any Corner We Pass all over this city women and girls are sexually accosted, raped, murdered, and afraid to walk alone. In the office buildings that surround us, women are paid 60 cents for every dollar made by a man, and are often sexually harassed on the job. And in our homes where women work as unpaid laborers, we face battery, incest and child abuse. Nowhere are lesbians allowed to walk freely with our lovers or to break out of dominant "female" roles, without fear of harassment. Black women face the chance of being raped four times more than white women.

This Racist System is an underpinning to this militaristic/misogynist society. Women of color are denied basic human rights such as health care, housing and education. The reality is that in Oakland, the infant mortality rate is as devastating as that in Honduras. Women of color endure, (and resist!) racist police, courts and institutions. Women's liberation is impossible without the liberation of people of color in the U.S.

Also some places close by to remember:

Pleasanton Federal Prison, just 40 minutes from S.F.

Even as the U.S. government accuses Iraq of mistreating P.O.W.s, the U.S. prison system holds its own prisoners of war from the war at home. There are over 100 political prisoners/POWs in U.S. prisons held for political ideas and actions. At Pleasanton right now there are 4 Puerto Rican women Prisoners of War, and 1 Puerto Rican Political Prisoner held for fighting for an end to U.S.colonialism in their country, and a white North American lesbian Anti-Imperialist Political Prisoner. They've fought, and continue to fight, against racism and U.S. Imperialism, and struggle as women to resist the ways we're told to "go along with the program." Pleasanton Prison is part of a prison system that holds over 1 million people, mostly people of color. Money always seems to be available for building prisons but never for human needs...

Concord Naval Weapons Station Concord, CA

One of the largest military munitions shippers. This is where the White Phosphorous dropped on the people of Iraq and El Salvador comes from. Bombs leaving Concord have killed and maimed the people of Iraq. Famous for its toxic waste, its role as a major military supply port, *and* as a site of continued protest against U.S. intervention! Join the women's action as part of the big protest there on March 16

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(Sources for this Tour Guide include: Everybody's Business, An Almanac; New York Times; Los Angeles Times; S.F.Examiner; Arsenal of Democracy II; Dollars and Dictators: A Guide to Central America; thanks to the Data Center and the Women Against Imperialism Archives/ East Bay Wing.

For more inciteful info. call W.A.I. at (415) 995-4735